

1982

# An Incredible Close Encounter from

by Mark R. Remaley

*[Ed. note: As our editorial in this issue warned, here is one of the truly weird and baffling UFO reports. Had there not been two mature witnesses involved, flying their own plane, in clear, calm daytime sky, and had I (JAH) not interviewed both witnesses by phone, I would not have referred this case to Mr. Remaley (himself a pilot and a sky diver) for further study. Presented here are the results of his personal interview with Mr. Michael Davis (25), the pilot of the plane, and with his father (52), the co-pilot, by phone. The editing has been minimal.]*

**TYPE:** CE-I (II)  
**DATE:** Oct. 24, 1982  
**TIME:** 9:20 A.M.  
**DURATION:** 10 minutes  
**WITNESSES:** 2 (Father and son, student pilot and pilot, respectively)  
**PLACE:** Approx. 10 miles south and east of Lowell, Ind., observed from a private plane, approx. 3000 ft. MSL.

I met with Michael Davis in early January, 1983. He proved to be articulate, intelligent, and a not very excitable person, yet genuinely puzzled by his experience. Judging from his careful responses and the manner in which he had recorded all the movements of his aircraft relative to the UFO, I give his story high marks for credibility. My sole reservations, apart from some relatively minor contradictions under questioning, come from my wonder at his ability to keep such excellent records during a flight which resembles a WWII dogfight.

I dismiss the possibility of a hoax because of absence of any discernible motive for publicity and because nothing during the course of the interviews suggested such a possibility. They came across as highly credible witnesses to a very remarkable event.

Michael Davis, the aircraft pilot (250 hours flying time) and his father (a student pilot) were returning to the Lowell, Ind. airport after flying to the Porter County airport to practice navigation and landings. After some "touch and go" landings, they left on their return leg, flying a 1968 Cherokee 140 single-engine, low-wing aircraft. The weather was exceptionally clear, visibility unlimited, with no clouds and no turbulence. Both witnesses remarked on how exceptionally calm their flight was.

Approximately 4 to 5 minutes after takeoff, and just after reaching their cruise altitude of 3,000 feet MSL (2,300 feet above ground level), on a course of 240 magnetic, doing 120 knots, the pilot (Michael) noticed (see map) an object that at first he took to be a malfunctioning parachute, due not only to its shape but because he had learned the previous day that the Valparaiso, Ind. University Skydiving

Team was going to be making practice jumps that morning. He then remembered, however, that when he had seen the jump plane take off it had headed due east while the object now in view was to the west of his plane which itself was considerably west of the Porter airport.

The object first appeared in his 10 o'clock position sufficiently enough below their level to be silhouetted against the ground. After viewing it for about 20 seconds he began to note its unusual configuration. He described it as having a "bee's-head shape." Noting that the object would pass beneath him, where it would be out of sight due to the plane's low-wing design, he initiated a steep (45°) left-hand turn, (B) applying power and climbing to 3,500 ft. MSL to give a safe 1,000 feet vertical clearance. Immediately before this turn, the UFO appeared to be on a bearing of 355 magnetic (1 UFO Course) (almost due north) and at a

## KEY TO MAP POSITIONS

- A: Pilot and co-pilot watch UFO (position 1) approach to within ½ mile. The plane was at 3,000 feet, the UFO at 2,400 feet.
- B: The plane takes a 45-degree bank to the left, climbing to 3,500 feet. The UFO passes the plane on the right side and beneath it (position 2).
- C: After losing sight of the UFO, the pilot sees it again to the left and 45-degrees behind the plane.
- E: The pilot makes a slow right turn, descending to 1,800 feet, as the UFO drops behind out of sight. Turbulence is felt as the plane passes through the UFO's flight path.
- F: Leveling out of the turn, the co-pilot spots the UFO 45-degrees behind on the right, only 50 yards away.
- G: As the plane makes a slow bank to the right, the UFO (position 3) suddenly reverses course. The pilot pulls in behind the UFO to chase it.
- H: Following the UFO's path (position 4), the plane hits turbulence. The UFO was now about 5 miles ahead of the plane.
- I: Again the UFO suddenly reverses direction (position 5), aiming directly at plane and closing the distance within 15 seconds. At the last instant the UFO veered to the left, missing the plane's wingtip by only 10 feet.
- J: As the UFO climbed out of sight (position 6), the plane resumed its course.

