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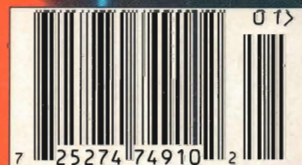
Volume 12, No. 1
January/February 1997

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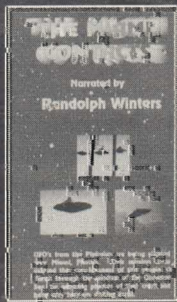
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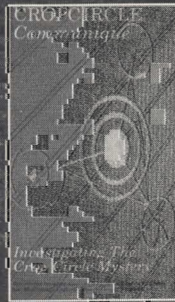
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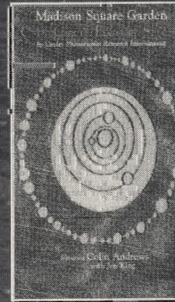
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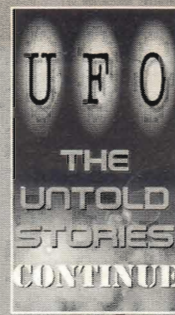
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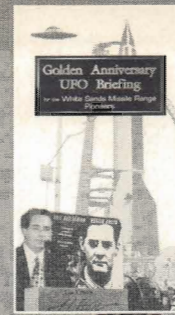
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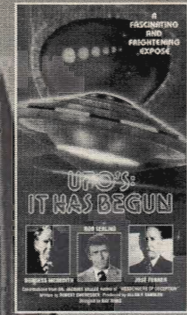
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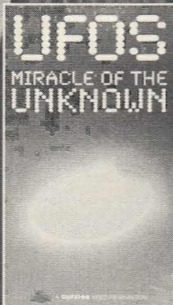
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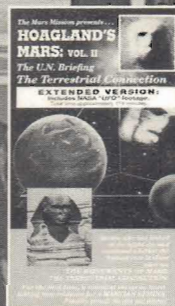
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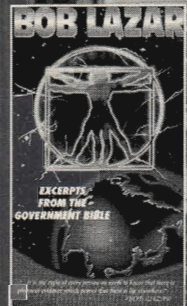
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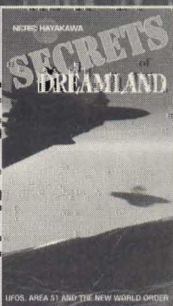


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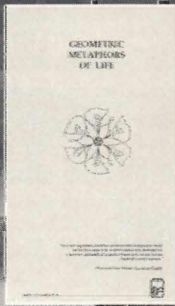
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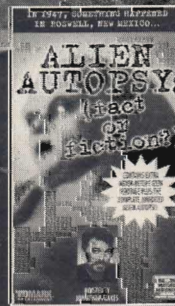
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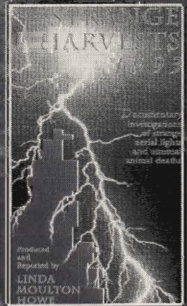
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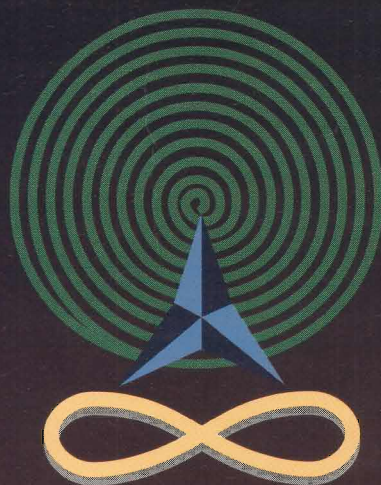
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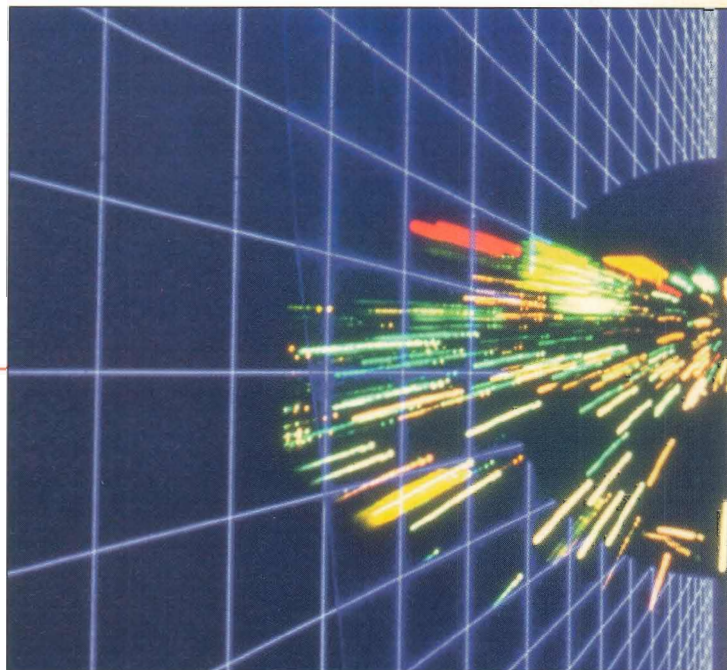
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DEPARTMENTS

EDITOR'S NOTE • 4
LETTERS • 5
NEWS • 6
REALITY CHECK • 11
UPCOMING EVENTS • 12
INTERNATIONAL REPORTS • 17
MEDIAWATCH • 18
WEBWATCH • 20
REVIEWS • 36
CONTACT • 41
CLASSIFIEDS • 44

*Faster-than-light
UFO propulsion
theories, page 28*



FEATURES

UTAH RANCH ASSAILED WITH UFO ACTIVITY, MUTILATIONS • 6

A rancher and his wife in Utah find their lives turned upside down by an unknown force. Now one of ufology's wealthier men has moved in and cordoned off the land for a private study. By Zack Van Eyck

HALE-BOPP REDUX • 9

An unidentified light or object is photographed apparently whizzing along with this current traveling light show of a comet. Some say they have it all figured out, and aliens are aboard the thing and have bad news for us on earth. Then again . . . By Don Ecker

UFOLOGISTS MULL GOVERNMENT'S INVOLVEMENT • 13

A journalist covers a conference sparked with some discussions of the perpetual "case closed" pose of American officials on all matters UFO. By Marcia Jedd

A KILLING SEASON • 23

A rash of horrible animal deaths in the heartland and a reasonably frightened populace, the stuff of a bad movie turned real, here investigated at length for the first time. By D. Douglas Graham

THE STARSHIP BUILDERS: UFO PROPULSION DEMYSTIFIED • 28

The adventurous theories of warp drive and gravity bending now begin to make peace with regulation physics. The ensuing bond may prove most fruitful for interstellar travel, and not just for ETs. By Kim Burrafato

BOUNDARIES OF THE POSSIBLE • 33

Energy specialist Bill Tanner manages to convey his simple explanation of why the dream of faster-than-light travel can, indeed, come true. By Robert T. Leach



Utah ranch besieged, page 6



EDITOR'S NOTE

If the presumed authority figures in this society had to gently break the news about ET life, how would they go about it? As slowly as possible, no doubt, and with a kind of bureaucratic trepidation that somehow manages to cause important information to sail over everyone's head. So we have microbial fossils on Mars. Big news, remember? And lunar ice! Meaning, water—transient organic life may once have been on the moon, or as some of the news pundits sell it, our nearby grey orb could feasibly serve as a habitat for humans. But we've never gone back there. Or so it goes.

In a time of budgets that plummet and soar like a child's broken toy rocket, our space efforts have accelerated, our inspection of the universe especially. Despite other mission glitches, the astronauts on the Space Shuttle Columbia successfully deployed and retrieved another stunningly effective telescope. "We" looked at the moon as well as stars and comets at various phases of their fiery existence. "We" will have truckloads of taped data to pore through in pursuit of more scientific understanding of this huge and impersonal cosmic mystery that surrounds us. Or, if the Department of Defense has its way, more access to cosmic hegemony.

All of it will take time (a factor in itself proving to be excitingly malleable). Short of the real DoD agenda, these are the kind of pioneering strokes we can expect to hear about. Smaller mysteries, those closer to home, those eerie things—hardly inspirational and not nearly as open to inspection—well, those remain on the deplorable fringes of the Information Freeway. (Excuse me, Superhighway.) Your pets or livestock being killed and cut up just doesn't cut it like other news. Even here, in this printed effort to plumb the Mystery, you'll find science talk that may prove a bit dense, alongside stories that just fall short of being dismissed as tabloidy. An odd mix of styles and information, no?

The human outreach to the Mystery takes many forms, some turning up pleasure and progress. Others, like those still discarded in the ghettos of science, like UFO research, result in a kind of gnawing disjointedness of perceptions and emotions, even despair and cynicism as the walls of accepted authority and requisite ignorance stand firm.

We still move, and reach, and savor the challenge and adroitly slide over and under with a slippery grace. That thing that dignifies the human essence faces down and will eventually bypass any and all such walls.



HOT, HOT NEWS—
Even if most media ignore important UFO stories, our most courageous and dedicated public servants willingly withstand the heat to get their hands on the stuff.

PHOTO BY DAVE OLSEN

LETTERS

REALITY REJECTS

Editor:

Not long ago I was at a science fiction convention working "bodyguard" duty for several stars. I spoke to several "typical fans"—obese, unkempt, exhibiting signs of low self esteem, serious deficits in self confidence, abysmal self images, loss of touch with reality, poor relationship skills, high verbal and intellectual skills, menial job situations. *All* of these people—ranging in age from 14 to early 40s—were firmly under the delusionary belief that the fictional characters on the show were present at the convention, and to whom they were asking questions totally unrelated to reality! These fans asked the actors about the fictional milieu portrayed on the shows *as if it were reality*.

From this experience I came to a realization, like a Dashiell Hammet character—that life had its lid pried off and had let me see the works—that there are thousands of people living in the late 1990s who have totally disconnected themselves from subjective reality. So-called abductees are in fact the same type of people. They need help! They need competent care!

Anthony W. Giacomo

Carmel, NY

'GRAY' BASKET

Editor:

This planet is controlled by an alien race known as the Grays. They have controlled humanity for thousands of years, but until now did not have total control handed over to them by whomever ran the earth up to this point. The proof is to be found everywhere if you look for it, but never obviously, never as direct evidence.

Who knows about all this? Very few. Who wants to know? Even fewer. Most people would like to deny it, just as the government wants to deny it. Trauma victims and debunkers alike try to deny what they cannot control and don't want to face as real.

What do they do to us in the thousands, if not the millions? Vivisect our bodies, carry out genetic experiments upon us, sexually abuse us and treat us like cattle. They program us in our sleep, using hypnosis to tell us things as they aren't and aren't as they are; confusing and distracting us and thereby dividing and conquering both our minds and bodies through inner and outer conflict—war and insanity. Through willpower alone they will run this world from a distance, and through telepathy implant ideas in Man's head on a racial level to lead him where they want him to go. But don't worry about it, as the struggle only makes things worse—it's what all the spiritual leaders of the past have tried to tell us about non-violence and the illusions of this world.

Tony Sandy

Cromarty, Scotland

NOT A DIME FOR HIS 'DISINFO'

Editor:

Re: my article "Alien Implants: The Realm of the Possible" (Vol. 11, No. 4) Critics such as your reader E.O. Chase (Vol. 11, No. 6) all but accuse me of being a government disinformation agent. And for what? Just because I advance the hypothesis that not all abductions and implants may be perpetrated by extraterrestrials?

Let me just say this in reply: If Chase and others would be so kind as to inform me which government agency employs me, I would be most grateful. That way I will

know whom to sue for all the back wages I have never been paid. Imagine—those nefarious, black-ops liars have never even paid me—and after all the years of drudge work I've done, poring over obscure government documents, burning the midnight oil, struggling to pay the rent month after month. What a bunch of louts!!

Please note that in my article I never excluded the possibility of aliens and their possible involvement in some, and maybe many, abductions. By the same token, I do not dismiss the possibility of terrestrial human involvement in the abduction/implant phenomenon.

Richard Sauder

Flagstaff, AZ

SAGAN RELIGION

Editor:

In his review of Carl Sagan's *The Demon Haunted World: Science as a Candle in the Dark* (Vol. 11, No. 5, 1996), George Earley said that Sagan has a clear dislike of religion. Earley may want to refresh his mind by reading the March 18, 1996 issue of *U.S. News and World Report*, where Dr. Sagan is quoted as saying, "Science and religion each are in their own sphere, and they are in fact mutually supportive."

Dr. Sagan has contributed so much to America. He's written many books and articles in numerous newspapers and magazines, plus has given his expertise to areas of science and technology too numerous to mention.

Katherine M. Blouch

Lebarron, PA

Letters to the Editor should be sent to **UFO Magazine**, P.O. Box 1053, Sunland, CA 91041-1053, or by e-mail to ufovicki@aol.com. Include your daytime phone number. Letters are subject to editing.

NEWS

THE PLIGHT OF THE SHERMANS

Utah Ranch Assailed With UFO Activity, Mutilations

by Zack Van Eyck

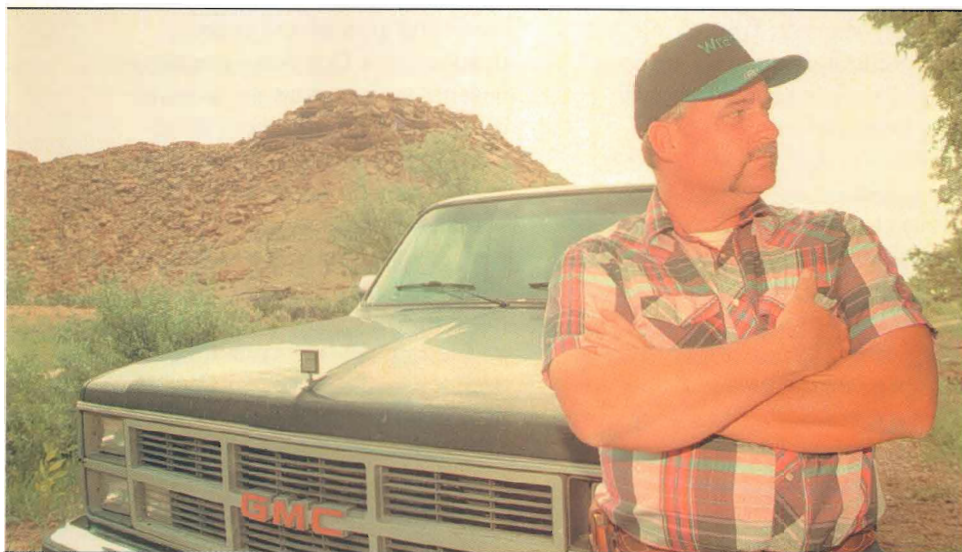


PHOTO BY CARMEN TROESSER

SOMETHING HAPPENED HERE—Terry Sherman stands in front of his truck, by the rock ridge where he observed what he describes as a large, black oval or disc-shaped craft the size of a football field.

FORT DUCHESNE, Utah—The Uintah Basin is UFO country, or so the local folklore goes. Strange lights and objects have been witnessed in the skies of Utah's Duchesne and Uintah counties since at least the 1950s.

Until recently, though, tales of flying discs and unusual animal deaths were embedded in the past, unearthed only for the occasional midnight chat at roadside diners or to fill the notepad of a curious reporter. Or, perhaps, as some suggest, residents of this predominantly Mormon agricultural belt are so accustomed to bizarre sights and stories, they hardly pay attention anymore.

Then, two years ago, Terry and Gwen Sherman bought the Meyer ranch, 480 acres of prime grazing land

nestled beneath a red rock ridge and a sleepy little creek, secluded from the rest of the world but shrouded in mystery.

Gwen Sherman always wondered why the ranch sat vacant for seven years, and why the owner was seeking well under \$200,000. It sounded like a steal—just what Gwen, a Uintah Basin native, and her husband Terry, a former oil company worker raised in Arizona, had been searching for. They longed for a place where they could get away from it all and raise their two children, a teenage son and 10-year-old daughter, in the peace and quiet of rural eastern Utah.

It didn't quite work out that way. Even before the Shermans moved onto the ranch, while remodeling the old ranch house, strange things began to happen. Terry noticed large circular impressions in the ground that seemed to appear out of nowhere in one particular field about a half mile west of the ranch house, just south of the ridge's highest point. These flattened holes were three feet wide, a foot or two deep,

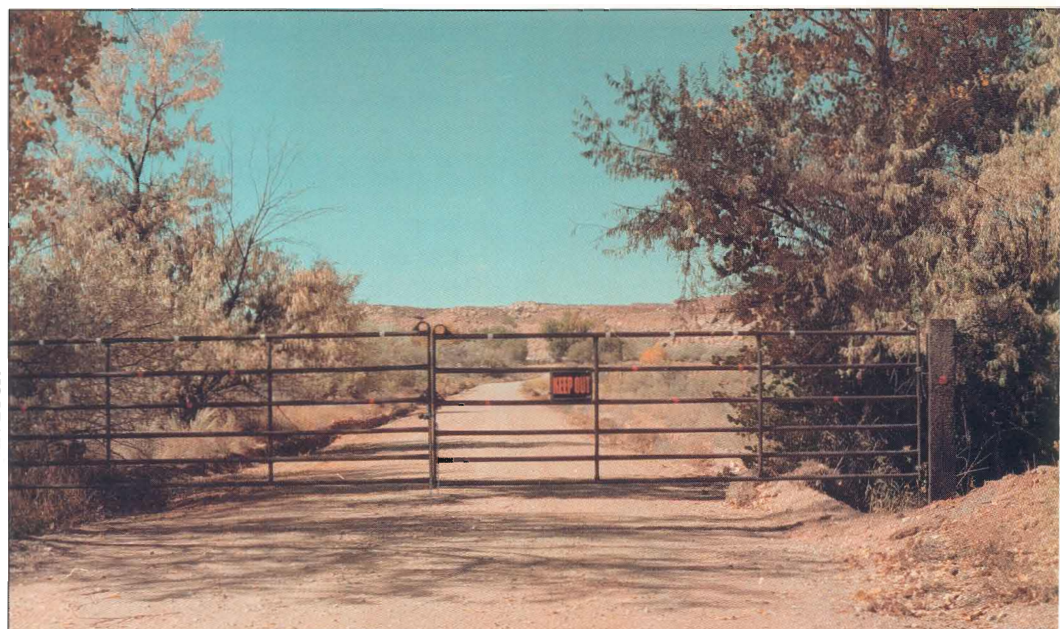


PHOTO BY ZACK VAN EYCK

NO TRESPASSING—The front gate of the besieged UFO ranch now owned by businessman Robert Bigelow, who has closed off the land to other researchers.

and their precision was remarkable. It was as though, Terry explained, some incredible force had compacted the soil or pressed it firmly into the earth, removing the topsoil and vegetation in the process.

