

JUST



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EDITORIAL

We have some good news and some bad news. The good news is that UFOs seem to be making a comeback in the press. The bad news is that the type of coverage in wide-circulation sources is deplorable to say the least. The New York Post, 11-21-92, recently blared a page one headline, "Daffy Doc," in its discussion of a New York dermatologist's bizarre UFO beliefs and his subsequent problems with the New York State Health Commission. Hustler Magazine has chipped in with its own cover article, "UFO Nuts," a useless piece attacking those individuals that the author, Doug Vincent, perceives as flaky people. Harpers Magazine, December 92, contributes a story titled "Tabloid Journalism 101," a transcript of court testimony from a tabloid writer who admitted to falsifying, among other things, UFO tales.

Now there is really very little that serious UFO researchers can do to prevent the media from painting the UFO field with such a broad brush. Such irresponsibility is everywhere. In dealing with the media UFO researchers can practice restraint by not mixing personal beliefs with information, by showing as much criticism and intolerance of nonsense as any rational person would show, and by presenting the best evidence for the reality of the UFO phenomenon, not the most bizarre and outrageous. Payment is long-term and costly, as evidenced by the stories in the beginning of this commentary

FOIA DIRTY TRICKS

The April-June 1992 issue of Common Cause magazine reported a story very much relevant to our activities. It seems that an ad hoc group consisting of NASA, the Department of Defense and the Department of Energy was convened to study the SP-100 program, which is a plan to build a nuclear-powered space station on the moon. The group instructed an employee of the NASA Lewis Research Center in Cleveland to prepare a memo in November 1989, titled "Suggestions for Anticipating Requests Under the Freedom of Information Act."

Some of the suggestions:

"At the conclusion of meetings or at the end of the day review your notes and consider whether you really need to retain them. If you do, take time to rewrite them in such a way as to minimize any adverse impact should

they be publicly disclosed. Then destroy your old notes."

"Use yellow stick-ons of orther similar attachable tabs to annotate personal copies of documents you wish to retain... If retained, yellow stick-ons would also be subject to FOIA disclosure. However since there is no obligation under FOIA to provide documents in any particular order or relationship to each other, furnishing out of context copies of stick-ons can render any information released significantly less meaningful. In this regard, printing rather than writing in script also generally makes it harder to assign authorship (and context) to a particular note or document."

"Avoid cross references to other documents that can lend context to a document and thereby enhance its informational value should it be ultimately disclosed."

The document was discovered by a subcommittee of the House Committee on Science, Space and Technology. When questioned by a subcommittee member about the outrageousness of the memo, NASA Administrator Richard Truly quickly repudiated the document and said it wouldn't happen again.

Not that we should be surprised at government agencies taking steps to subvert the Freedom of Information Act, this should be expected. There does appear to be a double standard at work when a citizen attempts to query an agency about its operations: The public stance, which preaches loudly about following instructions, obeying the law, and respecting FOIA exemptions, and the private, behind-the-scenes stance, which mocks the idea of openness and schemes against a person's right to know what their tax dollars are doing.

This is just one small example of what stands in our way in keeping you information-conscious.

FILES REVEAL SCIENTIST DODGED UFO BULLET - AVOIDED PROSECUTION

Dr. Anthony Mirarchi is not a household name but in 1951 he made national news for his opinions on flying saucers. It came perilously close to costing him his freedom during the infamous McCarthy era.

A native of Shamokin, Pennsylvania, Mirarchi was born in 1911. He received a doctorate in chemistry at the Institute of Chemistry in Rome, Italy during 1933. He served as an Army Signal Corps officer during World War Two and subsequently became an employee of the Air Force's Geophysical Research Directorate as the acting chief of the Atmospheric Composition Branch, Geophysical Laboratory, Base Directorate for Geophysical Research, Air Force Cambridge Research Lab in Massachusetts. He was a research chemist there until October 1950.

The incident began with the remarks of another scientist, Dr. Urner Liddell, chief of the Nuclear Physics Branch of the Office of Naval Research. In wire service stories distributed during the second week in February 1951, Dr. Liddell declared that after studying 2000 flying saucer reports, it was evident to him that they were nothing more than "Skyhooks." "Skyhook" was a code name for a series of enormous research balloons designed to travel as high as twenty miles with payloads of scientific equipment to study cosmic rays. They presented a striking appearance when inflated to their potential of 100 feet in diameter.

