Conference Wrapup NUFOC

by Skylaire Alfvegren

Southern California's illustrious ufological past was revisited October 30–31 as the National UFO Committee held its annual conference at the Renaissance Hotel in Hollywood. "It's getting harder to find people to do this," remarked Jim Moseley, publisher of UFO gossip newsletter Saucer Smear, and the reigning court jester of ufology, as he passed on NUFOC chairman duties, a position he's held for 33 years, to successor Lisa Davis.

According to author John Goodwin, Gray Barker was the only person who "refuted the rumor that saucerdom is a county in Southern California," which, in the '50s, was considered ground zero for the contactee movement. Gabriel Green got over 171,000 votes when he ran for the senate in 1962 at the behest of Alpha Centurians. In 1954, when pilots were reporting five to ten UFO sightings each day, President Eisenhower assured us that America wasn't being watched by alien invaders.

Since a peak in interest around the 50th anniversary of the Roswell incident in 1997, "UFOs have been pushed off the map entirely," according to science journalist Terry Hansen. "They're a threat to national security," he said.

Meanwhile, theblackvault.com, conference MC John Greenewald's UFO website, averages 15 million hits per month. A reported 35 percent of NUFOC attendees claimed to have had a personal experience. Abduction researcher Budd Hopkins stores in his closet upwards of 10,000 letters from abductees, he says.

While polls indicate a greater percentage of the public entertains the possibility of intelligent life from elsewhere, the media is loathe to investigate UFOs. "We think that since this is such a media-saturated society, anything of importance is covered," said Hansen, who lectured on the cozy relationship the CIA has had with major media. "We're focused on survival. The big item is still 9/11," Moseley says. "Aliens probably won't invade tomorrow, but we could get blown up by terrorists."

Citing the fall of communist Russia and the deaths of Franco and Mao, panel moderator Stephen Bassett remarked, "Periods of political instability are opportune times to crack stuff like this open," whether it be a regime change or a new party in office. "This is the most profound question the human race has ever encountered."

American UFO activity has decreased in recent years, but Mexico and Canada have had major flaps. "The U.S. is being bracketed in for some reason," said Bassett. "Maybe it's dangerous here. The people aren't listening, and our government is aggressive."

Richard Dolan believes there are a lot of reasons why our government continues to scramble the UFO issue. "Chaos. Economic, political, and theological; disclosure would cause tremendous destabilization. Even so, it would be better to know something than nothing. Thanks to the internet, ufology has had an upsurge in amateurism. People are taking an active stance, and not waiting on the government," he said.

Still, full disclosure is the ultimate ufological wet dream. Depending on who you're listening to, we're currently being visited by between four and 57 alien races. If so, why haven't any of them landed on the White House lawn? "When you look at pilot reports, particularly from the '50s, they were demonstrating their presence in a completely unambiguous way and I think that they may have expected it to result in an acknowledgement of their existence," remarked Dr. Robert Wood, a retired aerospace contractor-turned UFO researcher. "What happened was exactly the opposite; the U.S. government clamped down on all information on the subject."

Richard Dolan, author of *UFOs* and the National Security State, remarked, "If I were studying gorillas in central Africa, would I walk up to the dominant silverback and establish a relationship?"

"If the human race could look at itself in a giant mirror, what would we see?" asked retired Air Force lieutenant Bob Salas. "We'd see a real mess. They probably don't think we're worthy of being part of the universe yet." In 1967, Salas witnessed "intelligently controlled objects of unknown origin which demonstrated control over our most advanced weapons. They disabled 20 nuclear missiles at the height of the Cold War." "Maybe they haven't destroyed us because they're waiting for us to flame out," said Dolan. "Some people say these beings are looking after us, but they don't seem to be stopping us from careening off the cliff."

Why, with public belief at an all-time high, has interest seemingly diminished? "The novelty has worn off," says Moseley. "And people get tired of something that has no conclusion. There are many, many cases that can't be explained, but after all these years, we have a stack of evidence but no final proof, or else we wouldn't have saucer conventions." He's optimistic about NUFOC finding a permanent home in Southern California, which "is probably the nut capital of the world," he says. NUFOC has been a floating conference since 1964. "We haven't figured it out yet, but we'll keep trying, because Californians are very persistent."

