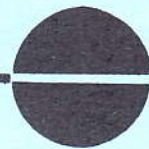




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40 Jones Drive, Whittlesey,
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DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS

Miss Jenny Randles,
8 Whitethroat Walk, Birch-
wood, Warrington, Cheshire
WA3 6PQ (Tel:0925 824036)

TRAINING OFFICER

Ken Phillips, BEd., BA(OU)., 16 Wedgwood Walk, Lymington Road,
West Hampstead, London NW6

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AIMS 1. To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying objects (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom. 2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to unidentified flying objects (UFOs). 3. To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

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In my article on the "Doorman Effect" (BULLETIN #19) I explained my basic perception of the UFO phenomenon, arrived at over many years of in-field research attempting to understand this baffling enigma. It is not a view I consider to be static. But it reflects my "best shot" to date.

To briefly recapitulate. I envisage two main facets to the UFO phenomenon (although each facet might encompass more than one "solution" to more than one phenomenon). These I call UAPs (Unidentified Atmospheric Phenomena) and EXOTIC UFOs. I am not here concerned with UAPs at all, since I regard them as objective, energetic phenomena which are "real" in every sense of the word. Instead I am discussing the EXOTIC, whose reality status is much more in doubt - cases where a witness perceives an "alien" phenomenon and there is no room for manoeuvre on that point.

The fundamental difference between the UAP and the EXOTIC can be summarised quite simply. Anyone who happens to be in the right place at the right time will observe a UAP and tangible evidence thereof is perfectly achievable. However, an EXOTIC is witness-centred and may well be imperceptible to someone else not sharing the encounter. Nor will an EXOTIC normally produce any tangible evidence. To put it another way - a UAP encounter is an observation, an EXOTIC encounter is an experience.

QC STATE

I contend that EXOTIC experiences occur when the witness is in an altered state of consciousness (which I call the Quasi-Conscious - or QC State - since he or she is "almost" conscious and perceives themselves to be, but in truth is slightly offset from full consciousness). Symptoms of this state are what I call the "OZ Factor" - evidence of a temporary self-induced sensory deprivation, where the mind tunes out incoming data from the external senses and tunes in data from the deeper subconscious levels of the mind. The filter process which normally blocks out this subconscious material I call the "Doorman."

The ultimate question is whether data emerging into quasi-consciousness from the subconscious levels is internally or externally generated. It can be either, as parapsychology and normal psychology both demonstrate. On a crude level both telepathic impressions from some other person, or personally accrued perceptive information about the self, might sneak past the doorman into full consciousness. Thus we cannot be sure whether the material used to dramatise "the EXOTIC," abduction by aliens" scenario is from within us, or a real alien source outside. In other words do the aliens (which our minds symbolise in "Dr Who" and "Star Trek" imagery) come from outer space or inner space?

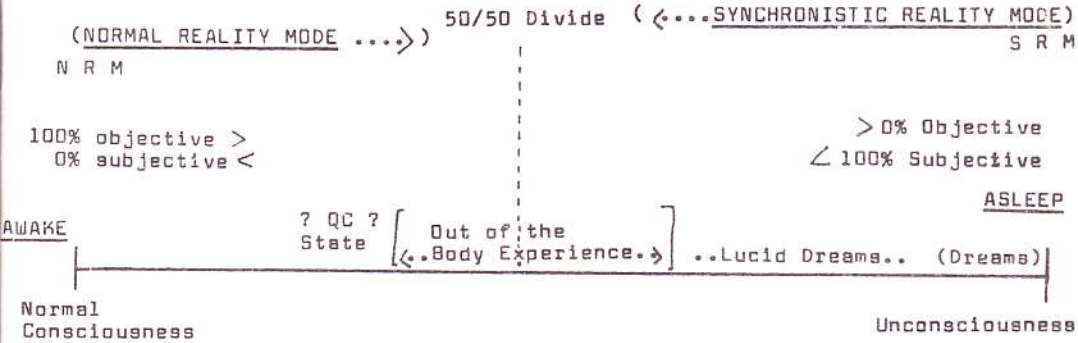
It is now necessary to consider the "reality" status of what I imply the QC State to be. For too often have I been misunderstood. I am not suggesting that a CE4 encounter, for example, is pure imagination (a subconsciously generated hallucination). Nor am I proposing that it is real in the same way that the UAP or this magazine is real. The QC state, by its definition almost, is an intermediary aspect of reality. As it must be in order to explain the main difficulty of the EXOTIC UFO enigma why does half the evidence suggest the reports are "real", and the other half suggest they are not? Our answer in the past has been to polarise opinions, the sceptics saying that the bits which support reality are false (and the reports are thus all subjective), whilst the

believers have argued that the bits supporting non-reality are explicable in terms of irrationalities by the "aliens" (and thus the reports are all objective). As usual, this unresolved paradox is due to asking the wrong question - since the EXOTIC experience is both real and unreal.

ACCEPTANCE

To progress we have to accept that reality is best considered not as a black and white either/or situation. However, we tend to be conditioned to think otherwise. The accepted truth (and I mean accepted by scientists, not just airy-fairey mystics) is that reality consists of a spectrum blending gradually from objective to subjective reality (just as the rainbow spectrum demonstrates that we do not only have seven colours - blue blends into green, which blends into yellow, and so on).

We can draw the spectrum of reality from what we already know. It looks something like this:-



We know more about the "subjective" side of the 50-50 divide (where objectivity and subjectivity are evenly distributed). Dreams come in many varieties, for example. The most subjective are very close to the right end of the spectrum and consist almost entirely of non-real data. However, as you move to the left on the spectrum elements of objectivity begin to creep in. The dream then becomes what we call "more real." - or in scientific parlance "lucid."

The "more real" dream can be illustrated by thinking of an external physiological sensation (e.g. the room suddenly becoming damp because a pipe has burst over the bed). This certainly objective fact might intrude into the dream, but it has to get past the "doorman" to do so. (When awake, or in "Normal Reality Mode" as I call it, the "doorman" mostly allows in objective information; when asleep, or in "Synchronistic Reality Mode", as I call it, the "doorman" is blocking external input and allowing in mostly internal subjective imagery).

The result of this is that the external data of "wetness" might be symbolised (since the essence of SRM - Synchronistic reality mode - is symbolic imagery). In other words we might dream of standing underneath a waterfall, to reflect the concept.

A truly lucid dream is relatively rare (although many people experience them infrequently - I have had several myself). What occurs is that the intrusion of objective input crosses a certain threshold (maybe 10-20-30 per cent as we move left on our spectrum towards the 50-50 divide). At that point the dreaming self becomes

aware that the experience is a dream and can thus either wake himself (raising the lucidity level to 100 per cent and thus dispelling all the traces of SRM), or he may control the subjective imagery of the dreams to take account of the external, objective input.

This is a magical experience as every lucid dreamer will tell you. The dream landscape suddenly becomes more vivid. It is like stepping inside the television set and looking all around at the show going on. Words cannot easily express the feeling of the lucid dream. Now, of course, realising that the external input concerns water dripping onto the bed, the dreamer might manipulate the dream-scape so that this becomes rather more obvious than symbolic water-falls. The end product might be a very lucid dream where all kinds of falling water pictures are induced into the scenery.

Eventually the step-up from subjectivity towards 100 per cent lucidity (which is, of course, the far left end of the spectrum in Normal Reality Mode) takes us across that 50-50 divide. Then the question is 'is this experience real or a dream?' takes on new meaning. For once over onto the left side of the spectrum the experience is more real than dream, even though it is not quite reality in the waking sense. I think this is where the OOB (Out of the Body) Experience occurs. The landscape of the "dream" ("real world"?) is altered to the bedroom so that the incorporation of the dripping water input can happen "on site", as it were. Now the "dreamer" sees what goes on and may even think he is wide awake. But he is not (quite) - if he tries to turn the light on the light he will fail!

What has been the point of all this? What has it got to do with UFOs? A very great deal.

Any experience on the right side of the spectrum is predominantly in SRM (or subjective, or "dream" reality if you prefer). So the overall "feel" of an experience there is of a dream with increasing degrees of reality.

Yet is the left hand side of the spectrum just a yawning chasm? Surely not. Nature is very balanced. There must be equivalent experiences between the 50-50 divide and the far left (Normal Reality Mode, fully awake, objective) end of the spectrum?

I believe it is here that the QC Experience sits. It is like the mirror image of the lucid dream, and blends into the Out of Body Experience heading right across the spectrum (near the 50-50 divide). In other words, another name for the QC State would be the "Waking Lucid Dream" - for it is a degree of lucid dream where the lucidity level is over 50 per cent and the experience has thus crossed the borders into a "real world" encounter.

Following our discussion of the lucid dream state (which was based on both scientific research and peoples' experiences of the lucid dream - including my own) then we ought to be able to predict the character of the waking lucid dream (or QC) state. Let us try.

LUCID DREAMS

It will feel real (as it is on the NRM side of the divide). But not quite real. There will be intrusions of synchronistic/symbolic/subjective in-put giving a "dream like" tone. Whilst the lucid dream was "felt" to be a dream with vividly real overtones, the waking lucid dream is "felt" to be real with vividly dream-like overtones.

In the lucid dream the input of conscious data (e.g. about the dripping water) could mould the subjective dreamscape and make us

live inside an experience dictated by this (much water imagery). So, in a waking lucid dream we might expect subjective input to be used to mould the landscape so that we live within an experience as dictated. How would that manifest? We would change the real world (as perceived by us in the QC state) in order to reflect what the subjective input was about.

In a nutshell "miracles" would happen. We would see literally "impossible" things occurring, and we would believe them to be real. The only clue we might have that they were not literally real would be the slight dream-like feel to the state (which is what most EXOTIC UFO witnesses claim - viz a viz the OZ FACTOR).

As you may well have guessed (jumping ahead of me) this theory is valid for many things other than UFOs. Indeed I intend extending it into a general explanation for all kinds of paranormal experiences, because I believe it has that potential. But it is the UFO experience we are most concerned with. So let us concentrate on that.

Remember that the QC (waking lucid) state can be approached from two directions - left or right - i.e. from the waking "real" world, or the sleeping "subjective" world on the spectrum. (The same, of course, applies to the lucid dream proper - which might happen when we "step up" out of a dream or "step down" into one from being awake). In essence this means that a QC state (especially one quite close to the left side of the spectrum) might be entered temporarily from normal reality with only the occurrence of the "OZ FACTOR" pointing out that we have done this. It is distinctly possible that we could enter the QC state, have an EXOTIC UFO experience, and "reawaken" (i.e. return to fully Normal Reality Mode perception) without recognising what has occurred. In that case the QC Experience will appear to have been normal continuity of reality and nobody will persuade the witness otherwise.

At times, I would suggest, the witness slides from the QC State into fully SRM experience (way out to right field on the spectrum). He thus "falls asleep" after the "encounter", which could manifest (if he fails to realise what has occurred) as a "time lapse." Notice in how many abduction scenarios the witness "falls asleep," or loses consciousness after the experience. There is almost always a lengthy gap after the last memory until the witness finds himself back in the car, or whatever. That gap, I propose, is the sleep phase following the QC Experience.

And so, to return to the question I addressed long ago, is the EXOTIC UFO, the CE4, or whatever, "real" or "imaginary"? Neither. It is a waking lucid dream incorporating subconscious input. Since that input is remarkably consistent (an advanced intelligence coming to warn us not to make a mess of planet Earth) I am inclined to believe that it has some level of externally induced reality. Indeed, I think there may well be a real source communicating with us at a synchronistic reality level giving exactly this message. Otherwise why would be doorman, whenever its defences are down and subjective input gets through to cause a QC State, consider this particular scenario of such widespread importance? If it were just some silly fantasy then the manifestation of it in the QC State would vary widely. It does not. It is too consistent. That is the best clue we have that behind the experience lies a real message, which the doorman determines worthy of our attention - hence inducement of the QC State.

AN ANSWER?

But when is the QC State induced? There may be many occasions. But I think the study of so-called "Puzzle IFOs" will prove very important. A "Puzzle IFO" is a case where the stimulus for the CE4 (or other type of EXOTIC UFO occurrence) is traced to a mundane thing. Hendry

noted in his book how this happens. I have myself several times given examples in my books of cases where, for instance, the moon has been proven responsible for a bizarre close encounter. Saying "it was the moon" proves nothing. What matters is why the moon became the subject of a grossly exaggerated IFO experience. I think we can now answer that.