Dr. Liddell illustrated his release with a photo of a Skyhook balloon over Minneapolis, the appearance of which resembled a saucer as seen from below. The reason that the public wasn't told this earlier, Liddell explained, was that the program had been kept secret for nearly four years. So in February 1951, the flying saucer mystery had come to

an end.

Or so almost everyone thought. About two weeks later another story hit the wire services, most papers carrying it on February 26th. This time Dr. Anthony Mirarchi, identified in the story as a "former Air Force scientist," took exception to the statements of Dr. Liddell. "The result of my own investigation," he said, "indicate that we cannot exclude the possibility that the so-called flying saucer is the result of experiments by a potential enemy of the United States. If they were launched by a foreign power, then they could lead to a worse Pearl Harbor than we have ever experienced."

The basis for Mirarchi's statements lay in the fact that as chief of the Atmospheric Composition Branch of the Air Force's Geophysical Research Division, he had studied 300 flying saucer reports and had concluded that "considerable appropriation be granted the Air Force to set up photographic, radar and spotter tracking points to study the mysterious phenomena." Observations, he concluded, were consistent with a "missile programmed in advance."

Within two weeks after their death knell, flying saucers had once become the objects of debate and controversy. This time it was between qualified scientists who had conducted measured examinations of the phenomena. While Mirarchi had spoken in favor of saucer reality, he did not come close to advocating extraterrestrials. To him it was a matter of national security. Mirarchi felt that Dr. Liddell's conclusions lulled the public into a false sense of security and that while some of the saucer reports could have been of Skyhooks, not all of the incidents were explainable as such. Public statements by Air Force spokesmen continually dismissed flying saucers, indicating that no concrete evidence existed. Dr. Mirarchi's response to this was, "I thought I was the only one making such an investigation. And as far as I'm concerned there certainly was evidence to back up my conclusion."

As a local interest story, the Quincy, Mass. Patriot-Ledger conducted an interview with Dr. Mirarchi at his home in Scituate, Mass., and published it in their February 27th edition (see page 4).

Here is where he ran into problems. Air Force documents, released in 1991, indicated that the FBI took an interest in Mirarchi's remarks and had inquired about possible prosecution of him for violating national security. In a September 2, 1953 memo from the Counter Intelligence Division of the Directorate of Special Investigation, Colonel Kenneth King requested guidance on how to handle the matter. He staffed his request to the Deputy Chief of Staff, Developments.

The problems as seen by Colonel King were summarized:

"Subject made statements for newspaper and radio articles, which information allegedly constituted a security violation. Mirarchi was assigned to a classified project 'Unusual Light Phenomena.' His work also consisted of examining OSI reports regarding 'Flying Saucers.' This work was classified Confidential and in certain aspects, Secret. Subject's employment with the Geophysical Laboratory. was terminated during October 1950."

"An article appearing in the Quincy Patriot Ledger, Quincy Massachusetts newspaper, quoted Mirarchi, who made observations concerning flying saucers, and his research work to measure their speed, time, and distance away."

"The Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories reported that the information released by Mirarchi to the Quincy Patriot Ledger was classified (sic) Confidential."



FLYING SAUCERS ARE FLYING SAUCERS, not balloons, according to Dr. Anthony O. Mirarchi of Scituate, former Air Force scientist. On the left he points to a magazine photograph of a giant research balloon. On the right is his illustration of a flying saucer showing exhaust trail.

Soviet Saucers Spied On Atom Tests, Expert Says

By Fred Pillsbury

SCITUATE, Feb. 27—Dr. Anthony O. Mirarchi of Scituate, who yesterday "brought back the flying saucers," told the Patriot Ledger last night that he believes the saucers may be missiles launched by Russia to carry out photographic or experimental missions over the nation's atom testing grounds.

Exhaust Clues

The 40 year old former chief of the Air Forces Atmospheric Composition branch of the Geophysical division, said that he cannot reconcile a Navy scientist's statement that the missiles were nothing more than giant research balloons with the fact that they have been seen at night.

*Quincy (Ma) Patriot
Ledger
Feb. 27, 1951*

Dr. Mirarchi, who for more than a year conducted a top secret investigation into the weird phenomena, said that he had worked with balloons and that balloons did not leave an exhaust trail.

"We are dealing with a disc which uses exhaustible fuel," he said.

He said that scientists in New Mexico had picked up dust particles containing copper which could have come from no other source than the saucer motive plants.

According to Dr. Mirarchi, the flying saucers, or "fireballs" as he terms them, were regularly observed near Los Alamos until he set up a system of phototheodolites to measure their speed, size and distance away.

