

# UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON



NICAP ■ 1522 CONNECTICUT AVENUE ■ WASHINGTON, D.C. 20036 ■ A PRIVATE, NONPROFIT CORPORATION FOUNDED IN 1956

## NICAP TO SHOW IN LONDON PHOTO FAIR Exhibit To Focus on Photographic Analysis

An unusually interesting opportunity has been extended to NICAP to participate in an international exhibition on photography. Set to be held this summer at the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London, England, the exhibition is entitled "Unlikely Photography" and will seek "to demonstrate those scientifically based extensions of photography which are new, radical, or unexpected."

NICAP's entry in the show will be an exhibit on the analysis of UFO photographs. The exhibit will be based on an actual case from NICAP files and will illustrate some of the techniques used by NICAP's photographic analysts to determine whether a picture supports or refutes the related sighting report from the photographer.

The title of the exhibit will be "GETTING IT ALL TOGETHER: Analyzing the Unlikeliest of Photographic Subjects: UFOs."

NICAP was invited to appear in the show because one of the three basic subject areas to be featured is "Photographic misrepresentations and distortions; photographs which show things that do not exist or which contradict the truth in a meaningful way."

The NICAP exhibit will be prepared and shipped to England this month. Expected to be on hand to assist with its operation are members of NICAP's European Subcommittee No. 1, chaired by London hotel executive Julian Hennessey.

## "STATUS" THEORY GETS MORE REBUFF NICAP Consultant To Publish Critique

Social researcher Donald Warren, who recently proposed that sighters of UFOs tend to be frustrated status seekers (*UFO Investigator*, December 1970), is winning few converts to his theory. Since November, when the theory was first publicized, scientific reaction has been largely critical, charging the theory with a variety of deficiencies and errors.

Letters received by *Science* magazine, where the thesis was published, question the data Warren used to make his conclusions, and argue that "status inconsistency" may have little, if anything, to do with UFO sightings. Anthropologist George Cowgill, of Brandeis University, wrote, "A more basic question is why the UFO sighters-believers came to have inconsistent statuses in the first place. Warren does not seem to have asked this question. . . ."

Another question Warren failed to ask, according to his critics, is whether the people he studied—respondents in the 1966 Gallup poll on UFOs—have anything in common with people who actually report UFOs. NICAP consultant Stuart Appelle, who teaches psychology at George Washington University, doubts that Warren considered this possibility. In a critique of the Warren paper scheduled to be published this summer in *Perceptual and Motor Skills* (a quarterly journal on psychology), Appelle says, "Objection is raised to Warren's extrapolating from a sample of people who believe they have seen a 'flying saucer' to the UFO data per se, and to those individuals actually generating UFO reports. There is evidence that this latter group, and the group analyzed by Warren, may come from two very different populations."

In answering his detractors in *Science*, Warren implicitly acknowledges Appelle's criticism, but offers no comment on its implications for his theory.

"I agree," says Warren, "that 'reported sightings' as defined by reports of official governmental agencies . . . and 'reported' in the sense of the Gallup interview data are different. . . . One could obviously speculate that telling a Gallup interviewer about seeing a UFO and calling the local police are different social behaviors—the first calling for little initiative by the sighter, the latter involving the seeking out of public visibility."

## CONTACTEE LOSES COURT CASE Money Must Be Returned, Says Judge

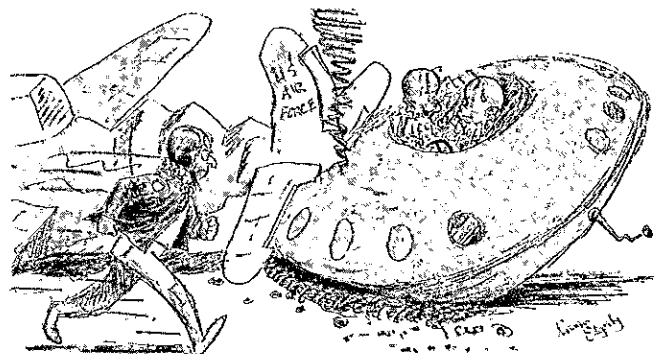
A reported ride in a flying saucer has not proven to be the road to riches for TV repairman Sid Padrick. In fact, the person doing most of the paying is Padrick himself, who is about to become at least \$1,000 poorer as a result of a recent California court decision.