## An Editorial Apology

In the November/December issue of this publication, the editorial, "NOVA AND UFOS," I inveighed against the biased and uninformed treatment the UFO subject was given on the NOVA program of Oct. 12, 1982. Everything I said about the NOVA program still stands, and in full force. However, in the editorial I apparently incorrectly stated (based on information from Walt Andrus, Director of MUFON) that Kendrick Frazier, editor of "THE SKEPTICAL INQUIRER," had a major hand in the selection of the program participants.

Mr. Frazier has informed me in a letter that he had little to do with the NOVA program. He was asked by Mr. Groom, the program producer, to suggest persons who might contribute to the program. He gave Groom the names of five persons and two of his suggestions appeared in the program.

Apparently, much has suffered in translation, so to speak, and in transmission. Walt Andrus tells me that, in his phone conversation with a staff member of the NOVA program, he was led to believe that Frazier was the key figure in the selection of participants.

I have no reason to doubt the word of either Mr. Frazier or of Mr. Andrus, but it is evident that somehow a major misunderstanding arose from a small kernel of truth: Mr. Frazier had been consulted.

Regardless of how the misunderstanding came about and was compounded, I hereby tender my sincere apologies to Mr. Frazier, and also to the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of the Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP), who publish "The Skeptical Inquirer." Based on the misinformation about Mr. Frazier, I had interpreted the latter as an indication that CSICOP was more dedicated to the defense of a position than to seeking truth. I retract with apologies those specific remarks concerning Mr. Frazier and CSICOP. The fault is mine in not having carefully checked my sources. □

### THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS OF EXTRATERRES- TRIAL SCIENCE

### SIXTH NATIONAL CONGRESS OF UFOLOGY

These were the titles of the meetings held in Rosario, Argentina on Dec. 8-12, 1982. They were well attended, with representatives from Spain, Brazil, Uruguay, Paraguay, United States and, of course, many from Argentina, the host country. They were extremely well organized with the presentation of papers, panel discussions, and social activities filling all the days of the Congress.

It would be impossible to do justice to the many papers presented during these several days in the space available here. Here is just a very brief summary of those papers we judged to hold the most interest to our readers. Our apologies to those authors not included in this necessarily abbreviated review.

### CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND IN ARGENTINA:

Oscar Alemanno

A statistical analysis of CE-III's in Argentina which, with the recently compiled and extensively coded data bank of Argentinian Close Encounter cases over the past three decades by Guillermo Roncoroni of Buenos Aires, should be of considerable value for serious research ufologists. A copy of the Alemanno paper is not yet available to us for detailed study but the Roncoroni catalogue is, and will be reviewed in the next issue of this Journal.

### ON THE POSSIBLE NATURE OF THE UFO PHENOMENON:

Antonio Ribera

Presented in the inimitable style of this well-known Spanish ufologist, sometimes a bit uncritical but always colorful, this paper was of considerable interest, as it mentioned some cases not well known in the United States, as, for instance, the abduction of the

(Continued on Pg. 7, Col. 1)

## Letters

Editor:

Congratulations upon the March/April issue of the IJR. It is the best example of a UFO publication I have ever read. Please don't change the format. I have been weary of arguments for or against hypnosis, birth trauma syndromes and whatever else that has been already covered. Actual cases are still the most interesting topic, especially when professionally investigated.

Richard Seifried  
Dayton, Ohio

Dear Dr. Hynek:

Ever since I attended a lecture of yours in Davenport, Iowa, about four years ago, I have been following your progress and the IJR.

I am very glad that your REPORTER stands by itself again, because when you had it in those other magazines it really hurt your image. They were very much below your standards of scientific investigation.

