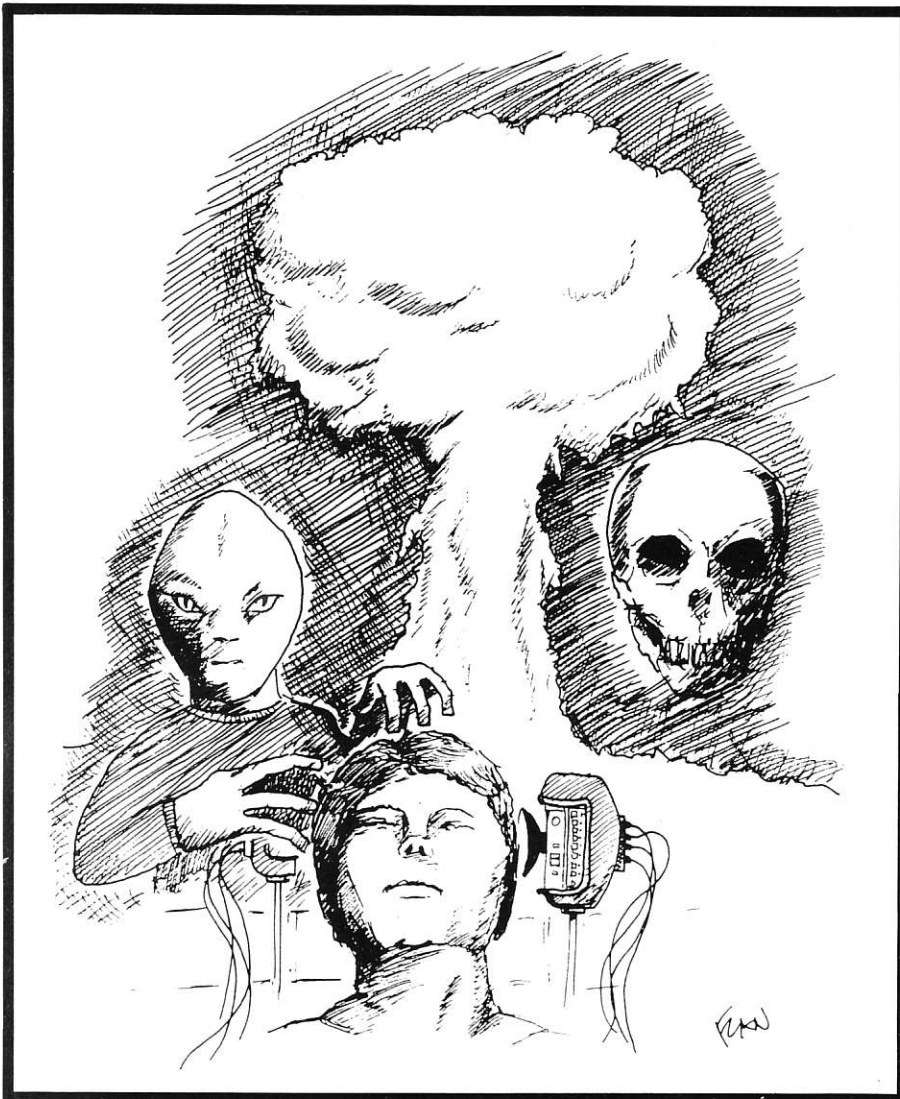

UFO TIMES

Number 11 January 1991

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Alien Contact or Armageddon?

INSIDE

Once again we delve into the world of abductions. Clive Potter, Philip Mantle and Andy Warnsley review four abduction cases with commentary by Dr John Shaw.

John Spencer takes a look at Jenny Randles' and Paul Fuller's new book Crop Circles - A Mystery Solved.

And Onay Faiz concludes her review of the 'Phantoms of the Sky' conference.

Plus.... A West Coast UFO intrigue, News, A poem by Elsie Oakensen, Congress '91 news, Investigations Diary, and more.....

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1. To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom.
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3. To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

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UFO

TIMES

EDITORIAL

The Gagging of Ufology

The past year has seen some pretty amazing events take place. But unfortunately not for the good of the UFO subject.

Arguing, back-biting and childish behaviour is a well established part of UFOlore. UFO groups fight it out over cases, and personalities clash. To some degree this a reasonably healthy state of affairs - nothing like good, honest and heated debate that keeps you on your toes and drives you on to find conclusions to the baffling enigma one grapples with. But at all times a sense of decorum and perspective should always reign.

However one very important tenet should always prevail - freedom to express your views.

Last year, that freedom was, in my opinion temporarily gagged and in the process, dragged BUFORA into a pointless legal action that diverted funds away from the Association's goal to set up a national BUFORA headquarters. This whole affair preoccupied BUFORA Council members for over **twelve months** (when more productive energy could have been expelled). However, it is a very good example of discordant times to come. Will legal insurance be a necessary expense to be able to survive within the subject? I wouldn't be surprised if it does.

The bench marks have been set - if someone disagrees with you, don't argue the toss over a pint or in the pages of a UFO magazine or the auditorium of a lecture theatre - sue him. Go in for the kill and silence him for ever and your viewpoint will prevail.

In November, MUFON presented their new Director of Legal Affairs. BUFORA has also conceded and has internal legal advisers - what is the subject coming to?

It has been said that this is a sign that the subject is growing-up, I cannot agree. This subject is volatile enough without adding litigation to the list. My advice to those who want to join the litigation bandwagon: **If you cant stand the heat, get out of the kitchen!**

UFOs 1991 Style

What will happen to ufology in 1991? Unfortunately, I'm not very good at fortune telling but here goes:

1. The media interest in circles will increase again this year, with a marked increase in more complex circles and a decrease in basic sets.
2. Like 1990 nothing will emerge to explain conclusively what circles are, as the majority of the people researching them don't really want to find an answer at all (for obvious reasons).
3. A person will claim to have been abducted from the centre of a corn circle.
4. The MJ-12 documents will be superseded by a new American UFO myth.
5. BUFORA membership levels will continue to increase. (plug number one)
6. The Gulf Breeze saga will continue to rage and Ed Walters will become mayor of Pensacola.
7. An impressive wave of UFO stories will come from an Eastern European country.
8. Finally, Congress '91 will be a sell out. (plug number two)

Despite my pessimistic outlook of 1991, I sincerely hope that we can all move forward and make some new discoveries and step closer to a better understanding of ufology.

I wish you all a prosperous new year.

Alien Contact or Armageddon?

by

Clive Potter, Philip Mantle and Andy Walmsley
with comments by Dr John Shaw, M.A., C.Psychol, A.F.B. Ps.S.

Four summaries of case studies. Each individual witness claims an 'alien contact' of some kind which has been carefully investigated by Clive Potter, Philip Mantle and Andrew Walmsley of the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) and the Independent UFO Network (IUN). None of the four following case studies have ever been published in any national newspaper or magazine, one is known to a few researchers, but the other three are published here, albeit in brief and are a continuation of joint IUN/BUFORA abduction/contactee research.

Each of the four brief case histories below came to the attention of UFO researchers at both BUFORA and IUN. Each percipient have given their approval to have their identities used for the purpose of this article, and each desires to make contact with others who have had similar experiences and have felt the same feelings towards the future of the planet Earth. Each feels that as a direct result of their UFO contact experiences that they have been given information, or a new awareness, with regards to the future and they have a role to play in any future society, or certainly in the transition between the old and the new one. All four percipients are convinced that this information was, and in some cases, still is, given to them by 'alien contact'.

1. Gary Harlow: Northamptonshire.

Gary Harlow first came onto the scene in 1975 when he approached ufologist Jenny Randles at a conference in Manchester. Since then Gary has maintained his account and has attempted to put some of the new awareness that he gained from the UFO experience into practice.

Gary is in his early forties, married with two children, and is a research technician. He claims that when he was a youngster, whilst digging the garden at his former home, he saw a

luminous multi-coloured disc-shaped object just hovering above the trees. He then claims that he saw himself looking down on himself from this object. Within 6 weeks he had forgotten the event. After he had got married at the age of 22 he began to get interested in theology. Upon reading a certain passage in the Bible he remembered his UFO experience. It was as if he gained a new sense of awareness and realised that he was something other than himself.

