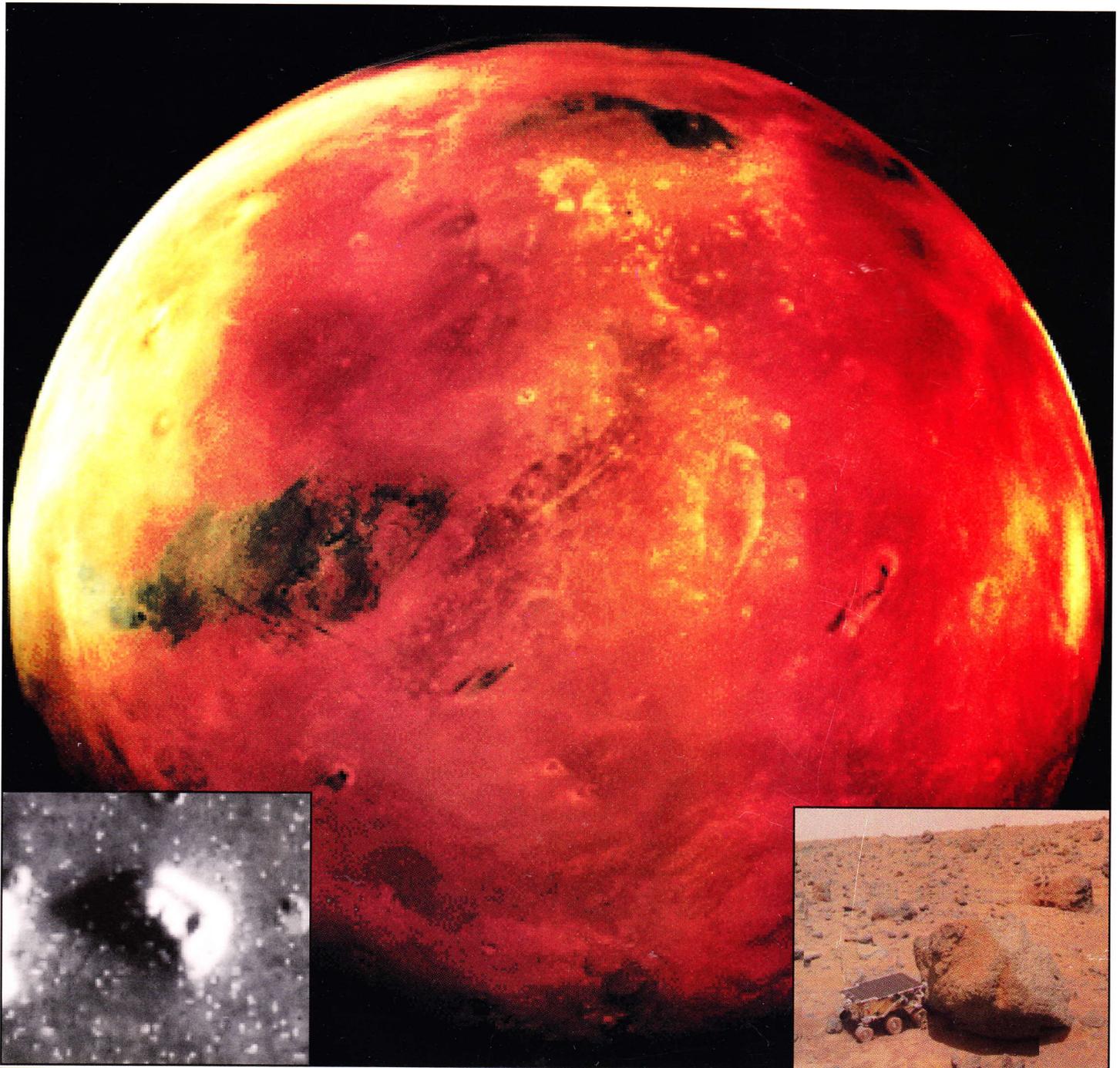


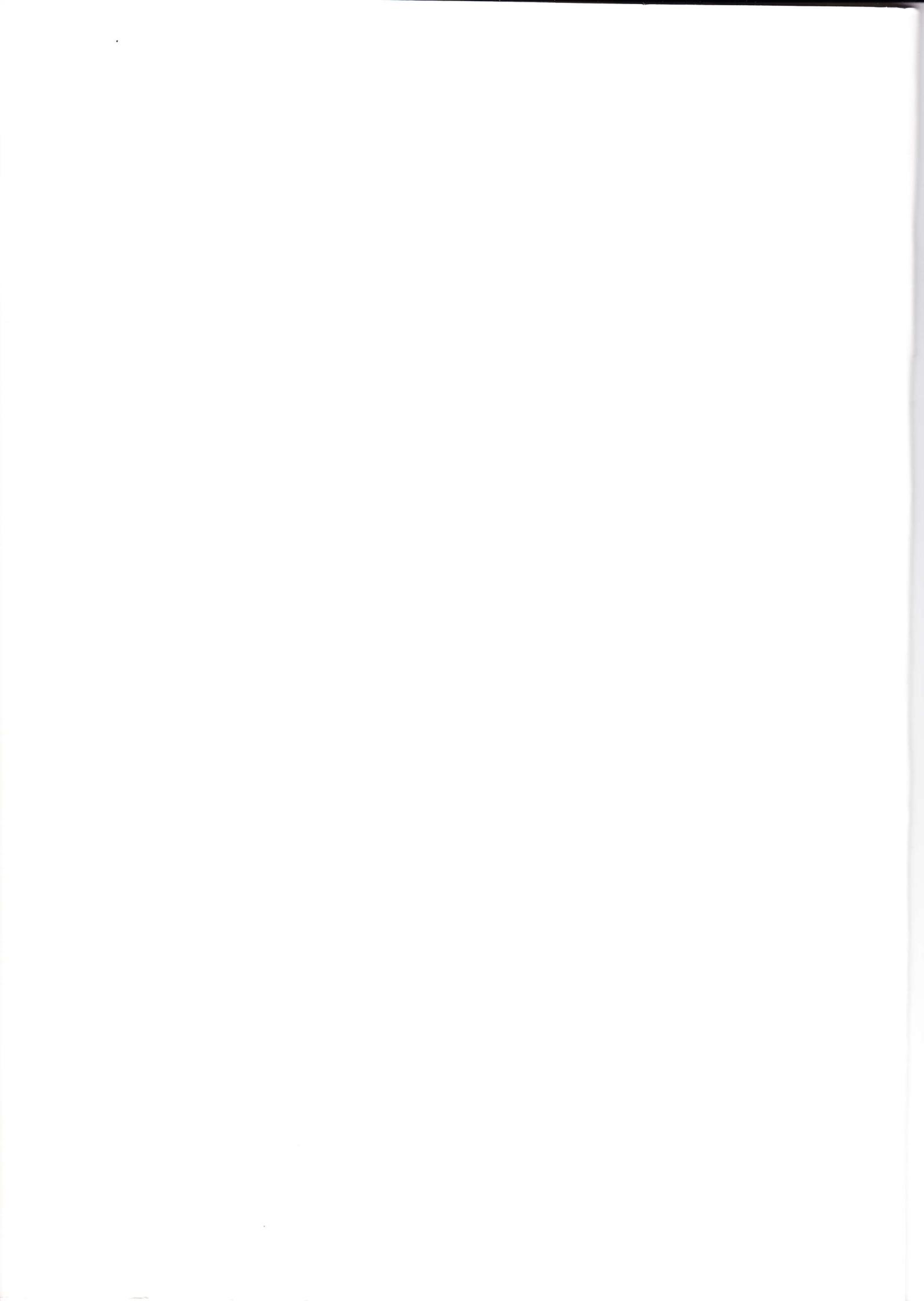
UFO TIMES

THE JOURNAL OF THE BRITISH UFO RESEARCH ASSOCIATION



IN THIS ISSUE:

**NASA returns to the Red Planet;
Paul Devereux: Earthlights and UFOs;
David Clarke: The Longdendale Lights;
Plus news and all of the regular features**



UFO TIMES

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The British UFO Research Association Ltd (By Guarantee).

Founded in 1964. Registered office: 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex RH15 9ST. Registered in London 01234924. Incorporating the London UFO Research Association, founded in 1959, and the British UFO Association, founded in 1962. Member societies include the UK's oldest group, BFSB (3 Orchard Road, Coal Pit Heath, Bristol, BS17 2PB) and associate groups include the Northamptonshire UFO Research Centre and Skyscan.

Aims and Membership.

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

WITNESS CONFIDENTIALITY.

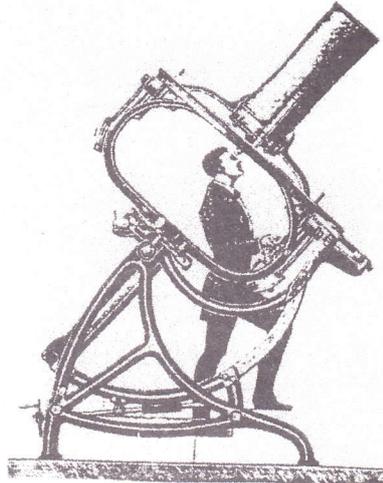
The British UFO Research Association realises the importance of treating cases submitted to the Association by witnesses as confidential. In the light of this, the BUFORA Code of Practice has been devised and employed throughout the Association to guarantee the utmost care is taken when dealing with personal details and case reports.

It is also the policy of UFO Times not to publish the names and addresses of witnesses who are not in the "public domain". The personal details of witnesses who have been published in the media will be treated with care by the editorship.

Editorial

Welcome to a slightly new look version of UFO Times with me, Dave Newton, the new editor. I don't want to make any radical changes to UT, but a change of editor always brings a new approach and there will be a few new features and faces around here. In this issue I'm pleased to have a major article by Paul Devereux, who I regard as one of the most important figures in UFOlogy today, and a new regular columnist in the shape of Kevin McClure. Some readers will know Kevin from his magazine Promises and Disappointments and he now has a newsletter out called "Abduction Watch". Many readers will know that BUFORA has a moratorium on the use of regression hypnosis in close encounter investigations, but other groups and investigators are not so careful with the methods they use and what they tell witnesses. Kevin will be keeping us up to date with the current activities in the alien abduction circus. Another regular feature I hope to include is a sky watch column, giving a round up of astronomical objects that could be confused with UFOs. This should be of use to the investigators and maybe it will encourage some of our readers to go out and familiarise themselves with the night sky.

One of the criticisms of UT that several people have now mentioned to me is that the text is too small to read easily. Well, there's something we can remedy straight away. Obviously, if we increase the text size there will be more pressure on space; we may have to reduce the size of pictures or limit their number to stay within the budgeted number of pages. Well, I know



that I won't be able to please everyone but I can try. Let us know what you think.

So who am I and what am I doing editing your magazine? Well, I've been interested in astronomy and UFOs for as long as I can remember. I'm a former physics teacher and former Chairman of Sunderland Astronomical Society. Since 1993 I've been working with your Director of Investigations Gloria Dixon on UFO cases and editing our own magazine "Strange Daze". Now, the years of manipulation, blackmail and shady deals in smoke filled rooms have paid off and I've been given the editor's chair. Actually, that's as far from the truth as you can get, although I have no doubt some people think BUFORA is run that way. I was very flattered when I was approached with the possibility of becoming editor of UT, and I'm pleased to be sitting here in the editor's rickety old swivel chair.

BUFORA Policy Meeting

Earlier this Summer BUFORA held a policy meeting in London. There were a couple of themes that emerged from that meeting. First of all, BUFORA has to retain its integrity and

cautious approach if it is to maintain its reputation as one of the world's leading UFO research and investigation bodies. Secondly, BUFORA relies on its members for the support and the money to continue that serious research and investigation; in return, the members need to be valued and feel part of BUFORA. UFO Times has an important role to play in both of those themes. This magazine is a showcase for the work our investigators and researchers do, but it also needs to be an interesting read and point of contact for all of BUFORA's members. For a national organisation with members spread about the country, it is hard to organise local events where those members can get together. But we'll be trying to promote some local events as well as the regional lectures and big conferences. If there is something going on in your area, or you would like to get together with other BUFORA members and organise something, write in to us and let us know. We want you to feel part of BUFORA; you deserve to get your money's worth. I know that UFO Times hasn't been appearing with any regularity over the last year or so, and I hope that we haven't lost too many of you along the way. One of my main priorities will be to get UT back on track and get a magazine out to you, the members, every two months. Even if circumstances prevent us putting together a full magazine, I would hope to send out a newsletter to fill in and keep you up to date; but if you keep us provided with news items and articles, I don't think it will come to that. TTFN.

+++NEWS+++ NASA's "INVASION" OF MARS CONTINUES

Following on from last year's well timed announcement that microfossils may have been found in Martian meteorites, NASA's Mars Pathfinder, now renamed the Sagan Memorial Station in honour of Carl Sagan, landed safely on the red planet on the 4th July and deployed the Sojourner rover vehicle. The spacecraft carry a range of instruments for analysing the Martian rock, soil and atmospheric environment as well as television cameras which have been relaying pictures of Mars back to Earth for the first time since the Viking landers of the 1970s. Pathfinder started sending pictures back almost immediately after it rolled to a halt, which were broadcast live through the Internet and on CNN. At

the time of writing, both Pathfinder and Sojourner are continuing to function according to plan.

Pathfinder and its wheeled explorer are limited to a very short range. However, NASA are hoping to build up a much better picture of the planet as a whole when the Mars Global Surveyor spacecraft starts mapping the surface of the planet. The spacecraft went into Martian orbit on the 12th September and appears to be functioning properly. This spacecraft will have to capability to map the surface down to a resolution of 1.5 metres and mission controllers will be attempting to image the Pathfinder lander from orbit. Another target, by popular demand, will be the Cydonia region. This should at least shed some light on the mystery of the "Face on Mars", the curious image of a face first taken from Martian orbit back in the 1970s. High resolution imaging should determine whether the image is just a natural formation previously seen under favourable lighting conditions, or something artificial - a possibility that would have profound implications for us all. There is also interest in the pyramid-like objects near to "the face", so planetary scientists and UFOlogists alike will be hoping for high quality images of the entire Cydonia region.

So was, or is, there life on Mars? The scientists who have studied the Martian meteorites are still analysing the alleged microfossils and signs of life, and no conclusion has yet been drawn. Some of the scientists are convinced that all of the "signs of life" could be created by geological processes without the involvement of any life, although finding them so close together in a single piece of rock is very persuasive. Last July I spoke to a British scientist who had completed a PhD on Martian meteorites. Although not having worked on the famous ALH84001 meteorite, she said that the British team were coming to similar conclusions from different meteorites to the American team who published their groundbreaking paper last year: It is looking increasingly likely that there was at some point primitive life on Mars. The information we are receiving from the current generation of space probes continues to back up the latest view of Martian history - that millions of years ago it was much warmer, with a thicker atmosphere and running water on the surface.

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MARS PATHFINDER UFO MYSTERY

On the 26th July, Richard Hoagland was speaking on the American radio programme, the Art Bell show. Hoagland is well known as the proponent of the theory

that the "face" on Mars and certain structures on the Moon are artificial, and he was on air pointing out that certain features in the Pathfinder photograph



81977 appeared to him to be artificial. Several hours later Desiree Holloway downloaded that image from a CNN mirror site on the Internet and looked it up for herself.

"Upon viewing the photo, I did not agree with Richard Hoagland's findings but studied the picture further and noticed a small circular object just above the right side of the hill and near the top of the photo" she said.

The hill in the photograph is estimated to be around a mile southwest of the spacecraft. What was captured on the photograph? A fault in the imaging system? A Martian aeroplane? Perhaps closer inspection of the original image would yield further information. But this is where the story gets strange:

When Ms Holloway returned to the Sun Microsystems mirror web site to have a look at the pictures, she found that the image she had earlier downloaded had changed. She told UFO Roundup "You might be interested to know that their photo is now distorted. The one I copied has been replaced by a grainy, low-quality image. I cannot find a clear version anywhere on the Web." Indeed, when an Internet user (known as Edward F.) searched the Jet Propulsion Laboratory's online Mars Pathfinder newsletter, 28 images were missing - photographs 81963 to 81991. He reported to UFO Roundup "You will notice the pictures jump from #81991 to #81963. In fact, a whole whack of them are missing".



