

# The REALL News

The official newsletter of the Rational Examination Association of Lincoln Land

*"It's a very dangerous thing to believe in nonsense." — James Randi*

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July 2001

## Saucer Expansion by Martin S. Kottmeyer

I overlooked a facet of the changing nature of UFO belief when I wrote "A Plastic Phenomenon" a few years ago. The question did not really cross my mind as I wrote it, though I almost certainly heard the idea somewhere that saucers had become larger after the movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*. Even had I thought of it, I would probably have skipped it after some searching. Statistical breakdown of the sizes of flying saucers are not offered in the works one is most likely to consult, specifically the ones you see referenced in my "Plastic Phenomenon" article. The absence of such statistics, I would guess, derives from the general feeling, even among advocates, that size estimates are so highly subjective they are next to worthless.

I changed my mind when I read the results of a study that Ed Stewart made of 1169 newspaper clippings in Canadian newspapers collected from the time of the 1947 wave of flying saucer reports. He recently posted the results on a UFO skeptics site. Though most clippings offered no information about the size of the saucers, 125 of them did. When he sorted them by size there was a surprise, the leading category had the saucers in the size range of 1-3 feet and the next had them even smaller than that. If you include in the tally saucers compared in size to basketballs, baseballs, and golf balls, the fraction of reports described as 3 feet or less comes to three-quarters of the 125, specifically 87 of them.

The oddity is paralleled in American data. Though Bloecher did not provide a table in his study of the 1947 wave, I was able to draw one up using the data he provided. The category breaks were chosen to be identical to those in Stewart's study:

< 1 foot	56
1 - 3 feet	32
3 - 10 feet	22
10 - 30 feet	20
30 - 100 feet	20
100 - 300 feet	12
> 300 feet	02

Of 164 cases that gave usable descriptions, 53% (88) are described as 3 feet or less. Though the distribution is not as severely skewed here compared to Canada, the problem remains the same. Descriptions of saucers in 1947 have the majority much smaller than we are used to hearing.

Stewart saw the problem: such saucers "would not have been able to carry any occupants unless they were the size of a household lizard." Standard grays, reptoids, or mantis aliens are not going to fit inside. Similarly you would not be able to bring humans into them unless they possessed miniaturization powers indistinguishable from supernatural forces outside the realm of science.

Similarly, this would call into question the involvement of new aircraft with human pilots like the Flying Flapjack, one of the prime suspects in a number of newspaper and magazine articles from the 1940s and 50s. The notion that it was related to crafts developed by the Horten Brothers would also fall. So what is going on here?

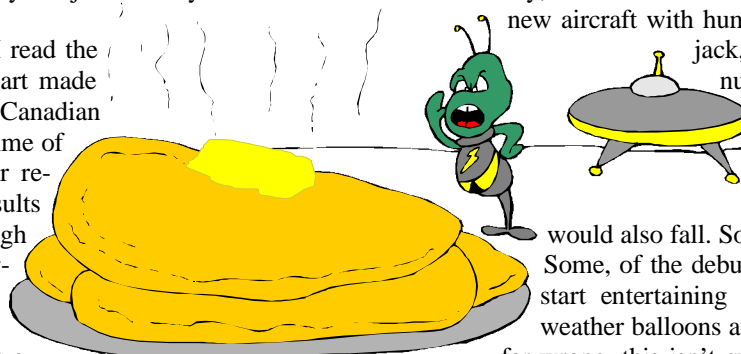
Some, of the debunker persuasion, will doubtless start entertaining the involvement of birds and weather balloons at this point. While probably not far wrong, this isn't quite what I am getting at. What is curious here is that these people bother to report these sightings even though they think saucers are this seemingly-to-us odd size. Why didn't they keep such small saucers to themselves?

Stewart has to have gotten it largely right in noting that people were, in part, taking the phrase 'flying saucer' a bit too literally. "Saucer descriptions in the news stories made reference to table top cups and saucers which could have implanted a small size in the readers mind when they read the initial stories." We should add that the first AP article from June 25, 1947, breaking the story had no information on the size of the mystery objects. The repeated use of "objects" in the text of the story gives no good clue about size except in the vaguest sense

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## Purpose

The Rational Examination Association of Lincoln Land is a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) educational and scientific organization. It is dedicated to the development of rational thinking and the application of the scientific method toward claims of the paranormal and fringe-science phenomena.

REALL shall conduct research, convene meetings, publish a newsletter, and disseminate information to its members and the general public. Its primary geographic region of coverage is central Illinois.