In answer to your question on page #3 of the latest IJR, I have always wanted the IJR to be more current than 4 to 5 months behind events. I would suggest up-to-date accounts of

(Continued on Pg. 15, Col. 2)

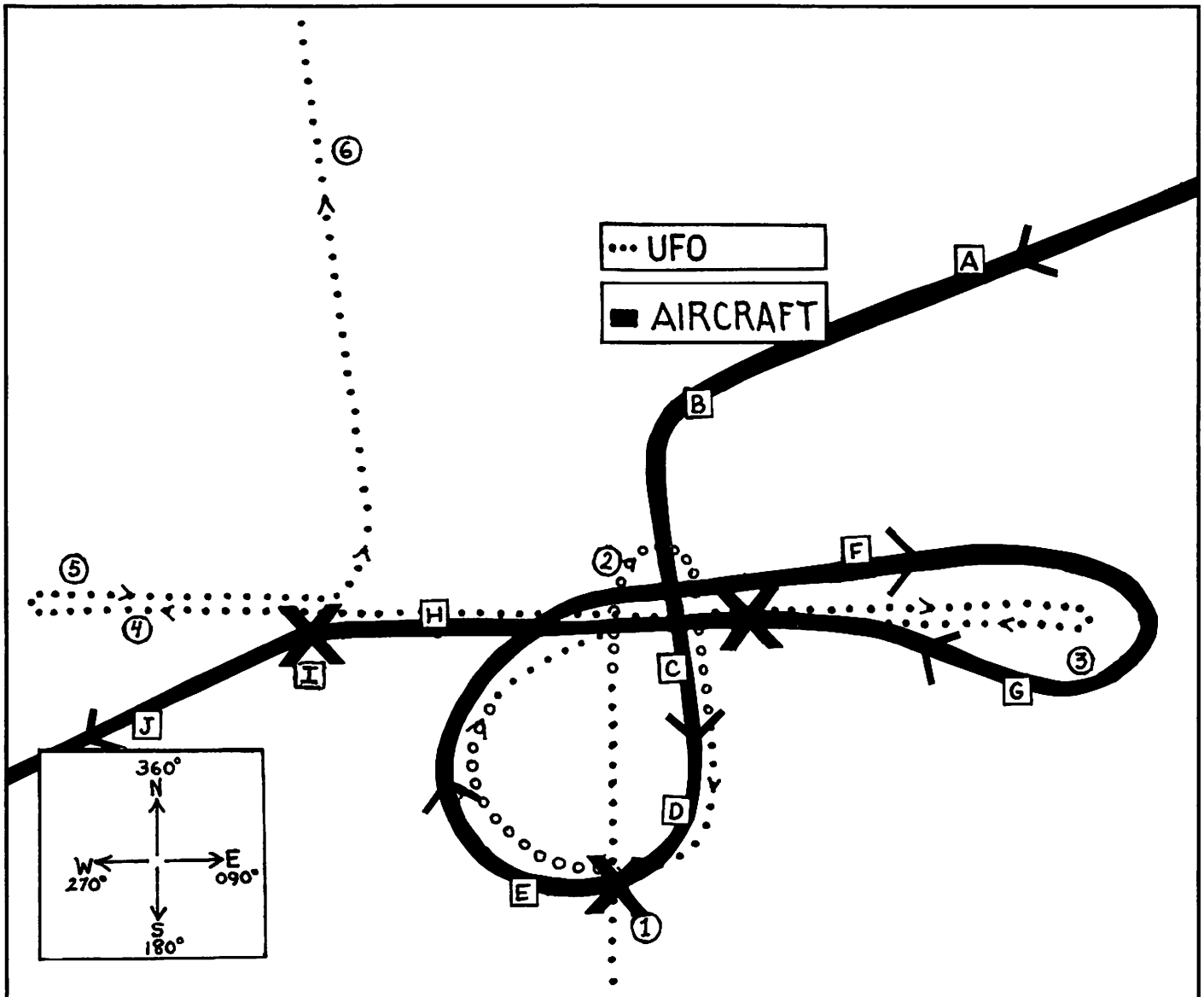
# Credible Pilots

height of approximately 2,400 MSL and doing 120 KIAS. Davis had made his turn so as to come out of it on a near-reciprocal bearing of 170° (C) with the object to pass below them and on their right side (1, 2, 3) within easy viewing by the co-pilot, Everett Davis, who watched it go under the wing and disappear behind them. Michael, planning to turn and pursue, looked around for the target and was startled, to say the least, to find it just 10 seconds later only 50 yards behind them (2) (rear left at 45°, their 7:30 position) holding their course and speed.