Readers of UFO Times with Internet connections might like to keep their eye on JPL Mars Pathfinder sites and see if the pictures (re)appear in the image archives. No doubt close inspection of these and other Pathfinder images will throw up new UFO mysteries over the coming months.

BACK TO EARTH...

Meanwhile, a lawsuit has been filed against NASA by three men in the Middle Eastern state of Yemen, Adam Ismail, Mustafa Khalil and Abdullah al-Umari, who are claiming ownership of Mars. The Arabic newspaper Al-Thawri reported on the 24th July that the men had demanded NASA cease all activities on Mars, and not disclose any details learned about the planet, until the Yemeni court had rendered its verdict. The newspaper reported the men as saying "We inherited the planet from our ancestors 3,000

years ago. Sojourner and Pathfinder began exploring it without informing us or seeking our approval." Naturally, NASA haven't taken any notice at all of these developments.

SANTILLI AUTOPSY FOOTAGE

According to Dr Roger Leir of MUFON, Ray Santilli has finally provided a sample of the infamous autopsy footage for analysis. Speaking on Jeff Rense's Sightings radio programme in the US on the 14th August, Dr Leir said that Santilli had given him and Derrel Sims four frames of the original film stock for chemical analysis and dating by experts in the field. When testing is complete, the results and anything that remains of the four frames will be returned to Ray Santilli without public disclosure. Will this finally resolve the question of the origin of the Santilli footage? UFO Times will bring you any news on the matter as and when it breaks.

SOLOMON ISLANDS, SOUTH PACIFIC: It is reported that a classic, domed saucer shaped UFO has been seen every two or three nights since the 7th August over the town of Visal, and Ironbottom Sound. The sightings were first reported to Australian UFOlogist Ross Downe. According to the reports he has received, islanders who have aimed flashlights at the saucer as it passes overhead have been struck by bursts of heat, resulting in several people being treated for third degree burns, and several islanders have been reported missing. The saucer is reported as being fast moving and about 13 feet in diameter, and has been seen to enter a waterfall.

[Readers might like to compare this report with some of the South American encounters in Jacques Vallee's 1990 book "Confrontations" - Ed.]

MIRANDELA, PORTUGAL: On the 23rd May this year many witnesses saw a curious "marigold - shaped" UFO in the night sky over the town. Portuguese UFOlogist Joao Cardoso has solved the mystery and pinned the blame on an all too common source of UFO reports these days - laser lights. "The lights people observed were generated by a laser-effects machine that was used to attract visitors to the Regiao Norde exposition which occurs in Mirandela every year." The powerful lights are projected onto low cloud, resulting in the sightings of large oval or round lights.

GISBORNE, NEW ZEALAND: On the night of 4th August two men observed a UFO moving slowly through the sky from the South. As the object was nearly overhead they lost sight of it because of cloud. They described the object as being "like a star. It was round and two or three blinding colours." They also

said that the object did not traverse the sky in a straight line and that it was moving too fast to be a satellite.

BUCHAREST, ROMANIA: Also on the 4th August air traffic controllers at the Otopeni Airport spotted a "light phenomenon" hovering about 800 ft above the ground near the runways. Despite nothing showing up on radar, the sighting occurred in broad daylight (between 2pm and 3pm) and the airport security forces and a nearby Romanian Army antiaircraft battalion were put on full alert. It is also reported that the light was captured on a video camera mounted on the control tower.

SANTIAGO, CHILE: At 2am on the 15th July, a late night caller to a radio show alerted listeners and Rodrigo Fuenzalida, president of the Chilean UFO Study Group who was a guest on the radio show, to unusual lights in the sky. The caller described them as "glowing, turning on and off very slowly", that also "made some very fast movements". Over thirty people went up to the roof of the radio station in Santiago de Chile and watched the lights, which lasted until 5am. The lights blinked on and off and split into new lights.

Just after midnight on 24th July, a bus carrying 42 passengers to the capital, Santiago de Chile, suddenly stopped after losing all electrical power near Antofagasta, 550 miles north of its destination. While trying to get the bus started again, the passengers noticed odd lights in the sky. "We saw four lights, three round ones and the fourth one was a long cigar shape. All four were changing colours from violet to orange to intense silver-white" said one of the passengers, Victor Lizama. "The cigar shaped object moved, making an L trajectory, while the three round objects stayed still." After the objects disappeared, the bus driver was able to restart the engine and the bus continued its journey.

CANADA: A Canadian UFO flap started on the 15th July when a curious pencil-like object was sighted over Lake Huron from Parry Sound, which is about 150 miles north of Toronto. Over the next couple of weeks UFOs were sighted over three Canadian provinces, Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia. At 10.10 pm on the 31st July an amateur astronomer from Barrie, Ontario observed an unusual meteor which lasted for four seconds. It appeared to be "a brilliant meteor with a brilliant green trail and a trail of sparks like commercial fireworks". Unlike most meteors, this one made a sound. "It made a noise as it passed overhead. Not a whistle, not a whine, a rushing noise and a series of pop, pop, pop noises, like an out of tune car engine backfiring. As an amateur as-

tronomer, I know meteors are usually silent unless they are bolides and explode in the atmosphere or on impact. I have seen lots of meteors before, and all were silent" he said. Electrophonic fireball meteors are known, but are not often reported and the noise producing mechanism is not well understood. Was this such a fireball or perhaps space junk re-entering the atmosphere? On the same night in Richmond, British Columbia, a woman spotted a very bright, orange-white boomerang shaped UFO crossing the sky at 11.15pm. She kept sight of it for about ten seconds. Curiously, her dog was whimpering and acting strangely during the sighting, and other dogs could be heard barking. Was the object producing sounds beyond the ability of human ears to detect?

BUFORA Awards.

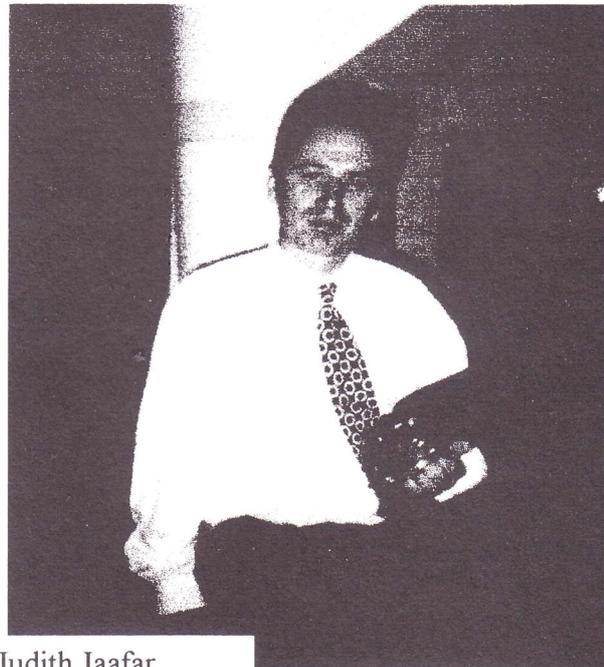
At the 1997 International Congress in Sheffield, two awards were presented to BUFORA investigators. The first award, for the Investigator of the Year, went to David Sankey. The second award was given to Judith Jaafar for her investigative work and the time she has given to the Witness Support Group. Here at UFO Times we would like to thank all of the investigators for the time they devote to the subject. Thanks should also go out to Richard Conway who organized this year's Sheffield Congress, all the speakers and everyone else who worked hard to make the event a success.

HYPNOSIS STUDY

by Steve Gamble, Director of Research

Some researchers have used hypnotic regression for the recovery of memories of UFO experiences by witnesses. BUFORA's Research and Investigation teams have been aware that there may be dangers to the witness by the use of this technique in the wrong hands and that the data collected may be suspect. For several years BUFORA's Investigators have been instructed not to use regression in the investigation of cases. At recent National Investigations Meetings the use of regression has been discussed and it was agreed to continue with the existing instruction not to use regression as an investigative tool. However hypnotic regression has been, and in some cases still is, being used by other groups and individuals both within and outside the UK. Some witnesses when they present for investigation specifically request that regression be used as they see it as some kind of 'Magic Pill'.

Against this background the BUFORA Research section are carrying out a review of the evidence for and against the use of hypnotic regression in the investigation of UFO reports. This review will include the views of not only researchers, investigators and witnesses but also external expert opinion. The ultimate aim will be to produce a report considering all the evidence and to make recommendations based on best practice. All data should be submitted to the Director of Research by 31st December 1997. Readers of UFO TIMES are invited to submit any evidence they feel would be useful by writing the Director of Research at the BUFORA address.



Left: Judith Jaafar.
Above: David Sankey

Heads Up!

The Night Sky: October to December 1997

By Alastair McBeath.

[Late September and October are an ideal time to start learning the constellations and the planets as the weather is still warm and the sky gets dark at a reasonable hour. So I'm pleased to include here the first sky watch column by Alastair McBeath, who is an active observer, Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society and is the Vice President of the International Meteor Organization. I would recommend getting hold of a planisphere or a monthly magazine with a star map in it to help you familiarize yourselves with the night sky. - Ed.]

All times are in Greenwich Mean Time.

The Stars

In early evenings of mid-October and November, the three bright stars forming a huge triangle, Altair, Deneb and Vega stand with the triangle's apex pointing towards the south-west, in the western sky. Altair is the apex star, Deneb "top left", Vega "top right". Just above the southern horizon is the star Fomalhaut, never higher in British skies. Rising to the north-east is the reddish star Aldebaran and the yellow-white Capella above it. Towards dawn, these two stars, joined by the brilliant entourage of Orion, the star Procyon, the twins Castor and Pollux in Gemini and the brightest star of all Sirius, form a ring almost centred on the impressive orange-red star Betelgeuse, to Orion's "top left", dominating the southern sky, from the zenith down. The yellow-white Regulus in Leo rises to the east. Vega and Deneb are now grazing the north-western horizon.

By the early evenings of December, the Vega-Altair line of the triangle lies almost parallel to the western hori-

zontal, while Fomalhaut sets to the south-west. Aldebaran, Capella, and the stars of Gemini and Orion stand proud of the south-eastern

horizon. As dawn approaches, the near-Orion "ring" is setting in the west, while Vega and Deneb push up, low to the north-east. Regulus stands midway between the zenith and the southern horizon, with the bright orange Arcturus high in the east, and the white Spica below Arcturus to the south-east.

The Planets

In October, the brilliant planet Venus, far brighter than any star or planet, dominates the low south-western sky after dusk for an hour or so. [Venus reaches its greatest observed distance from the Sun (called *greatest elongation*) of 47 degrees (about five fist widths at arms length) on the 6th November. It still doesn't get very high in the sky this time around, but it is bound to trigger off some UFO reports because of its sheer brightness. Watch out for reports of a "low altitude silent aircraft with a landing light/searchlight beam on" in the western sky after sunset - Ed.]. Two bright, though much fainter, reddish "stars" are near Venus, especially in mid-month. These are the planet Mars (the more northerly) and the star Antares. Another spectacular planet well on view is Jupiter, moderately low to the south-west, and "below-left" of Altair, outshining all the stars. Fainter than this, but brighter than any star nearby is the planet Saturn, over to the south-east, and higher than Jupiter. Of the planets, only Saturn remains on view towards morning, setting to the west.

By November, Venus and Mars can be seen low to the south-west after sunset for over two hours. They are roughly as equidistant from Altair as Jupiter is, but they lie to the "lower right" of Altair, whereas Jupiter remains to the star's "lower left". Saturn is high to the south-east, but now sets around 04:00 in mid-November. On the night of November 11-12 the almost-full Moon is very near Saturn, and passes in front of the planet for about 40-50 minutes, starting at 01:28 on November 12.

In the evening twilight of December, Venus and Mars are readily apparent low to the south-west, setting 2.5 to 3 hours after the Sun. Their relative positions take them closer to Jupiter this month, standing almost due south of Altair. Venus is by far the brightest, then Jupiter, and Mars much the fainter of

the three, about as bright as Altair, but probably seeming fainter because of its pale

orange-red colour. Saturn is high to the south-south-east early in the night, and sets soon after midnight now. In the last few days of the month, the bright star-like planet very low to the south-east in the morning sky, rising from about 06:20, is Mercury.

Meteors

Some swift, bright meteors (colloquially "shooting stars") are likely for a few nights around October 21,

Lunar Phases			
	October	November	December
New	01d 16h 51m	-	-
First quarter	09d 12h 22m	07d 21h 43m	07d 06h 09m
Full	16d 03h 46m	14d 14h 12m	14d 02h 37m
Last quarter	23d 04h 48m	21d 23h 58m	21d 21h 43m
New	31d 10h 01m	30d 02h 14m	29d 16h 56m

chiefly well after midnight, when the Orionid shower is most active. Occasional spates of slow fireballs (meteors brighter than the planet Jupiter appears to us) have sometimes been seen during the last week of October and into early November too, resulting from the weak Taurid meteor showers. These are most likely from late evening onwards.

More fast, bright meteors due to the Leonid shower - which may produce a storm of meteors in 1998 or 1999 if we are really lucky - are probable around November 17 and 18, but only well after midnight. Many of these meteors leave glowing persistent trains of ionized gas after the meteors themselves have vanished. These usually last for a few seconds at best, but rare examples can survive for several minutes.

In December, the most likely period for brighter meteors is from roughly December 12-14, when the Geminid shower produces its greatest numbers. Moderate-speed Geminids can be spotted throughout the night. Unfortunately, the Orionids, Leonids and Geminids have their best times close to full Moon this year. This will significantly reduce the total numbers of meteors seen, since bright moonlight glare conceals the fainter meteors, which are by far the more numerous.

TANGLED IN THE NET: LITS, Earth Lights and Hynek by Paul Devereux.

Like many other UFOlogists, I have the dubious pleasure of subscribing to various ufological lists on the Internet. When I have an aberrant moment, I even enter into debate with other subscribers. I usually regret it, because I find myself embroiled in tedious arguments, especially because I promote an "earth lights" line that most subscribers take issue with. As I have proceeded, I find that with the case of most American ufologists, at any rate, they have read virtually no literature on the subject, and consequently have a false impression of what is actually being stated. And almost nobody, on either side of the Atlantic, is up to speed on the great strides taken in recent years on the earth lights approach. I am currently engaged in trying to remedy that shortfall in generally-available information. A long chapter in my forthcoming *UFOs & Ufology* (co-authored with Peter Brookesmith, with contributions from Montague Keen and Nigel Watson; Blandford Press; due November 1997) will hopefully help in this regard, as should a major article in *Fortean Times* 103. Here and now, I explore just one aspect of the earth-lights debate that surfaced recently on the Net (on the UFO Updates list run by Errol Bruce Knapp out of Toronto - updates@globalserve.net). The following is a suitably modified version of the exchange.

Earth Lights and LITS

I was tackled by subscriber Jerry Cohen who took issue with earlier comments I had made on the list about lights-in-the-sky (LITS) being the most common type of UFO report. I was "not exactly accurate" Mr. Cohen stated, and quoted Hynek's classifications and his revised analysis of Blue Book data:

BRIEF SUMMARY OF HYNEK CLASSIFICATIONS:

* Nocturnal lights: Strangely behaving lights in the

night sky

* Daylight Discs: UFOs sighted in the daytime.

* Radar & Radar/visual sightings: Radar sightings and those

with visual support

*CE I: Detailed sighting but no observable interaction with

the witness or the environment.

*CE II: UFO is observed interacting with the environment and

frequently, the witness as well.

*CE III: Basically a CE II case where the UFO occupants make

themselves known.