REALL subscribes to the premise that the scientific method is the most reliable and self-correcting system for obtaining knowledge about the world and universe. REALL does not reject paranormal claims on *a priori* grounds, but rather is committed to objective, though critical, inquiry.

The REALL News is its official newsletter.

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## From the Chairman

David Bloomberg

Since we haven't had our June meeting yet, I find myself with little to report right now. However, I do want to clear up something I said in last month's column.

I mentioned that at the CSICOP/local groups meeting in New York, the subject was raised of exchanging membership information. We will probably be asking CSICOP to help us with a new mailing to try to expand our ranks. In return, CSICOP may ask for our mailing list. We have never given out that information before, but we think this is a fair trade. Last month I said that we would send out a postcard asking if you agree to allow us to exchange mailing information with like-minded groups. My intent was to combine that postcard with a reminder postcard for the REALL picnic (see below).

But, looking back at that idea, it wasn't terribly smart. As I sat down to make the postcards, I realized that putting two such disparate issues on it would only muddle things up. Furthermore, I'm not sure why I even thought a separate mailing was necessary, since everybody who is affected obviously gets this newsletter. I guess that's what I get for writing last month's column at the last minute.

So anyway, to get to the point at hand, if you do **not** want your address information given out to other skeptics groups, please e-mail me at chairman@reall.org or call and leave a message on the REALL answering machine at 726-5354. If you don't care, you don't have to do anything.

## Special June Meeting!

While I've already mentioned it in this space once and sent out reminder postcards to people in the area, I just wanted to get one last plug in for our picnic on June 30 (hopefully, you'll get

*("Chairman" continued on page 7)*

## A Nod to Our Patrons

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## Psychic *Survivor* Predictions Put to the Test

by David Bloomberg

Back in January, the media was busily trying to figure out who might win *Survivor II*. The *Chicago Tribune* went so far as to have Chicago-based “psychic” Joseph DeLouise look at the 16 contestant biographies and predict the outcome. Since I am interested in psychic predictions (obviously) and also reality TV, I dug up this old article (from January 26) to see how his predictions fared.

Right off the bat, I knew that looking back at these would provide me with amusement—he predicted that contestant Debb Eaton would win. At the time this ran, all the non-psychics who paid attention to *Survivor* spoiler information had figured out well before the first episode aired that Debb would be the first one booted. Yet DeLouise says, “I feel good about her. ... The winner is Debb.” Apparently, he has a different definition of “winner” than the rest of us do. As the non-psychics predicted, Debb was indeed the first one voted off of *Survivor II*. DeLouise could not possibly have been more wrong.

But let’s have a look at the rest, in order of their being voted off the show. Kel was next. DeLouise said of him: “He’ll have good showing to about the three-quarters mark.” Nope. How about Maralyn? He said she “will make it to the sixth, seventh, or eighth show.” Even with a span of three shows, he still blew it. 0 for 3 so far.

Next was Mitchell. DeLouise said “I feel OK about him. He’ll come into his own, but this isn’t his time. He could be knocked out in the third or fourth show.” Of course, like most “psychics,” he puts in the “could” to try to help save himself a bit (too bad for him he didn’t do that with the earlier ones, where he was so obviously wrong). But, still, we’ll give it to him. Kimmi was voted out next. DeLouise had said about her, “She’ll be out soon. One of the first.” Well, I don’t know about

anybody else, but I don’t consider fifth to be “one of the first.” I’m not giving it to him. So he’s 1 for 5.

