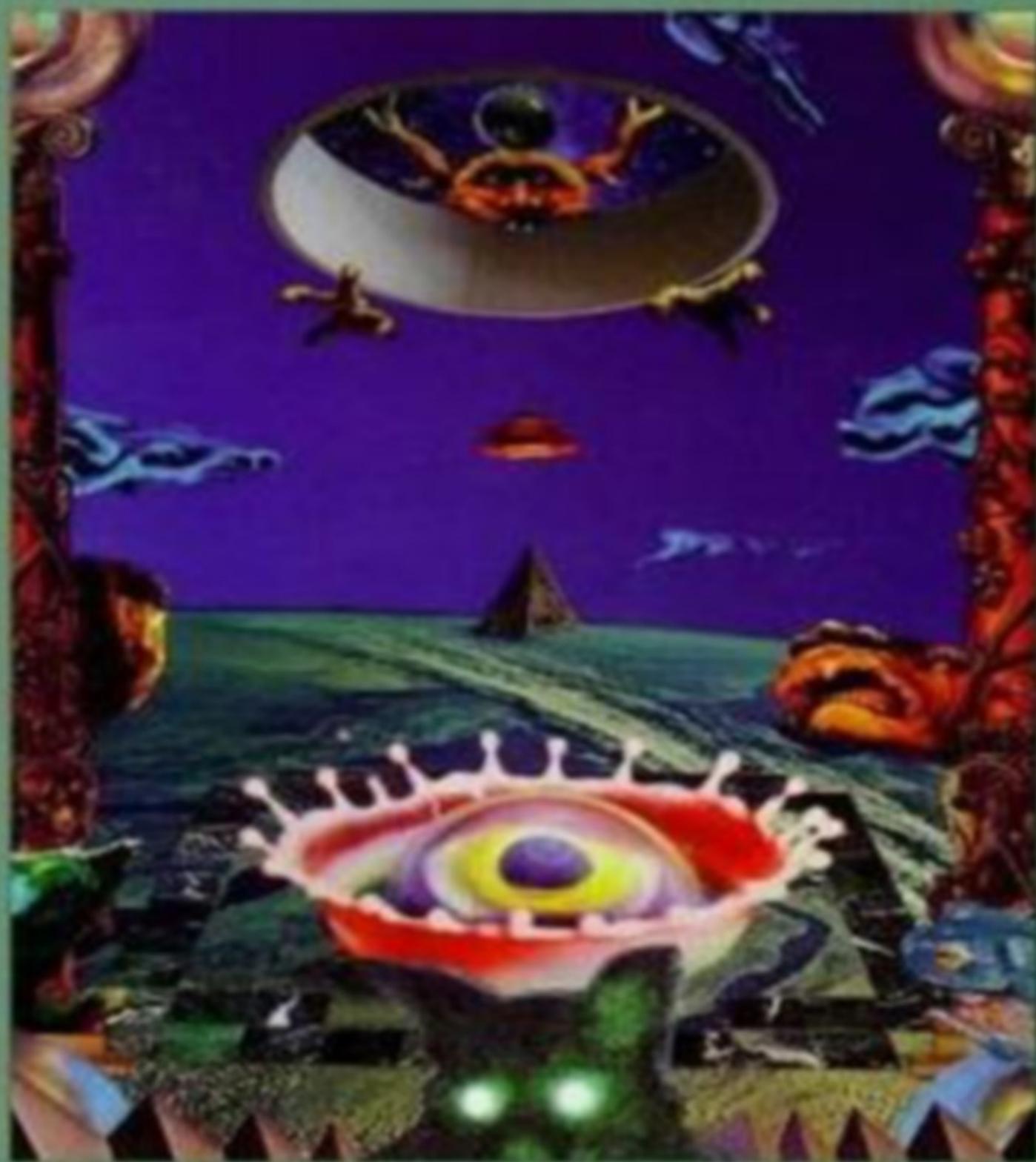


# DISNEYLAND OF THE GODS



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## THE MAN WHO DISCOVERED FAFROTSKIES

At precisely 9:18 a.m. on the morning of February 19<sup>th</sup>, a large kitchen sink of gleaming porcelain and shining chrome came crashing out of a cloudless sky into the backyard of one Waldo Yentz, destroying his favorite rosebush. In a fit of high pique, Mr. Yentz called the police, the newspapers, the F.A.A., the U.S. Air Force, and his elderly aunt in Toledo. Great crowds soon gathered in the Yentz backyard to gaze upon the errant plumbing.

A learned professor from a nearby college hastily organized a press conference and announced that the sink had obviously fallen from a high flying jet plane. He did not visit the Yentz yard, however, pointing out that when you've seen one sink you've seen them all.

The air force, on the other hand, told reporters the object must have dropped off a truck passing by on the main highway which was a mere mile and a half from the Yentz homestead. Mr. Yentz's aunt took the event as an indication that God was mad at somebody. His wife, Shirley, told the curious that she never did like the neighborhood and wasn't at all surprised when the sink made its sudden appearance. Anything could happen in such a rotten neighborhood.

Unbeknownst to the befuddled Yentzes, kitchen sinks were bombarding a Moscow suburb that week and *Pravda* denounced them as part of a new imperialist plot. In London's Hyde Park, a pigeon fancier was brained by a piece of aerial plumbing on the same day that the Yentz rosebush was flattened. On the other side of the world, in New Guinea, the natives were made restless by a massive urinal that tumbled down from the heavens. They immediately built a shrine around it and began worshipping it.

News of the crashing sinks traveled slowly, for the major news media were preoccupied, as always, with the ambiguous statements of politicians, rumors of war, and coverups within coverups. But slowly reports of plummeting plumbing were collected by the some 1,500 people scattered around the world who make it their business to keep track of such things. In time, they would issue a massive final report on the matter, accusing the governments of the world of withholding the facts about falling sinks from the public and demanding that the United Nations organize a team of scientists to look into the matter.

They would be ignored, of course.

They're used to being ignored. It's proof that a massive conspiracy exists to suppress the truth.

These people call themselves Forteans. They hate each other with a fierce passion, and are completely suspicious of everyone else. When the first Fortean Society was founded in 1932, the man after whom it was named, Charles Fort, flatly refused to join, grumbling that he would sooner join the Elks. The Society's journal, *Doubt*, was published at random intervals, usually one issue every two or three years, and its editorial position was that it was against everything and everybody. Those matters which were not direct governmental conspiracies were obviously plots contrived by the military and scientific establishments. Latter-day Forteans envision a massive Military-Religious-Industrial complex which runs the world and is deliberately leading us all to ruination and damnation. Since each Fortean has a theory to explain the bizarre things he is investigating, and since each theory contradicts all other theories, the world of Forteana is a bedlam of battered egos and misplaced sentiments. The Forteans not only expect to be ignored, they demand it!

### ***Procession of the Damned***

Despite all the nonsense, when we have finally scrambled or crawled our way through the unfortunate twentieth century we may look back and realize with a terrible shock that Charles Hoy Fort towers above Winston Churchill, Albert Einstein, Tom Edison, and all the other alleged giants of these hundred years that ate saints and farted Hitlers. Fort squeezed the udders of the sacred cow of science, and he made us recognize that we were living in an age of miracles – and age when kitchen sinks could fall from the skies while little green men from somewhere else cavorted in our city parks. He opened our eyes to things that had been there all along. He cataloged OOPTHS (Out Of Place THingS) and FAFROTSKIES (things that FAIL FROM The SKIES).

It was Charles Fort's misfortune to live in an age when writers were cheated and conned, ignored and abused, and expected to starve. A period not unlike the 1980s! At the age of eighteen he became the editor of *The Independent*, a newspaper publisher in Queens, N.Y., which died after a few issues. In 1893, at the age of nineteen, he set out to hitchhike around the world. Already he was an imposing young man, nearly six feet tall, somewhat overweight (he was "portly" all his life), with a fashionable mustache and a pair of thick-lensed glasses perched on his nose. His grandfather, John Hoy, financed his adventures by supplying him with the lordly sum of twenty-five dollars per month – more than enough to survive in those days.

In the grand tradition of all young adventurers he slept under the stars beside the railroad tracks, went hungry, and dreamed of the glorious days ahead when his travels would inspire immortal short stories and novels. Instead, he contracted a fever in South Africa... a mysterious malady, probably malaria, that would hound him for the rest of his days. He returned a shuddering wreck to New York City where an English girl, Anna Filing, nursed him back to health. They were married on October 26, 1896. They did not live happily ever after. Obsessed with the business of writing, Charles Fort was doomed to spend many years on the periphery of society, barely able to make the rent for a succession of dingy, furnished rooms. He held a number of temporary jobs, as a hotel clerk, watchman, dishwasher. Sometimes during the cold winters they burned the furniture to keep warm. By the time he was thirty he had written ten novels. Only one, *The Outcast Manufacturers*, was ever published. It laid a large egg.

However, Fort's sense of humor enabled him to write saleable short stories. Theodore Dreiser, a young editor at *Smith's Magazine* in 1905, later recalled: "Fort came to me with the best humorous short stories that I have ever seen produced in America. I purchased some of them... And other editors did the same. And among ourselves – Richard Duffy of *Tom Watson's*, Charles Agnew MacLean of *The Popular Magazine*, and others, we loved to talk of Fort and his future – a new and rare literary star."

Despite the growing demand for his stories, Fort found it difficult to keep bread on the table. "Have not been paid for one story since May," he wrote in his diary in December 1907. "Have two dollars left. *Watson's* has cheated me out of \$155. Dreiser has sent back two stories he told me he would buy, one even advertised to appear in his next number... Everything is pawned... I am unable to write. I can do nothing else for a living. My mind is filled with pictures of myself cutting my throat or leaping out the window, head first."

In his early diaries, notes, and letters (now preserved at the New York Public Library) Fort complained of frequent spells of depression and dark suicidal moods. These would be followed by frenzied fits of writing when he would churn out novels and short stories by the pound. He had a manic-depressive type personality and it's possible that his malaria-like malady was a mysterious physical ailment typical of those which plague such personalities.

Around the age of thirty-two, he began to spend more time in the New York Public Library. While browsing through some old scientific journals he came across some odd, unexplained items and he discovered that the journals, newspapers, and magazines of the nineteenth century were crammed with such items... strange objects seen in the sky, weird creatures and machines rising out of the world's oceans, peculiar foreign objects falling from the sky – everything ranging from great quantities of raw meat and blood to handcarved stone pillars. People and things were often disappearing suddenly, only to reappear halfway around the world. Human footprints and man-made objects were repeatedly turning up in coal mines and geological strata dating back millions of years.

Fort recorded these reports on scraps of brown paper; writing his notes in his own special code. Day by day, month by month, year by year, the notes accumulated until he had thousands of them. In 1915, at the age of forty-one, he started to organize these notes into a book he planned to call *X and Y*. He never finished it, discarding it for another idea – a book that eventually appeared as *The Book of the Damned*. In May 1916, his uncle, Frank Fort, died leaving him a small inheritance, sufficient to support him and Anna for the rest of their lives. The long struggle was over. The Forts moved to a small apartment in the Bronx.

When *The Book of the Damned* was completed, wary editors read the opening lines and held their noses:

A procession of the damned.

By the damned, I mean the excluded.

We shall have a procession of data that Science has excluded.

Battalions of the accursed, captained by pallid data that I have exhumed, will march. You'll read them – or they'll march. Some of them livid and some of them fiery and some of them rotten.

By this time, Theodore Dreiser had become one of America's most famous and most influential novelists. He was also Fort's leading advocate. He took the manuscript of *The Book of the Damned* to his own publisher, Horace Liveright, and dumped it on his desk. Liveright reluctantly read it and then complained, "I can't publish this. It'll lose money." Dreiser told him flatly, "If you don't publish it, you'll lose me."

### ***New Lands***

The literary world greeted *The Book of the Damned* with awed enthusiasm. Newspapers and journal reviewers heaped praise upon the strange opus. Men like Booth Tarkington, John Cowper Powys, Ben Hecht, and Tiffany Thayer, all big names in their time, applauded. "I am the first disciple of Charles Fort," Ben Hecht wrote in the *Chicago Daily News*. "He has made a terrible onslaught upon the accumulated lunacy of fifty centuries... Whatever the purpose of Charles Fort, he has delighted me beyond all men who have written books in this world."

Fort's reaction to the publication of his first book since his ill-fated novel a decade earlier was to sink into a deep depression. He gathered up his notes – an estimated 40,000 of them – and burned them all. Then he and Anna packed their bags and sailed for England. Fort believed that his book was a flop (sales were very sluggish) and that he had wasted his life. He was forty-six years old.

The Forts lived in London for eight years. We don't know how Anna spent her days while her husband went off to the British Museum to pore over old books and crumbling magazines. In the evenings he often joined the loafers at the Speaker's Corner in Hyde Park to amuse himself in debates. He wrote his second book, *New Lands*, in London. It dealt chiefly with "sky quakes," the thunderous explosions that have emanated from the sky for hundreds of years, and in many parts of the world. In recent years, these sky quakes have occurred every January-February in the northeastern United States. The "authorities" have repeatedly assured reporters that they are caused by jet planes, especially the Concorde supersonic job. They neglect to mention the long history of the phenomenon. Sky quakes were with us long before jets, or even airplanes, had been invented.

Fort envisioned, tongue-in-cheek, a land in the sky that served as home base for all the debris that keeps falling on us. Huge blocks of ice, for example, have been crashing through rooftops for hundreds of years, occasionally killing people and livestock. Today when a fifty-pound hunk of ice hurtles into someone's living room our learned "authorities" announce that it fell from a passing airplane. They even have the audacity to claim that it is refuse from the plane's bathroom. Of course, any pilot will tell you there is no way for the bathrooms to discharge water while in flight but our explainers never bother to check such details. Fort chuckled a bit about these ice falls and suggested there might be great aerial ice fields up there. A silly notion, yet a few years ago NASA suggested the same thing. Somewhere hundreds of miles overhead there might be *New Lands* of ice. Critics of Fort, most of whom are members of the scientific establishment who have never even read his books, complain that his main sources were newspapers. This is not so. He carefully cited all his sources in his books and they are mostly scientific journals, particularly journals of astronomy. Fort took great pleasure in pointing out the stupidity of astronomers, usually damning them with their own words. "I don't know what the mind of an astronomer looks like, but I think of a fizzle with excuses revolving around it," he wrote in *New Lands*.