(NOTE: If these times are correct, this indicates a climb speed of 6,000 feet per minute, or 100 feet per second, virtually impossible for any propeller-driven aircraft, with the possible exception of a distinctive Cobra-class helicopter. A jet like the F-16 or F-18 could do it but; a) could not have been flying at 120 knots in the first place, since it lands at a higher speed than that, and b) even if it could have made a full throttle turn to their level that rapidly, it would have been impossible for it to have slowed down again to their speed without overshooting

them at a much higher rate. Two pilot friends, both very experienced had the same objections. One had suggested the Cobra as a remote possibility but the other said; "No f... way, you'd tear the rotors off!" As for the testing of a new flaps/spoiler system by the Air Force, I believe Arizona or Utah would be a more reasonable locale for this than near Gary, Ind.).

At this point, after a brief exchange of words with his co-pilot, Davis began a slow turn to the right, (D) away from the object, and initiated



# Incredible Encounter — continued

a gradual descent from 3,500 to 1,800 feet. Immediately thereafter, he lost sight of the UFO, but as he continued the turn, the co-pilot picked it up again. It was still matching their movements and was still only 50 yards away, but it had crossed over to the inside of their turn, appearing now on their right quarter (E) (their 4:30 position), and holding steady with them.

**A**s they descended through the object's original flight path, (X-1) they encountered about two seconds of heavy turbulence; the pilot described it "like hitting the vortex of a large airliner." Until then, the flight had been entirely smooth; the pilot remarked on this point several times.

After making a nearly 270° turn, they levelled out at 1,800 ft. on a bearing of 90° at 140 knots, with the object still holding at 50 yards at their 4:30 position (F). After a mile or two, Davis, having difficulty seeing from the left seat, banked slightly to the right, across the UFO's path [Ed note: a foolhardy thing to do] coming to a bearing of 120°. The object did not turn with them, but slowed down to remain on the inside of the curve.

**A**t this point, both occupants of the plane had a good look at "IT" for almost a minute. They described it as a complex 3-part structure consisting of a set of four tubes and a nozzle with two upper ringed-dome sections. The nozzle itself was cream colored but had small dark markings resembling cooling vents or fins. The rest of the lower structure was translucent grey with a tinge of blue, like some type of raw plastic stock. The upper structures consisted of two pod-like domes, connected at their bottom center by a sort of tubular swivel-joint. The major portion of the dome surfaces were of a silver-blue color, with the right dome (from their point of view) being approximately 20 per cent larger than the other. Both "domes" were encircled at their equators by a ring of geodesic-type panels made out of some glass-like substance, clearish

but with an almost iridescent blue-grey sheen.

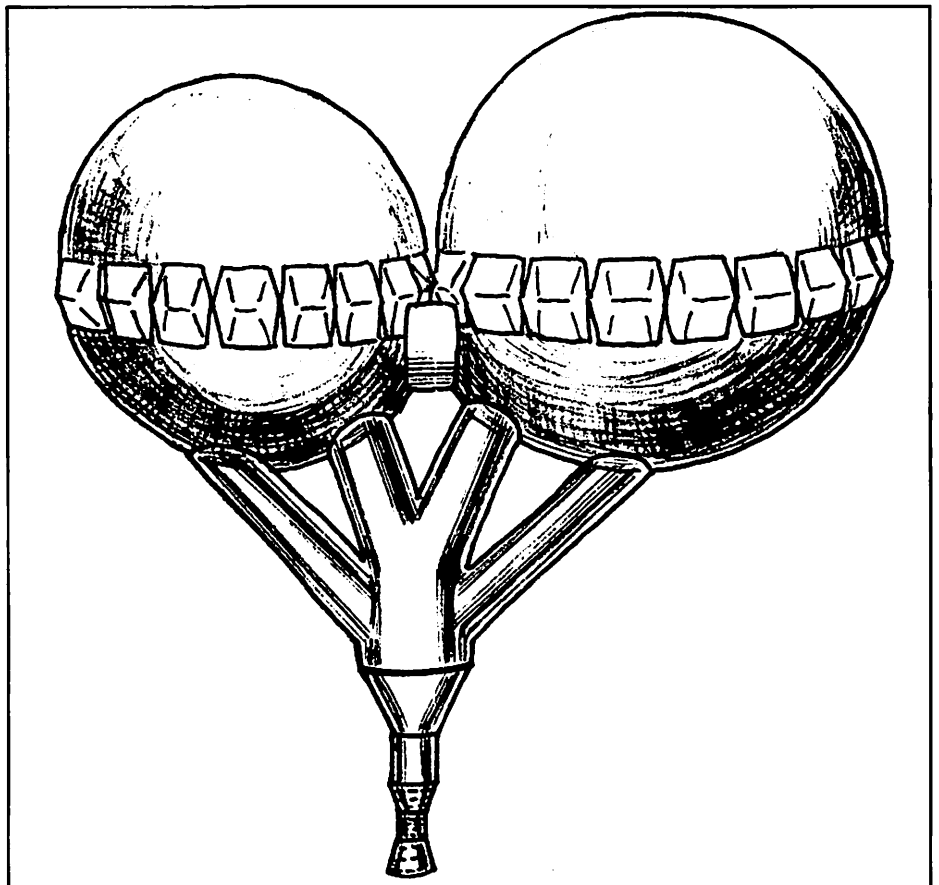
At first it was estimated that the overall height of the object was only 7 feet, width 6 feet, but later considerations revised this considerably upward. Considerable uncertainty was introduced by the difficulty of estimating sizes of unfamiliar objects without an aerial reference point.

