

UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE OF
NICAP AERIAL PHENOMENA

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CLOVIS, N.M. SITE OF UFO ACTIVITY

During the week of January 25, Clovis, N.M., police authorities, local media news and NICAP were literally besieged with UFO reports from residents of the area. Police dispatcher, Diana Kenmore, stated, "just about everybody in town called in to report a cigar-shaped object gliding through the eastern New Mexico skies." Many of the police officers themselves observed an object matching the same description. Some of the witnesses who called stated that they had counted up to 20 objects of hovering over an elementary school. The Town Marshal, Willie Ronquillo, for a small Texas border town, stated that he followed up one of the reports and spotted a silent, lighted object hovering about 300 yards over the community. Ronquillo described the object as having green, yellow and blue lights and it made no sound. The Town Marshall notified state police who verified the sighting.

A newspaper reporter took several photographs with a 35 mm camera hooked up to a telescope. The photo revealed a cigar-shaped object, white, against a pitched-black sky. The object was thicker in the center than toward the ends. The reporter stated that two black circular areas which appeared vividly through the telescope, did not show up in the photo due to some focusing problems. The lack of other visual data in the photo rules out meaningful photo analysis.

An Air Force base in Clovis observed the object with infra red sensors and found it was emitting heat.

NICAP has been in contact with the Clovis Police Dept. and after a week of reoccurring sightings, the UFO activity has discontinued.

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Copy of Clovis, N.M. object seen and photographed by a N.M. newspaper photographer. Photo sharpness has been improved for printing purposes.

UFO ILLUMINATES TOP OF MOUNTAIN

Law enforcement officers in Nevada and California observed a multicolored light for more than three hours right before dawn on January 28. The Washoe County Sheriff's Department kept a chronological log beginning at 2:24 a.m. The California Highway Patrol reported a large UFO hovering southwest of the city. It was stated that the object was clearly visible; very brilliant, varying colors, and dirigible-shaped. The patrolmen contacted the Federal Aviation Administration to alert them as well. The same light was observed by two Nevada County officers, Sgt. Leroy Brombacker and Steve Bobbitt. The two officers made sketches independently of one another, which depicted a red and green object turning at right angles at a high rate of speed and a second object hovering north of the first. Washoe sheriff's deputy Jim Von Rosenberg at Incline Village saw the object drifting for about 40 minutes. He stated, "It was low enough to illuminate the top of Slide Mountain. One witness described the object's motion pattern as,

"It kind of twinkled and blinked. It moved downward and, as it spiraled down, it changed colors from kind of bluish-green to yellowish-orange. When it stopped, it went back to white. It moved in squares. It went across the sky to the south, then back to the north. It was really kind of eerie."

Two local airports were contacted to see if they were receiving any radar returns. Both of the airports were unable to pick-up anything on their radar screens.

The time log showed another entry at 4:16 a.m., which stated that the object illuminated the ridge west of Washoe Lake then moved southwest. It was reported climbing at an extreme rate of speed at 4:30 a.m. then stabilizing at a very high altitude. The last entry had the object fading at 4:53 a.m.

NICAP's Regional Investigator Ed Dickman is continuing his investigations in this case. At present, the sighting is unexplained.

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE AND UFOs

Mr. Stephen P. Resta received his Masters of Arts degree from Loyola College, Baltimore, Maryland in the field of psychology. The following article is an excerpt from his dissertation. UFO researchers are plagued with reports which have very little substance, but still must be evaluated. Such reports make up the bulk of the approximately 80% of the cases that are explained. The psychological/sociological aspects of the reporting of UFOs is deserving of study. These aspects have little or no bearing on the 20% of reports that are classified as UFOs, but may very well be factors in analyzing the reports which are later explained.

The question of the authenticity and legitimacy of reports of unidentified flying objects (UFOs) has often been filled with considerable controversy, confusion and acrimony. In March of 1969, the United States Air Force appropriated funds for a carefully selected committee to investigate UFOs [Condon Report].

