

Martin Gurvey & Chris Rickowski

Tonight on UForum we have a special guest. He is Dr. Martin Klentzback. He's a professor at the University of Manitoba here in Winnipeg. He teaches astronomy and he's also a cosmologist. A -

Gurvey. Dr. As an astronomer do you hold credibility to UFO sightings.

Doctor. Well, I don't think being an astronomer gives me any better qualifications than anyone else. Perhaps it changes my attitude a ~~little~~ bit. It makes me more skeptical, since, not only have I seen other people get theories - ah - blown to smithereens by the reduceable facts, I also have my own theories blown to smithereens. That's a very sad thing, but it does make one perpetually skeptical. On the other hand astronomy is such a strange subject on, and so many strange things happen in it that perhaps I'm open minded to other strange things happening anywhere else. I don't know ~~if~~ whether that answers your question.

Gurvey. Well, um, do you believe more in ^{the} say - the flying saucers or like that ~~that~~ ^{the} they come from some particular place or that they are just a physical phenomena.

Doctor. Well, let's say, ~~ask~~ ^{lets} one, one really doesn't know. Ah, one has all these strange sightings. People even come very close to them, they report that their car drives up to a flying saucer and then the engine dies. Ah - sometimes they get out and they even see little men come out. Now, these are very strange things and perhaps you can say that they're all hoaxes. Ah - perhaps you can say that they're just imagining things. I personally, I haven't investigated these reports enough. I feel the reports ~~are~~ I have read are very strange. But if

Chris. Brighter than most of the stars.

Chris. Can it tumble or maybe do some oh - invasion
like seem to move around a little bit.

Doctor. At night, I've never seen it happen, but it might
do that - yes.

Chris. I believe there is a story at some time in London England.

Doctor. Oh, yes, ah. In London England the skies are all lit up
with streetlights and usually you just see these
streetlights. Recently there was a strike - the coal strike - ^{to cause} ~~and~~
and all the lights had to be turned off for an hour
or two every night, or every other night and when this
happened, the meteorology office was besieged with
telephone calls saying "We have seen some strange
lights in the sky. These people never left London had
never seen the stars."

Chris. When did this happen?

Doctor. Well, it was in fact the year I was in London 1972.
I think yes.

Chris. It seems very odd that the people are unfamiliar
with - such a common thing as stars. It seems very
incredible to believe that they would think that
these are flying saucers - no - not flying saucers -
but rather unidentified flying objects.

Doctor. Well, they were certainly unidentified - strange
lights - and yet you must remember that London
is a very very big place and some people just
never leave it, and perhaps it they do for a
weekend. By the way, they don't spend time looking
at the sky. Their life is usually founded by
city lights, perhaps in Manhattan we are fortunate

Doctor. Oh yes. Some of them are very difficult to figure out. For instance. You might have intelligent life whales, dolphins. They're very intelligent, probably more intelligent than humans, but they don't form civilizations. We've had on this planet, man has formed many civilizations quite independent, but only one of them has formed a scientific revolution. And until you get this strange scientific revolution you aren't going to have intelligent beings flying to earth or sending signals.

Chris. Do we classify all whales or dolphins as intelligent life on earth?

I would have hoped so, we think they're very intelligent.

Chris. Most people don't appreciate their intelligence, actually I understand the navy is doing some experiments whereby Dolphins will rescue some divers trapped so far beneath the seas, ask it to perform delicate tasks.

Doctor. Yes. I think this is entirely possible all the navy has in fact done a lot of experiments with dolphins some of them, not saying disgusting in concept, the idea that a dolphin should take a missile or a bomb and try to destroy a ship. Dolphins are extremely intelligent and I hope they are sufficiently intelligent not to fall for that idea.

Chris. There was a movie I believe called "Day of the Dolphin" I believe where the dolphin was instructed to deliver a bomb some place.

D. Well, well the idea is not just in my head, it's in someone else's head.

enough to have char ships comes so that you can be the ships as it really is.

Chris.

Ah. to bring up another subject. In your astronomy course at University. I believe you mentioned some the possibility of life coming into existence on other place in the universe - ah. Dr. Carl Sagan of Cornell University also mentioned this, and he has produced some rather interesting figures as to the possibility of formation of life elsewhere in the universe.

Doctor.

Well. he's tried to work up the probability in a sort of schematic sort of way. But ah - intelligent life would be on another planet, or even sending signals to us. I find myself this actual number ah, very tentative. I think he'd probably agree. The numbers he comes to are only a guess. But I'd ^{personally} really be ~~surprised~~ surprised if we were the only intelligent civilization in our whole galaxy. There are so many billions of stars.

Chris.

Is the formation of a habitable solar system easy to come by in the galaxy.

Doctor.

It would have thought it was. We only know about one of them. Ah - the present theories most people believe in - the formation of the solar system would make it quite a common thing. On the other hand there are a few theories on the formation of the solar system which would make it a very strange and unusual happening so that most stars wouldn't have planets. Personally, would like to believe that there are many solar systems, millions.

Chris.

