

UFO INVESTIGATOR

NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE ON
AERIAL PHENOMENA
NICAP

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Hill Story Planned As Movie

A major motion picture on the strange adventure of Barney and Betty Hill is currently under negotiation by an independent Hollywood-film production company.

Set to star in the film is actor James Earl Jones, who has taken a personal hand in the effort to bring the Hill story to the screen. Since early this year, Jones has conferred with author John Fuller, whose book *The Interrupted Journey* is the definitive work on the Hill case. The two men have discussed legal requirements for adaptation of the book, and related problems of characterization and story development.

At a meeting last month with NICAP, Jones said he and his associates recognize the provocative nature of the Hill experience, and are determined to follow Fuller's book faithfully in the making of the film. "That book," said Jones, "will be our bible; we are not going to allow sensationalism or the imagination of a scriptwriter to interfere with the film's authenticity."

Jones described his own efforts to exhaustively research details of the Hill report and delve into the personality of Barney Hill, the character he will portray. "I must understand who Barney Hill was and how his life was affected by the UFO encounter," he said.

Jones also said he had not yet been to the actual scene of the incident in the New Hampshire mountains, "but when I do, I will go alone. I want to see it by myself the first time."

Jones and Betty Hill have talked at length about the film, and worked out formal terms for a production contract. Third party to the negotiations, along with Betty and John Fuller, is Dr. Benjamin Simon, the Boston psychiatrist who hypnotized the Hills in the wake of their reported ordeal. All three parties were concerned that the film might be mishandled by



Watercolor painting by artist David Baker shows strange creature who allegedly helped abduct Barney and Betty Hill on lonely road in New England's White Mountains. Based on direct testimony from witnesses, painting now hangs in new NICAP offices.

Hollywood businessmen who were more interested in box office sales than the facts of the case. Reassured by their discussions with Jones, the three consented last month to negotiate what is termed in the film industry an "option" to do the picture.

According to Jones, no choice has been made of a person to play Betty Hill, but "several famous actresses are under consideration."

NICAP was the only UFO organization to extensively investigate the Hill case, and was one of the first outside agencies to interview the Hills after their experience.

(For more on the Hill story, see Newsnotes, page 4)

The Speed of Light

Is It The Limit?

By Isaac Asimov

Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity tells us . . . that it is impossible for any object with mass to be accelerated to speeds equal to or greater than the speed of light.

This celestial speed limit, the speed of light, has been of particular annoyance to writers of science fiction because it has seriously limited the scope of their stories. The nearest star, Alpha Centauri, is 25 trillion miles away. Traveling at the speed of light, it would take 4.3 years (earthtime) to go from earth to Alpha Centauri, and another 4.3 years to come back. Special Relativity's speed limit therefore means that a minimum of 8.6 years must pass on earth before anything can make a round trip to even the nearest star.

However, the Einsteinian limit might be conceived of as applying only to our own space. In that case, what if we could move into something beyond space, as a balloonist moves into something beyond the surface? In the region beyond space, or "hyperspace," there might be no speed limit at all.

Suppose, for example, that it were possible to convert all the tardyons, [normal particles of matter that move slower than the speed of light] in a space ship, together with its contents, both animate and inanimate, into equivalent tachyons [theoretical particles that move faster than light]. The tachyon-spaceship, with no perceptible interval of acceleration, would be moving at perhaps 1,000 times the speed of light and would get to the neighborhood of Alpha Centauri in a little over a day. There it would be reconverted into tardyons.

It must be admitted that this is a lot harder to do than to say. How does one convert tardyons into tachyons while maintaining all the intricate interrelationships between the tardyons, say, in a human body? How does one control the exact speed and direction of travel of the tachyons? How does one convert the tachyons back into tardyons with such precision that everything is returned exactly to the original without disturbing that delicate phenomenon called life?

But suppose it could be done. In that case, going to distant stars and galaxies by

way of the tachyon-universe would be exactly equivalent to the science fiction dream of making the trip by way of hyperspace. Would the speed limit then be lifted? Would the universe, in theory at least, be at our feet?

Maybe not. In an article I wrote in 1969, I suggested that the two universes that are separated by the "luxon wall," ours of the tardyons and the other of the tachyons, represented a suspicious asymmetry. It seemed to me that the laws of nature were basically symmetrical, and to imagine speeds less than light on one side of the wall and speeds greater than light on the other wasn't right.

Properly speaking, I suggested that whichever side of the luxon wall you were on would seem to be the tardyon universe and it would always be the other side that was the tachyon universe. In that way there would be perfect symmetry: Both sides would be tardyon to themselves; both sides tachyon to the other.