It was hoped that this exhaustive study would provide a definitive answer to this often debated subject. Reaction to this report was not all favorable, however. For example, Dr. J. Allen Hynek, a noted astronomer who formerly assisted the Air Force in their investigation of UFO reports, criticized the objectivity and empirical methodology of the study. He wrote: "Scientific method! What sort of scientific investigation is it that assumes the answer before starting" (Hynek, 1972). In addition, a large segment of the U.S. public appear to have mixed attitudes on the subject. A Gallup Poll published in November of 1974 showed that 51% of the persons interviewed believed that UFOs are real and not just a figment of the imagination or cases of hallucination. The survey also showed that 11% of the adult population, or more than 15 million Americans, have seen a UFO. This is double the percentage recorded in the previous poll on the subject in 1966. It would, perhaps, be beneficial to further investigate the significance of this poll. For example, those respondents who stated that the UFOs were real, never were asked to define what "real" meant to them. Was it an extraterrestrial space craft, a secret

defense craft operated by the United States or another country? However, it is not the purpose of this thesis to establish the veracity of UFO sightings or to demonstrate that the earth has been visited by extraterrestrial life, but to examine certain psychosocial aspects of the UFO or "flying saucer" phenomenon; specifically, who believes in UFOs and why.

Contemporary authors have stressed "The anxieties of the nuclear age and man's resorting to magical interpretations of his observations...betraying the desperate need to be saved" (Meerloo, 1968). They believe that the "saucer delusion" helps masquerade feelings of alienation and prodigious insecurity about a world possibly headed toward atomic suicide.

The aforementioned Condon report posits that a certain ambiguity exists in many UFO sightings. For example, why do some individuals who witness a UFO believe that it is nothing more than an as of yet unexplained aerial phenomenon, while others assume it is a vehicle from another planet? Why are some individuals so reluctant to accept information which points to a natural explanation for many UFO sightings—such as a balloon or star aberration? In 1970 Donald Warren attempted to answer these questions and proposed his status-inconsistency theory of UFO sightings. This sociologically oriented concept states that UFO sightings are linked to status frustration and perceived status deprivation relative to an individual's place on the social ladder. A status-inconsistent individual would be a physician who is black. Another example would be an engineer who happens to be female. Warren writes that, for this type of person, there is a considerable disparity between certain social expectations and the typical social milieu that he or she encounters. There is, then, a dichotomy between one's ascribed status (e.g., sex, race or age) and one's achieved status (e.g., income, education or job classification). The consequences of this incongruity are often feelings of alienation, powerlessness, normlessness, isolation and self-estrangement. "The flying saucer phenomenon provides an appropriate link between the social condition of alienation and its individual expression. Not only is there some rejection of conventional morality involved in saucer sightings, but the very ambiguity of the phenomenon

permits one to view it as expressive of one's own interpretation of personal status situation" (Warren, 1970). Warren's postulation is based on an analysis of data of the Gallup Poll, which examined certain characteristics relevant to UFO sightings. Warren was interested in subjects that claim to have observed a UFO. While this is not necessarily tantamount to belief in UFOs, those respondents labeled as being "status-inconsistent" gave a clear preference for an extraterrestrial explanation of the saucer's origin.

PSYCHOLOGICAL CONCEPTS APPLIED

"Anomie" is a term first employed by Emile Durkheim to describe individuals who felt estranged and alienated from many consensually sanctioned goals of society. There are numerous similarities between anomie and Warren's status-inconsistent person. For example, the anomic individual also believes he is incapable of affecting events in his society and often feels ambivalent about societal values.

While there may be some disagreement about the nature of anomie it is clear that this concept has significant psychological as well as sociological relevance and importance.

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NICAP PRESIDENT GUEST OF SPANISH GOVERNMENT

John L. Acuff who has held the office of President/Chairman Board of Governors for NICAP since 1970 was invited by the government owned Television Espanol (Madrid, Spain) to appear as a panelist. This very select panel for Programa La Clave (a weekly feature) included Erich von Däniken (author); Antoni Riberia (author); and José Casas Huguet (President, Center of Interplanetary Studies). The panel discussed the probabilities of intelligent extraterrestrial life.

Mr. Acuff's educational background is in the fields of biology, chemistry, physics, psychology and mathematics. This background combined with his management experience and long association with NICAP has made him very much in demand to represent NICAP on innumerable radio and television shows. Upon Mr.