Each new generation of astronomers discards all the theories of the previous generation and creates

some whoppers of its own. Our space probes have disproved many of the most cherished myths of modern astronomy. Too bad Fort wasn't around to view the intellectual acrobatics of the 1960s. Astronomers were proven wrong about many of the basics of our solar system, e.g., the temperature of Venus, the age of the moon, the rotation of Mercury, the topography of Mars. Until 1960, all leading astronomers flatly denied the possibility of extraterrestrial life. Then NASA began flashing big bucks – tax dollars – for investigation into life on other worlds. Astronomers jumped on the band wagon. Suddenly we were being told that there must be billions of inhabited planets out there. Some scientists created "exo-biology," the study of extraterrestrial life. Since we have no samples of such life, and since all of our efforts with radio telescopes, etc., have failed to find evidence of even a single planet outside our solar system, it is mighty difficult to investigate such life. We poured many millions of dollars down that exo-biology rat-hole. Now that the gravy train has ended, the astronomers are quietly retreating to their pre-1960 position.

The biggest astronomical scam of the 1970s was the Black Hole. It began as a minor element in a science fiction story published about thirty years ago. Basically, it is the notion that a dying star shrinks to a heavy mass – so heavy that light can't escape from it. Therefore, it is invisible and we have no way of detecting its presence. Science writer Fred Warshofsky put it this way: "The physicist outside the black hole cannot get any information from inside it and has no way to understand the laws which govern it. Without that understanding he need not seek the laws since they are impossible to understand."

The Black Hole is a foolproof theory because there is no way of testing it, of proving or disproving it. Perfect fodder for the Walt Disney studios.

### ***Cranks and Crackpots***

Fort was not against the astronomers. He was amused by them. But the other sciences are just as amusing. Archaeologists have been busy burying more things than they dig up... ignoring everything that doesn't fit into their theories. For example, they tell us that North America was uninhabited by anyone except Indians before the Europeans arrived. They overlook all the stone towers and structures found all over this continent (including miles of paved roads) when the Pilgrims arrived. Fort cataloged all kinds of metal objects from swords and axes to coins that have been found and dated as pre-Columbian. Somebody was mining ore and coal in this country, and pumping oil in Pennsylvania before Columbus set sail. Rather than tussle with the problem of identifying those mysterious North Americans, the archaeologists have chosen to ignore these artifacts.

Intellectual cowardice is only one of the problems of the academic community. Fort rubbed their noses in the swill generated by their gibberish and illiteracy. It was no secret then or now that academic publications are designed to protect the inept and to conceal ignorance. People with nothing to say, who even lack the ability to say nothing, can hide behind the academic method for a lifetime.

"I shall be scientific about it," Fort noted. "Said Sir Isaac Newton – or virtually said he – 'If there is no change in the direction of a moving body, the direction of a moving body is not changed. But,' continued he, 'If something be changed, it is changed as much as it is changed.' How do geologists determine the age of rocks? By the fossils in them. And how do they determine the age of the fossils? By the rocks they're in. Having started with the logic of Euclid, I go on with the wisdom of a Newton."

"Consider anything of a sociologic nature that ever has grown," he wrote, "that there never has been an art, science, religion, invention that was not at first out of accord with established environment, visionary, preposterous in the light of later standards, useless in its incipiency, and resisted by established forces so that, seemingly animating it and protectively underlying it, there may have been something that in spite of its unfitness made it survive for future usefulness. Also there are data for the acceptance that all things, in wider being, are held back as well as protected and prepared for, and not permitted to develop before comes scheduled time... One of the greatest secrets that has eventually been found out was for ages blabbed by all the pots and kettles of the

world – but the secret of the steam engine could not, to the lowliest of intellects, or to supposititiously highest of intellects, more than adumbratively reveal itself until came the time for its coordination with the other phenomena and the requirements of the Industrial Age.”

Thus, in his way, Fort redefined what theologians call predestination. He knew that the present does not control the future but rather that the future somehow controls the past. If Adolf Hitler had been born in, say, Bolivia, twenty million corpses would still be alive. But the future needed Hitler because it needed the atomic bomb and the accompanying hardware capable of destroying the planet. We would not have developed the Doomsday machine if we hadn't launched a crash program as part of our effort to crush Hitler. We not only failed to save twenty million victims, we built the gallows for the entire human race. Unable to read the future, we are all Napoleons marching confidently to Waterloo.

Fort and his wife returned to New York in 1929, just in time to witness the Wall Street crash. Luckily, Fort had safely invested his meager inheritance and managed to stay afloat. They moved back to the Bronx and he worked on his next book, titled *LO!*. Another assault on astronomers, it lists many strange reports of unidentified aerial objects. Sitting in his study, Fort pecked out two simple sentences which would identify the flying saucer mystery, define it, and touch upon the only possible explanations.

”Unknown, luminous things, or being,” he observed, ”have often been seen, sometimes close to this earth and sometimes high in the sky. It may be that some of them were living things that occasionally come from somewhere else in our existence, but that others were lights on the vessels of explorers, or voyagers, from somewhere else.”

For the first thirty-three years of the modern UFO epoch (1947-1970) the notion that those mysterious lights and objects belonged to ”the vessels of explorers, or voyagers, from somewhere else” was the most popular theory. A handful of cranks and wishful thinkers spread propaganda that extraterrestrial visitants were flocking to this mudball. But the great UFO wave of 1964-68 attracted a new generation of investigators and scientists. They soon realized that the extraterrestrial hypothesis was untenable for many reasons. So they fell back on the explanation that the objects came ”from somewhere else in our existence.” That ”somewhere else” could be as elusive as the fabled fourth dimension, or the ”other planes” of psychic lore. Fort himself had realized early in the game that the events he was studying *were not unusual*. They happened year after year, century after century. More importantly, they tended to occur in the same geographical locations. This strongly indicates that these events – be they fish falling from the sky or strange aircraft adorned with flashing lights – are inexorably linked with the earth. They are as much a part of our environment as clouds and bumblebees.

Another important factor is that all of the events described by Fort are interrelated in some mysterious fashion. Science fiction writer Damon Knight extracted some 1,200 events from Fort's books and fed them into a computer at the Bell Laboratories in New Jersey. Some very interesting patterns were revealed.

”One salient fact about UFOs is missing from all modern accounts I have seen,” Knight commented. ”Fort's data show that they are not isolated phenomena. Unknown flying objects, unknown bodies seen in space, appearances and disappearances, poltergeist activity, falls of strange substances and organisms from the sky – all these things show strong positive correlations with each other. Taken together, they show evidence of rhythmic fluctuation.”

### ***Strange Coincidences***

Incredible though it may seem, sightings of sea serpents tend to occur simultaneously with sightings of unidentified flying objects, showers of frogs and worms and kitchen sinks (actually no kitchen sinks have ever been reported... the anecdote at the beginning of this chapter was just a sly example), and mysterious disappearances. As for the latter, they are most often grouped in the month of July – which is also a big UFO month. A man goes out to mow his lawn and is never seen again. Some 3,000 people disappear annually in the U.S., that is, 3,000 people vanish with no apparent motivation, no hint of what happened to them or how. Naturally, many hundreds of

thousands of others disappear – fleeing the law, relatives, or creditors.

When a UFO wave develops (usually about once every five years), we can be sure that sightings at Loch Ness will increase sharply, that showers of stones (always warm to the touch) will start pelting isolated homes in suburbia, and that people will start to disappear everywhere. These manifestations are accompanied by magnetic storms and sharp, dramatic deviations in the earth's magnetism in certain locales, particularly in areas such as the famous Bermuda Triangle. In the 1950s, a Canadian named Wilbur Smith devised a special instrument to detect and measure the collapse of molecular structures during magnetic storms. All kinds of objects literally fall apart when magnetic conditions are just right. Volunteer airline pilots carried Smith's instruments around the world and he was able to make crude charts of the phenomena. Unfortunately, no one continued his experiments after his death.

Charles Fort perceived a truth that had been ignored by scientists and historians. Our world has two sets of natural laws. One set tells us stupidly simple things about gravity and nature. The other tells us that space and time are constantly distorted in our reality, and that we are all subject to the still undefined laws of that second set. We never know when we might step through that magic door that will suddenly transport us 10,000 miles away. We never know when we might encounter a beast of a being from "somewhere else in our existence." Fish may rain on us, or red snow, or clouds of insects that no scientist can identify. Flying saucers will continue to buzz our farms and swamps, just as they have for thousands of years. Science attempts to work with the first set of laws and they come up with Black Holes. Magicians, occultists and psychics strive to manipulate the second group of laws. In the closing years of this century, science and magic are merging. When Fort studied the bizarre events of the super-spectrum (a spectrum of energy beyond the known and the visible) he was obliged to ask, "If there is a Universal Mind, must it be sane?"

## A SHORT HISTORY OF BOOBERY

A gentleman named Lester J. Hendershot surfaced in 1928, offering the world a wonderful "miracle motor" he had perfected. It derived its energy from "the earth's magnetic field," he claimed. He happily demonstrated it for many. A Major Thomas Lanphier of the U.S. Army became one of his biggest boosters and even stated that he had helped assemble one of the motors and there was nothing fraudulent about it. It weighed less than ten pounds and seemed to generate an incredible amount of power. It ran sewing machines, lit electric lights, and powered meat grinders, all without being hooked up to any outside wiring or fuel tanks.

Inventors have been trying to peddle wonderous perpetual motion machines and magical motors since the beginning of time. There is, however, a fascinating sidebar to the Hendershot story. He managed to develop an archenemy. A sinister Dr. Frederick Hochstetter, also of Pittsburgh, followed Hendershot around, holding press conferences attacking him and his motor. According to Hochstetter, the Hendershot motor ran on flashlight batteries and would destroy faith in science for 1,000 years. His only motive for exposing this shameless hoax, he explained, was to assure that "pure science might shine forth untarnished."

Charles Fort followed the careers of that duo with great interest. The newspapers chronicled the appearances of Hendershot and quoted Dr. Hochstetter's angry assaults at great length. Then, while visiting a patent attorney in Washington, D.C., Hendershot was showing off his little motor when he suddenly received a shock from "a bolt estimated at 2,000 volts" which paralyzed him and sent him off to an emergency hospital.

That was the last anyone heard of Lester Hendershot. And it also seems to have ended Dr. Hochstetter's career as a defender of the scientific faith. But there were many, many scholarly gentlemen who would follow in his footsteps across the decades. Whenever a new Hendershot appears on the scene, a dozen Hochstetters eager to share his limelight rise to protect the gullible public.

You may recall the sudden appearance of Uri Geller in the 1970s. Geller had a magic show in Israel. He was a personable young man, handsome and charismatic. One day he discovered that he had what Fort would have called a "Wild Talent." Spoons and keys and heavy bars seemed to bend mysteriously in his presence. Geller, discovered by Dr. Andrija Puharich, a world-renowned parapsychologist, was soon appearing on TV screens around the world. People sitting in his audiences would discover that the keys in their pockets and purses had bent by themselves! Geller became very famous.

Early on, Geller's personal Hochstetter began to dog his steps. His name was James Randi. A diminutive fellow magician with a motorized mouth, Randi decided to crusade against the new science-busting art of metal bending. He followed Geller around the country, denouncing him as a fraud and spoon bending as a mere stunt. When Geller appeared on the stage of the Johnny Carson Show, Randi lurked in the shadows backstage, trying to catch him in some act of trickery. Like the other Hochstetters of this world, Randi became entwined in a foggy belief system of his own. By his reasoning, everything that seems impossible must be the product of deception, lying, and pure skullduggery. Spoons do not bend by themselves, so therefore Uri Geller must be bending them somehow.

The truth is that this odd talent is not confined to Geller. Millions of people discovered they could bend spoons just as easily, that when they concentrated on the metal it would become as soft as putty and could even be tied in knots. Spoon bending parties became the rage. A C.I.A.-sponsored study at a major university began examining spoon benders and conducting complex tests with the bent metal. Dr. Puharich even established a home for gifted children who were able to perform the feat. Did all this give Randi pause? Certainly not.

To his credit, Geller has simply ignored the little man who affects a flowing cape and a graying beard. He toured the world (he was especially popular in Japan), getting richer and richer, while Randi pursued him impotently, getting angrier and angrier. Randi eventually wrote a book, *The*

*Magic of Uri Geller*, an expose based in large part on the testimony of Geller's former chauffeur. In 1987, Geller was invited to Washington to confer with the President and members of the Cabinet on ways to bring about world peace. The Secret Service noted that there was an odd person in a cape lurking outside the White House gates.

### ***The Hochstetter Syndrome***

When the first "flying saucer" craze erupted in June 1947, scores of enthusiastic advocates emerged. Some of them had been collecting reports of odd aerial things for years and they had ready-made conclusions. The leader of the pack was Raymond Palmer, editor of *Amazing Stories* and founder of *Fate* magazine. There was Dr. Meade Layne and his spiritualists who had been talking to the saucer people for years. Tiffany Thayer and his hardy band of Fortean saw great governmental conspiracies behind the phenomena.

However, the skeptics far outnumbered the believers in those days. Most newspapers treated the incoming UFO reports with levity. Comedians, columnists, and radio commentators created a whole new category of saucer humor. Anyone with any scientific credentials sneered and guffawed. Flying saucers were impossible, they snorted in unison. Such things could not be. It was all just a silly fad. But the damnable things did not go away. Since they were buzzing around our military and atomic installations and landing on highways and in farm fields with impunity the United States Air Force was terribly embarrassed. If UFOs were real they were making fools of our military, proving that our expensive air force was incapable of defending the skies over the United States. The government's solution to this dilemma was simply to deny the existence of the objects. To this end they set up a phony public relations office known as Project Blue Book and they enlisted the aid of a prominent Harvard astronomer, Donald Menzel. Dr. Menzel had been involved in various classified government projects and wrote science fiction as a hobby. It is possible that the government paid him to become an anti-UFO spokesman, but perhaps he was just another victim of the Hochstetter syndrome and became anti-UFO because of some deep psychological need. The same kind of need that drove Randi to hound Uri Geller.

Dr. Menzel became ufology's earliest critic. He wrote reasonably well and his byline appeared in many popular magazines. He had a simple, scientific explanation for all UFO sightings. They were caused by air inversions. This is a meteorological condition created when pockets of cold air get trapped in warm air. The difference in density causes lights from the ground to reflect or refract. Dr. Menzel wrote countless magazine articles and several books on this theme though he didn't investigate any UFO sightings. If he investigated any sightings he might have discovered that the air inversion theory wasn't workable. That, of course, would jeopardize his entire belief system.

Dr. Menzel spent twenty years attacking UFOs and ufology and antagonizing the hell out of the thin red line of UFO buffs who took his insults personally. They dreamed of making UFOs "respectable" so that they would become respectable by association. But each tirade from Menzel branded them crackpot psychotics and they would drool and fume and fill their mimeographed journals with anti-Menzel editorials.

Refracted light from air inversions explained the funny glows in the sky but how did Menzel explain all the car chases, abductions, landings, and weird manifestations? His scientific answer was that all the witnesses were liars, fools, or drunks. That took care of that.

