

In Memoriam  
J. Allen Hynek



DR. J. ALLEN HYNEK

It is with great sadness that I observe the passing of Allen Hynek, a man whose name has become synonymous with "Unidentified Flying Objects" since his involvement in the late 1940's. Despite overwhelming peer pressure, he maintained his prominent position within the scientific astronomical community while at the same time becoming something of a cult figure to many amateur UFO buffs.

I had the pleasure of Allen's company on several occasions, during some of his trips to Manitoba. He stayed with us a short time while he was attending a conference in Winnipeg in the 1970's. For the 1979 solar eclipse, he and several members of his family spent the weekend in Hecla Island on Lake Winnipeg, and we shared many fine moments of conversation on matters astronomical, secular and occasionally ufological.

I was only 16 years old when I first met Dr. Hynek, and I remember being awed while in the presence of the man of whom I had read so much. It was only later that I grew to appreciate his work in astronomy as well. I was quite startled when, in preparing a paper on lunar evolution for a University course, I encountered the name of Dr. Allen Hynek as a major researcher on transient lunar phenomena. And, when I worked on a later paper on satellite tracking, who should be cited as a co-ordinator for the Smithsonian Institution's satellite observation program? The noted astronomer, Dr. Allen Hynek.

Over the years, Allen was subject to great ridicule, dubbed the "Pied Piper of Ufology", "Spaceman" and other such satirical appellations. Even the title of this journal you are reading is a tribute to him. When interviewed at a press conference following his hurried investigation of the Ann Arbor sightings, he pointed out that many cases could have been caused by "marsh gas". The press quickly seized the opportunity and heckled the comment. Soon "swamp gas" was a household word.

But, Allen defiantly stood against the tide of skepticism. He did, however, pay the price of his beliefs. He confided to me one time that he was "quite weary" of his battle, and it showed occasionally. His convictions may not have been the "norm", but he argued his case logically and with great resource. He changed his views considerably over the years, due to new information and frequent reflection on the facts at hand. He of course had started as a skeptical Air Force consultant, then, as he described in his book: The Hynek UFO Report, he changed his viewpoint to what is now termed a "believer". In later years, he refined the extraterrestrial hypothesis to more of an ultraterrestrial theory, invoking a more spiritually-oriented system. He died still believing that there was more to the UFO phenomenon than the debunkers would lead us to believe.

In retrospect, I believe Allen enjoyed his involvement with ufology. He told me with amusement how on the set of Close Encounters of the Third Kind, an unreleased scene had the little alien "girls" crowd around him and pull his favorite pipe from his mouth, examining it intently. Alas, that scene was cut, and we were left only with his brief cameo. But I will remember his laughing face forever.

Good-bye, Allen.

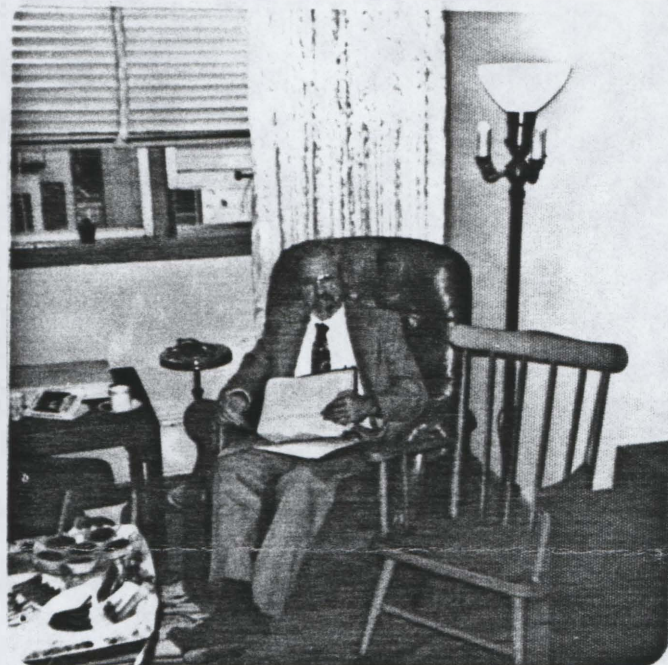
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Dr. Hynek with a young ufologist at a 1976 Winnipeg Conference



As a guest at my apartment, circa 1976

Observing "first contact" during the 1979 Solar eclipse expedition to Hecla Island



Some of the Hynek clan at the Hecla eclipse banquet.





## Ufology Research of Manitoba

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### Report for the Period of January 1983 to June 1984

Only 8 UFO reports were received by UFOROM for the year 1983. Of these, two did not have a readily-apparent explanation. In chronological order, the cases were:

January 9	7:20 PM	Brandon, Manitoba.	Five witnesses. Probable Meteor.
January 11	7:05 PM	Cornwallis, Manitoba.	One witness. Probable Meteor.
January 14	11:54 AM	Winnipeg, Manitoba.	One witness. Possible Satellite.
February 2	8:10 PM	Winnipeg, Manitoba.	One witness. Possible Meteor.
May 17	10:30 PM	Winnipeg, Manitoba.	Two witnesses. Unknown.
August 6	11:45 PM	Woodridge, Manitoba.	Nineteen witnesses. Unknown.
August 13	11:15 PM	Woodridge, Manitoba.	Thirteen witnesses. Probable Automobile.
November 8	11:40 PM	Winnipeg, Manitoba.	One witness. Possible Aircraft.