The phototheodolites, he explained, consisted of a series of three cameras set in a triangle several miles apart. As soon as the missile was sighted, all three cameras were to focus on it and take pictures simultaneously, thus providing accurate bearings.

Hints At Spies

But the fireballs mysteriously ceased appearing before the theodolites could go to work. Dr. Mirarchi concludes that spies must have tipped off the saucers' home base.

Without the evidence of theodolite photographs, Dr. Mirarchi said that it was impossible to say too much about the missile's properties. However, he said that he had taken one picture in which a disc showed up as half an inch in diameter on a four by five camera plate. A motion picture showed one streaking across the sky for one and a half minutes. An Army major observed one hovering in the air for more than an hour, which a balloon could not have done, and another man went crazy when he could not convince authorities that he had seen one "as big as a water tank."

Dr. Mirarchi said that he agreed that some of the saucers observed were actually balloons, but that there was too much evidence in favor of the saucers to say they could have all been balloons.

"Suicide By Secrecy"

He stated that he did not see how the Navy could say that there had been no concrete evidence on the existence of the phenomena. "I was conducting the main investigation," he said. "The government had to depend on me or my branch for information. My files are not in Washington."

Dr. Mirarchi condemned the government for "suicide by secrecy" and for the interference of politics with research.

"Some of the information released by Mirarchi was obtained from OSI-reports which had been furnished the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories. The reports were classified Confidential."

"Lt. Colonel Frederic C. E. Oder, USAF, Associate Director of the Geophysical Laboratory of the Air Force Cambridge Research Laboratories, Massachusetts, stated that, in his opinion, the information released by Mirarchi to the Quincy Patriot Ledger could cause serious harm to the internal security of the country, pointing out that if this information were to fall into unfriendly hands, it would definitely be prejudicial to the defense effort of this country, both from the point of view of the prestige of our Government and the point of view of revealing our interest in certain classified projects."

It was decided that the final authority on Dr. Mirarchi's fate should be the Directorate of Intelligence, specifically Brigadier General W.M.Garland, Chief, Air Technical Intelligence Center. Responding to the question of whether a trial of Dr. Mirarchi would disclose more classified information, Garland said in a memo relayed on September 25, 1953:

"Probably not. However, since much material has been published on 'saucers' in books, magazines, etc., some of which contains information identical with or similar to Dr. Mirarchi's, questions of 'persecution' or favoritism might be raised."

"Lt. Colonel Oder apparently does not know that on 11 December 1951 a letter was written to AFDRD-RE by the Geophysics Research Division, CFS, suggesting declassification of the final report on Project Twinkle, Dr. Mirarchi's project. Whether actual declassification was accomplished is not a matter of record at ATIC. So many investigations have been made - and the results published - that it is doubtful that harm could be done as suggested by Lt. Colonel Oder, from the release of such information by itself. The official view that the aerial phenomena observed over the past few years are related to natural physical laws has declassified most 'saucer' work."

"As stated in paragraph b above, actual declassification action is not known. The 'facts' stated in the Quincy Patriot Ledger, 27 February 1951, have been disproved or are, at best, personal opinions, and are not considered classified unless it reveals otherwise classified data, such as location of radar sets, disposition of units, etc."

It is not known whether Dr. Mirarchi ever realized that there was, for a time, a headhunting expedition after him from within the government. He briefly became nationally known for his opinions on flying saucers, which in effect were pro-saucer if not pro-alien, and he revealed a fact that is little-known even today - that he was one of the leaders of Project Twinkle, the Air Force attempt to study the "Green Fireball" phenomena in the southwestern U.S. in the early 1950s.

Mirarchi's observations, contrary to official policy on the UFO subject, were especially stinging to the Air Force inasmuch as Mirarchi

had worked with their own information at their behest, and had concluded that the phenomena was significant. Dr. Mirarchi's actions remind one of modern-day whistleblowers who when faced with a situation that they see as intolerable, in this case the Air Force not taking Mirarchi's advice to take saucers seriously, go public and force a policy change. However, this course of action, while considered heroic in many respects today, was not a thing to do during the McCarthy era when Communists were seen under every rock. Some people wanted to "get" Mirarchi but there was concern that a public airing of such information at a trial would expose much more to scrutiny than the government had wanted. Mirarchi at this point was a civilian and the Air Force could not deal with him in a secure environment.