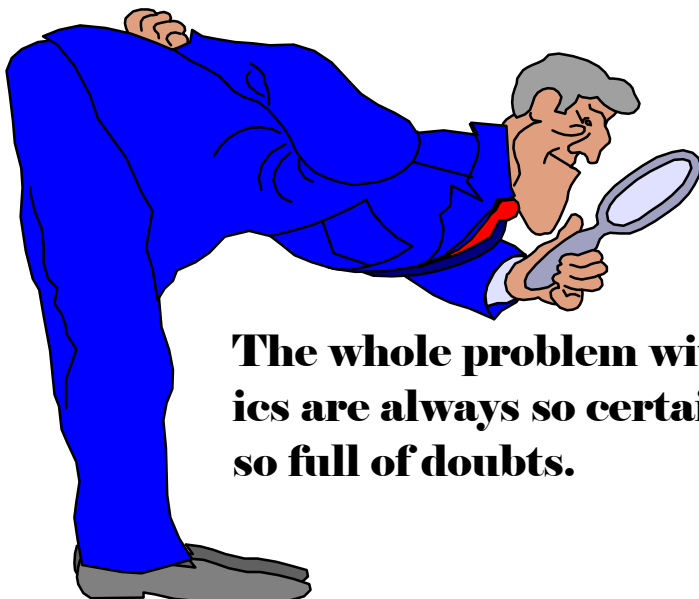
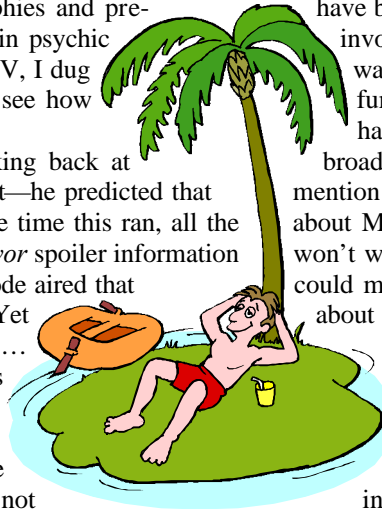
Here is one of the most important predictions—Mike. Now, any real psychic (if indeed such people existed) should have been able to detect the pain and overwhelming emotions involved in Mike’s departure—he was not voted off but was whisked away in a helicopter after inhaling smoke fumes and passing out briefly enough to end up with his hands getting seriously burned in the fire. His agony was broadcast for all the country to see. But DeLouise makes no mention of that. In fact, he doesn’t have a whole lot to say about Mike at all in the *Tribune* article: “He will do well, but won’t win. He will be in there for a while.” That’s so vague it could mean almost anything. But it sure doesn’t say anything about the way Mike ended up leaving. No point for that one.

1 for 6.

Now we go into the merger. Jeff was next on the show, but not in DeLouise’s prediction. He said: “He’s a leader and will be there at the end, the last two or three shows.” Heck, he wasn’t even in the *jury* in the final shows. (The final seven contestants other than the last two contenders, make up the jury that stays around to vote between those last two.) Yet another blown prediction. After Jeff went Alicia. Here, DeLouise gave a seemingly contradictory prediction. He said, “She will be up there and in the running. ... She could finish off at the fifth, sixth, or seventh episode.” Well, finishing in the fifth, sixth, or seventh episode is not what I would consider “up there and in the running.” That’s not even making it halfway. In any event, he managed to be wrong on both counts! She was booted in the eighth episode—neither up in the running nor in the ones he listed. With such a wide range of possibilities for that one, it’s kind of amazing that he managed to miss it! 1 for 8.

Next was the coup in which Jerri—who thought she was in command of her alliance—was overthrown. DeLouise gave two sentences about her mind being on personal things (whatever that’s supposed to mean) and then said, “She could be knocked out early.” Nope. Wrong again. Nick followed Jerri, and DeLouise was closer with him, saying, “He will do well. He’ll be there toward the end—maybe three-fourths of the way through. But I don’t see him finishing.” Well, being booted in episode 10 out of 14 is pretty darned close to three-fourths. I’ll give it to him, despite his use of “maybe” in the prediction. So he’s 2 for 10 so far.

(“Psychic *Survivor* Predictions” continued on page 5)



**The whole problem with the world is that fools and fanatics are always so certain of themselves, and wiser people so full of doubts.**

— **Bertrand Russell**

## REALLity Check

by David Bloomberg

This month we have an all-psyhic edition of “REALLity Check,” with a mixture of good and bad news. Unfortunately, the bad news involves increasing psychic presence in the media and, perhaps not coincidentally, increased belief in psychics and other paranormal phenomena. It’s rather doubtful that more than a handful of people will even notice the first report, which takes a look at the specific claims of now-deceased “psychic detective.” And while more people certainly saw the other positive item, whether or not it changes their thoughts about it is another issue entirely.

### One Month/Six Years—Whatever

In January 1995, a dog came home to its owner carrying a severed human leg. A few days later, it found the other one. Eventually police identified the remains as those of 25-year-old **Stacey Frobel**. But before the body had even been conclusively identified, at least one “psychic detective” was already on the case.

As long-time readers may recall, I appeared on *Downey, Morton Downey Jr.*’s attempt at a talk show comeback, all the way back in early 1995. REALL’s friend, Investigator **Bruce Walstad**, and several “psychics” also appeared there. The most notable was **Dorothy Allison**, who ended up getting so mad at me that she stood up out of her chair and pushed me (see “Don’t Push Me, Lady!” *The REALL News*, Vol. 3, #3, March 1995).