Let us take a single case, and see how it might have occurred. I intend to use the Betty and Barney Hill case, as one of the most famous of all time. This 1961 "abduction" was the first on record and set a new trend. Before it there was no such thing as a CE4. So its importance is obvious. Yet a satisfactory solution (Jupiter) for the initial "UFO" has been proposed. What if the sceptics were right?

We see the Hill's driving late at night across the mountains of northern New England. They are tired. The roads are quiet. Their minds are already a little offset from the left end of the spectrum ...not quite into a fully blown QC state, but heading in that direction (notice, of course, how often CE 4 cases develop from just such a scenario - surely not irrelevant?)

Now they see a light. It is Jupiter actually, but they are puzzled. Talk focuses on UFOs. The misperception begins to take hold. Both witnesses are now almost in a QC State believing they are seeing a UFO.

Meanwhile the doorman is being pressed by a message at the synchronistic level from this intelligence out there somewhere, very concerned about us on Earth. It is not letting it through, because it regards sensory input as more significant just now (or else Barney might drive over a cliff at the same time as this "secret of the universe" is coming in - not to be recommended). However, with Betty and Barney still puzzled by their IFO they have either stopped the car, or slowed down and the doorman sees its chance. It induces the OZ FACTOR uses the IFO misperception as a hook and the minds of the witnesses do the rest. They act out the messages, manipulating the "real world" and (for them) Jupiter becomes a spaceship. How much of what followed is imagination and how such genuine expression of the message requires detailed analysis and comparison with other cases. But some of it falls into both categories.

TIME ANOMALY

Following the QC State the couple slip into normal dream sleep and awaken some time later, not realising what has occurred. So they only notice the time anomaly later. All they have recalled are some of the most basic aspects of the QC Experience. The more and more subjective levels (as NRM experience decreased and the couple plunged into SRM sleep) have been forgotten in the same way we usually forget our dreams. The result is utter confusion. Only clarified much later by the hypnosis sessions, which "retrieved" some of the QC state and some of their dreams. There are similarities (the QC - mostly waking - experience was common to both). But there are differences too (since when they crossed the 50-50 divide their dreams became individual, although based on the shared QC experience).

End product? More or less exactly what we have. The Hill CE4

In conclusion I would suggest the daring idea that there are no real EXOTIC UFOs. That is why we do not have any photographs of them. Every single CE4 is potentially reducible to a "trigger IFO" - Venus, the Moon, an aircraft, or whatever. But built on that foundation comes a QC Experience impressing a message which we should not ignore.

I still believe that to search the universe for alien radio messages is a waste of time and money. The messages are coming in, but not via outer space.

Paul Whitehead is a trained journalist who has worked both in Australia and the UK.

He is currently involved with computer companies, writing on new developments in the field such as optical technology which is probably the next major step in computer advancement. Optical technology currently allows for such advanced techniques as being able to contain on a disc no bigger than a 45rpm record some 250,000 A4 pages of information.

It is possible that, eventually, optical technology will replace that based on the electrical system and which would work perhaps a million times faster.

Paul's interests include the current and future use of computer technology and space travel.

The Extraterrestrial Hypothesis (ETH) for UFOs has taken something of a battering in recent years, with ever more elaborate concepts being put forward in the phenomenon.

Perhaps the most patently bizarre of these theories is the "birth trauma" hypothesis. Surely nothing is more natural than birth; why, therefore, should the experience we have of it (as babies) turn into a psycho nightmare involving kidnappings and inspection by "aliens"?

Mass, international hallucinations and a newly neurotic human race traumatised by the thought of nuclear war, pollution and overcrowding, have also been suggested as explanations.

These explanations have serious flaws, but if either was correct, we should be worried about our condition.

SERIOUS CONSIDERATION

Such is the unusual nature of many recent theories of what UFOs are, that the ETH becomes less of an extreme view and once again demands serious consideration. Indeed, if we are to believe previously secret documents released by the United States Air Force and the CIA, the ETH was (and may still be) taken seriously; certainly seriously enough to result in reports that talked about alien spacecraft, as well as the continued collection of reports.

Meanwhile, a quiet revolution has been taking place among some scientists and astronomers, resulting in acknowledgement that our galaxy may be teeming with intelligent life, and even that space probes may have been despatched long ago by advanced species in other parts of our galaxy.

It is only a short step from space probes to artificial planets, "scout" ships and the like. Our own scientists are openly speculating that the human race will one day take up residence in giant space stations, and gradually colonise accessible parts of our galaxy.

PROPULSION SYSTEMS

Professor Freeman Dyson, a British born scientist who works at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton, USA, has already proposed the type of propulsion systems that might take us to the stars.

He thinks that even the most advanced of these could be built by man in the next 200-300 years. He also thinks that we should look for signs of advanced technology in our galaxy; artificial planets orbiting around a star would be "picked up" by our radio telescopes because of their low heat radiation, he says.

In Omni (Volume 7 No.5) in 1985 he had the temerity to suggest "I think it's quite likely that there are other species zipping around, exploring the far reaches of interstellar space."

Eric Jones, an astrophysicist at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico, believes that one million humans will be living in the outer parts of our solar system by the year 2050.

Another interesting figure in the new debate about extra-terrestrial intelligence is Professor Archibald Fry, who works at Glasgow University's Department of Astronomy. It was his comment in THE OBSERVER newspaper of December 30th, 1984 that the human race "may have been placed in quarantine while aliens wait to see if we grow up or blow up" which prompted me to pick up the telephone and speak to him.

SEARCH FOR INTELLIGENCE

Yes, he reiterated, intelligent life may be very common in our galaxy. "I believe we will make radio contact with another civilisation within a decade," he said. "Other civilisations may be ten a penny."

He also said it was "possible" that at least one landing by an alien spacecraft could have taken place in earth's history. He also talked about probes being sent out to search for intelligence; "there may be one or more of these spacecraft still in our solar system", he added.

Professor Fry travelled to New Delhi in November, 1985 to attend a 10 day general assembly of the International Astronomical Union. One of the subjects discussed was that of SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence), a project which was agreed upon when the Union last met four years ago.

The subject of SETI brings us to another figure who is not shy about making bold pronouncements about "life out there." He is Dr. Frank Drake, a noted American astronomer who was involved in the first serious effort to listen in to radio waves from other civilisations - Project Ozma - in 1960.

In a recent essay entitled "Intelligent Life In The Universe," Dr. Drake wrote: "The existence of other intelligent civilisations in space, perhaps exciting worlds beyond our wildest dreams, is a firm prediction of quite normal science."

The only problem "is how to find them and communicate with them." Some critics of the SETI programme have commented: "If our galaxy is teeming with intelligent life, how come we haven't picked up any broadcasts?"

We have heard Dr. Fry's statement that the Earth could be in quarantine. But that might not stop us from listening in to the occasional broadcast. Dr. Drake has answers to his critics, and they will be unravelled in the following argument.

Astronomers, he wrote, estimate that there are very roughly 10,000 civilisations in our galaxy. This number "is based on our rapidly growing knowledge of the structure and evolution of our galaxy and of biochemistry."

On some planets, advanced technologies had probably evolved, and these manifested themselves in several ways: radio transmissions, light emissions, and perhaps "massive technological projects such as space colonies and the construction of stellar and planetary systems."

(We may presume that by "stellar systems," Dr. Drake means the establishment of artificial planets and/or giant space stations around other suns - not the sun in the solar system of the aliens.

We can only guess what his private feelings are about whether any civilisation has already reached our solar system and has established a base somewhere inside it).

EVOLUTION

The overall number of technical civilisations would be proportional to the rate of star formation - and this rate, Dr. Drake wrote, "is something we now know very well." (Dr Fry made points similar to these when I asked him how he could be so sure that large numbers of civilisations existed).

Interestingly, the rate of star formation is approximately one per year, according to astronomers' findings. But how many of these new stars will have planetary systems?

The answer, we are told is "virtually every star" - a decision reached after the study of the orbital spin of stars, and the quantity of material "spun off" by spinning stars; all stars spin, and almost all will throw sufficient material off for a solar system to form.

It is "quite possible", Dr. Drake said, that about one new planet capable of supporting life "is born each year." And biochemical experiments in laboratories had concluded that life would arise on these planets.

Evolution would lead to intelligence. "The odds are that most life-bearing planets will in time produce a technological society."

The "startling conclusion" to all this is quite simply the following, according to Drake, "Our galaxy probably produces about one new technological civilisation per year."

SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY

He went further and speculated that once a year, a new civilisation transmits into space light and radio waves. If only we knew where to point our instruments and upon which frequency to listen, our radio telescopes could detect the radio waves.

But that is not all the story. Although "billions of civilisations" may have come into existence, they probably do not beam messages for long periods. Indeed, they may decide to conserve the high cost energy involved and just turn off.

In addition, increased sophistication of their technology would make them more difficult to detect from Earth (the spread of cable television and fibre optics, and a reduction of military radar systems would all result in less artificial radiation 'noise')

Dr Drake theorised that "many older and more advanced civilisations are still there, but they are more difficult to find." Some astronomers believed that each civilisation might beam out messages in short bursts for periods of only 30 years, before shutting off transmissions. Others thought that space exploration by the aliens would cause them to be detectable for very long periods - perhaps millions of years.

Presuming that some civilisations are transmitting messages, how do we go about detecting them?

THE SEARCH HAS BEGUN

Unfortunately, the projected number of detectable advanced civilisations, 10,000 (detectable is a key word), is minute compared with the quantity of stars in our galaxy. Only one star in 10 million might support such a civilisation, and that means searching among 10 million stars for signs of intelligent activity. Of course, many of these 10 million may support solar systems with undetectable or less detectable civilisations.

The search has already begun, but it will become more practical once more sophisticated radio transmitters are built. These will be capable of making multiple scans across many frequencies; one radio receiver capable of monitoring one million channels is planned, but the ultimate goal for astronomers is a receiver system that can monitor a billion channels at once.

The number of combinations of direction in the sky and radio frequency that have to be tested for intelligent signals totals nearly one million, according to Drake.

So, even with one million tests, we would hardly have begun. Each direction/radio frequency combination might have to be subjected to one million, or one billion, scans at different frequencies.

There are additional problems. It is assumed that transmission will not be continuous; on/off times have to be searched for. Our receivers have to be set up in the "right" place to gain maximum sensitivity for a signal - but who is to judge which is the right place? It could be anywhere on our planet, and even then we are talking about just one signal. What about others from other planets - they too will demand an optimum location from our receiver. Lastly, there is the polarisation of electromagnetic signals to consider - which means that in order not to miss a signal, both extremes (polarisations) of a band width have to be searched.

FUNDING

Even in the radio frequency spectrum where it is believed most aliens would transmit, and where general cosmic radiation noise would have least effect upon a weak signal, there are some one hundred million (100,000,000) frequencies to be searched. If all the above problems are taken into account, the search has to be widened many, many times that figure of 100 million.

Such a search can be achieved by our present technology, said Dr. Drake, but at a cost of many millions of dollars.

Let us not despair. Money is forthcoming for SETI projects. An IRAS (Infra-Red Astronomy Satellite) in orbit has recently detected material around stars that may be solar systems in formation or already formed, Professor Fry says, and next year a European satellite, Hipparchus, will search 100,000 nearby stars for possible solar systems.

Its work will be complemented by a giant telescope to be put into orbit by NASA's Space Shuttle. Astronomers plan to point it at planetary systems detected by Hipparchus; and some believe it will be possible to carry out spectroscopic analyses which would show up the presence of various chemicals on these planets.

NASA intends to "hunt for aliens" not by spectroscopy but telescopes, equipped with computer-aided all-frequency scanners - turning them to the most promising-looking planetary systems.

Dr. Drake has stated that scientists and astronomers would not be spending so much effort, and money, on the search for aliens if they did not have a strong belief that there are many out there, waiting to be discovered.