Wind and rain eroded the circles, more than a dozen in all, by the time the Shermans spoke publicly about their experiences for the first time in late June, 1996. But the weird divots, an odd rectangular gap in the tops of

PHOTO BY ZACK VAN EYCK



PHOTO BY CARMEN TROESSER

several trees (the Shermans say a UFO flew straight through them, sheering limbs and branches with ease) and a dead cow, partially mutilated months earlier, provided physical evidence to corroborate a long list of paranormal activities that even the Shermans, when recounting their experiences, seem to have a hard time believing.

Between early 1995 and September of 1996, the family saw three particular types of UFOs—an eight foot long, box-shaped craft, a 40-foot long object and a black football field-sized craft that Terry says gave her an eerie feeling, one he could only describe as “evil.”

Perhaps the most spectacular sighting involved lights emerging from circular, auburn-colored “doorways” that seemed to appear in midair. Terry observed the unusual openings through a high powered scope, and watched as several “lights” came out, darted through the sky and returned,

pasture where the soil impressions appeared. Ten other cows disappeared without a trace. The Sherman’s son discovered one of the mutilated cows within just minutes of its demise—a rarity in the cattle mutilation phenomenon, according to local researchers. According to the report, a six-inch wide circular path had been cored out of the animal’s anus, and an apple butter-like substance was present in a small glob on its hide. The Shermans also described an odd, chemical-like odor in the air. Around the same time as the mutilation activity, the Shermans found three circles of flattened grass, each about eight feet across.

Even more mysterious and frightening to the Shermans was the “blue ball of light” that would show up occasionally. One summer evening, the Shermans watched as an airborne light ball made its way up from the creek and toward the

COWED—At left: Terry Sherman posed for this photo shortly after the discovery a mutilated cow, which can barely be seen in the shrubs behind him.

disappearing into the portal.

Then the Shermans found three partially mutilated cows in the same

house. They stood outside, watching it as it approached a horse, flew around its head several times, then moved toward them. As it came within 10 feet of Gwen, she shined a flashlight on the glowing orb, causing it to stop and retreat.

The Sherman’s story hit the *Deseret News*, Salt Lake City’s afternoon newspaper, on June 30. That same day, Sherman was contacted by journalist Linda Moulton Howe, who taped their telephone conversation and aired portions on Art Bell’s nationally syndicated late night radio program, “Dreamland.” She withheld the Sherman’s name, but a few days later, July 4, a shortened version of the *Deseret* news story was released to newspapers across the country on the AP newswire. In the coming weeks, the Shermans were inundated with phone calls and impromptu appearances from a variety of folks—from well meaning researchers to an Indian shaman, and yes, two mysterious men in suits.

Within a few weeks, the Shermans followed the suggestion of at least three UFO researchers and were put in touch with Robert Bigelow, a Las Vegas real estate magnate who over the years has been willing to invest heavily in UFO research. In September of last year, Bigelow purchased

continued on next page

Bigelow and His Bucks

Although long a name associated with a rare commodity in UFO circles, big money, little is known nationally—or even in his native Las Vegas—about Robert Bigelow. Even the researchers who have received funding from him over the years don't know much about him, and those who do aren't talking.

Publicly, Bigelow is regarded as a successful businessman and selfless philanthropist. He is president of Bigelow Holding Company and owns more than 2,000 apartment units in the Las Vegas area. The University of Nevada has been the recipient of Bigelow money in the millions.

Privately, Bigelow's efforts to build additional motels in Las Vegas have been controversial, the subject of recent local news stories sparked by strong neighborhood resistance. Among ufologists and other borderline science researchers who have worked with him, he has the reputation of being deceptive, manipulative, and having a hidden agenda. According to one source, he has sometimes been "petty and vindictive in his treatment of those who disagree with him."

In UFO circles, Bigelow is best known for funding a joint research project involving the three best known UFO groups in the U.S.—Center for UFO Studies, Mutual UFO Network and the Fund for UFO Research. Members of those organizations characterized Bigelow as impatient, but also gave him credit for following through with his promise to fund research, even though it was not yielding the results he wanted or producing them fast enough. (Though Bigelow's funding has ended, the tripartite coalition remains active.)

Bigelow's decision to close off access to the Sherman ranch and to keep the information limited to

himself and his N.I.D.S. scientists has upset a number of researchers, who feel the information should be public knowledge. "This is not a case that should be hoarded by one individual," says Chris O'Brien of Crestone, Colorado.

According to John Alexander, former director of non-lethal weapons testing at Los Alamos National Laboratory and now N.I.D.S.' director for scientific liaison, Bigelow is keeping a lid on the Utah experiments to retain the purity of the data. When and if the scientists do record anything of note, they will draw their own conclusions and their reports will be reviewed internally, and possibly released on the N.I.D.S. web page. "Our approach is to do good, high-quality research . . . and do what we can to get hard data," said Alexander in a telephone interview from the Institute's Las Vegas offices. "One of the missions of the Institute is to make information widely available."

But not if some rumors about the Institute have any validity—according to Illinois researcher Gary Hart, "a number of different sources" are claiming that Bigelow and N.I.D.S. are simply a front for Central Intelligence Agency activities.

Bigelow has erected an observation building on the ranch and moved in a pair of scientists and a veterinarian. He has someone on the property 24 hours a day, recording anything out of the ordinary. Roosevelt veterinarian Dan Dennis said Bigelow met with him to ask for assistance in performing necropsies on animals that in the future might die under unusual circumstances.

Exactly what is going on in the Uintah Basin is unclear. But as long as Bigelow is in the area, some will assume that whatever it is has great significance. —Z.V.E.

Utah Ranch

continued from previous page

the Sherman's 480-acre ranch, and his once quiet philanthropy to the cause of paranormal research became public knowledge with the release of another AP wire story in October. As soon as Bigelow bought the Sherman's property, he closed and locked the gate to the ranch, and had the Shermans sign a non-disclosure agreement barring them from making further public comments.

The Shermans have now relocated to a smaller ranch about 20 miles north, near Whiterocks. As fall rolled into winter, Terry continued to work for Bigelow as caretaker of what used to be his own ranch. Of the new owner Bigelow, Terry says, "I think they're trying to find answers to the questions. I suspect when they have concrete evidence of some kind they will go public. It's just a guess . . . I really know little about their organization." Bigelow has denied several requests for an interview by the *Deseret News* (see sidebar).

A visitor to any home or business in Duchesne or Uintah counties might hear stories about strange visitors from the sky. It's estimated by local researcher Junior Hicks that one in every 10 Uintah Basin residents has had some sort of sighting or unusual experience.

The Shermans realize they may never know the origin of the activity they witnessed at their former ranch, and may not stick around to find out. Terry says leaving the state and putting it all behind them remains an option. But the couple has kept a diary of events and is considering writing a book, so that others who have experienced similar mysteries might have some help in coming to terms with them. "It's been a bad deal all the way around," Terry said last year. "It's been a frightening and terrible experience. All that's really redeeming about it is (we) might have some knowledge that a lot of people don't have—for what it's worth."

Zack Van Eyck covers UFOs and the paranormal, among other things, for Salt Lake City's Deseret News. He can be reached by e-mail at zman@desnews.com



DOGGING 'STAR'—This 1995 photograph from the Hubble Space Telescope was one of the first indications that Hale-Bopp has a close companion that straight scientists publicly claim is only a big star. But privately, 'reliable sources' confirm that it's an unidentified object.

Hale-Bopp Redux *by Don Ecker*

LATE 1996—The usual wild controversy ensued when an amateur astronomer photographed the comet Hale-Bopp, showing a strange light apparently hot on its trail. Reliable confirmation of the anomaly fails to come forth from the scientific mainstream, although much hype poured forth, including the claims of a former robotics professor that the object is sending a

warning and a greeting to the people of earth

BACKGROUND: Early last year, the amazing comet Hale-Bopp was first observed coursing beyond the planet Jupiter, capturing the interest of all who witnessed it because of its extraordinary luminescence. Astronomers commented on the object's brightness because of the

distance from the sun; comets are usually described as big dirty snowballs because of the ice and water that make up their bulk. The closer it approaches a star, however, it begins to "boil" off, creating its luminescence and trailing its tail.

Hale-Bopp seemed the exception to the rule, as it was too far out to explain its brightness. When imaged by the Hubble Space Tele-



ONE SPACEY THING AFTER ANOTHER—This photo of a Saturn-like form next to Hale-Bopp was taken on the telescopic imaging system of amateur astronomer Chuck Shramek.

scope, this comet also seemed to show two nuclei. Predicted by some astronomers to be "the light show of the century," Hale-Bopp is due to be at its fullest this year.

BROUHAHA: At press time, the storm broke. Last Nov. 14, amateur astronomer Chuck Shramek of Houston, Texas was imaging the comet using his 10" Schmidt-Cassegrain Telescope and a CCD camera. Pictured beside the comet

was a "mystery" object that appeared to have a Saturn-like ring around it, and described as being perhaps as much as 4 times the size of Earth. Shramek sent to photograph to radio talk show host Art Bell, and was a guest on Bell's program that night. Within hours, the item had covered the U.S., via the Internet. Almost immediately, name calling began from both sides of the question.

Shramek began receiving huge

criticism from the astronomers online, including co-discoverer of Comet Hale-Bopp, Alan Hale, who accused Shramek of promoting government conspiracies, accusing scientists of lying, and promoting the "works of fringe writers," including Richard Hoagland and Zecharia Sitchin.

Shramek retaliated by stating in detail how he got his photos, the settings he used on his computer software and how he now feels about the term "butthead astronomers."

BUILD-UP OF BUZZ OR B.S.:

Shortly thereafter, Bell's radio program featured both Dr. Courtney Brown, author of *Cosmic Voyage*, and horror-fiction writer Whitley Strieber, author of the *Communion* books. Brown has claimed to know a nationally renowned astronomer (unnamed) who has been following this "object," and who claims to have received radio signals from it.

Brown said on the air that remote viewers from his Farsight Institute have been "viewing" this object, and yes—it is full of aliens. Brown claims that the viewers have also been remote viewing the White House, and President William J. Clinton has reluctantly agreed that there will be an official announcement of the alien presence!

BOMBSHELL: In a startling broadcast denouement, former Professor of Material Science and Robotics Lee Shargel told Bell's audience that the radio signals from the object have been decoded, and that the aliens inside the thing want Earth to know that they're friendly, but that a lethal neutron pulse happens have earth in its path.

BUT BY DEADLINE... There has been no admission by any reputable astronomers that an object is even there. Mainstream astronomers have stated that what Shramek imaged was actually Star SAO 141894.

The beat keeps Bopping along. As new information is received, *UFO Magazine* will report on it.

LATEBREAKING . . .

Korean UFO Caught On Tape

At 7:28 AM on November 21, 1996, an oval shaped object was observed over the skies of eastern Seoul, Korea for about 10 minutes, according to witnesses. While Seoul has been the scene of other sightings of UFOs in recent times, this incident was different—it was captured by a cameraman from cable news channel YTN on a broadcast camera.

A local Korean UFO enthusiast claimed that this object had behaved like similar objects sighted last year and said, "The object first moved slowly, then turned 180 degrees and flew away, leaving distinct after-images," and added, "We may have to bring in foreign experts to hear their opinion on the frequent sightings from outer space here," he said.

When the Korean military was questioned, they denied that any civilian or military air traffic was then flying in that location. "We are working to determine what the object was," a military spokesman said.—D.E.



Richard Hall's

REALITY CHECK

The Briefing Document sponsored by Laurance Rockefeller apparently has caused something like a sensation as news of it has spread like wildfire through cyberspace. Why is it being kept "secret?" Why can't the public obtain copies? Why the mystery about its contents? This amounts to "much ado about nothing."

We (The UFO Research Coalition) provided research and editorial support to Rockefeller, who wanted to prepare a strong selection of UFO data to use—as its title clearly suggests—to brief important and influential people around the world. Many have never seen a clear presentation summarizing the good evidence. We agreed that such a document could be very beneficial in helping to bring high-level attention to the UFO question.

Rockefeller privately published 1,000 copies of the resulting document, not as a public report for sale but for private distribution to world leaders, government officials, and prominent news media representatives. This is exactly what was done. It is his money and he can do anything he likes with it. So where is the mystery? Perhaps imagination has led people to wonder if the report contains some red-hot new UFO cases not previously known to ufologists. The answer is "no." Any well-read ufologist would probably be bored by the contents.

Among the well-known cases or incidents reported are the World War II and immediate post-war "foo fighters" and "ghost rockets;" the UFO sighting waves over the years; the 1964 Socorro, New Mexico, landing; the 1975 Strategic Air Command bases UFO alert; the 1976 Tehran, Iran case, and other similar material. Also included is a series of quotes about UFOs made by prominent people. In fact, an

Executive Summary of the report, which I prepared, has been copied on the Internet.

All the furor, therefore, is quite silly. I attribute it to the giant, electronically advanced version of the old verbal game of "Gossip" that thrives on the Internet in lieu of serious debate and discussion about UFOs. As long as irresponsible rumor-mongers and anonymous storytellers are allowed free reign, cyberspace will remain nothing but a humungous manure pile of UFO misinformation. There may be one or two diamonds buried in there somewhere, but is it really worth the search when there are very straightforward sources of reliable information available?

One of the attractions of interactive UFO forums on the Internet may be that anyone can be an "expert." No credentials, experience or track records are required. Not even personal *accountability* is required. The wildest stories can be spread anonymously, without a shred of supporting evidence or documentation. Yet, a myth appears to prevail that the resulting mish-mosh is somehow purer and more valuable than the information obtained in more conventional ways.

To the Internet seekers of truth (or even of reliable factual information) I say, lots of luck! I am amazed that you have the time and energy to poke through that vast manure pile. How do you



Richard Hall

have any time for a normal life? There must be some perceived *aesthetic* value in having access to the impressive *quantity* of alleged information.

But what about quality?

There is a partial analogy to the backlog of data obtained by NASA space probes and satellites, so vast that it will take decades or even centuries to properly ana-

lyze all of it. We need to have priorities, to winnow out the most important information efficiently, and not simply to marvel about the quantity of data we have been able to accrue. Unanalyzed data is basically worthless. And wild speculation is not science.

The analogy to Internet UFO data breaks down on one vitally important point. The backlog of space data is focused on scientific instrument readings of planetary surfaces and the earth's environment. No doubt it has the potential to yield important scientific information. In other words, it is *quality* information. In the case of UFOs, wild stories, unsubstantiated rumors, and gossip are still manure no matter how high you pile them.

P.S.—The UFO Research Coalition comprises the Center for UFO Studies, Mutual UFO Network and Fund for UFO Research. The first two have web sites, and the Fund will have one soon. I recommend these for serious UFO students. They will help steer you to reliable information, and to reliable people and forums on the Internet.

June 21-22: THE UFO EVENT OF THE YEAR:

A seminar with Stanton Friedman (June 21) and Dr. John Mack (June 22). Friedman will discuss crashed flying saucers, government coverup and MJ-12, and the physics of UFOs. Mack will present an overview of UFO abductions, and their social, philosophical and spiritual implications. Both presenters will be available for personal questions and discussions. Fee per day: \$65 until March 31; \$75 thereafter. Both days: \$120 until March 31; \$150 thereafter. Write to: Omega Communications, Box 2051-A, Cheshire, CT 06410-5051, USA.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN. 18-24: 6TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL UFO CONGRESS CONVENTION scheduled at Gold River resort in Laughlin, NV. Guest speakers at the week-long gathering include Rosemary Decker, Colin Andrews, Donald Ware, Dolores Cannon, G.C. Shellhorn, Michael Hesemann, Wendelle Stevens, James Deardorff, Jeane Manning, Gregg Braden, James Hurtak and Jaime Maussan, plus others to be announced. Event includes the Film Festival and EBE Awards. Prices vary according to package purchased. Phone or fax: (303) 543-9443.

MARCH 21-13, 1997: 5TH ANNUAL GULF BREEZE UFO CONFERENCE to be held at the Beachside Resort directly on the Gulf of Mexico. Featured speakers include: Courtney Brown, Whitley Strieber, Nick Pope, Stanton Friedman, Peter Robbins and Larry Warren, Brian O'Leary, Travis Walton

and Mike Rogers, Scott Catamas. For more information: Call (904) 432-8888 or Fax (904) 438-1801. E-mail: UMRB73@PRODIGY.COM or write Project Awareness, P.O. Box 730, Gulf Breeze, FL 32562.

JUNE 21-22: OMEGA COMMUNICATIONS holds seminars with Stanton Friedman Saturday and John Mack Sunday. Both presenters will be available for discussions following their presentations. Write to: Omega Communications, Box 2051-A, Cheshire, CT 06410-5051. (Also see box at left.)

JULY 11-13: MUFON'S 28TH INTERNATIONAL UFO SYMPOSIUM will be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Speakers scheduled by press time include Cynthia Hinds, Dan Wright, Jan Aldrich, Stanton Friedman and Vincente-Juan Ballester Olmos. More to be scheduled. MUFON headquarters can be contacted at 103 Oldtowne Rd., Seguin, TX 78155-4099.

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Ufologists Mull Government's Involvement

by Marcia Jedd

With 1997 marking the 50th anniversary of Roswell, UFO researchers and journalists will be trying to pull out a few muckraked tidbits from the government regarding its involvement past or present in all matters UFO. But hot on the trails of decades-old and newer cases, they will most often find their information quests lead to closed governmental doors. Why?

Because it presents the proverbial lose-lose situation. For example, it's no secret that the federal government would have much to lose by coming out now with more Roswell information, as opposed to "disinformation," given its celebrity status. The notion of paying for protection—read taxes—is lost when the U.S. Air Force couldn't admittedly and ultimately protect our skies from a UFO. If a key function of the government is to maintain civil order, then it's easy to understand why the government won't disclose the reality of UFOs as highly advanced technology, wrote a UFO researcher connected with NASA.