Skylaire Alfvegren is a Las Vegas freelance writer. Her coverage of the Crash Retrieval conference in Las Vegas will appear in the next issue. For more information, go to www.majesticdocuments.com

Voices From Beyond

Tuning Into the Logic Behind White Noise

by Jan Hester

It would make sense that entities from other dimensions might utilize modern technology to communicate with humans. Whether by ghosts or aliens, speaking to be heard from a non-material realm can be pretty taxing, so why not use the enhancements of electronic devices? That's exactly, the concept behind Electronic Voice Phenomena, or EVP,

the latest advance in corroborating life beyond earth.

They could be ghosts or ETs or even the subconscious projections of the human listeners, but certain forces or entities have indeed communicated in this manner, according to some EVP specialists. "One thing that is for certain is that those in other dimensions want to communicate with us and are using all manner of technology to do this," say Tom and Lisa Butler, directors of the American Association of Elec-

tronic Voice Phenomena (AA-EVP). "As we make technological advances, they are quick to use them to communicate with us."

AA-EVP (www.aaevp.com) compiles the communications and reports of members who have attempted this reportedly simple method of tuning into the "other side." As in the movie *White Noise*, starring Michael Keaton, recordings seem to deliver the best results in an area with some medium of background noise such as a fan or a radio set at between-stations static.

With a regular cassette recorder and an external microphone, an open mind and a few pertinent questions to ask, anyone has a fairly good chance of picking up paranormal talk from a presumably outside source, say the Butlers. "After you have developed a bridge to the other side and to your loved one, you will find that you can record and reach them at any time and any place."

Attempted communication with the dead naturally predominates in the EVP world, but alien voices are a close runner-up. England's leading EVP researcher, Raymond Cass—who doesn't think that EVP is all that easy or simple to elicit—seems to favor the alien source as an explanation, echoing some other theorists who suggest that ET outposts or "motherships" may instigate communications to selected individuals over a long period of time. "The fragmented nature of these messages keeps the recipients finely tuned and simultaneously ensure that they conduct

their own research in order to corroborate their observations and conclusions," writes a reviewer in *VITAL*, a European publication.

Cass's most extensive contribution to the EVP database is the CD Ghost Orchid. a compilation of almost 80 EVP tracks, most from his own recordings. In the explanatory booklet that comes with the CD. Cass restates the somewhat counterintuitive ET theory of Prof. James Deardorff: "(The ETs) understand human psy-



Actor Michael Keaton hears voices from beyond.

chology well. The extraterrestrial communications would be emplaced in a manner easily accessible to the general public (possibly the EVP) but in a form not acceptable or believable to scientists. Government agencies, upon advice from scientists, would then take no action."

Like UFO research, EVP experiments tend to be undertaken by curious individuals like Cass and the Butlers, rather than well-funded institutional agencies. As for Keaton's character John Rivers in the movie White Noise, he simply misses his dead wife and finds that EVP seems to create a link to her. In real life, they're now getting excellent results using video recorders (called Instrumental Transcommunication) and digital note takers; the transmissions getting clearer and often supplemented with visuals. It could be that as the electronics revolution progresses, the living will once and for all forge a lasting communications bond with the dead—and the ETs.

Jan Hester is contributing editor. More information on "Ghost Orchid" can be found at http://parc.web. fm/PARC%20CD1.htm. Filmic "White Noise" information is found at www.whitenoisemovie.com

On Assignment • Continued from page 15

station by Graham Allen, chairman of the Staffordshire UFO Group (SUFOG) and a quietly driving force in UFO investigations in this part of England. The grassroots research organization was sponsoring our talk that night. On the way to Graham and Charlotte's, we made a short stop at the news agents to pick up a copy of the day's Stafford Post to see if they'd published an article promoting our talk. They had—"Are There Alien Visitors?"—but had neglected to mention where and when it would be held, or my name, which annoyed Larry more than it did me. We were glad to be back on the road together for the first time is some years, and far more interested in what Graham was now telling us about a local series of sightings and some relevant videotape.