If this is so, the speed limit remains. No matter how spaceships shift back and forth between universes, they are always tardyon, and it is always the other universe that is going faster than the speed of light. Science fiction writers must, after all, look elsewhere for their hyperspace.

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We may eventually be able to build rockets driven by the TOTAL annihilation of matter, not the mere fraction of a percent that is all we can convert into energy at present. No one has the faintest idea how this may be done, but it does not involve any fundamental impossibilities. Another idea that has been put forward is that, at very high speeds, it may be possible to use the thin hydrogen gas of interstellar space as fuel for a kind of cosmic, fusion-powered ramjet. This is a particularly interesting scheme, as it would give virtually unlimited range and remove the restrictions imposed by an onboard propellant supply. If we are optimistic, we may guess (and guessing is all that we can do at this stage) that ultimately speeds of one-tenth of that of light may be attained.

— Arthur C. Clarke
The Promise of Space

Does It Make Any Difference?

By Hermann Bondi

Suppose we travel in a space ship that is always subject to an acceleration g . This is just the same as the gravitational field that the Earth produces around us. Hence life in this space ship would be very comfortable. We would attain very respectable velocities in the course of a few years, very close to the velocity of light, and thus we can usefully employ this mode of travel.

Suppose we start off from Earth with acceleration g for a certain period, say, 10 years of our lives. We then reverse the direction of our rockets and subject ourselves to the same acceleration but in the opposite direction for a period of 20 years by our reckoning. The changeover may be momentarily disagreeable, but we do know that this kind of thing will not do any permanent harm to us. Having attained a certain speed relative to our starting point in the first 10 years, we will need the next 10 years of opposite acceleration to reduce this motion to rest relative to the starting point again, and then a further 10 years to bring the rocket to the same speed in the opposite direction. Switching the direction of the acceleration again, we will find that the final 10 years will bring us back to rest on the Earth. Thus we will have aged 40 years in this journey, about as much as we conveniently can during our working lives.

Seen from the Earth, however, we have been moving with terrific velocity, so much so that for most of the time we have been traveling at almost the speed of light. In fact, as observers on the Earth see it, the farthest point reached in our travels turns out to be 24,000 light-years from the Earth. Of course, the people on the Earth have noted the passing of much more time than we in our travel at such high speed relative to the Earth. We come back to quite a different situation; to an earth 48,004 years older than when we left it. Perhaps few of us would like to undergo such an experience, but, nevertheless, it gives one an idea of what we are biologically capable of. . . .

If we are capable of taking $2g$ for forty years then we could travel to distant (See Any Difference?, page 4)

Science Magazine Lauds Hynek Book

In language that spares the scientific community little embarrassment, the highly respected magazine *Science* has given Dr. J. Allen Hynek's new book on UFOs solid acclaim for its assessment of the way in which the UFO problem has been laughed out of court by such established scientists as Dr. Edward Condon.

Calling Hynek a "credible investigator" who "deserves a hearing before his scientific peers," the magazine's review of the book says "Hynek has won a reprieve for UFOs with his many pages of provocative unexplained reports and his articulate challenge to his colleagues to tolerate the study of something they cannot understand."

The review cites Hynek's "stinging criticism" of the Condon Report and says "Hynek's defense of UFOs as a valid . . . scientific topic is more credible than Condon's attempt to mock them out of existence." The review adds, "It is conceivable that both Condon's definition of UFOs and his use of extraterrestrial visitation as a serious criterion of significance reflected more an (unconscious) desire to make the UFO problem vanish altogether from scientific jurisdiction than a thoughtful attempt to isolate possible 'genuinely new empirical observations.'"

The review was written by Dr. Bruce C. Murray, a geophysicist with the California Institute of Technology. Although not a close follower of the UFO subject, Murray is sufficiently versed in its history to recall many of the instances where scientific reaction to UFOs has been curiously unscientific. He notes, for example, that *Science* itself, "which has earned the respect of U.S. scientists and occasionally the enmity of U.S. bureaucrats by providing an independent forum for controversial views, failed to publish a responsible rebuttal to the Condon report, treating it instead as a news item. As a result, the substantial criticisms raised by Hynek now were not adequately aired then."

Murray also charges the scientific profession with failure to consider UFOs in light of historical prejudice against unexplained phenomena. "Can our modern scientific institutions," asks Murray, "be as limited as their predecessors were when scientific authority refused to acknowledge the reality of meteorites, hypnosis, continental drift, germs, Troy, Atlantis, and Pleistocene Man? Or do UFOs truly belong in the realm of unreality to which science assigns ghosts, religious miracles, astrology, dragons, ESP, abominable snowmen, and Loch Ness monsters?"