More information unfolding

Even so, more information is being allowed to come out. Nuclear physicist and UFO researcher Stan Friedman is among those in easier trenches these days, from the research perspective. Friedman suggested the second-time Democratic administration is a good thing toward "making people aware of what's going on." He cites Clinton's push for a new executive order, making it tougher to keep things classified, reversing the trend of the Bush and Reagan years. "The new executive order says: if in doubt, declassify after 25 years. The old one said: if in doubt classify," said Friedman. "He has already set a precedent by releasing loads of



TALKING ABOUT IT—G.C. Shellhorn (standing) moderated an abduction panel at the conference, which featured the insights of Robyn Quail (second from left) and Budd Hopkins, shown here flanked by two abductees.



KEVIN RANDLE AND KARL PFLOCK—Researchers at the conference who shared their perspectives on such matters as Roswell and alien abduction.

nuclear information, all these illegal experiments on people."

Abduction researcher Robyn Quail warned an audience at the National UFO and Unexplained

Phenomena Conference held last fall in Minneapolis-St. Paul not to wholly believe the confessions of the government related to its involvement with UFOs. "Just

because Bill Clinton says it on television, don't believe it," she said.

Author-researcher Kevin Randle finds it odd that the government is now putting more manpower into its UFO public relations efforts.

"Three or four years ago the government didn't care what we, as a bunch of UFO nuts, believed. Suddenly, they're actively working to convince people Roswell was nothing more than a balloon. We've

disturbances caused all the cars on the bridge to stop, and a sighting and abductions unfolded (See review of *Witnessed*, in *UFO Magazine*, Vol. 11, No. 5).

Hopkins characterized the incident as "uncovert as possible," and explained, "This is the first time it's (an incident of this scope) ever happened that we know, and secondly, witnessed by independent people in different locations. We

where a woman swore a cow was running alongside her car while she drove at a moderately-fast speed for several miles. Both Hopkins and researcher Quail spoke of abduction cases in which military personnel are involved.

"The military may conceivably have followed someone as an abductee because they wanted information," said Hopkins. Later, in a light-hearted banter, he said, "Aliens screw up and so does the government."

Anecdotal evidence, no corroboration

Roswell researcher Randle made his views clear on the abduction phenomenon in a slick video presentation which attempted to explain away abductions wholly to the influence of pop culture and the media. Yet, Randle was quite serious in a private interview when he said UFO researchers should stop protecting their own turfs, to make a broader effort to compare and contrast data. All too often, said Randle, researchers have an attitude of: "I can't tell you who this is, but here's what I'm finding and it may not be what someone else is finding."

Randle shunned the idea that increasing numbers of abduction stories are coming out, and implied merely names and descriptions do not mean anything happened. "That's a wonderful piece of testimony, but what good does it do us?" he queried. "Science is about corroboration. Science is about validation and we don't do that. Instead, we protect our own little bailiwick and we don't provide information for anybody else."

Again, of broader, collaborative efforts, such as those on abductions where independent researchers contribute to a large database, Randle suggested these projects don't amass evidence, but simply stories.

Separating fact from fiction

Author, editor and researcher Jerome Clark takes the stance that the government or military involve-

continued on page 16

'We're going to have to co-exist with another race,' said Hopkins. 'There's no doubt we're approaching this.'

actually gotten their attention and interest, and they're working to refute what we say," he said, adding "If Roswell isn't the event that we think it is why do they care what we believe?"

Randle suggested all the incongruent testimony and such related to Roswell is challenging for researchers. "The government isn't the biggest problem now. It's all these other people coming forward and trying to cash in on the Roswell bandwagon," he said, citing the alien autopsy film fiasco, claims of debris and false witnesses.

Staged for a political figure?

Budd Hopkins has some 21 years of alien abduction research under his belt, and doesn't rule out the government involvement angle. Hopkins's book *Witnessed* chronicles events of the alleged November 30, 1989 Brooklyn Bridge sighting involving a political figure connected to the United Nations. The author suggested that because a political figure was involved, if not "chosen," the case has all the elements of a high-profile incident short of a UFO landing on the White House lawn. As the story goes, the political figure was in a motorcade at an early a.m. hour on the Brooklyn Bridge, along with civilian motorists. Electromagnetic

have witnesses to people floating in mid-air 12 stories off the ground," he told the Minnesota audience. Despite his claims, many who've looked into the case fail to see where Hopkins has made undeniable "proof" fully evident. He did speak of corroborative findings among witnesses that he's interviewed, and commented how difficult it would be to get children to lie, etc.

"Either this is a giant hoax involving perhaps 20 people or it happened. This makes it extraordinarily important. It becomes a sort of litmus test," he said. The event received scant media coverage in mainstream channels or elsewhere, but Hopkins, like most researchers, remains unfazed by this. New York and other authorities deny it happened, while Hopkins counters by saying two New York police officers visited the apartment of Linda Cortile (neither has been identified) and other witnesses report otherwise.

While participating in an abduction panel at the same conference, Hopkins made his own views clear. "We're going to have to co-exist with another race. There's no doubt we're approaching this," he said. He reported that some of his cases, as do other abduction researchers, involve screen memories. As example, Hopkins described one case

Hollywood East Meets West: Political Influence on the Media

On the heels of "Independence Day," an avalanche of movie releases depict Hollywood's version of ETs and spaceships (*UFO Magazine*, Vol. 11, No. 6). And the boob tube can't stay away from UFO and related unexplained-phenomena topics with both fact-inspired and fiction-based shows, à la "Sightings," "X-Files" and "Dark Skies."

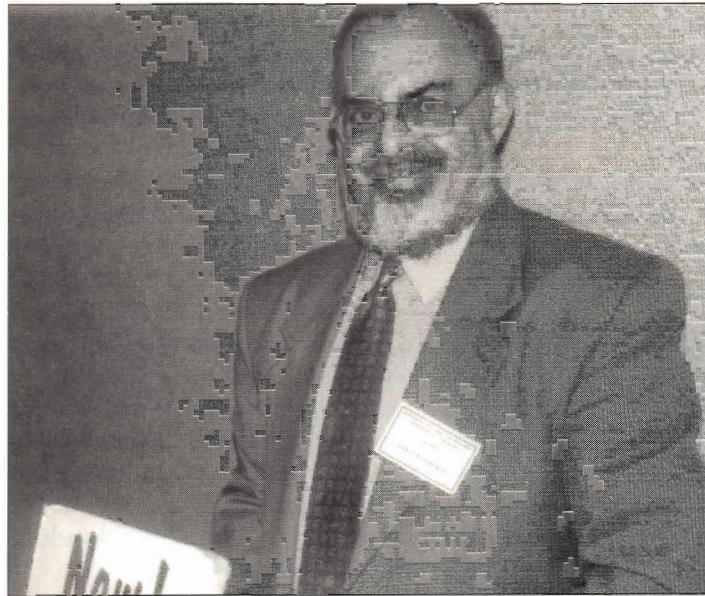
UFO researcher Stan Friedman noted the pickup in the UFO craze. "What drives Hollywood is greed. Nothing more, nothing less," he said. As far as the validity of film treatments, Friedman, like other ufologists, implies there's more fun and games than any true stories. "Who needs to do research?" Friedman flippantly said of the movie business.

Outside of celluloid, no saucer has landed on the White House lawn to date. Researcher Karl Pflock tells of famous radar sightings around Washington, D.C. during the Eisenhower administration in 1952. "It was a wild night. A week later, it happened again," Pflock told attendees at the National UFO and Unexplained Phenomena Conference held last fall in Minneapolis-St. Paul.

The event precipitated one of the largest press conferences held by the military since World War II, Pflock said. Like many unresolved, explained events, the government offers little follow-up or explanation of its own internal investigations. Pflock and many diligent UFO researchers are looking into decades-old cases. "I think there's gold in these old cases," he said.

For all its scandal and hype, Washington, D.C. has been likened to "Hollywood East." And the nation's political epicenter has more than an indirect influence on the media, say media experts.

In an on-line conference, Scott



Stanton
Friedman

Wolfe, author of *Extraterrestrial UFOs and World Governments*, suggests the government is perhaps entering another phase by "allowing" more shows which depict the UFO phenomenon (Compuserve's Encounters Forum, held July 31, 1996). "It was not like this over the last 20 years, and they (the government) are rapidly trying to design their next scenario for unveiling the cosmic Watergate. So hold on to your seats," urged Wolfe.

Many cyberspace attendees asked why the government is covering up its UFO involvement. Wolfe says that out of many reasons, one clearly stands out: "Having to admit that they (the government) can't control them (aliens); the government is terrified of having to admit that to the general public."

Too, Friedman doesn't forecast any stunning revelations revealed by the government anytime soon. As to Roswell and the build-up to its 50th anniversary, Friedman said he foresees no rejection by governmental agencies of the Roswell weather-balloon statement. "They're playing hardball about Roswell, about every other

aspect. If they weren't playing hardball, why would the secretary of the Air Force give a blanket amnesty to anybody who wants to talk about what happened in July 1947, since it was a non-event? They haven't done that," he said.

Friedman warned the Minneapolis-St. Paul audience to be very careful in the half-century mark of the modern UFO era. "Every darn media group in the country is trying to get something ufological on the screen," he declared.

Friedman doesn't necessarily adhere to the notion of a "secret government," but stated, "I would say there's a group that's the equivalent of Majestic 12. It's obviously a different type of group." His personal hope is that the floodgates to the cosmic Watergate will open soon. When asked as to his estimation when, he replied, "I'm 62, and I want to be alive when that happens." —M.J.

Marcia Jedd is a journalist and marketing researcher. As a journalist her specialties are earth-bound transportation and travel. She watches the skies from Minneapolis, Minnesota.

continued from page 14

ment in UFOs is an extreme, fringe view. He did raise some interesting questions at the conference in presenting platforms for separating UFO fact from fiction, and discussed government or "darkside" theories.

In mentioning one source connected to Roswell, Clark said, "If events happened as alleged, no

one will be brought to account for it. That's not because there's a lawless secret government, but because counter-intelligence operatives know that they can operate with relatively impunity when they are dealing with individuals on society's fringes."

Separating the truth from tall tales is a difficult task. Clark gave illustration of the rumors and official-looking, but false documents related to Majestic 12 (MJ-12) documents which have freely circulated. "Besides wasting everyone's time and throwing ufologists into confusion, such disinformation serves to take investigators off the scent of potentially genuine UFO secrets, such as those surrounding the Roswell incident. It also encourages the freelance disinformers, those who spread observed tales of trees with aliens, concentrations camps on Mars and other rubbish," Clark said.

Clark drew analogies between the contactees of the 1960s and 1970s and those that today hang their hats on government conspiracy theories. "There's no reason to believe that the major darksiders are government agents, but it is reasonable to deduce that if they didn't exist, the agencies responsible for the coverup would probably have to invent them. Whatever their differences, the early contactees and today's darksiders do have one major common element: an audience to which it does not occur to ask the harder obvious

questions. For example: "where's your evidence?" he stated. Clark then wryly hinted that when one does ask a lot of questions and express disbelief, that person could be deemed immediately suspect, and thus an agent themselves of a conspiracy.

Although Clark didn't cling to any one view, he did point out that at the time of freewheeling "contactee" and early abduction stories, the government was becoming unified, not to mention tight-lipped, in its UFO policy. "The (Robertson) panel went on to urge a policy of official debunking of UFO reports. That recommendation was followed from then on until the closing the Air Force's public UFO project in 1969. With the contact stories, we see the opposite of traditional Air Force policy, not the debunking, but the act of encouraging the most outlandish UFO rumors of all," he said.

Clark hints of odd facts, a few possible facts and many likely or certain lies in the quest for answers about UFOs. "In short, it's not a lot to go on, but enough to keep an intriguing question alive, and the focus on paranoia, charlatanism, mystery and wonder for years to come," he said.

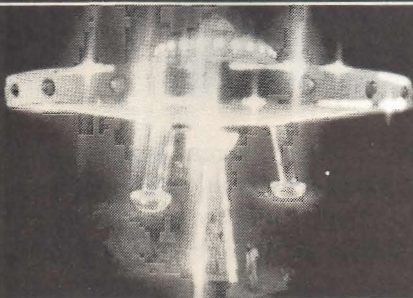
Randle said the elimination of public ridicule is the first step. After all, he reasons, many U.S. citizens in surveys accept the idea of UFOs possibly being extraterrestrial. "What we have to do is to eliminate the ridicule curtain that the military and the government lowered in the 1940s," he said.

The time for more to come out from government agencies and other sources is ripe, given the dawning of the new millennium and even the re-election of Bill Clinton.

If extraterrestrial and earth-bound soothsayers alike are this side of earnest, we might just be handed a few more legitimate pieces to the giant UFO puzzle in 1997 and beyond—a promising idea but certainly not a new one.

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Memories of UFO Sightings Fresh After 50-plus Years

by Gordon W. Cammell, Royal Air Force, retired

Gordon W. Cammell (a New Zealander), was a bomber Captain in the Royal Air Force during WWII. He flew Lancasters, was shot down over Germany and spent two years in prison camp. He remained an R.A.F. pilot for many years after the war, and he'd always told stories about his UFO experiences while in the service. At *UFO's* request, he wrote the following personal accounts. Unlike U.S.A.F. personnel, Cammell is not subject to any repressive "national security" oaths.

I am a retired Royal Air Force officer and spent a combined total of more than 20 years as a pilot in the Royal New Zealand Air Force and R.A.F. In May, 1943, I was the captain of a Lancaster bomber aircraft, and as we crossed the English Channel upon returning from a bombing raid over Germany, I and all of my crew saw what appeared to be a huge orange ball on or near the sea, seven or eight thousand feet below us. It appeared to be stationary as we observed it for about 10 minutes, and its light intensity was bright and constant. We decided that it was not an aircraft or ship on fire, since we could not see flames or changing reflections on the water.

After landing back at our base at R.A.F. East Wretham, Suffolk, England, we reported our sighting to the debriefing officer, who also had no idea of what we had seen.

* * *

In 1953, I was based at R.A.F. Coltishall, Norfolk, England, as a jet pilot flying Meteor night fighters. During a routine night flying exercise, one of our crews, Captain Alli-



GORDON W. CAMMELL—
During his stint as a R.A.F. pilot and as he appears today.

son, and radar operator Heavers reported sighting a cigar-shaped UFO with internal green lights visible through windows. When this crew entered our flight room upon their return, they were both very excited and convinced that the object they had seen was extraterrestrial, because of its very high speed and unusual configuration. The next day, we learned that the crew of another night fighter jet of number 85 Squadron, flying near their base at R.A.F. Maidstone, Kent (over 100 miles from Coltishall), had reported an identical sighting only three minutes after our crew's encounter. Three minutes to cover a distance of 100 miles meant that the UFO was travelling at about 2,000 m.p.h., which was well in excess of the capability of any aircraft in the U.K. at that time in history.

Within the same general time frame of the above reported UFO sighting, one afternoon I was doing duty in the aircraft control tower as

"Duty Pilot." Fog covered the area, giving very limited visibility on the ground for take-offs and landings, and so flying had ceased for the day. However, an order was received from the officer commanding the ground control interception radar site at R.A.F. Neatishead, to scramble two radar equipped Meteors, and the crews were instructed to climb to 30,000' and attempt to intercept and identify two UFOs that appeared on the radar screens moving at a speed in excess of 1700 m.p.h. inland after crossing the Norfolk coast from the sea. However, well

before our aircraft could reach their assigned altitude, the UFOs turned and travelled back towards the European continent and were no longer visible on the ground radar screens. Our aircrews did not see the UFOs visually or on their radar

screens, since they were out of their range by the time they had completed their climbs.

* * *

For some years my wife and I owned a holiday home near Victoria, British Columbia, Canada, and we would spend two or three months there each summer. Our house commanded a wide, unobstructed view over farmland to Horo Straight, 1-1/2 miles distant, which runs between Vancouver Island and the San Juan Islands of Washington State. This view was seen through a large picture window in the living room where we relaxed, especially during the evenings. Quite often we would not

continued on page 42



'Sightings' Moves to Sci-Fi Channel

by Robert T. Leach

America's thirst for paranormal, reality-based TV continues to be quenched by that pioneer of the genre, "Sightings," which began its fifth season Oct. 4 on the often hard-to-find Sci-Fi Channel.

"Sightings," which has both predated and outlasted most of its competition, makes a solid effort to explore paranormal phenomena in a thorough and unbiased manner. Past topics have included hauntings, psychic detectives, reincarnation, government cover-ups—and of course UFOs. Notable differences between "Sightings" and its imitators are the absence of a tabloid style and the presence of Emmy award-winning news anchor Tim White, who has returned this season.

"Extraordinary things happening to ordinary people that can't be explained by mainstream science... that is the common thread of our stories," the show's Director of Research Jonathan Jerald told *UFO Magazine* during a break in production. The show's longevity, he says, is due to the "underlying commitment to explore the phenomena" on which they report. "We look for the best possible examples of these types of stories," he continues.

Their investigations too frequently reveal questionable witnesses and sometimes uncover downright hoaxes. Due to the show's commit-

ment to an honest presentation of the facts, "We have a lot of unfinished stories that will never be aired," Jerald said.

"Sightings" once aired a retraction segment showing how a hoaxer had initially fooled them during a story previously aired. "We don't perceive ourselves as debunkers," he adds quickly, "we are open to possibilities." But for a story to be aired, there must be "some verification," he says, that make the fantastic claims of the experiencers at least possible.

Jerald tells *UFO* that "Sightings" had the opportunity to purchase the highly profitable "Alien Autopsy" footage before it was widely circulated, but declined to do so because it was impossible to verify anything about the film. "No one would be happier for it to be genuine than us," he says, "but we could not support it. To do so would be irresponsible."

Though Jerald describes himself as "very skeptical" about UFOs before he worked on "Sightings"—even though he saw a strange triangle-shaped object flying above him outside San Diego some years ago—after three years with the show, "I'm much less so," he says. He refers to the "integrity and conviction of some of those who have experienced these things," and the reluctance of government agencies to give accurate information about the

subject, as reasons for softening his view. "Extraordinary things do happen" he says, describing a shocking (non-UFO) event he witnessed while on location. Another factor Jerald considers is that scientists are starting to take a public interest in the subject.