But Allison wasn’t just there to push people around—she had been specifically brought in by the show to solve this murder. Staff from the show took Allison around and videotaped her in action. We heard that the murderer has knee problems, and that he travels down a certain highway. Not exactly clues that could spur detectives on to a quick solution. She also pointed out a cemetery near the road and proclaimed psychic success, because she had predicted that there would be such a cemetery, with somebody named “White” buried there. In my article I noted that it would be a much more difficult chore to find a cemetery *without* somebody named “White” in it.

More specifically, Allison also predicted that there would be advancement of the case around February 15-18. It would have been difficult for her to be much vaguer, as she could have pointed to pretty much anything and claimed it was covered by her prediction. Indeed, it was similar to the way in which she claimed to help catch John Wayne Gacy—by telling the police when and supposedly where a body would be found. I have news for Allison and her believers: Even if all of those predictions turned out true, she still hadn’t helped the police find anything; she merely told them when they would find it!

However, we don’t even have to worry about that, because even that vague prediction didn’t turn out to be true. The police used DNA matching to determine who the legs belonged to, but this occurred in March, not within the time frame she gave. And do you know when they solved the case and made an arrest?

June 14, 2001.

Yes, that’s right. Over six years later. If you saw the news-

paper articles about the alleged Chicago-area serial murderer, **Paul Runge**, being arrested, then you saw the solution to this case. Strangely, nowhere was Allison credited.

In fact, it’s been so long that both Allison and Downey have both died. You’d think she might have foreseen something like that. Alas, it rather puts a damper on the idea of having a reunion show to discuss why her prediction was so far off.

### Overflowing with Psychics

Do you believe in magic? Well, it appears TV executives think you do. Just to be sure we’re speaking the same language, I’m not talking about the magic of **David Copperfield** or the like, but the magical thinking of **John Edward** and **James Van Praagh** and other purported psychics or mediums or whatever they are calling themselves these days. (Alas, none of them seem to be interested in using the more descriptive terms like “fraud” or “con-man” or “cold reader.”)

As was mentioned in this space earlier, John Edward is expanding the number of people who will be able to fall for his shtick. He can currently only be found on the SciFi channel – which is quite appropriate seeing as the second part of the channel’s name is “Fiction.” However, his show, *Crossing Over*, is going into syndication next season as well and stations in all the major markets have picked it up.

*TV Guide* reports (6/16) that he is not alone in the psychic TV biz. The producer of *The Weakest Link* is preparing a new psychic show for NBC syndication starting in 2002. His show will feature **Char**, who *TV Guide* describes as, “a psychic and talk-show staple since the ‘70s who also chats with the dead.” Of course she does—wouldn’t want to miss out on a trend like that one.

**Ferdie Pacheco**, an Internet astrologer, is also developing a show. And you know **Miss Cleo**, the Jamaican tarot reader from the infomercials? Yup, her too.

We can’t forget about James Van Praagh, author of *Talking to Heaven* and *Reaching to Heaven*, who not only has his own series in the works, but is also the subject of an upcoming CBS miniseries starring no less than **Ted Danson**. Oh, how far Danson has fallen since his *Cheers* days.

This particular article contained no hint that maybe these guys (and ladies) aren’t all they’re cracked up to be. That shouldn’t be surprising, though, since it was written by contributing editor **Michael Logan**, who is the True Believer who debated **James Randi** regarding John Edward’s powers in an earlier issue of the magazine (discussed here last month).

TV is overflowing with reality shows, but now it appears we can all look forward to a lot more *unreality* TV in the next few seasons.

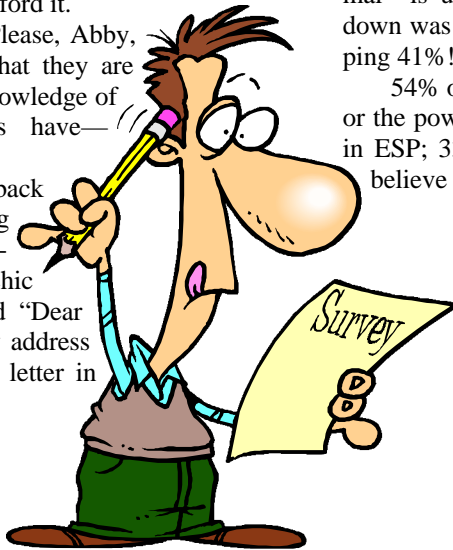
### Dear Abby: Psychic Hotlines Are Bunk

“Dear Abby” is more often known for spreading urban legends as if they were true than for doing good things that would get her/them into this column (I say “her/them” because the “Dear Abby” column is now being written by both **Pauline**

Phillips—who has been doing so for a long time—and her daughter **Jeanne Phillips** as well). But their June 15 column was a nice surprise, as it featured a letter from a former psychic hotline worker who confessed that her real job was to take money from people who could not afford it.

