

CUFOS HOLDS ITS FIRST TECHNICAL CONFERENCE

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THE Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) has been in existence less than three years and it has already published in-depth analyses of UFO data, supported various investigations and continued development of an extensive computerized file (known as UFOCAT) of sightings, developed and maintained a reference library, and has recently sponsored its first international technical conference. As a participant at this meeting, I would like to give an "insider's" view of what took place.

The conference was held at the Lincolnwood Hyatt House Hotel in Illinois from April 30 to May 2, 1976 and attracted over 70 persons from as far away as Brazil, Canada, England, and France as well as most sections of America. As soon as I read the programme I knew that this was not going to be the typical gathering of UFO enthusiasts. The overall high level of personal dedication to serious UFO studies (as evidenced by the past achievements of many of the participants) and the presence of some "newcomer" scientists and engineers suggested that the tone of the meeting papers and content of the informal discussions would be both impressive and important. I was not disappointed; the depth and breadth of topics presented in the 29 formal papers was most impressive. In addition to these papers, nine others were distributed at the meeting but were not given orally.**

Rather than review the papers in their original programme order I have regrouped them into four general categories: I. General Papers of Historic or Broader Focus (2 papers); II. Analysis and Observations on Selected UFO Cases (12 papers); III. Advanced Methodologies for Use by the Physical and Social Scientist (12 papers); and IV. Theoretical Issues Such as Social and Strategic Implications, Propulsion Physics, etc. (3 papers).

I. General Papers of Historic or Broader Focus:
(1) Tom Gates, *UFOs and Public Awareness*. In order for the UFO investigator to deal effectively with the general public in gathering data it is imperative to develop and conduct an effective public education



Pleased with progress? Dr. J. Allen Hynek

program. There is no reason for the investigator to be defensive about his work, indeed, we need to develop ways to redirect initial scepticism of others toward more positive, constructive questions and personal involvement.

(2) David Jacobs, *UFO Research, the ETH, and Other Murky Problems*. The suggestion was made that a far more "pluralistic conception" of UFO phenomena is needed to account for the highly varied nature of the sightings. We should classify and study the diversity of UFO characteristics not just their similarities. UFO phenomena appears to be far more varied and complex than previously thought.

II. Analysis and Observations on Selected UFO Cases:

(1) Ted Bloecher, *The Stonehenge Incidents*. An

Luis Schonherr notes (continued from page 12)

3. See FSR Vol.9, No.2, March/April 1963, page 11.
4. See FSR Vol.10, No.1, Jan/Feb 1964, page 18-19.
5. Aimé Michel: *The Valensole Affair*, FSR Vol.11, No.6, Nov/Dec 1965, page 7.
6. J. Allen Hynek: *The UFO-Experience*, Abelard Schuman, London page 30 (Footnote).
7. Robert Serling: *The Probable Cause*, Doubleday, New

- York, German Edition: Motorbuchverlag 1964, page 71.
8. Weltraumbote, Zurich (now defunct): No. 36/37, Nov/Dec 1958, page 15.
9. Jacques Vallée: *Passport to Magonia*, Regnery, Chicago 1969, page 43.
10. Charles Bowen: *Time Saucers and the Fourth Dimension*, FSR Vol.9, No.3, May/June 1963, page 13.



Above: Hulvio B. Aleixo

Left (L to R):

J.A. Hynek,
Jennie Zeidman,
Charles Bowen,
Berthold E. Schwarz

in-depth analysis of a close encounter (Type III) which took place in North Bergen, New Jersey in January, 1975, was presented. In addition to the interesting "data" obtained, a clear case was made for how much valuable information can be obtained through personal dedication, professional investigative techniques, and the importance of previous UFO investigative experience in dealing with particularly elusive data.

(2) Ann Druffel, *Santa Catalina Island Recurring "Cloud-Cigars."* The presence of "energized" clouds over the Catalina Channel off Southern California since 1962 was discussed and various associated facts and alleged interactions with UFOs related.

(3) Don Worley, *The UFO Related Anthropoids – An Important New Opportunity for Investigators with Courage.* This paper dealt with the implications for investigators of a "dramatic increase" in the last seven years of creatures somehow associated with the presence of UFOs.

(4) John Musgrave, *UFOs Across Canada – The Investigator as Healer.* Reviewing the results of the author's research, he claimed to have from 30 to 40 "occupant" cases from Canada. People are becoming increasingly willing to discuss their UFO experiences as long as creatures are not mentioned.

(5) Hal Heaton, *Preliminary Studies of Animal Reaction to UFOs.* Using experimental and control data sets for computerized analysis, the author presented an interesting analysis of various bio-environmental interactions allegedly produced by UFOs. Animal reaction information was systematically subjected to standard criteria questions for classification.