Mission

Gary now states that he has a particular mission to perform, involving the changing of mankind's consciousness and of the events as foretold in the Bible and other religious teachings. Gary claims that there are several important artifacts that are currently concealed and that the time is right for these to be found and their nature revealed to mankind.

Essentially, Gary's claim is that the events as told in the Bible under Revelations will occur and that he will be instrumental in bringing some of these events about. Gary's case is extremely complex and often bizarre, but basically concerns itself with future changes brought about by alien involvement on Earth.

2. David Rogers: Coventry.

This case, currently still under investigation, came to our attention through personal contact with the witness. The witness, single and in his late 30's, and currently unemployed, has had UFO contact and psychic experiences since a young child.

Images

His first UFO sighting was of a strange light that was observed by David and a group of classmates whilst still at school. He was then about 15 years old. The same strange light appeared to make a very personal appearance to him when he was 17 and he was at home in Coventry. The light performed large triangle movements in the sky. Between the first and second sighting David had images or experiences of seeing non-human entities at his bedroom window, and of being transported through the window and onto a craft of some description in the sky. Also, between the two sightings and since for several years, David would often wonder the nearby fields and simply stare at the sky for hours on end. He felt that he was waiting for something but cannot explain what. These 'wonderings' would often leave David with a 'missing time' experience, not knowing what had happened during a certain time period.

David later developed into a clairvoyant. He has displayed all the outward signs of being a 'secret abductee', someone who has had missing time, memories of entity visitations, UFO experiences, and so on, but who cannot now recall all of the details either through repressed memory or by some other means.

David has had great feelings towards the future of the planet and feels that there will be a nuclear holocaust, and possibly a natural catastrophe. There will be people who will survive and continue in a new society. Since developing his clairvoyance, David has received psychic messages about this future holocaust and the fact that a particular artifact will be retrieved and it is to be used for some unknown purpose in connection with future

changes.

3. Patricia Mee: Manchester.

Patricia Mee first contacted BUFORA in April 1989. She believes that UFO contact (alien contact) has been made with her, and she has had this feeling of alien contact (or knowing as she puts it) since she was six years old. She is now in her early 30's. Patricia is married and works as a secretary and personal assistant.



Patricia has received information through her mind about other civilisations, and a whole host of information about the universe. Much of this information has been repressed by Patricia for whatever reason and she has stated that she feels 'different' from other people almost 'alien' in fact. She states that at the age of 6 she began to feel certain 'funny feelings' which she could not understand, feelings of not being alone. She felt as though she was being followed everywhere, but could not see anyone, she could only feel their presence. Patricia began to look skyward, day and night, and did remember saying to herself "that's where they come from". Patricia remembers having a secret playmate visible only to her as a child. This playmate looked exactly like the strange alien entity depicted on the front cover of abductee Whitley Steiber's book 'Communion'.

Patricia has also detailed numerous 'alien contact' throughout her life, she even claims that at one stage she was shown the alien's home planet. Their planet is a three-planetary system and Patricia even knows the names of these three planets.

Patricia has suffered deep emotional feelings about herself. She does feel that she is from somewhere else and that she has a specific task to carry out. She feels that she has to meet similar people to herself who can help her impart the information given to her via her 'alien contact' experiences. She feels strongly that the Earth is moving into dangerous times and that physical as well as spiritual changes will occur. She feels that there is a plan to lead mankind to greater understanding and enlightenment and that she is part of that plan. When that plan is fulfilled she feels that she will be able to return 'home'.

4. Graham Allen: Staffordshire.

Graham first contacted BUFORA in April 1989. Graham is in his mid-30's, married with 3 children, and runs his own decorating business.

Lost

In June 1979 he was driving on the A34 near Oxford when he underwent a typical 'missing time' experience often associated with so-called 'abductions'. His car radio became 'crackly' and he lowered his head and fiddled with it. Looking up again, Graham discovered that it was now raining heavily, moments before it was not. He also discovered that he was inexplicably lost and was on an unfamiliar stretch of road. He was disorientated and quite confused. Eventually Graham found his way to his destination and reached there in some distress. He later discovered that he had 'driven' over 15 miles in less than a few minutes. Something which is quite impossible.

In November 1982, he occasionally experienced a high-pitched sound at night, and he seemed to lose control. At times these experiences would increase and then would subside in regularity.

Between 1983 and 1984, he began receiving information into his mind from an unknown source. The subject matter in this information seemed to relate to time, space, gravity, molecular structure, positive and negative forces and even pollution. These experiences would often last all night and he would be fully awake during them. Often he would end up with severe headaches after them. These experiences ended in the summer of 1984. He was presented with a detailed description of a machine with non-frictional moving parts. Graham requested the messages to cease as he could take no more at that time.

Yellow Haze

No more 'contact' was made for two years. When it did return the information was now about the mind and reality. In December 1987, Graham awoke one morning and had a spontaneous recall of the original event on the road near Oxford. He recalled seeing a golden yellow haze surrounding his car and the car itself was stationary. He could see a man with a dog who seemed to be absolutely motionless. He was also aware of a low humming sound and saw a bright yellow light above the car. He panicked and shouted to the man who did not respond. Then everything went black and he was then aware of being on his back and observed three strange faces peering over him. When he fully awoke Graham was convinced that this is what really happened to him on the road near Oxford.

Between 1987 and 1989 he has had regular contact with what he then began to accept as extraterrestrial beings. He could now ask questions of the aliens and answers would be given.

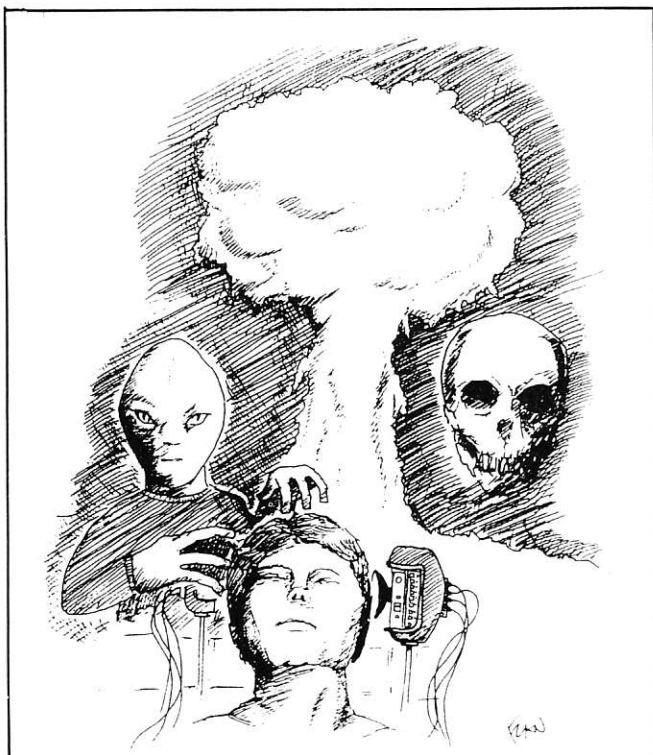
Graham now feels a need to speak to others about his experiences and his information as he feels that the planet Earth is about to undergo severe physical and spiritual changes. Like other people who have had UFO or even religious or psychic experiences, the year 1992 is given as the year when these changes will occur.

**Comments by Clive Potter,
Philip Mantle and Andrew Walmsley.**

All of the above cases represent people, from a wide variety of backgrounds, who have undergone what may be termed as an "alien contact". The percipients generally express or interpret their contact as being with aliens, but it is at least the view of these researchers that these experiences could be the result of contact with another form of consciousness rather than some extraterrestrial beings.

Consciousness

Close Encounters of the 4th kind (CE4) where contact is made with UFO occupants or alien entities, often occur during sleep times, which, as we know is an altered state of consciousness. It could well be that the CE4 occurs in the mind of those involved, when it is in a receptive state, and contact can occur with another realm of human consciousness. It could be that this altered state of consciousness could form part of the collective unconscious which in turn would explain the similarities of the experiences related by the different percipients. Research in this area is still in its infancy in Britain and the assistance of well qualified social scientists is urgently



needed.

