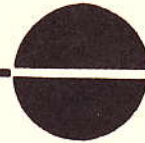




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16 Southway,
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PUBLICATIONS

Director of Publications and Editor

John E. Barrett, 34b Marylebone High Street, London, W1.

ASSOCIATION'S HISTORIAN

Lionel E. Beer, FRAS.

LIBRARIAN

Robin Lindsey, 87 Station Road,
Whittlesey, Peterborough,
PE7 1UE. (Tel: 0733 203414)

RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATIONS

DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

Stephen Gamble, FIMLS., FRAS., AFBIS,
40 Jones Grove, Whittlesey,
Peterborough PE7 2HW.

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 01 435 0349

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Frampton Cotterall, Bristol,
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OF THE EDITOR

DURING the early hours of the morning of June 30th, 1985 Mr Gary Clayton, whilst travelling across the Nullabor from South Australia to Perth somewhere between Ceduna and Balladonia saw a perfectly round white light through the passenger window. This light followed the truck for several hours.

It eventually went behind the trees and finally disappeared. It could have landed about a thousands metres from the freeway. In a short time a light appeared and then went out.

"On first seeing the object I was very excited and watched as I travelled along the freeway and was surprised when my companion, while using the truck's CB radio, had a conversation with a fellow semi-trailer saying that the lights on the right hand side had gone out for the second time."

Gary said that when he arrived in Perth the TV stations had received film that was taken by a farmer in the general area of where he had seen the ball of light which followed him.

While camping with the family at Mount Crawford, north of Adelaide, at 8.30pm on July 9th two people saw a ball of light about half a metre across and with a tail. It was bluish in colour and they did not know the distance it was from them when it went behind the trees. They said that the sky was clear and crisp.

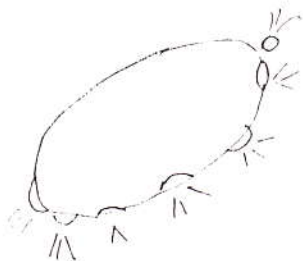
This report by Mr Tuck happened on December 18th, 1981 at approximately 11.00pm and was seen for 30-40 seconds. The location was 17km east of Blanchtown on the River Murray.

"When sighted it was many miles from us" he said. It was difficult for him to say how high up in the sky it was, but he thought about 20,000 feet.

"It looked oval tear shape and was moving very fast in a straight line and when overhead it disappeared into infinity. My hunting companion and I were seated before the embers of our campfire at 11.00pm having been in the situation for approximately three hours, the sky was perfectly clear and visibility was unlimited. We were facing west when suddenly our attention was drawn to an object in the sky. It was northerly and a bright white object travelling at a very great speed. It was about one kilometre from us. We watched it in awe and when it almost levelled with us it suddenly stopped (no gradual slowing) and it remained stationary for approximately 2-3 seconds and accelerated upwards at a right angle from its flight path. We watched for some seconds until it disappeared from sight. After it disappeared from my sight my companion stated 'You realise we can't tell anybody about this, they will never believe us.' He was afraid of being ridiculed so I remained silent and that is why I have not reported the incident previously.

At. 5.35pm on the 1st of August Mr Craig was travelling along the main North East Road when he sighted an object in the sky. The object was travelling from east to west and he thought it was about 2 kilometres away and between 1000 and 1500 feet high.

"It flew very fast from right to left and then disappeared suddenly - no apparent disintegration or explosion. I have never seen anything like it - definitely not a shooting star or plane. Fortunately it was seen by a lady with me.



At approximately 9.00pm on August 11th at Hackham West, Mr Reed with three witnesses saw a round oval shaped object in the north west. The height was unknown. Flash lights or rotating lights of red, green orange or yellow. It disappeared very quickly.

While travelling down the South Eastern freeway about 20 kilometres south of Coonalpyn, Mr Dennis saw an object below the overcast sky. At 35 degrees it went straight across the path of the car. It travelled from left

to right, it was grey and shaped like the Concorde and it was moving very slowly.

"I stopped my car to see what it was and to my surprise there was no noise and I could not see any wings. I was glad that I saw it and I certainly could not explain it at all and I would like to see it again.



"Couldn't see any wing."

Margaret Roney saw a yellow-orange object. A straight line and round at the top. It turned and looked a round shape on one spot. It then hovered and then disappeared. There were no navigation lights.

"I felt excited and not sure what it was as there was no sound."

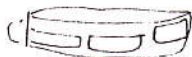
At around 6.45pm in the Adelaide Hills, Mr Dean Finch saw, in the direction of Clarendon, the shape of an object. It was black and only the lights were visible. After about two and a half minutes the lights went out. He said there were two very bright white lights which appeared to flash on and off with four or five smaller orange lights which were underneath. The lights went off and then a few seconds later, the orange lights went off. The object was stationary for all this time. As it was a dark night, nothing was visible once the lights went out. The date was August 20th.

What really happened....? On September 2nd a person phoned to say that Mr Bryant had a most unusual experience and was reluctant to tell the story, however he was disturbed and needed to get it off his mind.

He said "On the 2nd of September I went to the local rubbish dump to see if I could get rid of some rubbish and to check on the times one could do it. My car engine cut out and in a few minutes two vehicles appeared, one coming towards me. A tall thin person appeared and asked if he could help start the car engine, I said 'No thanks' and then both vehicles and chap vanished. I started the car immediately and drove home. I felt unconcerned at that moment, but was a little disappointed when I told my friends and my wife and they really did not believe me but something did happen ...what....I do not know.

At about 9.50pm on September 7th Jeffrey Dermann saw a most unusual cluster of lights in the sky. After a few moments he called his father to have a look. Over the last few months an aeroplane has been flying around Adelaide and has confused many people as to whether it was a plane or something else. Both Mr Dermann and Jeffrey gave the following report.

"It was overhead. It moved to the left. It flew straight on. It moved back to the right. It went straight on and then to the right, then it disappeared behind a house. It was as large as a semi-trailer and was a dull yellow and made the noise of a helicopter with a humming noise. The night was clear and when it disappeared it looked like a dinner plate and it moved from 90 degrees to about 80 degrees.



Bright ones



no light

Dull ones



Lights rotated

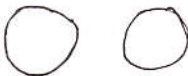
Side on view in sequence

Jeffrey said: "I went outside into the garden and I heard a noise then I looked up and saw a mass of lights. I was surprised and called dad out to see it. The object was zig-zagging. Then the object went behind the house and we did not see it again. I think by the power of the lights it would have to have a lot of energy to make such a bright light over such a big area, and the movements and the noise did not sound anything like a plane - certainly (not) a small one.

Mr Cockburn and his family were travelling from Kangarilla to Clarendon on September 8th. John looked at his watch when he saw the two very big bright lights and the time was 7.49pm. The lights were flashing slowly and had a blue tinge. They appeared to be in an oval grey object about three times the size of the lights.

John said: "I was in the back seat of my parent's car when my father said 'What the hell is that?' looking up through the windscreen. I was sitting on the back seat and stretched forward to see two bright-bluish flashing lights and then within seconds it moved directly to its right, stopped and flashed twice. It was then partly concealed behind some trees. It flashed once and then vanished.

At 4.45am on September 5th Mr Paul Page, whilst travelling on the Corryton Park Road, saw a very bright object. It was square shaped and between 200-300 feet above the ground. He said



The lights flashed
four times

that he was on a speed of 70kms and when he turned to the right he lost sight of the object behind a hill. He said that he was alarmed but very inquisitive.

Whilst travelling between But and Kadina at 7.23pm on September 27th, 1985 Mr Max Burgemeister saw green-back to blue nose and red/orange tail.

"I was travelling at 100 kms from east to west looking north from the Old Wells Road, it was very difficult to tell the distance, however it seemed to be about 2000 feet high. I saw it for 30 seconds and the trees on the side of the road did block the view and the weather was slightly overcast. Although the road was metal surface I did not hear any noise, I only sighted the object and it was travelling twice or three times faster than me and I was doing 100-110 kms.



3 to 4 footballs
But not as pointy, rather
blunt nose.

At 4.55am Mr David Searle saw a series of orange to red groups of lights in the south south east direction from a coastal suburb of Adelaide, Taperoo. They were overhead and after approximately 15 seconds they disappeared. He estimated they were 1km high and the lights were on a silvery background. There was no shape visible. He said he could not remember if there were any clouds in the area but the air was a mild temperature and there was no sign of rain.

On November 22nd, at different times, there were several sightings from the metropolitan area of Adelaide. The first one was at 4.30am and it was oval shaped and orange in colour. It was in the east south east.

"When I first saw the UFO it looked to be about 2 feet in length and about 6 inches deep. In sketch A was when first seen and it appeared to have an oblong shape of lighter colour around it. As it moved away it seemed to lose the effect as in B. It did move to the right very quickly and then resumed in the same direction.

Lighter orange



Between 5.15 and 5.30am on November 22nd Mrs L.D. Atkins saw a round red object through a window in her house.

"At first I thought it was the moon but it was too red and it moved. There was no noise and it was as high as the moon should have been at that time. It was also in the wrong direction.

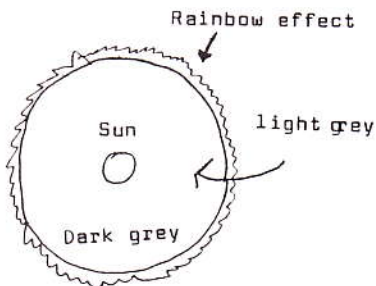
Mr Alexander Fragnito, a cameraman for a local TV station saw something in the sky from Montifiore Hill at 0540 hours. It was heading away east to south.

"The sky was clear and I could not recognise the shape clearly but from the distance it appeared to be only a dot followed by a stream of exhaust vapour. The object was black and was in view for about 90 seconds.



A lady travelling with her mother in a car coming down the Mount Barker road at about 7.00pm on November 22nd saw an object for two minutes. It was silver/white and she thought it was over the sea.

"We were driving down the hills just past Eagle on the Hill restaurant when I discerned a strange object in the sky, and since I frequently go by this road I would notice anything out of the ordinary. I thought at first it may be a plane but it was slanted in the wrong direction and it was too high for a landing plane. I told my mother who was driving and because of that she was unable to see it, I was on the left hand side of the car and was closest to the object and because we were driving it seemed stationary - it could have been moving though, if so it certainly wasn't a plane as planes move much faster.



A report from Joan Downs who was with a friend on the beach of the Coorong between Salt Creek and Kingston on November 27th, 1985.

"We noticed this phenomena which we have never seen anything like in our lifetime. The object looked like a radar disc. On the outer perimeter of this disc was an outer circle of rainbow. The sun in the centre was opaque due to this disc covering the sun. We noticed the clouds were being drawn into the centre of this phenomena, and when the phenomena disappeared the sun wasn't there.

A review of THE EYE OF FIRE by Graham Phillips and Martin Keatman. C.W. Daniel. Softback 164 pages, illustrated. £5.95

IN 1980 I started to write what has so far (SKY CRASH excluded!) proved to be my most controversial book. It eventually appeared in late 1981 from Neville Spearman (Coronet paperback edition in early 1983). The hardback is still in print from C.W. Daniel (who took over the Spearman books when the company 'retired' in 1984). The book is called ALIEN CONTACT (although the British bibliography lists the 1986 copy of the Coronet paperback as ALIEN CONTRACT - a much better title than mine!)