The most significant sightings of 1983 were the Woodridge incidents, where UFOROM representatives responded to reports of the old "spook light" of the area. UFOROM representatives did not observe anything other than a glow which is thought to have been due to distant automobile headlights. However, due to uncertainties, the site will be further investigated. Some Woodridge reports remain unexplained.

Another significant sighting was that on January 14, when an amateur astronomer observed a black object pass quickly across the face of the Sun. This was possibly a rare occurrence; the observation of a satellite in transit between the observer and the Sun.

1983 was certainly not a year overrun with UFO reports, like the flap years of 1967 and 1975. This dearth of reports has enabled researchers to re-examine earlier reports on file, and also search for "hidden reports" on record. Such searching uncovered the earliest Manitoba UFO sighting, one by the explorer David Thompson near Landing Lake in 1792.

UFOROM is in contact with UFO research organizations worldwide, and is presently exchanging information with many groups in order to better assess the phenomenon.

UFOROM members are currently involved in a number of special research efforts. These include: detailed case studies, government document discoveries, fortean research and scientific criticism.

UFOROM research is done entirely on a volunteer, unfunded basis.

UFOROM is not a membership organization.

UFOROM does not release witnesses' names without authorization; anonymity is normally granted to all individuals reporting a sighting to UFOROM.

UFO sightings can be reported to: Box 1918, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 3R2.

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Just Published:

Rutkowski, Chris A. "Geophysical Variables and Behavior: XXXIV. Further Comments." Perceptual and Motor Skills, 1986, v.63, p.18.



# Cosmic cabal

## A physicist perceives a UFO cover-up

**S**tanton Friedman figures he'll recognize a space traveller when he sees one. In fact, the 51-year-old lecturer, self-proclaimed UFO expert and consulting "nuclear physicist" has put together a detailed profile of the average alien being: it stands about four feet tall with grey, leathery skin, a huge round head, stubby arms and legs and two large, round, glowing eyes—a species of E.T. without the long glowing finger, the green tinge or the Hollywood director. These visitors, Mr. Friedman told receptive audiences of about 300 at the universities of Alberta and Saskatchewan two weeks ago, show up on our planet regularly in their silent, smokeless, saucer-like spaceships, sometimes abducting people and performing experiments on them. He insists that the governments of various countries around the world, including the United States and Canada, know of these visits but cover up the evidence. It's a "cosmic Watergate," he says, and he aims to crack it.

Mr. Friedman's evidence is sketchy. Most of it comes from U.S. government and military documents which he has seen and read about in research papers and heard about from sundry second-hand sources. He says, however, he has been refused access to other documents supposedly top-secret, lost or destroyed. For instance, says Mr. Friedman, astronaut James A. McDivitt, Command pilot of



**Stanton Friedman, UFO expert**  
*Aliens are four feet tall with big eyes.*

Gemini 4 in 1965, photographed a craft in outer space, handed the film to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), and never found the picture. That, says the UFO expert, smacks of a cover-up.

The chubby, bearded Mr. Friedman, now living in Fredricton, N.B., says his theories have found support in conventional scientific circles, though not among astronomers, and dismisses his detractors as political sycophants. He claims they are racing to unlock the secrets of alien aircraft for their own military purposes. He says politicians are afraid to upset the status quo with even passing mentions of space invaders. If the general public was ever convinced that other life forms exist, he explains, insecurity and panic would sweep the earth. Stock markets would crash, oil prices would plummet and mental hospital admissions would skyrocket.

Mr. Friedman has been crusading on

behalf of UFO information since 1958. Then a recent graduate of the University of Chicago with a master's degree in physics, he was filling out a selection list for a book club and for no particular reason ordered a volume entitled *Report on UFOs*, by Edward Ruppelt. His interest was twiggled. He read everything he could find on space beings in his spare time. In 1970, laid off from his job with an aeronautics firm in nuclear power radiation shielding, he took his UFO show on the road full-time. He now gives up to 20 lec-

tures a year at colleges and clubs across the continent, charging between \$500 and \$1,500 for each. He has appeared on the *Merv Griffin Show* twice and CTV's *Canada A.M.* He claims a colleague has gathered information about some 80,000 UFO sightings in 135 countries. While he hasn't personally seen a UFO, he argues: "I haven't seen Australia either and I know it exists."

University of Alberta astronomy professor Douglas Hube concedes there could be life somewhere else in the universe, but says there is no substantive proof of UFOs whatsoever. University of Calgary astronomy professor Sun Kwok adds, "Conspiracy theories are fun and they make good stories," but it would be next to impossible for governments or NASA to keep word of a real finding from leaking out. Dr. Friedman says the scientists simply haven't studied the subject closely enough.

*Don Campbell*

### Articles of Note Articles of Note

Freitas, Robert A., Jr. "There is No Fermi Paradox". *Icarus*, 62, 1985, pp.518-520.

In a short but succinct paper, Freitas gives an explanation to Fermi's question: "Where are they?". He argues that since our observing and exploratory capabilities at the moment are very limited, the assumption that no extraterrestrial beings exist because none have been "seen" is invalid. He points out that over 99.96% of the Solar System surface area has not been examined for artefacts, and that it is very possible that items still lay waiting for us to find them.

Thom, A. "Moving and Erecting the Menhirs". *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, 50, 1984, pp.382-384.

Thom shows that it is physically impossible to construct certain megalithic stone features using conventional methods, let alone ancient procedures. Considering the weight of the stones and their placement, he says: "The accuracy with which the whole process was completed is inconceivable."

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