The writer said in her letter: “Please, Abby, warn callers of psychic hot lines that they are dealing with people with no more knowledge of the future than they themselves have—probably less.”

I don’t have any solid proof to back it up, but I somehow get the feeling that there is a significant overlap between those who would call psychic hotlines and those who would read “Dear Abby.” So while Abby didn’t really address that issue in detail, just having the letter in there is good anti-advertisement.



(“Psychic Survivor Predictions” continued from page 3)

Amber followed Nick, but not in DeLouise’s mind. According to him, she should have been long gone by then: “Out after the second or third show. She’ll be knocked out after she sees her first black widow spider.” To the contrary, she teamed up with the black widow spider (Jerri) and even stuck around longer than her. What about Rodger, the next one out? We have another vague prediction: “He’ll be in the running for a while, but knocked out toward the end.” Well, heck, that could mean almost anything. Still, being in the final five is “toward the end.” I’ll be generous and give it to him. That puts him at 3 for 12 as we head into the home stretch.

What did DeLouise have to say about Elisabeth? “She’ll be out after the third or fourth show.” Blew another one big-time. How about Keith? “He will be knocked out early...after the second or third show.” Ouch, another really bad call. 3 for 14.

So, what did he think about Colby, who came in second place? We have another contradictory prediction: “I feel good he’ll be around toward the end. He’s in the running, may be there toward the finish.” Sounds pretty good, eh? But wait, there’s more: “He may be out after the eighth or ninth episode.” Huh?! Which is it? First the guy says he may be there toward the finish, then that he *may* be out in the middle of the game. You can’t have it both ways. No point for this one, not with that contradiction. So he’s 3 for 15 leading into the winner.

But we already know who he picked to win—Debb. So obviously, it wasn’t Tina, who actually did come out on top. Here’s what he had to say about this season’s winner: “Her energy, mind and determination are there, but they won’t do her any good. She won’t have the stamina to make it to the finish.” Could he have possibly been more wrong if he tried? I don’t think so.

So his final score is 3 out of 16, or 19%. That, frankly, is pathetic. What makes it even worse is that the ones he got right were in the vaguer predictions that had wide interpretation. For Mitchell, he said he “could be” knocked out when he was. For

## Paranormal Beliefs Still Rising

Speaking of psychics, a recent Gallup poll has found that belief in psychics—and, indeed, almost all areas of the paranormal—is up. The only belief that was asked about that went down was possession by Satan, and that was still up at a whopping 41%!

54% of people polled believe in psychic or spiritual healing or the power of the human mind to heal the body; 50% believe in ESP; 33% believe that aliens have visited the planet; 28% believe in astrology; 25% believe in reincarnation. Yeesh. ☹

Nick he said “maybe” three-fourths of the way. For Rodger, he said “toward the end.”

But when he missed, he tended to miss badly, they were often more specific. For example, saying Debb would be the winner and Kel would have a good showing were big-time blunders, as was his statement about Tina.

Frankly, though, we shouldn’t be surprised that this “psychic” blew it. According to one Web site listing predictions that had been made previously for what the year 2000 would be like (<http://community-1.webtv.net/@HH!DD!2F!FCA5ACAD317A/EMMA3/2000/>), DeLouise predicted in 1972 that by 2000, “The Arabs and the Jews will unite – Japan and China will merge – People will travel in electric cars through underground highways.” Last I checked, the first and second were completely and totally untrue, and the last one is only true if you consider the less than 1% of so of the population to be the “people” who are using electric cars, and a few tunnels here and there to be “underground highways.” In other words, he blew it big-time, just like with his *Survivor* predictions.

Another site discussing present-day psychics (<http://www.cygnusloop.com/prophecy/present.htm>) has some more of his predictions, including that “Detroit will be the capital of a smaller nation, which will be a police state.” Hmmm. I must have missed that one.

In other words, the *Chicago Tribune* should have known not to bother asking this guy for predictions. Indeed, they *should* have known not to ask any so-called “psychics” at all.

I was hoping the *Tribune* would be brave enough to run their own review of their earlier predictions. I guess that was a pretty silly idea. But hopefully they will learn their lesson and keep “psychics” out of future reporting. Alas, using history as a guide, I’m not holding my breath.

