

UFO INVESTIGATOR



NICAP 5012 Del Ray Avenue, Washington, D.C. 20014 A non-profit corporation since 1956

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SPEAKERS NEEDED

Over the past year NICAP has continued to receive frequent requests from all over the United States to provide speakers for a wide variety of audiences and occasions. Many requests come from high schools, colleges and universities to judge and speak at science fairs and to give lectures organized by Space Study and UFO Study groups. This is a clear indication that interest in UFOs continues to grow larger and stronger, especially among young people. Other invitations come from business groups, community organizations and professional associations. Phone-in radio programs want speakers with a good knowledge of the field of UFOs. Other requests call for appearance on TV programs or to participate in panel discussions.

For NICAP this is proving to be what the French call "an embarrassment of riches." We receive far more requests for speakers than we are able to provide.

We are now trying to build up our listing of NICAP members who would be available to accept such invitations. In today's less formal world, a speaker's sincerity and conviction are far more important than experience with the old fashioned rules of public speaking. What we are looking for, and what these invitations call for, are persons who are well informed in the recent history of UFO sightings and are familiar with the main approaches taken by those who propose explanations of what UFOs are. (You don't have to be an expert yourself or know what UFOs are. After all, the experts themselves don't know or agree.) Also, speakers should be comfortable with NICAP's tradition of avoiding sensationalism in dealing with UFO phenomena.

Are you one of the people who can help NICAP tell these interested audiences about UFOs? Or do you have a friend who can? Please send your name, address and the areas in which you could appear to NICAP, care of the UFO INVESTIGATOR.

We have prepared a suggested lecture outline, including frequently asked questions and suggested answers. We will be happy to send you a copy.

NEW GREEK UFO ORGANIZATION

We have received a letter from a Greek colleague concerning the sighting of UFOs over the city of Rethymnon, Crete. (UFO Investigator, November 1979). He can add no information on the sighting that has not already appeared on Greek TV and in the Greek press. However, his letter tells of the founding of the Scientific Committee for the Study of Unknowns in Space. This is a non-governmental organization with headquarters in Athens. There are branch committees in Salonika, Patras, Kozani, Volos and Cyprus. Correspondence, in English, can be addressed to: FAETHON, 22 Evangelistrios St., Archanai, Athens, Greece.

THE CIA "FILES" ON UFOS

Several readers have written to criticize our unkind remarks about the condition of the CIA files on UFOs, which were released under the Freedom of Information Act. They say we must be exaggerating or indulging in sloppy reporting. As is known, these files have been declassified and the entire batch can be bought for \$90. Therefore, anyone is free to read them and reach his own conclusions as to the condition of these "files" and how much information they contain about UFOs. The NICAP researcher, who read the entire stack, made this breakdown of the 879 pages:

- 33.0 percent of the pages were translations from foreign language radio broadcasts or foreign newspapers, none of which were classified in the original or in translation.
 - 25.0 percent were routing sheets and cover sheets containing merely the name and room number of the addressees.
 - 18.0 percent were duplicates of originals which were already in the files, or successive drafts of memos and letters, the final copy of which was in the file.
 - 7.3 percent were unreadable, usually because of the poor carbon and copying systems used in the early 1950s. A small number of pages in this category were so heavily censored by CIA before being released that they make no sense.
 - 6.5 percent were unsolicited letters from the public often reporting sightings, asking for explanations or offering theories about UFOs. This group also includes the usual tight-lipped, pro-forma replies by CIA taking several paragraphs to say nothing more than "thank you."
 - 5.7 percent were on matters of genuine substance, for example the agenda, proceedings and report of the Robertson Committee.
 - 3.0 percent involved letters from Maj. Keyhoe and others asking CIA to open its files on UFOs, and the CIA answers refusing to do so.
 - 1.5 percent were simple copies of articles on UFOs from American magazines and newspapers.
- 100.0 percent.