REVISED BLUE BOOK STATISTICS:

(From: Hynek, J. Allen, **The Hynek UFO Report**, Chapter 11, "The

Air Force Numbers Game". Dell Publishing Co. Inc., 1977)

Types of Revised Unknowns

Type	Number	% of Unknowns
Nocturnal Lights.....	243.....	38
Daylight Discs.....	271.....	42
Radar-Visual.....	29.....	5
Radar.....	10.....	2
CEI.....	46.....	7
CEII.....	33.....	5
CEIII.....	8.....	1

LITS, Discs and Earth Lights

I'll stand by my claim that most UFO reports relate to lights seen in the sky - I'll clarify that, if one likes, to lights seen often but not always, in the night sky. The first thing is not to confuse an actual sighting (e.g. a set of lights in the night sky) with witness interpretation of that sighting (e.g. the lights are on a

huge, dark craft). Reports can all too often be interpretations. How many "structured craft" fall into this category, I wonder? What people say they see, and more often *think* they see, is not always by any means what they *do* actually see. (As one minor example of this, I have seen people at the Marfa Lights lookout point in Texas rush screaming into their vehicles because they think a Marfa light is rushing towards them, when in fact it is simply a car's headlights flashing momentarily as it crests a particular rise - well known on the Marfa- Presidio road about 20-30 miles away across Mitchell Flat...)

On the specific matter of the percentage of LITS in UFO reports, most studies give the biggest percentage to LITS, and that is certainly what I see in ongoing UFO reports in the UFO small press literature. However, in the particular block of data cited let us see just what we have:

Nocturnal Lights.....	243.....	38%
Daylight Discs... ..	271.....	42
Radar-Visual.....	29.....	5
Radar.....	10.....	2

I would argue that, *potentially*, earth lights could account for *any* of these four categories, giving us 87 percent. How can this be?

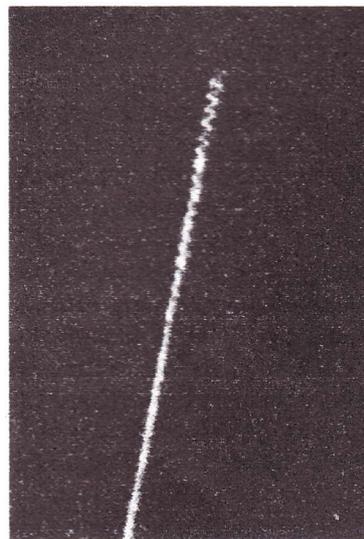
Well, let us deal with the top two first. May I quote Hynek myself? "It could be that Nocturnal Lights observed in the daytime would appear as Daylight Discs -- we don't know. But *observationally* the distinction is useful." (My emphasis.) So that could mean that LITS, therefore potentially earth lights, could theoretically account for 80 percent in the data block cited.

But there's a more compelling reason than Hynek's old opinion for allowing the possibility that daylight discs could be potentially the same phenomenon as nocturnal LITS - and, the beauty of it is, *it is not anecdotal*. It revolves around the general assumption that earth lights are some form of plasma. This has now been well supported by the 1994 work of You-Suo Zou (of the Institute of Atmospheric Physics in Beijing's Academy of Sciences, and an associate of the Department of Meteorology at the University of Utah). He made a close study of the original Project Hessdalen's collected data, and he noted photographs of light traces which revealed a corkscrew-like effect (a 7 Hz pulsation). Zou recognised this helical structure as typical of a plasma vortex in motion. From work with laboratory plasmas (Zou cited Leibovich, 1983, and Ma, 1984), this structure is particularly visible in the tails of plasma vortices that are breaking down. Under certain conditions, a plasma vortex can become a kind of solitary wave (soliton) and from the behaviour of some

Hessdalen lights as recorded on the project's radar, Zou observed clear evidence of wave energy propagation.



Above: Light observed at Hessdalen. Below: Close up of the light trail.



earth lights in the way one pole of a magnet relates to the other. I have seen one of these appear, move along at treetop height, then disappear instantaneously in full sight, then re-appear a distance further on, then shoot off into the sun's glare.

Radar Visuals

Let's look at three other often-asked questions, the answers to which I think you will see potentially account for the additional 7 percent of other sightings in Hynek's breakdown - radar visuals and radar obser-

Now, let us turn to one of four often-asked critical questions concerning earth lights and UFOs:

Question: What have earth lights to do with "daylight disks"?

Answer: If earth lights are a form of plasma, then there is no problem with this, because a plasma seen in daylight does happen to look shiny and metallic, and is likely to have a spherical, ovoid or discoid form. Moreover, there are pitch black objects sometime seen by day (both Erling Strand - director of the new Project Hessdalen - and I have witnessed examples of these ourselves) which seem to be photon (light)-absorbing instead of light-emitting. These bizarre phenomena - which can be round, square or irregular in form - may relate to

ventions.

Question: What about the size usually ascribed to flying saucers?

Small balls of plasma, seen as lights or even as metallic forms can't account for those, surely? Answer: Some earth lights are reported as being many yards across. A modest example of this was shown in the Quebec case (1988) - the size, height and duration of some of these phenomena were clearly "UFO standard". (Lights yards across were seen at close quarters by observers within Quebec University's seismic array in the Lake St John - Saguenay area of Quebec to rise out of the ground and hover hundred of yards in the air for up to 12 minutes.) The lights at Hessdalen ranged up to even larger sizes. And lights seen at night, accounting for a huge percentage of all UFO reports, can look large if bright enough - their size is easy to overestimate.

Question: How do earth lights explain radar-visual cases?

Answer: It has in fact been proven that plasmas can return radar echoes. Indeed, even plasmas that have too low a temperature to emit visible light can still reflect radar waves just like a metal surface (Zou, 1994). During the first Project Hessdalen, radar echoes were repeatedly obtained from invisible objects hovering near ridges.

(During earlier correspondence on the list, I was challenged to explain how a UFO - a green lightball - could "ping", as reported by the pilot, when it apparently struck an airliner landing at Mexico City's international airport, if it was "only" an earth light. To which my answer is simple: the aircraft was made of metal - how do we know it was the lightball that pinged? A metallic object like a plane striking a charged object like a plasma might well give off an impact sound.)

Question: What about markings on the ground and damage to foliage associated with some reported UFO landings?

Answer: These are quite consistent with localised damage caused by energetic lightballs. Singed foliage, ground burns and grooves have all been associated with ball lightning, for example.

Close Encounters

As for Hynek's close encounter categories, Types I and II present no problems as per the above, and both Persinger and I have elsewhere explained how the stranger cases could be accounted for within an energy model rather than an ET model. (Even though Persinger's work is slammed a lot by some ufological critics, some of it is practical work in this particular

area of concern and far less anecdotal than anything put forward in support of the ETH.)

Other Characteristics

In the Fortean Times article (referred to earlier), it will be noted that I go on to describe other intriguing characteristics of earth lights, and why we are now thinking they may be *macro-quantal* events. Some of this information is also non-anecdotal. In my opinion, this will be the paradigm to explore in future "new ufology". We can debate Roswell until the cows come home, and it will get us nowhere... At some early point, we got the paradigm wrong concerning UFOs, and it is time we did a serious stock take. If we are not bringing the right questions to the problem, how can we arrive at the correct answers? In my view, the legend of the crashed disc(s) in the New Mexico desert has become a metaphor for the ETH coming to the end of its run in an intellectual desert.

Phantoms of the Skies

Now, I do want to make it clear, as I have elsewhere, that I *do* think there are other mystery phenomena in the skies that are neither earth lights nor ET craft. True phantoms of the skies. I have given an account of my 1953/4 sighting of a huge dirigible airship elsewhere [on the internet and in the forthcoming Fortean Times article], seen in full daylight and in full detail. It appeared and disappeared within minutes, but was co-witnessed. Quite apart from its anomalous appearance/disappearance, there could not have been such a vehicle flying in Britain at that time. If there are genuine sightings of UFO "craft", and if they are to be viewed as ET vehicles, then what was this airship? An early-model ET spaceship? I prefer to think that what I saw, and what others might see, are not alien space machines, but future/past time slips, or archetypal images somehow made objectively if transiently visible, or...

In short, I feel that such aerial phantoms occur for reasons we cannot even begin to formulate as yet. I suspect they may come through the same quantum doorway as earth lights. But whatever they are, they are but a tiny fraction of what is dealt with in UFO reports.

Hynek

A word about Hynek and earth lights. He heard my early case for earth lights in 1983, and found it interesting. Then, in 1985, he visited Hessdalen, and came away convinced that "we have something very important for ufology here". Alas, he was a only a

year away from his death. Had he lived, and therefore been acquainted with the recent research, I think he may have been able to persuade at least some strands of mainstream ufology away from its increasing rush into the ETH-and-nothing-but-the-ETH abyss. Right: Allen Hynek viting the site.

Re-Inventing Ufology

There seems a prevailing belief in mainstream ufology that there is the case that will prove the ETH case once and for all if only, if only, if only... (and everyone has their pet candidate, it seems). This is not well founded, in my opinion. After 50 years of it not happening, I think the chances are that it won't. For my money, we have to do a lot more strategic thinking than we currently are, to complement individual case studies. We spend so much of our time so close to the trees, and spend so little time standing back to look at the state of the forest it is in. My suggestion is that we have to *reinvent ufology* altogether. We need to swallow hard, accept much of ETHism is what we emotionally want to be true (or at least the only solution our current level of thought allows us to accept), and start looking at and thinking about the UFO enigma anew. Whatever one feels, says or believes, the last 50 years in ufology have not been a very inspiring overall display of human intellectual achievement (which is not to denigrate some excellent work done by a lot of people). ETHers all the time feel they are just on the verge of making *the* breakthrough, but it never, ever, happens. (I forget how many times I've heard the phrase "In two years time, all this will be proved..." in the last 30 years.) But they keep tugging themselves on and on, down the years, down the decades, with the belief that tomorrow the ETH case will be proven.

It is time to leave Salem.

Note 1. Quantum mechanics deals with very small, subatomic events that do not behave in the way objects do in classical physics, and it is classical physics that describes the normal world around us. We can envisage the "quantum field" non-scientifically as a kind of subatomic "sea" out of which all energy and therefore matter arises. It underpins all manifest creation. A "macro-quantal" event, therefore, is something that behaves with quantum mechanics aspects but is at the scale of our world of classical physics. This has certainly been achieved in modest ways in the laboratory, so it may be



that nature, with the biggest laboratory on Earth - Earth itself! - has been quietly producing the large-scale and dramatic macro-quantal events we are calling "earth lights".

Note 2. A plasma is an ionised gas, containing equal numbers of free electrons and positive ions. Overall it is electrically neutral but can be highly conductive. The temperature of a plasma is theoretically such that it can support a controlled nuclear fusion reaction. Plasmas are widely studied in magnetohydrodynamics research.

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[Paul Devereux is the author of numerous books, including "Earthlights", "Earthlights Revelation", "Places of Power".and "The New Ley Hunter's Guide", and is former editor of "The Ley Hunter" magazine.]

FROM MY PENNINE VALLEY NOTEBOOK... THE HAUNTED VALLEY

by David Clarke

[Continuing David Clarke's series on UFO activity in the North of England.]

Abstract

For years there have been calls for British UFO

researchers to set up a permanent or semi-permanent "skywatch" site which could be used in an attempt to record Earthlight phenomena on film and with other instrumentation. Already sterling work has been done in Norway's Hessdalen valley, the Australian outback and other places to track UFO-type lights to ground; some of the results of the efforts were screened in Channel 4's Equinox documentary IFOs in 1996. Now, efforts are being made, with backing of BUFORA and Earthlights writer Paul Devereux, to organise a similar effort in Britain [1].

The Derbyshire Peak District's Longdendale Valley was identified as one of Northern England's most active "window areas" during ongoing research for Project Pennine, an independent study of Ball of Light phenomena set up by Andy Roberts and myself ten years ago. Like Hessdalen, Marfa in Texas and many other locations world-wide, the valley has been haunted by mysterious lights for centuries and they are still being reported regularly today. Because phenomena such as these do not have the same "glamour value" as the currently popular abduction reports, they have on the whole been ignored by mainstream UFOlogy. After all, something which has been haunting an area since Adam was a lad is unlikely to provide the one-off proof of extraterrestrial visitors which abductions appear offer. But nevertheless, it is precisely their regularity of appearance (often reflected in folklore and place names) which offers the opportunity of attracting interest from science if it were possible to capture and track an outbreak of lights with the correct instrumentation.

Longdendale is centrally placed geographically, being situated within half an hour's journey from the centre of two major cities, Manchester and Sheffield, and easily accessible from the motorway network. For this reason Project Pennine proposes Longdendale, and specifically Bleaklow, as the base for Britain's UFO observation point. Longdendale branches west from the main Pennine watershed and is actually formed by the valley of the River Etherow, which drains westwards from the high moors beyond Woodhead towards the Irish Sea. On either side of the heavily faulted valley rise forbidding gritstone mountain plateaus, with Kinder Scout and Bleaklow to the south and Black Hill to the north. Both these ranges have been the scene of dozens of sightings and close encounter experiences since the beginning of recorded history. These reports continue to come in, and the following is just a selection from my ever growing notebook...

"We had no idea what was happening or where it was coming from or what it was; I still don't and can't explain it to you - but I know what I've seen."

Australian-born Laverne Marshall was describing a terrifying night time drive into the unknown which has become etched upon her memory. Laverne had taken her son to Heathrow Airport and was returning to her home in the mill town of Glossop with her 20-year-old daughter Stacey and her baby across a quiet mountain road which crosses the Peak District.

"We were just driving and talking when all of a sudden these little balls of light, four or five in all, appeared on the dashboard," she said. "They were really bright and dancing up and down just like they were being controlled by a juggler. The first thing I did was to look up and see if a plane was going over - but there was nothing above us. There were no houses around and there were no headlights behind me. I said to Stacey straight away "take the torch off the baby", but she shouted back "mum, I've got the torch in my hand and it's not turned on." So Stacey grabbed the baby off the back seat and held her and as she did that these lights moved onto the roof of the car. Then Stacey panicked, locked the central locking and slid the cover over the sunroof. Then they sort of split up into two groups and we sat speechless as they went to the back window and then each moved back in single file to the dashboard where they regrouped, almost as if they were marching in order."

The family's nightmare lasted a full seven minutes as their car travelled from the highest point on the Woodhead Pass as it dropped into eerie Longdendale Valley, the lights blinking out as the car reached the streetlights - and safety. "As we got near Crowden there's a turn to Glossop which takes you on a shortcut past the Devil's Elbow but even though I was running short of petrol I wouldn't go down it because it's even spookier than the main road," she said.

Both Laverne and recently married Stacey have found it difficult to come to terms with their strange encounter with the ghostly lights which happened close to midnight on 14th February 1995 - a cold, clear night. "I woke up next morning and thought 'God, what was it, what did I see?'" she told me later. "Later someone was taking the mickey and Stacey said 'Well, you've not seen it you can take the mickey if you like but we have.'" [2]

Sean Wood won't take the mickey. He lives in an isolated grey stone building whose lounge window fronts directly onto the carriageway of the busy trans-Pennine Woodhead pass, where the Marshall's had their bizarre experience. Sean has not seen small lights inside his car, but he has seen a different kind of luminous puzzle - huge pulsating blobs of light which cavort above the fells which face his home.

"Quite simply, there are bright lights which appear

at the top end of Longdendale - there's no doubt they exist but what they are I just have no idea," he told me. Sean, an artist, teacher and former reservoir keeper with the Water Board, was pointing towards Shining Clough, a rugged desolate mountain ridge which at nearly 2,000 feet above sea level dominates the southern horizon outside his home at the head of the valley. Sean and his family first saw the lights there in 1982, the year he moved to aptly-named Bleak House. The building stands immediately below the isolated 14th century roadside chapel at Woodhead. "It was about 9.30 on a November evening, when I walked into one of the front rooms at Bleak House to chastise someone for shining a torch through our window," Sean explained. "Of course there was no torch, nor indeed any person outside." However, the light filled the room with a chilly, moon-like glow. "The effect was heightened by the lack of street lighting at this altitude and when I went outside to investigate I saw a large pulsating ball of light directly above the house, and not too far from the aptly named Shining Clough. With the hair on the back of my neck bristling I went to telephone my near neighbours at the Crowden Youth Hostel. Guess what? They were outside watching the light in the sky too."