ALIEN CONTACT is the story of the Sunderland family from a housing estate-cum-village in Deeside, North Wales. Absolutely everything imaginable happened to the mother (Marion) the father (Fred) and their five children - especially young Gaynor. Principal amongst these was the CE3 that Gaynor underwent in July, 1976 when she was only nine. A silvery disc stationary on a field in broad daylight for 30 minutes, and her vision of a male and female entity making holes in the grass with their assorted weapons. It was unprecedented and unparalleled in British UFO folklore, but was followed by an invasion of lights, objects, out of the body experiences, ghosts, visions, physic encounters and drea-like trips to other worlds. The whole thing is like a dozen science-fiction movies rolled into one. Gaynor was always the main focus of these events - as a kind of UFO 'medium'...an analogy I do take very seriously.

I recall very well the innocent way I heard of that tale, via a press cutting the then BUFORA 'liaison' officer (Bryan Hartley) had in his shed. Paul Whetnall and I had gone to visit him, as we often did. Bryan was badly disabled and confined to a wheelchair following his terrible motorbike accident, and he appreciated UFO conversations.

UFO SAGA

The story had been small and anonymous in a mid 1978 edition of the LIVERPOOL DAILY POST. It mentioned a UFO investigator I had never heard of. Fortunately a Staffordshire UFO enthusiast (a then very young Martin Keatman) did know him and squeezed out the Sunderland family's address. That investigator had let the case ride. He seemed not to know what he was missing. For as soon as Paul paid them a visit one day (detouring from his work in Chester to do so) it was obvious to us both that this was quite a story.

Back then - in late 1978 - we did not really know that we would still be on that case a couple of years later and writing it into book form. Even less did we know that the UFO 'saga' was but the start of one of the greatest fairy tales (and I use those words advisedly) that the 20th century has ever known.

I kept aloof from the Sunderlands for a year, trying to decide on their credibility "from a distance." Finally, I joined Paul in his frequent visits to see them as the book took shape. I was never really sure what to say about the matter. It was pretty clear that their story would stretch anybody's credibility to its breaking point. I felt reasonably confident that there were sociological factors at work. The younger children wanted to get 'in on the act' and share in the encounters that both Marion and Gaynor treated so matter of factly.

But what was the reality status of the exorcism of an energy creature from the field behind their house? Or the furry teddy bear walking past the local garage? Or the giant pyramid that showed Darren my fact (and Janet and Colin Bords')? Or Gaynor's visit to an interplanetary zoo where she sketched Go'bo a funny looking Nummo from the planet Typharra? I remember pondering that I must be a 'real Nummo myself if I took any of that seriously!

SELF DELUDED FANTASIES?

Yet - as Hynek always said - these tales might well be incredible. But I found it hard to consider the family as anything but credible. Gaynor, especially, was always happy to dismiss her experiences as dream-like and never tried to make more out of them than I would myself.

It was far from easy writing that book - using real names about real people (in particular developing children) and conscious that what I wrote might affect their whole lives. I suspect I held back from saying things I might have said without such restraint - and I did not include comment about the social structure of the family or much else that had emerged from my discussions about the case with Dr. Shirley McIver (sociologist at York University) and Dr. John Shaw (psychologist at Manchester University). I had been advised that I do not do this by both the publishers and the family and I had little cause to protest under the circumstances.

The book generated some criticism. Was it credible? Why was I promoting self deluded fantasies? I did include sections at the end analysing the experiences and that was some salvation to a few researchers. But not many. Most wondered what on earth I was up to. I think it says quite a few interesting things that this is the only one of my books to remain in print so long and to attract paperback rights. It is also my only book to have brought an approach from a Hollywood producer who wanted to make a film out of the story. Whilst the negotiations are officially still 'in the air' (and names like Robert Zemeckis as executive and Jacqueline Bisset to play Marion Sunderland - with, would you believe, Oliver Reed to play Fred' - have all been mooted? I suspect that the project will never materialise because there are many problems. For example, I am not exactly in support of the film company plan to suggest that the aliens personally initiated the idea for the movie when its director had a close encounter in the desert!

But that is another story.

I retained contact with the family after the book came out (and then fizzled out). But, whilst I knew of "something big" that was allegedly going on in the background I never learned what it was. It was, of course, the subject of THE EYE OF FIRE - I bet you thought I had forgotten all about the review I was supposed to be writing!

It is decidedly odd that I was not to hear what was going on between late 1979 and 1980 - when all hell (quite literally) broke loose. I was in regular contact with the family, as was Paul. Paul - as the Sunderlands knew only too well - was a jeweller. That will be seen to be extremely relevant.

ORIGINAL TRIO

I did finally hear about the affair (around the time ALIEN CONTACT came out) from Andy Collins, the Essex investigator and earth mysteries writer whom I had known for many years. He had been part of the original trio of founders of a Midlands journal called STRANGE PHENOMENA which began in 1978-79 and quickly lost out to

the economic recession (Incidentally - this journal and its title still remain far better than any of the commercial ones that have made a go of it since 1984).

The other two members of the magazine trio were Martin Keatman, the bubbly young Staffordshire investigator who had first got me on the road to finding the Sunderlands, and Graham Phillips, a strange sort of parapsychologist with a penchant for graphology. They seemed to be having a jolly old time running their magazine and had (I knew) met the Sunderland family a few times. Indeed I quote at length from a paper Graham Phillips wrote specially for ALIEN CONTACT. But I thought they were studying the childrens' psychic experiences. What I did not know was that they were off on a magical quest to make psychic phenomena about as unusual as getting out of bed.

EXTRAORDINARY

Andy had been engaged in this quest until he decided to part company and move back to Essex. The other two (with the Sunderlands' co-operation and half a dozen other erstwhile UFO investigators from Staffordshire - who had deserted the fold to go on spookhunts) were now writing a book about their adventures. Whilst Andy accepted that most of the things had happened (and he was personal witness to many) he was not very happy about the way they were being 'novelised' for the book. I could sympathise with that, because publishers Neville Spearman had done exactly this with ALIEN CONTACT.

What Andy told me was extraordinary to say the least. My oh so credible witnesses had forsaken their UFOs and aliens and taken to receiving mediumistic messages which added to those gained directly by Graham Phillips. These led the team on a psychic treasure hunt. In the dead of night on the Earl of Coventry's land, Andy had pulled out a sword from the bricks. It contained a message that tied in with the trance messages already procured. Using the sword as a dowsing implement, Gynor had led them all to a nearby lake where (after many adventures) they found a casket containing a green stone. This stone once belonged to an ancient warrior queen called Gweverough and, of course, like all good stones of old, had magic powers. Taking it to nine stone circles in a fantastic tour of Britain they 'charged it up' and took it back to Staffordshire to fight a do or die battle against an evil force in a local wood.

Anyone listening to that load of codswallop would doubtless react with a grin and a chuckle. If you think it sounds like something ripped off from LORD OF THE RINGS you would not be far wrong. But I knew almost everyone involved. I could not imagine why they would wish to invent such a stupid tale. The sword and the stone certainly existed. Andy showed me pictures. It is fair to say I was in a right tizzy. I had no idea why the family had kept all this from me. Nor did I know why they had not allowed Paul to cast his expert eye over the stone. Frankly when Paul (a LORD OF THE RINGS fanatic - something else the Sunderlands and Messrs Keatman and Phillips knew) heard the claims he wanted nothing more to do with the case - and I had to promote ALIEN CONTACT on my own. I cannot say I really blame him.

Andy wrote a booklet (THE SWORD AND THE STONE - privately published) which related the events from his point of view. If I did not trust Andy implicitly (as I do to this day) I suspect I might have quietly buried my book and forgotten all about this sorry affair. But how could I? Honestly precluded such a luxury. Almost

everyone was dismissing the matter as clear charlatanism and an outrageous hoax. I could well understand why. But I had reason to be cautious about that. So I sat on the fence - a very uncomfortable spot to be, I can assure you!

RESPONSIBILITY

Neville Spearman asked me to write a foreword to the book that Keatman and Phillips were writing. I still felt some responsibility to the Sunderlands and, as this would follow ALIEN CONTACT rather quickly, I had a bit of a responsibility to myself as well! I thought I had better take the chance to dredge back some credibility for what I had written about these people! So I did pen a few thousand words about those involved in the quest for the stone and I took the opportunity to mention the parallels with THE CHRONICLES OF THOMAS COVENANT (a series of amazingly successful paperbacks about a fictional psychic quest). These seem to have been published alongside the work of the British quest and yet they link in with one another in an eerie manner. I have written elsewhere about some of these things (e.g. in COMMON GROUND - a magazine very critical of the possibility of psychic questing - and my book BEYOND EXPLANATION last year).

I should add that my notes did not endorse the validity of the story - which I still cannot do. They only commented on what I knew about the people involved. At that time I had not read the manuscript of the book and had not seen the sword or the stone. My knowledge stemmed largely from talks with Andy Collins, who had no financial stake in the book at all and so had every reason to denounce it if he could. I must add that I too have no financial stake in the book. I was not paid a single penny for writing the foreword.

That book emerged in early 1983 as THE GREEN STONE. It was the whole story of the quest during its first months - but was (so I kept being informed) the tip of the iceberg. I have no knowledge of any of the events within it and must judge its fantastic claims as any reader must. I only have the slight privilege of knowing the ones involved. This merely leaves me more baffled than if I did not! Frankly, it is impossible to believe and impossible to totally disbelieve.

THREE LIGHTS

The one thing that is decidedly odd concerns the charging up of the stone at the third light. This was at the Avebury stone circle in Wiltshire. It is hard to follow the chronology in THE GREEN STONE but this appears to have been a few months after Paul and I saw the only strange thing we ever witnessed during our time with the Sunderlands. It was September, 1980 and we were well into writing our book. We had gone to the Farnborough Air Show on our motorbike and were setting off on the long trek home to Warrington. It was a mammoth ride and quite an adventure for someone who (like me) merely put up with Paul's obsession with two-wheel transport. Suddenly we observed three yellowish white globes of light line up into a triangle. We both saw them clearly and discussed them at the next service station - where we consulted the map and worked out that they had been on top of the Avebury stone circle. I did think they might be parachute flares from an army exercise and I asked PROBE and SCUFORI, the local groups, to look into this. But they found no explanation - save the suggestion that they were wing lights on a Hercules plane. I tasted the experience that witnesses get at the hands of we investigators. For there is no way on this earth that they were that. Had they been the Hercules it would have fallen out of the sky, as it was standing still, and would have hit us on the head, as the spacing must have put the 'plane' right on top of us!

Three lights seen at the site where the stone was later charged with the 'third light'? Sounds either like we were partially involved in the quest - maybe this was a psychic message that never got through to tell the team where the third light was! Or else the team invented the location of the third light based on our story - because we naturally told Marion Sunderland about our 'sighting' immediately after we returned home. However, in THE GREEN STONE our experience is not mentioned - even though it is in ALIEN CONTACT.

HOAX?

I do not know which version of the truth applies here - but it may be crucial. For the lights we saw were real. I know that, even if you and other readers of THE GREEN STONE do not. If our story was deliberately woven into the plot of the quest then it suggests that the quest was a hoax. If it was not then it does seem at the least a strange coincidence - and there are many of these in the book!