On August 7, Graham had received the first reports of the unknown from individuals in the nearby villages of Cannock, Stafford, and then Nilford. It had been described as an orange ball or disc containing a strange shape, although all described it as triangular. One witness watched it hover, another saw it elongate, then shoot off. At about 2 A.M. the following morning, it hovered over the village of Litchfield where it was videotaped. An hour later it was photographed over Shenston, roughly 5 miles away. Investigation has established that the object made its first appearance July 30 and that sightings were continuing up to the present.

The main reports described orange balls of light, followed by triangular-shaped objects with several lights on them. All are silent, with the triangular ones observed coming down behind trees, then departing. Large boomerangshaped objects as well as other related phenomena have been multiply witnessed. Staffordshire has a serious history of UFO activity, so we weren't completely surprised.

The video had been shot in the early hours of August 8 and clearly showed the object—star-sized at first, then considerably larger. It moved nearer and farther; at other times the cameraman zoomed in and out with his 16-power zoom. At high power it was perfectly round with the oddly shaped triangle maintaining its position in the lower right corner of the disc or ball. Despite the darkness, several zooms gave us a good figure-to-ground relationship between the house, some surrounding trees, and the object. On the soundtrack were voices expressing pure shock and amazement and laced with those perfectly employed expletives I've heard on other home videos over the years.

The man behind the lens was a first-rate conservative, blue-collar skeptic who had never read a UFO book or given them more than a passing thought. He had not approached SUFOG for any kind of payment or recognition, he just wanted to know if they could help him understand what he'd seen. He attended our lecture and was as straightforward about his sighting as you'd hope. I met him at our talk later and liked him immediately. The talk went well and we returned to Liverpool the next morning.

Liverpool's local BUFORA chapter (British UFO Research Organization) had arranged for us to talk on September 18 at the city's historic waterfront district. The

venue was just down the street from the White Star Building, unchanged since crowds clamored in its shadow to learn the fate of the *Titanic* passengers.

An omen?

Perhaps. Due to the uncharacteristically beautiful weather, minimal promotion and 11:30 A.M. kick-off time, this lecture had the lightest turnout of our three-talk tour. We gave our audience our best, full-house presentation though, then made our way to the town center where we enjoyed a traditional English-Korean-Chinese lunch with friends.

I left Liverpool for Leeds on Saturday the 19th. It was hard to believe, but it had been a year since we'd lost Graham Birdsall, and I was going to pay my respects to his family. Despite the sad anniversary, it was great to see his wife Christine, daughters Helen and Louise and son-in-law Russel again, not to mention Louise and Russel's beautiful daughter Kathy.

They've become good friends over the years, and Graham must be very proud of them and the rest of his family. They miss him terribly, but are moving on with their lives. Christine and Helen and I even spent a day enjoying historic York, the oldest city in England. As always, the Birdsalls were wonderful hosts and it was difficult saying good-bye.

Our final talk was scheduled for Tuesday, September 21 and British Rail transported me from Leeds to Birmingham without incident that afternoon. Larry had arrived minutes before me, and by the time our sponsor Steve Poole pulled up at the taxi stand, we were there waiting for him. Steve is the hard-working Director of UFORM (UFO Research Midlands), another terrific regional UFO organization. Once on the road, we fell into a discussion on the current state of UFO research and activity.

We had a little time before heading to our venue, enough to stop by his house and say hello to his wife Jackie and two sons, and have a cup of tea, of course. Then it was off to the pub, in whose public room we would be speaking. (Note: this is not an uncommon location for group meetings or local UFO talks in the U.K.). Steve was upbeat about our audience and we were not disappointed. It was standing room only with almost 100 in attendance. Our talk was very well received and audience members asked questions that were both thoughtful and intelligent.

