CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES
a not-for-profit Illinois corporation
1609 Sherman Avenue, Suite 207, Evanston, Illinois 60201 USA (312) 491-6666 — 24-Hour Telephone

ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER

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Tempest In A Saucer

The Smithsonian's Symposium on UFOs
By Stuart Rohrer

(Reprinted by permission from The Washington Post September 8, 1980, Page B-1)

"How many of you have had a UFO experience?" the panelists in Baird Auditorium asked their symposium audience of 300.

About 75 raised their hands.

How many thought what they saw might have a simple, earthly explanation? Only a dozen hands went up.

These were the hard core — the believers and the uncertain skeptics — who cared enough to spend $25 and a sunny day off seriously exploring a subject usually treated in screaming headlines at the checkout counter.

It was a day devoted to the unidentified and the inexplicable — an all-day UFO symposium Saturday sponsored by the Smithsonian Resident Associates. Under the firm hand of moderator Frederick Durant, former special assistant to the Air & Space Museum director and once involved in a major government UFO study, three ranking UFO investigators met three confirmed skeptics in a sometimes searing verbal encounter.

"I love a good mystery," said gray-bearded J. Allen Hynek, the scientific director of the Center for UFO Studies, emeritus professor of astronomy at Northwestern and former Air Force UFO consultant, who led off the day's presentations. "Reading a good UFO report is like reading Agatha Christie — except there is no last page to turn to."

Hynek, in cream-colored jacket and sky-blue tie dotted with planets, his head bowed over the lectern, hastily recounted the facts of "the UFO phenomenon" that led him to more than three decades of investigation: the existence of thousands of UFO reports, their global distribution and the strikingly high calibre of many witnesses.

CUFOS Chief Investigator, Allan Hendry (left), observes two identified flying objects at the ends of the arms of UFO explainer-skeptic, Phil Klass, during the 1980 symposium on UFOs at the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

"There is something unusual going on here," insisted Navy physicist Bruce Maccabbee, the earnest chairman of the Fund for UFO Research, who pressed the significance of sightings by highly qualified observers such as military pilots, astronomers and the Gemini 11 astronauts.

"UFO Handbook" author Allan Hendry, whose more than 2,000 investigations for the Center for UFO Studies have included "CE-III's" (close encounters of the third kind, a term that predates the movie) with "UFO-nauts," outlined in his radio-announcer voice what he considered one of his most reliable reports — a 30-second daylight encounter with a speeding silver hat-shaped object by two families on an Illinois freeway.

But the skeptics kept their opponents on the defensive through most of the day. Countered Philip Klass, gray-suited senior editor at Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine and author of "UFO's Explained": "UFO promoters have not been able to come up with anything but unexplained cases. There is no scientifically credible evidence." It's time for UFO proponents to "put up or shut up," he said.

"UFOs seem to behave like fairies and ghosts," sniped author-investigator Robert Scheaffer of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranromal, who termed UFOlogy a "failed science." They always escape just before you can get any evidence."

"A triumph of hope over experience," suggested James Oberg, a 6-foot-8 NASA engineer and UFO columnist for Omni magazine. With a NASA film, he demonstrated how a reflection in the Apollo 11 window became "ALIENS ON MOON WHEN WE LANDED" in a National Enquirer headline.

And so it went through the five-hour session. At one point Hendry dramatically tossed a paper off the lectern to make his point about the worth of conflicting lie-detector tests. During the most biting attacks on his work, Hynek slumped quietly in his chair, a hand on his chin.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

TEMPEST

(Continued from Page 1)

Douglas Climenson, a mail clerk at NOAA who brought along his knapsac stuffed with newspaper clippings and UFO books, echoed the sentiment of some in the audience. Though he'd never seen a UFO himself, he said, "I definitely believe they exist. The question is what they are."

When the skeptics and scholars finally crowded behind a table for the concluding panel discussion, a firefight was raging between Hendry and Klass over their methods of investigating a particularly controversial UFO abduction case in Mississippi. "I'm prepared to take a polygraph test on everything," Klass said expansively before Durant ended the argument.