To steal a line from a different reality show: Joseph DeLouise, you *are* the weakest link. Goodbye. ☹

(“Saucer Expansion” continued from page 1)

that one might prefer use the term “object” for items you can lift or move. If these things were in the size range of a house or football field, you’d feel there’d be more.

Large was not used in the article. Arnold would elsewhere speak of the objects as “ships” or “strange aircraft” which implies something rather larger than table-top saucers were apparent in his perceptions. But this information clearly had less exposure than the first account and it was the magic phrase ‘flying saucer’ that was tip-most on people’s tongues. It may be Canadian media carried even less of the follow-up interviews and that explains why the distribution skews to smaller sizes there.

Yet table-top saucers, in my experience, do not extend to the 1-3 feet size range and that is where the peak numbers go. We probably have to remember that polls in 1947, when they indicated any belief in the saucers whatsoever, had people favoring the idea that saucers were some sort of secret weapon being developed here in the United States. Was there something in the recent historical background skewing estimates to this size range?

Honestly, I’m not sure, and hope somebody someday can offer a definitive answer. Meanwhile, a couple of possibilities spring to mind. We do know that there was a rumor/myth complex about ‘foo-balls’ and ‘foo-fighters’ during World War 2 and I’ve seen items suggesting sizes comparable to basketballs or objects in the 1-5 foot range, but I’m unsure if this material was generally well-known in the culture of 1947. Alternatively, Robert Goddard’s rocket experimentation in the pre-World War period was reasonably well known and I’ve seen photos and films where those rockets seem on the small side, certainly much smaller than the Nazi V-2 rockets. Given the saucers are ‘American’ secret weapons, Goddard’s rockets might have provided an appropriately smallish ancestry. But, it seems more reasonable that the V-2 would seem the likelier choice to guide thinking about what size a secret weapon might be and they were 46 feet long. I hope it is obvious I am not enthusiastic about either of these notions. I only offer them to start discussion.

Regardless of the answer, Stewart’s finding sheds light on a couple of long-standing puzzles about the early period of saucer history. It has for years impressed me as odd that there has been so few occupant case reports found from the 1947 wave. Researchers have found no less than 36 detailed CE3Ks in the 1896-7 Airship waves. At least 14 of them are explicitly extraterrestrial and a few more may be so implicitly. By contrast, in 1947, there are maybe 4 entity encounters with 3 of them more-or-less explicitly extraterrestrial. The other one involved people in Navy outfits. “Why?” becomes somewhat self-evident now. In the airship waves, it was explicit from the outset that the objects were ships conveying passengers. In the saucer wave of 1947, the saucers were just objects. The going assumption seems to be they were also small, ergo there was no expectation among most believers that they would land and people emerge.

More speculatively, this may give us an answer to why the CE3K reports from the 50s, when they involve aliens (a good fraction did not, seemingly involving terrestrial pilots), prefer-

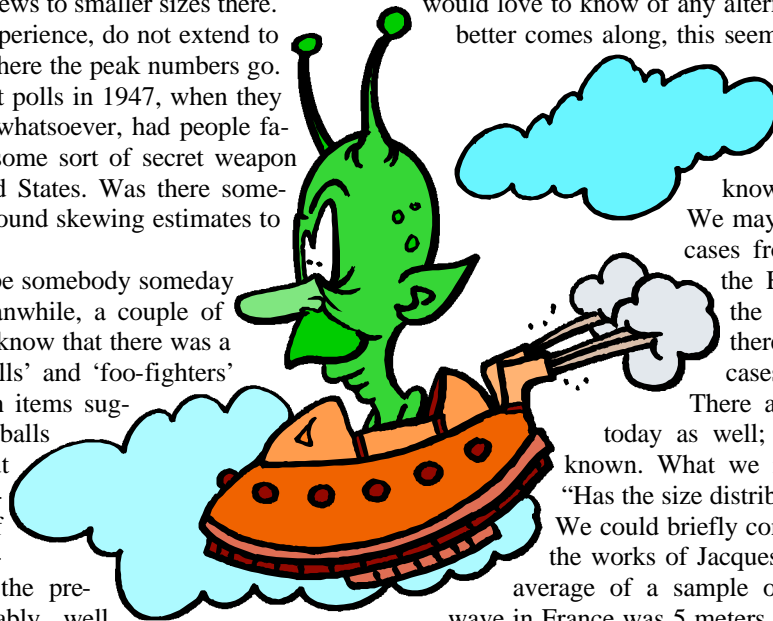
entially involved small beings. Those three close encounters from 1947 were respectively described as “little people” (July 7 - Tacoma, Washington); “a little man, two feet tall, and with a head the size of a basketball” (July 8 - Houston, TX); and strange little men (July 9 - Nashville, Tennessee). Given the skewing of the sizes of the crafts, this begins to make sense. This bias crept into better known yarns over the following years and by the time of James McDonald’s study, published 1973, over 119 “dwarf” or “pygmy” encounter cases existed compared to 85 ‘normal-sized’ humanoids and 13 giants. There may be some other explanation for this skewed distribution and I would love to know of any alternatives. Until something better comes along, this seems a comfortable enough fit.