(continued on page 13)

A myth is a story which offers an explanation for some fact or phenomenon; for example, it was thought that an echo was the voice of a mischievous nymph who pined away for love of Narcissus. Myths exist to explain nearly every natural phenomenon, but there is another class of myths or legends which are not related to observation. These are myths regarding the existence of entities such as fairies, mermaids, ghosts, the Yeti or even the Loch Ness Monster. Evidence for the existence of such entities is scant or vanishingly small, leading rational minds to the conclusion that the entities concerned are figments of human imagination.

It is to this latter class of myth that UFOs belong. Here I define a UFO as an aerial craft of extraterrestrial (or unknown) origin containing or controlled by alien (or non-human) beings. (Definition of a 'UFO' as an object which cannot be identified is, as I have shown⁽¹⁾ a barren exercise.) Interest in UFOs centres on the possibility that they are evidence not only for the existence of aliens but that those aliens are visiting Earth, albeit covertly. This therefore is the UFO myth, a belief system that may be called ufoism.

NETWORK OF BELIEFS

Ufoism is a network of beliefs centred on the idea that one or more alien civilisations is monitoring human progress by discreet observation, and may have been doing so for a long time. Once thought to come from Mars or another planet in the Solar System, they are now believed to originate on a planet which may orbit distant stars. Such a belief necessitates acceptance that the aliens are more advanced than mankind, have superhuman powers, great longevity and infinite wisdom. It is assumed that they have advanced (or even impossible) mechanisms, such as a faster-than-light space drive, antigravity, death-rays, etc. Lord Rankeillor, in the 1979 House of Lords debate on UFOs, claimed that UFOs give off blinding lights, crippling rays, beams that immobilise humans, start forest fires, eradicate crops and cause great distress to animals! Ufoism may believe that aliens created mankind in the distant past, that what appears to be human achievements were actually the work of aliens, that the whole of modern science is a crude lie, that alien science is materially and spiritually superior to ours (involving 'fundamental forces' like ESP, 'etheric waves', etc) and that the aliens would give us the 'truth' but for wicked scientists and politicians who conceal the facts from the public. Ufoism includes the belief that UFOs abduct humans and/or their vehicles and that they have been responsible for the death of at least one pilot. It is also generally believed that world governments know the 'truth' about UFOs, indeed that they possess a crashed UFO and its dead occupants. No matter how some modern ufologists try to eschew the ETH, the above beliefs underlie their interest in the subject.

FOUR DECADES

Ufoism has its origins in the years immediately after 1947 in the western USA; in that year the term 'flying saucer' was coined. Initially it seems that there was no implication that what Kenneth Arnold reported were alien craft. Indeed he always remained convinced that he had seen some secret US devices, it appears to have been Ray Palmer who spawned the myth by hinting that the space craft described in the science fiction which he published might

already have arrived. Once conceived, this idea was bound to grow, and ufoist groups sprang up everywhere.

Although no explanation for Arnold's report has appeared (at least not a convincing one), it is known that the 1946 Swedish reports of 'ghost rockets' were due to misperception of common celestial sights at a time of great public apprehension (regarding Russian intentions)⁽²⁾. The incident illustrates the fact that people who are told that something strange can be seen in the skies will subsequently report seeing such objects even though the objects they actually saw were conventional. They will even search the records to find historical accounts that appear to conform to the myth. It can hardly be coincidental that ufoism appeared at a time of post-war international tension, when powerful new weapons were being tested, and when there was growing interest in the possibility of space travel. The growth of ufoism was assisted by obsessive military secrecy; the interest and silence of the authorities was bound to lead to a belief that what they knew could not be released to the public. In fact there are no grounds for believing that the authorities knew any more about UFOs than the public, but because government agencies never admit ignorance their ignorance was unsuspected.

FAILURE TO DEFINE TERMS

Acceptance of the UFO myth was the basis for the formation of clubs and associations all over the world as ufoism spread in the 1950s and 1960s. In particular, these organisations unquestioningly accepted that such things as UFOs existed. Even when the US Air Force innocently redefined the area of interest as 'unidentified flying objects' the myth did not change. MUFON, for example, asked themselves whether UFOs were alien craft or an 'unknown physical or psychological manifestation'. But the Air Force definition now covered 'balloons, astronomical bodies, birds, and so forth(sic)'. Their failure to define terms has led to much confusion, and they assumed (wrongly) that people can readily distinguish between an alien spacecraft (or even a human one) and 'familiar' objects. The fact that there are many innocent visual stimuli which the public cannot identify should have alerted incipient ufoists to the possibility that all UFOs are in fact misperceptions of such stimuli. But this null hypothesis was ignored by most ufologists, who were convinced that there was no smoke without fire. How could millions of people all over the world report UFOs if there were none?

HARDLY OBJECTIVE

When BUFORA was founded it naturally set itself the problem of investigations of UFO phenomena (sic). But this begged the question of the existence of such phenomena, a mistake compounded by the lack of appropriate definitions. Clearly BUFORA is founded on acceptance of the UFO myth. But, as Allen Hynek has observed, there are no UFOs, there are only UFO reports. This is an important distinction. If BUFORA's founders had been truly 'unbiased' and 'scientific' they would have set themselves to investigate UFO reports (as reports of something the observer could not identify). In that way no presumption would have been made about whether or not UFOs (as alien craft) existed, and no definition would have been necessary.

In fact BUFORA's investigation network does investigate UFO reports, but not always without prejudice. Since the existence of BUFORA subsumes the myth, the investigations of reports does also. Inviting someone to submit a UFO report is to suggest to them that

there is something truly mysterious to be seen in the skies. Few investigators are sceptical enough to believe that all the reports they see have conventional explanations, but an investigator who believes in the myth can hardly be objective. It is evident that credulous investigators inevitably find 'evidence' for the existence of UFOs; on the other hand sceptical ones never do so! But it is better to be sceptical than credulous. The fact is that no substantial evidence has ever been found for the existence of UFOs. After nearly 40 years ufoism can produce neither an alien nor his craft; all there has ever been are rumour and suspicion. Although a small percentage of UFO reports remain unexplained (in conventional terms) this is certainly due to lack of adequate data. It is often impossible to exclude the possibility of a hoax or to determine the psychological state of witnesses. Parsimony demands that the 'unexplained' residue be regarded as a group of reports which would have conventional explanations if enough was known about the circumstances. It is perverse to regard the residue as evidence that the myth is true.

CULPABILITY

Although there may be other intelligences in the Galaxy (the existence of intelligent races in other galaxies is hardly relevant) it is certain that they have not discovered us any more than we have discovered them. Indeed, due to the physical obstacles, humans and aliens may never meet. Ufoism is a delusion born of misperception and imagination, and its followers are wasting their time (except when useful physical, psychological or sociological data is obtained incidentally). Some ufoists are more culpable in propagating the myth and misleading others. Ufoism is, as Jung suggested, a modern myth, a space-legend.

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- (1) "What Is A UFO?" JTAP Vol.2.No.1. pp 3-7.
 - (2) "A Ghost Rocket Tailpiece." BUFORA BULLETIN. September, 1983. pp 13-16.
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(continued from page 10)

The next few years promise to be exciting times for anybody interested in astronomy, SETI and, dare I say it, UFOs. But in many ways, even this work may be only scratching the surface; new developments in physics mean that new ways may be found of communicating information instantaneously over vast distances. There may even be parallel universes, complete with advanced technologies, awaiting discovery.

Professor Hynek's highly-regarded Center for UFO Studies commands respect and admiration for its unique work in the field. Its publications include the Associate Newsletter, the International UFO Reporter and the (infrequently produced) Journal of UFO Studies.

Interesting cases appear often in IUR, and are usually thoroughly investigated, or at least so one is led to believe.

One such is entitled "A REMARKABLE DOUBLE ENCOUNTER" in the November/December, 1983 (Vol.8 No.6). In brief, a CE1 encounter was reported to CUFOS towards the end of March and the beginning of April, 1982 on two separate occasions, the first one lasting as long as 15-20 minutes, but the second a mere two minutes. A mother and her daughter were the witnesses in both cases. Professor Hynek dramatically refers to them as "the closest I have personally come to a CE-1 event." This is because No.2 occurred shortly after he had been talking on the telephone to the principal witness. His report was deliberately delayed for no very plausible reasons. What makes this case of special interest in his opinion is the involvement of "intelligent and articulate witnesses" who are eager to get to the root of things without that fear of ridicule which is so common among sensitive people who have had anomalous experiences of one kind or another.

For reasons which presently become apparent I was specially attracted to these incidents, though not necessarily for the same reasons as Hynek. The principal witness, who courageously gave permission for her name to be revealed, is Nanette Morrison, an administrative co-ordinator of the Neuroscience Program at the University of Virginia Medical School. (Her mother is a school-teacher).

The data are as follows: Miss Morrison was travelling in the evening along a familiar road which was ordinarily busy, but on that particular occasion almost deserted. This circumstance of course sounds a familiar note. Nearly home, she saw a "large, brilliant light in the sky." By the familiar process of assimilation she attributed it to a large plane travelling in her direction, seemingly motionless and noiseless. Escalation soon reared its ugly head: the percipient "seemed to be drawing near (?) to the craft" which, moreover, to deepen the mystery, was "hovering" motionless in front of her. The apparent sudden disappearance from sight of the "craft" did nothing to soothe her nerves. It resembled a "submarine", but brilliantly illuminated by what she had originally taken to be the landing lights. A variety of emotions, but above all curiosity, all but overwhelmed the percipient. It seems clear from the account that the process of escalation had by now gone so far that the original aeroplane had been completely transformed into a "space craft." Although the light was too bright to discern its precise shape, she yet distinguished "at least five different compartments" as sources of illumination. Obviously (one may safely assume) in an altered state of consciousness, both sounds and traffic were blocked out. Admittedly, she was now "frantic with excitement!"

The sequel was no less sensational. Nanette had a long telephone conversation with Hynek two days later. Only half an hour after it found her looking for her "friends" through the living-room window, when she espied a "huge object" in the sky; it is des-

cribed as "soundlessly suspended" above the horizon. It was also seen by her mother, before it "signalled" to her and departed, needless to say, at breakneck speed. The two women concluded, with less than irrefutable logic, that both sightings were of the same "space craft."

ENTHUSIASM

It occurred to the writer that Miss Morrison's original interpretation of the sighting in normal terms could not be ruled out, notwithstanding the two ladies' enthusiasm, which seemed to be to some extent shared by the investigator. I also recalled that Professor Ian Stevenson, a leading authority on spontaneous anomalies, belongs to the Department of Behavioral Medicine and Psychiatry within the same school of Medicine at the University of Virginia at Charlottesville. I accordingly approached him by letter, enquiring whether he would be interested in collaborating "in the investigation of some strange sightings of a very brilliant, dazzling light which yet seemed to have a properly defined structure." If I was slightly apprehensive about involving him, it was because the Parapsychological Association had been rather dismissive of UFOs in the past, and had in fact turned down, as of little value or relevance, a paper of mine on the PSI/UFO interface. However, as I could not fail to point out, Stevenson's name had suggested itself for two cogent unrelated reasons:

1. The Professor has for many years done outstanding work in a related field; and
2. The case in question was on his very doorstep.

It also seemed likely that he was in fact personally acquainted with the two ladies, or at least with the daughter - Nanette - whereas Hynek had not met them. It could also be argued without any disparagement of our leading ufologist that Dr. Stevenson has additional specific professional qualifications that are very pertinent in this instance, including psychological insight and powers of assessment.

At my instigation Stevenson interviewed mother and daughter, but is at present reluctant to circulate the actual transcripts. As for Hynek, he is known to have attended a meeting of the Society for Scientific Exploration (which specifically concerns itself with anomalies) at Charlottesville, but made no effort to contact the Morrises. Had he paid them a visit, he might have found out that they live not (as stated in the March/April issue of IUR) 25 miles but a mere 5½ miles from the airport. This, of course, puts a totally different complexion on the whole affair, as a descending aircraft would look much larger and more menacing at such short range.