**N**ow, as the UFO slowed to stay inside their curve, the two domes began to gyrate in a peculiar manner, best described as a twisting motion akin to holding two tennis balls, one in each hand, and rotating one ball away from you, and the other in the opposite sense (while still touching them together), and then reversing the directions.

Both pilots now looked momentarily away. ("I had to fly the plane, and my father just wasn't looking." [Ed note: I find it hard to believe that his attention wouldn't have been completely riveted on this strange object the entire time.]) The UFO now, without any sort of transition, instantly reversed course, (3) heading back on a mirror-image bearing of 270°, remaining at its level of 1,800 feet at a speed of 140 knots, in a period of "not more than two seconds." There was no warning of this move; the object was with them one second, speeding directly away the next.

Seeing this, the pilot completed his turn to the right, standing the plane on its wing-tip and hauling it around sharply to curve back directly behind the UFO in a pursuit position (G), and

*The UFO, Davis said, looked like two geodesic domes connected together with a nozzle by four tubes. It appeared to be about 7 feet in height, 6 feet across, with one dome 20 per cent larger than the other. The domes were silver-blue, encircled by a ring of geodesic panels made out of some glass-like substance, clear with an iridescent blue-grey sheen.*



about a mile to the object's rear. The moment they fell in directly behind, they again encountered the same heavy turbulence as before (X-2). This time the turbulence continued for the length of the pursuit. Despite this, Davis "fire-walled" the throttle, up to the aircraft's maximum cruise speed in level flight, 140 knots. Nevertheless, the object began to pull directly away from them (H-4), gradually building to between 50 and 100 mph, separation speed, and drawing almost 5 miles away (5). The fact that the object could still be seen at that distance led to the upward revision of its size estimate.

**A**fter three or four minutes of uselessly wasting fuel, and not wanting to damage his motor, the pilot was just about to give up the chase when, suddenly, despite the distance, both observers saw the dome-spheres go into their peculiar rotation again.

Almost instantly the object reversed course once again (5), pick

ing up speed fast by this time, and giving them only enough time to realize that it had reversed course, where it was headed, and enough time to wonder "if this was it." Then, at the last possible moment, the object flicked across their nose (I), veering to its left and missing the aircraft's right wing tip by no more than 10 feet. At the instant that it passed, the vortex hit them so hard (X-4) that the plane's airframe groaned in protest, and the altimeter "went wacky."

**T**he Davis' sat frozen for a moment, watching the UFO as it continued to curve to the left, back on what appeared to be its original heading of 355°, still accelerating, and eventually beginning to climb, until it finally disappeared (6) into the distant haze. At no time during the encounter had the UFO shown any sort of exhaust trail.