Murray also expresses disappointment over the effect of scientific bias on funding for UFO research. "The fact that Hynek was granted no [government] support at all for study of UFOs can be

regarded as a rather dismal symptom of the authoritarian structure of establishment science," he notes.

Science magazine last gave space in its pages to UFOs in 1970 with publication of a paper called "Status Inconsistency Theory and Flying Saucer Sightings" (*UFO Investigator*, December 1970). Purporting to show a correlation between people who see UFOs and social frustrations, the paper brought widespread criticism from readers of the magazine and

effectively persuaded *Science* editors to drop the UFO subject as a topic for news coverage. The appearance of Murray's review comes as an unexpected departure from this practice.

Hynek's book, *The UFO Experience*, is currently in its second printing and reported by its publisher to be selling well around the country. Autographed copies of the book are available to active NICAP members at the special discount price of \$6.00 (postpaid).

Kansas Rates As Active Area

Dighton and Delphos, two small Kansas towns, have grown in prominence this summer following a series of widely reported UFO incidents and sightings on nearby farms.

Both towns have received national attention by the news media, and UFO experts are still sifting available evidence in an attempt to interpret claims made by local residents.

In Dighton, Kan., numerous witnesses, including the local police chief, have reported sighting a "fiery red cluster of bright lights" on several occasions. The police chief described the UFO as a "round, red-orange and white light — bright as a cluster of lights on a football field."

The object, first seen sometime last winter hovering about ten miles west of town, usually remains stationary until an investigating officer makes a call to a fellow officer. As soon as the transmission begins, the object starts to move away. Such sightings have been reported several times a month.

In Delphos, Kan., investigators are still puzzled by a strange "glowing ring" and the report of a 16-year-old boy who claimed he witnessed a UFO shaped like a "huge toadstool" take off from behind a building on his family's farm last November.

Investigating after the UFO had departed, the boy and his family found a large "glowing" ring. ". . . When I reached down and touched it, it made my fingers numb," said the boy's mother.

According to Dr. J. Allen Hynek, who has investigated the case for the *National Enquirer*, independent laboratory tests of the soil have shown that it mysteriously resists water, retards plant growth, and has a calcium content up to ten times higher than the earth around it (see photograph).

Similar findings, according to Hynek, were found several years ago when a UFO was reported to have landed in France and left a circular area where nothing would grow.



Dr. Andrew Beattie, ecologist with Northwestern University's Department of Biology, watches as school photographer takes close-up shot of laboratory tests on soil samples from Delphos, Kansas, UFO case. Soil in closer tray (with white paper) is test sample, while soil in back tray is control sample from same site. Note that vegetation grows much better in control sample.

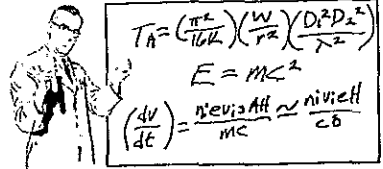
FAA Case Is Reevaluated

What initially was reported as a day-light sighting of a "hydroplane-shaped" UFO over St. Louis, Mo., June 5, 1969, has now been tentatively identified as a meteor entering the Earth's atmosphere.

This is the conclusion reached by NICAP following a reevaluation of the case, reported in the February 1972 *Investigator* and titled, "FAA Controller Recounts '69 Sighting."

The sighting, reported as part of the *Investigator's* "Casebook" series, described an unusual daytime sighting of four UFOs by five aerial observers — pilots, crew and other flight deck personnel aboard three east-bound jets over St. Louis on the afternoon in question.

A major portion of the initial investigation was based on the recollection of (See FAA Sighting, page 4)



YOUR NUMBER COUNTS

None of us likes to worry about numbers, but sometimes they make a lot of sense. Your NICAP registration number, for example, is very important in helping us process renewal payments, make changes of address, and perform other transactions. Without it, we must take extra time and trouble to assure that our computer has the correct information about your transaction. That time and trouble mean three things: extra expense, more paperwork, and a greater chance of error. So do us and yourself a big favor; remember:

1. When you renew, use the renewal notice we send you. It has your number already printed on it.
2. When you change addresses, send us your old address label. It has your number already printed on it.

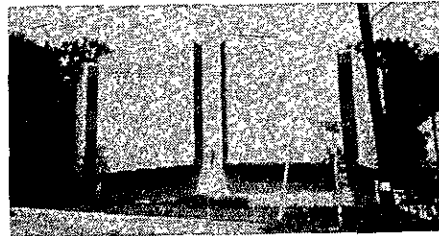
Thank you.

particularly in terms of visual impact. One Canadian member, a commercial artist, wrote that it "was one of the most interesting issues in a donkey's age. I heartily endorse further graphics ... as a way of bringing ... more 'immediacy' to interesting or unusual sightings."