It seems that Padrick, who claims to have taken a trip in a UFO in 1965, borrowed \$1,000 from a friend to finance the writing and publishing of a book on the alleged flight. In exchange for the money, the friend was to receive a percentage of the book's profits. Five years after the loan, however, the book had not appeared, and the friend had yet to see even a manuscript, despite repeated inquiries to Padrick for tangible evidence the book existed.

Getting impatient, the friend decided last year to call his loan and take his chances that he would miss out on a big windfall from the book. He filed suit in San Jose Municipal Court for recovery of his money.

When the case came to trial earlier this year, Padrick insisted the book was more than imaginary, but he said it had been lost. He claimed he had turned over the manuscript to an associate, who in turn loaned it to another man. The document was never returned, said Padrick, and its present whereabouts are unknown.

The judge apparently was not impressed. He ruled that Padrick must repay the \$1,000, with interest.



"Let's deny our existence."

Seventh of a Series

## MAN AND NON-MAN

## What Impact the Discovery of Extraterrestrial Intelligence?

*The following is a continuation of the NICAP interview with Dr. Richard S. Young, Chief of Exobiology for NASA, on the search for extraterrestrial life. The interview began in the September issue.*

**NICAP:** Well, it's an open question. The natural tendency of government is to play it safe and keep something classified until they are sure of its impact. But, on the other hand, something like that is of such vast importance . . . .

**YOUNG:** It's certainly not our policy. In the first place, we are much more likely to go to Mars with an unmanned mission, with cameras. And these cameras will send back pictures the same way that Mariner has, and there are teams of scientists sitting back there in the laboratory waiting for the pictures to come in so they can get them decoded and printed. And there will immediately be a press conference, and the pictures will be released. And I can't imagine, if there was one there that showed the Washington Monument in it, that it wouldn't immediately be reported on. There may be questions about how to interpret that picture, as to what that thing means, and is it a natural object or a man-made object. Of course, that is always going to be speculated on. But I can't conceive -- the way we operate at least -- of any reason that this kind of thing would be classified. It's hard to imagine; I suppose it could be; I don't know.

**NICAP:** It would be if someone at a very high level did feel that the public is simply not quite ready, despite its sophistication, for a discovery of that nature.

**YOUNG:** Do you think there would be some drastic public reaction to something like that? I think people would be delighted; they'd say double the space budget and go find out what's really there. I can't imagine any adverse reaction on the part of the public to that kind of evidence.

Now if they went there and found green monsters who were hostile and attempted to dissolve the spacecraft with some kind of super ray gun, then we might have some concern. That's quite a different thing.

**NICAP:** On the moon, when we ultimately have people there for a period of time and are able to explore it with scientist-astronauts rather than just astronauts, that would conceivably present a situation such as was portrayed in the movie. And then, there would be ample opportunity to delay news or prevent news from getting back to the general public.

**YOUNG:** Now you are raising another question as to the delaying of news. I can conceive of a scenario in which the news would be delayed. In fact, the Mariner observations were delayed; they were delayed until the scientists had had time to get all their data together, and sit down and write a report. Because no reputable scientist publishes his report in the newspaper; he publishes it in a scientific journal, then the data are released to the news media. So on that basis, I could conceive of some kind of delay.

**NICAP:** When you say "delay," what kind of time are we talking about? In the case of the Mars photos, for example?

**YOUNG:** Let's see; how long did it take to actually get all of the pictures? We had to wait until all the pictures came in; that took several days. In the meantime, we had a few press conferences where they said a few innocuous things about what was coming in; I think they showed one or two of the pictures. But until they had all of their data together, the scientists can't very well make a report and say whatever it is they think they're looking at. They have to wait, that's all. I've forgotten now how long it takes to get all that kind of data back from Mars, but it takes many days. Then they've got to run it all through the computers and get the pictures printed; otherwise it's just digital data.

**NICAP:** That's not precisely what we were asking.

**YOUNG:** That's not what you're talking about?

**NICAP:** Well, it's not synonymous with what you might call a "blackout" of the information. For example, with some of the Mariner pictures, there was real-time transmission to the TV networks. So NASA could not possibly be faulted for delaying most of the pictures. If it had delayed all of the pictures, it would have come under criticism.

**YOUNG:** Yes, that is a difficult problem. And it's a difficult problem because of the nature of the scientific process. The scientist has devoted four years to the design of the experiment, which gets the data, and he feels he has first crack at that data. If it's released to the public before he has had a chance to write his report, get it published, and get the credit, then he's being cheated.