When pinned down by a written question from the audience, no panelist was willing to say he believed a human had ever been abducted by an alien craft.

Nor did any panelist have any evidence that the U.S. government was holding anything back, such as the remains of alien creatures or their craft, as has been suggested recently by some UFO buffs. Hynek, however, citing possible informants who feared violating government secrecy laws, called for the president to offer immunity to anyone in the government or the military who came forward.

At symposium's end the question of alien creatures, like other topics of the day, remained unresolved. But as the panelists packed up and the audience filed out, moderator Durant, who retired from the Smithsonian just last week, said, "We don't have any in our collection." □

The CUFOS ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER is published by the Center for UFO Studies, Evanston, Illinois, and is mailed monthly to financial contributors to CUFOS according to the schedule of ASSOCIATES. Copyright 1980 by the Center for UFO Studies and mailed as Third Class Mail at Evanston, Illinois.

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The CUFOS ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER
1609 Sherman Avenue, Room 207
Evanston, Illinois 60201
John P. Timmerman, Editor
J. Allen Hynek, PhD., Scientific Director

(Left to right) James Oberg, Frederick Durant, moderator, and Allan Hendry during the final remarks at the September 6, 1980 UFO symposium in Washington, D.C.

Army Tank In The Clouds In Ohio

TYPE: DD
DATE: 9-21-80
TIME: Between 7 and 7:30 PM
DURATION: 5 to 10 seconds
WITNESSES: 1
PLACE: Lima, Ohio

A credit manager for a service company was returning home on a Sunday evening, driving westward on a country road and approaching an intersection, when she looked up through the windshield of her car and saw an opening in the clouded sky which looked like a picture frame. She says it looked nearly square and had straight edges. As she was looking at it, out of that opening appeared an object that seemed to be a very vivid orange or red.

The object, which she said was all the same color, resembled a bottom view of an army tank with runners or a base on two sides. It just hovered in the sky, remaining stationary for a few seconds. Then the object disappeared right back into the opening that it came from and the frame of lighter sky vanished, leaving the sky with a normal clouded appearance.

The middle-aged witness is given high credibility by investigator John Timmerman, who has know the woman for many years. □