He cites the recent conference at M.I.T. on alien abductions as an example. As to the future study of UFOs, Jerald is optimistic, "I think we are on the verge of a golden age of UFO research." Of the contribution "Sightings" has made to the public's education about the anomalous, "We don't pretend to have the answers," he concluded, "but we do fill an enormous void."

"Sightings" plans to continue its eclectic mix of paranormal programming. Here are some UFO-related highlights: *Silent Vulcans*: Strange triangular shaped craft mystify the Belgian Air Force. *MJ-12*: Report on Stanton Friedman's search for answers in the Majestic 12 mystery. *Interview with Nick Pope*: Former United Kingdom Ministry of Defence Officer blows the whistle on UFO cover-ups in the U.K. *Foo Fighters*: American Veterans tell of experiences with UFOs. *1947*: The year the Ufology was born. *Deliberate Deception*: Retiring military personnel come forward about UFO sightings encountered in the line of duty. A former USAF cameraman talks about UFO film he shot, the existence of which the Air Force denies.

"Sightings" has scored high in the ratings every season. It appears to be most popular with men and women in the 18 to 35 range, UFO-related stories being most popular with men.

The decision to move from syndication to the less visible Sci-Fi Channel was prompted by an unspecified business decision. Reportedly it is already the network's most watched show.

News clipping from the 'Sightings' UFO files on the year 1947.

REPORTS POUR IN ON MORE FLYING DISKS; WITNESS SAYS EIGHT LANDED IN IDAHO

**6 A.M.
FINAL**

Seattle Post-Intelligencer
Post-Intelligencer Telephone, MAIn 2000 21 PAGES Post-Intelligencer Office 400 Pine St.
VOL. CXXXII, No. 128 SEATTLE, MONDAY, JULY 7, 1947 5c PER COPY

**'Saucers' Claimed
Seen Over Seattle**

**Plane Crashes 3 Homes;
Pilot Killed, 2 Injured**



AN OPEN LETTER TO UFO MAGAZINE READERS

View From Inside 'Strange Universe'

by René Barnett

When I left *UFO Magazine* to take a position at a yet-to-be-aired nightly television news magazine covering a large spectrum of phenomena, including unidentified flying objects, I was, of course, excited, but also unsure of what I might be getting myself into. I had taken pride in working for a publication which dared to take a hard journalistic approach to the anomalous and wondered how that might translate to television, where I knew we would be charged with being entertaining as well as informative. Those concerns were quickly laid to rest once I arrived at "Strange Universe."

In getting to know one of the executive producers, Paul Barrosse, I was pleasantly surprised to learn that in the late '70s, he had studied astronomy with Dr. J. Allen Hynek at Northwestern University, and had even had his own CE-2. "In 1978, driving with my friends from Kenosha, Wisconsin to Chicago," Barrosse said, "I had my first... clear UFO sighting, which I dutifully reported to CUFOS."

Those experiences still influence Barrosse today in the production of

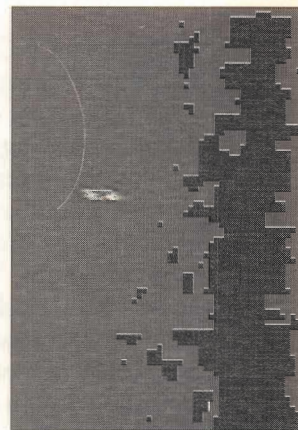
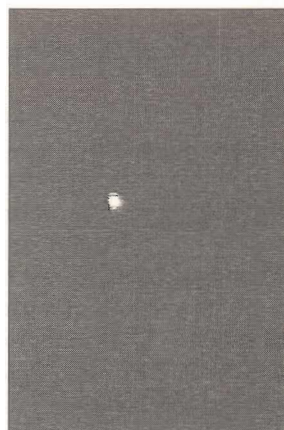
"Strange Universe."

"Our coverage of UFOs is based on Dr. Hynek's premise of it's not whether or not other intelligent life exists in the universe, it's just how much is there, and are they able to reach us yet?"

"While working on 'Mysterious Forces Beyond' for The Learning Channel, (Co-executive producer Margaret Roberts and I) tried real hard to make sure we married the paranormal with good science. The best and most intriguing paranormal phenomena stood up to science and even gained from objective analysis." Working together again on the Chris Craft/United Television-produced, Rysher Entertainment-distributed "Strange Universe," Barrosse said of Roberts and himself, "We try to do that with our UFO coverage."

"The wonder and amazement of a broad spectrum of people about unexplained aerial phenomena is one of the most vibrant elements of our broadcast," explains Margaret Roberts. "We receive letters and e-mails from people across the country who are amazed and bewildered by what they've seen or photographed. Their reports and their videotapes are a critically important part of this unknown phenomenon, whatever it may be. Sharing these images with our viewers and reporting on analyses of them is one of the most amazing aspects of our journalistic mission."

While most of the UFO footage is obtained by the show from viewers and investigators, a "Strange Universe" crew recently had the good fortune to witness and cap-



ONE, THEN TWO—Taped stills of the UFO show what appears to be one object splitting in two.



'STRANGE UNIVERSE' ANCHORS—Dana Adams and Emmett Miller

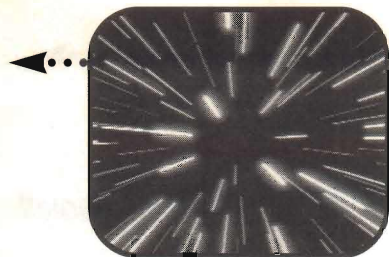
ture on video their own sighting when they went along with veteran UFO researcher Joyce Murphy's Beyond Boundaries group on an expedition to Mexico. On their return, the tape was promptly sent for analysis. An independent researcher determined that it was not man-made.

In the coming production cycle, "Strange Universe" will continue its straightforward coverage, making UFO Sightings Report a weekly feature with maps and video as well as segments on breaking UFO-related stories and events. According to Barrosse, "I think we can advance past Roswell, which I think we dealt with rather substan-

continued from page 40



AWED—L to R: Tour leader Joyce Murphy, Mexican experimenter 'Adrianna,' and author Sheila Franklin listen to on-air correspondent Stacey Gualandi as she describes the 'Strange Universe' encounter with a UFO.



http://www.ufo

WEBWATCH by Glen Boyd

Surf's Up Cybernauts! And Hale-Bopp A Lu-La. . . (see News, page 9.)

As this current edition's Webwatch went to press, the debate regarding the Hale-Bopp comet was raging both on the Internet and elsewhere. The controversy reached a boiling point during a series of broadcasts in November on the nationally syndicated late night radio programs, "Dreamland" and "Coast to Coast," hosted by Art Bell, both of which frequently feature UFO and paranormal-related subject matter. On the broadcasts, remote viewer and *Cosmic Voyage* author Courtney Brown disclosed that a number of controlled remote viewing practitioners had "viewed" an object traveling near the Hale-Bopp comet that was not of organic origin and was in fact under "intelligent control." Meanwhile, amateur astronomer Chuck Shramek of Texas had at virtually the same time photographed an object near Hale-Bopp through his telescope. It resembled the planet Saturn.

And with that, the hottest debate to hit ufology on the Internet and elsewhere since the Ray Santilli "Alien Autopsy" video was officially off and running. By the time you read this, the sparks could well have died down (even now explanations for the "second object" ranging from faulty software on Shramek's telescope to natural solar phenomena are emerging by the minute). At any rate, there are web pages with both the Shramek Hale-Bopp photo and the full findings of the remote viewers up and we thought we'd pass em' along. . .

HALE-BOPP A LU-LA: Chuck Shramek's "The Great Comet of 1997: Hale-Bopp" openly questions the release (or lack thereof) of information on the Hale-Bopp comet from official channels, both government and scientific. In addition to the photo of "the object" next to Hale-Bopp, it contains other photos and updates on "the Great Comet." Access Shramek's page at <http://paradise.pplnet.com/shram/comet.htm>. And be prepared for a slow loading time if it's as busy there as it was at press time. . . The Farsight Institute is the Remote Viewing page where the results of the CRV subjects who targeted Hale-Bopp can be found. Among other interesting revelations from the remote viewing subjects are a mass landing event involving Martians and Grey aliens and a presidential announcement of E.T. reality, both apparently set for this spring. Check it out at <http://www.farsight.org>, (but remember that *UFO Magazine* recommends taking Farsight's "data" with a substantial grain of salt). . . For those who prefer the short version of this story, most of the info and pic-



Skywatchers International can be reached at
<http://www.wic.net/colonel/ufopage.htm>

tures can be found at Art Bell's web site. . . <http://www.artbell.com>. Now on to the Webwatch pick. . .

AND THE WINNER IS. . . SKYWATCH INTERNATIONAL <http://www.wic.net/colonel/ufopage.htm>

Great stuff here and lots of it. Exploring "UFOs, EBEs, and the Extraordinary," Retired USAF Colonel S. Wilson's ("Investigator of Extraterrestrial Biological Entities," according to the page) Skywatch International covers it all with easy to navigate and regularly updated sections devoted to all the UFO phenomenon has to offer. Enter the "Gateway" here and you will find one of the largest galleries of UFO photos on the Internet anywhere.

There are also monthly updates from the National UFO Reporting Center and a weekly UFO Report (which at press time included an update on the Hale-Bopp controversy as well as a series of unexplained "sky booms" in Florida).

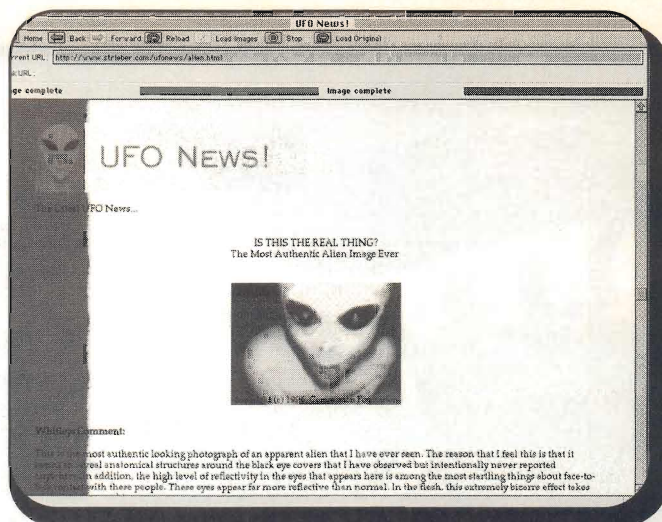
Skywatch International has also just added a link to the first ever Russian UFO web page. There are entire areas devoted to UFO documents, Roswell, Majestic 12, astronauts and UFOs, and sightings from the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Australia. And as always, there's a huge UFO linkboard. "The Colonel" has a top notch site in Skywatch International. It's recommended by Webwatch for its great graphics, and a mountain of up-to-the-minute information which despite its sheer volume is presented in a way that's very easily navigated. Big Surf's Up here, Colonel!

TV OR NOT TV?: With the explosion of UFO and Paranormal-related "reality based" shows all over the tube

these days, it was of course inevitable these same shows would go "interactive" with their own World Wide Web sites. "Sightings," which recently changed addresses from the Fox Network to the cable Sci-Fi channel, is the grandpa of the modern crop of paranormal newsmagazines and was also among the first to enter cyberspace with an America Online site a year or so back. Now they have a website at <http://www.scifi.com/sightings/>. "Sightings" has regularly updated news, regular chat sessions and online events, and a message board where visitors can post articles on a variety of UFO and related topics. Not surprisingly, Hale-Bopp was a hot topic there at press time.

The new kid on the block also has their site up and running: "Strange Universe," "the phenomenal daily newsmagazine" can be found on the WWW at <http://www.rysher.com/strangeuniverse/index.shtml>. As the show's hosts are so fond of saying, "it's a strange universe out there" and this site has it covered. You'll find programming updates, message boards in the "Phenom Forum," a weekly poll on different topics, downloadable video clips, and the self-explanatory "This Weird Week."

SAUCER BYTES: Pssst... wanna see a picture of a grey alien? Then check out Whitley Strieber's "Communion Homepage" at <http://www.strieber.com/ufonews/>. Strieber calls the picture there "the most authentic photograph of an apparent alien that I have ever seen," citing anatomical features around its eyes he claims to have observed himself during abductions, but never reported. . . . The folks at VJ Enterprises whose "UFOs in the '90s" is one of the best UFO sites on the WWW (<http://www.execpc.com/vjentpr/vjufos/html>) have just launched UFO NET Global, a network of UFO-related websites intended to link researchers and webmasters from the Global Internet community. So far they have about 75 member sites which can be found at <http://www.execpc.com/vjentpr/ufointro.html>. . . Finally, three sites of note. For the conspiratorially inclined, you'll find more information on UFOs, government manipulation over the population, mind control, remote viewing, and the planet's ever changing paradigms than you can possibly digest in a single evening at the Leading Edge Research Group site. This site comes to you courtesy of Val Valerian (aka John Grace), and the same folks responsible for the Matrix series of underground conspiracy book classics. You'll find them at <http://www.cco.net/~trufax/welcome.shtml>. . . For those following the Majestic 12 story, there is the MJ-12 Research Center. You'll find them at <http://home.megalinx.net/~shale/>. . . One of the largest UFO linkboards anywhere on the Net (alphabetically categorized) can be found at UFO World. They also have a nice page up devoted to *UFO Magazine* and Don Ecker's UFOs Tonite! radio program. You'll find them at <http://web2.airmail.net/yogi/ufo.html>



Whitley Strieber's *Communion* Homepage at <http://www.strieber.com/ufonews/>

'Till next time, happy surfing. If you would like your UFO website considered for review in a future Web-watch column, please e-mail your URL and a brief description to Glen Boyd at Alkiguy1@ix.netcom.com

Drum Roll . . .

UFO MAGAZINE'S VERY OWN WEB SITE

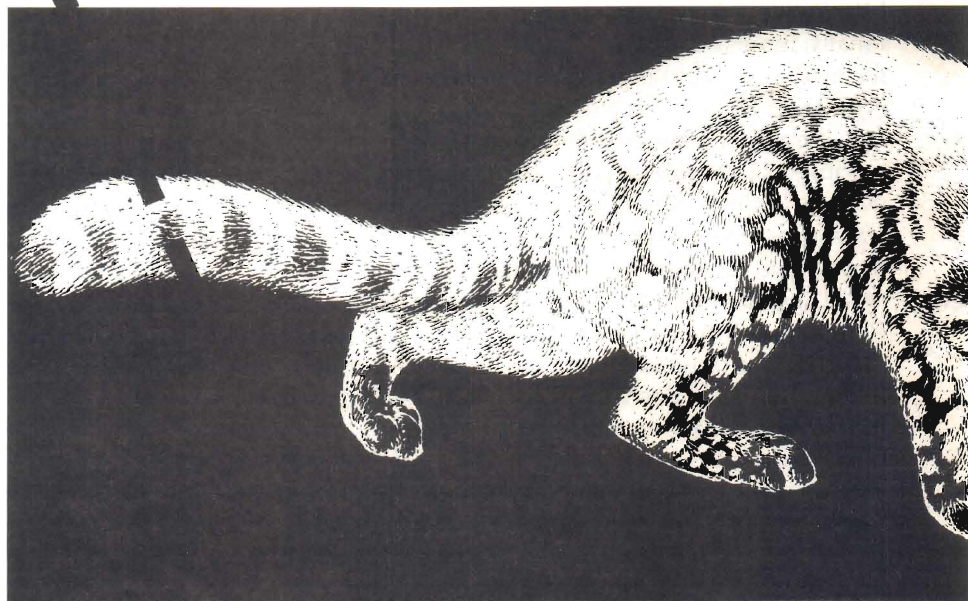
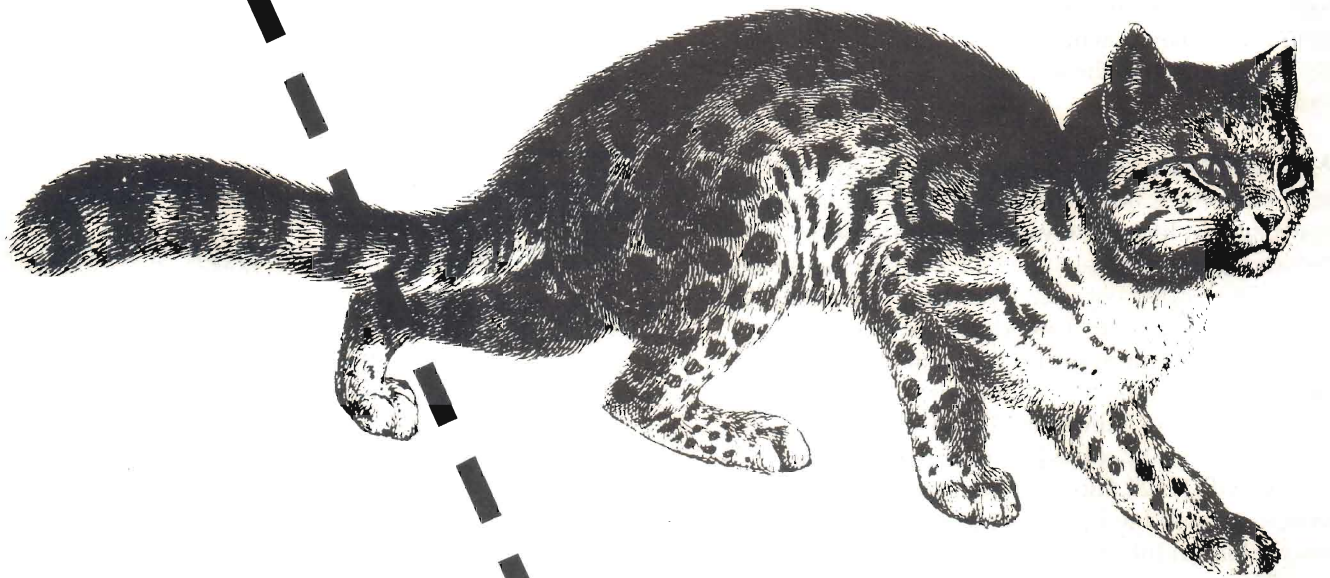
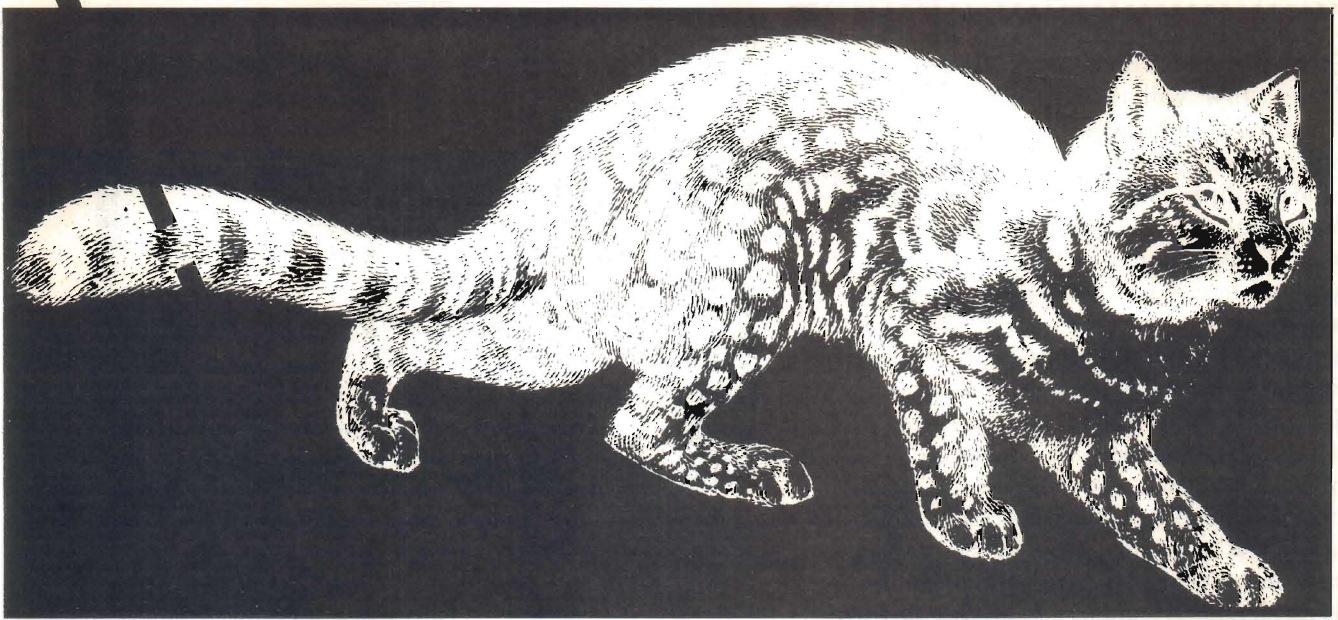
As *UFO Magazine* goes to press, we can finally say we have done it. We are now working on a mega-web site that should be up and running in the next month. Digging deep into our files, we've come up with information collected over the last decade. We were there when many of what have become today's UFO urban myths first appeared on the scene.