Okay, we now know the saucers of 1947 were small, but do we know they have changed? We may recall some giant UFO cases from the recent past like the Hudson Valley cases or the Phoenix Lights, but there were also a couple of cases of giant UFOs in 1947.

There are surely small saucers today as well; they are just less well known. What we really want to know is “Has the size distribution changed?”

We could briefly consider a pair of charts in the works of Jacques Vallee. One shows the average of a sample of cases from the 1954 wave in France was 5 meters or roughly 15 feet in diameter. Vallee was impressed that the strongest invariant among the properties of these cases was the diameter of the machines. However, this involved only landing cases. A sample of cases of objects in flight, he confesses, “is completely different: the objects are sometimes as large as ten, twenty, or even thirty meters (about one hundred feet), but seldom larger.” Both of these results are inconsistent with what we see in 1947 cases. This is not good news for those who view UFOs as consistent over time and such constancy an argument favoring the extraterrestrial hypothesis (ETH).

Still, it might be argued that French data should not be compared to American data because of cultural disparities. I decided to do a study of size descriptions in the National UFO Reporting Center (NUFORC) database. I pulled out all size descriptions of UFOs having a disk shape from 1977, the year of Spielberg’s *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, to the present - March 2001. The limitation of shape to the disk category was a matter of both convenience—less time—and a feeling that this might be fairer. Reports in 1947 were heavily biased to saucer shapes and there might be a concern that including modern triangular UFO cases might be viewed as an effort to bias things to a larger size. The 1977 cut-off was specifically prompted by that notion I heard—apologies for forgetting who posed it—that Spielberg’s movie made larger UFOs popular. The results: reviewing 651 cases gave 109 usable descriptions distributed as follows:



< 1 foot .....	06
1 - 3 feet.....	03
3 - 10 feet.....	10
10 - 30 feet.....	20
30 - 100 feet.....	28
100 - 300 feet.....	23
> 300 feet.....	19

A mere 8% are under 3 feet compared to the 58% and 75% of the two 1947 samples. Inversely, those over 100 feet now make up 39% of recent reports compared to 9% then—4 times more. It is also worth noting that of the NUFORC descriptions deemed too vague for use, over 50 include words in the range of large, very large, enormous, immense, giant, and gigantic. The word small appears less than a dozen times.

Five of the discs in the NUFORC database were compared to football fields and one is claimed to be twice the size of Tampa stadium. You also have to love the guy who estimates the craft he saw as 12,000 feet long and suggests it is using “magnetizum levitating propulsion.” As alluded to above, the existence of large UFOs has been fairly high profile over the past couple decades and the impression it is a general trait among UFOs is one easily found among ETH proponents. Consider, for example, this quote from a popular website devoted to UFO sightings: “Flying Saucers of gargantuan size have been seen at close range by both civilian and military professionals and verified by radar... both ground and airborne.” Abduction crafts can also be “big, big” as witness drawings by Betty Andreasson in *The Watchers* and the gigantic tractor-trailer truck sized sphere of the Allagash case.

We could quibble over the issue of how unlikely it seems such huge crafts manage to float about without substantial effects on the surrounding environment. Inevitably, proponents will dismiss it with Clarke’s law about the magical quality of superior technology. Nor will the inscrutable matter of expending energy resources of the necessary magnitude bother them much. Dysonesque estimates of future civilization resources could be pulled out with reminders that the energies used in dubious Shuttle missions would stagger even the space opera buffs of a prior generation.

Minimally, the fact that the size distribution has changed reflects differences in beliefs about what saucers are. With saucers now firmly felt to be alien spacecraft, people who see things suggestive of small saucers have extra reason to doubt what they are seeing represent a real or significant mystery. There is also probably a tendency among those who report their saucers to skew size estimates to be more in line with preconceptions derived from high-profile UFO cases or sources like Spielberg’s film. Hoaxers and attention-seekers will preferentially model their narratives in ways consistent with current beliefs.