**NICAP:** You may recall some of the pictures taken of the moon -- by Ranger, if we remember correctly -- that showed so-called "towers" -- triangular, obelisk-shaped shadows apparently cast by tall, geometric objects on the lunar surface.

**YOUNG:** I don't recall those pictures. Was something ascribed to them?

**NICAP:** Well, the geometry of the shadows was quite regular, which suggested the objects were artificial rather than natural. There were a number of these shadows, and they reportedly appeared in several pictures. There was even the rumor that some of the pictures were withheld by NASA because of their dramatic nature.

**YOUNG:** I hadn't heard about that. I don't deny that kind of thing can happen; I'm just saying I wouldn't see much justification for it. None of the people I work with would tolerate this kind of an approach. And certainly the scientific community that I deal with wouldn't function this way. I find it a very unlikely scenario. I admit it could happen. These pictures come in, and somebody in the viewing room says, oh man, that looks weird, we'd better not release that one until so-and-so looks at it. Sure, I guess that could happen.

**NICAP:** If that was to happen, who would be asked to look at the picture? Would it be just NASA people? Or would you actually go to military people?

**YOUNG:** Military? Why would we go to military people?

**NICAP:** Well, DOD certainly has a hand in a great many other things, space included.

**YOUNG:** It has no hand in this. It has no hand in our programs.

## CASE INVESTIGATIONS AND EVALUATIONS

### Follow-Up to Recent Reports

Recent investigations by NICAP have resulted in identification of one series of sightings, and possible identification of another. Other reports, still unidentified, are being checked out. In some cases, the remoteness of the sighting location has hampered efforts to gather on-site data or have witnesses reenact their observation.

Principal investigative activity since the beginning of the year is as follows:

#### Ohio

Multiple sightings in Ohio in late January ("Sighting Advisory," *UFO Investigator*, March 1971) have been traced in part to a series of high-altitude atmospheric tests conducted from Eglin Air Force Base in western Florida. The tests were part of an on-going military study of plasma cloud behavior and the Earth's magnetic fields. Each test involves the launching of a rocket that releases chemicals into the upper atmosphere to create a multi-colored cloud. The cloud can be seen for hundreds of miles, and retains its configuration for as long as 30 or 40 minutes.

The test responsible for most of the UFO reports occurred on the evening of January 26. People throughout southern and central Ohio observed the strange cloud, both from the ground and air. Reportedly, Air Force personnel flying over Columbus saw the phenomenon and, not recognizing it, advised the Pentagon.

Many witnesses misjudged the location and behavior of the cloud. One couple, driving in their car on a country road, reported that the "bright light" hovered above the ground in front of them, followed them home, and remained for awhile less than 100 feet from their garage. In actual fact, the cloud was over 700 miles away.

#### Tennessee

Military cloud tests are also the suspected cause of the UFO report from Kingston, Tennessee, on February 1 ("Sighting Advisory," *UFO Investigator*, March 1971). The two female witnesses were questioned by NICAP's Chattanooga Subcommittee and found to have been severely frightened by what they saw, which bore strong resemblance to the plasma cloud released by Eglin.

According to the Subcommittee, newspaper accounts of the sighting were inaccurate, and reports of other, independent witnesses proved to refer only to various individuals stopped by the two women while they watched the phenomenon from the side of a road. NICAP has been unable to confirm that a test was made on the night of February 1, but it is believed that bad weather may have forced postponement of a test scheduled for an earlier date.

#### West Virginia

Detailed information has been obtained from one of the witnesses in the June 24, 1970, sighting near Hinton, West Virginia ("Sighting Advisory," *UFO Investigator*, January 1971). In written and telephone communications with NICAP, James Coste, a Hinton businessman and one of the four principals in the case, confided that he and his family have been "deluged with calls" following national publicity of their experience.

Coste said he and the other witnesses (his wife and another couple) were visiting a camp in the mountains east of Hinton late at night, when they saw an orange light apparently hovering over a nearby hill. Emanating from the light were four beams of white light, aimed at the ground. The main light did not move, but the beams seemed to be scanning the ground in a circular pattern. Although the four people watched the object from varying positions for about 15 minutes, they were unable to see any shape or hear any sound. They do not know how the object eventually left,

because they stopped viewing it to search for binoculars. When they returned, it was no longer in sight, although a red-orange glow was visible beyond the area where the beams of the UFO had illuminated the ground.