In 1966, Dr. Menzel appeared on a TV show with author John Fuller. Fuller had just spent weeks in Exeter, New Hampshire, living among people who were literally under siege from a massive UFO wave taking place at that time. Dr. Menzel quickly denounced all the key witnesses as drunks, even though he hadn't been near Exeter. Fuller put up a brisk, logical, well-documented defense and millions watched as Dr. Menzel fell apart on national TV. It was like watching Humphrey Bogart play Captain Queeg in *The Caine Mutiny*, clicking a pair of ball bearings and ranting about the missing strawberries. Menzel seemed to fade away after the show and died not long afterwards.

The most hated man in the history of ufology was Dr. J. Allen Hynek, minion of the air force. Every time he made a public statement, the entire ufological community went into a state of apoplexy. In a silly and extremely costly air force boondoggle, *Project Grudge*, published in 1949, he contributed

a list of over two hundred reported UFO sightings that he claimed were merely stars, assuming that people were stupid enough to report stars to the U.S. Air Force. He was teaching at a small college near the Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, home of Project Blue Book; what's more, he could be had for a small amount of money. The air force needed all the help it could get to keep an irate UFO-watching public off its back. They were looking for someone with academic credentials who would lend authority to their wild anti-UFO statements. Somebody who would just take the money and run.

### ***Swamp Gas***

For eighteen years, the U.S. Air Force paid Dr. Hynek an average of \$5,000 per year as a "consultant" but, by his own admission, he was never consulted about anything. When official committees were formed to review the UFO "problem," the air force called in Dr. Menzel and a young upstart named Carl Sagan. Hynek's role, according to the director of Project Blue Book, Major Hector Quintanilla, was simple. Twice a year Project Blue Book sent him a manila envelope filled with sighting reports. His job was to check through the star charts and astronomical catalogs and come up with celestial explanations. Quintanilla complained that he often botched the task by claiming that stars that were not even visible on the night in question were mistaken for UFOs. Whenever Hynek's friends and colleagues chided him about his UFO connection, he always explained that he only stuck with it so he could put his child through college. But for fourteen years he maintained a very sincere anti-UFO stand. He was frequently interviewed by the press and he always gave seemingly plausible reasons for regarding the whole subject as hogwash. During those fourteen years he never investigated a single UFO report personally. When a spectacular UFO event occurred and received heavy press coverage, the air force called upon Hynek to explain it away as a weather balloon, flight of birds, meteor, or mass hallucination. Sometimes the air force didn't even bother to consult him. They just issued a silly statement in his name.

If Dr. Menzel raised the bile of the UFO buffs and their organizations, Dr. Hynek drove them into an absolute frenzy. They threw darts at his picture and frothed at the mouth everytime he gave the *Christian Science Monitor* an interview. They assumed he was a big shot government scientist, probably in the employ of the C.I.A. To have such a formidable enemy gave them imaginary status. In reality, he was just a humble college teacher, mediocre in his chosen field.

On April 24, 1964, a police officer saw an egg-shaped object land outside Socorro, New Mexico, and two small, white-clad figures walked around it before it took off again. The officer, Lonnie Zamora, was badly shaken and the case received extensive newspaper coverage. This was the first case that Hynek actually went to investigate. He was convinced there was a natural explanation. In his published confessions, *The UFO Experience*, Hynek told how he tried to get the air force to conduct a broader investigation but they just weren't interested. For Dr. Hynek, the Socorro incident was a major turning point. He began to realize, after fourteen years of total disbelief, that perhaps there really were some funny unidentified things buzzing about our skies.

Two years later, in March 1966, an incredible nationwide UFO wave began. Early sightings in Michigan around a girl's school received so much publicity that Major Quintanilla visited the area personally, dragging Dr. Hynek along with him. (The Pentagon issued a statement at the time asserting that "more than one hundred investigations from Project Blue Book have been dispatched.") The Major committed a gross tactical error when, in front of a group of civilians, he ordered Hynek to identify the UFOs as marsh gas. Hynek was reportedly flabbergasted and complained that marsh gas was a rare summer phenomenon and certainly would never appear in Michigan in March under any circumstances. Quintanilla was adamant. He reminded Hynek that he was on the air force payroll and had better take orders.

Most men would have responded, "You can take this job and shove it!" But Hynek meekly went back to his motel room and prepared a cautious statement saying that the sightings *might have* been caused by swamp gas. He read the statement later at a press conference in Detroit and the reporters guffawed. Swamp gas! The entire country was seeing unidentified flying objects that month. They seemed to be everywhere. Swamp gas, indeed!

J. Allen Hynek became the laughing stock of America. Newspaper editorials and cartoons razed him. Comedians across the country made jokes about the nutty professor and his swamp gas. The air force didn't take the rap. Hynek did. He was slandered, denounced, and derided all across the country. He was called "Professor Swamp Gas." Swamp gas became a kind of national battle cry. And the derision continued for months.

Anybody else subjected to this kind of public ridicule would have quietly gone on permanent vacation to Alaska. Dr. Hynek seemed almost to enjoy the ridicule and notoriety. He capitalized on it by writing articles for *Playboy*, *Saturday Evening Post*, and *Popular Photography*. Even more astounding, the hardcore UFO buffs who had hated him for years now embraced him as one of their own. Overnight Dr. Hynek became a hero to that sad group who desperately needed a hero. He published a letter in *Science* magazine declaring, "Where there's smoke there must be fire." He appeared on so many television shows that he was forced to join AFTRA, the TV union, and was paid scale for each appearance.

For the next twenty years, Hynek traveled all over the world, always at somebody else's expense, giving empty speeches in which he carefully admitted that he didn't know anything about UFOs and was just as confused as everyone else. At each public appearance he would make a plaintive plea for funds to launch an expensive computer study of the subject. The money never did materialize. He wrote books based on other people's books and extracts from air force files. The title of Steven Spielberg's movie, *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, was taken from a chapter title from Hynek's book, *The UFO Experience*.

Like Lester Hendershot and Uri Geller, Dr. Hynek also had his Hochstetter. The editor of an aerospace trade journal seemed to spend all his spare time poring over Hynek's statements and public pronouncements. Dr. Hynek did have an unfortunate habit of making undocumented claims or getting all his facts scrambled. He seemed to be ignorant of a wide range of subjects, particularly astronomy (!) and psychic phenomena. The editor, a leather-lunged fellow named Philip Klass, gleefully pounced on each of Hynek's errors and issued long, well-written attacks. Klass first surfaced in March 1966 at a UFO press conference staged by Donald Keyhoe, a pulp writer. He heckled Keyhoe unmercifully and thus became the chief heckler of the rather trivial UFO field. In 1987, he was still attending UFO conventions, causing disruptions, and heckling the speakers.

Dr. Menzel had his air inversions. Dr. Hynek had swamp gas. Mr. Klass had been promoting the corona effect as the only plausible explanation for UFOs. It is a rare phenomenon that occurs around power lines. Excess current sets up a glow not unlike swamp gas. This, according to Klass, explains the innumerable UFO sightings reported around power lines.

Klass began publishing pieces about the corona effect in the 1960s. He also published his definitive solution to the Socorro landing. It was, he says, a scheme to promote tourism. The local Dairy Queen started selling "Saucer-Burgers" after Zamora's sighting. Zamora left the police force to enjoy the fruits of his involvement in the scheme... by getting a job in a local gas station pumping gas.

A meteorologist named James McDonald plunged into the UFO fray in the 1960s and when Klass was not perusing Hynek statements, he was scrutinizing Dr. McDonald's learned papers under a magnifying glass. McDonald was an expert on lenticular clouds (natural formations that resembled saucers) and was asked to testify at hearings in Washington where controversial plans for a supersonic passenger plane were being discussed. Dr. McDonald felt that the SST (supersonic transport) would be detrimental to the environment. Someone fed the congressional committee info on McDonald's UFO interests and he was subjected to cruel attacks by the senators representing the aircraft interests and by the press.

Thrown into a deep depression by the assault on his reputation, and fearing that his career was ruined, Dr. McDonald shot himself in the head. His aim was bad and he succeeded only in blinding himself. As soon as he was released from the hospital he somehow acquired another gun. This time his aim improved.

### ***Magnificent Obsessions***

What strange quirks produce the Hochstetters of this world?

For forty years I have blundered around the landscape as an editor, syndicated columnist, radio and TV producer, investigative reporter, and gadfly author. I've written millions of words and have read an average of five books a week all of my life. This frenetic activity has brought me into contact with hundreds of different belief systems and True Believers of every sort. What has this lifetime of study, investigation, experience, and observation taught me?

Butterfly collectors, stamp collectors, tattoo artists, jugglers, ventriloquists, and even morticians all have their Hochstetters. It seems to be a rule of human endeavor that for every obsession there is a counter-obsession. For every Donald Keyhoe there is a Phil Klass. The True Believer has an answer for everything within the framework of his belief system. A scholarly friend once told me that you can never argue with a Marxist or a Hindu because their beliefs provide an answer for every question. How comforting it must be to *think* you know everything. After forty years in this game I find that I know less and less. The non-believers operate on the premise that they know more than the True Believers, that they know The Truth while the True Believer is just a misguided dolt.

Political True Believers are the most worrisome of all because they act on a theory for manipulation of people and events. There are thousands of political belief systems; none of them are really workable. But *belief* in their workability keeps them alive. And keeps a lot of people in very miserable states.

Obsessions with belief systems are worsened when the fragile human ego becomes involved. People with large egos usually have large obsessions. In politics, they become rabid dictators. In religion, they become "holier than thou" types filled with terrible hatreds which in turn cause guilt complexes that drive them deeper into their religious frame of reference. The outlet for their scrambled emotions is to try to foist their beliefs – and their fears – onto the rest of us.

Somewhere along the line, the Hochstetters of ufology have decided that belief in little green men is dangerous and will drag us all into some new Dark Age. Actually, ufology is a harmless obsession compared to the others I have mentioned. But the Hochstetters are something to worry about. In recent years, they have been getting organized.

Corliss Lamont is an elderly New Yorker who is rather proud of his title, "the millionaire communist." He's loaded and has give a lot of money away to worthy causes and institutions. One of his pet enterprises is the American Humanist Association (AHA) which he rules with benign despotism. The organization has about 2,000 members, publishes a magazine, and adheres to a Humanist Manifesto which is a disturbing version of the Communist Manifesto. For years, the AHA was reportedly on the F.B.I.'s notorious list of "communist fronts." There have been numerous spinoffs, all supported by Mr. Lamont's millions. A great many academic types and college professors, always a naive and gullible bunch, have been sucked into Mr. Lamont's sphere. A few years ago, the AHA set up a group dedicated to Hochstetterism. They declared themselves to be skeptics of almost everything and they staged frequent press conferences designed to get their names into the newspapers by denouncing social evils like dice-throwing, sea serpents, and (gasp) UFOs. Some of the professors decided they would expose the ancient science of Astrology once and for all. They set up a study, too complicated to explain here, by which they intended to prove that the influences of the stars was all hokum. But, to their horror, the study proved *them* wrong! They found that the basic tenets of Astrology really seemed to work! There was no room for truth in a skeptical organization, so they cancelled the press conference they had planned and tried to sweep their findings under their humanist carpets. Some of the members who had worked on the study quit the club in a rage. The whole skeptical cause seemed endangered for awhile. But they managed to recover, perhaps by tying-in with the "Man Was Never Meant to Fly" Club that meets annually at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

As you might surmise, outstanding members of the skeptics' sewing circle include Mr. Klass and Mr. Randi. At their 1987 convention, Dr. Carl Sagan and Dr. Isaac Asimov were among the featured speakers.

### ***Passport To Oblivion***

Dealing with learned critics is hardship enough but we also have to worry about mysterious, well-

financed hoaxers who go to incredible lengths to stir things up. One of the most outstanding examples took place in 1966, when a handsome young man in expensive clothes suddenly appeared in New York City, accompanied by two stunning young ladies. They checked into a luxury hotel and then Mel Noel (that's the name he used) systematically visited all the leading magazines and newspapers.

He was signing reporters up for a trip into outer space.

According to Mr. Noel, a flying saucer was scheduled to land on the set of the Jackie Gleason television show in Florida. Anyone who wanted to go aboard had to apply for a space passport. It was free but Noel needed a couple of passport pictures from each eager participant. He took top editors, newspapermen, and authors to fancy lunches in the best restaurants. He was articulate, well-mannered, and appeared to be sincere. We all wondered what the scam was but we all gave him the required photos. Insiders knew that comedian Jackie Gleason was obsessed with the flying saucer myth. He even built a saucer-shaped hideaway in the Catskills and he often boasted about his huge collection of books on psychic phenomena and UFOs. He was a hardcore True Believer and it is possible that he was financing Noel's travels about the U.S. The girls may have been from his famous chorus of Glee Girls.

I fully expected to receive some kind of space passport in the mail but Mr. Noel and his companions faded away and it never came. No flying saucer ever landed on the Gleason set.

Around the same time, a mysterious Mr. Alexander swept into Manhattan, rented office space, and hired a secretary. Then he contacted various Fortean and ufologists, indicating that he was about to start a magazine. But after a few weeks he, too, vanished. Later, he appeared in other cities, tracked down local UFO buffs, and repeated the charade. He even predicted the appearances of UFOs in Los Angeles and, sure enough, they showed up right on schedule. Maybe he rode off in one of them because he hasn't been seen since.

Another kind of seemingly well-financed hoax is the mailing of sophisticated "documents" to second-string researchers at regular intervals. Usually, these purport to be secret government documents about crashed saucers and little green men pickled in bottles. Some deal with the Men In Black who are an integral part of witchcraft lore. For the hoax to succeed, several psychological conditions must be present: it helps if the recipient is a latent paranoid, and total suspension of disbelief coupled with a hungry ego incapable of sound logic are certainly necessary. Such conditions are more than abundant in the hardcore UFO field.

European ufologists have been enmeshed in the most expensive hoax of all for over twenty years. Citizens of the planet UMMO have been sending long, complicated letters about cosmic matters in several different languages with postmarks from Australia, Tibet, Africa, South America, etc. These letters *almost* make sense. They deal with science and philosophy and someone has obviously spent a great deal of time in preparing them.

In the 1970s, the UMMO fraud gripped the entire country of France. Everyone from the Prime Minister, his cabinet members and leading French scientists became involved. The UMMO letters poured in and the government of France was convinced that the long-awaited contact with extraterrestrials was about to take place. French civilian ufologists were ecstatic. Gradually they all began to realize they had been duped; how and by whom was never clear. The French Intelligence service could never pinpoint the actual source of the letters. Eventually, the French government decided to turn the whole matter over to the civilians. And by the late 1970s, even the hardcore ufologists were discouraged. They decided that UFOs were not extraterrestrial visitants, but a sociopsychological phenomenon. France became the first nation in the world to have its civilian ufologists take a negative stance. They *all* became Hochstetters!

Though we learned much about the UFO phenomenon in the last twenty years, newcomers to the field have to wade through old literature, most of it insane or incoherent. To grasp fully the meaning of the UFO phenomenon, we need to have knowledge of history and be able to view all of man's beliefs objectively. There are no visitors from UMMO in our midst. I guarantee it. But something is happening to this planet. Something off the wall and unexpected.