This was just the first in a long series of unexplained luminous interludes which have plagued valley residents for as long as memory can stretch. "Two years after that I saw it again, beneath the skyline. In all I've seen them more than 30 times over the 16 years I have been living here," said Sean. "One of the times it was very very big, and between 50 and 70ft from the ridge, it was pulsing again and then stopping, moving back and forth and up and down." "I've also seen three lights together, much smaller and together, like in a string, moving in an arch. I've seen these a few times, and the big ones a few times. There's no doubt about the fact there are lights out there on those moors."

The Haunted Mountain

Sean Wood is just one of dozens of Longdendale residents who have experienced the phantom lights which haunt Bleaklow mountain and the Woodhead pass which runs below it. In fact, Jean Whitehead, the previous owner of Bleak House saw similar lights hovering over the mountains and reservoirs. Nearly everyone who has lived in the upper part of the valley has either seen or knows someone who has seen them. The lights are just one strand of a rich tapestry of stories and legends associated with the peak - a dark, high rocky plateau covered by a thick layer of peat and heather. At its harsh 2,060 foot summit Bleaklow has a reputation as England's only true desert - empty, chilling and hostile. It is a place where nature remains very much in control

and man is a mere visitor. Even today the only break in the acres of lonely moor are the occasional hiker and the calls of sheep, mountain hare, curlew and grouse who live on the moors.

The A628 Woodhead Pass, one of the main arteries linking Yorkshire with Manchester across the Pennines, cuts through dramatic and beautiful moorland scenery at the source of the River Etherow at Salters Brook. Less than 40 people - mostly farmers - live within the tiny parish of Woodhead, a population which swelled to more than a couple of hundred souls just once in its long history. A century ago Irish navvies were imported to carve the huge Woodhead railway tunnel out of the gritstone rock. Dozens succumbed to a cholera epidemic and their bodies were buried in simple graves in the churchyard below the tiny chapel on the hill behind Sean Wood's home. The eerie reputation of the isolated building has attracted self-styled Devil-worshippers from the nearby cities, who daubed Satanic symbols on the walls and altar during the 1970s.

Following the demise of the railways a string of reservoirs sprang up in the valley bottom to slake the thirst of Manchester's urban sprawl. They are now paired with miles of high tension electricity pylons. But despite its melancholy and deserted appearance Longdendale has a strange atmosphere, a rich body of folk tradition and a long history of strange happening stretching back to the dawn of history. Locals will speak in whispers about the reputation of the valley and tell you that an elemental presence has made its home on these moors for as long as the memory of man can stretch.

Aviation historian Ron Collier, who lives in Glosop, has spent years walking the moors and recording the locations of aircraft wrecks which litter the peat troughs. The Derbyshire Peak became the last resting place for many pilots from the second world war onwards who lost their way in mist and fog and collided with the rocky outcrops. Besides the well known reports of ghostly grey aeroplanes which have been made in the Hope and Derwent valleys, virtually all the wrecks have their own ghost-stories [4]. Like others in the valley, Ron is reluctant to talk about his own experiences with its secrets. But he does say: "In my research I have repeatedly come up against the paranormal... There is a force which governs the moors. You can feel it. And the scores of sightings of ghost planes only backs that up. Many of the people who have seen these planes are plain-speaking farmers who know better than to believe in ghost stories. Something is going on, and it is very hard to explain what."

Ghostplanes are one mystery of the moors. [4] The Longdendale Lights are another. These mystery moving flames are so well known they have become part of the folklore of the region, just another aspect of the "otherness" of the valley. Stories about them go back generations, and in tales handed down through the generations they became associated with the Devil, hence their local name, the Devil's Bonfires. One resident remembers how back in the 1950s his granny would point towards Torside Castle and Glossop Low from their home in Old Glossop and talk about "the mystery lights" which flickered and hovered above the Devil's Elbow. Ten years later, as a volunteer in the local mountain rescue team, he heard about them again when motorists began to report lights resembling distress flares hovering above the moors.

In tradition, the Devil's Bonfires were said to hover around a mysterious mound near the summit of Bleaklow known as Torside Castle. Archaeologists believe the mound dates from the Bronze Age, others believe it is a natural lump of mud and rock left in a wake of the glaciers which once cut through the valley. Another tradition links the lights with phantom legions of Roman soldiers who are said to tramp across the moors on the night of the first full moon in the spring. Their ghostly glow is said to resemble the flames from the torches carried by Roman auxiliary troops as they marched along the Devil's Dyke, a Roman road lining the fort at Glossop with the Hope Valley in the east.

"Devil" names crop up frequently in this part of the hills, adding to its eerie reputation [5]. Many folktales are concentrated in the area of the Devil's Elbow, a dangerous bend in the Glossop to Woodhead road, mentioned earlier by Laverne Marshall. In folklore the Elbow was a dangerous boundary between the inhabited valley and the moor, a frightening place haunted by burning lights and the Dark Lad or T'Owd Lad, the local name for the devil or horned one. Spirits, ghosts and the names of thinly-remembered pagan deities are still a living reality in these Pennine communities. One former Glossop resident explained:

"When I was young, supernatural things were always referred to obliquely; an off-side sort of thing, a cross of the fingers. T'Owd Lad was a common name - the figure you would come across on the moors, the Dark Lad was another name particularly connected with the moors, the Dark Lad or T'Owd Lad and T'Owd Woman, the same thing." But using the names of supernatural creatures was always a risky business, and like the fairies or Gentry in Ireland, it was always surrounded by a strict taboo. "People did not want to refer to them directly, so there was always a funny finger crossing when you did so, sort of crossing your first and

second fingers and arcing your thumb."

It was at the Devil's Elbow one September night in the 1950s that a veteran railwayman, John Davies, had a bizarre encounter as he returned to his cottage along the twisting road from Glossop into the valley. Mr Davies, possibly the oldest resident of Longdendale at 88, has lived here since 1929 and kept a meticulous diary which is a mine of local information. On the night in question he was riding a motorbike home with the sky lit up by a full harvest moon when he felt an irresistible urge to stop. As he pulled up he was amazed to see an object "like a big black slug sliding across t'road and up t'moor making a funny gritty noise like feet on wet gravel...as it came slowly across the road in front of me I could see it was completely black and really peculiar like a huge whale," he told me. "It had a head like a whale and white eye, with a black pupil going round and round. It had disappeared and I went to have a look but it had gone. I've been over there thousands of times but never seen anything like that before." [6]

Two friends of Mr Davies have independently encountered a similar uncanny presence which both felt was undoubtedly evil at the same deep dough leading upwards to Torside Castle. One, returning from Manchester late at night, "felt" it following him slowly along the road, but he was so frightened he could not bring himself to look over his shoulder. The other spent frantic minutes striking matches so he could see the terrifying black shape sliding along in the dark valley below Ogden Clough, before he "lost his bottle" and broke into a run.

Whales at 2,000 foot above sea level. Black shapes. Horned figures. Marching soldiers on the first night of the full moon in spring. Weird burning lights on the moors. Not to mention the ubiquitous flying saucers....John Davies had heard all the stories. He will share them with the selected few, but in general people in this clannish Pennine valley keep their secrets and don't readily share them with outsiders. But things began to change in the 1960s, when the new Peak District National Park authority built the first youth hostel at Crowden, not far from Woodhead. The hostel was designed to provide an overnight stop for walkers braving the first leg of the newly opened long distance Pennine Way footpath which crosses Longdendale on its route north into West Yorkshire. It didn't take long before visitors and wardens based at the hostel and surrounding cottages soon began to see beams and pulsating balls of coloured lights racing along the rocky gritstone crags on the remote western face of Bleaklow, along Bramah Edge and Shining Clough.

The Blue Light Zone

On occasions police and rescue teams turned out to search the craggy heights but found nothing. Then one fine summer's night in July 1970, teacher Barbara Drabble, who was at that time married to Peak Park warden Ken Drabble, was driving home to Crowden past the youth hostel when she suddenly passed through an invisible curtain which led into the Twilight Zone...

It was, she told me ten years ago, "a brilliant blue light". It lit up "all the bottom half of the mountain, all the railway, the reservoirs and about a two mile stretch of road." The lights lasted several minutes and did not resemble daylight - it was "brighter, clearer and harsher" and as Barbara drove into it she felt intensely cold, a sensation which caused the hair on the back of her neck to stand on end as if it had been affected by an electrical charge... "It was just all over the whole valley lighting up, with perfect clarity, every single feature. It was certainly bright enough to drive without lights, and I can remember the clarity with which I could see the contour of the stone walling and the features on either side of the hills beside the road. The drive must have taken about five minutes and when I parked, or more accurately hurriedly abandoned the car, on arriving home it had an icy sheen and felt cold" [7].

Like Laverne Marshall 25 years later, Barbara's experience on the same road left a lasting impression. She was so intrigued that she made a point of visiting local farmers, asking them what they knew about the light. They shuffled uncomfortably when put on the spot by an outsider, and kept what they knew to themselves. "I drew a blank from everyone but their attitude made me feel they did see something," she said. But one year later, dozens of people staying at Crowden Youth Hostel including the warden, Joyce Buckley, were dazzled by the same or a similar brilliant light which shined in through the windows. "At first thought it might be car headlights, but it reappeared on top Of Bleaklow and no car can get up there," said Mrs Buckley, who now lives in Manchester "It lasted three minutes, 25 seconds and was very powerful."

The warden was so concerned about the light she called out a Mountain Rescue Search party, led by Mrs Drabble's husband Ken. He led a team who searched the moor in vain, and said afterwards: "When we got to the top there was nothing - no trace of people, lights or even a fire." And what's more, Ken and the team searched the tops carrying big gas-powered searchlights whose reflectors were the size of a dustbin lid. But high up on the moor, the lightbeams thrown out by the searchlight looked like a twinkling candle to the people below in the Youth Hostel. The mystery light, they said,

had filled the whole valley with its radiance. Discussing the events of that night for a TV reconstruction in 1996, Mr Drabble, now a senior Peak Park official, told me: "I did not think someone was playing a trick. There were 15 people at the hostel that night and they did see something, and I would not disagree that it was something very mysterious." After the sighting from Crowden Hostel, Barbara once again asked local farmers what they knew and although reluctant to talk at first, eventually they admitted they were familiar with the lights and had been for generations. "One of them said they had known it to freeze young Lambs when it came early in the year," explained Barbara. "Also someone said it had been coming for generations but never so close together as two years, usually about thirty or even fifty years in between. They were still reluctant to discuss it." [8]

The most common description in recent years is of a string of moving lights which have been mistaken for ramblers lost on the mountains. Others have seen balls of light and searchlight beams. These phenomena have been seen right along the 15 mile mountain ridge south of the valley, from Torside Castle and Bramah Edge on the west, to Shining Clough which overlooks Sean Wood's home at the head of the valley. So persistent have these reports become that the voluntary Mountain Rescue team have turned out from their Glossop base on numerous occasions when lights and "flares" have been spotted, only to find the lights fade away like a Will o' the Wisp as they approach. The rescue team's Commander, engineer Phil Shaw, became fascinated by the lights when he spotted a mystery beam of light on the mountain 15 years ago, and now keeps a log of sightings. "Between them, the seven mountain rescue teams in the Peak are called out once a year by people who see lights in the hills and assume someone is in trouble," he told me. "This has been going on for at least 20 years but no one has ever been found." "The reports have become so regular that the police no longer pass on reports of mystery lights to us unless they feel it is a genuine sighting of a red distress flare."

Many dozens of explanations have been offered for the origin of these baffling lights in recent years. Marsh gas, "ball lightning", corona discharge from the pylons strung across the valley. And most recently, "Earthlights" caused by movements in the geological faultlines which criss-cross the ridge and valley bottom, have been offered by visiting experts.

Jim Exton, of the National Grid, has heard the stories and rules out the influence of the pylons. He says "arcing and sparking" could be visible in wet

weather and polluted air conditions, but the glow caused by it would be very difficult to spot from ground level. Scientist Dr Neil Charman, who has specialised in the study of ball lightning at Manchester University, rules this phenomenon out as an explanation because it is so rare and due to the long duration involved in some of the reports from the valley. He has pointed towards the Will o' the Wisp - a light caused by the ignition of methane - as one possible explanation. But recent experiments at Leicester University have thrown doubt on the old theory that marsh gas can ignite spontaneously and give rise to hovering balls or flames of lights in marshland [10]. And would the flame of burning marsh gas cause such a brilliant light as reported by some of the witnesses in Longdendale? And what is more, could it hover inside a car?

Police and mountain rescue personnel point out that the entire Bleaklow plateau is on a major international flight-path for air traffic landing at Manchester Airport in the west, and it is quite possible that aircraft landing lights could be responsible for some of the UFO-type sightings of moving lights from the region. Others may have mistaken the flashing beacon of the giant Holme Moss TV transmitter to the north of the valley as a mystery light source when there have been unusual weather conditions at work. But none of these theories explain the range of unusual light phenomena witnessed in the valley, or the traditional accounts of lights on the hills before the arrival of aeroplanes, pylons and other manmade sources of electricity.

To Wright Cooper, whose family have farmed the valley slopes at Tintwistle, near Woodhead, for more than four centuries, all the fuss about the lights is just "something and nothing." The Coopers have known about them for donkey's years, as he puts it. "Today there is all this talk about flying saucers but people were seeing these lights above the Devil's Elbow way back in my grandfather's day," he said. "Only back then it was put down to the devil or witchcraft, today it's all aliens and UFOs."

Since the 1970s attitudes have changed and the lights, the Roman soldiers and other weird goings on have become common knowledge. Television programmes have probed the valley's mysteries and opened up a Pandora's box of stories for future generations of wide-eyed visitors to puzzle over. The local weekly paper, *The Glossop Chronicle and Reporter*, now regularly logs the latest sightings on the moors [11] and the popularity of the X-Files on TV has not been lost on newspapers eager to hype up the latest chilling story from the valley and it's surrounding

mountains. New people have moved to live in upper Longdendale, which was recently opened up to more visitors with a long-distance tourist trail, and like Sean Wood dozens more have now "seen the lights." But the mystery of what they really are remains.

Scanning the moor-tops from the garden of his tiny railway cottage, John Davies views the new-found fascination with the lights in his own characteristic way. "My dad always said he never believed in ghosts but I've lived here so long and seen and heard so many strange things I've lost count," he said. "But one thing's for sure. I'd believe anything about this valley. It's a weird place at night."

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plane. But it just stayed there. It didn't move or tun off like planes normally do. Then the light changed shape; it looked like a squashed diamond. Red lights came down from it and it seemed to touch the ground before going back up. Lights circled the object and there were also squiggly red lines shooting back up."

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[David Clarke is a journalist and freelance writer living

in South Yorkshire. A former BUFORA Council member and founder of the Independent UFO Network, his work has appeared in numerous publications including UFO Times, Fortean Times and UFO Brigantia. The UFO book he wrote with Andy Roberts, *Phantoms of the Sky*, is currently being updated for republication.]

Investigations Diary

by Gloria Dixon,
Director of Investigations.

I would like to commence this diary with some comments about the **London NIC meeting in July**. The main items on the Agenda which were discussed are listed below.

David Pointon, the National Coordinator for the Postal Training Course (PTC), updated the NIC on the status of the course. There are now 36 trainees enrolled on the course and 30 enquiries for possible enrolment. I would like to extend my congratulations to five trainees, who have completed and passed the Investigators Postal Training course. They will now be listed as Provisional Investigators for BUFORA. They are:

David Mace	Northampton
Andrew Acton	Manchester
Steve Ives	Hull
Robert James Temple	Stainforth, Doncaster
H.M. Reynolds	Cardiff

John Heptonstall is to be the newly appointed Deputy Director of Investigations. John is also The RIC for North, West and East Yorkshire.