It is true that as to the accuracy of the womens' reports, there seems to be not much room for doubt or at least questions of honesty. Stevenson interviewed them two years later, and there was close agreement with the original statements, which were correctly reproduced by Hynek. There was neither embellishment nor loss of detail after this long interval of time. Although this may be described as a collective case, it may be argued that this aspect should not be unduly stressed, as Mrs Morrison is only a secondary witness, and may conceivably have been more influenced by her excited daughter than was realised at the time. This, however, is

strongly denied by the parties concerned.

Dr. Hynek's original article did not remain unchallenged. Bruce Martin, Professor of Chemistry at Charlottesville, made a strong attack on his ex-colleague in THE SCEPTICAL INQUIRER (Vol.9 pp. 56ff), entitled "An Eye-Opening Double Encounter", with the interesting sub-heading "Does a scientific reputation guarantee objectively towards paranormal reports" (my italics). (The answer to this rhetorical question is that it does not indeed guarantee objectivity in any field; see Broad, W. and Wade, M. BETRAYERS OF TRUTH. London 1983). What interests me is the implication that some UFOs maybe psychic phenomena, with which I am in basic agreement. THE SCEPTICAL INQUIRER, an American publication on anomalies, has a wide range. In order to discredit parapsychology and ufology, it habitually links them with every conceivable kind of folly, so that some would regard it as itself not perhaps the most objective of media. Eminent scholars originally associated with it (e.g. Truzzi and Dingwall) have long ago broken away from it. Nonetheless, the pertinency of many of Martin's observations and criticisms is not to be denied. His logical knowledge of the district is outstanding as he has lived in the area for 25 years.

Another long-time resident, Jimmy Smith, is quoted as having written to the editor of the DAILY PROGRESS, an evening paper which carried the original news item on April 2nd, 1983.

It transpired that Smith and his brothers had seen "a brightly lighted object" at roughly the same time (i.e. at about 11.30pm) which they had identified as a passenger jet, possibly a 737. And as a matter of fact it was confirmed that just such a plane had actually landed at about 11.45pm. What was not explained, or enquired into, was the strange fact that, according to Mr Smith, it "was unusual in that it had a large number of brilliant white lights on it. It was going very slow, it was barely making any noise, and it was quite low. It was so brightly lit that it looked like a flying Christmas tree." This percipient remarked that it was likely to be in trouble because of the excessive number of lights, the like of which he had never seen before: "it could have been mistaken for something else."

The Smith brothers did not hear the engines till the plane had passed over; a not uncommon experience. The illusion that aircraft perceived as UFOs or otherwise, are "pacing" vehicles was also mentioned by this correspondent. Depending on their angle of approach, they often appear to be stationary ("hovering") or else to move slowly.

Nanette, who so favourably impressed the investigators, has interests in psychical research as well as in ufology. It has been suggested that some of her involvements in the former have tended to be uncritical, but be that as it may. Her approach to UFOs is certainly naive rather than critically analytical. Professor Martin, understandably puzzled by the claims attributed to Hynek by the chief witness wrote but predicatably obtained no reply. He was therefore all the more surprised by Hynek's subsequent piece which evidently justified the original positive conclusions. It quotes, but misdates the Smith letter in a shortened and inaccurate form, altogether omitting the important final paragraph. It also contains false and misleading information about the position of the Morrison residence.

Martin concludes that: "Evidently the parts of the Morrison UFO sighting that are not imagination () may be attributed to jets that happened to come in for a landing at a certain angle as

well as the difficulty even experienced observers have in estimating distances to lighted objects in the night sky." But to be quite fair to the percipients, there were some extraordinary features such as the great number of lights on the plane that made it look like a Christmas tree! It is therefore just as well that the brunt of the attack is directed not against them but against the illustrious Professor of Astronomy and his inexplicable failure to study the case competently. He is berated for conducting his investigations by telephone without personal contact. What Martin did not even know was that Hynek did in fact pay a visit to Charlottesville for a long discussion with Stevenson - about reincarnation! But he failed to use this opportunity to meet the percipients on home ground in spite of his perennial championship of this somewhat dubious encounter, which even now he accepts at face value. Hynek would do well to re-read Allan Hendry's excellent HANDBOOK (to which he contributed an Introduction) with its advice on such elementary matters as checking incoming flights (page 63). Psychological researchers have always insisted on the necessity of eliminating all normal causes in alleged anomalies: a rather obvious precaution! Or, as Martin puts it, Hynek is at fault in failing to observe "the practice of meticulous checking and rechecking of evidence" - standard practice with meticulous scientists. By dropping his standards, and failing to take proper account of criticism, Hynek has done a dis-service to ufology which is still struggling to become "respectable." It is a subject which many of us regard as of the greatest importance and scientific interest.



CONFERENCE

BUFORA will be holding a TWO DAY CONFERENCE
from SATURDAY, AUGUST 23rd to MONDAY, AUGUST 25th,
1986. This is the weekend of the August Bank Holiday.
The venue will be in London and costs will be kept
to a minimum.

Further details on cost, speakers, and venue
will appear in future issues of the BULLETIN and JTAP.
Meanwhile, please make a note in your diary.
We hope to see you there.

This article, by Jenny Randles, is taken from the September/October, 1985 issue of Miss Randles' magazine NORTHERN UFO NEWS.

The Day case was discussed at BUFORA's High Wycombe conference in August, 1983.

Most of you will be familiar with the movie film taken by building surveyor, Peter Day, at approximately 9.05-9.10am on 11th January, 1973 near the village of Cuddington on the Oxfordshire/Buckinghamshire border (For full account see UFOs: A BRITISH VIEWPOINT much updated UFO REALITY - which includes a fine colour still on the cover).

The case has long been regarded as a "UFO classic" (not least by me) and I have frequently gone on record as saying it's the only piece of film I would stick my neck out and call a UFO. More recently I have been saying AUP, instead of UFO, because if it truly is unidentified then it is probably a natural phenomenon of some sort. However, the question before us now is precisely this - is it unexplained?

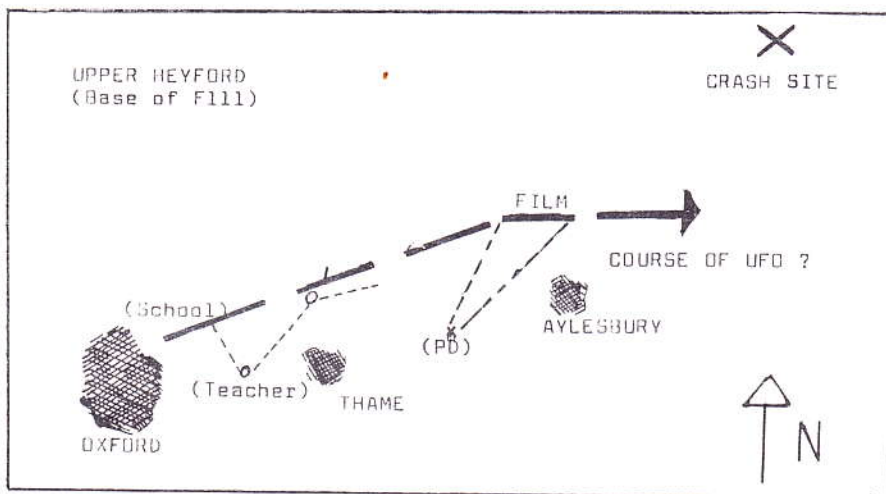
To recap: Peter Day was travelled to a 9.30am appointment in Lower Winchendon when he saw the object (a classic orange ball of light). The day was dull and overcast (2000ft cloud ceiling) but it was daylight, of course. PD observed the object for a couple of minutes (going parallel with the Thame-Aylesbury road on which he drove) and then pulled off on a side road, wound down his window and filmed it with a Pacemaker 200 using zoom lens and Super 8 film. The orange ball was low on the horizon heading from north to north-east across treetops. About 15-20 seconds of film was obtained, but the UFO vanished instantly. PD says he stopped filming exactly at that point, but only the very last frame (which is blurred) fails to show the UFO. In other words it vanishes in the space of one eighteenth of a second and this is remarkably fast reflex action for PD! (Although he was expert at filming aircraft - including the Red Arrows).

After his appointment PD went to report it but some witnesses already had. These were children at Chilton school, near Long Crendon, about 3 miles west north west of PD. A teacher was also witness. They appeared to have seen the same thing only closer (as PD was facing north when he filmed the UFO). A joint BUFORA-CONTACT investigation had occurred within a few weeks but the case report was not in the BUFORA case files.

Working only on PD's testimony (and his second hand observations of the stories from the school - PD having been there to show his film) JR and Peter Warrington spent much time on the case. KODAK evaluated the film in 1978 and pronounced it "genuine". Their view was that it showed a "fireball." With the aid of KODAK and Ian Ridpath a seminar was then set up in London for about eight leading atmospheric physicists and ball lightning specialists. Ian Ridpath felt the film might be the first even taken of ball lightning. The experts all came out against that and one even said - "It's a UFO - why are you afraid to call it that?" But none of them accepted the offer to take the film back to their research centres or universities for study.

Next an MoD munitions expert saw it but had not answer, save a helicopter with an orange searchlight on top. He said that these had been used experimentally but when PW and JR checked we found this was after January, 1973 and not from Upper Heyford.

So to the August, 1983 High Wycombe seminar which debated the case. We finally succeeded in finding the case file (which was woe-



inept as expected - although some 40pp long and including much data of interest) SCUFORI, the Swindon group and Ken Phillips from BUFORA agreed to a joint reinvestigation. Their two-year study (expanding the case file to 100pp and bringing it slap up to date with eighties investigatory techniques) was completed in June and threw a real spanner in the works. For they seem to have solved the case.

Firstly, it must be noted that SCUFORI did not interview any other witness but PD. They concentrated on the fact that an F-111 from USAF Upper Heyford was known to have crashed that same morning. PD had himself brought this to attention, but he had insisted that his wife had heard of the crash on the 9 am news thus negating any possibility that he saw the jet at 9.05. SCUFORI proved this wrong. The F-111 had crashed at 9.46 am at the village of North Crawley (approx 30 miles north of Cuddington - in a north-east direction - toward which the object on the film was headed). A Major and Captain were aboard. Both ejected safely using rocket boosters. The plane burst into flames on impact; although eye-witnesses do say it plunged almost vertically out of cloud on fire at that point. Despite attempts no data about the reason for the crash has been supplied by the USAF or MoD. But eyewitnesses at Bletchley say the jet was circling them for 40 minutes as if in trouble (but not on fire). (JR having read the micro film records of the "TIMES" since receiving the SCUFORI file has added new details and confirmed that the F-111 circled the M1 looking for a place to crash land without danger to civilians and using up fuel.

Taking these things into account SCUFORI conclude that the UFO must be regarded as the F-111, because it would be grossly improbable that two unusual events occurred in the same area of sky at about the same time. It is said in passing that we might argue that the UFO caused the F-111 crash, but nobody saw UFO and F-111 together - a damning factor. From Upper Heyford (about 15 miles NW of PD) to the impact point the F-111 could have flown the course depicted on the film. However SCUFORI do not explain why the object on the film bears no resemblance to an F-111. Clearly it is flying a steady course and cannot be on fire (if the orange ball on the film is an F-111 on fire it would impact onto the ground there and then because

it would be literally ablaze all over). SCUFORI make a suggestion that either PD has timings wrong (and so the film was taken nearer the crash time), or a small fire broke out previously, was extinguished, and this precipitated the emergency which led to the aircraft flying around in circles before it crashed.

Whilst one has to see some of the logic of their argument there are considerable problems about accepting the F-111 solution. PD did not film the object later than 9.10 (I have discussed SCUFORI's ideas with him - which they had not done - and I am sure of that). In addition the other witnesses are recorded in full in the original BUFORA report and their testimony clearly puts the time at 9.00-9.05. (The children were just about to enter school and the teacher got to school five minutes after her sighting at about 9.05). They cannot all be wrong.

It is very hard to accept that the object on the film is an F-111 in any guise. Under enormous magnification no structure behind the ball of orange is visible. Besides which the testimony of eight girls and the teacher, Elizabeth Thompson (who was south of the school near Ickford) are detailed and very consistent. Mrs Thompson even doubted that what she saw was what was on the film because it looked much bigger. Yet finally, she accepted this. These nine additional witnesses all say the "beachball" like object rotated (anti-clockwise if viewed from above), hovered, moved below trees and then climbed upwards again. And it was very close to them. Not one of them heard any sound.