CE4's are on the increase as are messages concerning impending doom. Mediums are convinced that such messages are from the spirit world, while others, like the four cases above, are equally as sure that the messages are from aliens trying to help us. But one thing is certain, with all of the cases described above and with countless other people who have had similar warnings or visions of the future, and that is we are being told that we are in danger. Prophecies, messages of alien contact, all talk of the End Times, of an Armageddon, beginning in 1992. All of these messages, be it via mediums, the spirit world, visions, dreams, prophecies, or alien contacts, all are processed through the subconscious mind. This is where the message itself is broadcast. Such people, as the above feel an urge to seek out others and to spread the message.

The world is about to enter a great time of upheaval according to the vast array of messages received via mystics, mediums, contactees etc. Pollution, ecological destruction, nuclear weapons, the greenhouse effect, all are combining to produce a possible Armageddon of truly biblical proportions.

Perhaps a future Armageddon is making ripples across time, spreading outwards so that the closer we get the stronger and more frequent the messages become. Sensitives could pick up the information first and from this reservoir of super-consciousness which we can all dip into, some of us may also pick out images of alien contact. The perceived images will be suitable for that person/society/culture, but the messages are the same, that of impending changes that will effect the world.

**Comments by Dr John Shaw, M.A.,
C.Psychol, A.F.B.Ps.S.**

There is little doubt that the individuals whose accounts you quote in your article are 'sensitive'. Like Whitely Strieber they are tuned in to the fact that the planet is in a parlous state with global warming, depletion of the ozone layer etc. They are picking up

in symbolic form warnings about impending problems and the possibility of cataclysmic events.

Symbolic Forms

As to the UFO's and the alien beings, these are at least the symbolic forms in which these warnings are expressed. The phenomenon of dreams shows us that it is not the form which is important so much as the message which the form of symbol expresses. However, we have to conclude that mankind has only partial knowledge of the reality in which he lives and some individuals have, from earliest times, claimed greater knowledge than their fellows. Similarly, most have only partial knowledge today, others claim more.

Strieber concluded that a non-human intelligence was at work in the phenomena and the close encounters which he experienced. However, just because the CE4 seems objectively real at the time does not mean it is real in any objective material sense. It should be treated as a significant dream in which the message is all-important not the form.

As to 1992, this must be treated with scepticism I'm afraid. Christmas 1982 was supposed to be the time for a cosmic event which did not as far as I know occur. Already May, 2000 AD and 1999 have also been given as key dates. As Berlitz says, "announcements of impending catastrophe are now becoming more frequent; and not only from psychic prophets but also from scientists of a variety of disciplines". When the

present era will end nobody knows for sure...

Note: (Dr Shaw is the Senior Staff Tutor in Psychology and Director of Race Relations and Equal Opportunity Courses at the Department of Extra-Mural Studies at the University of Manchester).



Conclusion

The above is the latest in the continuing research programme of contactees and abductees in Britain. A research programme which is badly in need of further assistance from all aspects of the social sciences. The authors are continually searching for further material as the above.

If you are a witness, an investigator or a researcher, from either the UFO field or the field of psychic research, and have material, of a similar nature that you would consider sharing with the authors. Then please contact: **Clive Potter, 31 Grove Road, Highfields, Leicester, Leicestershire, LE5 3HJ.**

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Belgium Flap: The Californian Connection

Report by Mike Wootten

Reports are coming in that objects similar to those that have frequently buzzed Belgium and the UK have also been observed in California.

According to William F. Hamilton III (Mufon Journal number 271), objects very similar to the 'Silent Vulcan' seen in the Midlands, Yorkshire and Eastern Britain are flying regularly in Antelope Valley, California: home of Aeronautics installations owned by Northrop, Lockheed, McDonnell-Douglas and the Air Force.

Boomerang

Over the past three years many impressive reports have been received by Mufon of large, 'Boomerang' shaped objects which sometimes emit a low pitched droning sound, in and around the Antelope Valley area. Two Valley residents saw a boomerang-shaped object around 8.45pm, on October 26th 1988. The object was approximately 600+ feet in span and travelled at about 20-30 mph. A second similar object joined the first and was followed by what appeared to be 15-20 disc-shaped objects in formation.

These reports have now attracted the attention of 'Aviation Week and Space Technology' (1), who detail many similar reports.

In the article, 'Aviation Week'

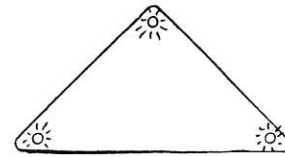
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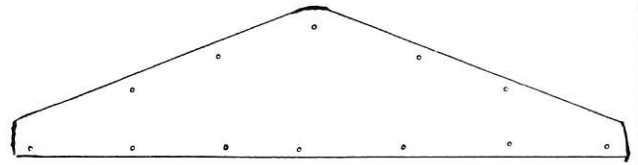
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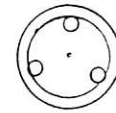
reported that, "There is substantial evidence that another family of craft exist that relies on **exotic propulsion** (my emphasis) and aerodynamic schemes not fully understood at this time." They also suggest that the triangular objects are prototypes of a US Navy A-12 aircraft.



SMALL FLYING TRIANGLE



BIG BOOMERANG



ARV SAUCER

The exotic objects 'Aviation Week' referred to, apparently use an artificial gravity field which allow them to manoeuvre like no other aircraft and can, "...impart uniform and simultaneous acceleration to all particles of mass composing the craft and crew."

The Plot Thickens

Rumours have also been heard that Northrop and General Electric have constructed an Alien Replicated Vehicle (ARV) and displayed it to a limited audience at Norton AFB on November 12, 1988. This raises more speculation over whether the Roswell incident did occur which has resulted over the years in the building of a replica vehicle.

This would be a rational train of events. However this new story is just like Roswell - just a story.

Reference (1.) Aviation Week and Space Technology, October 1, 1990 'Multiple Sightings of Secret Aircraft Hint at New Propulsion, Airframe Designs.'

Investigations DIARY

The Regular UFO report update of cases investigated by the NIC and local groups from around the British Isles

Edited by Jenny Randles

The NIC (National Investigations Committee) have not met for some time owing to major limitations on the activity of both myself and BUFORA council due to other grave distractions, as members are by now well aware. I am pleased to report that the team of AIs (Accredited Investigators) got on with their jobs and case reports have continued to pour in.

Some of the more interesting reports are summarised in the following pages. You will also find an up to date list of AIs and any members who get wind of new cases are urged to establish contact with the most local of these in order to initiate or assist with enquiries. The list is accurate as of 3 November 1990.

A meeting of the NIC was held at the London Business School on the afternoon of that date. It was extremely well attended, showing that the enthusiasm for this tireless work that forms the backbone of BUFORA is as strong as ever.

The next NIC meeting will be at the same venue (the London Business School) at 1.30 pm prior to the evening lecture at the same venue. Date:- 2 March 1991

All AIs, prospective AIs, interested BUFORA members or associated group members are welcome to attend. It is planned to hold a regional meeting in Sheffield during August of 1991 when the international conference is in the city.

Any matters you wish to raise for discussion should be submitted for consideration by mid February at the latest.

At the recent NIC meeting a number of items came under discussion.

** A plan was adopted to speed up computer processing of case files as recommended by Robert Moore. He was to propose to council, with NIC approval, ideas for an ongoing procedure we would like to see adopted. Similarly, Andy Roberts offered a permanent home for the presently scattered BUFORA files, putting them in one location where they would be made accessible under control. Other offers were invited and NIC were to ask council to decide upon a policy of placement at the December 1990 meeting.

** Ken Phillips agreed to chair a working party to update the BUFORA report forms for the 1990's. A mock up based on these discussions will be presented to the NIC in March 1991.

** Paul Fuller will coordinate the results of trials that have been held during the past couple of years into the IFO Sensitivity Index scheme - an original test providing helpful diagnostic information that was developed by the NIC and built into pilot project kits. The March NIC meeting will determine the success or otherwise and discuss plans to implement this idea on a wider basis throughout world UFOlogy, which may require BUFORA to patent the concept!

Other debates covered new cases and the crop circle research, largely coordinated by Paul Fuller. Paul announced that he had now launched his own bi-monthly review (The Crop Watcher), which NIC thought to be an excellent move. The 1989 BUFORA publication 'Controversy of the Circles' continues to be a runaway success, with six editions having had to be printed in 15 months and orders, especially from the USA, coming in almost as fast as

they could be fulfilled.