The site will feature a section for each *UFO Magazine* and assorted articles since we began publishing (1986), plus exclusive sound files from famous incidents over the course of years. The site will also carry information on where to get other info, links, updates, and generally what is happening with our other projects such as upcoming electronic media programming. All the back shows of *UFOs Tonite!* will be listed, along with selected shows you can listen to in real time. <http://www.ufomagazine.com>, when completed, will present a visual library of UFO personalities going back to the dawn of modern UFO research.

That's right, it will all be there, and more. Once again, watch this space for updates on this long-awaited cyber event! —Don Ecker

In the meantime, our e-mail addresses are:

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 Sherie Stark: starkart@aol.com
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A Killing Season

by D. Douglas Graham

When you ask people why they live in St. Louis, Missouri, statements like; "it's a great place to raise kids," is usually the most common reply. St. Louis is a major metropolitan area that thinks like a small town.

Nothing untoward is supposed to happen here, especially in the far western suburbs of Ballwin and Manchester where much of the town's money and power reside. The residents of these bedroom communities are mostly conservative, unimaginative, church-going folk with a taste for the status quo. The sort of people who don't care much for surprises.

But crazy stuff happens even in St.

were found bloodless and cleaved in half with heart and lungs removed. The work was accomplished with what appeared to be surgical expertise, but apart from coyotes, wild dogs and owls, police had no suspects.

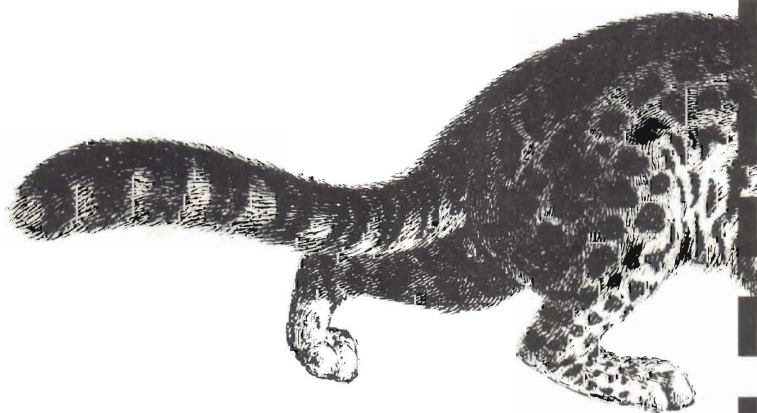
By late October the confirmed body count reached five, while another 20 or 30 animals remained unaccounted for. These strange events were heralded by the discovery of the mutilated body of the Vestal family cat by 14-year-old Kevin Vestal on September 10, 1995. What remained of the dead animal, which the Vestals had named "Edie," was dumped in a neighbor's back yard. Though Kevin found only the front portion, it was

around their Ballwin neighborhood, warning the residents to keep their pets under close surveillance. The fliers were written in the sort inflammatory language one would expect in such a situation. One of them read, in part: "... To have a pet murdered in a new neighborhood we are calling home is terrifying. I felt you should all know to protect your pets, and God forbid, your children."

The fliers motivated many other grieving former pet owners to come out of the closet with horror stories of their own. Many cats were missing, they said, and several had turned up in pieces. The whole area was apparently under siege. A maniac, or perhaps a gang of maniacs, was turning the impeccably manicured lawns of St. Louis suburbia into killing fields.

The murderer left another grisly calling card on September 15 when the mutilated corpse of Bob and Vickie Gatesh's family cat was discovered by Gloria Gentemann, a neighbor. "Bear" was a feral cat, whom the Gateshes had adopted several years before. Like Edie, the animal had been cut in half, but this time both pieces had been left behind for all to see. Missing were the heart, lungs and blood. One severed kidney had fallen into the cavity of the abdomen.

"The big mystery is how it was done," said Gentemann. "The cat was completely wild, so wild that some of the neighbors were actually afraid of it. It would not approach strange people, and no one else could get near it. According to a police cult expert we talked to, the way the cat was mutilated suggested careful planning. The killer must have brought a table along with him, or maybe a chopping block, not to mention a sharp



Louis, and beginning in the fall of 1995, the Gateway City found itself in the grip of a horrific mystery. The area had suddenly become a killing zone, with innocent house cats the hapless victims. Most of the corpses

clear the cat had been cut in half from the shoulder blades all the way through the torso with some kind of razor sharp instrument.

When police could offer no assistance, the Vestals posted fliers



"(The) body was severed cleanly with what appeared to be an extremely sharp object just distal to the thirteenth rib, extending completely through the vertebrae. The heart and lungs were not found on examination."

let alone protesting house pets, would be really tough in a place like this, where the neighbors are always on the lookout for anything that looks even remotely out of character for this very conservative community.

But one day, Linda's cat, Missy, turned up missing. The cat was no rover. Her range extended no further than the end of the driveway. So when two days passed,

and Missy did not return, Linda became alarmed.

In the end her fears were justified. A farmer found the animal dead and mutilated on his property. Like the rest of the area's cat casualties, Missy had been dispatched very brutally. She was gutted, and many vital organs were removed. The necropsy that followed vetoed the idea of a coyote attack. Missy had been butchered deliberately by someone who knew

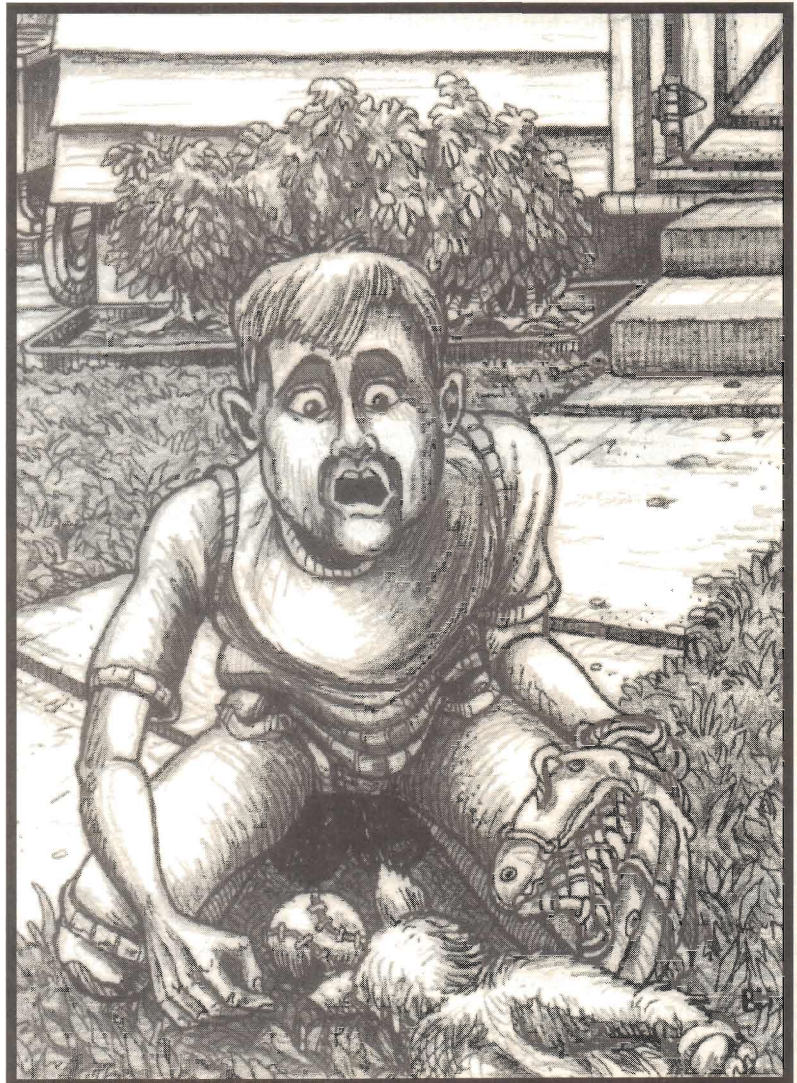
cutting instrument like a machete. He could have used a stun gun to subdue the cat, which does nothing to explain why a person would do such a thing in the first place."

When police insisted that Bear had been done in by a coyote, Vickie Gatesh brought the cat's remains to Westglen Veterinary Hospital for a necropsy. Veterinarian James G. Buehler performed the operation. In an open letter, he summarized his findings:

"(The) body was severed cleanly with what appeared to be an extremely sharp object just distal to the thirteenth rib, extending completely through the vertebrae. The heart and lungs were not found on examination. The left kidney was removed from its attachments, and found loose in the abdomen. The liver, stomach, small intestines, spleen and large intestines were present and appeared normal. No evidence of fractures to any legs, ribs or skull were evident on exam. No toxicological or pathological tests were performed at this time."

Linda O'Donnell, a sales administration manager for a Midwestern candy company, lives in the prosperous community of Chesterfield. Her house faces Clarkson Road, an extremely busy street that connects Chesterfield to the other small towns and villages comprising the suburban sprawl known as West County. The area has a burgeoning population and lots of cops. Stealing newspapers,

ART BY BILL HERD





While no one can say when it truly began, the official history of American animal mutilations can be traced back to 1966 when an Ohio dairy farmer discovered that several of her cows had been "expertly butchered in part, and the bodies (left) bloodless."

exactly what he was doing.

"Cats are not the only target for this sicko," said O'Donnell. "Last October someone found a poodle cleaved in half. It was all over the news. Several organs had been removed and there was no blood. It's also spreading to other towns in the area. Where I work in Afton there's signs going up all over the place advertising missing dogs and cats. A woman I talked to in Imperial, Missouri knows of at least 30 or 40 cases of missing animals, some of which have already turned up mutilated."

The authorities, as usual, were totally bewildered. Along with the usual coyote talk, some offered explanations far more outlandish than the strange phenomenon they were working so hard to defuse.

"The cuts are always perfect," said O'Donnell. "But at one point the police were trying to sell the idea that the animals were getting torn up on wire fences. It just goes to show how desperate they are to find an answer."

The St. Louis mutilations were only the latest in a long string of similar episodes reported in this country and Canada. Beginning in August, 1994, the residents of British Columbia were discovering their own house pets dead and horribly dismembered. At the peak of the flap, the Canadian body count reached six or seven in Vancouver alone. Some of the animals were decapitated, deprived of front paws or simply cut in half. Most were missing vital organs. As usual, all corpses and kill sites were found bloodless.

The Canadian cases had a nasty Satanic subtext. Washington state, which lies just a few hours south of British Columbia, had earlier suffered a spate of cattle mutilation and church desecration. Were these events connected in some weird way?

Cat Killers

As the Canadian pet owners were placing their pets and their kids under lock and key, phantom cat killers were haunting Plano, Texas, Gulf Breeze, Florida, and Falls Church, Virginia. The grim details of these cases were virtually identical to those occurring in Canada, and later in St. Louis. Though the facts suggested a conspiracy of international proportions, the local media reported them as local events while the authorities consistently stuck to the party line about predatory animals.

The mutilation enigma has ancient roots.

Records detailing the mysterious deaths of animals go back many centuries, even to the time of Christ. Then as now, the victims were found exsanguinated, and missing internal and sexual organs. Tongues were partially or totally removed, and much of the flesh was stripped from the neck and head.

Other curious features included a lack of incriminating footprints, little or no blood present at the kill site, and more often than not, reports of weird lights darting about in the sky.

In old Europe, waves of unexplained animal deaths and the weird phenomenon accompanying them sometimes inspired inquisitorial paranoia. A flap of unexplained animal deaths occurring in 16th century France, for example, was the impetus for a witch hunt, responsible for the execution by burning of several persons accused of lycanthropy. These "were-wolves" were compelled under torture to confess a liaison with Satan who demanded that they destroy whole herds of sheep as a demonstration of loyalty.

Later on we find recorded in the "damned" data bank of Charles Fort, many instances of "livestock ripping," most of them occurring in England in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Once again, sheep were usually the victims in these cases, which included many nasty incidents of exsanguination.

One notorious flap of "horse ripping," in 1903, resulted in the arrest and imprisonment of one

George Edalji. Having exhausted all other possible causes, Edalji, a loner and outcast, became the scapegoat in these proceedings. Guilty or not, history will remember him as the first cult killer in the long chronicle of livestock mutilation. Like predatory animals, cult killers would become primary suspects in all subsequent mutilations.

As the 20th century got underway, the mutilation phenomenon traveled from the Old World to the New. While no one can say when it truly began, the official history of American mutilations can be traced back to 1966 when an Ohio dairy farmer discovered that several of her cows had been "expertly butchered in part, and the bodies (left) bloodless."

The gory freak show moved west, and soon Pennsylvania suffered a spate of similar activity. But the strange saga did not make the national news until 1967, when the badly mutilated body of "Snippy" the horse was found on her Colorado ranch. Snippy was left in very bad shape. Her brain was gone, and she was skinned from her head to her shoulder blades. This ugly business was accomplished with surgical precision. The corpse, as usual, was totally deprived of blood.

Snippy was only one of the first victims in a long, and apparently pointless siege. A new wave of slaughter began in the mid 1970s, most of it centering around the grazing states of the Midwest. Cows and horses were the usual victims in these cases, and very often the animals selected were all of the same color, or had some other characteristics that distinguished them and their fellow victims from the rest of the herd.

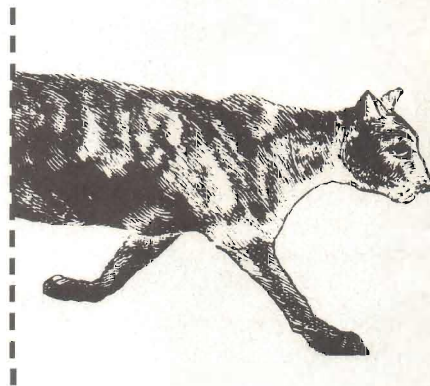
The national media gave the matter considerable attention, and the vivid descriptions of the victim's remains inflamed the imagination of the frightened public.

The wounds, for example, were generally of two types. Some

appeared to be the work of some kind of cutting instrument, while others looked as though they had been made with a laser-like device. Cored out were sexual organs, and one or both eyes, while the tongue, and the flesh of the lower jaw was cleanly stripped away.

Blood-letting was typical, and often accompanied by one or several "Dracula effects"—i.e., puncture holes in the jugular. Necropsies sometimes uncovered chemical elements resembling "angel dust" in the victim's remains. No footprints or blood were ever visible. Scavengers and other predatory animals avoided the kill sites, which were often contaminated with traces of radiation.

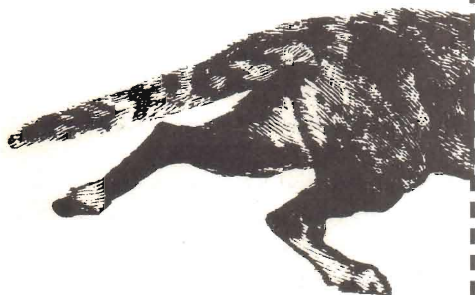
While these facts were strange enough, the cases also had extremely curious peripheral features. On separate occasions, and sometimes together, big hairy monsters of the Sasquatch type, and tall, human figures clad from head to foot in long, dark robes were reported to prowl the kill sites. And those naughty UFO-nauts apparently had a strong



connection to the phenomenon, as many unidentified craft were observed buzzing near and around the affected areas, along with whole fleets of black, unmarked helicopters.