Is there are quite a few variable to take into consideration when you calculating the amount of civilizations that have arisen, I suppose

Chris.

Could life have possibly have visited Earth in the past as the whole concept of UFO's as a matter of fact.

Doctor.

Well, yes, I suppose it would. There are no. Lets try and suppose. and think how we ourselves would visit another star. This is perhaps the right way to look at it. Would our ideas about space, one would think that we are at least limited by the speed of light. And that case it would take ~~thirty~~ a journey to a nearby star would take thirty years even though we are going at the speed of light. We ourselves might not experience such a time, because when you travel near the speed of light, well, time does strange things. But, think actually that the speed of a space craft would have to be much slower, much, much, much slower, that the speed of light, it might be limited to 100 miles a second. If you go much faster than that you'll be bombarded by atoms and dust grains, and these will very soon destroy your ship before you get to the star. Now, I might be wrong about this, there might be some factors ^{that} a clever civilization could use to get over this, very active and very energetic bombardment. But I'm not that it's going that more like 100,000 years to get to the nearest star. You can imagine that we could put our bodies into deep freeze, never the less I really wonder whether we're - ^{of} whether it will be more useful to use to send an unmanned vehicle which could arrive at our neighbouring planet and take pictures of what was happening, little machines could go out, find out what was happening, and send us back a picture of the planet.

Chris.

Considering the time required to arrive at a distance plane star, say 100,000 years, ah. in 100,000 years, our earth's own technology might advance to the point where we can go fast, so maybe some scientists are speculating that it would be better to wait before sending

a space flight to another star.

Doctor

Oh yes, indeed. We hardly know what the possibilities are. We stand on the threshold of going only to our own solar system, peering to the stars is something well beyond what we can do now. I only speak about hypothetical possibilities.

Chris

Still the behaviour of UFO's are very irregular, compared to how we would approach visiting another planet. Ah. Our Mars life, scheduled to land in 1976, that will just land and take a few samples, and go right back up again. And if we do send a manned flight out there it will take quite some time. Ah, yes, but when we do they'll land, drive little buggies over the ^{surface of the} planet for a little while, then get into the spaceship and leave again. But these UFO's if they are from another civilization are behaving in quite a radical manner. They're zipping, they're chasing cars. They're doing all sorts of strange things. Why would they do that?

Doctor

Well. One has to remember that even if there are a few extraterrestrial visitors from outer space not all of them - not all of our UFO's will be these extraterrestrial visitors. If extraterrestrial visitors are here. Though there are many hoaxes, you know more about this than I do. Many hoaxes. Many places where objects were ^{we're just} misidentified something. There is a natural phenomena like ball lightning or electric in a cloud or bolide or a meteorite that appears to go up. All sorts of things that we mistake

Blase About UFO Charlie Sightings

By DEBBIE LYON
Free Press Staff Writer

Charlie-sighting has become so common in the Carman area that some town residents think people are apathetic about the unidentified flying objects spotted frequently in the area in the past two months.

The objects have been sighted in the Morden, Winkler and Carman triangle in southern Manitoba, and northeast to Sperling and Brunkild.

Local residents, who at one time were making Charlie watching an almost regular pastime, gave the objects the collective earthy name of Charlie Red Star.

Reports of sightings are fairly consistent about the shape, colors, speed and movements of the UFOs. While Charlie has attracted local news media representatives, a writer from Florida and a television crew from New York City, there's been no scientific study of the objects.

Freddie Giesbrecht, who photographed a UFO early Monday morning, and Bob Diemert, an aviation enthusiast who first spotted a UFO in late April, both commented Tuesday that local residents seem to be getting complacent about Charlie.

But Frank Shinn, director of the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature's planetarium in Winnipeg, said the continued sightings and Mrs. Giesbrecht's photographs, which she showed to planetarium officials Tuesday, have rekindled his interest in the objects.

The planetarium hasn't officially studied the Carman sightings but some staff members have done work on their own.

The Carman RCMP office is still getting reports on sightings. Cpl. Brian Savage said the office received reports five out of the seven nights last week.

"And a lot of people just ca-

sually mention it to you without filing a report. . . . There are still a considerable number of sightings. . . . The people that are seeing them are all pretty well reliable people," he commented.

Mrs. Giesbrecht described the object in her photographs as a glowing white wedding bell — a saucer shaped object with a dome. On other sightings, she has seen the objects turn a pulsating orange-red as they were about to take off.

Mr. Diemert has watched an object turn from brilliant to a pulsating red to the color of running lights before it has taken off into orbit.

The objects are seen, but not heard or felt. They apparently make no noise as they travel, nor do they emit any heat. Other than the sightings, they have left few clues to their presence such as burned areas or soil depressions.

Ernest Speelman and Ed Barker of the planetarium staff did discover higher than normal radiation readings in some spots on a farmer's field

where one of the objects was reported landed.

Readings taken two weeks later in the same area were back to normal, although Mr. Speelman noted the field had been ploughed and seeded, and there had been considerable rainfall.

Soil samples were tested by a provincial geologist but didn't show up anything out of the ordinary, he said.