This has certainly offset major costs to BUFORA caused by the crop circles (which produced over 800 of the 1000 press cuttings the organisation has had to pay for during summer 1990). It was decided to recommend that future cuttings on crop circles be excluded from our subscription, since their direct relevance to UFology is debatable and they are mostly duplications of irrelevant, misleading stories and very expensive. The NIC wanted to make clear it was not rejecting crop circle study, and would support Paul's endeavours, hear his update reports and consider practical support for any worthwhile scientific investigation or research project, but it was largely considered that BUFORA had played its part and crop circle study was now best left mostly in the hands of the specialists, with the NIC focussing on its specialist role with UFO cases.

For this and other reasons the NIC decided not to recommend a requested revised edition of 'Controversy of the Circles' for summer 1991 - as, in the words of one participant, 'there are enough books on the subject already. BUFORA's contribution will always remain via its two publications - including 'Mystery of the Circles' in 1986, which was the VERY first in print of all crop circle publications - but now its major input may be over, except to interface with science on data and examine ways in which crop circles MIGHT elucidate knowledge of UFO phenomena.'

Our 1990 publication programme has been heavily dented owing to financial distractions on the crop circle and legal activity. It is hoped that for 1991 we will be able to continue our 'Case History' series and other ventures, starting with a belated but much requested 'UFO World' volume (that will cover world case data from both 1989 and 1990) - hopefully to see light of day early in the new year.

ONGOING INVESTIGATIONS OF NOTE

The NIC discussed two bothersome new UFO problems which had been isolated.

We were grateful to colleagues at the Fylde UFO Group in Lancashire for pointing out their research into glowing UFOs that drop curtains of light to the ground. They have found that in many cases the answer was an experimental balloon which drops its plastic base as it rises, discarding bits of melting debris to fall as a curtain of sparks to the ground. We do have some cases that match this description and the Fylde investigators tell us they have found a small team conducting these tests in the dead of night which have travelled northern Britain to avoid detection.

The other major problem has been the increased use of the laser disco spotlight equipment by rock concerts, parties and other functions. These lights are so powerful they literally bounce off clouds and can be seen from up to 20-30 miles. At oblique angles they look like a fleet of UFOs manoeuvring around the sky. Ernie Still in Northamptonshire had cases invoked by a Tina Turner concert. A Paul McCartney venture at the Wembley arena was another provider of many reports. Finally, in October 1990 people within a 20 mile radius of Manchester began to call about a 'UFO invasion'. Jodrell Bank were flooded with calls, ironically on the very morning they had a press conference to launch the new 'astronomy' postage stamps (with the 22p version featuring Jodrell). BUFORA were able to take the heat for the centre, fielding the calls and explaining the events to many worried residents. Then - with the kind assistance of the BBC's Phil Sayer - I was able to do a live broadcast, quashing the rumours within hours of starting. The source of these UFOs was the Millionaires nightclub.

Finally, BUFORA has an interesting photographic case under study from Doug Cooper. The pictures taken on 2 September 1990 at Portkellis, Cornwall match witness testimony from around the county and show peculiar lights.

don't forget
THE NIC MEETING
Sat, 2nd March 1991 1.30pm
London Business School
Sussex Pl, London, NW1

Case 72-204 Montsorrel, Leicestershire November 1972 Inv: Gordon Perkins

A woman returning home after dropping some children off from a party was confronted by a large disc hovering low in the sky. It was 'like two saucers joined at the rim' and had a line of windows across the centre. Flames sprouted from one edge. The woman fled indoors but later her six year old came in saying he had seen the same thing. Aslight rushing sound was heard and traffic on the nearby road was oddly muted during the encounter (an Oz Factor symptom). No logical explanation was found for this puzzling case.

Case 89-017 Potters Bar, Hertfordshire 26 August 1989 Inv: Michael Lewis

A family with a history of some strange experiences had an encounter when in the garden. There were two adults, four children and an adult friend of the family who saw a slowly spinning oval, black on top with a red band and a dome on the base. It made a whooshing sound and the family's three dogs barked. Their lurcher even looked up at it. No obvious solution suggested.

Case 90-001 Wibtoft, Leicestershire 7 February 1990 Inv: Reg Burton

A couple driving on the A5 towards Rugby saw three lights in a triangular formation coming toward them at speed. The object stopped dead in its tracks over fields and seemed to wobble from side to side. The three steady white spotlights seemed to mask a dark mass behind them and despite winding down the window and leaning out no sound was heard. The object then silently glided over their heads and banked away. One witness was director of an aeronautical engineers. The sighting is very similar to many such 'Silent Vulcan' cases, especially prevalent in Leicestershire in recent years, leading to speculation they were secret Stealth aircraft on tests from nearby RAF Alconbury - where early squadrons were believed to be based. However, there are some problems with this explanation. The case is also very like those swamping Belgium around the same time.

Case 90-002 Cockfield, Suffolk 2 March 1990 Inv: Roger Curtes

A family reported another triangle of lights, this time stationary low on the horizon and yellowish in colour (due to atmospheric haze?) They remained there for some time before two of them moved off and seemed to descend behind trees. Military activity was speculated upon but not proven.

Case 90-003 Llanfair Talhairn, Clwyd 27 April 1990 Inv: Margaret Fry

On this date a woman found a series of small rough rings in fields on her land. Media attention linked them with both UFO landings and the crop circles (ie being the first events of 1990). Margaret points out the high incidence level of unexplained UFO sightings in the area; although none directly related with this discovery so far. Experts called in suggested that the marks were fairy rings - ie the product of fungal growth beneath the soil. A consensus opinion amongst the NIC apparently supports this deduction; although it seems that the AI herself may not be satisfied by it.

Case 90-004 Preston Brook, Cheshire 3 August 1990 Inv: Jenny Randles

One of the most interesting of 1990 circle cases; a single large circle on a slight slope immediately astride the M56 motorway south of Warrington. Aside from this mark (which had interesting internal features of multiple swirl patterns) an ear-witness was traced who heard a screeching noise in the middle of the night, sufficiently odd

to make her look out of a window - which overlooks the field in question. The circle seems to have first been found the next day. Of even greater interest than the case itself is the location (with sea breeze fronts coming off the Mersey Estuary, in the lee of Windmill Hill and in a rural area that is staggeringly littered with UFO close encounters, car stops, paranormal events and crop circle cases). Research proceeding.

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BOOK REVIEW

Crop Circles - A Mystery Solved by Jenny Randles and Paul Fuller. Hale. 252pp. Illustrated. £13.95

There is little more annoying in this subject than the constant claims of those who periodically 'solve' the UFO mystery or parts of the phenomenon, particularly since those who do invariably change their minds when the next batch of evidence floats in on the tide.

A Question of a Question Mark

I was amazed to find experienced and thoughtful people like Jenny and Paul making such outrageous claims (A mystery solved), and greatly relieved to subsequently discover that in fact it was not them at all but pressure from their publishers (all was normal after all!) Even after having the title foisted on them Jenny and Paul had requested a '?' after 'a mystery solved' which would have made more sense, but it was not to be. As a writer subject to publisher's pressures I sympathised; it's been done to me on almost every book I've completed, and the one compensation is that publishers at least know how to sell better than I do. Maybe Jenny and Paul will have that satisfaction; I hope so.

I hope so because the book is thoughtful and well researched, as we would expect from a couple of BUFORA directors (plug!), but I fear not because the publishers have not had the courage to meet the opposition with cold steel. In this case the cold steel is

the glossy, pretty colour pictures that adorn the Meaden and Andrews-and-Delgado books. Unfair though it is I suspect that anyone choosing from the three on the proverbial W H Smith bookshelf might well take the glossy alternatives and will thereby miss out on some vital info. As our former elected monarch said 'It's a funny old world isn't it?'

And talking of a funny old world, what funny old part of it can possibly be causing these patterns? Well, there haven't been any shortage of suggestions. Natural wind. Something like wind but a bit less known to science. Mating hedgehogs. Flying saucers, of course. Led Zeppelin. You name it - and somebody else will have already. The popular front-runners seem to break down into three categories:

- something totally natural
- something totally unnatural (extraterrestrial or otherwise)
- something totally unnatural using totally natural forces to send totally unnatural messages.