Some really bad news

If pets and livestock are being killed and mutilated on a grand scale by some unknown hostile force, could not their owners suffer a similar fate? The answer, regrettably, is maybe. There are records on file that suggest strongly that the mutila-



tors may be on the lookout for human subjects.

Not too unexpectedly, the evidence comes from regions of the world notorious for intense UFO activity. One particularly striking case comes from the wilderness of Idaho. A man was found dead near the Bliss and Jerome regions of the state. There were no animal or human tracks near the body, and no evidence suggestive of a struggle, yet the man had been mutilated in several portions of his body. His lips and sexual organs had been cut away, and there were other wounds reminiscent of animal mutilations.

The reports that come to us from other countries are even more disturbing. In anecdotes from Central and South America, for example, whole villages are preyed upon by alien human-hunters, as mutilated bodies literally drop from the sky. There are even unverified reports of crashed UFOs with caches of body parts on board. Meanwhile. . .

Last year, a blurb appeared in the *West County Journal* arguing that the St. Louis mutilation scare may be far from over. The brief read as follows:

"Police are seeking information about the recent mutilation and death of a pet rabbit in far West County. The animal was reportedly attacked between 10:00 p.m. July 8, and 9 a.m. July 9 outside a home in the 600 Block of Waterford Ridge Drive, said Officer Barry Armfield of the St. Louis Police Department."

The brief concluded with Armfield's telephone number, and a request that anyone with additional information contact him as quickly as possible. To add fuel to growing paranoia, St. Louis has also witnessed a recent spate of dog napping. Newspaper and television journalists speculate that someone may be stealing the animals to provide research laboratories with fresh subjects, and indeed, Missouri is more notorious for this sort of thing than most other regions in the country.

Even so, the number of animals that has gone missing is rather stag-

The cuts are always perfect. . . But at one point the police were trying to sell the idea that the animals were getting torn up on wire fences. It just goes to show how desperate they are to find an answer.

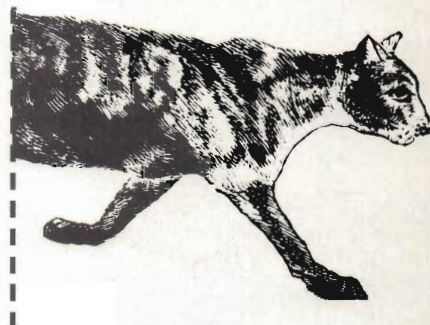
gering. Some counties adjacent to St. Louis report losses as high 250 per week, and as the strange year drags on, many more unfortunate animals may follow suit. The good news is that at the time of this writing, none of the missing dogs have turned up mutilated.

Strangely perhaps, considering the history of the mutilation phenomenon, UFOs have yet to make an appearance in the area. This has done nothing to ease the minds of witnesses. The people most affected by these events, the pet owners themselves, all have their own theories about who may be responsible.

"A few weeks after Missy disappeared, a couple of teen-aged boys pulled up in front of my driveway," said Linda O'Donnell. "They drove a black compact, and just sat there until I came out of the house and chased them off. The boys wore baseball caps turned backwards. The police said they were probably looking to steal beer, but if this is so, they were certainly bold about it. It was only dusk, so they would certainly have been observed."

Other St. Louisans report unusual incidents that seem vaguely connected to the mutilations. Some have heard weird sounds at night, and the screams of animals in agony. Wild animals have been found impaled on steel fences, or so the rumor holds.

One woman discovered a jeep in her neighborhood filled with shovels, picks, knives, and other dangerous-looking instruments. Another saw someone resembling



one of those tall, hooded fellows of cattle mutilation lore: a gaunt figure, dressed completely in black, with a suspicious looking sack swung over his shoulder. The very next day a mutilated cat was found in the area.

Meanwhile, Vickie Gatesh believes she has found a suspect.

"My son met a kid at a fast food restaurant who claimed to be responsible for all of this," she said. "The boy is about 18 or so, and homeless. His parents supposedly live in Ballwin but he prefers to spend most of his time at the Delmar Loop (a popular Bohemian hang out, near Washington University). My son says the kid is scruffy and rather dangerous looking, the sort of person you wouldn't approach on a dark street. He claims he learned how to mutilate animals from someone in Colorado, and says he's done the same to people. My son seems to think he's out of control."

Gatesh said that she relayed the story to Officer Armfield, but as of this writing, no arrest has been made.

The killing season continues. ●

D. Douglas Graham is a writer and investigator of paranormal phenomena who says his interest in these topics began at age 12, when a brightly-lit UFO visited his Baltimore neighborhood during the airing of the very first "Star Trek" episode.

THE STARSHIP BUILDERS:

UFO Propulsion, Demystified

by Kim Burrafato

In Future Tech, Part I: UFOs and the New Physics (Vol. 9, No. 3, 1994), we discussed some of the daunting problems in applying terrestrial rocket propulsion principles to any hypothetical models of UFO propulsion. A lot has happened since that article's publication over two years ago.

It seems we're getting almost weekly reports of newly discovered extrasolar planetary systems. What was once highly speculative is now commonplace. Obviously, our previous estimates of the number of stars with possible planetary systems will be revised dramatically upwards.

Then there is the recent announcement from a distinguished British research team that they also had found unambiguous traces of microbial life in Martian meteorite fragments. Combine that with the proliferation of newly discovered extrasolar planets, and one has the makings of a scientific revolution.

In this extraordinary context, the subject of UFOs suddenly takes on significant new meaning.

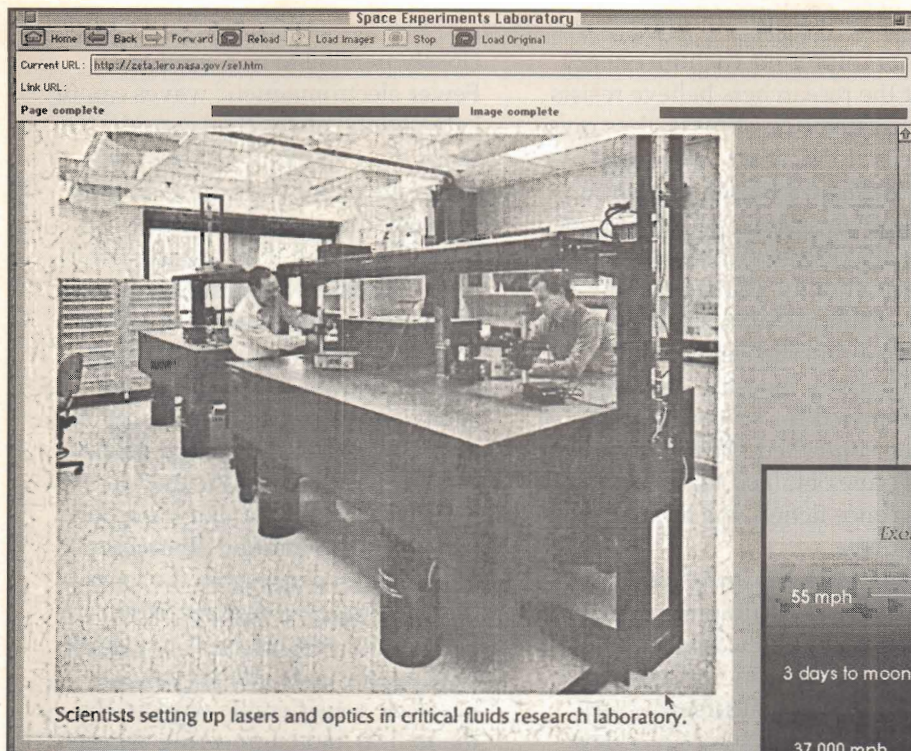
Despite all this stunning news, we're still left at the point we were at the end of the last article: If UFOs are real, then how do they get from there (where or whenever that may be), to here?

Since the publication of physicist Miguel Alcubierre's landmark paper "The Warp Drive: Hyper fast travel within General Relativity," in the journal *Classic and Quantum Gravity* (11, L73, 1994), the idea of hyperfast space travel has become a hot scientific topic—no doubt fueled

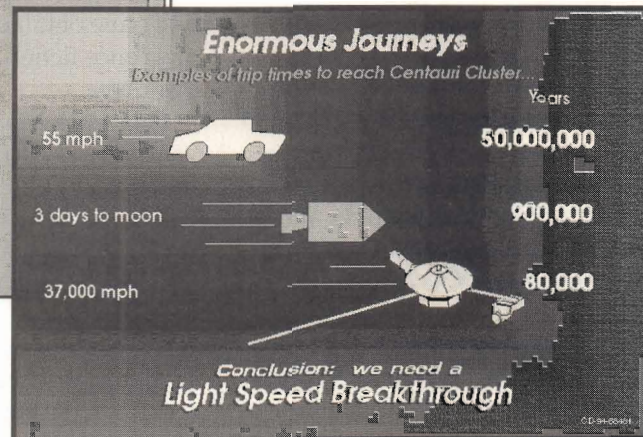
in part by the recent discoveries of Martian microbe remnants and extrasolar planets.

The Alcubierre Warp Drive is purely a consequence of the subtleties inherent in Einstein's General Theory of Relativity. Spacetime, the union of one time and three space dimensions, is dynamic according to General Relativity. It can be twisted, deformed, and possibly even engineered by concentrations (random or selective) of mass/energy. Alcubierre's Warp Drive alters spacetime in such a way that the region directly in front of the ship contracts, while the region directly behind the ship expands. The net effect of this is that the ship is propelled on a weightless geodesic path through spacetime.

Alcubierre explains his reasoning in the following paragraphs. (I quote them in full because they are essential to the rationale of this article). "The basic idea can be more



NEW FROM NASA—The website illustrations, two points of reference on the agency's new propulsion breakthrough project. From http://www.lerc.nasa.gov/Other_Groups/PAO/warp.htm



easily understood if we think for a moment in the inflationary phase of the early Universe, and consider the relative speed of separation of two comoving observers. It is easy to convince oneself that if we define this relative speed as the rate of change of proper spatial distance over proper time, we will obtain a value that is much larger than the speed of light. This doesn't mean that our observers will be traveling faster than light: they will always move within their own light cones.

Spacetime's special dynamics

"The enormous speed of separation comes from the expansion of spacetime itself. This superluminal speed is very often a source of confusion. It is also a very good example of how an intuition based on special relativity can be deceiving when one deals with dynamical spacetimes."

This next paragraph is the crystallization of his warp drive idea.

"The previous example shows how one can use an expansion of spacetime to move away from some object

at an arbitrarily large speed. In the same way, one can use a contraction of spacetime to approach an object at any speed. This is the basis of the model of hyper fast space travel that I wish to present here: create a local distortion of spacetime that will produce an expansion behind the spaceship, and an opposite contraction ahead of it. In this way, the spaceship will be pushed away from the earth and pulled towards a distant star by spacetime itself. One can then invert the process to come back to earth, taking an arbitrarily small time to complete the trip."

Alcubierre does point out in his abstract that "just as it happens with wormholes, exotic matter will be needed in order to generate a distortion of spacetime like the one discussed here." We will return to the subject of exotic matter later in this article.

Time dilation resolved

The key point is that Alcubierre's drive eliminates the nagging prob-

lem of time dilation, also discussed in the previous article. This would go a long way in making interstellar travel a practical reality. You could leave on a Saturday morning to go on a hundred light year journey (or thousand, for that matter), and return the following Saturday (or the same Saturday) to find everyone you know and love has aged no more or no less than your-

self. Nice. If it works.

Alcubierre works this seeming bit of gravitational magic by creating what he glibly calls "a simple metric that has precisely the characteristics mentioned above." His paper is actually one of the first theoretical realizations of "metric engineering," an idea first advanced by Russian Nobel Laureate Andre Sakharov and American Nobel Laureate T.D. Lee, and further developed by physicist Hal Puthoff and others.

Abundantly filled 'vacuum'

The way to metric engineering and the creation of exotic matter may lie in the energetic quantum vacuum. Modern Quantum Electrodynamics shows that the vacuum is not a void, but rather the opposite: an infinite reservoir of virtual particles and zero point energy. These zero point energy fluctuations of the vacuum lead to such real, measurable effects as the Casimir force, the Lamb shift, the Van der Waals chemical bind-

ing forces, and a number of other measurable effects.

Harold Puthoff is one physicist who has been exploring this particular area for some time. Puthoff is a theoretical and experimental physicist specializing in fundamental electrodynamics, and Director of the Institute for Advanced Studies at Austin. His research ranges from the study of quantum vacuum states as they apply to the stability of matter, gravitation, cosmology and energy research, to laboratory studies of innovative approaches to energy generation. A graduate of Stanford University, he has published over 30 technical papers in the areas of electron-beam devices, lasers and quantum zero-point energy fields, and is co-author of a textbook, *Fundamentals of Quantum Electronics* (Wiley, 1969).

In a paper published in the Feb. 1, 1994 *Physical Review A*, Puthoff, along with Bernard Haisch of Lockheed Palo Alto Research Laboratory and Alfonso Rueda of California State University at Long Beach, connects zero-point vacuum energy to inertia—that is, the tendency of moving masses to remain moving, and masses at rest to remain at rest.

Inertial dilemmas

You're a little kid standing up in your red Radio Flyer wagon, when your pal suddenly pulls the wagon forward and you're rudely flung onto the ground. You might have blamed your friend for his lack of good judgment, but it was actually inertia that catapulted you off the wagon. Scientists have been trying to figure out exactly what inertia is and how it arises ever since Galileo came up with the concept in the 17th century. Even Einstein, who believed that inertia was due to the arrangement of matter in the Universe, was unsuccessful in theoretically describing the true nature of inertia.

In their paper, Puthoff, Haisch, and Rueda propose that inertia is the result of the zero-point fluctuations of the hidden quantum vacuum energy that surrounds us. It is

this omnipresent vacuum energy that the researchers believe resists the acceleration of mass, thus giving rise to what we call inertia. Their idea was based in part around an earlier and long forgotten idea of Sakharov's, linking the force of gravity to the vacuum zero-point fluctuations. If the nature of inertia can ever be understood, the way will have been paved for it to eventually being controlled. At that point we will have obtained that Holy Grail of science fiction, the inertialess star drive.

This work has additional relevance to the Alcubierre paper. In a more recent publication entitled "SETI, the Velocity-of-Light Limitation, and the Alcubierre Warp Drive: An Integrating Overview" (*Physics Essays*, Vol 9, No.1, 1996), Puthoff extends Alcubierre's work to show that "Alcubierre's result is a particular case of a broad, general approach that might loosely be called 'metric engineering,' the details of which provide further support for the concept that reduced time interstellar travel, either by advanced extraterrestrial civilizations at present, or ourselves in the future, is not, as consideration might hold, fundamentally constrained by physical principles."

Puthoff's expression "metric engineering" is not to be taken lightly. Just as the internal combustion engine drove the Industrial Revolution and human expansion around the globe, metric engineering would drive a new human interstellar society into the furthest reaches of the space. Heady stuff.

An attractive force

The fact that the vacuum constitutes an "energy reservoir," as Puthoff says, doesn't mean it's going to be easy to tap into it. There are some promising avenues of approach, though. The Casimir force, mentioned earlier, is an attractive force between two very flat, conducting plates placed

closely parallel to one another. Fewer electromagnetic waves can fit between the plates than outside them. As a result, the electromagnetic zero-point pressure is smaller between the plates than outside them. The result is an attractive force. The total vacuum energy density between the plates is negative, that is, less than compared to that outside them. Anything that has such a lower, or negative energy relative to the overall vacuum density can be considered exotic matter.

Physicist Robert L. Forward published a paper entitled "Extraction of electrical energy from the vacuum. . ." (*Physical Review*, B 30, 1700, 1984), that attempts to exploit the Casimir plate effect. Forward has done considerable work in the theoretical and engineering aspects of matter/antimatter annihilation propulsion, including an ingenious design for an antihydrogen ice crystal powered starship. His vacuum energy extraction paper uses the Casimir effect as a kind of vacuum electrical generator. Again, two identically charged plates are placed close together. Like charges repel—something known as Coulomb repulsion. However, the stronger Casimir attractive vacuum force overcomes this Coulomb barrier, and causes the plates to be drawn together in a collapsing motion. This, in turn, confines the electrical charge distribution to an ever decreasing volume. The end result is that zero-point energy or Casimir energy is converted into potential electrical Coulomb energy, which can then be extracted in a number of straightforward ways.

Energy plus

The problem with this scheme is that such a Casimir generator is a one-shot device. You have to put as much energy into the device to get the plates to return to their original separated positions as you get from their attractive collapse. Considering the normal operating inefficiencies in any kind of electro-mechanical device, such a device remains a long

Antimatter fuel powers these speculative systems from the ICAN II web site.

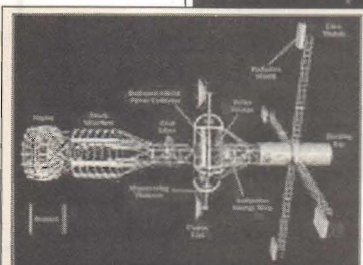
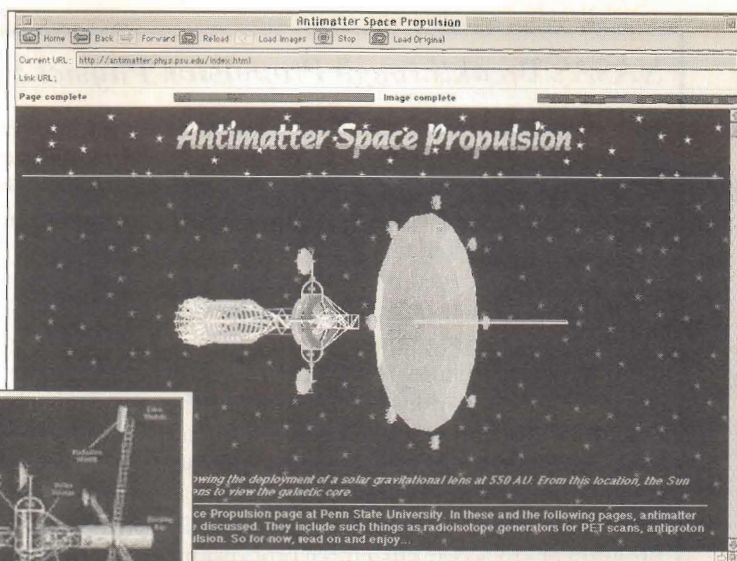


Figure 2 - ICAN-II Propulsion System.