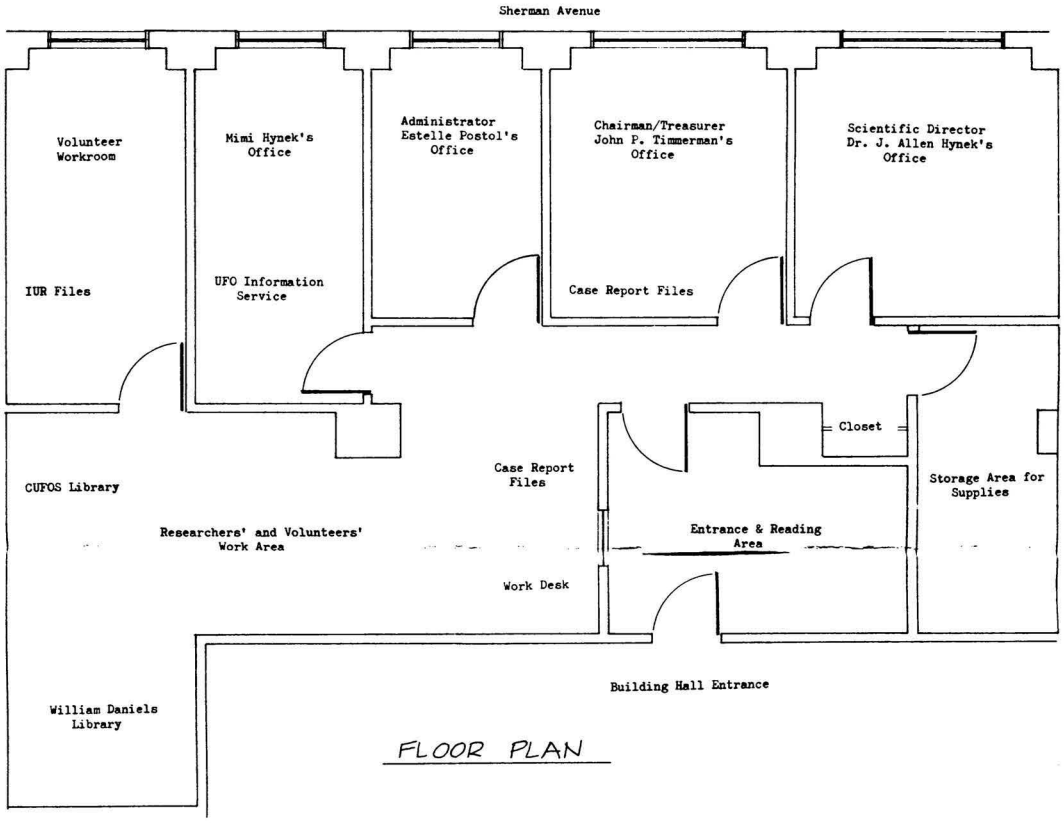
Close Encounter In The Rain

TYPE: CE I
DATE: May 14, 1980
TIME: 9:15-9:20 PM
DURATION: 5 minutes
WITNESSES: 1
PLACE: Mars Hill, Maine

John Ray, 33, spotted three dark discs while driving through this rural, wooded area in the rain, an uncommon sky condition in UFO sightings. Each round form was twice as large as a full moon would have looked and had numerous white lights on the underside. The three discs went silently over his car and hovered ahead of him. Mr. Ray got out of his car to watch them. The UFOs hovered perfectly still in close formation about 500 feet high. Suddenly, they took off at an incredible speed and disappeared from view into the rainy sky, leaving the witness in "shock" and "awe."

Investigator Ray Fowler checked with the police department in that town and Loring Air Force Base; neither had reports for that evening bearing on the sighting. □

If you hear of anyone having taken a photograph of what might have been a UFO, ask them to send us the negative for analysis together with details. □



In 1973 the Center for UFO Studies originated in the home of Dr. J. Allen Hynek. From there it moved to 924 Chicago in Evanston and finally on April 1st, 1978 to its present offices.

CUFOS Offices On Display

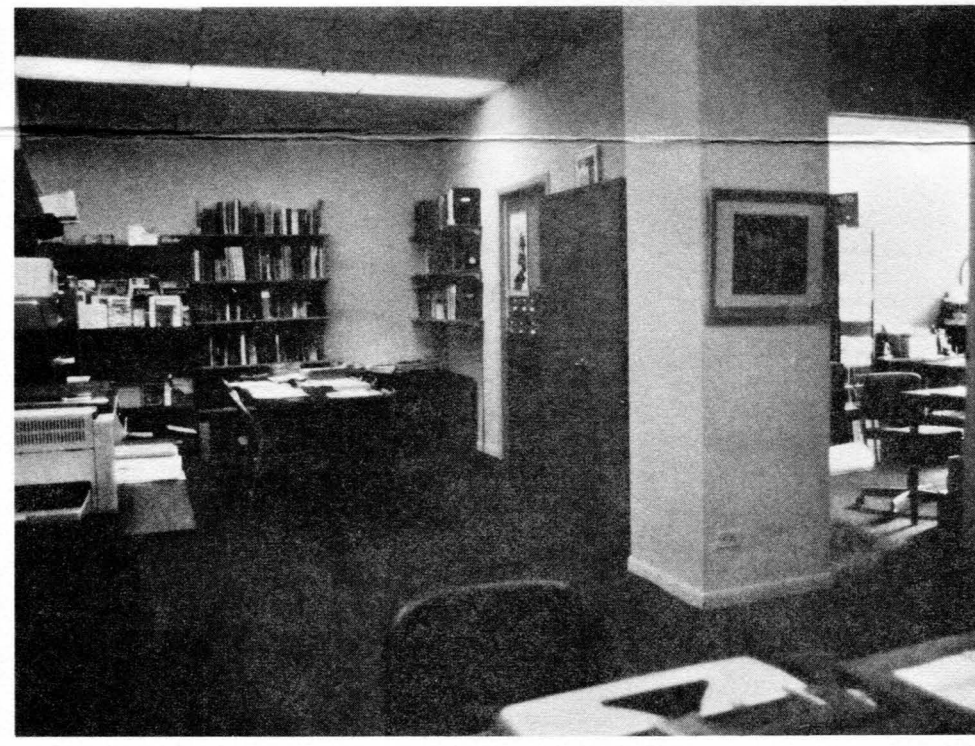
For those who wonder about the details of our offices at Evanston, we present a photograph of the central work area and a sketch of the suite of offices we occupy in the Hahn Building at 1609 Sherman Avenue.