A new Standard Form will be introduced, possibly later on this year, as an addition to the BUFORA Questionnaire. This form will be used to profile the background/personal details of the *close encounter witness* and can be completed during the interview by the investigator. The same form would then be used in a follow up interview after a period of one to two years. This can be used to create some statistical analysis as to the patterns of changes that can occur within witnesses personal lives and character after their experiences and could possibly also show the prevalence of other unusual characteristics or experiences of the witness and whether indeed this would indicate that these experiences may be more prominent in certain people than others.

Robert Moore, Regional Coordinator for Somerset, Devon and Cornwall has collated an excellent *Guide to the UFO Phenomenon* which covers every aspect of the subject of UFOs including the historical perspective,

cover ups, physical evidence, and the many theories to explain genuine UFO sightings. This is an impressive Ufology handbook and it is hoped that this can become a publication within BUFORA for everyone from investigators and researchers to schools, universities and colleges and also for information to members of the public and media at large... On behalf of BUFORA I would like to extend my appreciation and thanks to Robert for the enormous time and effort in putting together this invaluable contribution.

We were fortunate to have Albert Budden speaking on his long term research into electromagnetic pollution and how this may be relevant to the close encounter experiences. This created much debate with several of the investigators present, some of whom were at odds with Albert's theories to explain all close encounters and indeed many other paranormal events. It is of course apparent to many researchers that there are many excellent and well researched theories, some of which can be scientifically measured, but one theory never seems to fit all the cases coming into the many UFO organisations. However Albert has a list of 25 questions he asks the witness when investigating the close encounter experience and other paranormal phenomena which I feel should be used as a separate questionnaire when interviewing the close encounter witness. I hope to have this as an item on the Agenda at a future NIC meeting.

It was also decided that the minimum age limit for a potential investigator should be eighteen years of age. The above points cover the items discussed at the London NIC meeting.

National Investigations Committee Meeting

The date of the next NIC meeting will be Saturday 1st November 1997 from 2pm to 6pm. The venue is the Borough Arms Hotel, Kings Street, Newcastle Under Lyme, near Stoke-on-Trent. Please contact David Pointon for further details (01782 522620). Tony Lawrence, a full time lecturer in psychology at Coventry University and Consultant to BUFORA, has kindly agreed to speak at this meeting on the role of

psychology within the close encounter experience.

As these meetings have not been well attended, I do hope that RICs and investigators will try to attend this final important NIC meeting for 1997.

Two day Mini-Conference May/June 1998 for BU- FORA Investigators and Re- searchers.

I have decided that instead of the usual NIC meetings for 1998, it would be a more viable option to put on a mini conference for BUFORA investigators and researchers only, over a two day period (weekend) at a venue to be announced. The venue would obviously be centrally located for travel, but would not be held in London. I will be inviting speakers from within BUFORA and other areas to present their various ideas, theories and research as to what the genuine UFO sightings and experiences could be all about... It will be important for a diverse selection of theories to be presented in order to give investigators a good overall view of the UFO phenomenon including research into aspects of the subject that can be scientifically measured. A workshop would of course be an additional bonus, where interviewing techniques and individual case files could be discussed in depth by the investigators. This could also create some closer connections for investigators and speakers with each other over a two day period and with a social backdrop in the evening where cocktails and dinner would create fun and discussion of all things UFO related.

It is extremely important that I have some feedback from investigators and researchers as to whether they would be willing to attend a conference such as this in May or June of 1998 in order for me to determine the viability of an investigator orientated conference for 1998. Please write to me at "Investigators Mini Conference", BM BUFORA, London WC1N 3XX or at the BUFORA Northern Office address, with your views on this and I look forward to hearing from as many of you as possible.

Introduction to Sighting Reports.

The "CIA's role in the study of UFOs from 1947-1990" generated much media interest recently and I would like to quote from this report where it is particularly relevant to UFO research.

"In November 1954, the CIA had entered into the world of high technology with its U-2 overhead reconnaissance project. Working with Lockheed's Advanced Development facility in Burbank, California, known as the Skunk Works and Kelly Johnson, an eminent aeronautical engineer, the Agency by August 1955 was testing a high-altitude experimental aircraft, the U-2. It could fly at 60,000 feet: in the mid-50s most commercial airliners flew between 10,000 and 20,000 feet. Consequently, once the U-2 started test flights, commercial pilots and air traffic controllers began reporting a large increase in UFO sightings. The early U-2s were silver (they were later painted black) and reflected the rays from the sun especially at sunrise and sunset. They often appeared as fiery objects to observers below. Air Force BLUE BOOK investigators aware of the secret U-2 flights tried to explain such sightings by linking them to natural phenomena such as ice crystals and temperature inversions. They were careful however, not to reveal the true cause of the sightings to the public and according to CIA officials who worked on the U-2 project and the OXCART (SR-71, Or Backbird) project, over half of all UFO reports from the late 1950s through the 1960s were accounted for by manned reconnaissance flights over the United States. This led the Air Force to make misleading and deceptive statements to the public in order to allay public fears and to protect an extraordinarily sensitive national security project.

"While perhaps justified, this deception added fuel to the later conspiracy theories and the cover-up controversy of the 1970s." This report concludes by saying:

"Like the JFK assassination conspiracy theories, the UFO issue probably will not go away soon, no matter what the Agency does or says. The belief that we are not alone in the universe is too emotionally appealing and the distrust of our government is too pervasive to make the issue amenable to traditional scientific studies of rational explanation and evidence."

To add some further thoughts to all the furore about visiting aliens and their spacecraft, Arthur C. Clarke makes some further observations in his article in *The Times* entitled "Why ET will never call home", where he says,

"What is particularly ludicrous is the widespread idea that for several decades some super secret branch of the United States Government has had an alien spacecraft - and aliens - in its possession. I have known many of the people who would have been involved in such a cover-up and I can assure you that it would have a half life of about 48 hours. As one Pentagonian once remarked sadly 'I wish it was true - then all of us majors would be colonels.' I think that settles the matter but then of course I may be part of the conspiracy!"

He concludes his article in this way.

"With any luck, within the next few years (what a millennial present that would be) we may have an answer to a question that

has haunted mankind since our first ancestors started looking at the skies. And let me give the last word to the brilliant team of engineers at the Jet Propulsion Lab who have amazed the world with such detailed close ups of the Red Planet. In reply to my message 'Hope Rover's hub-caps aren't stolen overnight' they responded, 'But how exciting if they are!' And who said that scientists have no sense of humour!"

Case Investigations.

And so to sightings, that are being reported in an ever increasing number particularly during the last few weeks when several meteor showers have been visible (especially the Perseid meteor shower around 12th August.) The Mir Space station has also been visible and these have generated many UFO reports to BUFORA..

Reports of black triangles hovering silently with and without navigation lights, often described as having red lights at each tip and white or orange strobing or steady lights on the centre of the underside, continue to be reported. These reports are coming in from several different areas including Berkshire, Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire and Worcester around the Midlands and I will document below several of the more unusual sightings. I have been working closely with Tim Matthews of the UK Stealth Study Group when looking at these reports of the black triangles which are now generating approximately 10% of sighting reports to BUFORA. As many researchers will be aware it appears there may be one or more new prototypes of UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles) operating and possibly secret military testing of aircraft using stealth technology may be responsible for other sightings. I believe though that there is little doubt that the public are witnessing new military technology.

Location: Woodcote, Near Reading

Date: 26th May 1997

At 10.55pm LP was letting his cat out when his attention was drawn to a loud roar that seemed to have a definite pulse or echo to it. Going further into his back garden for a clearer view he could see lights fairly low down in the sky and moving slowly from left to right. They were in a triangular pattern and he describes them as a yellow/white colour and static. He could distinguish an edge at the back which he speculated was illuminated by the two lights at the base of the triangle. The object passed behind a tree and he rushed inside to make notes coming out again almost immediately. The object reappeared and he then lost sight of it behind a bank of trees. LJ went inside the house again but could still hear the pulsing roar outside so went out into his garden once more. He then heard the sound of what he

assumed to be two or three helicopters coming from behind the trees where he had lost sight of the triangular object. The noise grew louder and over the tree tops flew what LJ described as a truly spectacular object. There were two banks of 10 or 12 brilliant ruby red lights on either side of three bright white lights positioned at the front, middle and end of the object. The front light was strobing and as the object came nearly over head, he counted the number of lights and felt that there could have been three or four rows of these ruby lights on each side of the bright white lights. LJ states that the noise from the object was similar to a helicopter as it over flew, but he could not make out any shape to it other than that given by the lights he saw. (See drawing)

Tim Matthews is also looking at details of this report in order to determine whether this unusual light formation, has been observed in any other areas.

Location: A46 , Near Alcester, Warwickshire

Date: 5th August 1997

On the night of Tuesday 5th August two friends were travelling home from a rehearsal in Stratford upon Avon and were driving north on the A46, and as they were approaching The Stag pub on their left they could see a very large bright light in the sky. CC pointed this light out to her friend who was driving as she thought it appeared very unusual. After travelling for at least a further 4 miles on this road and then turning right at the roundabout, they observed the light now in front of them, high in the sky. They then drove over a second roundabout and were travelling along a very dark dual carriageway. By this time they were approaching a third roundabout and the light appeared to drop down and both women knew they were going to travel under it. Once over the roundabout they both observed the triangular object at tree height above them and they slowed down to take a closer look at it. They describe the object as large, silent and hovering with three neon coloured lights at each tip and a very bright orange light in the centre underside. CC also told me that when she was observing the underside of the object it was like looking at steel girders. They observed this for about two minutes and then became frightened as they did not have a frame of reference as to what the object was and drove away very quickly. Please contact me if any readers have any information on other witnesses to this sighting or the following one.

Location: Staintondale, Near Scarborough, N. Yorks.

Date: 19th or 26th April 1997

Investigator: John Heptonstall

On one of the above dates at 12.30am SP and her boyfriend were at the loft window of her home, when they observed a red /orange ball of light in the sky travelling very fast which then stopped, moved left and right and up and down before disappearing. They were still observing the sky when about ten minutes later they saw eight coloured lights in the distance approaching very fast. They describe the lights as red, blue and white and describe the object as being triangular and enormous and quite low. There was no sound and lights appeared very bright and moving from left to right. It flew over their house and out of sight and after 5/10 seconds they became aware of a very deep muffled wobbly sound which they tried to explain as like hearing a noise when you are underwater. They live in very close proximity to Fylingdales on the North Yorkshire Moors and John has asked that they contact someone at Fylingdales with their description to see if this would bring any comments to explain this sighting.

Location: Tadworth, Surrey

Date: 21st April 1997

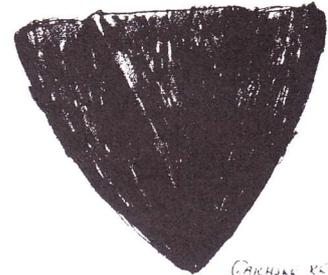
SC and her husband were asleep in bed when they were awoken at 3am by a fox barking outside their window. At the same time they became aware of a terrific rumbling noise right overhead. SC likened this sound to 'a giant boy on a giant skate board' coming over the top of her roof.

They did not have their bedroom window open, but the curtain were moving as though there was a wind. The noise lasted for about 10-15 seconds and when they go up to go to the window, the noise ceased and there was nothing to be seen. The noise appeared to emanate from the south as though it was moving north. The following morning SC and her husband were astonished to discover black silt all around their house on the ground and in the garden, which appeared to have been lifted out of their gutters. This, SC informed me, was nothing short of amazing as their gutters has been full of this black silt which had literally fermented into their gutters and was going to take a great deal of time and energy to clean out. All their gutters were clean, as though the silt had been lifted out. Her husband's workshop about 100 feet away at the end of the garden had gutters that were now clean, and the rubbish now lay around the workshop on the grass. Obviously they live in close proximity to Gatwick and Heathrow airports, but we have not been able to establish any aircraft in the area at this time.

Location: Carlisle, Cumbria

Date: 4th August 1997

MM, a care assistant in Carlisle was on night shift and standing outside having a break with her colleague, when they both observed an object in the sky which they describe as similar to copper pans, moving erratically from the south travelling in a north easterly direction. It then hovered, dropped down and then shot up again and appeared to come up over the roof top in a zig zag fashion before it went out of sight. Their observation time was a little less than one minute and MM is very puzzled as to the nature of her sighting. This



CARLISLE REPORT BY MM'S COLLEAGUE



may turn out to have a perfectly reasonable explanation and the investigation is on going. (See drawing). She went on to tell me that a resident of the home observed a very unusual object in the area several times prior to this.

Location: Above the river Ruhr, Germany

Date: 26th March 1945

I received a phone call from a former RAF pilot who was operational with 541 Squadron during World War II. He completed a questionnaire for BUFORA and in his Log Book Entry for 26th March 1945 he describes the following sighting:

"I flew at about 17,000 feet towards Berlin, cruising at 360 mph. As I was over the Ruhr, I spotted a pink light ahead, and I thought the Germans were trying out some new form of defence as they would be tracking me by radar. However as I approached it and went past it- it being about 50 yards on my starboard side and appearing to be a ball about 5/6 feet in diameter, I seemed to pass it at about 20/30 mph. If I was doing 360 mph in an easterly direction it must have been going my way at 340 mph. I last saw it as I turned my head to the right and looked through the perspex cockpit cover.

"When I saw a ME 262 closing in from behind and obviously set on business I dived westwards into the thick cloud layer and came home. I reported the

'pink ball' but the intelligence officers were more concerned with my camera pictures and ignored my report."

This former RAF pilot reported his sighting as lasting two to five minutes. Several years ago during a talk at a local cricket club, two former RAF pilots spoke with me afterwards describing these balls of lights which they observed during their war time operations with Bomber Command.

Extraordinary cases.

To move on here to some of the more extraordinary sightings and experiences being reported to BUFORA, I would like to begin with the following case:

Date: January/February 1989

Location: Guilford, Surrey

Investigator: Gloria Dixon

This is a fascinating case, which is reminiscent of these somewhat elusive glimpses certain people experience, almost as though they are indeed looking through shimmering glass into 'other worlds'. I have documented several similar cases over the years of 'Peter Pan' and 'goblin' type figures in the air or by the roadside, indeed the little people as some refer to them, the folklore of yesterday, today and I have no doubt tomorrow too. Even now they appear as the 'grey aliens' of today's UFO culture. I wonder who and what they really are, maybe they are whatever we would like them to be, our innermost nightmares or our fantasies, or just our fragile connection with something else 'out there', just out of reach.

Marcia Hill (pseudonym) was 12 years old in the winter of 1989 and she and a friend were having an evening together in her home in Guilford. Her parents had gone out. Her home was contained by a 6ft privet hedge with patio doors from the dining room leading to the garden. It was 7.30pm and the girls were watching TV, when suddenly there appeared to be a very bad reception with black lines moving across the screen. Marcia told me that reception was always excellent in this area. The weather was clear and from the corner of her eye she noticed the amber lamps flickering. Her friend needed to visit the bathroom and she went up stairs followed by Marcia. Marcia went into her bedroom and the light from the bathroom had lit up the garden. She was drawn to look into the centre of the garden where she saw a figure crouching there which appeared to be white and had very long fingers. With these fingers, it appeared to Marcia to be stroking the grass, and she describes it as being in a foetal position on the grass. It did not appear to have a face. She did not feel scared and was drawn to watch it for what seemed to her to be at least ten minutes. She turned to call to her friend to

come and see this figure, but when she turned back it had gone. Her friend said she had only been in the bathroom for a few seconds and Marcia could not understand this, as she felt that there was a time discrepancy somehow. Upon returning downstairs the television was fine and the lamps were no longer flickering. She told her parents upon their return and they checked to see if everything was okay.