Thoroughly chastened, both men decided enough was enough, and set

their course (J) to the original 240° to their destination, now within visual range. Still rather shaken, they unfortunately did not remember to call around to ascertain whether anyone also had viewed their brief episode, nor to see whether they were within anyone's radar coverage. [Ed. note: We need a psychologist's input here. Is it possible to be so utterly shaken by an event that one omits doing the obvious, intelligent thing, in this case to "get on the air" immediately to anyone listening, including the control tower, to obtain corroboration and vital information about so unusual an event?]

*We are deeply indebted to Mr. Remaley for this detailed interview and for the excellent drawings of the trajectories of the two craft. And once again, we ask our readers for any suggestions they might have on whether this extraordinary event might have a rational explanation, if the facts are as stated in the Davis-Remaley interview.* □

## Report from Argentina

(Continued from Page 3)

Spanish gentleman, Julio F. and his dog Mus, in the province of Sorio, Spain.

The gist of Ribera's ideas is that we are facing a super-mechanics, created by a superior technology, making it impossible for us to fit the observed UFO phenomena into the framework of present-day science. He also stressed the number of times a UFO "flap" coincided with a close approach of Mars to the earth, a fact which cannot be denied, although there have been close approaches without "flaps."

### THE REALITY OF THE MEN IN BLACK: Carlos del Frade

An analysis of 23 UFO related cases, of which six ended tragically. Unfortunately we do not have a transcript of this paper and will withhold further comment until we do.

### PRESENTATION BY DR. VIRGILIO SANCHEZ OJECO

We have no formal title for this paper by Dr. Sanchez. The paper, however, dealt with an interesting case of a "contactee" he has been working with who is both deaf and dumb, thus presenting quite a problem in communication. Dr. Sanchez is a resident of Miami, an investigator for the Center for UFO Studies, and is well known to many American ufologists. He is the author of the book "UFO Contact from Undersea," the story of the Filiberto Cardenas abduction, reportedly witnessed by several intimates.

In this paper he described how, although deaf and dumb (he is, however, a good artist) he reportedly can hear the voices of his communicators clearly in his mind. Dr. Sanchez is very

interested in the contactee problem and has proposed that an international meeting of contactees and ufologists be planned in order to bring together and examine critically the "messages" of the contactee. This is, of course, what Dr. Leo Sprinkle has attempted in several meetings on a smaller scale than that proposed by Dr. Sanchez. It is hoped that the two of them will cooperate and succeed in such a worthwhile venture.

### UFOs: IN SEARCH OF A DEFINITION: Fabio Zerpa

The proposed definition: "An ET artifact piloted by humanoids" is so self-defeating that comment is hardly worthwhile. Reference was made to the sighting of Oct. 31, 1981, as seen by a young woman on board a plane. As a consequence she was supposed to have suffered a time lapse and other anomalous phenomena. It is unfortunate that Mr. Zerpa was not aware that the so-called UFO of that date was simply the sighting over a wide area of

(Continued on Page 13)

# Two Humanoids in Gallio

by Antonio Chiumiento

*Two manuscripts concerning two Close Encounters in Italy were submitted to us by Antonio Chiumiento, of the Centro Ufologico Nazionale [CUN] of Italy, one directly by mail and the other transmitted to us in person by Roberto Pinotti, president of CUN at the time of my visit to Italy. The first is presented here, with some editing owing to limited space, and the second is scheduled for the next issue. Mr. Chiumiento is a serious and meticulous investigator who has cautiously couched his manuscript throughout with such terms as "possible UFO event" and "object" and "supposed" and "presumed" and "in our opinion." We shall present both papers as examples of straightforward investigative reporting of a UFO event, fully aware, as Mr. Chiumiento obviously is, of the pitfalls inherent in UFO investigations and of the haunting question we all face: "Did this really happen?"*

*If this were the only account of a CE-III one would be sorely tempted to dismiss it as "an aberration...just one of those things," but it takes its place with hundreds of similar accounts from different parts of the world. Do we dismiss them all? That would hardly be the scientific approach. Here then is the first account.*

**TYPE:** CE-III  
**DATE:** Nov. 24, 1978  
**TIME:** 11:45 A.M. (Weather, brisk and sunny)  
**DURATION:** 4-5 minutes  
**WITNESSES:** One, plus strong possibility of a second, independent witness.  
**PLACE:** Gallio (Vicenza), Italy