Visible at the left in the photograph is a portion of the library area which continues out of view. The door to the right is the entrance to Mimi Hynek's Center Information Services department from which CUFOS and other books and publications are mailed.

The table you see is usually occupied by volunteers preparing mailings or researchers making use of our extensive collection of UFO publications from throughout the world.

To the right and down the hall are Estelle Postol's office, John Timmerman's office and Dr. Hynek's office. At the end of the hall is storage and the picture is taken looking through the glass receptionist window just inside the door to our suite of offices. The sketch will assist you in locating other details.

The public is welcome to visit our offices between 9 AM and 4 PM on weekdays and on Saturdays and other hours by appointment. Write or call to let us know when you will be able to be with us and we will make every effort to arrange your visit as requested. □



MUFON Meetings In California In October

As part of the healthy state of cooperation which exists between CUFOS and MUFON (Mutual UFO Network), I accepted Paul Cerny's invitation to address the MUFON organized symposium in Sonora, California October 11th and in Redding, California October 16th. The time in between I spent traveling with Paul Cerny in northern California to talk with persons who had had UFO experiences and, incidentally, to do some fishing along the Klamath River

MUFON, indeed, manages to generate intense loyalty among its members and I greatly admire the organizational ability of Walt Andrus who in his "spare" time has been able to maintain and inspire a large network of volunteer investigators across the United States as well as in several foreign countries.

In Sonora MUFON's ball of fire is Marv Taylor, a tremendously civic-minded man, who in his "spare" time runs a thriving real estate business in the Sonora area. Marv spared no effort in mounting a 14-hour symposium attended by some 1,200 persons . . . quite an accomplishment in a small mountain town. He was ably assisted in this effort by Al Reed and a host of loyal friends.

There were ten speakers in the conference in Sonora, too many, indeed, to mention in detail, but among them was Marv Taylor's talk on "Society's Reluctance in Accepting UFOs," which was a very well thought-out presentation. Paul Cerny and Tom Gates each gave talks. Gates' talk "The Effect of UFOs on Society," tied in rather nicely with Marv Taylor's presentation. Paul Cerny spoke on "California Report and Ancient Sightings."

Redding, California is located in the northern part of the state in area which has been rich in UFO sightings over the past years. About the same number of persons turned out for the evening presentation by Tom Gates and myself, plus a panel including Paul Cerny. The Redding Conference was largely organized through the efforts of Anita Sowles and her husband Tom.

One of the more significant aspects of the audience at both of these talks was the large number of persons who were very well-versed in ufology. This presents a real problem to speakers in this field who must face an audience which is composed of two disparate groups . . . those who are what might call "beginners" in ufology wanting a sort of general survey of the subject and, on the other hand, those who have been reading and studying for a number of years and who want to hear from the speaker a sort of "post graduate course" in ufology. It is a real challenge to a speaker to be able to bridge this very definite gap.