After this strange incident, Marcia began to have nightmares in the form a recurring dream, which is still ongoing. She experiences this two to three times a week and it takes the form of Marcia herself being lost near a high mountain range and no matter how hard she tries, she cannot find her way out. She also has the impression of looking at this through frosted spectacles. Marcia also tells me that since this incident she feels differently in that she is not able to make friends and does not trust anyone. She says she is very cynical and that the recurring dream has caused her severe problems in sleeping. What is quite interesting here is that her mother has confirmed to me that Marcia did change a lot after this incident and she also told me that both she and Marcia had observed a very strange iridescent red ball of light prior to this. During my conversation with Elizabeth (Marcia's mother) she went on to tell me about a strange experience that she herself had at the age of seventeen in the winter of 1968. Elizabeth lived with her family in Bearsted, near Maidstone in Kent. She had left home at 7.10pm to take the bus to meet a friend in Maidstone. She was walking to the bus stop which was a few minutes away in a residential area, when she heard a noise. Elizabeth describes this as like the sucking noise in a vacuum cleaner. She then saw silhouetted against the housing estate an object which was like a fluorescent tube pointed at both ends and about 15ft long moving slowly past the houses at tree height. It passed over her head and she started to quicken her pace towards the bus stop as she was feeling apprehensive. She was by this time only 40ft from the main Maidstone Ashford Road. She glanced over her shoulder and there right above her completely silent was the object. She began to run towards the bus stop shelter and looking back observed the object silently hovering above the junction. At a nearby pub two men came out and got on their motorbike, but did not appear to notice the object at all. She looked again and says "it was there and then not there and I had the powerful impression that it was there for me to look at".

Several years later Elizabeth experienced another unusual incident this time with her husband. I am awaiting more information on this case report from

both Marcia and Elizabeth in the form of drawings.

Location: West Yorkshire and Buckinghamshire

Primary Date: Summer/Autumn 1982

Investigator: Ray Reed

I would like to record a summary of events from Joanne Woods (pseudonym). These are being investigated by Ray Reed, a BUFORA Regional Co-ordinator for the area and are significant in their extraordinary content.

Joanne Woods contacted BUFORA by letter in May. I responded and received a further letter from her where she indicated she would like to speak with someone about some very unusual experiences that appear to be occurring to both herself and her daughter. I spoke with her at length via phone on 17th June 1997.

Background.

Joanne is 36 years of age. She has a fourteen year old daughter and has been married twice and is now separated from her second husband. She and her daughter are living with her parents. Details of her experiences in the Summer or Autumn of 1982. Joanne was living in Silsden, near Ilkley, West Yorkshire, and whilst in bed drifting to sleep, she states she felt peculiar and couldn't move. She states that there appeared to be a change in the atmosphere. She panicked and tried to reach the light above her to put it on. When she did, she describes as though she was looking at the room through a "jellyfish".

After five minutes these strange events ceased. During this time her husband was downstairs watching TV, when he lost reception on all channels for a while. A few months later Joanne experienced a similar incident once again, her feeling of paralysis and fear were acute. She tried to awaken her husband asleep beside her but could not make any sound. In the morning, upon waking, Joanne noticed a scar on her right leg about an inch in diameter and which appeared hollow and at the same time she experienced a burning sensation. She emphasises that this scar had not been there prior to going to bed.

Joanne has also experienced this paralysis sensation and awoken in the morning to find that she has dirty hands and feet, with scratches on them, and dirt under the nails of her feet and hands. She likens this to when one has been out walking in the garden or country without shoes. She is adamant she always goes to bed clean and having taken a bath first. Upon discussing these events with her first husband John, he recalls that he has vague memories of his wife calling for help, but could not wake up...

During a period of 7 years from 1982 to 1989 Joanne had several of these unusual experiences. These would

be sporadic occurring every few months or years. After separating from her first husband, she moved in with her parents in where her father was converting the garage into a bedroom for both Joanne and her daughter, then 7 years old. Joanne was unhappy about a sharing a bedroom with her daughter as she felt her daughter would not be safe sharing a room with her!

During this time Joanne met Steve who was to become her second husband. Prior to the garage being converted Joanne was sleeping on the sofa in the lounge as Steve, who was staying with her parents was sleeping the spare bedroom. Joanne again experienced these 'strange feelings' on this particular night and felt she could not move and it appeared as though there was a wind blowing around her. She forced herself to move and crawled across the floor to switch on the light. After 2/3 minutes things seemed to go back to normal, although she noticed the curtains moving.

On another night whilst Steve was staying with them she had this unusual sensation again, and with sheer will power managed to force herself off the bed and crawled to the living room where she found Steve awake and reading. He was horrified and said it appeared as though 'she was surrounded by a whirlwind and there was some kind of activity around her'. Steve told her that he was aware, on occasion, of something curious going on and of hearing a distressed voice and the impression of bright lights. Joanne also has memories of an experience where she recalls a figure standing by her bed and a plastic tube being placed in her mouth. She likens this to an 'asthma inhaler'.

In March 1990 Joanne and her daughter were sharing the bedroom that had now been converted from the garage. As she lay down next to Jade (her daughter) she had the feeling of paralysis. She had just got into bed and therefore insists she was not asleep and in the darkness became aware of a light like a glow. She then saw Jade, who had been sleeping on stomach go into a kneeling position. She remembers thinking 'not her, leave her alone'. Jade's head went back and her pupils rolled back and then she appeared to fall face down. The next thing Joanne was aware of was that it was 8am and she saw Jade's feet twitching under the duvet and the rest of her body was rigid... She screamed for her mother to call for an ambulance... After many tests at the hospital, they diagnosed an epileptic fit, which they felt would be a one-off seizure as she had never experienced them before. However two weeks later Jade had more seizures increasing to three to four per week. Brain scans and tests showed no abnormalities. Therefore,

this was put down to a 'genetic epilepsy'. This is now under control, but she still has the odd fit at times. Joanne is convinced that her daughter started epileptic fits after seeing something happen to her (Joanne) that night in the garage/bedroom.

In 1990 Joanne and Steve married and moved to Windsor where they lived until 1992 when they moved to Glasgow. After an epileptic fit in Glasgow and whilst coming around Jade became very distressed asking who the people were around her and that she was in something which was moving. She now remembers certain things and reports laying on a table with bright lights and unusual faces around her. About two months ago Jade told her mother that she has a strange recurring memory that has something to do with her mother. This was the trigger that led Joanne to contact BUFORA.

An interesting footnote here is that Joanne has discussed with me that she experienced psychic events in her childhood that involved ghosts. However she feels that the on going events she is experiencing now are not related to the psychic events and that this is a different phenomenon. When discussing these alarming incidents she has never at any stage used the words, aliens or abduction, although she admits to watching various programmes on this subject. *Is there anyone who can avoid this?*

Research needs to be conducted into epilepsy, particularly the 'aura' stage of the attack which can induce powerful recollections of some event or place or even a formed image of some scene, or an illusion of having experienced something before which is really being experienced for the first time (deja-vu). This may be relevant to the fact that Jade is remembering images that are frightening to her. I shall seek advice from the BUFORA Psychology consultant as to whether sleep paralysis and hypnagogic states could be factors within these experiences.

Ray Reed will investigate this report more fully over a period of time, also taking a close up photograph of the scar on Joanne's leg. Any results from these areas of investigation will be documented at a later date

Location: Cwmbran, South Wales

Date: Summer 1968

Jill R was twelve years old at the time of her sighting and they were living on a new housing estate where building was still going on in Fairwater, Upper Cwmbran. It was between 11 and 12 o'clock and her father had just come home from a late shift. Jill and her mother decided to walk their dog prior to retiring for the night. They walked through the unfinished estate and were standing on a clear warm night looking toward the top of the nearby mountain when they became

aware of two lights which appeared to be moving steadily closer to them. Suddenly right above them was a metallic oval object the size of a large car, which was hovering very low and they felt was no more than a height of 45 feet above them. It appeared to be very still and they were aware of a blur of colours, pinks and purples. It then appeared to be spinning and they felt as though things were in slow motion. They were then aware that it was moving away towards the valley and Cwmbran town centre. It suddenly shot up and Jill describes it as "going into the stars". They both felt very calm, but panicked later on and upon returning home Jill's father asked where on earth they had been for so long, although both mother and daughter felt they had only been away for several minutes. This is an interesting area and there is another recent report from this area describing unusual light phenomena. Certainly many parts of Wales have generated some strange phenomena and anomalous events over a very long period of time. Have readers noticed how many UFO incidents occur over or near mountains and forests or copses?

Date: 15th December 1996

Location: Shropshire

Investigator: David Pointon

During the night of 14th/15th December Mrs. F's young daughter awoke in the early hours of the morning. This had been occurring on a regular basis for a while, and after putting her daughter back to bed she returned at about 4am to her own bed and fell asleep beside her husband. She recalls a very vivid dream that she had lost her purse and found it in a telephone box. She then heard a voice which said "something is coming"; and was aware of a rushing noise and awoke from this dream. Although wide awake, she felt she was unable to move and was surrounded by a buzzing feeling as though it was electrical, but it was not painful. She was lying on her side and tried to move towards her husband when she noticed red and blue lights, about 20 in total, which appeared to be emanating from outside her window. She was still trying to awaken her husband, but could not talk and as she tried to lean over him to reach the light switch she found a great deal of resistance, *as though everything was in slow motion.*

Suddenly she heard a loud bang and found herself lying on her back, but had no recollection of moving to that position. The feeling of being unable to move had gone and everything appeared to be back to normal. As she lay there she was suddenly aware of an image in front of her. The image was of a square/rectangular object, black in colour with what she de-

scribed as white teeth. She was then aware of a further image, which appeared to be of an entity with facial features of large black oval eyes slanting slightly to the nose (see drawing). Mrs. F did not feel threatened by this and for some reasons recalls that she felt as though she was observing it through her right eye. She then shouted to her husband to turn on the light. He awoke and did this and the image disappeared. He checked the house but found nothing out of place and returned to bed turning off the light. At this point Mrs. F saw the image again but less vividly *as though it was fading*. She then told her husband of this unusual experience. Her perception of this experience is that she feels the image was an image left on her retina during the period that she could not recall from when she was trying to lean towards her bedroom light and when she heard the bang and found herself lying on her back on the bed. She interprets this experience as being real and feels that it was a positive experience for her.



Date: Early December 1996
Location: Manchester
Investigator: Penny Hoyte

Mrs. C went to bed just after midnight leaving her husband downstairs watching television. Her three children were asleep in their bedrooms. As she was trying to get off to sleep she seemed to hear voices and the room appeared to fill with a bright light. She felt frightened and refused to open her eyes even when she heard her name several times. She then remembers drifting off to sleep, but then became aware of feeling a terrible pain in her side which caused her to sit bolt upright in the bed and become aware that she was now on the opposite side of the bed. Mrs. C then saw a figure that she initially thought was her husband kneeling beside the bed with a mask on. Still believing this to be her husband, she shouted at him to "stop messing around".

The figure backed away and she realised that this was not her husband and that the figure was about 3ft tall and completely black. The head was large with small round eyes, but the mouth frightened her the

most, it was large, and grinning a full set of what appeared to be pointed teeth.

She tried to get out of the bed, but the figure grabbed hold of her leg as she continued to push it away. She was now crouched on the bed, but could still feel the pain in her side and a grabbing sensation on her leg. Her mind was racing trying to make sense of what was happening and she was about to cry out when she was aware of a presence at the foot of the bed and could just see two other figures, who were different from the other one, taller and paler, but she could not see any further detail. She felt one of these figures touch her head. At this point she stopped feeling frightened as she somehow *knew they meant her no harm* but that they made her feel like a child. She specifically remembers hearing her own voice asking why they had hurt her. She did not speak these words. There was no reply and she was then aware of falling asleep.

Mrs. C awoke the following morning and found a large bruise on her leg with a lot of discomfort in her side. She had no initial memory of these events but over the following month she experienced flashes of these events and subsequently a fully recovered memory of what she perceived had happened. Penny Hoyte has interviewed the witness twice now and suggested that an option would be attending the Witness Support Group in Liverpool in order to discuss these experiences with other witnesses. This investigation is still ongoing at the present time in order to establish more background detail on the witness

To conclude this Diary I would once again like to quote from **Dr. Jacques Vallee** in his book *Revelations*, where he writes:

"The genuine UFO phenomenon, as I have shown in *Confrontations* is associated with a form of non human consciousness that manipulates space and time in ways we do not understand.

"The simple truth is this: if there is a form of life and consciousness that operates on properties of space-time we have not yet discovered, then it does not have to extraterrestrial. It could come from any place and any time, even from our own environment. It could certainly come from another solar system in our galaxy, or from another galaxy. But it could also co-exist with us and remain undetected. The entities could be multidimensional, beyond space-time itself."

[Investigators! The pages of UFO Times are open to all investigators with interesting new casefiles that you might want to bring to the attention of other BU-

FORA members. If you have any cases or ideas for articles you would like to see in UT, then please get in touch with the editorial staff.]

Abduction Watch

by Kevin McClure.

[Kevin McClure will be well known to some of our readers, recently being the author of the "Fortean Times Book of the Millennium" and editor of "Promises and Disappointments" among other projects. These days he's keeping a sharp eye on the excesses of the abduction researchers, and is now publishing a monthly newsletter called "Abduction Watch". We've persuaded Kevin to keep us informed of what's going on and what's going wrong in a new regular column, but for the full story I would recommend readers contact Kevin for a copy of the newsletter. - Ed.]

From here, now, the deaths of the Heaven's Gate 38 look like a horrible mistake. Marshall Applewhite's disciples - mostly intelligent, gentle, caring - misplaced their trust in a crackpot, deluded, but charismatic leader. He made promises about great mysteries to which he said he could lead them. They wanted to believe him, and they believed; and they obeyed him, and they died. Nothing will bring them back.

If you'd met up with Heaven's Gate, would you have chosen to die with Marshall Applewhite and his 37 disciples? Could you have accepted that because your journey to the 'next level' of existence depended on your purity on this level, you should submit yourself to being separated from your children and partners, to cayenne pepper enemas and (some of you!) to castration? That because Applewhite said he had come from the 'next level', he really was, and because he really was, that he could take you back there with him?

I guess that most of you would answer 'no' to those questions. BUFORA is, after all, British, and we just don't have cults, or mass suicides, or strange religious leaders who people follow without question, do we?

Actually, it's very difficult to know when something is wrong with a belief. The video of the Heaven's Gate believers shows happy, committed people, making what they thought was the right and reasonable choice. They believed with their hearts, and with their hearts went their minds. Think about the strangest belief you've ever held - can you really be sure you wouldn't have committed to Applewhite, too?

I was writing about how dangerous Applewhite was

10 years ago, in the BUFORA book *Phenomenon*. Then, he had been Bo, of Bo and Peep, in a post-hippy cult called Human Individual Metamorphosis. He was promising to die and be resurrected after three days. I've also written about encounters with the Virgin Mary, with angels, devils, ghosts, the dead, spirit guides, and hosts of other non-human intelligences who have come to warn of the end of the world, the New Age, and who knows what else. I want to use what knowledge and experience I have to identify the new 'Applewhites', and the dangerous beliefs they purvey, before they actually kill anybody else.

Which brings me to writing about the peculiar, sensitive, and sometimes disgusting subject of the abduction of humans - and maybe of animals, too - by alien beings from other worlds. I'm aware that human beings have reported meetings with non-human beings of many kinds for thousands of years. I'm aware that there are numerous reports of involuntary journeys - to heaven, hell, and other planets in particular - over that same period.

Realising that there have always been both aliens, and journeys, I look carefully at the witnesses, knowing that throughout history there have been special, sensitive, vulnerable and dissenting people, often unusually creative, or dissatisfied with the world as they find it, who have reported perceptions and experiences of extraordinary and, to the majority, incredible events.

But I also know that the nature and experiences of these individuals - adults and children - can leave them open to exploitation, and deceit, and illusion. So I look closely, too, at those who guide and encourage them to explore and develop what might be memories of abduction, but which equally well might not. At the motives of those people, at what they gain, personally and financially, from their involvement. Contact with non-human beings has a market price it has never had before.