KOREAN UFO ORGANIZATION

A recent letter from Seoul requests the establishment of friendly cooperation between NICAP and a group of UFO students there. They are members of the Korean Amateur Astronomical Association and constitute one of its four sections, the Department of UFO Investigations. The members study both classical astronomy and UFO phenomena. The letter asks for recommendations on books, photographs and other material that would help the group in its study and investigations. Correspondence with the group is welcome and can be addressed to:

Chairman of the UFO Department, KAAA,
Mr. SONG, Kee-Dae,
133-1 Eulchiro 5KA Choong-Ku,
Seoul, Korea

A BOOK FOR NEWCOMERS

It is always a pleasure to welcome a new and readable book on UFOs. In the 33 years that make up the modern period of UFOs, millions of words have been written on the subject from all possible points of view. This overwhelming mass of material confronts newcomers to the study of UFOs, newcomers whose numbers increase by the thousands each year. What they should have is an overall summary of the subject, one which, on the one hand, avoids too detailed an analysis of a small number of cases or on the other hand goes deeply and technically into theories explaining what UFOs are. This need has now been filled by the young Canadian writer Yurko Bondarchuk. The book is *UFO Sightings, Landings and Abductions*, Methuen Publications, Agincourt, Canada, 1979.

Bondarchuk offers a well filled plate. The 50 cases which are described in detail are grouped under ten major headings: Photographs of UFOs; Landings and physical traces; Physical reactions to sightings, which features the alive but suffering Stephen Michalak whose abdomen is covered with a grid pattern of burn marks; Occupants of UFOs; Abduction cases; UFO visits to military installations; Sightings by military pilots; UFO visits to energy generating sites; Sightings by civilian pilots; and, Canadian Government investigations.

The cases described under these headings are fairly presented, well researched and engagingly written. They are accompanied by a number of good resolution photographs. Where photographs are not available clear, straightforward drawings are presented, many of which were done by the author himself.

Those who have followed the UFO scene for a long time will find little in this book that is new to them. The cases described are clearly based on the author's wide reading of newspaper files, books, published interviews and other such reports. The author has used these materials in good balance and he is scrupulous in giving credit for the sources of his information. No new light is shed on the enduring mystery of UFOs, nor does the author pretend to do so. He is not an investigator or the developer of new theories but a narrator, and a very good one. This book will be especially useful to the new reader who wants an introduction to the complex world of UFOs.

MEMBERSHIP-RENEWAL APPLICATION

NICAP * 5012 Del Ray Avenue * Washington, DC 20014 * (301) 654-8091

Please enter my name () or renew my standing () as a member of NICAP. I understand that I will receive the monthly newsletter, have access to the NICAP files, receive information on sightings, and other benefits.

Dues Payment Enclosed

Name _____	Annual Dues
Street _____	Effective 1 September 1979
City & State _____ Zip _____	U.S. \$15.00
	Foreign \$20.00
	Foreign Air Mail \$27.50

BOARD MEMBERS NAMED FOR UFO RESEARCH FUND

In the October 1979 issue of the UFO Investigator we reported the establishment of the Fund for UFO Research, Inc. Its purpose is to make grants to individuals and organizations for research on UFO questions. The Fund has announced the appointment of a National Board whose job will be to consider and approve grants for clearly defined UFO research projects. The members have a wide range of expertise. Four hold PhD degrees in various scientific disciplines. The others include a physician, a member of the clergy, an aviation historian, a producer of educational films, a jet flight instructor, and a specialist in space craft. The members are:

- Dr. Eugenie Clark, professor of zoology, University of Maryland;
- Dr. Barry H. Downing, Presbyterian clergyman;
- Mr. Charles H. Gibbs-Smith, long-time contributor to the British magazine *Aeroplane* and Keeper Emeritus of the Victoria and Albert Museum, London;
- Dr. Richard F. Haines, experimental psychologist, NASA;
- Mr. Ward Kimball, educational film producer, Walt Disney Enterprises;
- Mr. Lou Purnell, Assistant Curator for Spacecraft, National Air and Space Museum;
- Dr. Peter Rank, M.D., Director of the Department of Radiology, Methodist Hospital, Madison, Wisconsin;
- Mr. Herbert E. Roth, coordinator of Boeing 727 flight training, United Airlines;
- Dr. Donald Westrum, sociologist, Eastern Michigan University.

The Board announces that several research proposals are now under consideration and that the awarding of grants will be announced shortly.

LIBRARIANS, PLEASE NOTE

The Library of Congress has issued ISSN 0041-5073 to the UFO Investigator. Starting now, this number will appear in the masthead of all issues.

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