Two sets of weather data are available (one obtained by BUFORA in 1973 from Benson and one from SCUFORI at Abingdon). Both are pretty consistent and give visibility as 7-9km. At that maximum possible distance (with winds at 7 knots from the direction the UFO travelled it is hard to conceive an F-111 being silent. As attractive as the explanation is we must accept some pretty unacceptable things if we are to call this case solved.

Clearly, because with a case like this (three independent groups of witnesses and solid evidence) the potential is so great we have not heard the last of this twelve-year old saga. SCUFORI have certainly chucked a spanner in the works, and can we really presume the F-111 crash to be pure coincidence? But as to the final truth having now been found, I do not feel that such an opinion (quoted by SCUFORI in several recent newspaper articles) is justified.

Play causes panic

An overly realistic radio play which dramatised a nuclear confrontation between Russia and America caused panic in Finland as thousands of listeners jammed emergency telephone lines to find out what they should do.

A replay of "War of the Worlds"?

"Daily Telegraph"
December 31st, 1985

I have been perplexed and concerned over repeated ideas mooted in recent issues of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW by editor Gordon Creighton. His view is that there are very good reasons for the lack of interest in UFOs. This depression is undoubtedly real. I feel it as a professional writer on UFO topics, books sell miserably and publishers are increasingly wary of taking them on. BUFORA suffers also, as the current dearth of members shows. Running a group on just 200 or 300 people provides continual financial headaches for Council.

Creighton argues that there is both political and alien suppression of interest, which is not sociological but conspiratorial. UFO books are being deliberately removed from libraries, or not stocked. Aliens are abducting the human race by the millions and brain-washing them. The two go hand-in-hand because the same politicians who are pulling the strings in the libraries (and helping to shut down UFO groups) are really aliens in disguise or alien puppets.

Stated thus these notions sounds like the most crackpot of science-fiction plots. Steven Spielberg would have a field-day with FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, I think. Yet around the world ufologists of high repute are appearing to endorse these theories. At least, that is the obvious conclusion to be drawn since they have agreed, by the truck load, to be FLYING SAUCER REVIEW consultants.

TOTALLY INEXPLICABLE

Over the past couple of years BUFORA members Janet and Colin Bord and I have each shown our disapproval, both in print and directly to Gordon Creighton himself of the way in which he has steered FLYING SAUCER REVIEW towards the rocks. We have disassociated ourselves and have been removed from the magazine's masthead. Yet people such as J. Allen Hynek, Dr. Jacques Vallee, Ann Druffel and John Keel (together with several others) have, during the same time, been offered figure-head positions and accepted. Much as I find this totally inexplicable (and highly worrying) it illustrates that the Creighton style and the conspiracy theory has garnered its supporters.

Of course there has to be a connection between the lack of UFO interest and the decrease in the number of sightings reported. In an average year BUFORA now investigates a couple of dozen cases, whereas in 1977 and 1978 we were chasing up several hundred.

In the final issue of COMMON GROUND, 1984, before moving on to the editorial board of MAGONIA, Kevin McClure said that he felt we were about to become historians rather than investigators and that ufology as a modern subject of continuing activity was well on the way out. He furthermore made some strange (and frankly ridiculous) insinuations that the BUFORA investigation team was behaving oddly at a time when cases are few. If I read him right he is implying that some of us are in the process of inventing non-existent, high-strangeness encounters to fill in time!

Such a position is simply incredible, and completely without-foundation. As BUFORA's Director of Investigations I keep a close watch on our team and would certainly ensure that action was taken if there was even a suggestion that cases were being manufactured. I know of not one current or previous BUFORA investigator against whom such charges can seriously be levelled, and I feel that BUFORA

entitled to call for an explanation in print of Kevin McClure's innuendoes, either from him or his current MAGONIA colleagues.

REAL UFO PHENOMENON

My experience, in regard to what the decrease in cases means is this. People are less often reporting simple misidentifications. Some years back satellites were frequently reported as UFOs. I have now lost track of the last time that a satellite was the evaluated cause of a BUFORA case. This example can be extended and merely shows that the general public are, in the main, better educated about UFOs. The publicity and the serious books about the subject which have appeared in the last decade have created this situation.

Secondly, it is undeniably true that the proportion of unexplained or strange cases has risen in concert with the decline in overall sightings totals. The familiar figure of 10 per cent of reports being deemed unexplained was true when we were getting 100 cases. In other words around 10 cases per year were regarded as unknown. Now, out of a lower figure of say 40 cases, we are getting something like 20-25 per cent unknown. Overall, this gives a similar proportion of unknowns. The evidence suggests that the real UFO phenomenon continues to exist in a similar state to 10 years ago. Most of our case short-fall is attributed to loss of UFO sightings, not UFOs.

Another factor is that investigators have become better skilled. They can sniff out an UFO much earlier nowadays. Also, as part of our NIC policy we tend to concentrate upon cases which offer hope of adding useful information. So an investigator will devote months of work to one good case, rather than a few days each to assorted aircraft, Venus, misidentifications and satellite observations. This seems to be a better use of our limited time and resources, but may create the artificial impressions that we are emphasising the strength of UFO evidence or even inventing it. The truth is, I believe, that we are just better at our jobs.

So, if the UFO phenomenon continues to occur in a slightly different fashion than a few years ago, what price this conspiracy to prevent people from becoming interested?

There is evidence for what American ufologist and CE5 specialist Budd Hopkins calls the "silent epidemic." That is, a large body of people exist who have undergone a contact type experience but are consciously unaware of it. Whether this is because of influence from an alien source or because the CE4 and CE5 experience is essentially a consciousness phenomenon (and thus is forgotten as are dreams) remains open to debate. However, the silent epidemic is a long way removed from the silent conspiracy.

As a professional writer of UFO books I am obviously very interested in the theory that these are being deliberately removed or withheld from libraries. In several FLYING SAUCER REVIEW issues Gordon Creighton has published letters from readers supporting his opinion with reference to their own local library and its content. On no occasion has an alternative view been expressed.

ARRANT NONSENSE

I think it is time I refuted this arrant nonsense - and I am in a good position to do so. Whenever I travel around the country I take the opportunity to examine library shelves not only for my own books but for UFO titles in general. I also regularly watch the computer data-banks for all Cheshire, Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside libraries. These demonstrate unequivocally that the idea

of UFO books not being purchased is nonsense. In fact UFO books are bought by libraries in much greater numbers than one ought to expect from their shop sales. All my books are evenly spread around the country in numbers which I regard as substantial, and when compared with books on other subjects seem to confirm that (naturally biased!) assertion. Certainly I have never had any difficulty seeing a goodly stock of UFO titles in any of the libraries I regularly frequent (and I do not just go to the same one in Liverpool, Manchester or Warrington).

However for the past two years a more objective way to assess the truth of Creighton's ideas has presented itself. The government has introduced PLR (Public Lending Right). This is essentially a fund of £2m, distributed among registered authors to compensate for reduced sales of books in shops because they are borrowed from libraries. Samples are taken at random libraries all over Britain and computer estimates of the total borrowings nation-wide calculated. According to the number of borrowings an author achieves they receive a split of the PLR fund. Detailed computer figures are sent to authors each January.

NOT SPECTACULAR

I am not sure whether other British authors who have published UFO books would be willing to publicly quote their figures. If they would do so then they could help prove the folly of the library shelf conspiracy. I am certainly prepared to do this.

In 1984 (first payment year) I had three qualifying books. (They have to be published some time before calculation in order to figure in the 12 month tot-up). These registered around 21,000 loans. In 1985 my figure for the same three books, plus one more (and a short-run on a fifth, published just before the end of the computer calculations) was 28,000. This put my loans into the top 15 per cent of all the 9,000 authors registered in the UK - this was above the average loans per author of about 22,000.

I am not suggesting that these figures are spectacular. They are not. They hardly constitute mass reading of UFO books. But they compare very favourably with library loans for authors who publish books on subjects like railway trains or civil aviation. The figures surely demonstrate that there is no conspiracy to remove books from library shelves.

The silent conspiracy is a dangerous modern myth of the UFO world, where we already have enough problems to contend with. The time has come to answer it with logic and facts. For that is the only road to truth in any aspect of ufology.



CHANGED YOUR

ADDRESS?

**If so please let the
Association know**

This feature is Parts 2 and 3 of Brendan Taylor's series on the UFO phenomenon. Article 1 appeared in the May, 1985 issue of the BULLETIN.

CE2s are reports in which the witness(es) see objects and sometimes their occupants, but not so close for them to have any physical contact with either object or occupant(s). The objects seen can be divided into two types.

The first resembles two plates, one on top of the other, the second type is cylindrical in shape.

I have selected four cases to mention, two in America and two in the UK. The first was in New Mexico, America on April 24th, 1964. The person involved was a police patrolman, Lonnie Zamora who was chasing a speeding car when he heard an explosion and saw a blue flame in the sky. He thought that the explosion had occurred at an isolated dynamite shack so he headed in that direction. As he got near the shack he saw an egg-shaped object on the ground. Standing beside it he saw two figures. "They were very small and were wearing what looked like white overalls." After a few minutes they went inside the object and it took off in a south-westerly direction.

The next report comes from Wales, on April 14th, 1976. There were seven children who were witnesses to the event. According to one they were playing in the local park and then decided to go for a walk which took them past a field. One of the children said: "There was something in the field out of the ordinary, I have never seen anything like it in my life before, the most astonishing thing about it was the colour which was a brilliant green and silver, the shape of it was like a round football, it moved at all angles, backwards and forwards and from left to right. As we moved it moved as well, for example if we moved to the left so did this thing. We then ran as fast as we could, we did not hesitate but kept on running with fright."

The third experience also comes from the UK, on May 3rd, 1977. A man saw a strange object hovering over the nearby forest, he phoned the local police and they sent two of their officers to investigate. They took a look around and saw a bright red light hovering over a lake. The officers described the light as shaped like a bell tent viewed edgewise on, its size was like a thumbnail at arm's length. They also said that it pulsated continuously changing from brilliant red to dull red. After a while, according to them, it appeared to dissolve on the spot, the officers admitted at this point that they were scared, but they separated and searched the area. One saw a white crescent shaped object in the sky above him. This also dissolved on the spot, on further investigation nothing else was found, but there was a smell of burning near the lake.

The fourth report comes from Houston, Texas. The date, December 29th, 1980. Three people were involved, two middle-aged women and a young boy. They were in a car when they saw a bright light appear in the sky a little way ahead. It came towards them and, according to the witnesses, the object resolved itself into a diamond shape. It had flames shooting out from its underside. The heat made it impossible for them to continue on their journey. The heat, in fact, was so intense that it burnt their skin and the light hurt their eyes.

After a while the object left them and, after that, a large number of helicopters came flying over. The witnesses eventually reached their destination, but later the same night all three turned bright red as if sun-burned and all of them were sick. The sunburn and sickness lasted for two months.

What can be said about these four reports? If you go by the various descriptions, the objects resemble space-craft from other planets? Are these then what they are? The answer to this will be discussed in a later article. The CE2s contain many different characteristics. These are listed below:

1. In reports where animals are involved the animals' behaviour is strange, although this does not happen in all instances.
2. In some cases objects just dissolve on the spot.
3. In some cases occupants belonging to the object(s) are seen.
4. In some reports object(s) and their occupants act in a mischievous way.
5. In some reports, where witness(es) are in their car, the car engine ceases to function.
6. In some reports, where objects are seen to land, they leave behind visible traces, i.e. marks on the ground.
7. In some reports strange smells have been reported, also some people suffer from strange illnesses or have spots and rashes after the incident.

When animals encounter objects and sometimes their occupants, the animals appear to be frightened. This is not surprising since animals can hear on a higher level than humans, and may pick up noises which are inaudible to us. But not all animals behave in a strange manner. Why is this? Could it be that some species are not all that easily frightened?

Turning to objects that dissolve on the spot, and assuming that reports of this kind are genuine, what we could be dealing with here are objects that are not solid, at least not in the sense that we understand it (I will have more to say about this in a latter article).

Where occupants are seen they come in all shapes and sizes, from midgets to giants.