(6) Fred Merritt, *A Preliminary Classification of Some Reports of UFOs based upon shape and dimension of Imprint Patterns.* Beginning with 68

UFO cases for which there is ground imprint (and marking) data, the author grouped them into five general categories, then derived lists of specific characteristics using a type factor analysis. Five discrete categories were found within each of which good internal consistency was present.

(7) Irv Anderson, *Periodicity of Flaps.* This paper presented preliminary results of a UFOCAT statistical analysis of mini-flaps by Earth longitude; it appears possible to predict future regions where "flaps" may occur. American West Coast sightings from the 1947 period were progressively "tracked" across America to the East Coast flap of 1973.

(8) David Saunders, *A Spatio-Temporal Invariant for Major UFO Waves.* Using UFO sighting frequency distributions, the author showed that certain distribution forms (viz. negatively skewed) are very nearly perfectly correlated with calendar date versus longitude. These findings appear to implicate absolute sidereal time as an independent variable influencing reported UFO activity.

(9) David Webb, *Analysis of Humanoid/Abduction Reports.* Currently, UFO-related abduction cases number over 1000 with over one-half of them having occurred since 1970. Various statistics and related data are presented and the suggestion is made that contactee cases be seriously re-examined.

(10) Ron Westrum, *The Effects of UFOs on Society.* Building upon postulates that the world is controlled by natural and social laws, that the world doesn't vary capriciously, and that life can be impeded by any natural capriciousness, the author explored several sociological implications arising if UFOs represent the activity of other intelligent beings from space.

(11) Berthold Schwarz, *Stella Lansing's Slides of UFO-like Artifacts.* An extensive series of colour

and black-white photographs taken (primarily) by Stella Lansing were presented along with critical commentary and a plea for the involvement of others who are technically capable of analyzing them.

(12) Group discussion (Chairman: Ted Phillips), *Soil Analysis and Delphos*.

III. Advanced Methodologies for Use by the Physical and Social Scientist:

(1) Bob Klinn, *Photomicrography: A Way to Salvage Film Images of UFOs*. A discussion was given on how a Zeiss — Ultraphot 3, micrographic analyzer system may be used to distinguish a film's "image" from its background noise" by use of the variable focal distance capability of this instrument, thereby allowing extremely small and poorly defined images to be enlarged and sharpened.

(2) William Spaulding, *The Digital Computer and the UFO*. Details were presented on how a digital computer and microdensitometer system were combined to quantify UFO photos. Grey shades (of black-white photos) can be transformed into different colours to help enhance object edge contrasts and surface details. Other types of potentially useful techniques were outlined.

(3) James McCampbell, *UFO Interference with Automobile Electrical Systems, Part I. Headlights*. Based upon the premise that car headlight reflectors act to focus electromagnetic energy (from the UFO) upon the filament, the author determined that the headlight could be caused to go out by means of a depletion of conduction electrons at certain wavelengths. Car headlights could provide valuable new insights into the nature of the UFO's emitted energy.

(4) Edward Zeller, *Use of Thermo-Luminescence to Detect Effects of High Energy Radiation or Heating in Soils and Rocks in Landing Site Investigations*. An "after-the-fact" method of thermo-luminescent soil analysis was presented which involves a variety

of sophisticated, high energy irradiation and heating equipment. Practical suggestions were provided for the collection, storage, and analysis of the samples

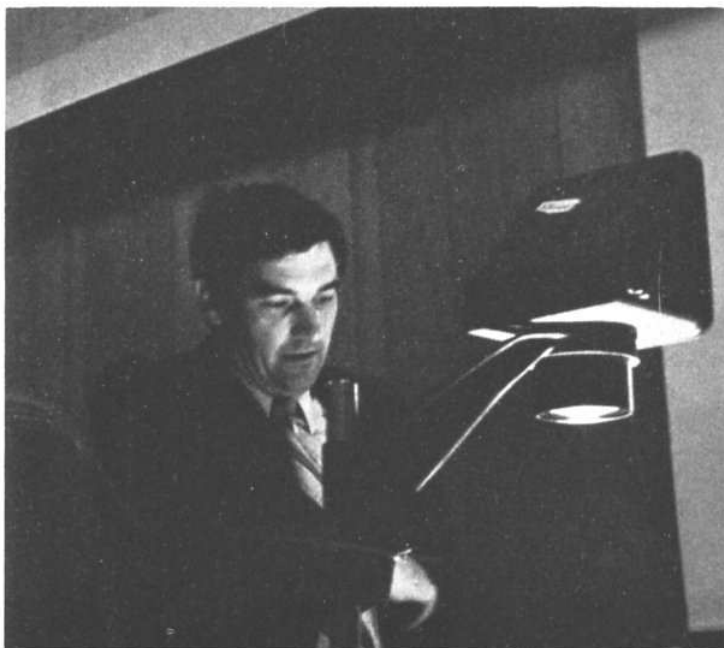
(5) Bruce Maccabee, *On the Possibility that the McMinnville Photos Show a Distant Unidentified Object (UO)*. This paper not only showed that the McMinnville UO was likely at a distance too great to have been purposely contrived by the photographer but also presented a systematic analysis of the photometric and other steps involved. Appropriate photometric scaling, field measurements, and accounting for veiling glare steps were included.