The fact that saucer dimensions have been inconsistent in three separate studies is naturally a result that interests psychosocial advocates more than ETH theorists. It is something that they expect. We have merely to cite a prediction by David Clarke and Andy Roberts from their 1990 book *Phantoms of the Sky* that reads, “Aerial UFO-type phenomena will continue to be reported but craft will be larger and more complex in shape and illumination.” No ETH theorist has or would predict

such a thing. They will offer excuses—size and distance **are** the most subjective things in UFO reports—and reinterpretations—the Hybrid program requires increasing numbers of abductions thus larger craft—but the fact remains it would never occur to them to expect such changes. Indeed, we cited an authority in “A Plastic Phenomenon” who alleged the UFO phenomenon is too constant in its properties to be myth. It simply isn’t so.

## Footnotes

<sup>1</sup> “A Plastic Phenomenon” *The REALL News*, 6, #2, February 1998, pp. 1, 7-11.

<sup>2</sup> Ed Stewart “-47/CANUFO: 1947 UFO Wave Canadian Media” UFO Updates, Tue, 13 Mar 2001, also *UFO Skeptics Discussion Forum* Message #386 March 10, 2001 “Stats from 1947 Wave on Shape, Size and Kenneth Arnold”

<sup>3</sup> Bloecher, Ted *Report on the UFO Wave of 1947* author, 1967.

<sup>4</sup> By usable, I mean that a numerical estimate or comparative like size of a baseball or automobile exists. Descriptions using small, big, large, or an angular comparative like half the size of the moon are excluded.

<sup>5</sup> Clarke, Arthur C. *Profiles of the Future* Bantam, 1963, chapter 15.

<sup>6</sup> Kottmeyer, Martin “A Plastic Phenomenon” *The REALL News*, 6, #2, February 1998, pp. 1, 7-11.

<sup>7</sup> Ford, Brian *German Secret Weapons: Blueprint for Mars* Ballantine, 1969, p. 54

<sup>8</sup> McCampbell, James M *Ufology* Celestial Arts, 1976, chapter 8.

<sup>9</sup> Vallee, Jacques and Janine *Challenge to Science* Ace Books, 1966, pp. 185-7.

<sup>10</sup> Vallee, pp. 204-6.

<sup>11</sup> Occurs 1/27/1998

<sup>12</sup> Occurs 9/22/1995

<sup>13</sup> Neff, James “You Don’t Have to ‘Believe’ in UFOs Any Longer” *Sightings* website 5-28-00

<sup>14</sup> Fowler, pp. 81-2

<sup>15</sup> Fowler, Raymond *The Allagash Abductions*, Wild Flower, 1993, pp. 71-72, 200.

<sup>16</sup> *Phantoms in the Sky: UFOs - A Modern Myth* Robert Hale, 1990, p. 175. ♡

(“Chairman” continued from page 2)

this newsletter before the 30<sup>th</sup>). It will be at REALL Board Member Dave McMaster’s house at 4:00. If you want to go but haven’t RSVP’d yet, make sure you call him at 364-5353. Directions are on the back of our last issue, or Dave would be happy to give them to you over the phone. I hope to see you there!

## No July Meeting

Because the June meeting was pretty much as close to July as possible without actually being in that month, there will not be a July meeting. In August we will return to our usual schedule of having meetings on the first Tuesday of the month at the Lincoln Library, specifically August 7. ♡

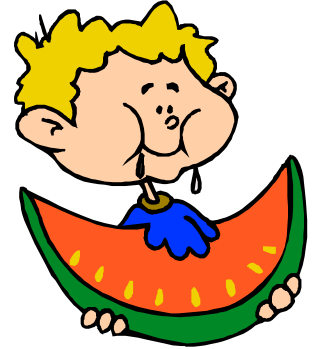
## Our Next Meeting

### A REALL Potluck Picnic!

Instead of our July meeting, we will be gathering for a potluck picnic at Dave McMaster's house. Bring your family for some food, fun and relaxation!

**Directions to the REALL Picnic:** From Springfield, take I-72 to Exit 104 (just east of K-Mart on Clear Lake). Turn right at the exit stop sign, and go 5 miles to Whispering Woods subdivision (it's on the right—there's a big sign—can't miss it), then to 401 Blane Court (there are only two streets).

**Please RSVP to Dave McMaster  
at 217-364-5353 by June 28.**



[www.reall.org](http://www.reall.org)

Dawson, Illinois  
401 Blane Court  
Saturday, June 30, 4:00 PM

Free and Open  
to the Public

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Rational Examination Association  
of Lincoln Land (REALL)  
P.O. Box 20302  
Springfield IL 62708

