

UFO Center

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technically capable of making a common sense identification, if one is possible."

There exists a growing number of scientists, engineers and other professionals generally associated with universities, laboratories, and industry, who have contemplated the possible significance of the UFO phenomenon. They noted that such significance to science and society was being totally obscured by the popular confusion and gross misconceptions regarding the UFO phenomenon. The Center provides an avenue whereby the interests and talents of these scientists and other professionals can be focused and brought to bear on this challenging problem. A significant number of them have become actively associated with the Center and have volunteered their talents and facilities.

According to Hynek the Center has four principal objectives: 1) to pursue a rigorous study and analysis of the UFO phenomenon, calling upon the talents and services of the Center associates and employing existing facilities (computers, physical and biological laboratories, etc.) at universities and in industry wherever possible. While the ultimate objective of the Center is solution of the UFO enigma, should this not lie within our present scientific rubric, then at least this phenomenon which has figured so prominently in modern history should be documented and the data organized as thoroughly as possible; 2) to operate UFO CENTRAL, a clearing house to which persons can report UFO experiences without fear of ridicule or unwanted publicity, and with the knowledge that such reports will be given serious attention; 3) to provide bulletins and technical reports, and be a source of reliable information about the UFO phenomenon to schools and universities, scientific organizations, and the public in general; 4) to assist and help guide correlative studies conducted in the United States and elsewhere through international symposia and conferences. (It is not generally known, for instance, that active work in this field is being pursued on several continents.)

"The UFO problem clearly involves aspects of interest to psychologists, sociologists, and medical men, as well as to physical scientists and engineers," notes Hynek. He remarks that there has rarely been a subject so interdisciplinary in character.

To accomplish its objectives, the Center has access to modern electronic computers so that a central bank for UFO data can be maintained, queried, and updated. Information theory and modern methods of information re-

trieval, pattern recognition, etc., are used to establish patterns and correlations between various UFO parameters (time, place, demographic factors, witness reliability, types of sightings, etc.).

A constant problem in UFO research has been unscientific reporting and data collecting. To alleviate this critical problem a toll free, nationwide telephone number has been made available to law enforcement officers across the country, and to other responsible organizations on a 24 hour basis. This enables the Center to be quickly apprised of UFO events, to make preliminary evaluations, and dispatch local investigators to the scene. The number is not to be used by individuals but only by civilian or government agencies and organizations. However, the number is being made available to the readers of ASTRONOMY so that they in turn can supply it to local police officials, airport control towers, civilian defense agencies and officials of other responsible organizations. The number is (800)

EARTH VIEW



NASA Photograph

Earth, from one million miles, is portrayed by one of Mariner 10's two television cameras as the spacecraft heads for Venus and Mercury. This is the first time our planet has been photographed from farther than the moon's distance (about 250,000 miles). Taken Nov. 6, 1973, the picture shows Earth more than filling the TV camera frame. Most of North America is out of frame at top. The west coast of South America can be seen in late afternoon sunlight from center right to lower right. Mariner 10 will photograph both Venus and Mercury from much nearer than this.

It has been established that a UFO sighting represents a very real event, and often a very frightening experience, to persons involved. The existence of UFO CENTRAL and its close association with police departments, civil defense and various aviation agencies, provides a ridicule-free avenue for the natural desire on the part of witnesses to communicate their experience with so startling an event.

The Center's main efforts are directed toward specific problems arising from reported UFO cases. The large number of cases in which UFO's have been reported to have interacted with the environment presents a scientific toehold not available in the equally spectacular cases in which nothing has been left for study except the detailed report of the witnesses.

The research of the Center would concern itself with the credibility of witnesses, medical examinations of persons and animals affected, laboratory analysis of residues associated with a UFO close encounter (e.g. plant and soil samples), photographic analysis, theoretical studies of the dynamic and luminescent properties exhibited by UFOs, and statistical and correlative studies of UFO events involving geographic, demographic, and parametric aspects.

The problems studied are the intriguing problems and experiments suggested by the consensus of UFO reports — not just the UFO itself. A visitor to laboratories associated with the Center might find it hard to discover that the problems being studied and the experiments being performed had any direct connection with UFOs.

Persons interested in furthering serious scientific work on the UFO problem can participate best by volunteering their technical services and facilities, or by making tax deductible contributions to the Center for UFO Studies, P.O. Box 11, Northfield, Ill. 60093.

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