Afterwards we retired to the small room where we would be staying the night. But we didn't retire until after Steve, Larry, another UFORM officer, and I celebrated the evening with a round of drinks and several bags of cheese and onion crisps (that's chips to you Yanks!).

Early the next morning, it was now back to Liverpool and a day with Larry's family. On Thursday the 23rd, we took a long walk around the city and made our ritual stop at the Cavern Club, where, for anyone out there who is not aware, a group called the Beatles came to prominence in the early 1960s.

Most of the club is much as it was then, and it was easy for our minds to roll back the years as we sat by ourselves in front of that little stage nursing a couple of beers, espe-

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Editor:

In 1990, upon suddenly remembering many UFO experiences, I became very appreciative of your magazine. Growing up in Carpenteria, California, I saw myself as the next John F. Kennedy, Elvis Presley, or Ed Sullivan, not the next Budd Hopkins or Don Ecker. One Friday morning in June, a UFO landed in the field behind the tract houses where I lived. Out of the bottom of the tri-pod saucer dropped a Gray who proceeded to live in our house that weekend. You can imagine what a year that was. Yes, we learned a lot.

Now, many years later, the issue of sharing this planet with another race of beings continues to be a notion I am not altogether comfortable with. I still have questions and concerns about extraterrestrials. I have been treated well and also badly by them. I've seen the Grays, I've heard them speak, and I've ridden in their ships. I've been dropped off at an Air Force base in South Dakota and made my way back just on my Cub Scout training. In 1990, a Man in Black took blood samples from my brother and me.

I'm 51 years old now, and so far all is quiet and clear on the Western front.

David Gonzales Whittier, CA

Editor:

I have read the August/September 2004 issue (Vol. 19, No. 4) and am very pleased with the article entitled, "Ancient Myths and Reptilians." I'm glad to see writings about the "cleaning up" of the Bible. There is so much to this global, millennia-long conspiracy, there's just not enough time or ink to tell the whole tale. I've been studying metaphysics and conspiracy theories for about 12 years now. I would like to share with you my theory of the beginning of our present dilemma.

For the record, if you're going to create an experimental species, you don't put them in a galaxy that resides in the "Free Will Zone." Anyway, God's little group of scientists decided one day to create this awesome paradise known as the "Living Library" and because they are so kind, they put it in the Free-Will Zone so both Light and Dark can have access to the information. This is where the problem starts.

The scientists then decide to create a new species. The greatest trait of this species is that they are capable of generating such a unique and powerful frequency of love that it can change the entire universe. So what did they do? They put that species, along with the Living Library, in the Free Will Zone so that any asshole with his own agenda can come in and start screwing with the whole project. So what do you think happens next? Some assholes come in with their own agendas and start screwing

with everything. Point being, the Dark Side understands exactly how powerful we are and that we are also primitive and can be easily manipulated. They are allowed to get away with whatever they want because—you guessed it—we live in the "Anything Goes" part of the great cosmos.

Cheryl Williams St. Petersburg, FL

Editor:

I sure enjoyed your October/November 2004 issue. You sure gave some good points on the Meier case. The UFO watch map is very interesting. We are pretty busy in this nation, aren't we? I also enjoyed the article on the Skull and Bones. Very good stuff. That girl, Alexandra Robbins, sure was getting the grapes on them. It's hard to say "no" to such a pretty face, I'm sure.

Tam Ally Lima, OH

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cially when the Beatles songs were blasting through the club's speakers. A pretty special moment to us, and I expect to a lot of readers.

On Friday Larry, Sue, and Dennis drove me to the Liverpool station, then saw me to my train. It was goodbyes all round except for Dennis, who doesn't like it when people are leaving. And I was—for London.

My friend Steve Jones met me at the end of this ride, then he and his wife Annie whisked me off to their lovely home for a great dinner and much talk into the night. We spent Saturday exploring Camden Market, a mind-boggling collection of shops and stalls selling almost anything imaginable.

After a first-class day of walking, shopping, and talk, they dropped me off at Nick Pope's, where I'd be spending the next night. Nick had arrived not half an hour before us, having just returned from several days in central Europe on Ministry of Defence business. As always, he managed to resist my attempts to learn any Ministry secrets; despite this, we did have a very good dinner.