As a result of both of these UFO symposia, a number of UFO cases not previously reported came "out of the woodwork." This continues to be characteristic of the situation country-wide, persons who have had unusual UFO events continue to be reluctant to report them and, thus, ufology is robbed of valuable scientific data. Both audiences were exhorted to report heretofore unreported cases to either MUFON or CUFOS.

J. Allen Hynek □

Dr. Hynek Will Be In Argentina

Our readers in Central and South America will be interested to know that Dr. Hynek has been invited to address the Second International Congress of Extraterrestrial Sciences and the Fourth National Congress of Ufology at a combined meeting in Mendoza, Argentina on December 5, 6, and 7, 1980.

A second lecture has been arranged to which the general public will be invited, including selected government authorities, bankers and scientific institution representatives. Tours by Dr. Hynek to investigate new cases at the site are also being planned.

For details, interested persons may write to Dr. Virgilio Sanchez-Ocejo at P. O. Box 313, Opa Locka, Florida 33054, USA, or to Faruk Alem, Lavalle 216, 5500 Mendoza, Republic of Argentina. □

VIA UFO INFORMATION SERVICE,

NOW YOU CAN HEAR THEM TELL IT!

on a record or cassette . . .

UFO ENCOUNTERS

A collection of spoken testimony from witnesses to UFO sightings and of opinions and analyses of UFO researchers. The witnesses include Father Wm. Gill of Papua, New Guinea, Travis Walton, Louise Smith (one of three Kentucky women abducted together), President Carter, Herbert Schirmer, and Betty Hill.
The illustrated booklet enclosed contains photos of witnesses and of reported UFOs, documents, maps and a UFO reporting form.
90 minutes. Records: $10.50 Cassettes: $12.50

IN STOCK AND READY TO SHIP

UFO Information Service, CENTER FOR UFO STUDIES
1609 Sherman Ave., Evanston, IL 60201 U.S.A.

CUFOS Associate Frank John Reid sent us the following item from the October 12, 1980 Chicago Sunday SUN-TIMES:

"The wood tick may be the world's most patient creature. After mating, the female tick sits on a branch and waits for a warm-blooded animal to pass underneath. When an animal comes along, she burrows into its skin, filling up with the blood she needs to feed her young. Researchers say she can wait as long as 18 years for an animal to show up. UPI"

Associate Reid suggests that patiently waiting ufologists should adopt the female tick as their mascot.

Editor □

CORRESPONDENCE

Editor,

Regarding the movie CEIII Special Edition, I was very disappointed. Far too much was sacrificed for the new scenes. Among its many flaws (in comparison to the original) was that the characters lacked depth, warmth and familiarity. The story line failed to capture the imagination and make a person realize that this **could** happen and that, to an extent, already has . . .

Marie Barone
San Francisco, CA □

A CE I—Or II—Or III In Florida

TYPE: CE I
DATE: August 20, 1980
TIME: 10:30 PM (not exact)
DURATION: 1½ to 2 minutes
WITNESSES: 1
PLACE: Mossyhead, Florida

A 19-year old college student in broadcast journalism (name on file at CUFOS) left a friend's house in Mossyhead to begin a long drive back to Savannah, Georgia. After about 5 minutes driving time on a rural road that led to the expressway (U.S. 90), he became aware of a closely structured array of lights hovering over a hill he was approaching. The lights moved low over the area from right to left. When the UFO passed over the road, it seemed to be only 100-200 yards in front of him. The witness was scared that he would collide with the object.

Then the illuminated form before him disappeared in an uncertain fashion. Just as uncertainly, a different-looking cluster of lights was abruptly on his left side moving quickly by him with a quiet "whoosh" sound. Accompanying this seeming discontinuity was the realization that he was slumping over the steering wheel, driving slower than originally in a lower gear, yet he doesn't recall downshifting. He acknowledged to Allan Hendry in a personal interview that it's entirely possible that he downshifted unconsciously while preoccupied with the UFO "collision." What really convinced him he had been **abducted**, however, was when he thought he heard a radio announcer's voice stating the time as he reached the expressway as 11:35 PM. It should only have taken a few minutes to get there after the 10:30 PM experience. Had he lost about an hour of time in his memory?