Sensible Offerings

Jenny and Paul keep their feet firmly on the ground in 'Crop Circles' apparently plumping for a totally natural explanation, embroidered with a few good-natured hoaxes. It's a sensible offering at this fairly early stage in what is sure to be a long running mystery. The 'other' camps do most damage for their cause by rarely acknowledging the inevitability (and frequency) of hoaxing, but we must be patient - they come new to this re-wrapped version of an old mystery.

I am glad to see few people bothering with the old 'landing nests of flying saucers' theory - it never was a very good offering with the so called 'real' landing nests usually more resembling my attempts at cooking (black, charred and smoking) than these graceful patterns.

I think I might have liked to see the opening of a debate on intelligence using natural forces; it's a rank outsider but there are cases around the world in UFO lore which might point

towards a Gaia consciousness within the Earth and I think it should have been discussed with a little depth. However, I would also have to admit that it might well have detracted from the scientific approach adopted and that would have been wrong. The common sense approach of this book actually takes it far beyond at least some of its rivals.

I mention alternative arguments because the book does do some speculating and not very successfully.

It suggests that distant light UFOs might be in part explained by the glowing ball of ionised air that forms within the speculated vortex (good, sound reasoning); it suggests that some daylight disc sightings might be similarly explained, with the vortex sweeping up debris into a saucer shape (fair enough - though I do wish the authors hadn't gone for the Trindade Island photos as the example; that one set of photos has been used to explain virtually every theory of UFOs and rarely takes into account the full circumstances of the sighting), the book then does some excellent comparative research into car-stop cases and circles formations which is perhaps its most vital offering.

Stretching the Point

Then however the speculation starts delving into the close encounters, even abductions, and this seems to be stretching a point. The vortex may play a part in stimulating some fantasy experiences, but it seems that the richness of close encounters across the world is not going to be explained by even this clever vortex.

To be fair, I asked Jenny about this at a recent lecture and she made clear that she did not intend the book to explain ALL such cases (and no one would argue with a few) but I must say the book gives the impression of writing off all of UFOlogy on this vortex. Since Jenny has been giving talks entitled such as 'The death of UFOlogy' I think that for a time she might have been over-emphasising these solutions and more lately re-thought it. I've no complaint about that; I've had cause

enough to change some views I held strongly in my book 'Perspectives' and Jacques Vallee admits he changes his mind regularly - such adaptability is a sign of honesty if nothing else.

The back of the book itself - probably thanks to the publishers - contains the claim "Rare weather forms can account for all the classic UFO cases." I would like to see a Meaden vortex explain Kelly-Hopkinsville, for one.

Threads of Disharmony

Of more interest is that this book was written before the extraordinary 'picto-grams' appeared in the south of England last summer, but they were included in talks given by Jenny and Paul. What was interesting was that the threads of a disharmony between the writers (slightly evident in the book if you know the authors well enough) have frayed somewhat. Jenny is more strongly taking the view that such elaborate patterns are hoaxes caused by the publicity generated, while Paul seems to be searching around for a satisfactory way of proving them genuine. I think he's on sticky ground there; the suggestion he made at a lecture that the disintegration of the vortex could cause the appendages in the picto-grams seemed like pushing his luck somewhat. If the picto-grams are 'genuine' then it would strengthen the case for an intelligence behind them. (But for the time being I'll stay with Jenny on this one - I think the intelligence is distinctly humanoid).

The fact to be remembered about the corn circles is that they leave evidence that can be studied by anyone; it is a cause for gratitude because it means that the 'acceptable' sciences are able to involve themselves. Hopefully it will form liaisons, indeed IS forming liaisons, which may be long lasting and will help us to solve the overall UFO mystery. But it is a cause for concern too. We must be seen to be sensible as it will reflect on all our work, past and present. It will determine the willingness of others to work with us in the future. Jenny and Paul seem to show the way down a sensible and rational path that will bring that about; they

deserve considerable praise for their efforts.

Overall it's an important book on this subject, and it will no doubt remain so even as the mystery thickens (yes - it WILL thicken. I'll take bets on it). It's a healthy sign for the Circles and for BUFORA that Jenny and Paul are

involved in this research.

And as for getting the best book on this subject? I suggest you buy one of those glossy, full colour ones.

Then cut out the pictures and stick them in 'Crop Circles - A Mystery Solved'.

Review by John Spencer

News

Jenny Randles Receives Top BUFORA Honour

A motion making Jenny Randles an honorary life member was carried unanimously at a recent BUFORA council meeting.

The honorary life membership was proposed in recognition of Jenny's outstanding dedication and contribution to ufology and BUFORA. From her Stockport home she said, "I am honoured and very grateful for this award." Jenny will be the fourth member ever to receive the honour.

Jenny joined BUFORA in 1968 and became a Council member in 1975 where she worked as the North of England Representative. In 1981 Jenny became Director of Investigations, a post she continues to hold. She has been able to, continually build up a strong and experienced team of investigators across the UK and more importantly improve investigative standards.

Success

Through those years she has become Britain's leading ufological authority - writing books on every aspect of the UFO field. In more recent times Jenny has diversified and has successfully written on subjects such as ghosts, monsters and now corn circles. Her hallmark has always been sensible and respectable ufology - leaning on the side of caution, which has won over the opinions of many from the scientific world.

Thousand Up for Computer Case Entries

After five years of development and laborious typing, 1000 of BUFORA's 15000 case files have been entered onto the Association's database.

Steve Gamble, BUFORA Chairman and Director of Research is very pleased with reaching the milestone: "We have carefully re-assessed, rebound and computer coded all the cases that have been processed and its been worth it."

All new cases submitted by the Investigation Department are automatically entered onto the growing database. But the massive backlog of past cases are gradually being coded in yearly blocks - making cases more accessible, Steve explained, "Case details such as time, date or location can be gathered at the touch of a button." A selection of 18 separate parameters can be sorted or retrieved and with every new case entered the database becomes more powerful.

Data Network

To enhance the database, a national data network is currently being developed, making information accessible via a modem and telephone link instantly to those with clearance to use such information. This new initiative will bring BUFORA's research efforts positively into the 1990's and beyond.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T
wanted
1 British Rate and Data
Directory

If anyone has a copy of the above that is not required please contact:
Philip Mantle, 1 Woodhall Drive,
Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 7SW

Phantoms Fact or Fantasy?

part 2

Report by Onay Faiz

We conclude Onay Faiz's in-depth report of the 'Phantoms of the Sky' conference.

THE DEATH OF UFOLOGY JENNY RANGLES

Part of the talk by BUFORA's Director of Investigations, Jenny Randles, related well to Andy Roberts' ideas of ufology being led and interpreted by our former conceptions of UFOs.

She began by defining three ways of looking at the UFO phenomenon:

- * The American way with aliens or entities abducting people for research purposes
- * The European way where the UFO phenomenon is considered to be in the mind of the witness, perhaps hallucinatory or parapsychological in nature
- * The UK view which is somewhere between the two

We are dealing with real things, said Jenny Randles, and the real things are slightly more mundane than alien spaceships, but she confirms that these experiences are real.

Exotic experiences are triggered off in some way, she told the delegates at Sheffield, but there is a problem in that phenomena are interpreted as aliens or something from space, usually due to media intervention.

With many experiences there is absolutely no evidence to show there is

a link to outer space, she points out. And when it comes to ufology, she says, there are a couple of facts that we can be sure of. Firstly, that 95% of UFOs are explainable. Secondly, that society has an image of the UFO which is largely responsible for creating a craft - people create an image because they are predisposed to see a spaceship.

Mirror Image

Look more closely, she urges, and you will notice how alien technology tracks our own. Former abduction reports told of big computer banks; current day reports speak of laser beams and holograms. Their technology mirrors ours, she states.

"The mind can manipulate the phenomenon."

This is not to say that people are not having these experiences, but simply that there is a problem in evaluating them.

"Because ufology is in a way a hopeless mess which is contaminated by belief systems, structures and impositions from outside, particularly by the media, that's why I pose the question: Is it time that we, as ufologists, accepted that we're basically following a lost cause?"

"That by trying to persuade people to

listen to us, without them making presumptions about spaceships and aliens, are we in fact doing something wrong? Are we wasting our time?"

We could, she reckons, end up in 50 years time doing exactly the same thing as we are now, finding no answers. Something must change now, she concludes.