It was almost noon on a sunny day in November, 1978 that Angelo D'Ambros, a 61-year-old pensioner, out alone gathering firewood in a local copse, turned as he put down a freshly cut branch and saw to his horror two "beings" with approximately human

features just a few feet away from him. One was about 4 feet tall, the other about 8 inches shorter; they were suspended in the air, about a foot or more off the ground. They were extremely thin and had a yellowish skin so stretched over their bones that some big veins were clearly visible on the creature closest to him. Their heads were pear-like, smooth and bald, and at the sides were enormous ears which rose vertically and ended in points. Their eyes were large and white, sunken into the face and without eyelids. They had very marked noses extending down to the lower lip of a sizeable mouth from which extended two "tusks."

From just below the knees to the neck and covering the arms to the wrists, the creatures wore very tight-fitting dark "coveralls." Only the hands and the rest of the legs and feet were uncovered. Hands and feet, of considerable dimension, were out of proportion to the rest of the body; they had very long fingers and toes with rather long nails.

**A**t first, the two beings were side by side. But almost immediately the smaller one began to move continuously back and forth, from right to left, in very quick jerks without moving his long feet, as if he were sliding on an invisible surface. His motion caused a stir in the air and vegetation rustled as the tips of his ears touched the lower branches of nearby trees.

Trying to master his terror, which was literally "freezing his blood," he called for help at the top of his voice. He nonetheless found strength to ask them again and again who they were and what they wanted of him. But this was all useless; from the mouth of the shorter creature came only incomprehensible grumblings.

The taller "being," who had remained in one position about one meter away from Antonio, now

reached one of his long hands to take away his pruning knife. [This is a farm implement consisting of a hooked cutting blade (see Fig. 2) fixed to a solid handle; called a "cortelaso"]. The creature grabbed the knife by its dull side and there ensued a struggle, Antonio, realizing that the knife was his only instrument of defense in the event the two "visitors" proved truly hostile, held the handle firmly. The "being" tried harder, grasping the blade lower down (at this time Mr. D'Ambros thought he felt a light electric shock).

**N**ow the being made a third attempt, using both hands this time, grasping the knife still further down by the non-cutting edge. The creature showed remarkable strength, but this was matched by Mr. D'Ambros, spurred by his despair when his cries for help were unanswered. This time he felt a very clear, stronger electric shock. Antonio's terror now changed to fury; grasping a large branch he had previously cut down, he aimed a blow at the intruders but before he could deliver it, they quickly took flight.

Recovering his calm, and moved by an irresistible curiosity about the origin of these two "unhuman beings" of similar features except for height, D'Ambros began to pursue them, running as fast as possible towards the mule-track on which they made their get-away. They had disappeared around a bend in the track but he followed them and saw them make for what was presumably the craft they had arrived in. It was the "traditional flying saucer," resting, in a clearing about 100 feet away, on four landing gears which appeared rather widely separated and had appreciable landing pods.

The summit of the discoidal craft was surmounted by a small dome. The UFO itself was of a bright red color in its upper part, including the dome, blue in its lower part, and the two parts were separated by a white median band. The four landing gears were of an aluminum-grey color. In size it was