## FOOT-IN-MOUTH DISEASE

Hardly a month passes that some scientist or member of the academic community doesn't pontificate for the press and chew a bit on his own shoe. A recent candidate for the coveted Foot-In-Mouth award is a retired British physicist named Dr. Kurt Mendelssohn. At a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (an organization that seems headed by Alfred E. Neuman), Dr. Mendelssohn soberly announced that he thought Egypt's "six major pyramids" were all built within a single century by 70,000 out-of-work farmers. One, the Meidum pyramid, was redesigned in mid-construction when it partially collapsed, according to the scientist. It is quite possible that Dr. Mendelssohn has never been to Egypt, or that he may have done his research in the air-conditioned lounge of the Mena Hotel at Giza. I lived in Egypt for a year and I spent much of that time exploring desert ruins and visiting most of Egypt's ninety pyramids. I spent several days inside and around the Great Pyramid at Giza alone. I have been continually appalled by the pseudo-scientific rubbish spun by "experts" around the ancient structures. I am particularly annoyed by the Everest-sized mountain of garbage that has been published about the Great Pyramid.

The ancient Egyptians left us complete records on everything from weddings to crop failures, but for some mysterious reason they didn't bother to produce a single papyrus explaining how the pyramids were built, when, or by whom. So archaeologists have been engaged in a great guessing game for centuries, often ignoring all the known facts in their struggle to support their own hypotheses. Scribblings on random stones – graffiti left by ancient work gangs – have often been accepted as conclusive evidence of the identity of the tomb's occupants. A drawing of a horde of workmen hauling a huge statue with ropes is regarded as proof of how the huge stones of the pyramids were moved.

The workmanship in the Great Pyramid is impressive, and is generally superior to the workmanship found in the other pyramids. Much has been made of the fact that the largest single block in the Great Pyramid weighs about eighty tons and the question remains: How did the ancient Egyptians move these enormous blocks from quarries hundreds of miles away?

Most pyramidologists overlook other smaller pyramids which contain stones weighing almost twice as much as that Great Pyramid monolith. Surprisingly, several of the small pyramids pose questions far more puzzling than those offered by the Great Pyramid.

### *The Pyramid Age*

We now know that pyramid building was once a universal practice throughout the world. Over six thousand years ago unknown peoples were assembling great pyramids in Mexico. Gigantic man-made mounds were constructed in China, Great Britain, North America, and on remote Pacific islands while the Egyptians were still living in mud huts along the Nile. During World War II pilots flying "the hump" reported seeing one or more massive pyramids standing silently in isolated Himalayan valleys.

Most of these early mounds were built slowly, in layers, over a long period of time. On special religious holidays each year the natives would gather to haul laboriously baskets of dirt and stone to the mounds and complete another layer. From Babylonia to South America it was the practice to erect a special temple on the summit of the mound or pyramid. The choicest local maiden was then selected to wait in the temple for a visit from some mysterious god. The god was supposed to descend from the sky and have sexual intercourse with the sacrifice. Tables, chairs, and beds made of solid gold were placed in these cosmic bridal chambers, because, according to legend, the gods were attuned to the frequency of gold. This is also emphasized in the Bible. The wandering tribes of Israel went through a lot of trouble to build gold artifacts which they left on mountaintops for the gods. Children born from the supernatural liaisons were given special status as rulers. They were man-gods in the eyes of their followers.

Who were those sexy gods of yesteryear? Were they astronauts from some other planet who viewed

our world as a kind of celestial Playboy Club?

Gold in itself was a totally worthless ore to early man. Scarce in supply, it was too soft for use for tools or cookware and it was difficult to mine. But all over the ancient world it was regarded as a sacred metal. The gods put us to work mining the stuff from Africa to Brazil. We fashioned holy objects from the metal and left them in temples and tombs where, supposedly, the gods appeared and carted them away.

From the very beginning man's purpose was to provide slave labor to supply the gods with gold and female companionship. This is universal to countless legends from every part of the world.

The pyramids and mounds were part of a worldwide system to serve the gods, not just worship them – with one exception. So far as we know, the Egyptian pyramids were not part of this system. There is no record indicating that Egyptian virgins were left in pyramid chambers surrounded by gold furniture to await the arrival of sex-starved astronauts.

The residue of these ancient beliefs is still with us. We still furnish our churches with gold artifacts and even embellish their ceilings with gold leaf. Emperors and kings in many parts of the world (such as Japan) still claim to be direct descendents of the ancient sky gods.

Over a long period of time, the temple system degenerated and demonology intervened. The young maidens now had their hearts cut out by wild-eyed priests on the steps of the old pyramids. Some cultures sacrificed animals. Abraham of the Bible was ordered to take his son to a mountaintop and cut out his heart. (The voice of God intervened at the last minute and said, "I was only kidding, Abraham.")

Today when someone hears a voice in his head urging him to do destructive things, we toss him into an asylum and brand him a schizophrenic. But in earlier times such people were often considered to be holy prophets and were elevated to positions of leadership. Long periods of history were dominated by crazed fanatics who led their people into horribly destructive wars.

### ***Tools of the Gods***

Until recent times religion was the most important single force on this planet. Men suffered incredible hardship and voluntarily performed the most arduous kind of labor to prove their faith. Building the mounds and pyramids was undoubtedly just another demonstration of faith. The gods of the ancients were feared more than loved, and whose societies revolved entirely around religious rites and practices. Nearly all of the great monuments and structures of the ancient world that remain standing today were of a purely religious nature. Men lived in grass huts while they built mighty stone and gold temples for their gods. Great cities were erected, not as centers of commerce but as centers of worship. Each year the believers traveled for many miles to these centers to contribute labor to the local pyramid project. Perhaps they also witnessed mysterious manifestations which increased their belief.

Studies of thousands of modern UFO sightings have discovered that the enigmatic "flying saucers" tend to appear around the twenty-first through the twenty-fourth of the month. This pattern was true in 1879 as well as 1987. Strange lights and aerial objects were frequently seen in ancient times, too, and were probably concentrated around the same days of the month. Coincidentally, the biggest pagan holidays in ancient times were the Summer and Winter Solstice (June twenty-first and December twenty-first). These are the days when the sun has no northward or southern motion and seems to reverse itself (the days grow longer or shorter). The Winter Solstice became the most important single holiday in most cultures and was generally celebrated on December twenty-fourth, three days after the actual event. Stonehenge and many other ancient monuments were carefully aligned with the movements of the sun and stars so priests could pinpoint the time of the solstices. The appearances of mysterious lights and objects concurrent with the holidays were undoubtedly viewed as godly activities.

Although Christ was probably born sometime in March or April (no one knows for certain), Christians eventually chose to celebrate his birthday on the Roman holiday of Saturnalis: December twenty-fifth, the Winter Solstice of the ancient calendars. It was a tradition to exchange gifts on Saturnalis, so the early Christian leaders, a clever and devious lot, continued that tradition while

changing the meaning of the holiday.

Those same clever Christians pulled another coup when they declared that Christ had died around the time of the vernal equinox, when day and night are of equal length. This was already an ancient pagan holiday paying tribute to our old friend Ashtar, known as *Eastre* to the Anglo-Saxons. As the goddess of fertility, it was natural that she was associated with rabbits and eggs. Again, the Christians adopted the trappings of the holiday while altering its meaning.

Thus, two of the most important holidays of antiquity, based upon observations of the sun through henges and medicine wheels, were perpetuated by the new Christian religions. Where men had once gathered in forests and holy places to offer sacrifices on the solstices, modern worshippers unwittingly continued the ancient traditions by gathering in buildings with vaulted ceilings and fluted pillars meant to emulate the atmosphere of the forests on the same dates. In some religions, wine replaced the blood that was drunk during the earlier pagan ceremonies and new legends replaced the old.

### ***Ancient Observatory***

The builders of the Great Pyramid at the Giza undoubtedly raised it slowly, in layers, like the mound and pyramid builders of the Americas. The layout of the Grand Gallery and other interior features suggests that the partially built pyramid served for years as an astronomical observatory, using aligned stones in the same way that the henges and burrows of northern Europe acted as computers. The only object in the Great Pyramid, a crude, stone bathtub-like sarcophagus, was installed in the uppermost chamber during construction and may have served a purpose other than that of a coffin. The so-called ventilation shafts leading into the chamber from the outside walls were lined up with the star group known as the Pleiades. Other features of the pyramid are aligned to the position of the sun during the Solstices. It was never used as a tomb, but it may have served as a storage place for some special religious relic. There are theories that the Ark of the Covenant of Moses was once stored there, or the mysterious Black Rock of the Moslems was kept in that stone bathtub.

We do know that the Great Pyramid survived a number of earthquakes and that it was even repaired after one quake. One fanciful theorist has suggested that the Egyptian priests foresaw some horrible disaster and built the pyramid to house scrolls containing all ancient knowledge. After the disaster passed, the scrolls were removed again.

Traces on the walls of the inner chambers indicate that great quantities of salt were once stored there. Salt? Could it be that the pyramid area was once underwater?

How were the enormous stones in the pyramids quarried? Primitive copper tools have been found, and archaeologists believe that the soft metal served the pyramid builders. But a number of pyramids have inner chambers of carved yellow quartzite, a very tough substance. Copper tools could not cut it. Skillfully carved blocks of quartzite weighing over 100 tons were used for the tomb of Imandes and others. The Mortuary Temple of Mycerinus contains blocks weighing 200 tons!

The ancient Egyptians had methods that have now been lost. They were able to transport the huge blocks hundreds of miles and then lift them into place. The same methods may have been used to move the giant stones of Stonehenge in England, and the building blocks of the mysterious structures found in the Andes Mountains in South America. There *had* to be a single worldwide culture at one point in ancient history. We do our ancestors a great injustice by singling out a solitary project – the Great Pyramid – as deserving of our awe and admiration. Some thing or someone inspired the ancients to perform incredible feats of construction. Was the source of this inspiration godly apparitions or astronauts from across the cosmos? Was all of mankind once the slaves of the mysterious gods?

## LIVING LEGENDS AND DYING WORLDS

Several million years ago some super-civilization in a distant galaxy launched an unmanned satellite to our solar system. Its purpose was to search for life and, if it found any, to keep tabs on its development. The satellite is still functioning and circles earth periodically, presumably sending reports back to its home planet.

This may sound like a crackpot theme from some obscure fringe journal but actually it is a theory that has been put forth by a number of leading scientists after repeated observations of an artificial satellite of unknown origin. The object was first sighted by Dr. Lincoln La Paz of the University of New Mexico in 1953, four years before the Soviet Union launched *Sputnik I*. As more reports poured in from observations around the world, the Department of Defense assigned Dr. Clyde W. Tombaugh to run a search for the strange "bogey." Dr. Tombaugh was the distinguished astronomer who discovered Pluto in 1930.

The results of Dr. Tombaugh's study were never formally leased by the Pentagon. Nothing further was heard about the object until December 1957, when Dr. Luis Corralos of the Communications Ministry in Venezuela photographed it, somewhat to his own astonishment. The first man-made satellite, *Sputnik I*, had been launched two months earlier and he was taking pictures of *Sputnik II* as it passed over Caracas. His photograph revealed a trace of a second, unknown object closely following the Soviet's dog-carrying satellite. Laika, the first earthly animal to enter space, had company!

### ***The Black Knight***

While both the United States and the Soviet Union were racing to launch relatively small satellites into orbit in the late 1950s, astronomers and military tracking stations were following the course of something *huge*. On January 4, 1960, scientists discovered two large objects in a polar orbit. To date neither the U.S. nor Russia had achieved a polar orbit. The objects were estimated to weigh at least fifteen tons. The largest U.S. satellite at that time weighed 450 pounds and the largest Soviet satellite 2,925 pounds.

Late in February 1960, the U.S. Department of Defense formally announced that an unidentified satellite was circling the globe. It was tracked and studied by several different observatories and the National Space Surveillance Control Center at New Bedford, Massachusetts. Professor Alla Masevich, the Soviet scientist heading the Russian Sputnik tracking program, flatly denied suggestions that the mystery satellites belonged to the Soviet Union.

The press labeled the intruder "The Black Knight" and it was extensively discussed in the *New York Times*, *Newsweek*, *Life*, and other major periodicals.

It vanished as mysteriously as it had arrived. But it has quietly reappeared from time to time ever since and been buried in the fine print of NASA's weekly catalog of debris and objects orbiting the earth.

### ***Echoes from Space***

If a satellite from another world exists, is there any way we can communicate with it? Dr. Ronald N. Bracewell of Stanford University addressed this problem in an article in the British scientific journal *Nature* (May 28, 1960). He noted that communication with planets in other star systems would be difficult, if not impossible, because of the great distances involved. But if some other civilization has already planted a satellite in our solar system there might be some way to communicate with it. The question is: How?

Radio experimenters in the 1920s noted a strange phenomenon which they labeled LDE – Long Delayed Echoes. Signals sent out from earth sometimes came bouncing back several seconds later, as if they had been reflected back by something in space. In a few instances these LDEs returned *days* later. This effect was unexplainable unless something was picking up the signals in space and *retransmitting* them!

Researchers in Norway, Holland, and France reported LDEs in 1927, 1928, and 1934. The echo pulses were delayed from three to fifteen seconds and the researchers kept careful records which were duly filed away and eventually forgotten. In more recent years, LDE has become an extremely rare phenomenon. However, between 1957 and 1961 when the Black Knight was most active, all kinds of odd radio signals were received by radio astronomers, ham operators, and military stations. Some of these signals seemed to be receding from the earth as if the transmitter were mounted in an object that was traveling out into space.

### ***Broadcasts to Other Worlds***

In the early 1960s science mobilized to study natural radio waves pouring into our solar system from the stars. Radio astronomers also tackled the problem of communication with other worlds. In April 1960, Project Ozma tried to pick up interstellar signals with a radio telescope at Green Bank, West Virginia. Russian astronomers also made similar efforts and created a stir when they mistakenly interpreted natural radio waves from massive stars called pulsars as "a beacon from a super-civilization."

In 1962, Dr. Bracewell expanded his original theory. He visualized a satellite equipped with a computer which would scan all radio frequencies as it traveled through space. When it picked up an intelligible signal it would record it and then broadcast it back on the same frequency. Suppose, he speculated, that the instrument was programmed so that if the message was returned again, indicating the system was understood, it would then transmit a message of its own? A message about life on other worlds. The LDEs of the 1920s could have come from such a satellite, he thought, and it was still waiting up there for us to send some kind of acknowledgement so it could flood us with the wisdom of the universe.

Bracewell's ideas were not well received. No one tried to send signals to the mystery satellites. Astronomers decided they were natural objects, miniature moons. Our moon-bound astronauts were instructed to keep a sharp eye for the satellites. Although plagued by strange radio transmissions, apparently from some source in space, they failed to spot the elusive Black Knight.