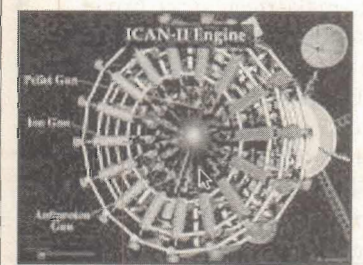


Figure 3 - Aft View of the ICAN-II Engine.

way from operating in any kind of energy "over unity," or "break even" mode, for that matter.

Attempts are being made to work around that problem. In a paper entitled "The energetic vacuum: implications for energy research" (*Speculations in Science and Technology*, Vol 13, No. 4, page 247, 1990), Puthoff extends Forward's idea of a vacuum energy generator.

"Let us carry this one step further, however. If one could arrange to have an inexhaustible supply of such devices, and if it took less energy to make each device than was obtained from the Casimir-collapse process, and if the devices were discarded after use rather than recycled, then one could envision the conversion of vacuum energy to use with a net positive yield. Although almost certainly not achievable in terms of mechanical devices, a possible candidate for exploitation along such lines would be the generation of a cold, dense, non-neutral charged plasma

in which charge condensation takes place not on the basis of charged plates being drawn together, but on the basis of a Casimir pinch effect. . . Such an approach would constitute a 'Casimir-fusion' process, which in its cycle of operation would mimic the nuclear fusion process."

Puthoff then goes on to say that he knows of "programs in the United States, the Soviet Union and other countries to explore just such an approach on an experimental basis."

Propellant ideas

Yet imaginative efforts continue in designing propellant based starships.

One of the better examples can be seen on the ICAN II web site at http://antimatter.phys.psu.edu/ICAN-II_Paper/pictures/ICAN-II_System.html This ingenious scheme incorporates an enormous hybrid particle accelerator around the actual starship itself, continually generating antimatter fuel while in flight. Again, nice if it works. But that still doesn't get around the time dilation problem. It always boils down to the fact that propellant type "rockets" — no matter what the fuel—don't cut the interstellar mustard when it comes to truly rapid transit. You have to be able to tweak the spacetime metric itself so you can at least come back and play with the dog.

Of course, this entire discussion centers around some basic human assumptions. It's still conceivable that interstellar space could be populated with societies which, although incapable of manipulating spacetime, are technologically sophisticated enough to carry their unique, life sustaining environments with them at sub-light speeds, and thrive while doing it. But it would be hard to envision contemporary human society ever adapting to such an alien, nomadic lifestyle.

Gravitational shielding

Another interesting and potentially important propulsion development are the so-called "gravitational shielding" experiments. In these experiments, small weights are suspended by extremely sensitive strain gauge devices. Placed closely underneath are rapidly rotating superconducting ceramic discs, which in turn are in a state of levitation due to the superconducting Meissner effect. It has been found in a number of different experiments that a significant fraction of weight is lost from the suspended materials. The effect was first discovered by Tampere University of Technology physicists E. Podkletnov and R. Nieminen, and published in their 1992 paper.

Podkletnov later published a second paper with colleague A.D. Levit that provides even stronger evidence for the weight loss effect. In this second experiment, samples of different composition and weight (10-50grams) were placed at distances of 25mm to 1.5 meters from the rotating disk. The resultant mass losses went as high as around 2 percent—undeniably a statistically significant amount.

NASA's 'anti-grav' efforts

Even more interesting is the fact that NASA is reported to be conducting, or about to conduct, similar gravity shielding experiments. Scientists Ning Li and D.G. Torr at the University of Alabama,

Huntsville, have written a number of papers in major journals on the relationship between superconductors and gravitation. It's not hard to understand why NASA would be interested in the subject. Although other researchers have duplicated these findings, no accepted theory of this new phenomenon has yet to emerge.

More than one reputable physicist has gone on record as saying it's physically impossible for there to be a direct "electro-gravitic" coupling of such a large magnitude, according to the standard classical General Theory of Relativity when combined with Maxell's electromagnetic field equations.

"However, there are some hints as to what this effect might actually be," says physicist Jack Sarfatti. "Superconductors have giant quantum wavefunctions. Which means they have large quantum forces exerted on them. The question is: will these large quantum forces distort the spacetime metric in a non-classical way? So, the Finnish experiments might actually be a new kind of giant quantum effect. There is one good phenomenological clue: Thin films of superfluid helium creep vertically up the sides of open beakers, in blatant defiance of the gravitational force. Nevertheless, the jury is still out on the gravitational shielding phenomenon."

NASA's level of interest in exotic new energy sources and propulsion methods is such that the agency established a landmark research program in July 1996. The program summary (at right) was put out last September by Marc G. Millis of the NASA Lewis Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio.

This new NASA working group adds an exciting dimension to the space program as we head into 21st century. One can only feel encouraged that some in the agency have chosen to go in this promising direction. It will take the kinds of breakthroughs discussed in this article, and soon to be studied in depth by the NASA working group, to get us to the stars. And one can feel confident that because of this, more startling theoretical and technological breakthroughs lurk right around the corner. ■

Kim Burrafato is a freelance writer with a background in film and science journalism. He admits to "a fascination with thorny scientific and pseudo-scientific issues, and their potential impact on society." His favorite thing in this world is cross-country backpacking the the High Sierras.

NASA's Breakthrough Propulsion Physics Program—

In July, 1996, a small new NASA research program was established to seek the breakthroughs that could one day revolutionize space travel and enable interstellar voyages. This program, called "Breakthrough Propulsion Physics," is led by Marc G. Millis of NASA's Lewis Research Center and is a part of the comprehensive Advanced Space Transportation Program managed by the Marshall Space Flight Center.

Prompted by new possibilities that have emerged in recent scientific literature and by the preparatory research by individuals on how to apply these possibilities to the goal of creating revolutionary propulsion, researchers from various NASA centers, other government laboratories, academia, and industries collaborated to initiate this program. This program looks beyond textbook science and foreseeable technology to seek the solutions required to revolutionize space transportation and make deep space travel practical and affordable. Specifically, the goals of the program are to accomplish three propulsion breakthroughs. They are:

(1) Eliminate or dramatically reduce the need for rocket propellant. This implies discovering fundamentally new ways to create motion, presumably by manipulating inertia, gravity, or by any other interactions between matter, fields, and spacetime.

(2) Dramatically increase vehicle speeds to make deep space travel practical. This implies determining and achieving the actual maximum speed limit for motion through space or the motion of spacetime itself. If possible, this means circumventing the light speed limit.

(3) Discover fundamentally new on-board energy generation methods to power such revolutionary propulsion devices. Since the above two breakthroughs could require breakthroughs in energy generation to power them, and since the physics underlying the propulsion goals is closely linked to energy physics, this third goal is included in the program.

Since these goals are beyond today's established science, this program cannot guarantee that the desired breakthroughs are achievable, but it can promise to produce credible and measurable progress that leads toward the breakthroughs—credible progress toward incredible possibilities.

As such, this program faces two challenges; programmatic and technical. The programmatic challenges include:

(1) advocating such long range research amidst dwindling resources and stiff competition from the nearer-term, more conservative programs,

(2) creating confidence that research funded today will lead to the necessary breakthroughs,

(3) selecting the most promising research tasks from the large number of divergent and competing approaches, and

(4) conducting meaningful and credible research economically.

The technical challenges include:

(1) focusing emerging physics to answer NASA's propulsion needs,

(2) finding the shortest path to discovering the breakthroughs amidst several, divergent and competing approaches, and

(3) balancing the imagination and vision necessary to point the way to breakthroughs with the credible, systematic rigor necessary to make genuine progress.

A government steering group containing members from the various NASA centers, DOD and DOE laboratories has been established to develop the research challenges. These criteria are to be in place by mid-1997, in time for the next program milestone; a kick-off workshop. The invitation-only workshop will examine the relevant emerging physics and will produce a list of next-step research tasks. If the workshop successfully demonstrates that promising and affordable approaches exist, funding may be granted to begin conducting the step-by-step research that may eventually lead to the breakthroughs."

Boundaries of the Possible with Bill Tanner by Robert T. Leach

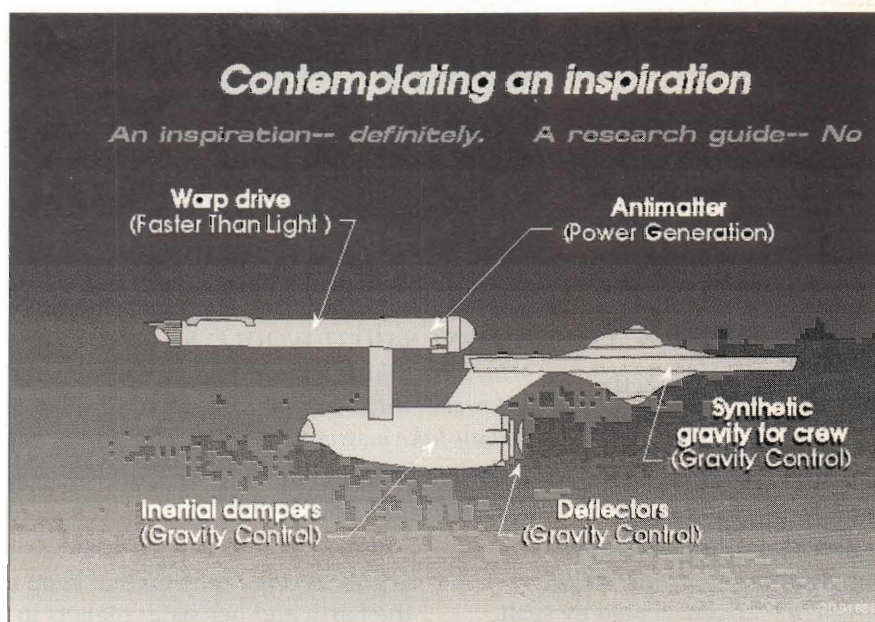
A starship that somehow functions within our known time and space constraints? Though the Starship Enterprise may still be fantasy, something somewhat like it may be heading into our realm at warp speed. Energy specialist Bill Tanner attempts to put these advanced "UFO" concepts into this era's most legible terms.

UFO: If UFOs are from distant solar systems, how is it possible for them to travel faster than light?

BT: Less than a century ago, the experts of the time declared heavier than air flight an impossibility. Half a century later, the speed of sound was said to be the limit at which the heavier-than-air jet craft of the day could travel. History is replete with the conclusion of "experts" who proclaimed the challenges of the day were beyond the capabilities of human ingenuity. And they were right—until technology rose to meet those challenges.

The challenge of superluminal travel appears to be formidable. Classical Einsteinian physics and the newer quantum approach to the laws which dictate how the universe operates both place the velocity at which light travels as the ultimate speed limit. In simplified terms, here is why.

As matter, be it a single proton or a starship, accelerates near light-speed, the energy that is supposed to propel the object instead makes the object have more mass. From 25 percent to about 75 percent of the speed of light, this increase in mass is measurable, but not a burden. However, from about 75 percent of light-speed and up, nearly all the energy used to propel our starship causes an exponential increase in its mass. The more



SUPERLUMINAL SPECS—A very rough idea of how an earth-manufactured starship might be constructed, using Star Trek's Enterprise as a model. Inertial dampers play an especially important role in preventing the entire ship and crew from being crushed by g-forces.

Classical Einsteinian physics and the newer quantum approach to the laws which dictate how the universe operates both place the velocity at which light travels as the ultimate speed limit.



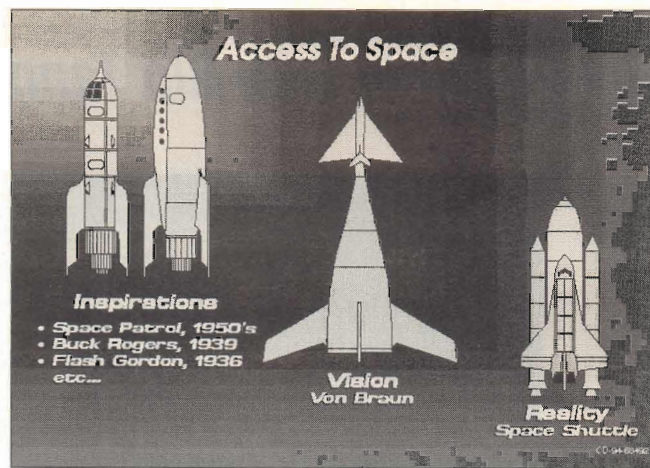
FICTION PRECEDING FACT—A short run-down of some better-known spaceships from screenwriters' imaginations.

massive our starship becomes, the more energy is needed to propel it. The closer the starship gets to light-speed, the greater this mass/energy relationship becomes. Taken to its theoretical limit, as the starship reaches 99 percent of light-speed, it becomes infinitely massive and takes an infinite amount of energy to propel it, at which point it becomes stuck just under the speed of light.

Another obstacle is the need to only very slowly accelerate to even high sub-light speeds. Even if the starship had enough power to quickly reach any significant percentage of light-speed, the inertia created by such acceleration would crush the crew, if not tear the entire structure of the craft to pieces. Likewise, a similar period of deceleration would be needed before the craft could stop at its destination. Also any attempt to turn quickly would be equally disastrous. If this weren't bad enough, as the starship becomes more massive, time inside it would slow down. The crew inside would not notice this time difference, but when they returned to Earth, in, say, a year of ship-time, they would find their friends and family long dead.

Assuming these physical laws are correct—and we have every reason to believe they are—it appears impossible to break the "light barrier" as long as our starship is governed by the laws of universal physics. How, then, might extraterrestrial visitors travel to Earth in anything resembling a human lifetime? Actually, there may be a way around the law, a sort of "diplomatic immunity" from the physical laws of the universe. This loophole is gravity.

Gravity, as we all know, is the force of nature that keeps our feet on the ground. It's also the cosmic glue that holds the universe together. It is the gravity from the Earth that keeps the Moon in its orbit. It



NO ONE SAID IT WOULD BE EASY—*The same principles which underlie Werner Von Braun's original rocket have carried through to the space shuttle. It may take a strenuous 'quantum' jump, both literally and metaphorically, for carbon-based organisms to successfully reach the stars.*

is gravity from the Sun that keep the Earth and her sister planets in their orbits. It is gravity produced by the galaxy that keeps our Sun in position. Gravity is produced by every bit of matter in the universe. So while astronauts are weightless when they are outside the Earth's gravitational field, they are not free from the influence of gravity. It is simply that once away from the gravitational influence of the Earth, the gravity is roughly equal in all directions. So the astronaut is free to float without being attracted to any particular body's gravitational field.

As our starship attempts to travel at near light-speed through space, it is also moving through the gravitational influence of every speck of matter in the universe. It is this gravitational influence that creates the problems of mass increase, inertia and time slowing down.

Now let's say our starship has the ability to neutralize itself from the gravitational influence of the universe. So then, as far as the rest of the universe is concerned, our starship would have no mass. Now the situation changes dramatically; zero multiplied by anything, even infinity is still zero. If our starship has no mass to start with, then no matter how fast it travels the craft's

mass is still zero. This would completely eliminate the problems of mass increase, inertia (see last issue) and time slow down, making super luminal travel possible. Using such a principle, distance and possibly even time as we know it would be no longer be barriers to the exploration of the farthest regions of the universe.

We may not have to wait for the 23rd century for such a development. The British newspaper *Sunday Telegraph* reported on September 1, 1996, that scientists at Finland's *Tampere University of Technology* may have stumbled upon a method to

produce a gravity shield. (See article, p. 28) This occurred while researchers were engaged with unrelated superconductivity experiments (a method to cause material to lose its electrical resistance at very low temperatures).

The experiment called for tests on a disk of super conducting ceramic, which was spinning while suspended in the magnetic field of three electric coils. The entire mechanism was enclosed in a low temperature container called a cryostat.

"One of my friends came in and he was smoking his pipe," said Dr. Podkletnov, one of the researchers, "He put some smoke over the cryostat and we saw the smoke was going to the ceiling all the time. It was amazing . . . we couldn't explain it." Further tests showed objects placed over the cryostat experienced up to a two percent drop in weight.

NASA is very interested in the concept and is currently funding research to see if the principle may be applied to space flight. Called the *Advanced Physics Propulsion Program*, it may be the first step toward humankind's exploration beyond the sandbox of our own solar system into the furthest reaches of the universe.

Bill Tanner is a retired engineer who has for several years worked on the development of alternative energy systems.

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REVIEWS

Operation Trojan Horse

By John Keel. Lilburn, GA: Illuminet Press, 1996. 288 pp. \$16.95

At a recent college lecture I presented on UFOs, I polled over 200 students on how many subscribed to the idea that earth has been visited by extraterrestrials. More than half responded affirmatively. I then asked how many thought UFO sightings were due to symptoms of gross psychopathology, such as schizophrenia, or simple misinterpretations of natural phenomena, such as astronomical bodies and meteors. Around 40 percent espoused this view. I finally asked how many believed UFOs were interdimensional. Three tentative hands lifted into the air.

I was hardly surprised. We humans are polarized thinkers; dualists to the core. Things are all bad or all good, exist or don't exist; there are no grays in our mental palette. Cognitive psychology informs us we aren't really to blame. Thinking in black and white isn't a learned response, it's innate.

Back in 1970, when I read Keel's *Operation Trojan Horse* for the very first time, a gigantic explosion went off in my head. My brain was flooded with new thoughts, new connections; a window was opened to a dazzling new world. I was giddy with excitement, and rushed out to share my excitement with those I saw condemned to old, calcified habits of thinking. Some were infected by my enthusiasm; others reacted to it blandly. Many of the more vocal supporters of the extraterrestrial hypothesis (ETH) bitterly attacked the work; some wondered if Keel was suffering from some sort of critical failure. But not a soul, I noticed, took up a moderate position; it was a case of all or nothing. It was as if, if you didn't love Keel you had no

choice but to loathe him.