THE EYE OF FIRE is the sequel to the earlier book and is largely more of the same. Set in 1982 onwards it describes what happened once the green stone was safely in a bank vault. Marion and Gaynor are more obviously involved in this book than the first one. Trances, messages, ghostly visions and psychic battles are still the order of the day. This time it is a psychic bell the team discover - which they must use in a quest for the red stone (the eye of fire - get it?) Apparitions at dawn, demons from hell, curses and a second-rate "Exorcist" hand me downs all get an airing. The writing is tighter, more melodramatic and rattled off even more like a Stephen King novel. There is absolutely nothing in here that makes you inclined to believe a single word that the authors are claiming.

I mean "Dark obnoxious figures were rising from the cellars. Marion screamed in horror as an awful stench hit them, that same odour of decaying flesh drifting in waves from the dark humanoid forms that now stood grotesque and menacing whatever the true nature of these vile apparitions none of them dared think." (page 57). There are 150 more pages like that - and whilst it may well keep you awake at night and ought to sell the film rights (to Christopher Lee or Vincent Price) - as parapsychology it is about as credible as an episode of Dallas.

Having read the book (and on one level enjoyed it) I remain in a deep quandry. It is not easy reading a novel that stars people you know well. For there must be no excuses. This is a novel. It may be based (rather loosely) on truth. But in writing it up like THE AMITYVILLE HORROR they have forfeited any right to be taken seriously. It would now be terribly easy for me to tell you that this clearly shows the Sunderland family and the 'investigators' around them have either lost their marbles or are after a best seller. I cannot do that - because I still have (possibly dumb) faith in human nature and I suspect there may be truth in what is being claimed. How much truth I am far less sure than I once was. But if there is even a grain of it this is an amazing case which we cannot afford to laugh away.

LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Of course, it may just be that I am fighting a rearguard action to defend ALIEN CONTACT. For if the THE GREEN STONE and THE EYE OF FIRE show that those involved have sunk into the depths of credibility that book of mine must go out of the window. It may be. But I think not. I have no need to preserve the book. It is far in my past and each book I write is a learning experience. I would not

have the slightest qualm about telling you to ignore it, if the truth is as it may well be.

But what if it is not? What if the quest happened? I confess that when a few months ago Marion showed me the green stone (which looked very unmagical amidst the coffee cups in a Liverpool city store), and then related the 1985 update on the saga, I was not exactly bowled over. I am immune to that disease called sensationalist twaddle. The blue stone (which I was shown) may well eventually make its debut in a future book in the series. But I wonder how they will ever find stories more ridiculous than those in THE EYE OF FIRE. I doubt if they can.

And yet ...the UFO phenomenon has gone through many metamorphoses. From lights, to aliens, to strange abductions. Since 1976 it has waned and some say the traditional UFO is now dead. But could it be that the physic quests represents the next disguise for our subject? Is it any more incredible than the early contactee tales? Are we having a sneak preview of the ufology of the 1990s?

I do sometimes wonder.

Miss BETTY WOOD



AS reported in the May BULLETIN, Miss Betty Wood, Secretary of BUFORA for over 17 years died on March 6th, 1986 at the tragically early age of 57. She gave unstintingly of her time to the Association and her help and support, and her cheerful and friendly manner will be very sorely missed amongst her many friends and colleagues within BUFORA.

Betty's interests lay not just in UFOs but in Atalanters, Egyptology and most aspects of the paranormal and the occult. In 1984 her book on THE HEALING POWER OF COLOUR was published.

PAM KENNEDY, former Membership Secretary, and a friend of Betty's for many years, writes: "I first met Betty Wood on March 24th, 1954 at a meeting in a room over a pub in Hampstead which had been arranged by Richard Hughes, Secretary of the Flying Saucer Club, who then lived in Brighton. This meeting was attended by Brinsley Le Poer Trench, George King and a number of others who became well-known in the UFO world. I forget what was discussed/decided at that meeting but from then on Betty and I were involved in investigating many fascinating avenues and byways of ufology. Betty was always the indefatigable one in nosing out various meetings and people to attend and meet - I just staggered along behind! One early event was the George Adamski meeting at Caxton Hall. For a short while Betty organised a small group meeting at her home. Later on we 'did' two skywatches at Warminster - not with any success I might add!

We both joined BUFORA way back in 1968 and in September, 1969 Betty took over as Secretary from Mike Holt, tirelessly trying to make sense of the meetings of BUFORA's Committees/Council and producing the minutes from then until a year or two before her death. In addition she was always on 'kitchen duty' when the meetings were held at Kensington, preparing refreshments for the break.

Betty will be missed very much but I am sure from wherever she is she will be keeping a beady eye on BUFORA's affairs."

THIS ARTICLE, WHICH FIRST APPEARED IN THE OCTOBER, 1985 ISSUE OF UFO ENCOUNTER THE NEWSLETTER OF UFO RESEARCH, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA, IS REPRODUCED BY KIND PERMISSION OF ITS EDITOR

IN discussing travel and communication in space I want to develop further an idea or theory put forward in Issue No 105, page 2 under the heading "UFOs and Faster-Than-Light Travel." In this article I reasoned that an entirely different type of motion in which space and the vehicle move together is not subject to the speed of light limitation.

Obviously we need a workable hypothesis on the nature of 'space.' Our current physics defines the proportions of space more by default than by a deliberate hypothesis. Last century scientists had a different idea of what space is. They reasoned that space was a kind of medium through which electromagnetic radiation could propagate. Their hypothesis was unable to explain certain experimental results and hence it was replaced by the present theory.

Now suppose that a flying saucer were to land in your back yard and its occupant told you "I move my vehicle by using gravitational forces and I can travel faster than light." The current theory of space can not explain such things so we decide that it is time to look for a more useful theory, one that allows us to think about gravitational propulsion, faster-than-light travel and faster-than-light communication.

We experience space through sight, hearing and motion and there is no question about its reality. Even as you read this, you are looking at patterns in space.

We take the premise that space is the opposite or complement to matter. Consider the list below:

MATTER

Mass or inertia
Granular
Rigid (holds its shape)

Can store energy

SPACE

No mass or inertia
Continuous
Fluid (does not hold a
Shape)
Does not store energy

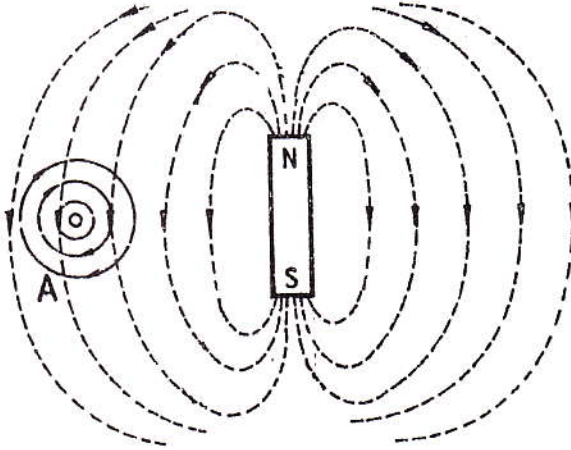
The above list will be seen as generally consistent with the physics of our day. Since space does not carry momentum or store energy we can describe matter/matter interaction in space as though space did not exist or rather as though space had no properties, and this is largely how our physics has it.

We will now add properties which allow us to talk about the structure of matter and gravity. We propose that the laws of motion as defined in our present day physics describe the motion of matter in or through space.

We postulate further than space can also move through space much like the motion of air in air or water in water. The important difference is that no energy is associated with such action, no energy is dissipated by it and there is no speed limit to the rate of such motion.

Although no energy is associated with motion of space it does not follow that energy considerations are irrelevant. Consider the field around a bar magnet.

FIGURE 1



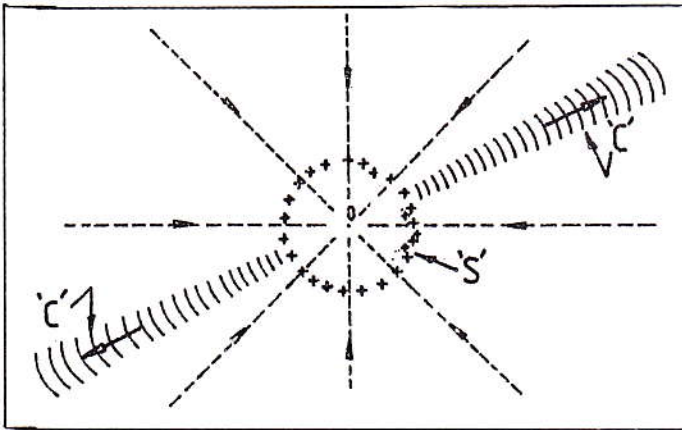
This field may be regarded as an energy field in space. When it is set in motion through space, additional energy in the form of an electrical field appears as well. Suppose we created a swirling motion in space at A as shown. Now since space is moving relative to the magnetic field, electric fields must result at A. Thus energy is needed to create space motion at A. The more powerful the magnetic field the greater the energy required.

Consider a convergent flux of space FIGURE 2. Space flows towards a common centre 'O'. The closer we get to O the greater the speed which varies inversely with the square of the distance from the centre. At the radius 'S' the speed of space equals the speed of light.

FIGURE 1 An Energy Field in Space

Electric charges at 'S' although they repel each other can not escape or spread out because they are already moving at the speed of light in space.

FIGURE 2. A "SINK" Field of Space.



Also shown in FIGURE 2 are two narrow cones 'C' in which space is moving outwards at speeds many times the influx speed. Electric or

or magnetic fields in these cones would incur an enormous energy penalty so they are 'pushed out' of this region. Thus the energy associated with these cones is the energy needed to push the local fields out of the fast stream of space.

The pattern of space motion of FIGURE 2 does not have to persist to infinite distances. In the case of fundamental particles like electrons or protons etc., the size of this pattern is determined at the time the particles are created and extends only a little beyond the radius where the speed of light is attained. FIGURE 3.

The space fields of FIGURES 2 and 3 have the properties of gravitational fields. Each fundamental particle is a miniature 'black hole.' The field around the particles gives rise to a short range attraction which keeps the nuclei of atoms intact.