### ***Beep Beep Bloop***

Four generations of scientists have been enthralled with the notion of communicating with other worlds. Dr. Hans Freudenthal of the University of Utrecht in the Netherlands even invented a special language called "Lincos," a cosmic language based on mathematics. It started with basics – beep... beep beep... beep beep beep. Then punctuation of a sort was introduced with different sounds... beep beep bloop. More complex ideas were added with special sounds for plus and minus. Beep beep bloop beep beep beep tweet beep beep beep beep would tell the extraterrestrials that two plus two equals four.

That venerable science fiction writer, Arthur C. Clarke, author of *2001: A Space Odyssey*, came up with an even better idea – transmission of simple pictures through carefully organized code signals – a simplified form of television. Then Dr. Frank Drake, America's reigning genius of radio-astronomy, devised an improved system in which a series of dots interspersed with dashes could be broadcast in such a way that they would form a picture when laid out on paper. Each group of signals represented a line, like the lines of a TV picture, and the dashes could be grouped so that a crude picture of a man, for example, would appear when all the lines were reassembled.

Though this idea was never really implemented, its development started others thinking. If we were capable of inventing this simple yet effective system, might it be that some extraterrestrial race had followed the same reasoning and already put such a system to use? Were the LDEs and other odd signals we had been receiving over the years organized in some similar fashion?

### ***Greetings from Epsilon Bootis***

A young Scottish astronomer named Duncan Lunan reviewed the LDE records of the 1920s and set out to decode them. He laid out the LDE data on a graph, using dots to represent the pauses between echoes. To his excitement, a map began to take shape.

"The dots made up a map of an easily-recognized constellation," Lunan said, "the Constellation of Bootis in the northern sky. The curious pattern of delayed echoes was actually a pattern of star positions."

He worked up other LDE maps and found that they all seemed to center around Epsilon Bootis, a star in the constellation.

"If Lunan is right in his thinking, this material did contain a message," Dr. Bracewell declared after studying Lunan's graphs. "It is saying that the people or entities came to Earth from the Constellation Bootis."

Lunan submitted his findings to the prestigious British Interplanetary Society. Kenneth Gatland, vice president of the society, noted, "Lunan's findings are utterly astounding. I have studied the maps and must come to the same conclusions he did."

Other scientists have endorsed Lunan's discovery and a fresh search for LDEs with special equipment was launched in the 1970s – without much success.

### ***Bridging Time***

Epsilon Bootis is hardly our next-door neighbor. The star is some 103 million light-years from Earth, meaning that the Black Knight would have to be so constructed that it could survive and function for a mind-boggling period of time. Unless, of course, time and space are far different from our human conception and a superior technology could somehow bridge this vast distance in a shorter period of time.

Lunan's star charts are not perfect. In fact, they are out of date by about 13,000 years. That is, they showed Epsilon Bootis in the position it held 13,000 years ago. Lunan posits that the satellite was placed in orbit between 11,000 and 13,000 B.C.

A number of alternate theories are springing up. Suppose, for example, that visitors from Epsilon Bootis looked over our planet thousands of years ago and decided to leave a little memento behind. Instead of erecting a monument like the pyramid, they decided on orbiting an object that would be safe from earthquakes, floods, and other natural calamities. So they launched the Black Knight, rigging it to be activated thousands of years later when, according to their calculations, mankind would be technologically capable to receive and interpret its signals.

A satellite constructed near Epsilon Bootis would undoubtedly view the universe from the position of that star, and their star maps would be quite incomprehensible to Earth. But Lunan's maps view the universe from the Earth's position 13,000 years ago, which incidentally, coincides with the myth of Atlantis.

### ***The Fatal Flaw***

The biggest flaw in Lunan's (and Bracewell's) theory is the dependence on the radio echoes of yesteryear. During the 1930s there existed a top secret project to develop a system of piggybacking secret messages on the beams of conventional radio stations for use by spies. One method was to intercept a signal and rebroadcast it a second later with breaks containing a secret message. Another method was to cut into the conventional signal with static which was really a code. More advanced systems were developed later by the Germans before World War II. A spy merely located his equipment a mile or two from a commercial radio station, or even a military station, and he could use their signal to broadcast his own messages without fear of detection.

It is very possible that the LDE phenomenon was part of the early experiments and were totally unrelated to the Black Knight. The pauses and fluctuations which fascinate the scientists could be a code something like *Lincos* when laid out in a different way. Radio messages received in Norway and Sweden in 1934 were clearly connected to the "ghostflier" wave then taking place in those countries, and some of those signals did piggyback on the beams of commercial radio stations.

Still, the concept of an alien satellite broadcasting to Earth is an exciting one. "Once we firmly established its existence, we must interrogate it," Anthony Lawton, head of a British computer firm said recently. "When it realizes that it is in touch with an intelligence, it could be ready to give up the enormous store of information which it must have."

But if the Black Knight exists as a computerized satellite, what message will it have for us? Will it tell us something about life on other worlds, or will it just recite forgotten memories of our distant past?

### ***Interstellar Radio***

Ninety years ago radio broadcasting seemed like an impossible dream, even though a young Italian named Marconi was toying with coils of wire and glass tubes filled with iron filings. Prominent scientists of the day scoffed at Marconi's claims, pointing out that even if his long waves of electromagnetic energy could be sent through the air, they could never be broadcast over great distances. But five years later the youthful inventor proved them wrong when he managed to transmit a long wave across the Atlantic.

Short waves, capable of spanning thousands of miles, were not developed until the 1930s. Very short microwaves became a reality during World War II, when radar saved England from the German Luftwaffe. During that same period a small group of scientists began to quietly investigate the radio waves pouring in from outer space. Radio astronomy was born and earthbound scientists started to wonder if there might be powerful transmitters on distant planets beaming intelligent signals to our remote sector on the fringes of the Milky Way. In the 1950s this search for extraterrestrial broadcasts became a major scientific endeavor. Gigantic radio telescopes were constructed all over the world, and men who called themselves "exobiologists" applied for massive grants from governments and foundations. In the late 1950s and early 1960s the U.S. alone poured \$500,000,000 into the challenging search for extraterrestrial radio signals. Scientists in the Soviet Union became world-famous overnight by issuing periodic announcements claiming they had discovered cosmic radio beacons from the far reaches of the universe. But again and again those "beacons" proved to be natural radiation from highly energized stars called Pulsars and Quasars.

In the relatively short span of ninety years we progressed from Marconi's wireless telegraph to color television. We opened a magical cornucopia of electromagnetic energy and we are still exploring the electromagnetic spectrum as we build larger radio telescopes and even broadcast signals of our own into space in the hopes that there is someone out there who may be listening. Radio astronomy has become a fruitful (and profitable) pursuit. However, two problems confront these efforts. The first is the fact that radio waves can only travel with the speed of light. If an inhabited planet exists twenty light years away it will take forty years for us to exchange a simple "hello." Secondly, our radio telescopes are using knowledge gained in a mere ninety years. If we are to communicate with another civilization by radio we must assume their radios are also only ninety years old. Forty years ago we would have been unable to receive a microwave broadcast. Forty years from now our present equipment and theories will have undergone radical changes. We may discover new frequencies as yet undreamed of. We might even find a whole new media for communication that will render radio itself obsolete.

An advanced civilization could be thousands of years ahead of us, and our radio astronomy is so primitive that they have no way to receive and reply to our broadcasts... just as the wire recorders of the postwar era have been replaced by tape recorders. A box of reels of wire recordings is worthless today because we have nothing to play them on. A decade from now your collection of long-playing records will be nothing more than worthless plastic disks when an entire opera will be recorded on a chip smaller than your thumbnail.

If by chance one of our transmissions into space reaches a planet 400 light-years away, their reply would reach us 800 years later. By then we may have progressed far beyond radio telescopes and, just as we can't audition a wire recording today, we would be unable to intercept the message.

### ***Biological Radio***

Modern technology is incapable of communicating with a distant civilization and efforts to do so are a waste of time and money. If a Martian scientist had attempted to reach us by radio in 1876 he would have failed because we had no radio receivers then. If another Martian should try to contact us in the year 2176 he might also fail because we would no longer be using primitive radio. One

hundred years from now we will in all likelihood be using a powerful form of biological radio broadcasting on frequencies now undefined. It is quite possible that these biological frequencies are being used today.

Parapsychologists have been studying biological radio for some years now. It is usually called ESP and means that one human brain is broadcasting to another human brain. Such transmissions are *instantaneous*. Once we fully understand the processes behind ESP, we can broadcast mentally to brains on a distant planet, circumnavigating the limitations of space, time, and the speed of light. Conversely, brains on that far-off world could broadcast to earthly minds and might even control us without our being aware of it.

A few select humans have been utilizing these biological channels for thousands of years. Some people have even claimed the ability to leave this planet and cruise among the stars on beams of biological energy. If mankind ever manages to escape this puny little solar system, it will not be by technological means (e.g., spaceships), but will involve utilization of the biological frequencies of the so-called "super-spectrum." The process calls for the human consciousness to abandon the frail biochemical machine that houses it. This process has been known for thousands of years and is called astral projection or O.B.E. (out-of-body experience). It isn't limited to a few random crackpots and cultists. There have been scientists, scholars, and important public figures who have claimed this ability.

Apparently the thing we call consciousness is a fragment of energy somehow inserted into our bodies by an outside force or energy field. It gives us an awareness of self which separates us from all other animals. Persons near death frequently report that they found themselves floating in the air above their bodies, able to watch doctors and nurses working over their dormant form. Others have taken bolder flights across the country, over oceans, and even into outer space. When they returned to their human shell they were able to describe accurately distant events they witnessed. Dr. Edgar D. Mitchell, one of the astronauts who left his footprints on the moon, calls this "externalization." Our individual consciousness may be part of a larger energy field, capable of cruising that field like a bird gliding along with an air current.

### ***Wandering the Dimensions***

Most astral projectionists claim they are escorted into the strange world of the super-spectrum by a "guide." These guides usually look like Indians or Tibetan lamas and carefully tutor the wandering consciousness. Some UFO contactees have had an O.B.E. without understanding it. Alone in a forest or desert, they were zapped by energy from the super-spectrum, fell into a trance, and their consciousness was led into the Twilight Zone by strange beings who posed as spacemen. Although the experience seemed very real to the contactee, it was a subjective mental adventure with no tangible effect on their entranced body. Like dreams, time is distorted during an O.B.E. A second becomes an hour, an hour becomes a week. And when the percipient returns to his body he is surprised to find that only a few minutes have passed.

Astral projectionists often drift into other dimensions and find themselves grotesquely huge, looking down at an earth and moon the size of marbles. They cross the entire universe in an instant and find themselves looking back at a Milky Way that has become nothing more than a feeble glint of light in the cosmos. They feel that they are an infinitesimal part of something much larger.

There are thousands of books recounting the experiences of astral projectionists across the centuries. One theory for the UFO phenomenon is the notion that astral projectionists on other planets visit our orb frequently and are seen only by humans with psychic ability. Dr. Carl Jung, the great psychologist who had some O.B.E.s himself, visualized astral projection as going swimming in the cosmic sea of the collective unconsciousness. We are all linked to some greater intelligence, or intelligent energy field, Jung suggested, that remains separate from our physical world, our faltering reality. We are boxed in physically by finite space and the stream of time flowing in only one direction. But our consciousness is capable of escaping from this three-dimensional world by hitchhiking on some super energy field that permeates the universe and may even control it.

Ancient peoples were much more aware of the multi-dimensional universe. They measured the

flow and effect of the cosmic energies with astrology. Marconi helped us begin the long road back. He saw the electromagnetic spectrum and how it could be used to serve us. Today new scientists like Dr. John Lilly, the man who learned to communicate with dolphins, and Dr. Edgar Mitchell are pioneering the exploration of inner space. We may be on the threshold of a new age when the miracles of our minds will replace the lesser miracles of our technology. Each of us may be able to glide into the night sky, leaving our feeble bodies behind as we cross into a strange new dimension where death is unknown and unnecessary and all human values are exposed as psychotic constructions. In ninety years we have gone from Marconi's magic box to the moon and beyond. In the next ninety years we may learn that intelligent life exists but is forever beyond the reach of our radio-telescopes just as our consciousness are beyond the reach of medical science.

## ASTROPAPHOBIA

On Memorial Day, 1987, a prominent Louisiana attorney named Graves Thomas stood on the deck of his newly acquired boat and raised his hands to the sky, proudly declaring, "Here I am, Lord!" Suddenly, without warning, a bolt of lightning crashed from the clear sky and killed him.

Mr. Thomas was just one more victim of a strange phenomenon that has been haunting mankind since those good old days in the caves.

One of the most neglected branches of meteorology is the study of lightning. We have many reports of people being killed by lightning bolts from a *clear, cloudless sky*. There are over 800 lightning deaths around the world each year. Strangely, deaths by lightning seem to increase during UFO waves, and both people and animals have been found dead in areas where flying saucers have been observed. In some cases, lightning bolts seem to have somehow been *directed*. For example, a few years ago a researcher in Florida was sitting at his desk typing up an important UFO report he planned to send to me. Suddenly he felt an overwhelming compulsion to get up and leave the building he was in. As soon as he went out the door, a bolt of lightning crashed into the old windmill where his study was located and completely demolished it! His report, and the notes and documentation he was using, were destroyed.

The selectivity of lightning bolts is unnerving, to say the least. And during the strange weeks of the UFO flap of 1908 there was at least one incident of this type. A Baptist preacher, the Rev. T. H. Feagin, conducted an outdoor revival meeting on the night of July 3, 1908. After his sermon, he stepped among his congregation and was chatting and shaking hands when a bolt of lightning singled him out and struck him dead on the spot! This was reported in the *New York Times*, July 5, 1908.

We have other reports of lightning bolts *entering* churches and killing ministers on the pulpit. Some of these date back to antiquity. Small wonder that people have always associated lightning with the wrath of God.

On the other hand, there are innumerable cases in which people have been slammed by a bolt and remained completely unharmed although their clothes were blown off and even the coins in their pockets were welded together. Even the old saying that certain great men were "struck by lightning" has a basis.

During that puzzling Fortean year of 1908 a young man in Kansas was zapped by a blast of lightning. It stunned him but, miraculously, he was unhurt. He went on to become one of the most important men of this century. His name was Dwight David Eisenhower.

### ***Naked in the Rain***

For many years the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons in London displayed a glass case containing the clothes of James Orman, who was struck by lightning in an English field on June 8, 1878. The stroke hurled him several feet through the air, scorching his eyebrows and beard and fracturing his leg. The remarkable thing is that he was stripped of all his clothing in the process. His sturdy boots were even left behind and his watch had a hole burned through it, as if a soldering iron had been used, and the coins in his pocket were fused together. Mr. Orman recovered and lived a full life.