One wonders if Dr. Mirarchi was under official observation for voicing his ideas about "declassified" matters, why was not Dr. Liddell placed under similar scrutiny for his statements on the newly-declassified Skyhook balloon research?

General Garland's response to the matter raises an interesting issue again. In our last issue we had reported on Dewey Fournet's denial of the mention of physical evidence relating to flying saucers in the Estimate of the Situation, circulated by the Air Force secretly in 1948. In the Mirarchi memo, Garland debunks the notion that saucers are classified, saying that they are related to "natural physical laws" and that classification occurs only indirectly to saucers, such as revealing legitimate military secrets.

We have shown over the years in CLEAR INTENT and in Just Cause how the Air Force has misinformed the public in many ways about the UFO phenomena. Yet with respect to stories about crashed saucers, it is curious how often internal government communications seem to belie the possibility of saucer physical evidence. The Garland memo had been classified since 1953 and was only recently released. Certainly the chief of ATIC should have known whether saucer parts are in government hands. Instead, there is a pattern of high-ranking military who should know telling other high-ranking military emphatically that no physical evidence exists. The September 1947 Twining memo, oft quoted in UFO literature, argued for UFO reality but against physical evidence. The 1948 Estimate of the Situation argued for UFO reality (in fact for extraterrestrials!) but against physical evidence. This is a contradiction for which I have yet to hear a convincing answer. The only real attempt to bridge this missing link was MJ-12, which disastrously came apart and set back legitimate UFO document research.

Dr. Mirarchi is now deceased. In a letter from September 1976 to UFO investigator Merlyn Sheehan, who was one of the few people to speak to him in later years, Mirarchi pretty much echoed his 1951 views:

"You may note that in all references to past studies of UFO's, some names are missing, in this case, mine. I assure you that a lot is missing in what has become a popular interest a long time ago. After I set up wide base phototheodolites and Radar stations in New Mexico, all reports of sightings ceased. There were no more people who came forth to report that one man had lost his mind, another had fired his gun, and another had seen these saucers hovering, etc. (of which I had received many reports). I am sorry, but there are no Flying Saucers. Missiles and experimental aircraft, yes. All the time."

It is ironic that such an ardent skeptic of UFOs as aliens was nearly put through a ringer by the very entity, the Air Force, that many UFO researchers believed had tormented them for their pro-alien views.

MORE ON THE CRASHED SAUCER FRONT

We have been advised by the authors of UFO CRASH AT ROSWELL, Don Schmitt and Kevin Randle, that Gerald Anderson, a relatively new claimant to having been involved in seeing the wreckage of the Roswell "space craft," has admitted to lying about the length of a phone conversation he had with Randle. More seriously still, Anderson had forged a phony phone bill to substantiate his claim and to "embarass" Randle.

Anderson is a core witness in the new book CRASH AT CORONA by Stanton Friedman and Don Berliner. He surfaced after a 1990 broadcast of the TV show "Unsolved Mysteries," claiming that as a very young boy he and relatives were on hand when wreckage of an alleged UFO was found on the Plains of San Agustin in New Mexico. This was supposed to have been the second site of wreckage found, the first being on the ranch of Mac Brazel some distance away.

Anderson spoke about the incident in a phone conversation with author Randle on February 4, 1990. A fair amount of detail was acquired by Randle but soon after Anderson cut off communications, due to what Friedman and Berliner called a "personality conflict (CRASH AT CORONA, Pg.89). Randle explained that Anderson stopped communications after he (Anderson) was interviewed by Friedman days later. Portions of the first Friedman/Anderson tape indicated that Friedman actively discouraged further contact between Anderson and Randle, preferring that Anderson deal exclusively with him.

Schmitt and Randle have brought out numerous inconsistencies in Anderson's story since that time (see THE PLAINS OF SAN AGUSTIN CONTROVERSY: JULY 1947, CUFOS, June 1992).

The disputed phone call involved Anderson claiming that his February 4 conversation was only 26 minutes when, in reality, it was 54 minutes. The purpose of the claim: to make it appear that Randle was careless in describing details of his investigation. To substantiate his charge, Anderson produced a photocopied phone bill which verified the 26 minute figure. Randle had in fact taped the conversation, which verified his 54 minute claim. Clearly something was wrong with someone's statement! Randle pursued the matter, obtaining a statement from Anderson's phone company, Southwestern Bell. A signed statement from a phone company employee said that Anderson's photocopied bill did not agree with the microfilmed bill on file at Southwestern Bell. Ergo, Anderson falsified evidence.