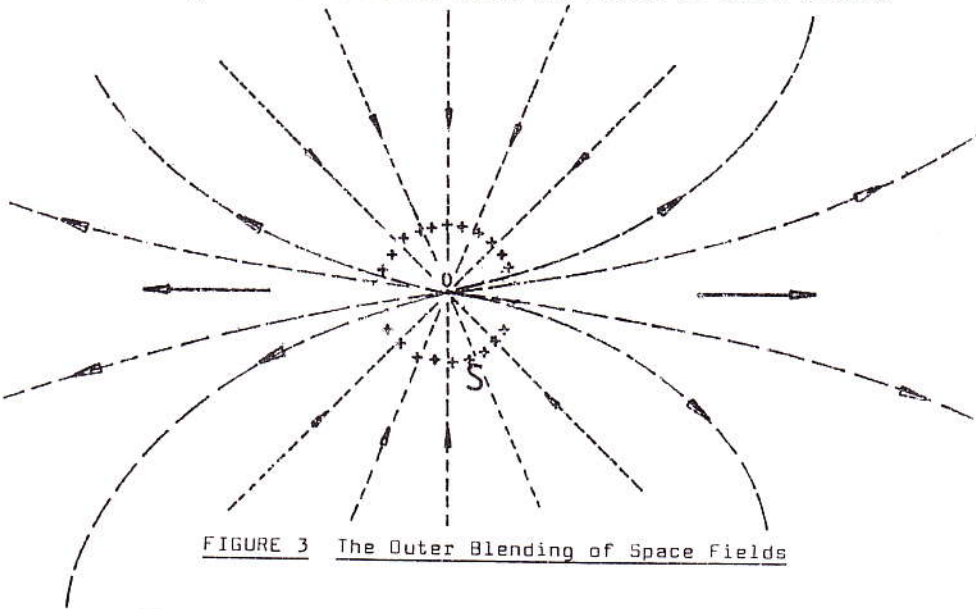


FIGURE 3 The Outer Blending of Space Fields

If we assume that this space field is not entirely balanced out but that a minute part of it persists to astronomical distances then we have what we need to describe planetary and interstellar gravitation.

If we postulate further that this remaining field balances out at galactic distances then we have an explanation for the existence of collections of matter on galactic scales. If we postulate yet further that the pattern reverses (i.e. the outflowing regions are large and slow while the inflowing regions are contrasted, we then have gravitational repulsion between galaxies which gives a natural explanation to their observed motion.

In science, a proposal or hypothesis is judged useful or

'true' if it can explain a great body of diverse experimental facts. Our postulates of fields of motion of 'space' have the potential to explain the fundamental particles of matter, the stability of the atomic nucleus, gravitation, galaxies and the expansion of inter-galactic space. 'Space fields' as we shall call them are operated by probably all matter/matter interactions, but they usually balance out and we have not, so far, discovered their existence.

The creation and annihilation of fundamental particles are now interpreted as processes where space fields are taken into or out of existence. No doubt there are other processes which produce large scale space fields of practical usefulness. These we must still discover, but when we do, we have the potential for gravitational propulsion and faster than light travel. Also, unfortunately, it will be possible to release energy destructively on a scale vastly greater than the nuclear weapons of our day.

Much is said in UFO research circles about the official cover-up of UFO sightings. The impetus behind such secrecy probably has two sources. On the one hand there is a malevolent motive with the intention of depriving mankind of the cultural and technical benefits of contact with other civilisations. On the other hand there is the fear of the well-intentioned who prefer to forego the benefits in order to reduce the risks.

For my part I feel that the policies governed by fear will eventually generate the result feared. Sooner or later our own scientific progress will get us there anyway. Without cultural influence of other, friendly civilisations we lack the social maturity to handle the risks of this new technology. As a consequence, our well-meaning but fearful leaders might as well be devils for all the difference it makes to our future prospects.

Many of the ideas presented above, such as the postulate that short range nuclear forces are gravitational, intergalactic repulsion and that a suitable arrangement of moving electronic charges will generate a gravitational effect may be found in the contactee account of Daniel Fry 'The White Sands Incident.'

BEFORE BULLETIN

APologies are offered to readers for the late publication date of both the May and July issues of the BULLETIN. This has been due to production difficulties and late arrival of some copy.

The production difficulties have mainly concentrated around the typewriter which has been very sick indeed, and was, for a while entirely despaired of. Members will, I hope therefore overlook some very erratic typing in this issue and the change in typewriter face. Given the time factor, it has not been possible to correct all the errors before going to press.

I hope that the difficulties will have been sorted out by the end of the year and that the publication of the November issue will be on time.

It has also been necessary to hold over until November the promised tribute to Allan J. Hynek and also Letters to the Editor.

Editor.

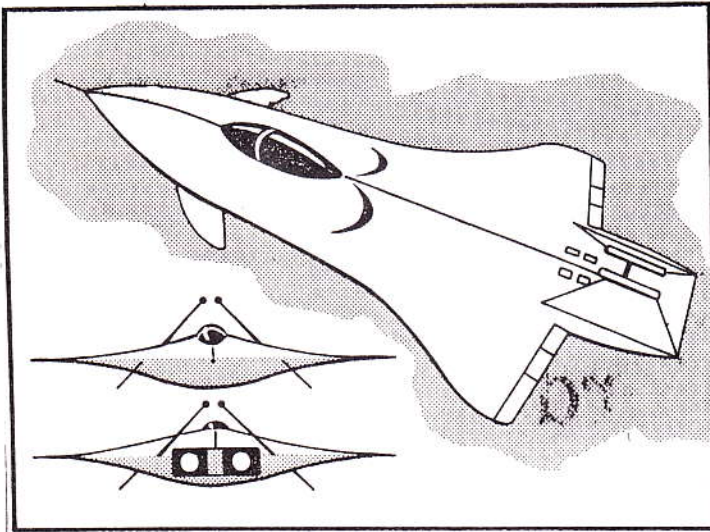
I WAS interested in Steuart Campbell's article on ASTRONOMICAL UFOs (May, 1986 BULLETIN). In the main he makes valid points. There are doubtless quite a few stellar IFOs in our records. I am aware of some myself - even cases that have generated close encounters. One of the most instructive was the star/planet identification to the Lincolnshire car chase (see pages 39-42 of my book UFO REALITY, Robert Hale, 1983). That demonstrates many of the points which Steuart makes - so his basic concept is not lost on me. Nor, I suspect, on most experienced field investigators.

However, it is very easy (deceptively persuasive in fact) to then go back to every case you can think of and try to re-evaluate it in the same way I could, for instance, look at all car chases and argue that they probably have a very similar solution. Quite a few do. But it would be foolish to get carried away and become too generalised. It is very tempting to dispense with real field investigation by convincing yourself that you do not need to do it. There is a tailor made answer that could fit - therefore it does fit.

I will confine my answers to specific cases to those I know well enough. This means the cases in SKY CRASH as, according to Steuart, "Several stars contributed to the Rendlesham (Forest) incident.... and stars appear to be the cause of several other incidents related in (the book)...." One of these is the famous Cash-Landrum case from Huffman, Texas, which is confidently said to be "caused by a star; Canopus". The comment at the end of the article "Hendry has briefly discussed these IFOs in his 'The UFO Handbook'..." is rather misleading, because Hendry's book was written two years before either the Huffman, Texas or Rendlesham cases and (so far as I know) the astronomer is not a gifted clairvoyant! Nor do I find it very convincing that the object and a fleet of noisy helicopters (which created serious radiation sickness in the witnesses and gave out waves of heat) was a star! Either Steuart was joking (which I doubt), he has gone crackers (which I sincerely hope not) or he has some extraordinary evidence about this case which he had better present forthwith if he expects anyone to take his views very seriously in future.

I note that he explains the Hopton, Norfolk, September 14th, 1980 events at "Betelgeuse and Rigel" - and since, in SKY CRASH, we did say that this case "may or may not have an explanation" I won't quibble. It leaves some points to be debated but is a very reasonable possibility. Likewise, in the paperback edition of SKY CRASH we do point out that the Halt tape leaves one in little doubt that some of the lights it describes are explicable. Some of these may well be stars. I can buy both Steuart and Ian Ridpath's comments on that. Although there remain a couple of more puzzling observations that night in the woods. However, the events of December 29th-30th as recorded on the tape do not have a bearing on the supposed "sky crash" incident which, despite Ian Ridpath and Steuart's juggling with the calendar, happened on December 27th, 1980...and is, as yet, unexplained.

I am even willing to go on record and say that the bright light in the sky which Brenda Butler described seeing over the base may very well have been Venus - as both Steuart and Ian suggest. Brenda vehemently denies this possibility, I must add. But the case they make is worth considering and I do not reject serious suggestions out of hand.



An artist's impression of the F-19 Stealth aircraft.

Secret Stealth plane 'operating from Mildenhall base'

By Air Cdre G. S. COOPER
Air Correspondent

AMERICA'S top secret Stealth aircraft, the Lockheed F-19, has been operating out of the United States Air Force base at Mildenhall, in Suffolk, according to an article appearing in the April issue of the monthly magazine *Pilot*.

Looking like a Stingray, the 1500 mph covert reconnaissance aircraft has been developed from an earlier Lockheed design known as the XST (Experimental Stealth Technology).

The strange shape has been chosen to make the aircraft

almost invisible to the radar and infra-red sensors.

Rumours about the Lockheed F-19 abound because although it has been flying since 1977, no photograph of it has been published.

Keeping watch

Most bizarre of the aircraft's supposed features is a "chameleon" skin coating, which, under computer control, enables its surface colour to adapt to surrounding terrain.

The United States Air Force is thought to be operating a

squadron of F-19s entirely at night, to avoid being seen. Similar in size to the F-18 Hornet, the Stealth aircraft's wings can be folded to allow it to be carried to an overseas base in a C-5 Calgary freighter.

Unconfirmed reports suggest that nearly 30 visits have been made to Britain. Aircraft spotters at Mildenhall are keeping watch for the F-19 at dusk, but a United States Air Force spokesman at the base said that they would be lucky to see one because "there certainly has not been one here."

DAILY TELEGRAPH
MARCH 20th, 1986

DAILY TELEGRAPH
JANUARY 3rd, 1986

FLYING SAUCERS 'NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT'

Sir Winston Churchill ordered a Ministerial report on flying saucers, the Cabinet Papers disclose under the 30-year rule.

In a memo to the Air Ministry, the Prime Minister demanded: "What does all this stuff about flying saucers amount to? What can it all mean? What is the truth? Let me have a report at your convenience."

The answer from Lord De L'Isle and Dudley, then Air Secretary, that the "stuff" did not amount to much clearly satisfied him.

Saucer takes a spin

When Prince Charles opens Expo '86, Vancouver's world fair, tomorrow he will be invited to fly a "flying saucer". John Dudman describes the space fantasy that has become a sudden reality.



The backwoods flyer

IT MAY be difficult to believe a "flying saucer" that might have starred in a Hollywood space epic does actually work. It flies straight up, straight down, sideways, in circles and spins on its own vertical axis, and can perform, if required, a sort of aerial square dance.

Credulity is stretched further in discovering that it had its origins in the Canadian backwoods.

Its champion George Ninkovich, 48, president of Hystar Aerospace Development Corporation of Vancouver, explained: "I was originally in the timber business. The good trees disappeared from accessible areas 40 years ago. The good wood that remained grew in places high up—on cliff tops for instance. I was determined to bring it down."

So he recruited aircraft engi-

neers and designers to study the possibilities of logging in remote places from the air. Helicopters, barrage balloons and airships were all considered.

Then, using the latest vertical take-off technology, Dale Kramer, 33, a Toronto designer, produced a cylindrical-shaped saucer with a pilot cabin fitted underneath and a revolutionary control system using either propellers or ducted fans.

Everyone was amazed at the strange but familiar shape. "But I said I didn't care if it looked like a table so long as it worked," said Ninkovich.

By using a cable with a remote controlled hook or grab the Hystar, hovering over the

British Columbian forest where trees rise well over 100 feet, can lift heavy logs from one operating site to another.

The uses for this aircraft have spread far from the backwoods. Ninkovich is promoting four types from the remote-controlled version to a one-man "flying saucer" and on to bigger machines with diameters of 115 feet and a height of 46 feet, plus a weight carrying ability of 15,000 lbs.