A more grisly incident occurred near Cracow, Poland in 1869, when a boy of twelve was hit by a lightning bolt that amputated his right leg on the spot.

Although we have been studying lightning since Ben Franklin's day we know pathetically little about this murderous phenomenon. Some lightning bolts start from the ground and shoot skywards. Others dart down from the clouds and skitter across the ground like a miscued billiard shot. Whole herds of cows and sheep clustering together in a rainstorm have been wiped out by a single stroke.

Occasionally a ground-to-sky lightning stroke leaves a big perfectly formed circle or hole behind to puzzle eager UFO investigators. However, lightning explains only a few of the many "fairy circles" that turn up each year in the wake of flying saucer sightings, just as ball lightning, a very rare

phenomenon, can be used as the real explanation for only a few sightings of luminous spheres. Ball lightning is a round mass of electrical energy that can sail in through the window and exit through the fireplace. There are documented cases of people and animals being killed by ball lightning inside solid structures, just as more ordinary lightning darts into churches. On July 11, 1819, nine persons were killed and 82 wounded when three successive lightning bolts smashed into the church at Chateauneuf, France. But perhaps the most embarrassing case of all took place in Philadelphia in 1869 when a sixty-five-year-old woman answering nature's call in an outhouse was struck by a bolt while she was sitting there minding her own business. It knocked her unconscious but she recovered.

Churches were frequently struck by lightning during the Middle Ages, probably because they were the tallest structures around. Curiously, many of these lightning manifestations were allegedly accompanied by the appearances of large, fearsome animals. A gigantic pig-like thing is supposed to have materialized in the church at Andover, England on Christmas Eve, A.D. 1171, *just as the priest at the altar was struck and killed by a lightning bolt.*

September seems to be the worst month for fatal lightning bolts. Each year September produces news stories about sportsmen being killed on football and soccer fields. A number of times whole teams have been flattened in the midst of a play. Golf courses are also dangerous places during the lightning season. But if a lightning bolt has your name on it there is no safe place. Even deep-sea divers have been knocked insensible when lightning struck their ship and traveled down their lines to their diving suits deep underwater.

If you have a fear of being struck by lightning don't worry about it. You have plenty of company. Caligula, Augustus, Henry III, and many other famous personages all cowered in terror during lightning storms. The fear is called *astropophobia* and it is better to be an astropophobic than, say, a pantophobiac. Pantophobia is the fear of *everything*, from backing into doorknobs to getting your zipper caught in bicycle spokes.

### ***Gods Shoot Back***

Atmospheric phenomena controlled by some mysterious force played an important role in the lives of ancient peoples the world over. For thousands of years men associated lightning with their gods. Every culture appointed a special god as custodian of thunder and lightning. The mighty Thor was worshipped by Norsemen. Zeus, chief god of the Greeks, was given a bolt of lightning as his symbol. Legends and myths from every continent repeat the belief that to speak the name of a god aloud was to invite sudden death by a bolt from the blue. So early on men began to substitute respectful euphemisms for the godly names. Only the high priests were permitted to invoke the proper names aloud on very special holy days.

Were these strange superbeings really astronauts from some distant planet as a number of modern theorists now claim? If so, were they armed with electrical weapons which they used to keep lowly earthmen in line? In the Bible we are told that Elijah wiped out an army by summoning "the fire of God" from the skies (Kings II:1). Scholars are still debating the nature of this "fire." Was it a meteor shower or lightning storm? Or did the gods really intervene in human affairs?

The natives of Ecuador in South America still repeat the story of how a band of giants landed in their country and caused considerably havoc before a mass of fire came down from the sky and destroyed them. An early Spanish writer named Cieza recorded the story in 1553.

"There by sea in rafts of reeds after the manner of large boats, some men who were so tall that from the knee down they were as big as the full length of an ordinary fair-sized man, and the limbs were in proportion to their heads, as large as they were, and with the hair that came down to the shoulders. Their eyes they give to understand were the size of small plates," according to a translation of Cieza located by research William R. Corliss. "They had no beards and some were clad in skins of animals, while others came as nature made them, and there were no women along."

Like the giants recorded in other ancient myths, these visitors to Ecuador were a loathsome and troublesome lot. "The natives abhorred them," the account continues, "for they killed their women in making use of them, and the men they killed for other reasons. The Indians did not feel strong

enough to kill these new people that had come to take their country and domain, although great meetings were held to confer about it; but they dare not attack them..."

The dilemma was apparently solved when "an angel" descended from heaven, landing unerringly on the giants' settlement and wiping them all out. The early Spanish explorers were convinced that the story was true because they found gigantic bones and human (?) skulls with teeth that were "three fingers broad and four in length." Centuries later, scientists such as H. F. Osborne of the American Museum of Natural History decided the Spaniards had actually found the remains of ancient mastodons.

Some historians have speculated that the giants were destroyed by a volcanic eruption or a Tunguska-type meteor. Whatever happened, it was a most fortuitous event to the Indians and must have convinced them that the gods were, indeed, watching over them.

### ***Curse of the Pharaohs***

In 1953, a team from the American Forces Network in Germany flew to Egypt to record a special Halloween broadcast in the inner chambers of the Pyramid of Giza. I was then the Chief of Continuity and Production for the network and we spent many hours inside the pyramid taking advantage of its marvelous acoustics to record a dramatic tale of a pharaoh's curse. Tape recorders were a fairly new development in those days and we used a type which employed a clockwork mechanism to turn the reels. The program was recorded without any serious problems and when we played the tapes back in our Cairo hotel they were perfect. However the ghosts of the pharaohs were apparently displeased with our effort.

On the long flight back to Frankfurt, Germany we passed through some bad weather and lightning struck our plane. There was no damage but it was an unnerving experience. When we got back to the AFN studios we discovered that our precious tape recordings had somehow been ruined by that lightning bolt. We were left with several reels of static.

Finally, let's not forget the flight of Apollo 13 which lifted off at 1300 hours on April 11, 1970 and was immediately struck by lightning on its way through the earth's atmosphere. Massive power disruptions forced astronauts Lovell, Haise, and Swigert to abandon their scheduled moon landing. NASA engineers had mischievously planned the timing of the flight to lay to rest forever the "superstitious nonsense" surrounding the number 13. Instead, the nearly disastrous lift-off has reinforced it. The manifestations of lightning – and the farfetched coincidences that often accompany them – which inspired the beliefs of ancient times are still with us.

The U.S. government did establish a lightning investigating project in the 1970s. They built towers and a special lab in a place where lightning storms were unusually frequent. A place called Socorro, New Mexico. The lab proved to be a strong attraction for tourists.

### ***Magnetism and UFOs***

If you are a regular reader of New Age books you know more about flying saucers than the U.S. Air Force. The reason is simple enough. The American public has not been telling the USAF the truth about UFOs. And when a witness was bold enough to try to give the USAF the details of his or her experiences, they were usually ignored or, as in the days of Project Blue Book, their report was consigned to the notorious "crackpot file." But farflung writers and civilian investigators have listened carefully to UFO percipients and recorded their experiences. Some of their stories have been, admittedly, seemingly far out... but UFOs are a far out subject and encompass all kinds of eerie manifestations which border on the supernatural.

In 1967, we reported that our own preliminary studies of the sightings revealed a definite correlation between UFO waves and fluctuations of the earth's magnetism. The air force never bothered to examine this interesting facet. Even the numerous private UFO organizations tended to sneer at this finding, convinced that UFOs were from outer space and were in no way related to the earth's own magnetic field.

In 1974, seven years after our scientific scoop, Dr. C. Poher, a leading scientist at *Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales* in Toulouse, France, published a formidable study comparing flying saucer

sightings with geomagnetic disturbances. Using 635 French sightings from the year 1954 (there was a major UFO wave in France that October), he compared the UFO activity with the scientific data on the disturbances of the declination of the earth's magnetic field for the same period. The peak magnetic disturbance in 1954 occurred simultaneously with the UFO wave! Or, as Poher put it in cautious scientific terms: "A good statistical correlation between disturbances of the earth's field and UFO observations during one month in the remarkable year 1954..."

In short, when the earth's magnetism goes slightly haywire, UFOs begin to appear in great numbers. This does not mean that the UFOs produce the magnetic disturbances, but rather that magnetic disturbances produce UFOs. There is already abundant scientific literature on the strange spheres of light which appear in the sky immediately before, during, and after major earthquakes. This is certainly a related phenomenon.

However, this is not a full explanation for UFOs. They are not mere sparks of static electricity or plasmoid energies cast into the sky by grinding earthquake faults or magnetic anomalies. There were scores of UFO landings in France in October, 1954, and many occupant sightings. Entities clad in space suits would certainly not be generated by natural phenomena.

It may be that UFOs become more visible to human eyes during magnetic disturbances; that the subtle forces of magnetism have a mysterious influence on some human brains.

### ***Project GARP***

Beginning in 1966, scientists from Munich's Max Planck Institute have been quietly collaborating with NASA on a project to map the earth's magnetic field. Over the last decade hundreds of rockets have been fired into the upper atmosphere where they released huge clouds of barium gas. These gases become ionized and glow brightly as they drift along the earth's magnetic currents. Although the project has cost many millions of dollars it has received remarkably little publicity. Barium rockets have been sent up from Australia, northern Sweden, Canada, and even from Easter Island off the coast of Chile. The experiments have produced very few spurious UFO reports because most witnesses think they are seeing some kind of natural phenomena – like the Northern Lights – or that they are watching fireworks.

In the summer of 1974 scientists from sixty-six nations participated in a massive new project on the earth's equator. Scores of ships laden with scientific equipment, and specially designed research submarines and airplanes fanned out over thousands of square miles of ocean to study the earth's magnetism and atmospheric phenomena. Known as the Global Atmospheric Research Program (GARP), the project involved the launching of special satellites, cloud studies, and underwater exploration to a depth of five thousand feet. It cost \$53 million.

Like the barium cloud experiments, Project GARP has received very little publicity. But obviously many nations, and countless scientists, are deeply concerned with our magnetic and atmospheric problems these days. We have spent – and will continue to spend – enormous amounts of tax dollars on these semi-secret explorations of the earth's hidden mysteries. Even the Soviet Union kicked in \$18 million for GARP.

For years Chester Gould's *Dick Tracy* comic strip carried an incongruous little box containing the words, "The nation that rules magnetism will rule the universe." Maybe Gould knew something we don't.

## MYSTERIOUS CRIME WAVES

Each summer strange phantoms ride across the landscape, committing bizarre crimes and leaving absurd clues in their wake. Police in a thousand scattered cities hold reluctant press conferences and admit their bewilderment. Some of the crimes are so weird that they are never even entered on police blotters. The State Police, F.B.I., and other law enforcement agencies exclude these acts from their statistics, while local newspapers treat them as human interest anecdotes to be hidden among the classifieds. Nevertheless, somewhere out there an international band of shadowy burglars and cutthroats lurks, hiding in alleys and graveyards, performing insane deeds year after year and generation after generation. Or maybe "sleepers" are carrying out these crimes while in an amnesiac state.

For the past five years someone has been ripping off antique weather vanes in New England. Literally ripping them off old barns and houses. Some antique weather vanes date back to the early 1700s and are valuable collector's items. According to eyewitnesses, our phantom burglars fly over the old farms in a helicopter and actually lasso the weather vanes with a rope and wrench them off their roofs. Housewives and farmers, alerted by the noisy engines, have dashed outside just in time to see a bright orange chopper rising upwards, a prize weather vane snarled in a dangling rope. The phantom weather vane thief has been active in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont. No one has managed to track down the owner of that orange helicopter or locate its base. Helicopters are difficult to fly and expensive to maintain. Your average helicopter owner can find easier legal ways to make a dollar. Stealing and fencing hot weather vanes would be a difficult way to make a few bucks.

Other odd objects get stolen regularly. In 1973, a five-ton wrecking ball belonging to the Dowling Construction Co. in Indianapolis, Indiana suddenly vanished. Workmen had left it hanging 200 feet in the air from a crane. When they returned to the site the next morning the crane was still there but the ball was gone.

A couple of years ago an inoperable bulldozer weighing several tons disappeared from the yard of a construction firm in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Since its engine was filled with sand, whoever accomplished the deed had to haul the huge machine away with an even larger machine... without leaving tracks or clues.

In Newton, Utah someone stole a whole barn while the owner was off on a trip. But the disappearances of entire buildings have become commonplace in recent years. Prefab houses erected as summer homes are especially prone to house-napping. Someone just moves in with a truck, disassembles the house, and carts it away. But stone houses have also vanished in this fashion, as have steel bridges, entire railroad trains (parked on sidings), and airplanes. That's right, today there are rings of airplane thieves, just as there are rings of auto thieves (18,000 autos are stolen off the streets of New York City each year). One minor mystery was solved after airports on the West Coast reported that someone was stripping the plastic from sailplanes tied down in their fields. It turned out that packs of hungry wild dogs were invading the airports and actually eating the gliders!

But what could eat a stone house, a five-ton wrecking ball, or a steel bridge?

People vanish, too.

In March 1973, Mrs. Miriat Ahmed Shinata, a twenty-year-old bride of four months, was swallowed up by a hole in the ground. She and her husband were walking along a street in Alexandria, Egypt, when the sidewalk suddenly parted and the young woman vanished into the crevice. A rescue squad was quickly summoned to the scene, and they dug down thirty feet without finding a trace of her.

### *Vampires From Outer Space?*

In recent years thousands of cows, sheep, dogs, and horses have died under very mysterious circumstances. Someone or something has expertly drained the blood from the carcasses and "surgically" removed their sex organs, tongues, and ears. This is not a new phenomenon. We have

been following it for twenty years, and periodic waves of animal mutilations have occurred worldwide for at least two hundred years. In the early 1970s, the mutilations saw marked increase in the Eastern U.S. Angry farmers in Pennsylvania held meetings, believing they were dealing with cattle rustlers. And by 1975, several states in the Midwest and West were in a similar uproar. The senseless slaughter reached a peak that summer and local authorities concluded they were dealing with a secret band of devil worshippers. Others blamed marauders from outer space – because strange flying objects and phantom "helicopters" were often sighted in the vicinity of the mutilations.

Our old friends, the Big Hairy Monsters (BHM), also got into the act. Alarmed witnesses were reporting the presence of the giant bipeds outside Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, simultaneously with the disappearance or butchering of domestic animals. The creatures allegedly raided chicken coops, invaded pig pens, tore out the throats of hapless sheep, and, in general, conducted a terror campaign against our rural communities. By January 1976, many Texas residents were speculating that their epidemic of animal mutilations was related to the appearances of the "Big Bird" which was terrifying residents of the Chicano community around Brownsville. The Bird – some reliable witnesses described it as resembling an ancient pterodactyl – had been seen sporadically since 1945. It may also be linked to the legendary Thunderbird which frequently appears in the legends of the American Indians.