NICAP has not made an evaluation of this report, pending further investigation. There are several possible explanations, but none is strongly indicated by the data presently available. It is hoped that additional field work will help determine whether any of these explanations is tenable.

## SIGHTING ADVISORY

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

Sightings during the first three months of 1971 can be characterized by one word: lights. For reasons not apparent, there has been a steady flow of "strange light" reports since late last year, most of them coming from the United States and Canada. Lack of observable detail in a large majority of these cases makes them marginal in scientific value, but they do show continuing interest on the part of both the public and the press in unusual occurrences.

The reports are noteworthy primarily because they come during a period when reported observations are usually few in number. The months of November to March are typically a slow season for sightings, due to the relatively small number of people out of doors in northern climates, and the long spells of bad weather. Why this past winter seems to be exceptional is open to conjecture, but there can be little doubt that phenomena of various types have been seen.

Normally, NICAP would not publish these reports, because they only repeat what has already been reported many times before, and they are too deficient in specific details to be categorized as good quality UFO sightings. Most of them, in fact, do not warrant investigation, and some have been tentatively identified as conventional events. They are being listed here to indicate the general trend in recent sightings, and to help illustrate the problem NICAP continually faces in trying to determine which of the reports it receives merit closer attention.

March 25, Kamloops, British Columbia. A "ball of fire" crossed the city at night, dropping "flare-like objects."

March 11, Dover, New Jersey. A red light the size of a "basketball" moved and hovered in the evening sky for over 30 minutes.

February 7, Weed, California. An object described as "bright, blueish, and fiery" passed overhead at night, leaving a red glow in its path.

February 6, Miami, Florida. Five "bright lights," traveling in a V formation and changing in intensity and color, moved very slowly in the southeast sky.

February 1, Los Angeles, California. A "pale yellow, star-like" object moved slowly in the night sky, then divided in two and fell toward the ground.

January 21, New Meadows, Idaho. A "flash of light" that changed from red to orange appeared at night over a rural area and disappeared in a "cloud of steam."

January 13, Riverside, New Jersey. A "very bright light" descended slowly late at night, "like a big oversized flashlight tied to a parachute."

January 12, Winnipeg, Manitoba. A fuzzy object with two flashing lights hovered and maneuvered in the night sky, then sped away.

January 6, Weyburn, Saskatchewan. A "stationary blue light with another smaller blue flashing light" was sighted in the evening sky.

January 1, Yankton, South Dakota. An object with "five red blinking lights" and "two headlights" hovered at low altitude on a cold dark night.



MEMOS  
FOR  
MEMBERS

#### WHEN YOU SEND MONEY, SAY WHY

We certainly don't mind receiving money, but sometimes people forget to tell us what they're sending it for. If you mail NICAP a contribution, or renewal, or some other kind of remittance, don't just put it in an envelope and assume we will know why you're sending it. *Instead, mark the purpose of the payment on your check or money order, and include with it the proper form or an explanatory note.* That way, there is no confusion or delay while we try to figure out what you intend the money for.

#### IN DOUBT ABOUT YOUR EXPIRATION?

Do you know when your membership expires? If you are not certain, check your address label or membership card. Unless you have renewed very recently, the dates on the label and card should be identical and up-to-date. Also, remember that you do not have to renew until you receive a notice, no matter what your current expiration date is. We try to send you your first notice before your membership expires, but sometimes that isn't possible. In such event, you remain on our active mailing list until we have properly notified you it's time to renew.

#### RENEW FOR ONE YEAR ONLY

Speaking of renewals, some members are renewing for two and three years at a time, possibly as a hedge against inflation. There is nothing wrong with doing this; except that it causes us extra work because the renewal form is designed for one-year renewals only. We would prefer you to use the form as it is intended, because it allows us to process your renewal quickly and economically. Also, we are *not even considering an increase in the annual dues, so you don't have to worry about that.*

#### THANK YOU M.M.

Our thanks to New York NICAP member M.D. McMullin for her suggestion that we include our address as a regular part of our masthead on the front page of each issue. It's a good idea, and we hope our members find it useful. Our address also appears on the back page of every issue, along with information on back issues and membership dues.