But first, she urges the delegates, consider what we, as investigators, are trying to do. The answer is, we are trying to persuade society as a whole, and professional people (scientists, psychologists) to take up the subject seriously.

"If it is society I'm sure we're wasting our time. I know from experience that society, which is represented by the media, does not want to be convinced.

Ignoring the Information

"Therefore I think we should concentrate on persuading professionals in relevant fields that there is something important going on here, that they are making a crucial mistake by ignoring this information from genuine, sincere people who are having experiences which cry out to be understood.

"I don't think we're going to do that by continuing as ufologists because 'ufologists are interested in spaceships' - everybody says that. Scientists say that and you have to spend half your time convincing them that your not!

"Consequently, I am proposing: should we not abandon ufology? Accept that as a workable hypothesis, it's dead, a failed model, and work together with professionals in the relevant fields to start from scratch, create something new."

Ufology splits up into several scientific areas, she points out. Perhaps, therefore, it's time to redefine ufology in terms of these scientific areas - geophysical science, for instance, psychology and

meteorology.

One example Jenny Randles draws upon is geophysical science: there are several light phenomena which appear constantly at key 'window' areas in the UK.

"That's an undeniable fact and it is criminal that universities around this country are not focussing their resources on locations where we can guarantee them... hard solid proof that would convince other scientists that these things are real!"

Circles Breaking the Mould

Jenny Randles then moved onto how science can be used to redefine ufology, in particular with crop circles.

Crop circles, she says, are a reality, and not just down to hoaxes. They date back even to the beginning of this century.

"This is a real, long-standing phenomenon which suggests to me it has to be caused by some sort of natural process." To those who shake their heads immediately, she bids them think of snowflakes - their intricate, remarkable detail - nature is capable of producing such unusual precise phenomenon.

"If it were aliens," she challenges, "they're not getting very far in their message-telling are they? They've spent 300 years doing it and they haven't got through to us yet!

"Air vortices are a possible cause. They last only a few seconds, they descend from the sky, twist and go again." They also appear in multiple forms, she adds, which could account for circles with outer rings or peripheral smaller circles.

But can we use this to explain any UFO phenomena?

"I think we can," she says. "I think this has actually provided us with the final piece of the jigsaw, the key to the UFO phenomenon. "Paul Fuller and I have attempted in our new book on crop circles to link in the work that's been

done by the scientists to the UFO phenomenon. And we've been absolutely astonished at the way in which it can explain even the most classic cases; car-stop cases, cases where animal interference occurs, marks on the ground, even abduction cases."

some phenomenon which is real, frightening, can do dangerous things to people."

We have to put aside the links to aliens and spaceships, says Jenny Randles: "That's only going to put off most scientists and we need their help, otherwise we're not going to get anywhere."

So what happens now? Is ufology really dead?

EARTHLIGHTS & UFOLOGY **PAUL DEVEREUX**

To some extent, earthlights researcher Paul Devereux's argument for scientific work tallies with Jenny Randles's points. But he calls for a much more open-minded approach, wrapping the knuckles of those who believe we humans have discovered the be-all and end-all of our planet. There has to be room for many a science yet to be discovered, he believes.

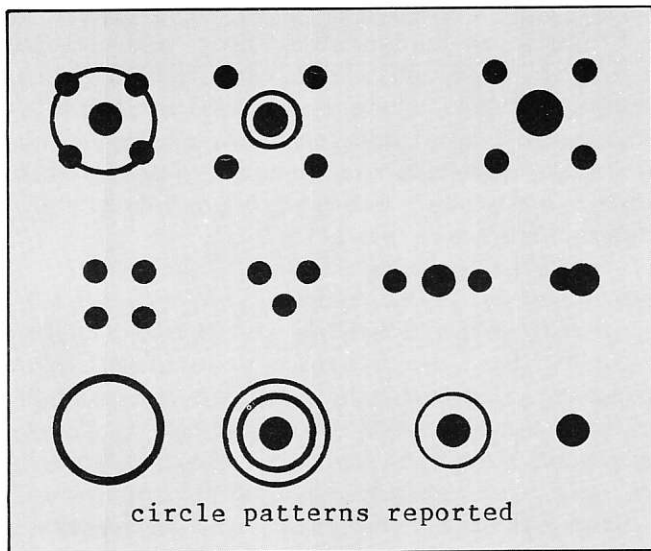
Earthlights are an unexplained phenomenon; there is not a theory as such, says Paul Devereux, author of the book 'Earthlights Revelation'.

During his work, he decided that we should, instead of looking upwards at the sky to find answers, look below our feet. His work has revealed consistent connections between geophysical fault lines and UFO sightings. Balls of light which come out of the ground, shimmer, shake, then stabilise and fly off out of sight are among some of the sightings he has investigated.

Quite what they are and what their relationship is to UFOs, he professes, is open to argument, but they do exist and there are even places you can go where the incidence of these balls of light is so high that you are likely to see one.

Geographically Framed

"They seem to be terrain related. They are related to specific types of countryside. We know the Earth does produce exotic lights forms, for



In the Averley, Essex case, there were real physical forces which affected the car radio, there was a blue light, a mist; these were very real parts of the conscious experience which involved some kind of energy. These could be attributed to a vortex effect, she reckons, but everything else after the conscious experience - the classic abduction, the medical examination - is a product perhaps added by the investigation techniques or hypnosis.

In the Alan Godfrey case, she says, there was even the vital clue of the swirl pattern in the wet road. "If that had been in a field it would have been a crop circle; it was on a road so it wasn't.

"Yet it's an abduction, again produced by hypnosis. The witness himself has said, of the memories he came out with during hypnosis, he doesn't know how real they were. He read UFO books in the period between the experience and the hypnosis and he cannot say that he didn't invent the story subconsciously.

"But he does know that what he saw in the road ahead of him, rotating around, doing these physical things, was real. Therefore I believe that we at least have to take seriously the idea that we're dealing with some physical force,

example, earthquake lights that are produced in some but not all earthquakes. "The fact that now science recognises this phenomenon does not explain it. Nobody knows what they are, and there is as yet no physics that can account for the forms that earthquake lights take."

The nature of these earthlights can be outlined. They are a geographically framed phenomena, terrain-related and occur in zones. In many cases they have occurred for generations (history documents them).

They also have specific characteristics: some display an on/off effect giving the notion that they may not be continuous in the way we understand continuity and physical permanence. There is a hint of evidence, says Paul Devereux, that these lights are on the brink of manifestation.

Earthlights can appear in amber, white or white with a reddish core; these are the most common colours, but many colours are reported, with greens and blues being among the most rare.

People have been known to experience tingling or even burning effects from encounters with these lights. They also seem to have a teeming or wriggling quality about them when viewed closely, and although bright, the light doesn't hurt the eyes but has a strange quality of brightness.

A particularly unusual feature of these lights is that they often work or go in one direction only; if you move around it, it disappears from view. (This calls to mind the report in Strieber's book of an object in the sky which he could only see at a specific angle and to move one degree meant it vanished from view.)

The lights have a translucent quality - you can see through them. They are also associated with an unfamiliar type of energy form with electromagnetic side effects.

"I'm not one of the great believers in science who says that science knows everything. It knows bugger all!

"We have a huge universe out there. We've hardly scratched the surface."

Intelligence

Earthlights have been described by some, namely Jenny Randles, as more mundane than extraterrestrial explanations of UFOs. This elicited the response 'Crap!' from Paul Devereux, for these earthlights have one key feature, he says, which makes them very very exotic: "They behave as if they have a modicum of intelligence".

A good illustration of this is the report by two geologists who apparently played tag with a couple of earthlights; these things actually responded as if they knew what they were doing. They were darting and dodging, hiding, literally playing games, it seemed.

"Nine to ten per cent of witnesses have reported a behaviour response to teams of people or individuals, even to thoughts! Of course, we must be careful not to read apparent intelligence into random behaviour."

His own sightings have convinced him this is no random behaviour. He draws two conclusions. Either these lights have a primitive kind of intelligence of their own (apparently they'll play, skip like a kitten, act skittishly, be inquisitive), or they are a field phenomenon which interacts with consciousness.

"We are not dealing with clockwork, we're dealing with the complexity of nature."