The Land Down Under hasn't produced any Big Bird reports lately, but giant apelike monsters have been raising a ruckus in Australia's Outback country. Most of the activity has been concentrated around an obscure little town called Goolma. The BHM sightings also have been accompanied by UFOs and animal mutilations. Something that left footprints 15 inches long and six inches wide apparently broke the necks of a number of cattle. Several dogs were also killed or disappeared. The hairy monsters were seen several times by reliable witnesses in May 1975 as the animal mutilations reached epidemic proportions. Flying saucer sightings peaked around the same time in Goolma, Wellington, Gerie, and Gulgong in New South Wales.

On the other side of the globe, in the province of Sodermanland in Sweden, farmers were up in arms over a sudden outbreak of mutilations in the spring of 1976. As in the American cases, the mutilators ignored the edible cuts of meat and removed useless organs like the heart and sex organs. In nearly every instance, the carcasses had been drained of blood. There have been many hairy monster sightings in Sweden, too, and, of course, flying saucers are a familiar sight in the thinly populated provinces north of the Arctic Circle.

While investigating animal mutilations in the mid-1960s, I was perplexed by the constant absence of blood. A freshly killed animal bleeds profusely and there should always be traces on the ground, grass, and surrounding area. The phantom mutilators accomplish the impossible: They manage to kill and cut up their victims without spilling a drop of blood! Even more bizarre, they somehow drain all the blood from the carcasses without leaving a single telltale puncture mark. Experienced veterinarians and pathologists have painstakingly examined the bodies of mutilated animals in the U.S. without finding as much as a puncture or surgical incision on the bloodless carcass.

One common theory in law enforcement circles is that the animals are first downed by a tranquilizer gun. Such weapons are rare, require some training to use, and employ a tranquilizing agent with a nicotine base. Traces of nicotine should be present in various organs, even if the blood has been removed. Failing to find such traces, authorities are baffled.

Are these animals first paralyzed by some mysterious force in the same way that humans have often been paralyzed in the presence of UFOs? Instead of using drugs, the mutilators may be using some form of electrical energy which immobilizes the entire nervous system.

In innumerable Men in Black cases, witnesses have claimed they felt a numbness or paralysis when confronted by the strange MIBs. In Middle Europe these black-garbed mystery men were once thought to be evil vampires. Legend has it that they first paralyzed their victims with a hypnotic stare and then drank their blood. Could these legends be based on *fact*? Fortunately, there have been no verifiable cases of vampirism in modern times, but there are a great many disappearances of people every year, and we might speculate that the modern vampires are now clever enough to hide

or bury the incriminating evidence. Or perhaps they have turned their bloodthirsty practices to animals, because killing human beings has become too difficult and too involved.

All of this revives one of Ivan Sanderson's more chilling theories: That the Earth is a farm and we are the crop. Do UFOs raid us frequently to satisfy their thirst for blood, operating behind a smoke screen of deception and confusion?

### ***Secret Cults***

Another theory which got popular support in the 70s is that the animal mutilations are the work of a secret devil cult. Such cults *do* exist, and *have always* existed, but the worst of the rites of black magic involve the sacrifice of small children, not whole herds of sheep. Any cult that can run rampant in a dozen states at the same time, slaughter thousands of animals, and not leave a single clue must be very large, very well financed, and very organized; but if they could afford to operate on a national, even an international, scale they could also certainly afford to maintain their own ranches and slaughterhouses. They wouldn't need to sneak into some Oklahoma pasture to drain the blood of a few random cows.

However, there have been many false clues pointing to the existence of an animal-slaughtering cult. Expert investigators like Jerome Clark and Ed Sanders (famous for his study of the Charles Manson cult) have actually interviewed people who claimed to know something about this cult. But, like the police, they have ultimately come up empty-handed.

Occasionally, however, there is a startling report involving mysterious hooded men seen in the mutilation areas. Back in the 1960s a woman in Ohio claimed that tall men in white garments were killing her cows. She had gone after them with a shotgun, she told me, and was amazed when they were able to leap high fences with apparent ease.

In September 1975, Don Mitchell, a Forest Service employee, reported seeing hooded men at a place called Cabin Creek in Idaho.

"The cows in the corral had been making a lot of noise but suddenly got real quiet," Mitchell said. "My horse was also quiet and watching the hillside. I thought there might have been elk, and moved along to see. When I got around a group of willows I saw them: two guys with black hooded robes, one about five feet ten inches tall and the other about five feet eight inches. The taller guy had a canvas sack over his shoulder which seemed to be empty. They were moving at a good clip and headed straight down Cove Creek."

Mitchell was about 50 yards from the men, and even though he was on horseback, couldn't catch up with them. Later, officers of the Blaine County Sheriff's Department searched the area with negative results.

Why would anyone moving around in such a remote wooded area bother to wear long black robes? It's like wearing a tuxedo to go hunting.

There have been many odd reports of hooded, robed men who have been seen in many parts of the world... leaping across roads in England, ambling down isolated highways in Minnesota and West Virginia, running from old farmhouses in New England. Who are they? If you think about it, a hood and long robe might be necessary. These "people" may not look like us at all. In order to move in our midst they must cover their possibly alien bodies from head to toe. Underneath those robes they might be completely covered with *hair!*

### ***The Vanishing Footprints***

Still another puzzling feature of the animal mutilations is the total absence of footprints or tire tracks around the bodies – even when the carcasses are in the middle of mud or snow. Proponents of the cultist theory have suggested that the culprits throw down pieces of cardboard to walk on. Not a farfetched theory since Arab bandits in the Middle East have known for centuries how to erase their tracks in soft sand. One western farmer claimed that he discovered a cow dead in a sea of mud. He walked around it and examined it, leaving deep footprints. A day or so later he returned to the site with local police officers and – to the party's astonishment! - *his own footprints were gone.*

Aerial objects, usually thought to be helicopters, have been seen frequently in the vicinity of the

mutilations, leading to speculation that the mutilators are doing their dirty work from the air. Carl Whiteside, an agent for the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, doubts this theory.

"If they do use a helicopter, think of how much money is involved," Whiteside said. "A helicopter costs from a quarter of a million to half a million dollars and costs for fuel would be about nine dollars an hour."

The Colorado Cattlemen's Association offered a reward of \$5,000 for a solution to the mystery. And with good reason, because, in 1975, in four months, a total of 175 mutilations were reported in twenty-one Colorado counties.

"In order to solve a crime, you have to establish a motive," agent Whiteside recently complained, "but this is a senseless crime. The purpose of taking these animal parts is something we're not aware of, since these parts have no retail value. There's no profit motive. All we have now is dead cattle that have been mutilated."

Reports have been coming in from Australia, Sweden, Africa, and other foreign nations as well indicating that we are dealing with one of two things: 1) A worldwide organization staffed with highly trained personnel, who are both well financed, and strangely motivated; 2) The Unknown; a force that employs UFOs, bigfoot-type creatures, and other bizarre phenomena to accomplish a mysterious mission here on Earth.

The mutilators, over the years, have caused losses in the many millions of dollars. The situation seems to call for a massive international investigation by all law enforcement agencies. We spend more time and money tracking down stolen cars than we do investigating this mysterious and costly phenomenon. If a human organization is behind this, we should be trying to put them out of business and behind bars.

But, as the lawmen say, we've got to find the motive. If the culprit is non-human, perhaps we're better off not knowing.

### ***Supernatural Vandalism***

Local police also grumble about "teenaged vandals" when the cemeteries in their town are visited by some unknown force. Tombstones are toppled over in a neat row. Some are snapped off or sheered off at the bottom. Since modern tombstones are usually attached to their bases with thick steel rods, a gang of bored teenagers could not be responsible for the damage. It would take a heavy tractor or bulldozer and heavy chains to knock over such tombstones. Again, there are never any tracks or footprints. The stones – sometimes twenty or thirty of them – are knocked over in a precise row. This kind of damage occurs in hundreds of scattered cemeteries every year. No law enforcement agency has made a study of the phenomenon. After the damage has been discovered, policemen are usually assigned to sit in the cemetery for days or weeks. Naturally, the "vandalism" ceases.

Another interesting form of vandalism is the shattering of windshields that takes place periodically. A curious variation of this occurred in Naples, Italy, in 1972, when no less than forty motorists complained that the windshields had been stolen from their cars. It can take a skilled mechanic over an hour to remove a single auto windshield. Were forty mechanics running amok that one night in Naples?

According to the *New York Times*, April 24, 1921, more than 2500 expensive plate glass windows were smashed in London that year by "a mysterious band of men." Epidemics of window breaking have been repeated many times since.

Each year dozens of towns across the country experience the efforts of the phantom windshield smashers. Police generally assume that teenagers with sledge hammers are responsible. But rugged safety glass is hard to smash, and these smashings occur in waves of from forty to one hundred cars in a single night. A variation of this is the "phantom sniper." Car windows are partially broken with what looks like bullet holes. Except no bullets or projectiles of any kind are ever found inside the vehicles. The biggest wave of windshield smashing took place in the U.S. in 1952-54. But there was a smaller wave in scattered communities across the country in the spring of 1975.

The major utility companies have been trying to corner the mysterious phantom wire gang that has

been stealing miles of heavy electrical cable for years. Copper is scarce today, and thefts of copper are not unusual. In 1966, a ship laden with copper vanished off the coast of Indochina. But the wire gang is doing it the hard way. They actually scale the steel towers and cut into the cables carrying lethal voltages of current. They must then roll the heavy cable into huge drums and haul it away. Aside from the obvious risks of such an operation, the time and effort required to steal wire in this manner would seem to exceed whatever small profit the thieves manage to gain from the venture. It would be easier to swipe weather vanes.

### ***Are We Supplying Ultraterrestrials?***

We don't claim that people from another planet are stealing wire, glass, and weather vanes from us. But the records prove that some kind of phantom burglars were busy one hundred years ago and are still active today. Some investigators, perplexed by the absence of clues in many of these cases, are seriously wondering if we may not be unwittingly supplying a strange extradimensional world with raw materials. Obviously, someone or some thing needs enormous quantities of animal and human blood, and we have been furnishing it for hundreds of years. Then, too, there are baffling UFO manifestations around garbage dumps and factories. Are little green men from Mars making off with our garbage?

In a number of cases witnesses have claimed that they saw huge UFOs being loaded with supplies of some sort. Detroit-made autos have been seen driving into giant disks on the ground. A quartet of amazing witnesses in Cherry Hill, New Jersey allegedly saw a huge blimplike machine hovering about a computer plant in 1966, and men on the roof of the building were transferring boxes to the craft!

Both the Soviet Union and the United States have lost expensive satellites shortly after sending them into orbit around the earth. Could they have been snatched from us by the unknown saucerers? Some students of the Bermuda Triangle have suggested that the planes and ships that have vanished there were really pirated by UFOs.

It does sometimes seem as if everything on this planet is up for grabs... and someone not quite human has been doing the grabbing.

## SNALLYGASTERS AND SEA SERPENTS

Fortean will remember 1973 as the year of the Snallygaster. The word is a corruption of the German term *schnelle geeschter*, meaning "quick spirits" and according to Webster's Third New International Dictionary is "a mythical, nocturnal creature, half-bird and half-reptile, chiefly reported in rural Maryland, which preys on children and poultry."

Snallygasters have cropped up all over the United States, usually answering to the classic description of the tall, hairy red-eyed monsters which haunted Lake Worth in Texas a few years ago and/or the giant winged weirdo which plagued West Virginia in 1966-67 and Texas in 1975. As with the legendary Snallygaster of Maryland, these critters leave flocks of dead chickens and dogs in their wake.

Where these giant animals come from – and where they go – remains a mystery. Sheriffs around the country have turned out armed posses, complete with bloodhounds and helicopters, to hunt them down. Always to no avail.

In June 1973, there were six Snallygaster sightings within two weeks around the little town of Sykesville, Maryland. Witnesses said he/it was from seven to ten feet tall and covered with hair.

Hundreds of miles away, in Enfield, Illinois, a midget Snallygaster baffled authorities. This one was only about four-and-a-half feet tall, had a grayish-colored body and, incredibly, seemed to stand on three legs. It thoughtfully left behind some footprints, as did the Sykesville critter.

Up in Durham, Maine local police spent the summer chasing a "gorilla" which also left footprints indicating it weighed at least 300 pounds. Gorillas are very rare creatures. Experts estimate there are only 400 gorillas alive in the world today, including those in zoos. No gorilla was reported missing in Maine so we can assume the Durham animal was just another Snallygaster.

### ***How Extinct Is the Dinosaur?***

Akin to the Snallygaster are the extinct dinosaurs which occasionally wander across farm fields, leaving perfect dinosaur footprints behind. Police in France chased a dinosaur unsuccessfully in the early 1930s. In 1969, a dinosaur is supposed to have turned up in Texas and forced a car off the road. A year later, another dinosaur created a stir in the mountains of Italy. In 1934, a dinosaur allegedly attacked sheep at Campbell Lake in South Dakota and, incidentally, scared the daylight out of some of the farmers living around the lake.

Generations of pygmies in the Congo in Africa have allegedly been seeing a large dinosaur-like critter that they call the *mokele mbembe* in a place known as the Likouala Swamps. The rumors have inspired innumerable hardy expeditions over the past fifty years. In the past decade alone, groups from Japan, France, England and Chicago University have fought their way through the jungles in the hopes of getting a glimpse of the monster. These brave would-be explorers suffered incredibly from insect bites, tropical diseases and chronic humiliation. They usually left their home bases with much fanfare and then later returned from Africa very, very quietly, with their tails dragging. Even now, a group of college professors, bright-eyed students and True Believers are preparing for yet another trek to the swamps of the Congo.

Strange aerial lights and unidentified flying objects have been sighted in the immediate vicinity of some of these monster sightings, causing some ufologists to speculate that the Snallygasters could be visitors from some other planet. But are flying saucers really dumping dinosaurs on us?

There is one important common denominator in the majority of our Snallygaster-dinosaur-UFO sightings. They take place near bodies of water... reservoirs, rivers, and lakes. Both UFOs and the tall, hairy monsters seem to frequent swamps, too. The phantom animals could be amphibians who spend most of their time underwater. And the occasional "dinosaur" sightings could actually be glimpses of the creature which has produced the worldwide lore of sea serpents.

### ***Sea Serpents and Dinosaurs***

Paranormal events seem to happen in cycles and all kinds of crazy things happen at once when

these cycles peak. While some people are seeing UFOs and atmospheric phenomena, others are viewing sea serpents and tall, hairy monsters. Outbreaks of ghosts and poltergeist cases also seem to coincide with such events.