A dispute over the length of a phone call may seem trivial on the face of it. But, when a witness falsifies his version of a story and proceeds to manufacture documentation to perpetrate his story, all other aspects of his story must be considered extremely suspect at best. The story in effect is finished as evidence of anything except mendacity.

Anderson confessed to falsifying this information to MUFON's Walt Andrus, Stanton Friedman and John Carpenter in September 1992. To date, we have seen no announcement of these developments by the authors of CRASH AT CORONA. Too much time has passed. We expect to see an explanation of these indiscretions very soon and if the indiscretions are conceded by Anderson promoters, then we expect a public apology to the UFO community and the reading public for much wasted time and money. It is difficult enough trying to evaluate the great mass of UFO reporting information without contending with any whoever somebody having their jollies at our expense.

The Roswell investigation will surely suffer for these developments, something it cannot afford to do given a skeptical public, government, media, and scientific community. Both pro and con investigations of Roswell must proceed cleanly and honestly.

MARITIME AERIAL PHENOMENA

Spot checks of a government marine publication have revealed interesting reports of strange aerial manifestations that have largely been overlooked. "Notice to Mariners" is a long-time weekly of the U.S. Hydrographic Office, published since the 1800s. The bulk of each number is devoted to reports of lighthouse positions and schedules, hazard reports, chart revisions; etc. Beginning in the late 1950s reports of "Celestial Phenomenon" crept into various issues and continued fairly regularly into the mid-1960s. The reports were extracted from ships' logs, much the same way as those appearing in a similar British serial, "The Marine Observer."

We are in the process of surveying these issues. Included here are a few of the more curious entries:

CELESTIAL PHENOMENON

NORTH ATLANTIC

Second Officer H. Rath sack of the American S.S. *Overseas Rebecca*, Capt. D. N. Dibble, Master, reported the following:

At 0600 G.M.T. December 1, 1962, in lat. 36°27' N., long. 7°26' W. on passage from Bordeaux to Tripoli, a mysterious object was observed. It was first observed bearing 130° altitude 20° and appeared to be a comet with its tail almost reaching the horizon. Later it appeared more like an atomic mushroom. It was visible about 40 minutes and faded away with the sunrise.

Barometer 1022.4 millibars, air temperature 14.4° C., sea temperature 19.4° C.
(N.M. 10/63.)

Notice to Mariners

March 9, 1963

CELESTIAL PHENOMENON

NORTH PACIFIC

Second Officer William C. Ash of the American S.S. *Iberville*, Capt. M. O. Vinson, Master, reported the following:

"At 1700 G.M.T. on September 21, 1961, while in lat. 31°30' N., long. 175°30' E., a few minutes before morning twilight, a white opaque mass about twice the size of a full moon appeared in the northwest at an elevation of about 20°. It continued to climb toward the zenith and at about an elevation of 40° the mass opened gradually to appear as a huge halo with a satellite in the center having very nearly the brightness of a first magnitude star. By the time it reached the zenith it had more than doubled in size reaching its maximum at the zenith and then diminishing as it proceeded to the southeast. As it diminished it continued to decrease in size but did not appear to shrink into a corona as it had appeared but rather faded out completely at an elevation of approximately 20°. The entire mass was in view for approximately 8 to 10 minutes."

Weather partly cloudy, wind NW force 2, slight sea and small NW swell, temperatures: dry 74° F., wet 67° F., sea 79° F.

(N.M. 43/61.)

Notice to Mariners

Oct. 28, 1961

CELESTIAL PHENOMENON

NORTH PACIFIC

Junior Second Officer B. Gronberg of the Swedish M.V. *Kungsholm*, Capt. H. Solje, Master, reported the following:

At 0500 G.M.T. April 4, 1963, in lat. 31°30' N., long. 128°53' W., on passage from Honolulu to Los Angeles, the following was observed: A white cloud more intensive than the surrounding clouds was seen. A few seconds later the cloud transformed into several concentric rings which become larger and larger similar to the rings formed when a stone is dropped into smooth water. In the center of the inner ring 6 or 7 bright white dots similar to bright stars were seen. The phenomenon was bearing 315° altitude 45° and was moving westward very rapidly. After about 3 minutes the dots separated into two groups, one group proceeded as before and the other group turned to the right and disappeared. The phenomenon lasted about 7 minutes.

Weather partly cloudy with good visibility, wind NE force 1, temperatures: dry 20.0°C., wet 16.8°C.

(N.M. 19/63.)

Notice to Mariners

May 11, 1963