Not only do car engines cease to function, so too does anything which generates power. In America in late 1965 there was a power cut over New York, at the same time people reported seeing strange objects in the sky. Objects have also been reported over power lines and power stations.

Physical traces have been seen in the form of indentations in the ground.

Smells range from burning to perfume. Why these occur is not known.

The strange illnesses that some people get not only involve physical symptoms, but in some cases mental symptoms as well as personality changes. The former could probably be explained in terms of radiation sickness, but the latter is not so straight forward. Personality changes could be explained in two parts, first the experience that the person has had is in a way responsible for the changes and, secondly, it is the person(s) own attitude that is responsible for the changes.

This article concerns the most interesting and intriguing reports that are investigated in the whole UFO spectrum -namely contacts. Most people call contacts "close encounters of the third kind" but in my classification system contacts are of the first kind. The various questions - for example, are contacts genuine experiences will be examined in my next article. In this one I will relate three of the many reports that have been labelled "contacts."

The first happened in Birmingham in 1957. One person was involved, a woman who went upstairs to check on her sleeping infant daughter. As she went into the bedroom she had the feeling that she was being watched. The bedroom had a fireplace built into it and in it she saw a male figure. "He was tall and fair and wore a tight fitting garment which looked like plastic, there was a collar which rose up behind the head rather like in Elizabethan times." She said that his lips moved but nothing was heard. Then she realised that the questions that were racing through her mind were being answered mentally. The man said that he was from another world and that he was looking for something called Titanium.,(Titanium is a magnetic substance and the search for it is usually carried out in the ocean) the man also said that he came from a peaceful world, according to the witness, after he said what he wanted he to just disappeared, like turning off a television set.

In America, in 1961, a married couple, Betty and Barney Hill, were returning to their home from a holiday, when they noticed a bright object in the sky which was getting bigger and lower the whole time. The couple carried on with their journey and the last thing that they could remember was hearing an electronic bleeping sound. A couple of months after the experience both suffered from nightmares and also illness, they tried various doctors but to no avail. It was suggested that hypnosis be tried. What resulted was a contact experience. It transpired that after the couple heard the bleeping sound, their car slowed down in front of some men who, in turn, was standing in front of the object that the couple had seen in the sky. The men took the couple from their car and into their craft. Once inside both were given what appeared to be a medical examination. Betty Hill gave the following description of one of the men who appeared to be the leader: "He had a uniform on which consisted of a scarf, draped over this left shoulder, he had a round face with elongated eyes also thin lips that appeared to have no muscles." After the examination the beings took the couple back to their car.

The last alleged contact to be examined happened in the UK in 1978. A couple and their two daughters were returning home by car when they saw a bright light in the sky. When they arrived home they found that it was much later than they had expected, and a week after the sighting all of them were ill. One of the women kept having dreams about being take aboard a spacecraft. It was again decided that hypnosis might help. This showed that they had got out of the car and some unknown force carried them into a space-craft. Once inside all four were given a medical examination by beings who looked like humans. "The beings was 5ft tall, he was dressed in a one-piece uniform which was silver." All four were given a tour of the ship, the being spoke to them in English, and told them not to be afraid.

Contacts, if that is what they are appear to be divided into two categories - physical and mental. In the next article I will look at these more closely.

LETTERS

From: Stewart Campbell, BA.
BUFORA RIC, Edinburgh,
Scotland.

Sir -

Statistical Errors

Brendan Taylor (BULLETIN, May, 1985) claims that meteors exhibit different coloured lights, that stars appear to move, that fireballs (large meteors) have vapour trails, and that comets appear to move like weather balloons! None of these statements is true. Meteors (or 'shooting stars') appears as brief streaks of light of no particular colour; fireballs leave trails of incandescent gas (not a contrail) and move so quickly that no one could confuse them with an aircraft (although they can be confused with re-entering satellites); comets are rarely seen and their angular movement is so slow that they appear to be stationary in the sky - due to their long tails no one could possibly confuse them with anything else. It is true that stars can produce flashes of different colours, but it is an atmospheric effect seen only when a bright star is low on the horizon. As for ball lightning, its reported behaviour is more varied than Mr Taylor allows, and it would be interesting to know for what "else" it can be mistaken.

As if these errors were not enough he then steps out of his depth in statistics by attempting to draw conclusions from too few UFO reports. Even then his conclusions are arbitrary and unjustified. It is not clear what he is trying to show. I suggest he sticks to sociology. There is no basis for his suggestion that different people see different light spectra (if by that he means the range of visible wavelengths). Incidentally his "second report" is one first reported by me and which I attribute to an incidence of ball lightning. If, as he claims, 10 per cent of all reports are not explicable in terms of natural phenomena, that could be because

we do not yet know all about natural phenomena (like ball lightning).

From.: Michael Wootten.
RIC East Region, Leyton,
LONDON E17.

Sir -

Statistical Accuracies

It is very rare to see an article concerning raw UFO statistics in the pages of BUFORA BULLETIN. Usually because UFO statistics are a controversial subject and open to many interpretations. Mr Taylor's article (BULLETIN, May, 1985) has been brave enough to tackle this thorny part of ufology with enthusiasm and obvious thought.

Working on the BUFORA Case Database for over a year I have been able to process 400 or so case reports and, like Mr Taylor, have been able to analyse the data. Unlike him I have had it easy, the computer does all the sorting and searching for me. I doubt that I would even have attempted to analyse the data manually. Out of interest I tested Mr Taylor's findings using a sample of 250 cases from the early 1980s. Although my monthly distribution of sightings did not match with his the hourly distribution followed the exact pattern which he had produced (also validated by Hendry and Project URD).

Mr Taylor has set a very high example and has proved that there is no excuse for any member of this Association not to take an active role in ufology. I very much admire the amount of real effort needed by Mr Taylor to produce such an article.

From: John Paynter.
Lincolnshire.

Identical Craft?

Sir -

Compare Howard Menger and George Adamski photographs. It

is my considered opinion that they are of the same vehicle. They were both taken in the 1950s. Look at science fiction movies of the period and see how naive were peoples' impression of a UFO or spacecraft. They were clumsy looking machines like those in the Adamski/Menger photographs. Strange that these photographs should arrive then, in the 1950s when interest in "flying saucers" had just been kindled. How many vehicles have been highly classified terrestrial-origin vehicles? Perhaps to measure public awareness and reaction?

From: Ian Ridpath.
Journalist and Science
Correspondent. Brentford.
Middlesex TW8 8PY.

Sir -

Rendlesham Solution?

I was delighted to see Jenny Randles' admission in BUFORA BULLETIN (July, 1985) that she agrees with my conclusion that Colonel Halt and his men were watching the Orford Ness lighthouse when they made their tape recording in Rendlesham Forest on the night of December 29th, 1980. Of course, if the airmen mistook the lighthouse for a UFO on that occasion they could equally well have done so on the night of the first UFO sighting.

However, instead of drawing this straightforward conclusion, Jenny Randles claims that the Halt memo is part of a cover-up. The consequences of this assumption are alarming, for Colonel Halt's memo to the Ministry of Defence refers to events heard on this tape, including the sighting of the second UFO (now agreed to be the lighthouse). If Miss Randles is correct and the tape is part of a cover-up, then the Halt memo itself must also be part of that cover-up. That being so, the Halt memo can no longer be regarded as evidence for a "real" UFO event.

So has the USAF been fooling the MoD and the rest of us, all along? Or is there another, still

unreleased report that contains the real facts about Rendlesham? Indeed, since Miss Randles' own line of argument now discredits the very evidence on which the case is based, can we believe anything that she has so far told us about the case?

While she ponders these implications of her theory, the rest of BUFORA might like to consider that the simplest explanation could really be the correct one after all, i.e. that the Halt memo, the Halt tape, and the police eyewitness account are genuine, and that the flashing light was indeed the lighthouse.

I find it depressing that Jenny Randles continues to assert, without justification, that the lighthouse theory is invalid because other witnesses saw the UFO inside the forest. How can we be sure that these witnesses were seeing a UFO rather than the many man-made lights that are visible between the trees in this area? Will she publish triangulations, with accurate dates and times, to support her contention? Most shameful, she continues to assert that the radiation readings at the alleged landing site were significant, even though she has never investigated this aspect herself (had she done so, she would know that the radiation levels reported are not significant). It is clear that Jenny Randles does not allow inconvenient facts to interfere with her opinion.

I am by now quite used to having false motives assigned to me by Jenny Randles. Her latest calumny is that I am afraid of the truth. However, her writings about Rendlesham have shown that her idea of truth is not objective, documented truth. Is it possible that much of what she takes to be the truth is nothing more than a product of her own imagination?

JENNY RANDES REPLIES:

Wearisome as it is to have to reply to yet another Ian Ridpath letter about the Rendlesham Forest case, I am bound to do so. However, I am sure readers will notice that most of his letter (again) consists of rhetoric and accusations

against my integrity.

The Rendlesham Forest case stands or falls according to its facts. I wish a few more people would start debating them. They are a lot more interesting than some of the clap-trap published so far (e.g. one US magazine spent much valuable space describing Brenda, Dot and me in graphic and rather hilarious terms!)

Ian of course, misrepresents what I said about the Halt tape. I believe that on December 29th, 1980 Halt knew full well that the men under his command were seeing the lighthouse, and that its misperception and the tape recording were carefully engineered to be released (if necessary) at some strategic future point. I have many reasons for believing this, which would take too long to go into here. But, for example, several of the men noted how the senior officers were watching them more than the UFO. Halt himself said (a few months after the release of the tapes) "I guess you can say I knew more about what was going on that night than the men." The tape does (rather painfully) repeat precise bearings which make it impossible for the light to be anything other than Urford Ness, in my view.

Since I do not agree that Halt and all the other long-term senior officers were dumb enough to misperceive the lighthouse for hours; on (what would thus be) the second occasion, then that fact (plus the clues such as those above) suggests a ploy to create the misperception hypothesis.

I see no reason to suppose that the events on night two have anything to do with the very different claims made by witnesses to the events on night one. Certainly the testimony offered from that occasion is vastly more strange than that included on the Halt tape. So it is just not sensible to presume that the tape involves the lighthouse, ergo so must the events on December 27th, 1980. That is precisely what we are meant to believe. Alongside the fact that senior staff at Bentwaters are crazed (drunk? space-out?) im-

biciles, who are not fit to be in charge of a few pine trees let alone A10 jets or, God forbid - nuclear weapons!

If this is the answer - then how is it that Ian Ridpath and the media are not joining the cry to get the Yanks out? I for one do not wish our defence to be the province of folk who cannot tell a space-ship from a light-house and do not have the first idea what is, or is not, an abnormal radiation count.

Ian argues that if the Halt tape is suspect, so is the Halt memo and hence the evidence is all discredited. A beautiful illustration of his circular logic! I would remind him that Brenda, Dot and I pursued the case between January 1981 and June, 1983 totally ignorant that Colonel Halt had anything to do with it, and certainly without the dubious blessing of his infamous memo. Obviously, therefore, we felt that there was some evidence which does not stem from that supposed official report.

In SKY CRASH we make plain that the Halt memo poses more questions than answers. I am less than happy about the reason for its rather casual release in June, 1983 (after I I had stated in both THE UNEXPLAINED and OMNI that I felt the UFO story was a cover for something else). I have always been of the opinion that Halt's entire role in this affair has principally been one of "disinformation officer." It is not inconsequential (I submit) that he was the only alleged witness to stay on base for three and a half years after the event. Or that he just happened to be flown home and prompted the very weekend the NEWS OF THE WORLD sold the world its UFO crash fairy tale.

Ian is apparently ignorant of my lighthouse rebuttals, even though I have expressed countless facts which mitigate against his hypothesis both to face and in writing.

What saddens me most is that a UFO publication which supposedly defends truth (MAGONIA) has printed Ian Ridpath's explanation for the case but point-blank refused to print my reply! I wonder why?

This reply "GROUNDING THE LIGHTHOUSE", I have compiled as a 3,500 word article which I have offered (and continue to offer) to interested parties for 80p (to cover photo-copy and postage). I have no desire to force its contents onto people since it only contains logical sense and much of it is in SKY CRASH anyway! Here I put the counter-arguments against the four part Ridpath theory viz: that a meteor attracted the men into the forest; that there they saw the lighthouse; that the holes in the ground, discovered later, were rabbit scrapings and that the radiation traces are insignificant.