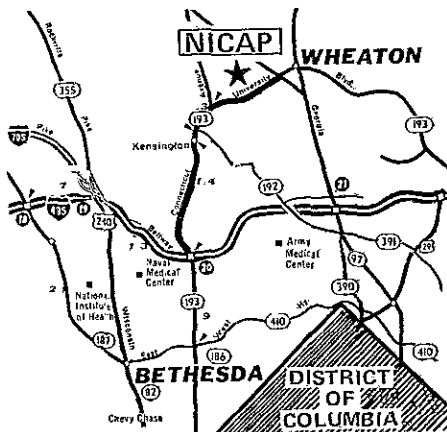
Artist David Baker, who did the drawings in the issue, has kindly donated to NICAP one of his original sketches of the Hill "occupant," for display at the new NICAP office.

NICAP has also obtained from Baker two original paintings depicting scenes from the Hill report. One of these was used in the April issue, while the other appears in this issue.

NICAP'S NEW OFFICE



This is the suburban Washington building where NICAP relocated its corporate headquarters. The new address is 3535 University Boulevard West, Kensington, Maryland 20795. As you can see, the building is well suited in design to an organization studying UFOs.



NICAP is on the second floor, in Suite 23. Visitors from out of town should take the Capital Beltway (Interstate 495) to Exit 20 and go north on Connecticut Avenue to the fork where Connecticut Ave. becomes University Blvd. NICAP is two blocks beyond, on the left.

Does It Make Any Difference?

(Continued from page 2)

galaxies over 600 million light-years away, and would return correspondingly to an Earth over 1200 million years older. That we come back only to tell a much later generation is a serious matter, as is the fact that our most advanced rocket engineers could not dream of producing a

(Continued at top of next column)

rocket capable of maintaining such accelerations for the periods in question. This limitation, however, is a matter of technology, not of biology.

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FAA Sighting

(Continued from page 3)

James V. Beardsley of Sterling Park, Va., an FAA flight controller. The sighting occurred during an American Airlines familiarization flight, eastbound from Phoenix to Washington, D. C.

Beardsley, without benefit of official records or personal notes, estimated the time of the sighting at approximately 4 p.m., noting that the plane had just entered the St. Louis air traffic control area.

A subsequent check of records with American Airlines now confirms that the flight in question would have been approaching or within the St. Louis area at approximately 6 p.m. est, not 4 p.m.

This factor would not by itself detract from the initial sighting report, since many witnesses find it difficult if not impossible to accurately estimate the time of a sighting that occurred years previously. However, the corrected time of arrival over St. Louis coincides with a "fireball" sighting on record with NICAP.

The meteor or "fireball" was observed by dozens of witnesses, including a newspaper photographer, and was officially investigated and confirmed by the Smithsonian Institution's Center for Short-Lived Phenomena.

The meteor, observed to fragment into three or more smaller pieces during its flight path, was observed traveling from east to west, approximately 100 to 125 miles north of St. Louis at 6 p.m. on June 5.

The fact that the five airborne witnesses placed the sighting extremely close to their own flight paths rather than at a considerable distance north is difficult to reconcile with their professional observational skills, but not out of the realm of admissible human error. The inability of witnesses to accurately judge distances has been documented in hundreds of UFO cases and does not reflect on their credibility or competence.

Lacking other evidence to the contrary, it appears that in this case the UFOs observed by the airborne witnesses coincide too closely both in time and approximate location with an officially recorded meteor to ignore the meteor as a likely explanation for the case.

newsnotes

HILL ISSUE STIRS COMMENT

NICAP's special issue on the Barney and Betty Hill case (April 1972) has provoked divergent reaction from NICAP members. Some members hailed the issue as a welcome departure from NICAP's traditional reluctance to emphasize "occupant" reports in the newsletter; while other members charged NICAP with abandoning science in favor of science fiction.

Many of the members who commented on the issue mistakenly interpreted it as an official endorsement of the Hill case, and questioned whether NICAP had changed its attitude toward "contact" claims. Although some members expressed approval of such a shift in policy, others said it contradicted earlier statements by NICAP indicating skepticism about certain aspects of the Hill account and contact reports in general.

Commenting on this response, newsletter editor Stuart Nixon said the issue created more controversy than he expected. "Our intention," he said, "was not to take a stand on the case, but to present new and unpublished information on what remains the most widely discussed UFO report of all time. NICAP's official position, that the Hill case is a highly dramatic report with complex personal and psychological elements, remains unchanged."

Some members said they thought the issue was among the best ever published by NICAP,