The mini-flying saucer with its gleaming white laminated skin will be used for indoor demonstrations. Besides being shown at Expo '86 it will also perform at next September's Farnborough Air Show. The bigger aircraft will have a range of uses including being a platform for television crews and monitoring oil, gas and power lines over the sub-zero wastes and forests of northern Canada or for seed spraying over farmland.

And just how does the Hystar handle? "Listen," said Ninkovich, his eyes twinkling with enthusiasm. "You could learn to fly it solo in six hours. Why not try? It's so easy."

One wonders what Prince Charles's verdict will be if he takes up the challenge.

DAILY TELEGRAPH
May 1st, 1986

Huge object puzzles astronomers

By Adrian Berry
Science Correspondent

A GIGANTIC but invisible object, more than a thousand times heavier than our Milky Way galaxy, has been found half-way between here and the edge of the known universe, astronomers said yesterday.

What it is, and how long it has been there, nobody knows but its very existence is likely to revolutionise our understanding of the universe.

Writing in today's *Nature*, eight astronomers report the evidence which led to the astounding discovery that was made last month at the 158-inch telescope at Kitt Peak, Arizona.

A "quasar," an object right at the edge of the universe, appeared in the telescope to have a double image. This meant that some dark object between it and the earth was distorting and splitting the quasar's light.

Black hole

But what is fantastic is the extent of separation of the two identical images of the quasar. They are more than a 20th of a degree apart (the full moon is half a degree across). This suggests that the invisible object whose gravity is splitting the quasar must be unimaginably massive.

Most astronomers agreed that the most likely explanation was a black hole but one that is 200 million times more massive than any previously discovered.

DAILY TELEGRAPH

A 'close encounter' puzzle for couple

Reports of a cigar shaped cluster of stars are to be investigated by Deryshire UFO experts after a Burton couple contacted the *Mail*.

Pensioners Leo and Jose Barker, have been bewildered in the last month by sightings of fast moving stars, trailing a red light, usually shortly before dusk.

From the living room of their home in Waterside Road, Stapenhill, the couple claim to have seen the lights on 14 consecutive nights. But sometimes clouds have hidden the strange looking set of stars from sight.

SCEPTICAL

Mrs Barker is sceptical about the existence of alien objects and is keeping an open mind. But she admits she and her husband are mystified.

"I have never seen anything like it before. I have never seen a star move across the sky so quickly. I first saw it a month ago. Then I forgot about it. When I saw it again through binoculars it was cigar shaped with a mass of stars and a red piece of light at the end of it. We saw it last night but not for long because of the clouds.

"It is high in the sky and we can see it for about two hours before it disappears. We've got no theories at all about what it could be. Maybe someone who knows about stars could tell us. I've thought about writing to Patrick Moore about it. Our neighbours have seen it but just laugh it off."

Husband Leo, a retired miner of Cadley Hill colliery, has challenged anyone to come down and see the lights for themselves.

"If they don't believe us they can come and look. I didn't believe in UFO's but I believe in them now."

Mr Peter Ann, Derbyshire group leader of the National UFO Investigation Society, said checks would be made to see if there was a rational explanation.

"We get many reports of this kind made to us in good faith. Sometimes it can turn out to be a satellite or planet, or even an aircraft. We do checks scientifically. If we think this is a possible UFO sighting we will send the Barkers a report form."

● Anyone else who may have seen the object should contact Mr Dennis Harriman, 0602 730919.

BURTON MAIL

MAY 21st, 1986

However, Steuart demonstrates the absurdity of his position when he claims "The 'glowing green light heading straight for' Gordon Levett of Sudbourne...was surely Sirius." This is a masterpiece of fitting an explanation onto facts without doing any investigation. It demonstrates the grave risks run by over-commitment to any one idea (however valid it may be in essence).

I have been to the site and spoken to the witness as he went through his sighting. For a start the object was initially seen nowhere near bearing B30 azimuth. It was a very large object distinctly shaped. From the position in the garden where the witness stood Steuart's star was not visible; and the thing (whatever it was) literally flew from horizon to horizon right over the witness's head! It was lost from view on the other side of the sky to Sirius.

Now I know that Sirius has got some pretty strange properties, if we are to believe some of the books written about it of late. But I doubt the Dogon tribe would ever propose that it has this ability to fly over people's heads! (Nor - incidentally - has the Orford Ness lighthouse - which is also not even visible from Gordon Levett's garden!)

I think the best way I can answer this quite ridiculous proposition - apart from suggesting that Steuart invest in the train fare to East Anglia before he starts demolishing cases in such a cavalier manner - is to echo the words of John McEnroe....
YOU CANNOT BE SIRIUS!

Whilst I would be loathe to dismiss Steuart's ideas because of a few bizarre suggestions. I cannot help but wonder how many more of his 'solved' cases have similar backgrounds. In a recent list of dozens of BUFORA cases he has now informed us are fully explained there was one that read Month?? Date?? (only the year was known) - plus details and Steuart's solution ...'Unidentified Star.' Is it better to concoct such a meaningless answer to a case for which the data is utterly inadequate? Or to label it, most reasonably, insufficient data (and throw it in the bin - which might be better)? If so most field investigators in the world are wasting their time. Really, this this seems to be an example of too much of a good thing.

GOING AROUND IN CIRCLES

Over 50 members and guests attended a hastily convened illustrated lecture on Monday, July 14th, 1986 at the London Business School to discuss THE MYSTERY OF THE CIRCLES. These strange formations have again reappeared this summer in the Winchester area.

Speakers were Dr. Terence Mearden, Paul Fuller and Jenny Randles. Paul's book on the subject has recently been published.

The meeting climaxed six years of research into the circles by BUFORA who believe that it has now come up with the answer to this puzzling, high summer phenomenon.

It is hoped that a more detailed report on the meeting will appear in the November BULLETIN.

Mike Wootten undertook most of the hectic, last minute organisational work for the meeting, which was felt to be a great success and most informative.

AN INSIGHT INTO THE PROBLEMS AND ADVANTAGES OF
DATA PROCESSING UFO CASE REPORTS AND A DESCRIPTION
OF BUFORA'S WORKING COMPUTER SYSTEM.

For nearly two years we have been formulating and compiling the BUFORA Case Report Database. But very little has been discussed within these pages concerning the project's aims, structure and expectations.

INTRODUCTION

It would be very wrong of me to state that computer technology will solve the UFO enigma. Computers are highly structured, working purely on logic. The total opposite to the UFO phenomenon. The UFO has come in all colours, shapes and sizes. In probably every weather condition and geographical location. There are indeed general patterns and scenarios that UFO events follow. But there is not a database in the world that could handle every parameter generated by UFO reports to date.

Bearing this in mind there has to be a degree of caution when evaluating results compiled from a UFO database, or, indeed, any statistical analysis that is undertaken (whether using a computer or not).

AIMS

From the start I was not concerned with formulating an 'all singing, all dancing' database. Frankly the finances were not there to fund a project that involved several people, with their own high speed, high memory and inevitably high cost terminal and peripherals. So the ZK Spectrum was chosen to do the job.

Before the inception of the database, a researcher, wishing to use BUFORA reports as a basis for his study would have had the arduous task of searching through every report, manually, one after the other. This situation was simply not good enough, especially when the files were in no proper order. So clearly something had to be done. The database was only considered to be an electronic card index system that would house all filed case reports. This would generally eliminate the time costly exercise of manually searching through 15,000 case reports.

Once the database was complete, we would have an opportunity to analyse the stored material statistically and hopefully glean some positive results.

STRUCTURE

Despite the limitations of the Spectrum, i.e. memory (48KBytes) and relatively slow access time. It had the advantage of being initially inexpensive, with inexpensive software and peripherals. The software package that was put into commission is considered to be the best database package available for the Spectrum. Masterfile by Campbell systems (1) is fully flexible, enabling the user to design the package to his or her particular needs. Full sort and search facilities are included plus user programmable routines and full printer formatting.

Database Parameters

There are 13 main headings which are detailed below (FIGURE 1)

A. BUFORA REFERENCE	H. APPARENT SIZE
B. LEVEL	I. SHAPE
C. TYPE	J. COLOUR
D. DATE	K. NOTES
E. TIME	L. EVALUATION
F. LOCALE	M. INVESTIGATOR
G. DURATION.	

The TYPE heading is split into two separate parameters EVENT TYPE and WITNESS TYPE. The DATE heading has four separate parameters DAY, DATE, MONTH and YEAR. TIME is also split into two parameters TIME and TIME TYPE.

So there is a total of 18 separate parameters that can be sorted and searched.

We shall now go through each parameter in detail

A. BUFORA REFERENCE

Simply, the unique reference number assigned to each completed report, i.e. 770122, the first two digits represent the year and the next 4 digits represent the number.

B. LEVEL

The standard classification of the report material from A (full on-site investigation) to E (third hand information i.e. press cuttings etc).

C. TYPE (event and witness type)

EVENT TYPE (3) (FIGURE 2)

WITNESS TYPE (FIGURE 3)

This is a modified version of BUFORA's case classification system (object details have been omitted). This parameter gives only a limited insight to the witness. I shall be honest and say that this is a definite weakness to the system. But I hope that a totally separate witness database will be formulated in the future.

D. DATE

Self explanatory. Using DAY, DATE, MONTH AND YEAR.

E. TIME

Again, self explanatory. Using the 24 hour clock and utilising the TIME TYPE to indicate GMT or BST or any other time zone.

FIG 2.

VISUALS (V): A visual sighting of a UFO.

V1: An observation of a Point source of light (LITS).
V2: An observation of a discernable shape.

RESPONSIVES (R): A Phenomenon which seems to respond to the Percipient.

R1: Where the response is IMPLIED (ie UFO reacts to witness action).
R2: Where the Phenomenon Pursues the witness.
R3: Where the Phenomenon causes immobilisation.
R4: where the Phenomenon responds to animals.
R5: Where the Phenomenon responds to something other than the witness (ie aircraft etc).

LANDINGS (L): Where the UFO lands.

L1: Where the landing has no apparent effect.
L2: Where the landing involves Physiological effects.
L3: Where the landing affects nearby animals.
L4: Where the landing leaves residual traces.
L5: Where the object is seen underwater.

EFFECTIVES (E): Where the Phenomenon has an interactive effect with:-

E1: The witness.
E2: The environment.
E3: Mechanical equipment.
E5: Animals.

OCCUPIEDS (O): Where occupants are seen in the Presence of a UFO, ie

O1: Those who simply fly by or are OBSERVERS.
O2: Those who take material samples - SAMPLERS.
O3: Those who repair or are TECHNICIANS.
O4: Those who examine, question - ANALYSTS.

CONTACTS (C): Where contact occurs between Phenomenon and witness, ie.

C1: By means of simple meeting.
C2: With some kind of assault or force.
C3: Abduction into UFO.
C4: Abduction with memory of same repressed from the consciousness.
C5: Contact by non verbal means (telepathy etc)
C6: Contact by way of vision or dream.

INSTRUMENTALLY DETECTED (I): Where the UFO is detected by some form of instrument, ie
I1: Photograph.
I2: Movie film.
I3: Radar.
I4: By other means.