The next day, Sunday, Nick and I met Timothy Good and our friend Michele at a local pub for lunch, some drinks, conversation, and laughs. The afternoon flew by, and it was soon time to make my way to Kings Cross Station and Suffolk. Nick, as always the perfect host, escorted me to the Kings Cross tube station and made sure I had my directions right. I must have, because several hours later I arrived in Woodbridge, only twelve miles from locations described in *Left At East Gate*. I was back.

The next three days were spent home-based at the Old House in the village of Eyke, a mile plus from the flight line of RAF Bentwaters and five miles from RAF Woodbridge. The Old House is a beautiful bed and breakfast run by our dear friends Tony and Jan Warnock. It's where Larry and I first stayed in 1988, and I've been going back there ever since.

While there I revisited RAF Bentwaters, now decommissioned and being developed for businesses and home use. And as always, I returned to the area where law enforcement policemen Penniston, Burroughs, Cavanasac, and Dule radioed in for permission to investigate an unexplained light on the first night of activity. And as always, I revisited Capel Green, where on a dark night in late December, 1980 a contingent of young Air Force personnel very much seem to have faced off with something not of this Earth.

It was Tuesday evening, September 28, when I called Steve Jones from Jan and Tony's. His voice sounded flat, not at all like him. I started to talk but he stopped me. "Haven't you heard?" he asked. It was then I learned that John Mack was dead, killed by a drunken driver not far from where I'd been staying a few days earlier.

Most of my remaining day and a half was spent in reflection. What an ignoble exit for such a noble man. Dr. John Mack had to his credit the very real-world accomplishments we'd love to see more of in UFO-related researchers. They included his work at Harvard and at the Cambridge Psychiatric Hospital and his Pulitzer Prize. Yet no

formality ever overcame his humanity, keen intelligence, optimism, or goodwill.

I was lucky enough to have met him through Budd Hopkins not long after John had become interested in the abduction phenomenon. He always treated me as a colleague and a friend, although maybe it was my BFA that impressed him. I felt privileged when he asked me to be one of a number of proofreaders on his final draft of Abduction, and I enjoyed teasing him about the error I'd caught before the book had gone to press.

In 1998, Dr. Mack had invited me to speak before the staff and guests of the Cambridge Psychiatric Hospital on the subject of stress and investigating the Bentwaters incident, something I really was an expert at. I strained to remember bits and pieces of things he'd said to me there and on other occasions, wondering how his family, close friends, and patients were doing. All these thoughts and more swirled through my head on the night train to Manchester Airport.

I left the country on the morning of September 30, subdued and somewhat bleary-eyed. What did any of us really know about the "other intelligences" we studied so diligently? One thing was for sure: The people I'd met in the course of pursuing this work had made and continued to make a tremendous difference in my life, and I am grateful to them all for it.

In a field not known for its financial incentives, I was one of the lucky ones who could measure their wealth in terms of the friendships forged over the years—in the U.K., in other countries, and at home.

I was returning richer and poorer at the same time, diminished, yet upbeat, and already looking forward to my next trip to the United Kingdom.

Mark Olson . Continued from page 45

I want the government to come out and say, "They're here, and they've been here for thousands of years."

Pat: Is that an end it itself?

Mark: Well once the truth is out, I hope the doors will open, the doors that should have been opened a long time ago. The doors to the heavens, the doors to a better future as a species. We're so bogged down in fighting among ourselves as humans, and going nowhere as a species, I think it's time we get on with our learning. We're stagnating. We're capable of much more than watching TV. We can learn from these other species and reach for the stars.

Pat Uskert was born in the Slovak Republic and raised in San Francisco. His career includes such titles as U.S. Army engineer, scuba divemaster, wandering backpacker, and English teacher.

He lives in Venice, CA with his girlfriend, two cats, and a dog, and spends a good deal of time watching the skies. Contact: www.laufo.com

For more information on Mark Olson's sightings, visit his website: www.sonorasightings.com