The phenomenon is even said to affect people's neurology if they go near the lights, creating unusual sensations and influencing the brain. They can trigger off powerful mental states, vivid imagery and altered states by somehow stimulating the dream, language and imagery centres of the brain.

This, says Paul Devereux, could be one explanation of a force in nature which triggers this effect - is it one possible explanation for abduction experiences? Experiments in labs have shown that the mind can be artificially

stimulated in this way, he assures the delegates.

"If you think you're going to get through the UFO mystery without talking about psychology, without talking about consciousness, you are sadly deluded.

"We will have to take on board these areas - not of human knowledge but of human ignorance - we know so little about the mind!

"It was Jung who said we go around with this great entity, the sub-conscious, about which we know nothing.

"I'm quite sure these lights have some relationship in themselves with consciousness which raises the question: what is the nature of consciousness? Is it an electrical effect? A field effect? Our bodies, as physical things, are the result of biological and geological and electromagnetic phenomena. But where is consciousness? You can't find it, you can't get it out. Where is it?"

Clearly, there is room for more research into this aspect if we are to understand, say, the abduction phenomena. There is university level research going on, revealed Paul Devereux, in which the little greys have actually been encountered - it's happening in the context of consciousness studies.

"Little grey dwarfish creatures that prod and poke at the body have been encountered - and they ain't from outer space, I can tell you that much!"

Paul Devereux's personal conclusions were summed up in his final words:

"We don't understand consciousness at all. It's my guess that the alien presence we are really dealing with is the human mind."

A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE GULF BREEZE CASE JOHN SPENCER

Returning from a trip to Gulf Breeze where he spent two days picking up his own impressions of the Ed Walters photographic and abduction case was

BUFORA's vice chairman John Spencer.

Virtually having flown in from America no more than two days prior to the Phantoms conference, and performing heroically under the symptoms of jet lag, he told delegates how he'd met and interviewed the key researchers and witnesses.

Despite having only a few days to absorb the enormity of the evidence, John Spencer managed to take photographs of the same locations where Ed Walters took his. Results or conclusions of these have yet to be revealed.

Grubby Reconstruction

He also reconstructed a number of the incidents for himself, climbing underneath a vehicle in the road where Ed Walters says he hid from the UFO occupants, laying on the beach where Ed claims he found himself after a missing time period. None of these, says John Spencer, added much to his feel for the case - he simply got dirty.

He took part in a dousing investigation of the area where a UFO was said to have landed and there was a positive response; but quite what this meant, he confesses, he isn't sure, without being an expert in dousing.

The 200 witnesses, it was found, were likely to include 'bandwagoning' reports plus a number of mistaken me-too reports; a small fact which MUFON didn't mention at the USA Pensacola conference.

John Spencer also found himself in the middle of quite a social phenomenon in Gulf Breeze, with few local people actually willing to condemn the case.

He concluded that the team appointed to investigate the case in America by MUFON were a 'top crew', including the likes of Walt Andrus, Charles Flannegan and Don Ware, but at the same time acknowledged the problems of trusting other investigators' work and their conclusions.

He was, however, satisfied that the UFO model found in Ed Walters' house and used to rubbish his case, or at least

throw suspicion on it, was in fact a plant.

"It wasn't Ed being caught out. If Ed's doing this as a fraud, he has planned this well in advance. It is inconceivable that he would so stupid as to leave one of his models laying in his house months after he'd moved out - he'd have noticed that he hadn't got it with him."

The suspicion was proved when the investigation team discovered that the model was lined with paper from Ed's old architectural plans from a 1989 project - a project taken on well **after** the photographs had been taken.

"That was definitely planted to discredit him," is John Spencer's conclusion, (based on MUFON's research).

Believer Bill still cannot be located and John Spencer's only brief attempt to track him down led to nothing, as had Mufon's efforts in the prior 18 months.

Media Mud Slinging

Two local newspapers in Gulf Breeze are fighting it out over the story. One is supportively carrying the case, the other debunking it and doing its best to pull it to pieces - it was a journalist from the second paper who was tipped off about the model in Ed's house. So there must be allowances for elements of sabotage in the case, says John Spencer.

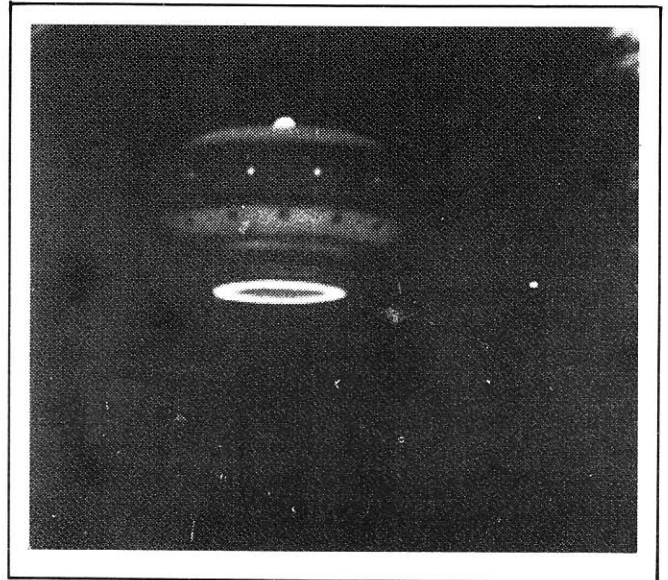
A common question which was put to Ed was: why did he own a Polaroid camera when clearly he was a wealthy man?

"That seemed a valid question because cameras are typically the sort of toys that wealthy people buy. And he gave me an answer that seems perfectly reasonable. He's an architect, he designs work, and he goes to sights to photograph them as they're progressing. He gets the picture straight out, he knows he's got what he wants, he goes away.

"He could be lying, but I think that was a very valid reason why he would have a Polaroid camera."

John Spencer's investigation also included an hour and a half with Ed Walters himself and his wife Francis which left him with a number of impressions.

"I came out trusting him. That, I think, is going to be quite a surprise in this country because a lot of people were saying 'this guy just can't be true'.



"It's instinctive, I suppose. I treated him as I would a witness of my own and he passed the checks you do to catch them out."

Even if he was well-practised, as some critics say, John Spencer's impression was still one of a genuine man with a genuine account.

"You won't appreciate until you meet Ed how he talks. He has this very slow, modulated, thoughtful, paused tone when he's doing presentations. But when you talk to him normally he's speaking at 90 miles an hour all the time. He's very fast, his arms are going all the time. Again I can't verify this, but according to Gary Watson (one of the investigators) every one of their major interviews with Ed was recorded and they were specifically analysed, checking for whether he ever caught himself out on a lie.

"There were minor differences which I think you expect when you're trying to recall something, but no major faults in the recall. Neither did it contradict what Francis Walters said."

Talking to people about Ed, John Spencer found that his reputation for being a spooky character or demonologist were largely unconfirmed, and that he tended to simply entertain or fool around for fun with local children.

The theory for extra income was also dismissed; Ed is already a wealthy real estate manager with no real necessity to invent something like the Gulf Breeze sightings for money.

A publicity hog? John Spencer believed that Ed was actually enjoying the media attention, but this has inconclusive implications on the case.

Regarding the rumour that Ed may become mayor of Gulf Breeze, John Spencer confirmed that this could indeed be the case as Ed was involved in local politics long before the sightings took place. "It wouldn't be unnatural for a wealthy middle-upper class person in his position to become mayor. I don't think it proves anything one way or the other."

Photographic Credibility

The key 'evidence' to the whole case focuses on the photographs. This is where John Spencer's credibility for the case crumbles.

"There is a little bit of a problem with Gulf Breeze and that is the photographs. I just can't believe them! They've been analysed extensively by Bruce Maccabee who spent a lot of time on it and who's supposed to be one of the top optical physicists."

"Unfortunately, he's got a bit of a bad name around here... but am I going to criticise Bruce Maccabee? (When I wanted to take a picture of him, he had to set my camera so that I could do it properly!) I can't make any real comment about that, but I do not find the photographs very plausible."

John Spencer did a brief test with Ed Walters and asked him to take a photograph. Then he questioned him on why, when he could perfectly adequately centre the subjects in the camera lens just then, he couldn't do the same with

the UFO pictures (in which several shots include the object in the corner or at the top of the photograph).