On the question of the traces I will not make too much of an issue because it is possible that the ones described in the memo and on tape are not the real ones. But I think the damage to the tree canopy (demonstrating that something fell through) is of much greater interest than bark scratches or holes in the ground. I have not seen Ian attack these with his rabbit theory - or are the rabbits training for the Olympic pole vault?

I also deplore his accusation that I have "shamefully" "never investigated" the radiation readings. How does he know? (Perhaps he has telepathic powers - or at least would have them if CSICUP allowed such nonsensical things to exist!)

The fact is I have looked at the radiation problem (and expressed it in the article MAGONIA would not print.) It is quite correct that the readings taken all over the forest (of 2-3-4 units) are not significant. However, the readings of more than twice this (inside the three indentations) are, according to a

plant biologist and an MoD weapons expert I talked to, almost certainly significant. It is hard to tell because so little data is available. But is an odd "coincidence" that the peak readings chance to be in the three indentations.

Finally, I turn to his challenge about my "rough" calculations that the lights were inside the forest and not outside. Let me first add that I have never professed to be the investigator on this case, but principally an observer who wrote it up into book form. I would hope that Dot Street (as BUFORA's main investigator on the case) will publish the locations and directions of view of witnesses supporting the military ones inside the forest. I can only comment on what I was told (sometimes by the witnesses - I have spoken to some of them - how many has Ian Ridpath interviewed?) and on my travels over the area and across the locations where they claimed to have seen their UFOs on December 27th, 1980.

The best of these, that by Gordon Levett at Sudbourne, probably is not directly correlative. But his observation certainly involves something other than the lighthouse flying right over his head - within the two or three day spell of the twin sightings. Other witnesses who did see their lights in the early hours of December 27th include the Webb family (looking north-east towards the forest) and salesman Arthur Smekle on 310A4 through the forest (looking south). There were other civilian witnesses too, but the lighthouse is not visible from either of the locations just cited. This ought to be sufficient to make my point. I did not pretend that I had seen this demonstrated beyond question. But it does seem to me that if you see a light looking south in the middle of a dense forest (when this is where the alleged UFO was) an invisible lighthouse to the east is rather improbable as a solution.

I am sure we still have more to learn about the case. Personally I do not believe it involved a UFO.

From: Steuart Campbell, BA.
BUFORA RIC, Edinburgh,
Scotland

From: Paul Fuller.
BUFORA AI
Winchester, Hampshire.

Sir -

A Significant Breakthrough

May I take this opportunity to congratulate BUFORA RIC Mike Wootton on his recent article "A Statistical Overview 1980-82" (JTAP, September, 1985). At last someone in BUFORA is talking sense! In case any of JTAP's readers failed to appreciate Mike's article, let me explain the breakthrough that it represents.

First, responsible researches now have instant access to UFO data that would have previously taken months to acquire. Data that can be easily stored, analysed and cross-checked with reports from other UFO organisations. Currently, only a few year's reports have been coded and because of the state of most of BUFORA's reports, this time-consuming task will take years to complete.

Secondly, and potentially of far more importance, BUFORA is attempting to apply both the model and language of science. Until BUFORA is capable of adopting standard investigative techniques and can collect significant parameters of UFO reports, the scientific establishment will remain unconvinced of our claims and will continue to deny us the resources we need to adequately deal with the phenomenon. By adopting scientific standards, BUFORA will be in a position to prepare quantitative analyses for highly-regarded scientific journals. By statistically comparing BUFORA's reports with the database now being developed in several other countries, it will become possible to replicate the characteristics that will point towards the true nature of the UFO phenomenon.

As a statistician by profession, I cannot stress too highly the value of Mike's work, and I urge BUFORA members to give him the support that he deserves.

Sir -

The Pennine Mystery

Jenny Randles writes (BULLETIN July, 1985) that she has 'never' claimed, either in her book The Pennine Mystery or in her article In Defence of Pennine UFOs (BULLETIN, June 1984) that there was anything "particularly special about the Pennine area." (This is a reaction to my accusation that she had hyped a mystery out of nothing extraordinary). Yet the cover blurb on the book claims that "a wave of UFO sightings is reported over the Pennine area," and on page 11 Jenny stated that her intention was to describe a series of "extraordinary events in the Pennines." She hoped to show that "something rather interesting is going on there." Indeed, one of her conclusions (pp 227-228) is that the geological structure of the Pennines makes it a UFO window! If that is not a claim that the Pennines are a special area then I don't know what is! In her BULLETIN article Jenny stated that every UFO investigator in the north (of England) knew well that a "specific 'Pennine' mystery exists", and that 'significantly more reports come from these ... areas'. Again she claimed that the Pennines are a 'window area'. The fact that a book has been devoted to what is alleged to be a UFO mystery in the Pennines is itself a claim to something 'special' about the area.

The question that now arise is why Jenny does not admit the facts? Why is she pretending that she did not attribute special characteristics to the Pennines when clearly that is what she did? Indeed, why does she react to my criticism in this way? What is wrong with claiming that there is a Pennine UFO window? Does her latest rejection of the idea constitute admission that (as I claimed) there was no good reason to write about the area in the first place?

Jenny has also claimed that 'most' physicists and philosophers' do not think that time travel is impossible (in response to my 'positive' statement to the contrary). Perhaps Jenny would like to name at least one reputable physicist or philosopher who does think that time travel is possible. Not that experts are necessary to resolve the question. As a concept time travel involves logical contradictions and paradoxes. The best argument against it is the obvious fact that neither the past nor the future exists. In that case you can travel to neither!

Jenny's woolly thinking is again evident in her puzzlement over how I could say that UFOs do not exist. She presents this as if I had claimed that UFOs are 'impossible', which is not at all what I claimed!

Incidentally, Allen Hynek's comments about future science are most misleading. Future science will be much like present science and there are no grounds for believing that ufology will become a respectable science. There can be no ufology when there are no UFOs. Even if there were UFOs and they were spacecraft, there could still be no ufology. There is as likely to be a science of ufology as there is to be a science of demonology!

Jenny thinks that in the end we shall solve the UFO problem. There is no UFO problem because there are no UFOs. She may not like the idea that she is wasting her time, but life is not obliged to give us what we want.

"Science and the UFOs" (by Jenny Randles and Peter Warrington) makes mention of my report on the Livingston incident (p.60). It is claimed that it was a study of 'a landing (of a UFO)' and an 'assault on the witness'.

Nowhere in the report did I make these claims, although others did so. If Jenny and Peter wish to present the case as an alien landing in which the aliens assaulted Robert Taylor, then that is their privilege. However, they should not

present it as my conclusion, which, as they well know, was quite different.

JENNY RANGLES REPLIES:

I regret having to waste readers' valuable time replying to a semantic filled letter. So I will keep it brief.

Of course, I believe the Pennine area is a window zone (whatever that is!) The book "THE PENNINE UFO MYSTERY" makes some suggestions. Naturally, in that sense it is special and is known to be so by ufologists who draw conclusions from the evidence instead of other (less obvious) sources. However, it is also not special, in the sense (as my article explained that window areas abound all over the world.

Ergo it is special, but not very special. Yet it was a prime candidate for a book about what can certainly be termed a "UFO wave," or a series of "extraordinary" events (depends on your definition of the word). I wrote the book as a practical expression of theoretical ideas. Do I really have to explain that again?

Stewart's continued assertion that I wrote the book for no good reason (other than to hype the book) is both insulting and absurd. That is the end of the matter.

As to physicists, philosophers and time travel ... well, there is a lot of research being done into Quantum Physics these days which suggests that faster than light travel is hypothetically possible. Einstein and Lorentz never argued that travel faster than C (the speed of light) was impossible. Simply that there is no solution to their equation at C. Subtly different but lesser differences have led to physics revolutions in the past. Scientists like Dr. Paul Davies at least have an open mind on the questions, and there is a difference between time travel, per se, and humans time-travelling and causing logical paradoxes.

Besides precognition involves logical paradoxes, but precognition is (in my view) a fact. I do not pretend to fully understand how it works (although I see ways through Stewart's difficulties). But come what may I have to say it works

because I have experience it too often myself - and I don't think I'm potty, even though doubtless some might say that that is a matter of opinion!

As for paragraphs 4-6 of his letter I prefer to leave them well alone. Apart from the statement that UFOs don't exist (in which case why is Stuart Campbell still investigating them?) I failed to comprehend their meaning after three readings. If I tried any harder I would probably get the wrong interpretation and lead to yet another round of lengthy letters. I doubt if the readers of the BULLETIN could stand that!

(I doubt if they could either! EDITOR)

(THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS NOW CLOSED)

From: Stuart Campbell, BA.
BUFDORA RIC, Edinburgh
Scotland.

Sir,

Evaluations

Mike Wootten should note that I did not claim that I have been able to identify every sighting I have ever dealt with in the last 12 years! What I said was that in that time I have yet to find a Scottish case that could not be explained in a conventional manner (with one exception). Some reports may have remained unexplained (due to inadequate data) even though I could think of possible explanations. Explanations for others may have emerged since the reports were sent to the Director of Investigations. It is possible, as my article "Astronomical UFOs" shows (see next issue of the Bulletin. EDITOR) to find explanations long after the event. In fact I suspect that some of my evaluations are incorrect and that alternative explanations are applicable.

Since there is no procedure for re-evaluation of old cases, I suggest that Mike sends me a print-out of all the 24 cases to which he refers. I will then "look a little closer" at my own data.

I wish to point out that, because of subjective and often incorrect evaluations, the data-base is practically useless. All one can say of it is that it is a collection of reports made by people who could not immediately identify what they saw (or who thought that it might have been an alien craft).

This has a certain sociological interest but it tells us very little about the stimulus for the report (where there was one). Competent investigation and certain identification are rare. Consequently no one should draw conclusions based on data-base parameter L (evaluation).

MIKE WOOTTEN REPLIES: As far as I am concerned, if an investigator concludes a case as being unexplained in nature, then I would consider that he has thoroughly investigated each and every angle of the case to produce a water-tight evaluation. But if he is unsure of the source of the stimulus then it is basic common sense that he returns an evaluation of 'insufficient data.' I agree with Stuart that you cannot always be sure that the evaluation you give is 100 per cent correct, there will always be a grey area of doubt with every evaluation given. However, to return an evaluation of a UFO where there is insufficient data to support that evaluation is investigating malpractice. I shall be sending Stuart a copy print out of the cases under question for re-evaluation.

I cannot agree at all with Stuart that the data-base is a waste of time. I agree it is crude with limited memory etc. I never envisaged the data-base as anything other than an electronic card index system to be used as a very useful aid to research. Cases can be sorted and located in seconds rather than hours. Stuart does not seem to grasp the kind of work that is involved in setting up the data-base, the many hours of reading case after case, the re-binding of reports in perfect numeric order etc.

I think it is about time that Stuart came out of his ivory tower and got his hands dirty with the rest of us. (Letters continued page 35)

When chaos is seen to reign supreme in a world full of changing attitudes and values it is pleasant, if not necessary, to believe in something which is immutable. This might be why scientists seek laws to explain the workings of nature. In the cinema symptoms of this syndrome are revealed by the countless films which depict the white-clad hero and the black-clad villain. The representatives of good and evil are easily spotted in such films as STAR WARS. In real life the division between good and evil is not demarcated in a convenient manner (don't ask me why that should be so). This discussion brings me to THE MARK OF THE BEAST by Sydney Watson (Spire Books, Fleming H. Revell Company, Old Tappan, New Jersey) which was written in 1911, and reprinted by Spire as a paperback recently. Since the Bible, particularly Revelation, is taken literally and the doctrine of the "born again" Christian is propounded it is not surprising that THE MARK OF THE BEAST should be resurrected in the USA where such ideas are taking a hold on a significant part of the population.