He intends to return to the field shortly to try the readings again.

There aren't any natural causes in the area which could account for the higher radiation readings according to an expert on staff at the Manitoba Museum of Man and Nature, Mr. Shinn said.

"We've considered everything we could think of . . . Frankly, we don't have any explanation or theory for it. . . .

"I have to admit my personal attitude has been to look for some natural phenomena . . . But Mrs. Giesbrecht's photographs have triggered my interest. . . . I'm inclined to

ask, what is it we've got here?"

Like some others, Mr. Shinn was a bit sceptical of reports of UFO sightings, partly because of a co-incidental mid-June conference held in Steinbach by a United States group called the 20th Century Unidentified Flying Object Bureau.

Another contributor to the apparent apathy and scepticism is some people in Carman feel they're being laughed at because of the sightings, Mrs. Giesbrecht said.

She would like to see an official investigation of the sightings. "I'd like to find out what the heck the darn thing is," she commented.

Both she and Mr. Diemert question that the object is a man-made one.

It appears to have some type of terrain-locking radar as it travels up and down with the lay of the land. It appears to be electronically driven. It travels at an ultrasonic speed. It blasts off into orbit in 35 seconds, faster than any man-made machine. And it turns more sharply than any known man-made machine can, Mr. Diemert said.

The objects also seem to know when attempts to photograph them are being made. "If you come too close, it just goes off. Pictures are hard to get. It seems to sense what you're doing," Mrs. Giesbrecht said.

She took her photographs at about 2:30 a.m. Monday from her kitchen window.

Mr. Diemert, who estimates he has had 17 clear sightings of the objects, is convinced they are extra-terrestrial, but he's not certain an official scientific investigation would find out any more than what local residents already know from watching the objects.

"We know where it goes, what it does. But we don't know why he's here . . . " he said.

While the why is a question on the lips of all those interviewed, no one would flatly say they would press for a scientific investigation.

The RCMP encourages people to file sighting reports. These are sent on to the upper atmospheric section of the astrophysics branch of the National Research Council in Ottawa, Corp. Savage said. Local RCMP offices, at least, never hear of the reports again.

Mr. Shinn suggested he might try to photograph the objects himself.

Mrs. Giesbrecht said she

Feb. 9/75



National Research Council
Canada

Conseil national de recherches
Canada

Herzberg Institute
of Astrophysics

Institut Herzberg
d'Astrophysique

File Référence 4712-5

October 27, 1975.

Mr. Grant Cameron,
445 Hudson Street,
Winnipeg, Manitoba.
R3T 0R1

Dear Mr. Cameron:

This will reply to your letter of October 8 concerning various observations in Manitoba during the summer. Let me review the events concerning my involvement.

We received a phone call from the Brandon Sun asking about a particular event (Mrs. Giesbrecht's photos). I informed them we had not heard of this event but would let them know if we did. The following day we received copies of the photos and a report from the RCMP. The unusual aspect of the report was the accuracy with which the RCMP investigator reported details of the observations. There was no doubt that if anyone did what the report said Mrs. Giesbrecht had done, they would get a photograph of Jupiter, which was quite consistent with the actual photos. I phoned the Brandon Sun and I believe they published something as a result. I did not refer to the cause of any other reports although it is quite possible the report, which I have not seen, may have implied that all such events were caused by Jupiter.

A week or two later a Winnipeg radio station phoned and I agreed to go on the air by telephone at a pre-arranged time the following day. I presume they got my name from the Brandon newspaper account. The interview was lengthy, fifteen minutes perhaps, and the Free Press report appears to be derived from a transcript of part of the radio interview although it does contain at least one error. By this time we had received more reports, although, as usual, few of them give sufficiently accurate directions in the sky to reach any conclusion. One report from the Selkirk area was certainly Jupiter and one other one was very probably Antares. At no time did I state that all the reports were caused by Jupiter although again the newspaper report may tend to generalize too much. Neither was I presenting any formal "conclusion" based on all the Manitoba observations. In any substantial group of such observations, many of which are generated by the excitement of press reports, I would expect to find many different causes among the literally hundreds of phenomena that have been shown to give rise to UFO reports. I notice that you make the unwarranted assumption that a single object was involved by repeatedly referring to the cause of

Ottawa, Canada
K1A 0R6
Telex 053-4322

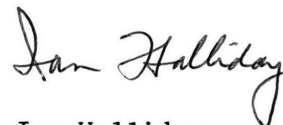
2.

the reports as "the object".

I might mention that in addition to the reports we have received and the photos sent by the RCMP, we have hundreds of pictures of the night sky taken with our cameras in southern Manitoba during the summer period. They show the usual range of sky phenomena, but nothing of an exceptional nature.

In your letter to the Free Press you imply the existence of a negative attitude in Ottawa to prairie dwellers. As a native of Saskatchewan I can assure you that I have never detected such an attitude and I have too much respect for the citizens of western Canada to suppose many of them would believe it either.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ian Halliday". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Ian Halliday,
Planetary Sciences Section.

IH:vp