The marketability of alien abductions owes much to the sex and gore they involve. Historical descriptions of visits to purgatory and hell make grim reading, but nothing comes close to alien behaviour. John Mack's 'caring' aliens are uncaring and oppressive, but the 'we are helpless' version of alien contact now popular on both sides of the Atlantic is repulsive. These 'visitors' are intrusive, immoral, perverted and sadistic. Intergalactic paedophiles involved in a suppression of knowledge, memory, personality and personal freedom that exceeds Stalin, Hitler or Pol Pot. Ripping live fetuses from the wombs of abducted teenagers. Cutting and maiming, leaving behind

them cup marks, scoop marks, rashes, nose-bleeds and sustained and inescapable fear.

Or not. Alien abductions have never adapted to reality. Implants persistently disappear, injuries and lost fetuses are never effectively tested against medical records. Families fail to recall supposedly repeated abductions and assaults on their children when they were young. And, for all the repeated denials, abduction accounts still depend on memories allegedly recovered through regression hypnosis, breath work, and similar techniques that artificially induce altered states of consciousness. Nobody likes recovered memories better than those to whom they bring fame and money. The medical profession doesn't like them at all.

If the abduction theories are wrong, they cause needless harm to adults and children, to families, to women scared to bear children in case they, too, might be abducted. Animal mutilation may go uninvestigated, because of the conviction that only aliens could be that cruel, or clever. The abduction theorists may be "Applewhites" who will ruin more lives than Heaven's Gate ever did.

In 20, 10, even 5 years' time, we may look back on abductions as we do now at Heaven's Gate, as a dreadful mistake committed by a number of charismatic individuals who believed they were right, but were utterly wrong. We may realise that those vulnerable and sensitive people who have always filled the role of visionaries and dreamers in our society were grossly misled, convinced they were victims when they were not. Consequently, we have a responsibility to test the abduction theory, those who publicise it, and particularly those who make money out of it, to the limits. To sensitively investigate abduction accounts, not just collect them. There is great danger in abductions, and we need to know whether it arises from alien, or simply human, sources. Now, not after the damage has been done.

A sample copy of "Abduction Watch" newsletter is available for £1 (in stamps or by cheque) from Kevin McClure via the BUFORA Northern Office address.

Reviews

Jenny Randles: "MIB - Investigating the Truth Behind the Men In Black Phenomenon", Judy Piatkus Publishers Ltd, London, 1997. Price: £8.99 paperback.

The entities or persons known as the Men in Black have remained a mystery hanging around the periphery of UFOlogy since the first sightings of the modern UFO age. Although the MIB phenomenon is well known to UFOlogists and interested readers, and quite a few of us have actually been involved in cases where the witnesses have received visits from the shadowy persons, surprisingly little has actually been written specifically about MIB. Who are they? What are they? What do they really want? Where do they buy their suits? These are the questions that need answering.

After the X-Files, Dark Skies and now the movie Men In Black, the time seems right for renewed investigations into the MIB, particularly the UK cases which somehow always seem less tainted and more enlightening than the American ones. BUFORA has its own MIB study coming out, and now there is a book too: Enter Jenny Randles.

I must admit straight away that I've never appreciated Jenny Randles' style of writing. That's just my personal preference. I have a shelf full of Randles' books and, useful as they are for reference, the only one I've ever been able to read from cover to cover is "UFOs and How to See Them". Until now. So it is praise indeed when I say that this book is excellent.

Randles takes us through the history of UFOlogy picking up on the significant MIB cases: Maury Island and Kenneth Arnold, Albert Bender, Rex Heflin, John Keel's Mothman episodes and so on. Naturally some of the Randles favourites are included: "Philip Spencer's" Ilkley Moor entity photograph, Jim Templeton's "Cumberland Spaceman" photo - which leads nicely on to Randles' research down at the Public Records Office in Kew. She argues convincingly that in this country, official interest in UFOs goes beyond the flying saucer desk at Air Staff 2a and includes at least two other government departments known as DI55 and DSTI. One of these is probably responsible for sending MIB style visitors out to witnesses to gather information, and the equivalent department in the USA probably does the same on their side of the pond. As long as there remains the possibility that some UFOs are nuts'n'bolts craft with fantastic aerial capabilities, then this makes sense. Although there have been instances where governments have collaborated on UFO cases, they will act to collect evidence and information as quickly and quietly as possible as it may have important defence implications.

Randles looks at the more bizarre behaviour of the MIB and at alternative (off world) theories to their origin. But in conclusion, she conservatively decides that in some cases, the MIB are deliberately acting strange to help persuade the witnesses not to talk about the visits. Who would believe witnesses who have not only

seen a UFO, but have also been visited by bizarre men in black?

Yet, I still wonder. UFO witnesses, particularly the close encounter witnesses, often have a long history of paranormal involvement. I find the evidence compelling that some of the MIB are just another variant of those trickster entities. All the evidence is here, so I would encourage you all to read the book and make up your own minds. Recommended.

Peter Hough and Moyshe Kalman; "The Truth About Alien Abductions", Blandford books (Cassell Imprint), London. Price £9.99, paperback.

Any book with the title "The truth about Alien Abductions" has to be something spectacular, a book which aims to show the reader exactly what is going on. Is this the case here! Well not quite, but I'll tell you this, this book has a darn good try. Peter Hough is a well known British author of books dealing with UFOs and the supernatural. Moyshe Kalman is not so well known, certainly in the book world, but is clearly one of America's top psychotherapists and he is now living in England. Most UFO books cover a lot of ground and present many UFO incidents. This book however only has a handful, but these cases are specifically digested and looked over from not only a UFOlogical point of view, but from a medical point of view. The subject of dreams is brought up and questions are asked if some UFO abductions may be simply due to overactive imaginations during dream states and which the witness feels later on that the event really did happen in reality.

The use of hypnosis as a tool in regards to UFO abductions is also given the once over. And although both researchers accept the pitfalls of hypnosis, they feel (as I do) that hypnosis is still a valuable tool in trying to get answers (but only if used in a proper manner). Men In Black are also looked at and the bearing that they have on the witnesses. From the cases presented here, it would seem that there is indeed a case to be answered in regards to MIBs. The false memory syndrome is also looked at: Can people tell stories which are untrue and end up believing in them wholeheartedly after many renditions of the story? It would appear so, but does this tie in with UFO abduction situations? Again, it would appear so.

Psychiatric disorders are looked at as well as fantasy prone personalities, and although some might find this a bit technical, I found it absorbing and beneficial to what the authors were trying to rationalise. Both authors try and find out what type of individuals actually make a GOOD UFO abductee! Is there such a person?

Or is the UFO abduction phenomenon simply a product of the mind, or a reality which happens by chance to either selected or unfortunate (in the wrong place at the wrong time) victims? An interesting thought comes on page 168, when the authors state that, "Perhaps UFOs are objectively real, but abduction experiences are a consequence of space craft's pulsating light patterns which cause hallucinations in people prone to Temporal Lobe Epilepsy."

But where do both authors come out with their own beliefs as to what is going on? What do they think? Well, on page 187 they state, "The only concept which in any way suggests an explanation for abductions and associated phenomena is the idea that we are victim to intrusions from other dimensions." The famous French UFOlogist Jacques Vallee is quoted as saying, "These events take place in a reality we simply do not understand, they have an impact on a part of the human mind we have not discovered. I believe the UFO phenomenon is one of the ways through which an alien life form of intelligence of incredible complexity is communicating with us symbolically."

Although this is a fine book, and one which tests the waters on a whole range of medical possibilities to explain UFO abductions, there is no clear cut answer given here to explain "what's going on". But then again, we didn't really think we would get an answer, did we!

UFO abductions are clearly fantastic, but I think we are a long way off as yet in trying to provide an answer as to what is really behind them. But it's through authors like Hough and Kalman that we are, at the very least, trying to provide some form of thought as to what is going on, and in this respect both authors are to be congratulated on a fine, inquisitive book.

- Malcolm Robinson.

Patrick Huyghe: "The Field Guide to Extraterrestrials", Avon Books, New York, 1996. Price: \$12.50 paperback, now available in the UK.

At first glance this is an Observer's Book of Aliens (Hey kids, only put a tick against the ones you have seen yourself, not those your regression therapist tells you you've seen). Patrick Huyghe's Field Guide is a strange little book. On the one hand a sensible overview of the phenomenon, on the other hand something to have a laugh over in the pub. My friends and I particularly liked the Marlon Brando/Castro Street lookalike on page 31 - tres butch in a

leather peaked cap. The illustrations by Harry Trumbore are a great cross between Dan Dare and Crimestoppers. "This man was seen abducting people and molesting cattle in the Hetton-le-Hole branch of Cellar 5 - please ring 555-ALIEN if you have any information about this or any other UFO encounter..."

This book is really trying to find an audience, but on the one hand it is too scholarly in its search for a classification system for an X-Files spin off, and yet too lightweight for the eminent armchair UFOlogists out there. I especially liked the conclusions at the end of the book discussing the objective reality of UFOs. Mainly though, this is just great fun for down the pub: Hey, look at this on page 51 - a Mexican all in wrestler only three inches high, and on page 107, a box with what appears to be an enormous hard on... - J.A. Lee.

This little book is one of those entertaining gems that sometime appear in UFOlogy and it is worthwhile getting hold of a copy. The author gives a brief description of each case on one page and opposite, we have the wonderful pictures. The illustrator went over the witnesses' reports and redrew the reported creatures, which gives the whole project a visual coherence. What on earth is going on? Patrick Huyghe has drawn together a bizarre menagerie of alien creatures, some of which you would think to be modern art and never recognise as a supposed alien entity if it wasn't in this book. Either the Earth is the galaxy's number one tourist destination (why would aliens want to visit Rowley Regis?), or something much more wonderful and strange is happening. This is a valuable assessment of some of the 50 years worth of UFO/entity reports, both serious in its approach yet accessible to the new reader. For this reason I suspect it will become a classic, and I hope we see more work along these lines in the coming years. We might make sense of it yet. - Ed.

Omar Fowler: "Flying Triangle UFOs - The Continuing Story". Published by the Phenomenon Research Association, 94 The Circle, Sinfen, Derby, DE24 9HR. Price: £3.50 + 50p postage.

Those investigators familiar with the developing phenomenon of the "Flying Triangles", a specific type of UFO, will probably be aware of the work done by Omar Fowler who has a particular interest in these objects. Following the success of last year's report, "The Flying Triangle Mystery", Omar has produced this follow up. An A4 spiral bound report, it is very much in the style of the PRA newsletter, OVNI, containing witness reports and drawings (some in colour) with pages of valuable analysis and conclusions at the

end.

Film review: "Men In Black", starring Tommy Lee Jones, Will Smith and Linda Fiorentino.

This seems to have been the big film of the summer, knocking spots off "The Lost World" at the box office, and deservedly so. "Protecting the Earth from the scum of the Universe", Men In Black stars Will Smith and Tommy Lee Jones as Agents K and J - the universe's best kept secret. Working for a highly funded yet unofficial government agency, they provide immigration services and regulate all things alien on Earth. While investigating a series of unregistered close encounters, the MIB agents uncover the deadly plot of an intergalactic terrorist who is on a mission to assassinate two ambassadors from opposing galaxies currently resident in New York City. In order to prevent worlds from colliding, K and J must track down the terrorist before the Earth is destroyed in the bargain. They are our best, last, and only line of defence. *They work in secret and they dress in black.*

The film also stars Linda Fiorentino as Dr Laurel Weaver, and my one gripe with the film is that she doesn't really get a big enough slice of the plot. Don't go into the cinema and expect to get the answer to who the Men In Black *really are*, as really this film doesn't have much to do with UFOs. It's a cops'n'robbers film, where the baddies just so happen to be aliens and the good guys wear black. If you fancy a couple of hours in the cinema, then this is a film to see: A fluid plot, good acting, plenty of humour and a bag of great special effects. What more could you ask for? Oh yes, cockroaches. Lots of 'em.

Music coming soon: "Made from Technetium" by **Man... or Astroman?**



Man or Astroman are a guitar band whose influences lie heavily in science fiction and the world of UFOs.

Their new album "Made from Technetium" is re-released on 8th September and I hope to have an interview with the band in a later issue of UT.

Tour Dates: 21st November- London, The Garage
22nd November - Leeds, Duchess of York
23rd Nov - Glasgow, King Tut's Wah Wah Hut

+++++

[Read, seen or heard anything good lately? Or atrociously bad? It doesn't have to be brand new, but could be an old gem that you think is worth bringing to our attention. Send us your reviews so we know what to watch out for!]

Competition!

Win one of five copies of "Close Encounters of the Third Kind - Special Edition" on video! Available in Full Screen and Wide Screen versions, with a running Time of 127 minutes, the film is released on video to buy on the 22nd September 97. But if you use your head, you could save yourself £9.99. Just read on and answer the questions...

In the year of the 50th anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's UFO sighting, and with the current craze of all things sci-fi, UFO and extraterrestrial, the granddaddy of the modern sci-fi movie 'CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND' (rated PG) comes to video in a special edition. This new digitally re-mastered and restored edition has been approved by the director, Steven Spielberg, himself. Originally released in the UK in 1978 and a phenomenon with a special place in film history, "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS" features in many people's all-time top ten "greats", not just sci-fi enthusiasts. In its day, the visual effects, created by British special effects master Douglas Trumbull, were on the far side of the cutting edge of sci-fi film technology. The film has one of the most distinctive, haunting and memorable film theme tunes of all time, courtesy of movie music maestro and Spielberg collaborator, John Williams. And Spielberg was the first director to treat aliens sympathetically, not the simplistic anti-American enemy. "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND" begins when Roy Neary (Richard Dreyfuss), a power repairman, witnesses unidentified flying objects in the skies near his Indiana home. He tries to understand his experience but is thwarted by a government cover-up. His wife (Teri Garr) cannot understand and watches their relationship disintegrate. Neary finds an ally in Jillian Guiler (Melinda Dillon), who also witnessed the visitation and whose son has been kidnapped by the UFOs. They, and others like them, are drawn inexplicably to Wyoming, to a mountain they have seen in dreams, paintings, sculptures, even

mashed potato...

With new evidence concerning the possibility of life on other planets resulting in renewed global interest in the subject, no video or sci-fi collection is complete without this new edition of "CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND".

Our friends at Consolidated Communications have kindly given us 5 copies of the re-released film for UFO Times readers to win. All you have to do is answer correctly the following questions about this classic movie. To make it easier, they're all multiple choice, and there's no trick questions like "What colour is an orange?", so there's no excuse for not entering.

1) Which real life UFOlogist was a consultant to the film and made a cameo appearance during the landing scene? Was it:

- (a) J. Allen Hynek
- (b) Budd Hopkins
- (c) Philip Mantle

2) When was the film first released?

- (a) 1968
- (b) 1978
- (c) 1988

(d) I don't know, I was held captive on a UFO at the time

(3) To which State are the characters inexplicably drawn towards? Is it:

- (a) Wyoming
- (b) West Virginia
- (c) West Bromwich

(4) Who directed the film? Was it:

- (a) Stephen King
- (b) Stephen Spielberg
- (c) Ray Santilli

(5) Which American president appears on screen while the alien body is being autopsied? No, hang about, that was the wrong film. Just answer the top four. Answers on a postcard please to the BUFORA Northern Office editorial address. The correct entries will be pulled out of a hat one month after the magazine is posted out. And only one winner per household will be allowed.

Contact.

Please send all letters for publication to the BUFORA Editorial/Northern Office address.

OPEN LETTER OF CENSURE TO THE BUFORA COUNCIL

To all BUFORA members;

Originally having seen the Rudloe Manor presentation, I felt the need to write a letter which I was originally going to call "COVER UP? OF COURSE

THERE'S A COVER UP, BUT WHAT DOES IT REALLY MATTER?" But then to be shown at the BUFORA Conference in Sheffield a video tape showing the Conference organiser along with Larry Warren openly trespassing on Ministry of Defence land at RAF Bentwaters and gaining access to what had appeared to be a previously secure hardened storage facility, made me feel compelled to write this letter.