Basically, this book anticipates the coming of the Antichrist and the ramifications this will have on humanity, to enhance the impact of these forebodings a fictional scenario is employed. The author decorates this pages with hell-fire evangelism and a good deal of anti-Semitism. For instance, it is revealed that the Antichrist is Judas Iscariot reincarnated. This comes about through the association of an extraordinarily beautiful Jewess with fallen spirits and the like, which constitutes a clear warning that people should not screw around with such things as modern spiritualism and its kind demonology. To call it pompous cant is to praise this work of fiction, the main reason being the constant emphasis on punishment, sin, purgatory, etc. Nowhere does the author explain what goodness is, unless by this he means that we should believe in the Bible implicitly, conform to religious convention and wear sack cloths and ashes for 24 hours a day. Indeed, man is thought to be naturally evil and degenerate. This kind of religious attitude is explored and attacked by Charlotte Bronte who through the characters of Brocklehurst and St. John Rivers in JANE EYRE neatly saw through hypocrisy and convention alike, and this was in 1847. Interestingly, at the time THE MARK OF THE BEAST was being produced a man called Aleister Crowley fancied himself as a kind of Antichrist. His attitude was completely in opposition to the views expressed by Sydney Watson, he proclaimed: "Be strong, o man! lust, enjoy all things of sense and rapture: fear not that any God shall deny thee for this." He certainly practised what he preached in a manner that would have shocked Sydney Watson and Charlotte Bronte! Some of Crowley's merry pranks with our accepted views are fictionally explored in Robert Anton Wilson's MASKS OF THE ILLUMINATI (Sphere Books, London, 1981) which makes a good antidote to Watson's masterpiece.

Another vehicle for anti-Semitism is UFOs: NAZI SECRET WEAPON? by Mattern Friedrich (Samisdat Publishers, Canada, circa 1981). If you are not inclined towards putting your faith into the Bible perhaps the UFO mythology will serve the purpose of something to believe in? Certainly the people who have produced this book hope you will believe and be convinced that Hitler was really a great fellow. Not only that but, it is claimed, Hitler actually survived the war and escaped to a well-prepared secret base, very well-prepared, in Antarctica.

In his cold but splendid isolation he and his faithful loyal-to-death followers "The Last Battalion" use UFOs and other secret weapons to fight the reigning Great Powers. A better guide to this subject is given by W.A. Harbinson in his factional novel GENESES (Corgi. London, 1980) which contains some factual notes and sources which are concise and useful. But UFOs: NAZI SECRET WEAPONS? does contain some nice technical drawings and educational photographs - the choice is yours! After reading this book skywatching will never be the same, and the publishers can quote me on that!

Where THE MARK OF THE BEAST is concerned with a transformation of life on earth through the agency of God, UFOs: NAZI SECRET WEAPON? entertains the wish to create a paradise on earth through the agency of UFOs and Hitler. In this sense both books are millennial, and combined with anti-Semitism they confirm Norman Cohn's view that "mass disorientation and insecurity have fostered the demonization of the Jew in this as in much earlier centuries" contained in his brilliant book THE PURSUIT OF THE MILLENNIUM (Paladin, 1978 p.285)

Thanks to Kevin McClure for letting me have THE MARK OF THE BEAST he won't get away with it! Communications to: NIGEL WATSON, Westfield Cottage, Crowle Bank Road, Althorpe, South Humberside, DN17 3HZ.

(Letters continued)

From: Arnold West,
Chairman, BUFORA.
Burgess Hill, Sussex.

Sir -

Code of Practice

In the light of recent correspondence on this subject I would like to make the following observations.

1. The Code was designed to give guidance to both lone investigators and organised bodies.
2. At its inception it was envisaged that a supervisory body would oversee its operation, this responsibility has since devolved upon the NIC.
3. Acceptance of the Code by individuals is voluntary.
4. Organised bodies which subscribe to the Code, require that their investigators also observe the Code.
5. Bodies in 4 above may withdraw 'Investigator' status, or exercise any sanction their constitution allows against non-complying members.
6. Specialised Techniques was introduced to control the use of Polygraph tests, Truth Drugs, Hypnosis, Brain Washing, or other Exotic interviewing methods. It is regrettable that

hypnosis was singled out for special mention. In my opinion these techniques should have no place in normal UFO investigation.

7. Consent to Publish is intended to protect both the investigator and UFO body from claims for damages etc, if a witness subsequently has a change of mind, after giving verbal permission for the publication of of his/her experiences.

A review of the Code would have to clearly define:

- (a) lone investigator
- (b) UFO organisation
- ((c) scientific interest
- ((d) commercial interest

and supply guidelines appropriate to each aspect.

I would be pleased to receive constructive proposals towards a revised and improved Code of Practice, which to be effective must have the respect of the whole UFO community and be in harmony with similar Codes of Practice in operation in other fields.

Getting there is, as most people will know, the new punch line chosen by British Rail's advertising men to replace the famous Age of the Train and is supposed to reflect the improved image of British Rail. I also thought that it might be appropriate to reflect the gradually improving image of BUFORA research. Like British Rail we are getting there, perhaps a little later than we had hoped.

An example of our progress is the work on the case indexing project led by Mike Wootten and assisted by Paul Fuller and Michael Lewis. Brief mention of this project was made in the January, 1985 BUFORA Bulletin (page 35). The project involves producing an index of all BUFORA case reports. The index includes the BUFORA cases reference number, the date, location and basic details about the object sighted. So far all the reports between 1980 and 1982 have been indexed. As completed reports are received from the investigation department they are added to the data-base, so there is partial information from the years 1983 to 1985. The team is also working on the backlog of cases from earlier years.

Recently we have been able to make good use of the existing data. When the data entry for 1980 to 1982 was complete, Mike Wootten was able to make a search for those case reports which seemed to be of meteors or fireballs. This produced a list of eight cases, which he was able to send to the meteor section of the British Astronomical Association. I understand that this information was of some use to the BAA in their own research.

In a more Ufological content we have also been able to use the database. In April, 1985 I received a letter from a Contact UK investigator based in Hull. He was investigating a case of a UFO following a car in the Leighton Buzzard/Harpenden area. The case dates from July, 1982. I asked Mike to check the database and although we were unable to find any cases for Leighton Buzzard or Harpenden during 1982, Mike did come up with another case of a UFO reported following a car. This was Case 82-008 and was from Darwen, Lancashire and, better still, it was seen on July 17th. Mike sent this information to the investigator and in return we received a quite detailed report on a case which we did not know about before. Hopefully we will be able to use the database to support other investigations in the future.

My article would not be complete without thanking Mike Wootten and his colleagues for all the hard work they have put in on producing the index. This is just a brief illustration of BUFORA "getting there". We may not have entered the High Speed Train era of UFO research, but at least we have left the station.



NIC MEETING
2.11.1985

LONDON BUSINESS
SCHOOL, NW1

Present: Jenny Randles, Steve Gamble. RICs Mike Wootten, Steve Chetwynd.
AIs Paul Fuller, Ken Phillips, Mike Lewis, Richard Adams, Nigel Smith.
Guest: Roger Chinnery.

Analogies Stuart Campbell (no reason). Philip Taylor (in Australia)
000000000000000000000000000000

Nigel Smith submitted an acceptable case report and was granted
AI status for North London. Anthony Ollerenshaw, a retired doctor
specialising in blood disorders, offered consultancy services. These
were accepted.

New "probationary" investigators were: Jenny Campbell (Belfast),
Les Spanswicj (Devon) and Tony Mann (South Wales). None had yet sub-
mitted a case report.

Photo Case Policy: This was reviewed. Research noted that they had
lost John Shaw's help. A variety of options were available: Tony Mar-
shall (in Sheffield) 35mm analysis. Roger Chinnery 16mm film analysis
and less clear options (e.g. Dr. Vernon Harrison a professional con-
sultant, Kodak, via Peter Southerest and Farnborough's \$250 a day (!
offer for computer enhancement) A three man team was formed to
suggest the best route forward (Steve Gamble, Roger Chinnery and Nigel
Smith).

The Fulham photo case will be used as a test through any "new"
system. The anonymous movie film was being tested by Tony Marshall to
field test his system. AI Eric Morris is checking that the film shows
a SeaCat missile, off the Isle of Wight (which is where the film
was probably shot). Paul Fuller has revealed that an airshow occurred
on the date in question, at which Red Arrows took part. Much caution
about the film is being adonted.

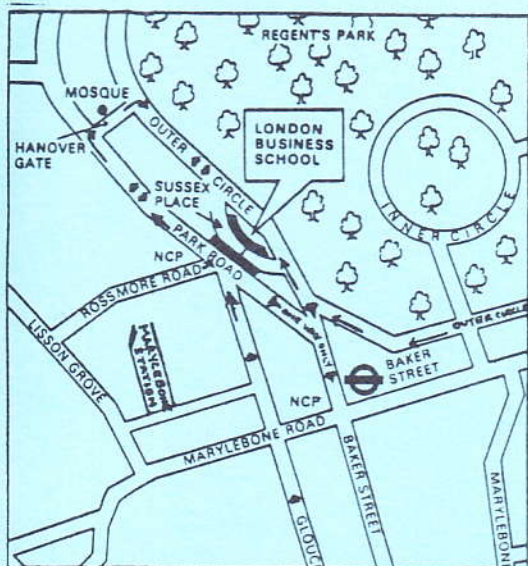
Lack of Incoming Cases: Of 44 initiated 1985 cases only three
had produced files. Problems of in-process cases were discussed AIs
were reminded that if a case was aborted for any reason The Director
of Investigations must be notified in writing. Steve Chetwynd raised
the problems of the Mrs Oxenbury contact and the way she had attached
herself to the investigators. Mike Wootten showed a video of the
object seen over the South Bank. As BUFORA had suspected it had proved
to be a novel type of kite. In daylight it is very convincing.

Mike Wootten agreed to look into the possibility of using the kite
(with police and media support) as part of a controlled IFO experiment
in an area outside London. Paul Fuller agreed to draw up a question-
naire for eye-witnesses to complete. The experimental results would
aid in the awareness of what factors are perceived well and which badly.

IFO Sensitivity Index: Jenny Randles showed a selection of photos
so far collated. Council budget for the production of a photo-card for
all AIs had been approved for 1985-86. Paul Fuller agreed to co-ord-
inate a questionnaire to accompany. Ken Phillips agreed to approach
Dr. Alex Keul for his suggestions on the application of the card.

Cases: Dr. Keul had suggested to Ken Phillips that the Linda
Jones case should not progress to hypnosis. Paul Fuller described his
attempts to find a rational solution to the "mystery circles" and re-
ported on a meeting which the RAF said a gossamar substance had been
found inside one ring. Jenny Randles raised the public relations pro-
blems caused by these circles ("New Scientist" had accused BUFORA of
creating the UFO myth!) It was decided to publish a definitive aperar
to send to media sources. The Peter Day movie film was debated. A
public debate on this would be held at a future BUFORA lecture.

NEXT NIC MEETING. Saturday, March 1st, 1986 2pm. USUAL VENUE.



LECTURES, unless otherwise stated will be held at LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL, SUSSEX PLACE, LONDON, NW1 on the first Saturday of each month (unless otherwise stated). Lectures begin at 6.30pm and will end at around 9.30pm. Council hopes that as many members as possible will attend in order to make the meetings as successful and lively as possible.

Entrance fee is £1 for BUFORA members, £2.50 for non-members.

The programme for the remainder of 1986 is as follows:

February 1st, 1986

UFOs in Norway and France. Talk by HILARY EVANS.

March 1st, 1986

Psychotronics. Talk by ALBERT BUDDEN.

April 5th, 1986

Review of ETH 1947-1986. Talk by JENNY RANGLES

May 3rd, 1986

Details to be arranged.

June 7th, 1986

Talk by LIONEL BEER

NEW MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Miss Pam Kennedy, MBE, BUFORA'S Membership Secretary since 1978 is to retire from the post in March, 1986. Council is most grateful to Miss Kennedy for all her hard work effort on its and members' behalf in this very demanding job.

She will be succeeded by Mr Norman Oliver who was elected to Council at the AGM in December, 1985. Mr Oliver, no stranger to BUFORA's affairs was, as many members will recall, editor of the JOURNAL for some years.

THE British UFO Research Association does not hold or express corporate views on UFO phenomena. Contributions reflect only the views of the editor or the author(s).

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