"He had no real answer. He said 'Well, it moved and the Polaroid's slow'. That suggests to me that you ought to get blur it's moving. Maccabee said no, but my feeling is that if it moved that quickly you ought to get blur, but none of them are blurred. They're all very clear.

"I have to admit, I just cannot believe the photographs."

John Spencer's overall impression was one of distinct trust for the MUFON investigating team and a trust of the witness, but a total distrust of the photographs - a conclusion echoed by Jacques Vallee.

Spencer Speculates

He rounded up with a little 'whacky speculation'.

"Theory: all UFOs are toys. You give a toy train to a child not to teach him about trains, but to teach him about play and social interaction.

"But you must be sure to give a child a toy he can relate to. Maybe the Americans relate to that kind of flying saucer (Gulf Breeze UFO). Send that to some countries in Europe and they'll laugh it out silly. So maybe you send Europeans a different kind of toy, maybe it's cornfield circles. Maybe you have to focus on this (toy) in order that something else happens back here," he indicates to the brain.

He recalls cases where investigators have become somehow involved or their actions seemingly directed as a result of being in contact with a witness. (Elsie Oakensen said that Jenny Randles actually wrote something in her report of Elsie's case that was untrue, and that despite the mistake, Elsie had the feeling that it was somehow directed or influenced externally.

"Perhaps, as ufologists, we are going to have to open up our minds a little bit to the possibility that the

investigators are not on the outside looking in, so much, but maybe on the inside."

It may, he suggests, have something to do with the learning process, the understanding process.

Maybe we have to study the 'absurdity factor' in UFOs as a specific point, says John Spencer, instead of rejecting it or being exasperated by it. In the Gulf Breeze case, the absurdity factor is the photographs. Perhaps Ed Walters is lying and the photos are a fake but he's being directed by some external influence to do it, comes the idea. Who knows?

Or perhaps John Spencer's recent breakfast meeting with Jacques Vallee has really sprung the truth of the matter:

"Jacques Vallee explained the whole phenomenon. I'm pretty sure he's got it right.

"There are two races up there and they're having a competition. The competition is to see which one can get the most UFO books written about their race!

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News

Lines

It has been whispered that Paul 'Del Boy' Fuller, editor of the Crop Watcher is selling his co-authored book 'Crop Circles - A Mystery Solved' at a discount.

Usually his book, written with Jenny Randles sells for £13.95. But, Paul is selling a limited stock at £11.95 (inc p&p).

Send cheques made payable to Paul Fuller to: 3 Selborne Court, Tavistock Close, Romsey, Hampshire, SO51 7TY.

If you were not able to attend the very successful Spanish UFO conference in October, do not despair.

A Full set of videos covering the conference with English translation are available and can be purchased in either VHS or Beta formats.

Order forms are available from John Spencer, The Leys, Suite 1, 2c Leyton Road, Harpenden, Herts, AL5 2TL. Please enclose an s.a.e.

A Strange Experience

A celebration lunch
One late November day
Ended in a wholly
Unexpected way.

Goodness - whatever's happening?
A tightening sensation I feel
Around my head - I'm going to faint.
What an end to a lovely meal!

Suddenly it's over -
No faint, no fuss, I'm fine.
That feeling's soon forgotten
In the brilliant sunshine.

Back in the Teacher's Centre
That afternoon soon goes.
At 5.15 I leave for home
For a more relaxing pose.

It's been a really lovely day,
Blue sky and sunshine too.
The wispy clouds begin to form.
My car behaves well too.

At the traffic lights in Weedon,
Turn on to the A5
What's this I see ahead of me?
How do I stay alive?

The brilliant lights of red and green
Are not a crashing plane.
It's dumb bell-shaped and stationary.
What's this? Am I insane?

I hope I'm not, but what is there
One hundred feet above the ground
Grey, smooth and plastic-looking
And not the slightest sound?

I go along the busy road
And under it I drive.
I feel compelled to stop and look
But this would not be wise.

Turning at the top of the hill
I get a bird's eye view.
It is still there. It winks at me.
I wonder what to do.

I continue on my journey
Along that country lane
The green light goes on flashing
So speed I try to gain.

But now, what's this? My car slows down
Although it's in third gear.
I change to first, thinking the worst
But there's no need to fear.

It starts again and travels on
Along a tree-lined road
In third again, the fault has gone.
The end of the episode?

But no there's more. It's all gone dark.
The daylight's disappeared.
Road, buildings, trees and car
Not visible. How weird!

Where am I now? I cannot see.
I don't know what to do.
But look - a circle of bright, white light
Is offering me a clue.

I'm by the farm gate in Church Stowe
I've travelled round a bend
How I managed to do that
I cannot comprehend.

Lights flash in semi-circles
Around my stationary car.
I sit in darkness watching them
And wondering what they are.

And from where ^{ever} do they come?
They do not have a beam.
Completely circular are they all.
Extremely strange they seem.

Suddenly it's light again,
The darkness disappears.
I see I'm further along the road
Now daylight reappears.

I find my car is in third gear
As normally I drive
Towards the church and round the bend -
Lucky to be alive!

Whilst apparently sitting in darkness
I've travelled one hundred yards.
I did not stop or start my car.
Who did? It's on the cards

That this was by remote control
I certainly don't know how.
Some mystery being must have helped,
But from where, and why, and how?

I travel home normally
As on any other day,
But find my journey over all
Takes twice as long that way.

It should have taken fifteen minutes.
It's taken half an hour.
What really happened in that time
When my car lost all its power?

I look out of the window
And see a flashing light.
It's yellow this time and going away.
Part of the illusion? Perhaps I'm right?

We talk about my sighting, when
Suddenly - after our meal,
Another tightening sensation
Around my head I feel.

It's just the same as the one before
When having lunch, I felt
As if I'd faint - but as before
It's gone. A blow not dealt.

I wonder now where to find
Explanations for it all.
I decide to tell everyone I meet
Hoping for answers - not too "tall"!

"Oh, that's a UFO," I'm told.
"What's that?" is my reply.
"You ought to tell somebody."
But who, and how - and why?

BUFORA is the group I need
Their investigators are cool.
They listen and interview sensitively
And record without ridicule.

My CLOSE ENCOUNTER now I know
Is one of the FOURTH KIND.
I was ABDUCTED in the time I lost.
For what reason? I've yet to find.

But there it is. The years have passed
Since 1978.
Others I've met have tales to tell
About a similar fate.

And all of us are hoping
That in the time to come
The REASON for such experiences
Will be a VERY SPECIAL one.

© Elsie Oakensen
16th April 1990

- 19th Jan **BUFORA Regional Meeting - Northampton**
Speaker: Ken Phillips. Friends Meeting House,
Wellington St. Starts 1.30pm
- 2nd Feb **BUFORA London Lecture *Conceptions, Coincidences & Comparisons***
Speaker Norman Oliver
- 8th Feb **CCCS Lecture *Crop Circles: Their Evolution***
Speaker George Wingfield 7pm start at Kensington
Central Library, Campden Hill Rd, London W8. Entrance
£2.00 members, £3.00 non-members
- 2nd Mar **National Investigations Committee Meeting (see inside
for more details)**

BUFORA London Lecture *Thoughtography - Or?*
Speaker Maurice Grosse
- 6th Apr **BUFORA London Lecture *BUFORA A.G.M followed by Hypnotic
Regression or Hypnotic Suggestion***
Speaker Paul Bew

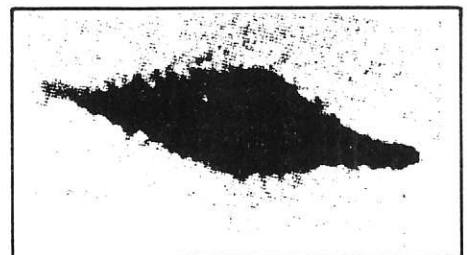
BUFORA London lectures are held every first Saturday of the month at the new lecture theatre complex, London Business School, Sussex Place, Outer Circle, Regents Park, London, NW1. The LBS is only a five minute walk from Baker Street tube. Lectures start at 6.30pm. Entrance £1.00 members, £2.50 non-members. The new theatre has wheelchair access and facilities for the disabled. **All are welcome.** Full lecture programmes are available from BUFORA (LP), 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex, RH15 9ST.

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