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FIG 3.

- CATEGORY: OBSERVATIONAL QUALITY OF WITNESS.

- A. One or more official observers: Pilot, astronomer, who was using his expertise during the observation.
 - B. One or more experienced observers, not necessarily professional but of good standing: Police etc.
 - C. No experienced observers.
- GROUP: GENERAL NUMBER OF WITNESSES.

- 1. Two or more independent witnesses at different locations.
 - 2. Two or more witnesses at one location.
 - 3. One witness only.
-

F LOCALE

A 25 character space to indicate the location of the event i.e. HOVE, SUSSEX (nearest town or village then county and, if necessary, country of origin.

G DURATION (FIGURE 4)

Considering the unreliability of witnesses to state the exact duration of an event, the above coding was considered adequate to indicate the general duration of the sighting.

H APPARENT SIZE (FIGURE 5)

Again, the witness usually has great difficulty in judging the actual size of the object reported (which is understandable). He or she will try and usually come up with an OVER-estimate. Apparent size is usually testable and a fairly accurate indication of the angular size of the object.

FIG 4.

- CODE:

- 0 0-9 seconds.
 - 1 10-29 seconds.
 - 2 30-59 seconds.
 - 3 1-2.59 minutes.
 - 4 3-4.59 minutes.
 - 5 5-9.59 minutes.
 - 6 10-29.59 minutes.
 - 7 30-59.59 minutes.
 - 8 1-1.59 hours.
 - 9 2 hours or more.
-

FIG 5.

- CODE:

- 1 Pinhead.
 - 2 Pea.
 - 3 Halfpenny.
 - 4 Penny.
 - 5 Two Pence.
 - 6 Golfball
 - 7 Tennis ball
 - 8 Other.
-

I. SHAPE

A written description of the shape of the object(s) using 26 characters.

J. COLOUR

Again, a 25 character space to describe the colour(s) of the object(s) reported.

K. NOTES

A 52 character space to include any relevant points of the case in question that are not covered by any other parameter.

L. EVALUATION

A written evaluation of the case (26 characters) in terms of UFO, insufficient data (INSUFF) or aircraft (A/C), meteor etc. The evaluation of cases and using terminology, i.e. UFO can be easily misunderstood. The term UFO is used in the database simply because it uses three characters and thus saves valuable memory (Steuart Campbell please note!)

M. INVESTIGATOR

Lists the investigators who participated in the production of the case report in question. Another source reference for the researcher. (FIGURE 6)

FIG 6.

```
REF 830004  LEVEL A  TYPE V2E1          C2  DATE MON 25 04 83
TIME 0845 BST  LOCALE BRADFORD,W.YORKS  DURAT 3  APP SIZE 3
SHAPE ROUND   COLOUR GREY,BLACK
NOTES ALTERNATING COLOUR & SPINNING
EVALU POSS METALLIC BALLOON          INVES N MORTIMER
```

```
REF 830027  LEVEL A  TYPE V2R5E1E2     C2  DATE SUN 13 02 83
TIME 0130 GMT  LOCALE PLYMOUTH,DEVON   DURAT 2  APP SIZE 7
SHAPE CIRCULAR COLOUR RED
NOTES OBJ DESENDED,HOVERED BY LAMP POST THEN ASCENDED
EVALU UAF          INVES PUF0IC
```

```
REF 840004  LEVEL A  TYPE V2R5E1       C3  DATE SAT 04 08 84
TIME 1745 BST  LOCALE WINCHESTER,HANTS  DURAT 3  APP SIZE 7
SHAPE SPHERICAL COLOUR ???
NOTES OBJ MADE SEVERAL MOVEMENTS AROUND WIT & LOCALE
EVALU B/L          INVES P FULLER
```

Typical Print outs from the database.

The database currently holds approximately 600 case reports from the late 1970s to the present day. Paul Fuller is currently wading through the 600 or so reports from 1977 (a bumper year). Mike Lewis is finishing off 1979.

As the cases are being coded and added to the database, they are

also being rearranged into batches of 50 and of course, bound in numerical order. So not only are the files being computerised they are also being clerically processed. Considering the files were not even in year order in 1984, we have, with the limited man power, done very well.

Having had the unique opportunity to read through many case reports over the last decade, it is important to note the increasingly high calibre of case reports submitted for coding. Most of the pre-NIC cases are single R1 report forms with very little data. But since the inception of the NIC, case reports have become booklet size and worthy of proper unbiased scientific research. This trend is a credit to BUFORA and the NIC and must continue.

CONCLUSION

We still have no real idea of the nature of UFOs. There are almost as many theories of the origin of the phenomenon as there are cases. I follow the view that UFOs do not have any single solution. The phenomena is a multi-faceted enigma. In this light we have to be flexible in our attitudes, our investigative techniques and our research. This goes against the grain of the rigid computer's structure.

Without sounding damning of statistical analyses of UFO data conducted in the past and the effort that has gone into them. Not one statistical report has ever mirrored another (4). This implies a purely random phenomenon reported by a purely random cross section of witnesses. The sceptic would argue that this proves that UFOs do not exist, but are purely unsolved IFOs (with hidden mundane 'Earthbound' explanations). I think this is a fair point to argue. It is also fair to argue that there are no patterns because we are looking at the wrong data, or the right data but with the wrong approach. Once the code of the UFO has been unlocked then the data will become clear. The computer can help us to overcome this problem.

UFO groups all over the world can afford computer technology and this situation is being exploited and quite rightly. The data that is being extracted should not be kept top secret from other groups. In sharing the wealth of data currently being collated in computer form, we will benefit and understand the nature of the beast we are dealing with. But, I stress, 'You cannot structure a flexible phenomenon.'

I do not claim that the BUFORA CASE REPORT DATABASE is fully comprehensive and overcomes the forementioned problems. But it is a start. A researcher can now find cases in seconds rather than hours and thus should accelerate the speed in which we solve an enigma that, for many years, has eluded explanation.

REFERENCES

- (1) Campell Systems, 57 Traps Hill, Loughton, Essex IG10 1TD, England.
- (2) Randles, J. UFO REALITY pp.26 Robert Hale, 1983.
- (3) Ibid. pp.54.
- (4) Wootton, M.R. JTAP Vol.4 No.1 pp 208. Sept. 1985.

Following her article in the May BULLETIN JENNY RANDELES continues the strange story of Frank Taylor and "The Uninvited" - 3

SINCE writing the article published in the May Bulletin a number of other things have occurred which require discussion. "The Uninvited 3" has been read in detail by me and I have talked to BUFORA's Investigations Training Officer, Ken Phillips. This is relevant because the book is set in Milton Keynes - the town where Ken lived until a few months ago. Nothing UFO-wise could happen there without his knowledge. It is literally inconceivable in my opinion, that a CE4 with sexual abduction elements should happen to a local police officer and be reported in the local press without Ken knowing. Indeed there was a sighting involving Milton Keynes' police in March, 1982 which was reported in BUFORA Bulletin. I suspect this forms the basis for the fantasy which STAR Books and Frank Taylor are publishing as fact. The details of the story are identical with the Villas Boas abduction to the smallest detail. I do not mind risking a lawsuit by suggesting that this story could be a fabrication and somebody (either publisher or writer) surely knows that. Also, I can assure readers that BUFORA did not receive the alleged press story, mentioned in the book, via our press cutting agency subscription.

MELODRAMA

One small point is worth noting. At the start of the book there is a crazy melodram where a UFO lands on the west coast mainland as an express is due to thunder through. The absurd text asks us to believe the scene, like something out of a 1920s B movie, as the victim is tied to the tracks and the engine rolls ever nearer. The desperate signal box attendant cannot do anything - but the UFO takes off in the nick of time as disaster is imminent. Any half alert UFO investigator will spot the real case this is fabricated from. Indeed, throughout the book the knowledgeable researcher can have great fun playing "spot which real case this is based on." Furthermore, the train is alleged to be an 'inter city 125' from Birmingham to Euston. Inter-city 125 trains do not travel on the west coast main line into Euston. The line is electrified. How many other boobs has Taylor made? Perhaps observant readers will point them out. Maybe we can have a competition!

Of course, it can scarcely be coincidence that "The Uninvited 2" and "3" are set in the Pennines and Milton Keynes, the two locations where active investigators have prompted many cases. I have no doubt that "Uninvited 2" was largely ripped off from my book "THE PENNINE UFO MYSTERY" and that "Uninvited 3" relies on Ken Phillips' real work. The writer has also read his FRS, as many cases are cobbled together in a stew of fantasy and distortion from these.

In an attempt to get some hard evidence to sink STAR books, I have been chasing the story in "The Uninvited 2". I was quite surprised to learn that the pub outside Matlock does really exist! Also that its owners did move in autumn, 1981, exactly as the book claims. There were even a few lights in the sky seen in the

area at the time. Hardly unusual for the Pennines, as my book shows. Even so the savour of alien contacts, police car chases, and so forth, appears to be dubious to say the least. I think the best I can accuse Taylor and Star Books with at this stage is gross exaggeration. Indeed, in the words of the head of Matlock police at the time of the event "...they are just making it up, aren't they? It is perfectly ridiculous."

The truth as I understand it, is that the owner of the Horseshoe Inn, Matlock, in July, 1981 might have seen a few lights. But I cannot even verify that. They categorically did not leave the area, or depart the pub due to the aliens - as the book alleges. I know the name of the family who were there at the time the book describes and they still live in Derbyshire. The couple separated and this is why the pub changed hands. I have spoken to the new owner who was rather unwilling to co-operate, saying that he knew the previous occupants well. So far as he was aware the story in the book was nonsense. And he would only talk further through a solicitor. That seems to make quite plain what the status of "Uninvited 2" is! Although he added that the transfer to him was agreed before the supposed UFO sightings in the book which 'drove' the family out.

I also succeeded in talking to a barmaid who was working at the pub throughout the events reported in the book. She flatly denies that they happened and, as she puts it, "...none of that could have gone on here without my knowing." The book seems to be dismissed as a big joke in the local community.

ON THE RECORD

All of this was interesting, but not probative. So I contacted Matlock police in writing, asking that they check their records. I pointed out that I was working on the assumption that the events had not happened as claimed, that the book could be a fraud, and that since specific Matlock policemen were involved the supposed sightings, car damage and cover-ups, that they might be interested in taking legal action if none of this was true. I got no answer.

On April 11th, 1986 I followed up my letter and telephoned Matlock police. The policewoman I spoke to immediately recognised what I was talking about. "This was passed to an Inspector for investigation. Has he not contacted you?" I assured her not, and there was a considerable delay whilst she 'looked into the records to see who is handling it.' Eventually I was told that an Inspector Whitworth was doing so. But after a conversation off phone between this Wpc and someone whom I presumed to be a senior officer I was handed onto a different inspector.

I managed to get him to give me his name, Inspector Donald Lambley, and to allow all his comments to be on the record. He told me that they had received other complaints about this book (a point which was fairly clear from talking to the current owners of the Horseshoe and explaining his desire only to talk through solicitors). "We often get reports of UFOs and look into them. They usually turn out to be stars", Lambley told me. I accepted all this, but insisted that the point here was fraud. The book was being specifically promoted as fact (indeed it

labours the claim that every word of it is true). Since all my enquiries were leading me to the inevitable conclusion that STAR Books were misrepresenting this book to its buying public, was he not willing to help? As I said "...all we are interested in doing is getting to the truth - and stopping Taylor and STAR misleading people. As a writer of books about UFOs that are factual, it is my desire to weed out all those who are dishonest. Otherwise who will trust what I write?" He understood all this, but seemed remarkably reluctant to agree to put things in writing.