Little has changed. Today Keel still has his rabid detractors as well as his slavish devotees in whose eyes he's revered as sort of a J.D. Salinger and for whom *Operation Trojan Horse* is their *Catcher in the Rye*. I would be the first to admit to having fallen under its peculiar spell; in some ways, it's never been broken. What impressed me about this book—and still does—is how Keel sought to transcend traditional ufology by creating a sweeping synthesis of ideas from historical records of diverse mystical, occult and scientific traditions. (Whatever Keel's critics say, they can never fault him for lacking ambition!) By adopting this prismatic approach, Keel made a provocative case for UFOs as interdimensional masters of disguise; donning masks, as it were, in order to stage any conceivable Hollywood drama. Sputtering airships in the 1800s, atom bomb-fearing Venusians in the 1950s, rock-and-soil sampling alienauts in the 1960s—all of it made perfect sense within Keel's dynamic frame of reference.

In dogging the UFO trail, Keel helped ferret out important patterns. He documented how UFOs and other paranormal activity clustered in areas of magnetic deviation, a finding statistically verified by computer analysis conducted in 1977 by Michael Persinger, a Canadian psychologist. He uncovered scores of early UFO cases involving altered states of dissociation and trance—as well as out-of-body experiences and poltergeisty—and revealed how abductees and contactees often report having a history of psychic disturbances that predate their UFO encounters.

But sometimes Keel missed his mark. In tracking flaps, for instance, he claimed to have found a consistent correlation with Wednesdays, a claim later



proven to have no statistical validity. Science was never Keel's strong suit, nor did he claim it was.

Central to Keel's theory was electromagnetism. Many of the glowing objects being reported, he observed, "change color, size and form, a fact that indicates that they are comprised of energy that can be manipulated temporarily." Keel himself documents the fact that a sizeable number of metal fragments from UFOs (such as the 1957 Ubatuba, Brazil case) are currently in our possession. As far as I know, none has yet dissolved into the etheric realm. I have always suspected Keel is aware that this is a sticky problem but chooses to gloss over it. By giving an inch, he may feel greedy ET enthusiasts will take a mile. By my measure, this is Keel's fatal flaw. He longs to keep UFOs bottled in the realm of ghosts and spirits—that cushy, safe zone between the physical and the immaterial. Beyond that he knows there is danger, on a path that could lead to Wright Patterson or even worse, Roswell.

This display of stubborn thinking mars this otherwise beautiful reprint, which continues to brim with prophetic insight, classic, irreverent wit, and some of the most engaging prose to flow from the pen of any ufologist alive today. All that's needed is a little more gray.

—Peter A. Jordan

The Field Guide to Extraterrestrials

By Patrick Huyghe. NY: Avon Books, 1996. 136 pp. \$12

Remember those American Express card ads that said "Don't leave home without it?" The same might be said about this thin little book, particularly if you're an abductee or a wannabe. After all, you do want to recognize your captors and have some idea of where they fit into the hierarchy of alien visitors to this small, out-of-the-galactic-main-stream planet, don't you?

Huyghe, who I suspect is more of a ufological agnostic than believer, says right up front that he's "not out to convince the reader of the reality of extraterrestrials." But if ETs are real, he goes on to say, "then this guide should prove absolutely indispensable, especially if you've encountered an extraterrestrial or consider yourself a true-blue believer. For the purposes of this book, I will assume that these UFO-related aliens are real."

Now that's what I like—a man who can come down firmly on both sides of an issue without splitting himself on the fence that divides them! Ever thought of a career in politics, Mr. Huyghe? The bulk of this book is taken up by aliens, about 50 of them, divided into four categories: Humanoid, Animalian, Robotic, and Exotic. Within each major category, Huyghe has denoted "types" and within types he has "variants." Each term sorta "fine tunes" the differentiations cited by witnesses. Thus there are giant humanoids (human equivalent: classic American professional basketball players) short humanoids (like midgets or perhaps African pygmies) and so on.

Huyghe's first two categories have five types with a total of 38 sightings between them; the third and fourth categories each have two types and a total of 11 sightings. In all, 49 aliens.

Humanoids predominate—there are 25, or slightly over 50 percent.

Oddly, Huyghe has chosen not to give us the ones with which we are most familiar, those from the works of Hopkins and Jacobs and Strieber and others; we get the weird ones—the ones seen very infrequently, usually only once and often only by a single witness.

And I do find myself wondering about some of them. There's a tall, skinny one (page 58) in a skin-tight outfit with hood, medallion around "his" neck and belt hung with gadgets that reminds me of some comic book superheroes. Then there's an "animalian" type (page 72) that could be Dr. Jekyll's evil manifestation of perhaps Lawrence Talbot in a lab coat. That one was seen in Sussex, England.

Page 53 sports a tall, long-armed humanoid seen in Voronezh, Russia (in 1989 by 40 adults and several schoolchildren) whose general appearance—height and long arms aside—is strikingly reminiscent of the invading extraterrestrials created by Ray Harryhausen for the 1956 sci-fi potboiler "Earth vs. The Flying Saucers."

In fact, given the wide diversity of the humanoid and animalian types seen, it might be interesting to inquire of folklorists if these purported ETs have any similarity to mythic beings from the folklore of the sighters' homelands.

Then there are the robots and the exotics, both categories being decidedly weirder than the earlier two groups. Divided into "metallic" and "fleshy" types, Huyghe's robots include animated tin cans, "metallic asparagus," a metal beach ball with appendages like those used by your plumber to unstop balky drains, and what looks like a metal tombstone with a spike sticking out of it.

The exotics, which bear no relation to the dancers at your local tavern, include gelatinous blobs and some more or less human-like figures that, like ghosts, appeared semi-transparent.

So what are we to make of all this? In both the book's Introduc-



tion and Afterword, Huyghe asks some searching questions about what people are reporting. Remember, I noted earlier I think him an agnostic rather than a believer. That really comes through in the Afterword, where he observes that leading UFO researchers suspect "that things are not what they seem."

He cites David Jacobs as believing that the Gray aliens are the only real aliens. This implies a shape-changing ability, or, as one of the witnesses Huyghe cited almost despairingly put it, "They looked how I wanted them to look." Some sci-fi aliens have done just that in stories written decades ago.

And then there is the conclusion of Dan Wright, who heads MUFON's Abduction Transcription Project. Wright, according to Huyghe, notes that in the case of purported Gray leaders; i.e., those who seem to be running the abductions and/or "medical" examinations, "usually the darker the entity's skin tone, the higher his status..." Now, that should upset some of the white supremacists who lurk on ufology's fringes!

In the end, we are left, as Huyghe puts it, "with the stories we tell each other of those we have seen with our own eyes and call extraterrestrials. But for many of us, that's enough." Enough, perhaps, to swap tales with other alleged abductees in

continued on next page

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On October 7, 1965, a number of luminous objects appeared in the sky near Edwards Air Force Base, near Lancaster in northern Los Angeles County. For six hours, radar technicians and other military personnel at Edwards and four other bases discussed what they saw. Now declassified, the tapes of those conversations have been electronically cleaned up and skillfully edited into a 54-minute audiotape.

The officers reported

witnessing unidentified objects changing colors, sitting stationary in the sky and then shooting straight up very fast. The actual conversations are appropriately broken up with narration to describe what is going on, since considerable jargon sometimes renders segments unintelligible, even when you can hear the words. One of the primary voices during the original event, which

was code-named "The Incident," was of Tech. Sgt. Charles Sorrels, who summarizes for listeners what he and his colleagues witnessed that night. They knew all kinds of aircraft and natural phenomena, and the UFOs did not fit anything they were familiar with.

Finally, they decide to get the

"UFO officer" out of bed, who makes the decision to scramble some jets. The pilots went up for a closer look and made radar contact with solid objects, and there the mystery ends. What they actually found is still classified. The tapes offer yet more compelling evidence that whatever the phenomenon is, it is not a product of human imagination. —Scott S. Smith



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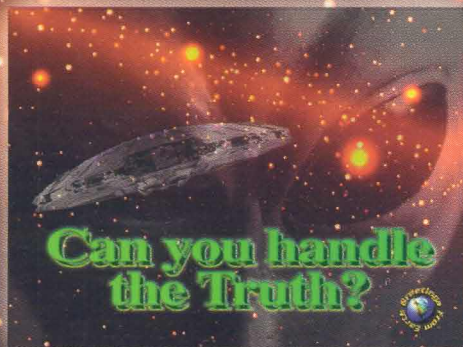
"support groups," or build a book around, but certainly not enough to prove the claims.

Personally, it is my hope that Huyghe's often thought-provoking comments, which bracket the alien observation anecdotes, will encourage at least some readers to make a more realistic assessment of their own beliefs in reports of alien encounters. If that happens, this book will have made a useful contribution to saucerian literature.

—George W. Earley



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RODS: Mysterious Objects Among Us

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In April 1994 I was asked by the television show "Hard Copy" to review several film sequences shot on home video in Roswell, New Mexico. A resident named José

Escamilla had shot some anomalous objects just outside of Roswell, in the small area known as Midway. Several shots showed what appeared to be snake-like objects flying past the camera, and after repeated viewings of the tape I was intrigued enough to go down there.

Dwight Schultz traveled with me. I had used some of his electronic equipment to view and enhance the footage and he also became very intrigued. We were determined to try to get to the bottom of this mystery. Meeting Escamilla for the first time, we found the videographer very gracious. He offered to help us out with anything we wanted to do. He took us to where the anomalous objects were shot, where we proceeded to do our investigation.

At the time, there were ongoing maneuvers being conducted by the Air Force. One thing Schultz and I found rather amazing—the local airport did not have any kind of radar. The Air Force was using its own transportable radar units. While most of what we did see was of terrestrial manufacture, once we did seem to catch an anomaly on tape.

The thing that most amazed Escamilla was what he called the "rods." Schultz and I had already reviewed a number of tapes by then, and Escamilla had by that time over 100 hours of tape that he and his brother and sister had shot. Out at Midway, however, one thing became very apparent. The area, (and most of Roswell) had abundant insects. While shooting the camcorder, flies buzzed everywhere. They were picked up on videotape after videotape. In one sequence shot inside a small playroom, Escamilla pointed out a very amorphous shape flying past which he indicated might be paranormal. After repeated viewing, it became apparent the strange "object" was a moth.

And now the video . . .

It never ceases to amaze me to what lengths people in the UFO

field will go to delude themselves. I must relegate this video to the trash heap of self delusion. Sequence after sequence of flying insects inhabit this tape—zipping streaks which various interviewees attempt to describe as something paranormal and otherworldly. Randy Winters, Wendelle Stevens, Bob Dean, Michael Hesemann and others all describe *amazement*. Why is beyond me.

Do an experiment. If you have a camcorder and a fresh tape, set it to shoot at 2,000 frames or faster, take it outside and turn it on for two hours, shooting a fixed point. When the tape is completed, bring it back inside and then spend the next two hours viewing the assorted flying insects darting about (if you don't have a life that is) and save the \$29.95 you would shell out for this tape. —Don Ecker

continued from page 19

tially." In addition, he promises, "We will continue to explore aspects of Cosmic Watergate."

The crop circle phenomenon will also continue to be a point of focus for the show. "I'm really interested in crop circles, especially after we brought in an independent surveyor and showed him pictures of a formation near Stonehenge, and the guy was floored by it." Barrosse continued, "If these are human pieces of art, it's strange enough to figure out how these people are doing it." But, with the help of its audience, those at "Strange Universe" are committed to trying to find out.

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Former media correspondent and managing editor of *UFO*, René Barnett currently works in the "Strange Universe" research department.



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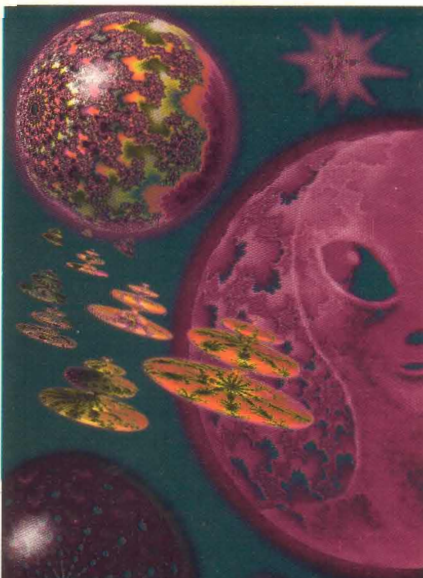
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continued from page 17

draw the drapes so that we could enjoy the rising of a full moon as it appeared over the island, and left an orange reflective glow on the sea in the foreground. We sometimes saw lights of different colors moving across the sky, and these at times would remain stationary for periods of time before moving on again.

I have spent nine years as a pilot flying small and large helicopters. I believe that I would have recognized them as such. I was always intrigued by these lights, but they didn't appear often, and I didn't think too much about them. However, in the summer of 1991 when the sun had set and it was quite dark, I saw two orange balls on or near the water in Horo Straight about two miles away. They were very large, at least 50 feet in diameter, and were immobile. I took my binoculars to view these objects, but could not make out any details in the orange glows. Initially, they were close together and could be seen within the focal width of the binocular lens. After 15 or 20 minutes, they appeared to drift apart so that I could not observe both orange balls through the lens at the same time.

While viewing these phenomena I remembered that I had seen something very similar to this in 1943 on or over the English Channel. As then, I couldn't bring myself to believe that I was watching extraterrestrial vehicles, and felt that there had to be a logical explanation for them. After perhaps an hour, when nothing seemed to have changed and the orange balls appeared as they were when I first saw them, I retired to bed. During the night I awoke and looked to see if the orange balls were still visible, but they had disappeared.

For the next day or two I studied our local newspapers to learn whether others had reported any unusual sightings on Horo Straight, but there was nothing. I asked some of our neighbors if they had seen anything unusual that night, but of those to whom I spoke, their drapes had been drawn and none had seen anything unusual.

COMING UP

In future issues:

HALE-BOPP AND US travels a fairly straight path to the source of rumors vs. facts—about comets, aliens and the fate of the earth.

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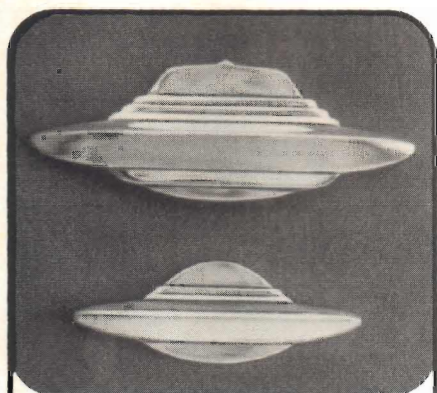
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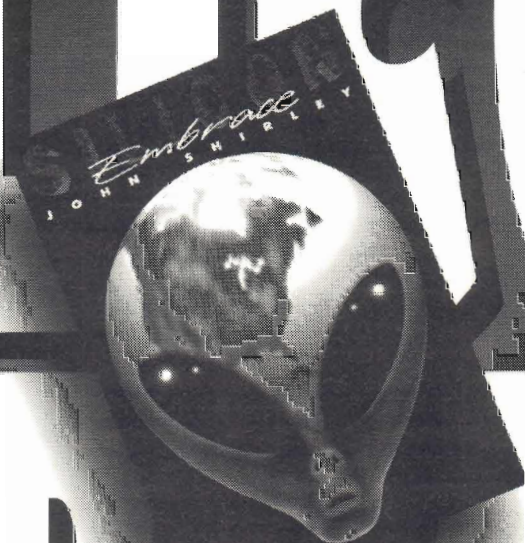
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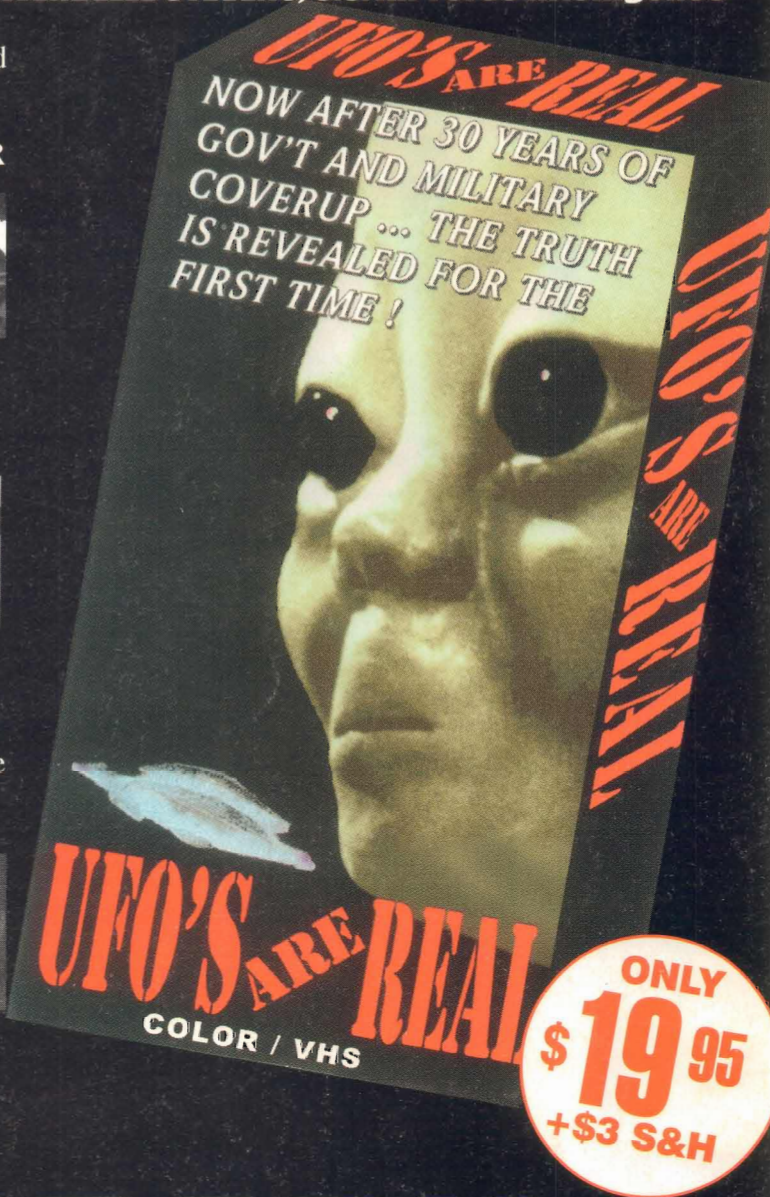
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