The young man continued on his way to Savannah, sleeping off the road for about four hours near Live Oak, Florida. He had driven barefoot the whole trip, yet he was awakened about 3:30 by a strong itch in his left foot and scratched it for minutes before dropping off to sleep. It was later in Jacksonville in the daylight that he noticed his bare feet were red across the toes and the inner soles as if stained. In Savannah, he showed these to a registered nurse who thought they looked burned, but she made no recommendations nor came to any conclusions. The redness faded away by the evening of the next night, leaving only a few "bite" marks that were sore to the touch. Sunburn? He had only exposed his feet to the sun for a half hour; prior to this, he had been a lifeguard without ever burning his feet.

As it seemed certain that this student had undergone the latest "time lapse" experience, an appointmant was arranged with an M.D. hypnotherapist in the Atlanta area. Prior to the hypnosis, however, it was determined that the witness was in the Central Time Zone part of Florida at 10:30 PM and was listening to an Eastern Time Zone radio station — thus accounting for the one hour time difference! With no time missing from his driving time, there was no option for an abduction event (if nothing else, this is the first prosaic explanation for a time lapse claim known to the author). The sighting is at least classifiable as a Close Encounter of the First Kind, though a casual relationship between the UFO(s) and the witness's reddened feet is difficult to assess now. □

CORRESPONDENCE

(The following is a letter which may be interesting to those who have examined the Meier photography publication. Copies of the Moore letter are available to interested readers for $1.00 to cover the cost of postage and handling.)
Mr. William L. Moore
P. O. Box 189
Dewey, AZ 86327

Dear Bill:

I have just read a copy of Lee Elders' letter of August 26, 1980 to David Elrich and then a copy of your response to Lee Elders.

The Elders' letter is a masterpiece of obfuscation and yours is a masterpiece of devasting rebuttal. I wish to congratulate you for putting into well-chosen words the thoughts of a majority of the community of serious ufologists with whom I have discussed this highly suspect example of "imitation science." It is unfortunate that there still remain in our society a large number of persons about whom P. T. Barnum coined his famous phrase.

"Thank you" on behalf of the rest of us who wish we had written your letter of reply to Lee Elders.

Best wishes,
John P. Timmerman
Editor
ASSOCIATE NEWSLETTER □

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your leaflets which describe the nature, character and more about the research center in which I am interested. Thank you for your supply.

According to the explanation sent to me, a gift of money is required to become an ASSOCIATE. Since I am outside the United States, I could not send the required amount of money. This is due to the restriction imposed by the foreign exchange policy (of Ethiopia). Because of this policy . . . by my government, it is not easy to send money through bank or mail-order for such purposes. So, I could not participate in your research center. In the future, I hope my interest will be met. Until that time, I say goodbye, wishing to you great success.

Yours faithfully,
Amare Tadesse
Ethiopia

ASSOCIATES interested in being of help to such persons should read an article elsewhere in this issue and write to the Editor. □

Share Your Copy Of Associate Newsletter With Foreign Reader?

We receive requests for publications from Hungary, Ethiopia, Iran and other countries which restrict the flow of funds. Also, some readers in other countries have very limited resources and cannot afford to become foreign ASSOCIATE of CUFOS.

Therefore, if you do not save your copies of this NEWSLETTER and wish to share them with a foreign reader, please notify us and we will send you the name of such a person to whom you can mail your copy.

Your generosity will expand our visibility and contact throughout the world and, at the same time, help with the work of the Center office and with postage expense. Your contact with an international reader may develop information useful to our research staff.

Another use you may make of your unwanted copy would be to send it or deliver it to a local high school library as a gift for student readers. This may result in additional student ASSOCIATES, thereby assisting us financially.

Thanks for your help. □

Send us clippings of local sightings reported in area newspapers. □