Ultimately I squeezed from him a statement for the record. "We have checked our books, which do record UFO sightings reported to us. There is nothing whatsoever that corresponds with the incidents referred to in the book." As to the supposed police involvement and car chases: "We have no record of any such thing ever having occurred as the book suggests." He then added the final coup de gr[^]ce "At the time of the incidents I was here. This is a very small station. I do not recall any of these things having happened. Frankly I think this is all nonsense."

Attempts have been made by others to get somewhere with STAR Books. My name is too well known to them for me to write. That is why I suggested Peter Hough contact them. In view of the story that Clive Harold was approached to "fake" books, but refused, we have attempted to write to him via STAR. STAR sent the letter back saying he had moved and they did not know where to. As his book seems to be still in print and they must, therefore, be paying him royalties, that claim is hard to believe.

STRAIGHT ANSWERS

We will continue to look into this matter. And if readers have information about these two books, the whereabouts of Clive Harold, or exactly who Frank Taylor is (if he exists and this is not a nom de plume) - I would appreciate hearing from you.

As I understand it, the "Uninvited -4" is due soon and goodness knows what that will be like. I hope the editor of the BULLETIN will send this issue to the non-fiction editor at STAR (W.H. Allen Publishers) in London. I hope that he may give some straight answers to the many questions that remain. We do not know if they have defrauded the public. But as serious UFO investigators it is our duty to point out the possibility. For if these 'factual' books are really fiction someone should tell the truth. If STAR Books refuse, then we must do it for them.

BOB MORRELL, President of NUFOIS-APRA the Nottingham-based research group adds his thought to the article in the May BULLETIN on the Frank Taylor book which was contributed by Stuart Campbell, and also to Jenny Bandler's article.

NUFOIS-APRA has an active branch in Derbyshire which undertook an investigation of the incidents described in the book "The Uninvited 2: The Visitation" by Frank Taylor, at the request of the then editor of THE NATLOCK MERCURY, Ian Amos..

The first thing we found peculiar was the fact that the events were supposed to have taken place at a time when our own organisation was undertaking an extensive series of investigations into UFO sightings in the area the events in the book are set in. This work has received considerable exposure in the media (in-

cluding reference to us by them of sightings they had been notified of, not all of which had relevance to the investigative work being carried out. In light of the details given in the book of the witnesses' desire to discuss the case with those likely to know something about UFOs, as well as the claimed police involvement, it seemed strange nobody knew of our investigations from the local press. Perhaps the witnesses and those they discussed their claimed experiences with, including a pub landlord, did not read the local press, or listen to local radio broadcasts; frankly we felt this to be unlikely in every case.

The editor of THE MATLOCK MERCURY had been in correspondence with the author of the book, 'Frank Taylor' but could add nothing to what was given in the book. The police at Matlock knew nothing about the alleged events or about being called out. Now this is decidedly strange, for according to Chapter 6 of the book, a police-driving a panda car had seen and chased a UFO after interviewing the witnesses. During this chase his car had hit the top of a rise in the road at 85mph, taken off, landed with considerable force, spun round on the wet road twice and hit a wood fence either broadside or head on (pp 70-71), yet the car had not been even slightly damaged; there was not even a scratch on the paint! We find the no damage claim difficult to accept. Chief Superintendent T. Bailey, of the Divisional Police HQ at Buxton informed us that they could not help with data as "unfortunately files relating to that period are no longer retained." Either this is accurate or they have reasons for not wanting the matter furthered, though nothing in the events as described in the book gives grounds for suspecting this to be so. Later our investigators located what we felt to be the most likely location for such a crash, but there were no wooden fences at it only rather elderly iron railings.

ANONYMITY

We can understand the reasons for clothing the names of the witnesses in anonymity, but not for concealing the name of the individual supposed to have been interested in investigating UFOs. In our not inconsiderable experience we have found other ufologists (even the secretive Contact UK people) have always been willing to discuss sightings even though in certain instances they could not reveal witnesses names and addresses, or give data which could lead to their identification. The fact the ufologist named in the book as 'Roy Campbell' appears to have made no secret of his interest in ufology is indicative of it not being unreasonable to assume a willingness on his part to discuss particulars of the case.

The investigators involved were aware of the possibilities of the sightings if true, might well be explainable in the manner suggested by Stuart Campbell, and the star Antares was considered as a possible candidate. We took into consideration the various features which are set out in Mr Campbell's article (ASTRONOMICAL UFOs, (BUFORA BULLETIN ibis 16-19) but we concluded on the basis of the available data (or lack of it) plus certain details given in the book and our personal knowledge of the topography of the area, which a map does not readily convey, that to conclude a star was the explanation was perhaps a too hasty, and too easy, conclusion to draw. However, we had this possible explanation in mind when we decided to do a timed re-run of the witnesses car ride as described in the book between Chesterfield and Matlock.

The journey taught us an interesting lesson; route and geo-

graphical details as given in the book were inaccurate, for on the basis of them you cannot repeat the journey. Turnings are not where they should be and geographical features such as hills missing. The initial parts of the route described can be traced, and the place at which the police car crashed located, or where we feel it is located, but after that things get rather confused, to say the least. This made nonsense of the timing as found in the book. We tried possible alternatives with the same lack of success and this was also the situation when we sought to locate the "Horse-shoes' public house, none of the many we visited (without sampling their varied beverages) conformed to the details culled from the book.

Armed with the facts turned up from our investigation we next approached Mr Taylor through his publisher, seeking explanations for the discrepancies in the book, and after a lengthy delay received a reply which can only be termed evasive. However, he did admit that contrary to a claim made on page 169 not to have changed any details other than the names of those involved in the case he had, in fact, altered some of the times and "settings" in order to make the story "flow better". It was obvious from this admission that you could not trust the book, for not only had identifications been changed, as admitted in the text, but now we knew times and locations had been altered. If the tale was true we were faced with the nagging doubts as to whether there had been further deliberate alterations in factual detail in order to obtain a better "flow". The author was unwilling to resolve this difficulty.

SECRETIVE ISOLATION

Our reason for feeling the mysterious ufologist featuring in the story would be willing to discuss the case has already been referred to, so with this in mind we requested from the author the true name of "Roy Campbell" and his home address. In the book it is said he had been "part of some kind of organisation that checks on things like this (UFOs)", so he must have wanted to share his interests with others rather than remain in glorious and secretive isolation. In reply, Mr Taylor stated he was no longer in contact with Campbell and did not know of his present whereabouts (letter dated August 14th, 1985). We consider this to be a convenient get-out. We were thus faced with not only witnesses who had removed themselves to a place unknown, a landlord who had done likewise, police who knew nothing about the events and had destroyed files but now a lost ufologist as well.

Another line of inquiry was to discuss the events with local people, particularly as the book had received publicity in the local press. Amongst the NUFOIS investigators involved was a retired local farmer who not only had considerable knowledge of the area, where his family had farmed for several generations as well as being involved in local affairs, but was also able to bring us into contact with other local farmers in a way which might not have been possible to outsiders. Yet none of the people we discussed the events with, and whose land may have been in the area the events are supposed to have taken place over or near, had heard anything. They had heard of no unusual police activity, or had observed police cars in pursuit of anything at night. The only ufological organisation they had heard of was our own society, and they did not know of local ufologists other than our own

people. We were willing to meet the witnesses, the landlord and the mysterious ufologist at any venue selected by them anywhere in England, thus preserving their anonymity, and would meet their travelling expenses as well as giving legally binding guarantees which would ensure confidential information was not publicised. The offer was not taken up.

Naturally the scope of our investigation took in particulars such as aircraft movement during the period of the events, weather conditions, possible military operations and such like all of which were discussed at length by the investigative team of four. There were off-the-record discussions with other people whose expertise might have added further details to the information available to us. In the light of these discussions and considerations the conclusion our investigators drew in respect of the case presented in "The Uninvited 2: The Visitation" and submitted to the editor of THE MATLOCK MERCURY in writing on September 22nd, 1985 was that the book was a work of fiction, though as the author appeared to know something of ufology, the story probably embodied ideas derived from published cases (he mentions NORTHERN UFO NEWS) as Miss Randles concluded. Until the author is willing to permit investigators to meet the witnesses, whose present address he presumably knows, we see no reason to modify this viewpoint.

The Loch Ness Monster.
The Evidence. Steuart
Campbell. The Aquarian
Press. Wellingborough,
Northamptonshire. £3.99.

"In my view" says Steuart Campbell, in his usual forthright manner at the end of his book, "there is absolutely no reason why anyone should believe in the existence of lake monsters."

Having read the argument it is easy to share his views. He demonstrates that most eyewitness reports, photographs, cine-film and, more recently, sonar soundings, are in fact evidence not of an unknown marine life in the Loch, but of bow waves, rotting vegetation, ships' wakes, otters (particularly otters) submerged rock outcroppings and obvious hoax. He produces, as one would expect of Steuart, a powerful and persuasive argument, and the book is certainly highly recommended to all those interested in what might, or might not, lurk at the bottom of Loch Ness as well as the history of research which has surrounded the area for over 50 years. I am inclined to agree with him that the lack of any real tangible evidence of the creature's existence (bones, physical traces, just one unchallengeable picture) does indeed suggest that what has been genuinely witnessed over the years, as opposed to what has been deliberately fabricated, has been natural phenomena either seen at too great a distance to be convincingly identified, or else in adverse weather conditions.

Yet, amongst the hoaxes and the hype one comes across a photograph like that on page 50 taken by Jennifer Bruce in 1982 at Drumadrochit. It is odd. It is unexplained. Mrs Bruce herself was unaware of anything on the Loch until the photo-

graph was developed. The picture might even lend added weight to Steuart's anti-argument for a play of shadows and light and water, if that's what it was, has certainly produced the familiar picture postcard image of Nessie herself, a raised head and sinuous neck and a dark body, low in the water, far out beyond the shore.

Whilst I support Steuart's evidence against the monster's existence I certainly do question the closing sentence of his book which seems to me to epitomise all the limitations of the closed, nanny-knows-best scientific mind. "there is absolutely no reason why anyone..."

There are, of course, countless reasons why people still believe in the Loch Ness monster (and much other strange phenomena also) and no amount of the reasoned scientific argument which he puts forward is going to shake them out of that belief. Indeed, why should it?

Scientists are, I am sure, appalled that in the last quarter of the 20th century outwardly sane looking people go around clinging with the tenacity of limpets, to childish ideas that they should have abandoned in the nursery - UFOs, Nessie, God, BVM visitations - are but four which come readily to mind. People 'cling' for the very reason that, as scientists attempt, and sometimes succeed in explaining and rationalising everything, they serve to destroy the very real need for people to believe in a world which cannot be explained and rationalised.