#### NICAP WELCOMES CARTOONIST

The cartoon in this issue was done by NICAP member Norman Edgerly, who lives in Pennsylvania and cartoons as a hobby. Edgerly has kindly offered to do additional drawings for us, both funny and serious, and we are delighted to accept. Keep an eye out for more of his work in our pages.

#### DID YOU VOLUNTEER?

If you answered our request last December for volunteers to clip news articles on UFOs, we want to thank you for your offer and say we are happy to accept. Very few of the replies we received were duplicates, so each member who volunteered may begin immediately to cover his paper. Just be sure that when you send us an article, you include the name of the paper and the date of publication. If you didn't volunteer but would like to now, send us a postcard with your name and address, and tell us which paper you can cover on a regular basis. The more members who supply us material we might otherwise not see, the better able we are to provide timely and important information to our readers.

## FEEDBACK / Readers write

Gentlemen:

By sheer coincidence, we happened to see your July 1970 issue of the *UFO Investigator* and the account of Thor Heyerdahl's sighting of the dome-shaped light last June.

On the night of June 29, our daughter was having a birthday party of about 30 teenagers when they sighted this phenomenon and called us to watch it. It was exactly as described by the Ra II; it disintegrated when the edge was directly overhead and lasted for a duration of from 7 to 12 minutes (we were too awed to note the time). It was very frightening to the party guests and most of them fled for home.

Our home is on the northernmost point of St. Croix on the sea, and the shape appeared to the north and slightly west on the horizon. We have been inquiring about this since the incident and were very happy to have read about it in your publication.

Sincerely,  
R. H. Speas  
Christiansted, V.I.

Dear Editor:

Reference the Socorro, New Mexico, UFO case mentioned in your December 1970 issue, NICAP members may be interested in several facts uncovered by my own on-the-spot investigation. For some time prior to the UFO incident, Socorro had been trying to find means to attract tourists and new industry to help its economy. *By fortunate coincidence, the spot where the UFO allegedly landed is conveniently located half way between the two major highways that bring tourists through Socorro -- and the city improved the road to the UFO site to accommodate the crowds of curious tourists after the UFO report was publicized.*

The land on which the UFO allegedly landed was owned by the man who was the boss of the policeman who reported the incident -- the Mayor of Socorro. And the Mayor was the local banker, who would welcome an influx of tourists. My own appraisal of this case is that it is, without doubt, a hoax.

Very truly yours,  
Philip Klass  
Washington, D.C.



Q. *Can Earth-orbiting satellites be photographed from outer space?*

R.S./West Reading, Pa.

A. Yes, provided certain conditions are met. Assuming the satellite is sufficiently bright and has contrasting background, the primary problem would be positioning the camera and knowing where to look for the satellite. If the camera could be mounted on a stable platform and put in an orbit parallel to that of the satellite, optimum conditions would obtain, and the photography would be relatively simple. Conversely, if the camera were in a trajectory much different than that of the satellite, or either the satellite or camera were somewhat unstable in its orbit (or both), the photography would be substantially more complicated, and perhaps not feasible at all.

Q. *Has NICAP any information on a UFO that supposedly crashed on an island off northern Europe?*

L.H./Pampa, Texas

A. Several reports of this kind exist. The most famous is the alleged crash on Spitzbergen Island north of Norway. Another is the reported landing on Hølgoland Island off the coast of Germany. The evidence in both instances is little more than hearsay, since no verifiable source has admitted to positive knowledge of such events. NICAP has made no investigation of these reports, and in the absence of better documentation than is presently available, it would be unwarranted to accept them as valid.

#### AT NICAP, YOU COUNT

You hear a lot of complaints these days about people being "just another number in the computer." If you feel this way, we hope you won't forget that your NICAP membership is much more than a number to us. In fact, NICAP may be one of the few remaining organizations where the participation of *each* member makes a significant difference in the ability of the organization to survive and meet its objectives. This is because we are directly dependent on our members for our existence. As the financial statements we have published show, donations and other income do not even come close to the amount we receive in membership dues. For this reason, our budget for each year is based primarily on the number of members we expect to have during that period. If we lose even a few per cent more members than we anticipated, we are forced to make immediate cuts in our operation. So the next time some other organization treats you as "just another number," remember that things are different at NICAP. We can't afford that kind of policy. Our membership records show names, not numbers. Each of you is important to our continued survival, and we sincerely appreciate your interest and support.