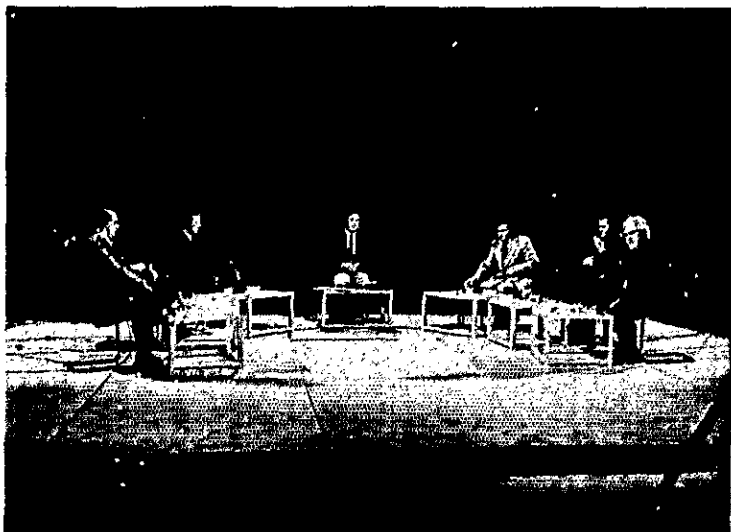
Acuff's return from Madrid, he commented on the professionalism shown by the moderator and staff of Programa La Clave.

Programa La Clave is one of the two live programs broadcast in Spain. Since there are only two channels available to the Spanish public, (Programa La Clave is very popular with the viewing audience) a large portion of Spain's population learned of NICAP's work in the UFO field.

The format of the show allowed for viewer questions to be called into the studio. It was interesting to note that even though the questions were coming from a people having different heritage, customs, and form of government, they were very similar in nature to those answered by Mr. Acuff during his appearances on U.S. radio and television.

In addition to having the opportunity of informing the Spanish public about work being done in the UFO field, NICAP was able to establish working relationships with Spanish organizations. Data is now being exchanged with the Center of Interplanetary Studies (a UFO Spanish study group) and with investigative reporters on Television Espanol and major Spanish newspapers. The Spanish publisher of Mr. Ribera's books on extraterrestrial life, expressed interest in publishing a Spanish translation of NICAP's books and newsletters.

During the program the panel speculated on what an extraterrestrial culture might be like, and how it would relate to us if contact were made. Mr. Acuff used an analogy in which he expressed ap-



Programa La Clave being televised. Seated from left to right: Spanish reporter, Ribera, Acuff, Balbin (moderator), Von Daniken, Hugué, UFO witness.

SIGHTING ADVISORY

Preliminary information on new reports. Details and evaluations will be published when available.

February 17, 1976—Odessa, Texas. Four separate UFO sighting reports were made in the west Texas area. Two women arriving for work in Odessa reported seeing a bright light in the morning sky. Local police officers also reported the sighting and stated that they had received calls from other local residents describing similar UFOs. A police dispatcher in a neighboring town stated that a man reported seeing an object which was extremely bright and was moving in a zig-zag pattern across the sky. Checks were made with airport control towers in the area. They had also been receiving reports from residents but could not confirm the UFO activity.

February 10, 1976—Lake City, Florida. Sheriff's deputies and highway patrolmen sighted and chased a UFO which was described by the officers as having, "Blue, green, red and white lights." A deputy who declined to be identified stated, "I wouldn't have believed it if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes." The object was hovering about 500 feet in the air, flashing all different colors from the bottom of the craft.

January 18, 1976—Bowie, Maryland. A witness who wishes to remain anonymous sighted a UFO for approximately five minutes at 12:15 a.m. The object was extremely bright and appeared to change in color from white to red at different times throughout the sighting. The movement of the object was very erratic and changed speed and direction like no conventional craft would be possible of doing. The size was reported to be that of a half dollar held at arm's length.

preciation for the warm hospitality shown to him by the staff and the people of Spain. He stated that, "It is interesting to speculate on the interaction between the people of different cultures. However, until the opportunity arises for personal

contact as it did between myself and the people of Spain, we will never know what each other is like."



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The response to the request for donations (January UFO INVESTIGATOR) was very much appreciated. Any contribution made to NICAP is tax deductible. We would like to express our thanks to those members who did support their organization and encourage those individuals who have not yet made their contribution to do so, if at all possible.

BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE AND UFO's

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There also appears to be a similarity between these concepts and an additional one, which will now be introduced—externality.

Julian Rotter's notion of the "external" individual portrays someone who feels that he is powerless to control his destiny. Highly externalized persons believe that they are at the mercy of their environment and, in essence, are being manipulated by outside forces. Rotter contrasts the individual dominated by external control with his counterpart—the internal individual. Unlike the externalized person, the internalized individual feels that he can exert control over his own destiny.

Specifically, this study tests the hypotheses that a significant, positive correlation would exist between anomie, externality and the degree of belief in UFOs. The first hypothesis, that anomic individuals would demonstrate a strong belief in UFOs, was not statistically supported by this study. The second hypothesis, that those subjects defined as being external will also be prone to possess a strong belief in UFOs, was upheld, however.

These findings would seem to suggest, not only a lack of a strong relationship between anomie and UFO belief, but also, in turn, a weak correlation between mysticism, status-frustration and belief in UFOs (since with anomie by previous research).

Unfortunately, it is difficult to make a definitive statement about whether or not the limitations of this study precluded the finding of a positive correlation between anomie and strength of UFO belief. Perhaps future research in this area, utilizing a larger, more representative sample may find results that are more accordant with the previous research in this area. Such a study would seem to be extremely beneficial and useful.

While the concepts of anomie and externality have been linked together and some commonalities between them have been demonstrated, this study, for the most part, treated them independently. The finding of a positive relationship between externality and UFO belief suggests certain representations and ramifications.

The most evident observation to be made is that individuals who feel that they are incapable of controlling their lives tend to possess a strong belief in the existence of UFOs. The findings of this study would also seem to lend support to the theories of Meerloo and others such as personality theorist, Carl Jung on the subject of UFOs.

One of the more interesting findings of the study relates to the panic that followed the 1938 broadcast of H.G. Wells' "War of the Worlds" by Orson Wells. Many listeners, upon hearing the dramatization, believed that the play was actually an invasion from Mars, though others who had heard that same broadcast realized that it was just play. This study demonstrated that those listeners who felt that the broadcast was an account of an alien invasion were in effect external in their frame of reference, although no measurement to evaluate extremity was in existence at the time of the broadcast.

The question of whether or not this planet is being visited by extraterrestrial life forms has been investigated by reputable scientists from many diverse areas. Some, such as celebrated exobiologist Carl Sagan, believe serious research in this area should cease. As regards UFOs, he writes: "The reliable cases are uninteresting (Sagan, 1975). Others, such as astronomer Dr. J. Allen Hynek, say that to stop investigating UFOs would be a crucial mistake.

What this author believes is important, is that while investigating for the "definite patterns and other correlations" that Hynek speaks of, the behavioral scientist should not be precluded from that investigation.

Clearly, the psychological profile of an individual claiming to have had contact with alien life forms would be of great significance.

The principal observation made was that people who feel that their future and destiny is controlled by factors outside of themselves are more prone to possess a strong belief in UFOs. It was also suggested that such individuals may regard UFOs as a source of salvation, though this concept was not specifically assessed by this study.

Numerous suggestions for beneficial, future research were made, and hopefully, some thought-provoking ideas were expounded.

No statement or opinion was made regarding the legitimacy of the existence of unidentified flying objects. However, regardless of whether UFOs are a combination of psychological phenomena, star aberrations, misidentified aircraft, etc., or are vehicles from an extraterrestrial origin, as some evidence suggest (Hynek), this thesis has hopefully demonstrated that the study of unidentified flying objects should not be precluded from the realm of the behavioral scientist.

Mr. Resta's 55 page paper is available upon order from the NICAP Office. Your check in the amount of \$6.00 should be enclosed to cover duplicating and mailing costs.

CLOVIS, (Continued from page 1)

Government agencies have given their usual explanation as a temperature inversion causing optical illusions.

Police officers are not UFO experts but they are trained to observe phenomena carefully and accurately. It does not seem possible, nor logical, that with the number of witnesses in this incident that all could mistakenly identify a planet or a star seen through temperature inversions as a UFO.

Clovis, N.M. was visited by something and to date it must be classified as an unconventional object.