(6) Mario De Sario & Jeffrey Kretsch, *Mobile UFO Study Van*. A discussion and demonstration of over a dozen specialized UFO detection, recording, and analysis instruments was made along with a plea for a greater degree of rapid investigative response capability.

(7) Ray Stanford, *The Operation ARGUS Concept — A New Look at UFO Event Sharing and Data Sharing*. Automated Ringup on Geo-located UFO Sightings (ARGUS) involves a rapid, manual, triple triangulation UFO tracking system located near Austin, Texas at Project Starlight International's monitoring site. Computerized calculation of the UFO's range, altitude, size, and other parameters are fed, by phone, to ARGUS affiliates located along the computed "track" of the UFO to allow for further detection and identification of the phenomenon.

(8) Leo Sprinkle, *Hypnotic and Psychic Aspects of UFO Research*. Both clinical hypnotic regressive and psychical research methods were encouraged for the study of parapsychical and parapsychological aspects of the UFO experience. Certain patterns within UFO reports were compared with personal views of those who claim to have obtained prophetic visions of future events.

(9) Richard Haines, *Psychophysical and Biological Aspects of Viewing Very Bright Objects*. Published data and appropriate techniques for applying them



Claude Poher throws light on a point



But doubts for Jean-Pierre Petit?



Publications discussion: (L to R) Leo Sprinkle, John Musgrave, Wido Hoville, Jerome Clark (standing), Charles Bowen, Berthold Schwarz, David Jacobs

to certain UFO cases were presented so that "after-the-fact" estimates can be made of the emitted or reflected luminance, dominant wavelength, perceived shape, and other features of very bright UFOs.

(10) Benton Jamison, *Some Proposals: Modest, Immodest, and Maybe Fundable*. An experimental design was proposed to assess similarities and differences between UFO investigators and (supposedly) disinterested social scientists. The design included a 2 by 2 matrix containing UFO sighting reports obtained from properly matched population samples of close encounter cases and including associated psychological experiences. This approach could point out how key differences in each rating group deals (intellectually) with each type of sighting.

(11) Bradley Ayers, *The UFO Field Investigator - Reporter or Researcher*. The author pointed out that since the UFO witness is the chief source of relevant data, the field investigator must collect not only "material facts" but also the more elusive, subtle, behavioral indices within the witness which may have been produced by the UFO encounter.

(12) Alvin Lawson, *Hypnotic Regressions of Alleged CEIII Encounters: Ambiguities on the Road to UFOs*. Hypnotic regressive technique(s) may be ultimately inconclusive because UFOs may be (purposely) providing us with false information which we do not (yet) know how to interpret. Suggestions were provided for dealing with such difficulties, e.g., by analyzing CEIII reports coming from cultures that employ languages with different levels of technological, symbolic, and/or emotional constructs.

IV. Theoretical Issues such as Social and Strategic Implications, Propulsion Physics, etc:

(1) Claude Poher, *Ideas for an Experimental Approach*. An inexpensive, easy to construct image grating spectrograph camera attachment was described. Potentially valuable diagnostic information about the UFO's genuineness and emitted spectral characteristics is made possible if two successive photographs of the UFO can be taken with such a modified camera with a 90 degree arc rotation occurring between the exposures.

(2) Jean-Pierre Petit, *The Vehicle Hypothesis: Proposal of a Magneto-Hydrodynamic Model of a Sustention-Propulsion System*. Based upon the application of a properly created and maintained electrical/magnetic field around an object, this theoretical propulsion system would operate by means of the Lorentz forces produced. Validation test results from low pressure environments were also given for this within-the-atmosphere system.

(3) Fred Winterberg, *The Physical Possibility of Macroscopic Bodies Approaching Zero Mass and the UFO*. The author suggested that matter incorporating magnetic monopoles could explain many reported UFO characteristics including corona discharge, induced electric field(s), high linear acceleration, and magnetic field(s). If such a hypothetical sub-nuclear energy mechanism exists it could (perhaps) be used by highly advanced civilizations for a means of interstellar propulsion.

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A well conceived technical meeting is not only