I am a BUFORA member. Both my husband and I investigate UFO sightings. We have willingly passed the results of these investigations to BUFORA. We both have a lengthy and detailed knowledge of the subject.

First let me assure Matthew Williams that most military bases have underground facilities and yes, some are indeed connected by subterranean transport systems. There is nothing unusual or sinister about this. It is merely a military fact of life. Since the commencement of the Second World War, with increased and accurate aerial and satellite surveillance, aerial bombardment and nuclear warfare, it has become necessary for the military to protect its supply and command and control structures in hardened underground facilities. If Rudloe Manor was the Headquarters of RAF Southern Sector, I would find it surprising if it did not have substantial underground facilities. But what has a detailed presentation of the military infrastructure to do with UFOs?

Why does Matthew Williams feel aggrieved with Ministry of Defence personnel, whom he states acted in a hostile and aggressive manner towards him? Why does he feel the need to exact revenge? He made an unauthorised incursion on to Ministry of Defence property.

My husband is a police officer in North Yorkshire. His beat area adjoins RAF Fylingdales. On his visits to the base in an official capacity, he is accompanied by an armed military escort. He is not allowed to walk freely around the base. Had such an unauthorised incursion onto military property not been met by a military response, with or without drawn weapon, then those same military personnel would be guilty of neglect of duty. There is a substantial terrorist threat in the United Kingdom and all military bases are on a permanent state of heightened alert. Did Mr. Williams expect to be treated differently? The military are tasked to defend this country - that's me and you. I find nothing unusual in their use of covert and overt surveillance of persons and vehicles loitering in the vicinity of sensitive military establishments. I think Mr. Williams, it is time to exercise a degree of maturity. Incidentally I will be unable to look at a dog walker in green wellies and a wax jacket in the same

light again. You have destroyed my innocence!

But to return to a more serious note. The military's primary role is the defence of our country. The RAF in particular are tasked to identify and evaluate, both radar and visual incursions into UK air space. I found it perplexing that an hour of conference time should be given to proving that Air Intelligence investigated UFO sightings in the 1950s and 60s. Of course they did. To think otherwise shows an amazing degree of naïveté. From Roswell onwards any student of this subject will be aware that the military and the government have covered things up, time and time again. There is nothing unusual in this. There are many valid reasons why this should be so. They may not wish to display their ignorance of the an event and therefore display their inability to counter a real or potential threat. There are factions in all societies who would exploit such vulnerability and thus undermine the government and the military and in turn its ability to defend its people. Perhaps they wish to cover up a crashed experimental weapon system. To do otherwise would be to expose its level of weapon technology. Remember the Cold War has only recently ended. The former Soviet Union is hardly a model of political stability. The world is not a safe place peaceful place. If only it were so.

My advice to Messrs. Williams and Redfern is to take a leaf out of Larry Warren's book. He admits there was a cover up at Rendlesham from day one. He does not become obsessed with that cover up but goes on to probe the facts concealed behind it revealing truly amazing results. As UFO investigators we all acknowledge that facts are covered up and official denials issued. We have come to expect this. Our task is to penetrate the cover-up and reveal the concealed facts, not to become obsessed with proving a cover up exists. It is easier to investigate static terrestrial targets, rather than the elusive and enigmatic subject of unidentified flying objects.

Finally Mr. Williams, have you considered the consequence of your actions? You seem inordinately proud that you have over flown a sensitive military establishment and published photographs of it. Did you sign the Official Secrets Act when you worked for Her Majesty's Customs and Excise? Your need to name underground bases - underground command and control structures and the existence of Intelligence Agencies at Rudloe Manor, places this sensitive material in the public domain for the use of aggressors both internal and external. Investigation without responsibility is dangerous.

I believed when I joined BUFORA that it was a mature organisation dedicated to research into UFOs. To my dismay, I find it members openly boasting their ability to make over flights of sensitive military establish-

ments, to make illegal and unexpected visits to RAF Rudloe Manor and to trespass on to Ministry of Defence Property at RAF Bentwaters and to gain entry to what appeared to be a previously locked facility. The action of the trespassers on the video tape footage show that they knew what they were doing was wrong. Contrary to Mr. Williams' protestations, trespass, with or without acts of damage or theft, is an offence against civil law and an Association or its members found committing acts of pure trespass may be sued in the Civil Courts.

To find such a respected organisation as BUFORA actively or passively condoning such behaviour at its Conference, is an act of suicidal folly. Recently the UFO movement has gained much credibility in the eyes of the public and its past image of "crankiness" is beginning to disappear. But with its members committing such acts is to play directly into the hands of our detractors and opponents. It will give the authorities the excuse they need to quietly withdraw any support or co-operation that may have existed and sympathetic MPs may, in the future, go out of their way to avoid contact with such an organisation and its members. Ultimately it will do the movement much harm.

I believe that UFOs are a topic worthy of serious, lengthy and detailed investigation. I feel that the study of the subject will ultimately lead to a profound realignment in how we see ourselves, our place in the world and the universe and perhaps our view of reality itself. It is a widely challenging and exciting topic. The search for an answer will require hard and dedicated investigation, but it is primarily the study of unexplained aerial phenomena. Both Rudloe Manor and RAF Bentwaters are identified and terrestrial.

I lay before the BUFORA Council a challenge to respond collectively to this letter. I know from the comments of the Association's membership and the members of the public who attended the conference at Hallam University that the Conference did much to harm the Association's public image.

Consider your reply carefully. I am not sure that I wish to remain a member of an Association, which either passively or actively condones such illegal and irresponsible acts. I feel that the Association should censure those individuals concerned and ask them to consider their future as members of BUFORA. The Association must seem to operate at all times in an open responsible manner within the legal framework of this country. The Association and its membership are not above the law.

I feel that the emphasis on conspiracy theory will

ultimately mean that BUFORA will lose its way in those dark subterranean tunnels of the secret bases that seem to preoccupy so much time of the advocates of a such a theory. BUFORA is dedicated to research into UFOs, unexplained aerial phenomena. I feel the answer will *not* be found underground.

With heartfelt concern,
Yours faithfully,
Margaret Coomber.
Whitby, North Yorkshire.
17/8/97

Editor's comment: BUFORA does not and should not condone illegal activities such as trespassing on Ministry of Defence land. We know that the official MoD line on UFOs is that they are of "no defence significance", but that UFOs almost certainly *are* of defence interest. Beyond Air Staff 2a there may well be other departments with files that we, as UFOlogists, would find immensely interesting. In fairness to Nick Redfern who you mention in your letter, his diligent work at the Public Records Office may turn up more evidence for who actually does research UFOs within the government, and perhaps result in more information being released. In contrast, breaking into air bases and wandering through tunnels looking for the magical UFO files does us no favours at all. This is clearly an important matter for the BUFORA Council to discuss.

UFO's : A possible collusion to an uncertain future.

The idea that there could be or in fact is (the odds are 10000000000:1 that there is NOT life somewhere else out there) life, in fact even intelligent life on other planets has consumed the imaginations and fables of mankind and his philosophers since the dawn of time. Yet for the longest time there has also been, along with the believers, sceptics who have denied the existence of any such ideas. The shame to them is the fact that now many of the ideas that they were so stubborn to accept, have now become fact and they are being forced to believe that yes life on other planets is a real fact and yes dead life, fossils of certain forms of bacteria, has been collected from one of our closest neighbours, Mars.

One of the fascinating points of the incredible possibility that there is life out there is that somewhere there could be "advanced" life on one of the other planets is that we, as the human race, could attempt to communicate and possibly share technologies with our outer-space friends and improve the quality of life for them and for us. One and only problem exists with a possible encounter. Instinctively and undeniably any race within the bounds of this universe, would impulsively either

react to the presence of another life form with either an attack or a defence standpoint. However if the race is truly advanced it will quickly throw these inhibitions aside and we could then pursue a peaceful relationship. Either way I believe that we are without a doubt capable of pursuing a relationship with an unearthly race and I hope they or we make some kind of contact soon.

Jason Burek

Dear Mike Wootten

I am making a study of modern beliefs and would like to ask a few of your members how their belief in UFOs affects their lives. I would be very grateful if you could find space to print this letter in UFO Times. The questions are:

1. How did you come to believe in UFO's? Through your family?/ through friends?/ from reading?/ from some other experience?
2. Does your belief in UFO's affect your confidence in daily life? Does it give you more confidence/ less confidence/ or does it make no difference?
3. Does your belief in UFO's affect your optimism about your own future? Does it make you more optimistic/ less optimistic/ or does it make no difference?
4. Do you get to meet other believers in UFO's?
5. Does being in touch with other believers bring you comfort/ security/ a sense of belonging?
6. Does your belief in UFO's bring you any other benefits?

Please reply by e-mail to Rtwalters@aol.com All replies will be treated in the strictest confidence and will be acknowledged with thanks.

Yours sincerely

Roger Walters

Abduction -v- Close Encounter Experience

I was sorry to see from the Annual Report of the Investigations Department that the term "abduction" is no longer to be used to categorise a report in which the witness claims to have been taken away by non-human entities (or there is good reason to suspect that this may have occurred, for example, time loss). Instead we are to use the more general phrase "close encounter experiences" in order to clarify matters. To my mind this does the opposite!

A close encounter may not encompass an abduction, and there is a need for phraseology which differentiates between encounters with UFOs and cases where an abduction appears to have taken place. Immediately one uses evasive terminology when interviewing a witness instead of common parlance, one sends the wrong kind of signal to the interviewee, who may believe as a result (rightly or wrongly) that abduction claims are not taken

seriously. Co-operation may then be withdrawn and a good case lost. The need to avoid giving a witness the impression that we are anything other than impartial is illustrated by the Israeli entity case in which the Israeli who sought our help seems to have got cold feet, thus precluding further scientific tests on the "alien" remains.

Abductions are offensive by their very nature, but if we are sincere in our quest for the truth we should not hesitate to call a spade a spade! I would also challenge the assertion in the report that the abduction phenomenon is little known. Surely in recent years we have been deluged with reports of abductions, not to mention a mountain of accompanying literature? The Investigations Department give the impression that they would rather brush this aspect of ufology under the carpet because they do not like it, but I submit it is an issue which is unlikely to go away, and needs to be faced up to.

One possible means of probing abductions is hypnotic regression, and I am concerned that BUFORA rules out the use of this tool. Granted there are a number of pitfalls, not least among which is false memory syndrome, but I hold that if properly conducted, hypnotic regression might over time furnish a few clues as to the nature of the phenomenon we are studying. After all, nothing ventured, nothing gained!

At times I get the impression that certain ufologists are only too happy to say that after fifty years we are no nearer to solving the mystery of the saucers. This will continue to be the case as long as they shy away from such topics as abductions and the tools which could be used to unlock the mystery. A quantum leap is needed! Like the late Ken Phillips, I abhor political correctness!

For the benefit of researchers looking in the archives for abduction reports, I shall continue to use this term in reports when it seems to fit the bill, as I have over the last twenty six years during which I have investigated UFOs for BUFORA.

Michael Lewis

101562.2121@compuserve.com

As the above points relate directly to the investigations department, I asked **Gloria Dixon** if she would like to comment:

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to Mike Lewis' letter to the investigations department via **UFO Times**. The directive from the NIC on the terminology issue of 'close encounter experiences' replacing the word 'abduction' was a decision made and indeed voted on and passed by a majority of the investigators at the

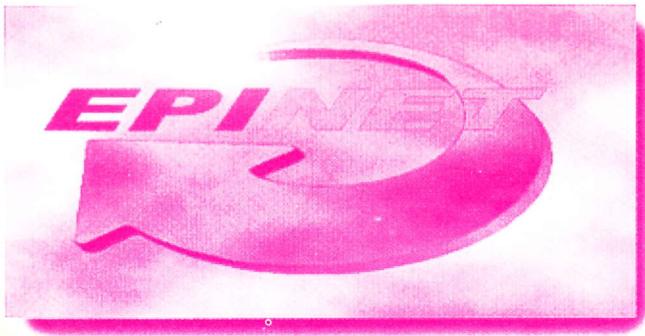
Newcastle Upon Tyne NIC meeting last March. The continued moratorium on regressive hypnosis being used within the BUFORA NIC was voted for unanimously at that meeting also. The NIC is a democratic body and reflects the views and decisions of the investigators themselves..

With regard to the view that the terminology *close encounter experience* does not clarify matters at all, and would in fact 'send the wrong kind of signal to the interviewee, who may believe as a result abduction claims are not taken seriously' I do not agree. Witness claims of this nature are **always** taken seriously by BUFORA investigators, but must of course be investigated with care, objectivity and integrity. The nature of these experiences **can** certainly be clarified by using the term *close encounter experience* in that the experience is a CE4 category which encompasses many strange events where UFOs and entities are reported to interact with the witness causing time discrepancies, reality distortion, partial amnesia and fragmented memories, as well as their impressions of entering some kind of altered state where *all familiar sounds cease*. Using the term *abduction* to describe these experiences may be just as misleading in trying to define the true nature and meaning of these baffling incidents, particularly because abduction events so often appear to emerge from cases where regressive hypnosis is used.

There is no doubt that we have more reports of CE4 experiences being reported to BUFORA and many other UFO organisations, but I would suggest that these reports have always been there and that with the immensely high profile of media coverage, conferences and magazines that are now in the public domain, people feel more comfortable in coming forward to report these incidents and indeed there are many agencies to which they can now report them. This obviously has dramatically increased our access to the number of reports being received by the media, UFO organisations and magazines. The folklore of yesterday has now become the spaceships and aliens of today's culture within the space age in which we live and with the virtually unlimited exposure of today's media and technology this has created powerful imagery. This is enabling us to look at this most compelling and important enigma much more closely, BUT we must remain objective in our investigations and research in order to find the key to this great mystery. I am not so sure that hypnosis can ultimately provide the correct key, as to the *truth and reality* of the event.

With regard to the use of regressive hypnosis and BUFORA's continued moratorium on this, I have no

doubt that this could be a useful therapeutic support for witnesses experiencing these disturbing events if used responsibly and under medical supervision, but I do feel that there are problems with this method as a means of eliciting an objective truth about these events rather than a subjective truth as perceived by the witness. Of course whatever way people perceive these extraordinary encounters and subjective as they appear to be, does this mean that they are not real...even though they may not be happening as a reality within our physical world. We need to be cautious here taking on the board the very important case of *Maureen Puddy* in Australia in 1973 where she went through a complete abduction scenario, feeling that she was kidnapped from her car and taken on board a UFO although she never actually left the driving seat of her car, nor the sight of the two investigators who were with her. The investigators were convinced of her sincerity and high emotional trauma during this incident and of course there is a possibility that something quite extraordinary and frightening was happening to her, but certainly not in her physical body or world as we understand it. Also a worry I have is that there is a possible danger to the witness themselves in using hypnosis to unlock the doors to these mysterious events, and of course the well being of the witness must take precedence over everything else. We remain in uncharted waters in our exploration of hypnosis being used as a tool to gain an accurate insight into the witness' experiences, and I also feel there is always the possibility of legal implications should anything go amiss. We must be very careful and this has nothing to do with *political correctness* at all! This is to do with protecting both the witness, investigator and the integrity of our organisation. There is one case in particular from West Yorkshire, where three of the four witnesses underwent hypnosis with another UFO organisation. This caused severe problems for one of the witnesses and a BUFORA investigator had to follow up on the case. Two of the witnesses concerned have since joined BUFORA as they were impressed with the support they received from BUFORA and **have at no time felt they were abducted by aliens**, even though during the hypnosis conducted by the other organisation a **scenario of this nature occurred** and it was suggested after the hypnosis session that *'they would be back for them'*!! These were obviously irresponsible methods of investigation and caused major concern for the witnesses involved. Indeed one of the witnesses upon reflection of these important events in 1995 has stated recently that he does not understand what happened, but is convinced that he did indeed observe a UFO at close range as did the other witnesses which resulted in missing time and possible physiological effects, as well as



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