A plesiosaur living at the bottom of Loch Ness, benevolent space travellers, divine intervention in mans' affairs are anathema to anyone who seeks to reduce the inexplicable to the patently obvious. Theirs may be a laudable enterprise (we have, after all been 'rationalised' out of our habit of burning our female senior citizens as witches). It may be that scientific values will ultimately triumph and we shall all become much more reasoned and sensible people; but it will also remove from our lives which increasingly suffer the disadvantages of modern technology and scientific pro-

gress rather than prosper from their long-awaited benefits, a sense of wonder and mystery of a miraculous universe whose full nature we do not, and probably never will, fully comprehend.

Scientific wisdom (sic) for years scoffed at the true nature of meteorites ("Stones, falling from heaven! You must be joking!); the survival of the celocanth; the theory of relativity; the idea of tectronic plates, the possibility of lunar flight, the commercial viability of the telephone, the gramophone and talking pictures.

It was, until April of this year, expressing no misgivings at all about the complete safety of water-cooled nuclear reactors. Science has been to infallibility what Henry VIII once was to marital fidelity. Too often science has declared "No, totally impossible" when it might have just as easily said, "Wait, now let's think about that..."

To the scientist peoples' increasing belief in fate, the paranormal, the unknown and the unprovable, is a totally primitive and irrational behaviour pattern which needs, like a diseased tooth, to be removed from the physical body. But man's wish to know the unknowable is, undeniably, part of his spiritual longing for something greater both outside his ordinary existence and a world where social and political problems grow yearly more complex and intractable and which dogmas, isms and even science itself is totally incapable of resolving.

The quest for something 'extra'-ordinary, which would shatter forever the immutable laws, both political and scientific, by which they are governed is the reason why people will continue to misidentify tree-trunks, otters and boats beneath Castle Urquhart and why they will always treat with deep scepticism the views of the scientists who have failed them in the past, when they tell them that "there is absolutely no reason why anyone should believe...."

To that they can only reply: "But I saw the creature/the UFO/God." No

amount of scientific reasoning, however erudite, will eradicate that attitude and, on reflection, I'm not at all sure that, where wonder ceased to play a part in our lives, we should benefit very much if it did.

JEB.

Mind Over Matter. The Case For Psychokinesis. D. Scott Rogo. The Aquarian Press 16Opp £4.99.

This book by a seasoned parapsychologist from California is an excellent introduction to an involved and controversial subject and covers all aspects of psychokinesis (PK). It continues the useful AASAP series "The Evidence For..." in a larger format. Rogo deals both with the impressive anecdotal and the (to some) more conclusive and "scientific" laboratory evidence.

I think that no one who studies the data, so lucidly set out by the author, can end up by doubting the reality of the phenomenon, bedevilled though it often is by fraud and suspicion of fraud. A few points of criticism will not be out of place in this review. Towards the beginning (p.8) Rogo asserts (without giving a reference) that "writers of the (sic) Egyptian papyri told of houses plagued by demons who threw objects about and broke furniture." One would like to see the evidence for this curious statement.

Again, in discussing "watery poltergeists" he says that a certain (American) case is "the most noteworthy (p.31). Without wanting to detract from its importance, there is an even better-attested British one, given in great detail with impeccable supporting evidence (see Gauld, A and Cornell, A.D. Poltergeists. RKP: pp 301 ff.) Rogo describes the Cambridge sittings with Pall-a dino as "a total fiasco" (p.52). This is by and large correct if one ignores her initial successes with Myers which were quite striking (JSPP., February, 1983, p.54)

In probing into the final reluctance of Stella Cranshaw to be further investigated after she had produced such brilliant and unequivocal results it might have been just worth mentioning the deteriorating personal relationship between medium and investigator (Harry Price), which has never been properly explained: Rogo, by contrast, throws some

interesting light on Crawford's suicide (p.125). But it must of course be borne in mind that his is only a relatively short introduction.

Regarding Willi Schneider (undeservedly much less well-known in the English-speaking world than his brother) the author says that in the 1924 sittings "little happened and the SPR was markedly unimpressed" (p.68). In actual fact, Dingwall's findings were little short of sensational, coming as they did from such a notorious sceptic! (See Proc SPR, January, 1926).

The hypothesis that Price faked the incriminating Rudi Scheider photograph (p.71) is by no means undisputed, though there is no doubt that he played a dirty trick on that excellent medium.

To state that after the 1930s there were no more physical mediums (p.73) is incorrect. But Rogo's discussions are on the whole happily balanced between excessive scepticism and credulity, and perhaps never more so than when he evaluates Geller's amazing progress from small-time conjuror in Israel to world-renowned psychic and millionaire.

Although there may not be many revelations for the expert, the new comer to psychical research who wishes to be informed on the subject will find the book a useful and handy work setting out the facts and pitfalls in a readable and reliable way.

It is good to know that this field of research which holds out such promise is no longer ignored by main-stream American parapsychology, and that the spontaneous and mediumistic parameters have come into their own. It is true that physical mediumship is at present at a low ebb (and has been for some time), but poltergeist phenomena continue unabated to delight some and to terrify others. Much meanwhile remains to be done by way of study and evaluation. Perhaps most important of all, the Philip experiment of the Toronto group deserves to be replicated in our own country (pp.111 ff).

M.C.

The Moving Statue of Ballinspittle and Related Phenomena. Lionel Beer. Spacelink Books, 15 Freshwater Court, Crawford Street, London, W1. £1.75 (plain cover) £2 (glossy cover)

Having dealt with 'Nessie' we turn to another puzzling phenomenon - visitations of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BMVs) of which one of the most recent was that at Ballinspittle, Southern Ireland in the summer of 1985.

Lionel, in this recently published book, the subject of the last of the 1986 lectures in June, briefly reviews the history of the BMV phenomenon, mentioning not only the famous cases (Lourdes, Walsingham, Fatima) all of which were well-documented in Kevin McClure's book (THE VISIONS OF THE VIRGIN MARY, Aquarian Press, 1983) but less well known, and more recent ones. These include those at Medjugorj and Belgrade, Yugoslavia in 1981-83 and Pulawy, Poland in 1984.

The Ballinspittle visitation, much nearer us geographically and in time, occupies most of the content of this informative and well-illustrated book. The report is not, however, a second-hand, paste and scissors job, for Lionel visited the area himself during that summer and drew from first-hand sources. The phenomenon began in the late evening of July 22nd when a teenage girl, passing 30ft from the Ballinspittle grotto, believed she saw the Virgin's statue rock to and fro on her pedestal, as if about to topple over.

Word spread, as word does. On the evening of July 23rd a dozen or more sightseers were to be found at the grotto. By the end of that damp, inhospitable summer, one of the wettest on record in Southern Ireland, some 100,000 people had visited Ballinspittle. Their cars and coaches congested its narrow country lanes as they converged, on a tiny isolated rural hamlet in order to see for themselves, as Lionel points out, that statues cannot move of their own accord.

The media treated the whole affair with its all too familiar 'jokey' approach - there was

The object of this newly-published compilation is to provide readers with an international update on the UFO world during 1985. On its success will depend a UFO World '87 and thereafter!

Jenny has drawn together many interesting reports from Australia, Denmark, France, Scandinavia, Switzerland, the USA, and UK. Readers will, I think, be pleasantly surprised to discover how much UFO activity there is throughout the world and how much work ufologists are doing to solve the enigma. That information alone makes the booklet worth its very modest price.

Apart from the information round-up there are feature articles by Darren P. Charter, a writer new to the UFO scene, and Ian Cresswell and a look at some UFO publications which appeared during 1985.

It would be good to think that this is the first of many international annual reports of the UFO scene, it is a very much needed service in a world which does, ufologically speaking, seem to be very insular in many respects, and does not share its cases or its solutions.

Copies of the booklet can be obtained either from Arnold West or Jenny Randles. Cheques must be made payable to BUFORA Ltd.

VALLEE VISITS LONDON

MIKE WOOTTEN

On June 30th, British ufology was given the opportunity to be lectured by one of the most learned gentlemen of international ufology, Dr. Jacques Vallee. CHALLENGE TO SCIENCE (1966) and PASSPORT TO MAGONIA (1969) are among his classic writings.

Prior to the address Jenny Randles and I were given the unique opportunity of meeting Vallee privately at his hotel to, hopefully, discuss, theories and current research in the USA and UK.

Since his last book, MESSENGERS OF DECEPTION in 1979 Vallee has been somewhat removed from direct involvement with mainstream, state-of-the-art investigation and research into UFOs. So we asked him whether he had been disillusioned with such a perplexing subject. "Not at all. If you are going to write a book or article, it has to be new, with a new approach. I have been investigating cases privately, cases that have not previously been made public." So it looked as if we were in for a real treat in the evening!

The lecture was organised by the International Centre for UFO Research (CUFOR) NOT to be confused with CUFO, there is no connection whatsoever. The title of the lecture was changed at the last minute to CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE FOURTH DIMENSIONAL KIND. An insight to the contents of the lecture? No, unfortunately not. Most of British ufology's seasoned researchers were there (literally a "Who's Who?") with very few members of the general public in attendance. We were treated to a very well presented introduction to ufology. Discussions on Betty and Barney Hill, Lonnie Zamora, Valensole etc. Reappraisals of classic cases but no new approach or solutions. A selection of photographs were shown but again nothing new.

The conclusion, "UFOs are a multi-faceted phenomenon, but some cases may represent a phenomena from another dimension. OK, that's fair enough, UFOs are a multifaceted phenomenon and maybe some cases do represent a phenomena not from our own space/

time continuum. But where is the evidence to back it up? none was forthcoming. Vallee did say that he would be disappointed if UFOs did have an ET solution and he went on further to say that he is sure there is a better answer than the ETH.

To sum up the proceedings, a very good presentation of some very old contents and no 'punchline' as I expected.

The Centre for UFO Research (who are opening a London branch soon) who very little is known about in this country (but plenty is known about in the States), seem to have a very clear idea of what UFOs are. According to the advertising blurb that was available at the lecture, the Centre was founded "Expressly to investigate extraterrestrial intelligence and the UFO phenomena." (sic). If my interpretation of this is correct and CUFOR are solely interested in the ETH, then they have surely placed the proverbial cart before the horse and if they are setting up in the UK they are in for a rough ride with the basic, cautious level-headedness of serious British ufologists. Do I hear you ask: "Are they another US cult group?" Time will tell.

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much mention about the consumption of Guinness - it was after all the press's silly season. The whole cycle of events ended with the desecration of the grotto and, oddly enough, no prosecution for its perpetrators.

Lionel, however, gives us a definitive and reasoned statement of the strange event of that summer. Explain them I can't. Neither can he. What he does give us though is a topical and well-researched piece on a mystery as baffling as UFOs themselves. The book's value is that it is drawn from first-hand sources and was written in the direct aftermath of the events.

The phenomenon is easy to dismiss as just an hallucination - but that is too easy and too simple-minded. Something at Ballin-spittle did arouse people's curiosity and involved them in a sense of wonder. But what? We all know that statues do not move of their own accord.

JEB

1986-87

LECTURE MEETINGS

The 1986-87 programme of lecture meetings will again be held at the LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL, SUSSEX PLACE, REGENTS PARK, LONDON, NW1, beginning on SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7th, 1986 at 6.30pm.

Look forward to seeing you there since it does promise to be another interesting and informative session, with the latest news from the world of ufology.