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## CONTENTS

EDITORIAL: High Strangeness

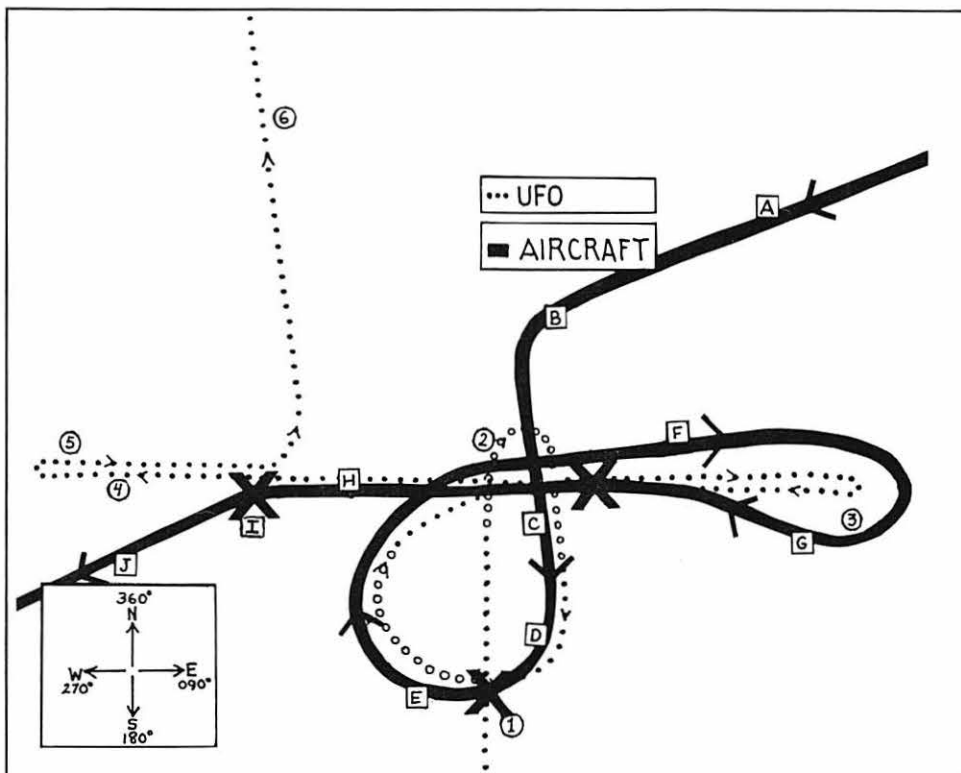
Report from Argentina

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from Credible Pilots  
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The Humanoids in Gallio, Italy  
Antonio Chiumiento

The Marquette Pentagon  
Kenneth C. Schellhase

UFO?—Semantics on the Rampage  
J. Allen Hynek



An Incredible Close Encounter

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# EDITORIAL

## “High Strangeness”



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In this issue you will find some very, very “high strangeness” Close Encounter cases for your perusal, as well as articles of interest for your information and entertainment. The UFO events described continue literally to shake the foundations of our belief systems. “Things like this just can’t be” we are very apt to say, yet the alternative is to impugn the sanity, honesty, and credibility of the witnesses to the events. For this there is no justification in view of their reputations, standing in their communities, and in some cases, their technical training. By now, over the years, the aggregate of such witnesses, from all over the world, is stupendous. If they are all insane, humanity is in very bad shape.

The UFO accounts herein, very disturbing to the conservative mind, have been investigated to the extent that the facilities and funds of the Center for UFO Studies permit. They are indeed “Alice-in-Wonderland” in nature, but to ascribe them to simple “misperception” just won’t wash. Nor will the concept that such bizarre reports have been fabricated to gain publicity for people with otherwise dull, drab lives. In many cases, the lives in question are far from drab. It has been our experience that the more sophisticated the witnesses, the greater their dread of publicity; they know only too well the gauntlet of ridicule and even derision they almost certainly would have to run. There is simply no point to manufacturing high-strangeness UFO stories; the cost in reputation and peace of mind is just too high.

Reluctance to report a high-strangeness UFO event is more likely. Indeed, there is a “rule-of-thumb” in this matter: the higher the strangeness of a UFO event, the greater the delay in its reporting. We are no longer surprised when several months elapse...even years...before we hear of a profoundly strange UFO event. The UFO experience has just been too strange to share with others...even with peers and close associates. To bare one’s soul to strangers or the media is, to many, unthinkable.

In time, however, an inevitable “leak” occurs, and the story is out. Sometimes the leak is deliberate, even unconsciously deliberate; the personal experience has become too much to live with in solitude and must be shared with someone. The story may not go beyond this stage. But sometimes, much later, a ufologist will hear of it and take action to properly record the event.

Thus, many of the reports you have seen discussed in the REPORTER are old chronologically, but quite new in terms of when we received them. When we are told over the phone, or read in a letter, “I never told anyone about this before” we’re almost certain that the event to be described occurred months or even years ago. One, naturally, wonders how many truly startling UFO events have never reached the eyes and ears of serious ufologists. Judging from the number of people who have told us something like, “Of course I didn’t report it...I didn’t want people to think I was nuts,” it may be a great many. Unfortunately, UFO events of great strangeness, are just the ones that should not be lost to ufology; they may hold clues to the eventual solution of this great mystery.