On June 24, 1908, the entire crew of the steamship *Livingstone* reported seeing a 200-foot sea serpent in the Gulf of Mexico. Their story appeared on page one of the *New York Times* on July 1, 1908. The ship belonged to the Texas-Mexican line and was making a routine trip between Galveston and Frontera, Mexico. About fifty miles outside of Frontera, the monster appeared off the port bow. "The ship got within sixty feet of the creature," according to the *Times*, "and for fifteen minutes stood by while all on board viewed the serpent through the glasses. It was apparently sleeping, and was not less than 200 feet long, of about the diameter of a flour barrel in the center of the body, but was not as round. The head was about six feet long by three feet at the widest part. The color was dark brown, and near its tail were rings or circles that appeared larger in circumference than the body at that point. As it swam away the tail was erected, and a rattling noise as loud as that made by a gatling gun in action startled the watchers on the *Livingstone*."

As soon as the ship docked in Frontera, the captain, his crew, and fifteen passengers, signed a sworn affidavit before Charles W. Rickland, the United States Consular agent.

The late Harold T. Wilkins, a British authority on the unexplained, reportedly saw "two remarkable saurians" in the waters of a stream in Cornwall, England on July 5, 1949. The monsters were identical to the ancient, long-extinct *plesiosaur*, Wilkins noted afterwards. Could this distant cousin of the dinosaur still be alive and well in Cornwall?

There are innumerable other plesiosaur sightings. Bulky-bodied creatures with elongated necks have been seen frequently in Lake Champlain, New York; Lake Catemaco, Mexico; Lake Walker, Nevada; Flathead Lake, Montana; Payette Lake, Idaho; Okanagan Lake, Canada; Lake Iliamna, Alaska, and even in Lake Vorota in the Soviet Union.

Apparently the Indians were well aware of these creatures in the earliest times. In Peebles, Ohio there is a huge manmade mound of earth covering several acres of land. When viewed from the air, this mound assumes the precise shape of our water monsters. "The bulky frontal portion, thin neck and long tail square with the land sighting descriptions from Ireland and Scotland," Mr. F. W. Holiday, one of the world's leading experts on sea monsters, has said. He calls the mound "probably the best surviving dragon-simulation."

Land sightings of such animals are rare but they have been seen waddling into or out of lakes in British Columbia, Canada, and the haunted lakes of Great Britain. Witnesses of these rare overland sojourns seem to be describing the ancient plesiosaur.

Scientists eager to explain away the mystery have tried to identify these creatures as everything from giant eels and sea slugs to sea cows, whales, and even overgrown mackerel.

### ***Lake Mysteries***

Northern Scandinavia is dotted with lakes, large and small, and there are endless stories about lake monsters like Scotland's Loch Ness monster. But many of these monster reports sound more like submarine sightings. How would submarines manage to reach these remote, often shallow, inland lakes? One witness at Bullaren Lake in the Province of Bohuslan, Sweden said, "It looked more like a boat I would say, yet a boat or a sub can't go in this lake... It had a hump that looked like a glass tower."

Mr. Jan-Ove Sundberg, a Swedish journalist, has supplied us with several detailed accounts of these alleged lake "monsters." The following item appeared in the newspaper *Motala Tidning*, July 26, 1950:

The monster in Lake Rasvalen has appeared again, this time three times within one hour. A man who was sceptical of the monster reports saw it in Kallernas Bay but when he tried to get closer to it it disappeared.

"One has got to believe one's own eyes," said Sigvard Barnstrom from Vedebags Bruk today. "The monster was about 5 metres long and looked almost like a black whale or an upside-

down boat. I was on the lake together with a friend to look in our nets when we suddenly spotted this strange creature about 300 metres from our boat. When it showed up we tried to get closer to it, but it submerged in a funny way and disappeared.” After a few minutes the monster appeared again, and this time both men saw that it was longer than 5 metres, black in color and somewhat round in front and back. The time was 5 a.m. Again they tried to get closer, and again it disappeared. Around 8 a.m. it turned up again about 200 metres from the boat and was in view for about 15 minutes. ”This time it circled the lake at terrific speed,” Mr. Barnstrom said, ”unlike any animal I have ever seen. Then it submerged like a submarine.”

A thing like ”an upside-down boat” has been seen scooting over the surface of Storsjon Lake in Jamtland, also. At Stensjon Lake in Ostergotland a witness saw what looked like the conning tower of a submarine jutting about the water. Vasterbotten's Tavelsson Lake has also produced reports of an elongated something that behaved like a submarine. And at Vattern Great Lake in Ostergotland witnesses once watched two ”torpedoes” about forty feet long which submerged abruptly when an airplane flew over.

### ***Dragons and Discs***

Mr. ”Ted” Holiday was an outstanding scholar and researcher who spent many long summers watching the murky waters at Scotland's famous Loch Ness, home of Nessie, the best-known of all monsters. In his book, *The Dragon and the Disc*, Holiday offers some astonishing findings linking the water monsters with flying saucers. In earlier works (e.g., *The Great Orm of Loch Ness*) Holiday labored to support the notion that Nessie was a real flesh-and-blood creature capable of being caught. But after digging deeper and deeper into the Nessie lore he has turned towards the parapsychical theory; the suspicion that the celebrated creature of the Loch may be somehow related to the elusive Snallygaster.

In revisiting the many churches and monuments throughout England which feature ancient ”dragon” carvings, Holiday was impressed with the fact that such carvings usually included discs and figures which closely resembled modern UFOs. Holiday concluded that earlier peoples recognized there was some connection between the dragons and UFO forms. Even the ancient Chinese on the other side of the world believed that dragons and UFOs were interrelated.

Adding to the mystery, all kinds of psychic manifestations have plagued the scientific investigators at Loch Ness. Expensive electronic instruments malfunction, cameras refuse to operate, and strange misfortunes haunt the investigators. There have even been ”mystery men” or ”Men In Black” episodes. After returning to Sweden, one journalist was approached by a stranger in a restaurant who sternly advised him to discontinue his research into UFOs and sea serpents.

### ***Photographing the Unknown***

The strongest evidence for the reality of UFOs are the numerous radar sightings recorded over the years. Nessie has been picked up on radar's underwater equivalent – sonar. In fact, some sonar readings have indicated that several of these creatures are frolicking in the mile-deep lake. Yet, like the flying saucers which appear and disappear just as suddenly from the radar scopes, these herds of monsters are elusive and scientifically impossible. If the herds come to the Loch to breed (one popular theory), what do they feed on? Such huge animals must have prodigious appetites and could quickly upset the ecological balance of the lake. And why haven't any of the oldtimers died and floated to the surface?

There have been about 3,000 known sightings of Nessie in this century, but photographs are extremely rare and controversial. Other monsters are equally camera shy. California's Big Foot and Canada's Sasquatch, both Snallygaster types, have avoided posing for their portrait for years. No one ever succeeded in filming West Virginia's ”Mothman” (a seven-foot, red-eyed creature with wings). And even authenticated UFO photos are rare in relation to the many thousands of sightings annually. Why are these things so difficult to photograph?

Author Holiday suggests that Nessie is somehow tied in with the mysterious psychic world around us. It may even be that the creature is somehow being protected by unknown psychic forces.

Each summer teams of scientists and investigators man cameras mounted around Loch Ness. These cameras are positioned to cover almost the entire surface of the lake. Almost, but not quite. There are a few blind spots. In August 1968, Holiday was present when Nessie reared his ugly head for a look around. Though there were a number of good witnesses along the shore, Nessie chose to pop up in one of the very few places that were obscured from the various cameras!

"The Loch Ness Investigation Bureau had a camera truck at Quarry Brae," Holiday reports, "and another one four miles away at Tor Point. The observers were watchful and keen but they had seen nothing. The phenomenon had concealed itself so there was nothing for them to see."

Eager UFO photographers the world over have been puzzled when their expensive cameras failed to function at the critical moment, returning to normal as soon as the UFO had soared out of view. Holiday cites a number of instances in which this same effect has occurred at Loch Ness. In some cases, the cameras seemed to work but the developed film came out completely blank. This, too, has happened to UFO photographers... and Snallygaster chasers... and ghost hunters.

### ***Sea Serpents from Outer Space***

Whenever we fail to uncover solid evidence to support our observations of paranormal phenomena, we tend to indulge in fanciful speculation. After chasing flying saucers for forty years we find we have no more real evidence than when we began, so we decide preemptively that they are space ships from outer space. Since humming, buzzing multicolored UFOs hang around the lakes and rivers inhabited by our plesiosaur and his relatives, and the swamps and woodlands frequented by our Snallygaster, it should be obvious that all these things share a common cause.

No one seriously contends that sea serpents are visitors from some other planet. Rather, *it is becoming more evident that all unexplained phenomena are connected in some inexplicable fashion.* Some could be tricks of time, with the monsters and dinosaurs popping into our time zone temporarily. Some could be pure hallucination.

The reality of these things is not only unproven and unprovable, but the integration and logical, objective study of *all* these matters has been made impossible by the intrusion of belief. Loch Ness investigators sneer at the whole subject of UFOs. Ufologists ignore Snallygaster reports. Psychic researchers are so busy hunting ghosts they have little time for flying saucers and monsters... although all these subjects produce the same effects...

In the past few years, however, a handful of investigators have begun to try to view the whole scene rather than isolated fragments of it. One of Britain's leading ufologists, Brinsley Le Poer Trench, now admits "there is considerable evidence that the UFOs appearing in our skies have some connection with psychic phenomena."

The helicopters vainly chasing dinosaurs, the posses tracking down ten-foot "gorillas," the hordes of teenagers sitting on hilltops and scanning the skies for flying saucers, and the patient cameramen shivering in the cold night air at Loch Ness, are all engaged in the same pursuit. But they don't know it.

### ***Phantom Boatmen***

Legends dating back to the year 1456 describe an underwater connection between Lake Mossarpegolen and Lake Yxningen in Ostergotland, Sweden, according to researcher Lennart Karlsson. Lake Mossarpegolen is surrounded by a dense forest and is only about 300 feet wide and 600 feet long. People vacationing at the lake have claimed that it sometimes lights up, as if the waters were illuminated from below, with a strong reddish color. This phenomenon was last observed in July 1972.

Karlsson and Sundberg report: "The people in the lake area claim they have seen a 'mystery boat' on Lake Mossarpegolen. In the boat were two figures resembling human beings. Sometimes on dark nights the boat and figures disappeared with a sharp, blinding light. The 'mystery boat' seems to be an old legend come true, as local inhabitants claimed to have observed it many years ago. There are

fish in the lake, but nobody in the area knows who the figures in the mystery boat are, where they keep their boat, or where they are from. They just seem to disappear into thin air.”

Disappearing boats and phantom boatmen are no strangers to collectors of Fortean lore. There is also a growing body of lore about mysterious frogmen who climb out of small lakes and inlets in full diving gear, waddle ashore and get into waiting black Cadillacs to drive off into limbo. The late Ivan T. Sanderson was particularly concerned with stories like those recounted here and he collected many others... such as the mysterious voices and music heard by divers deep in the water off the shores of Great Britain. He speculated that strange things may be happening at the bottom of our oceans, lakes, rivers, and fjords while all the UFO enthusiasts are looking eagerly in the wrong direction – to space. The real secret of these phenomena may be as earthbound (or waterbound) as we are.

When the great flying saucer wave of October 1973 occurred, the case that received the most publicity was the story of the two fishermen in Pascagoula, Mississippi who were allegedly taken aboard a UFO while fishing in Mississippi's famous "singing river"... so named because for years the river has produced a mysterious humming sound like the buzzing of bees. A sound which has long been associated with UFOs.

Flying saucers have demonstrated a penchant for bodies of water, diving into rivers and reservoirs around the world. The majority of the best-known UFO contacts have taken place on beaches and river banks.

### ***Mysterious Marsupials***

In July, 1975, another old friend popped up near Du Quoin, Illinois. Several people reported seeing a kangaroo about five feet tall hopping through cornfields. Kevin Luthi said he was hesitant to report his sightings at first "because I thought everyone would think I was crazy."

There have been many kangaroo reports from Illinois in recent years. One witness was a police officer who gave chase but, of course, soon lost the trail. As usual, local authorities checked nearby zoos and circuses only to learn that no one had lost a kangaroo.

A decade ago a kangaroo was bouncing around the New England states and even turned up in Ohio. In fact, there are periodic kangaroo flaps in the United States and it all suggests that there are several kangaroos living unnoticed in the American countryside.

The *Macropus giganteus* grows to about five feet tall and can leap 25 feet in a single bound. Some of our agile, leaping monsters, which are usually seen in the dark, could be one of these renegade kangaroos. Like elephants, they are timid fellows unless they're cornered. Then they can disable a big man in seconds with their vicious four-toed claws.

A number of other odd animals lived wild in the U.S. Years ago a movie company lost some chimpanzees while filming a Tarzan epic in Florida. The chimps are still seen occasionally and have undoubtedly grown and multiplied over the years. Some skeptics try to blame them for all the sightings of Florida's famous smelly "Sandman"; the Southern counterpart of the great Sasquatch of the Northwest. However, the Sandman is much larger than a chimp, is accompanied by a foul odor, and like monsters everywhere is fond of chasing automobiles and haunting popular lover's lanes. Back in 1949, Ivan T. Sanderson was sent by NBC to Florida to track down reports of a giant creature that had been seen roaming along river banks. Sanderson concluded, after studying eyewitness reports, that the thing had been a 15-foot tall *penguin*. The king penguin can reach a height of four feet, but there have been vague, unverified reports of a much larger type isolated on frigid, uninhabited islands in Antarctica. Sanderson speculated that one of these creatures, which are said to be covered with fur rather than feathers, somehow got caught in an ocean current which eventually deposited it in Florida.

Kangaroos in Illinois! Wild chimps and giant penguins in Florida! Wild monkeys have even been shot and killed in Tennessee! Back in 1967, police in New Jersey shot and killed a huge Himalayan Brown bear... a very rare creature found in only a few zoos. No one has ever managed to explain how a Himalayan bear appeared in New Jersey.

## ***Ridiculous Reptiles***

When I returned from India I brought back a "two-headed" sand boa and three fanged cobras. (Herpetology, the study of reptiles, has been a hobby of mine since I was a boy.) To promote a book I had written, my publisher ensconced me in the window of a store in Times Square where I did a daily snake charming act. Later I traveled around the country lecturing about Oriental magic and giving demonstrations with my snakes. People were always coming up to me after my talks to tell me of their own incredible experiences with snakes right here in America. To hear them tell it, one would think this country is overrun with 30-foot boa constrictors, giant alligators, and other bizarre reptiles.

Two tales that I heard over and over again (usually the teller said he had heard about it from a friend who knew the witness involved and was *very reliable*) concerned the legendary hoop snake and the milk snake. When frightened, the hoop snake is supposed to take his tail in his mouth, form a hoop, and roll away at great speed. The milk snake is said to approach cows and suck all the milk from their udders. Neither of these snakes actually exists, but stories about them can be found in ancient literature and the myths were probably brought to this country by early immigrants and passed down from generation to generation ever since.

I've heard about flying snakes in the U.S. but so far as I know none have ever been caught. There really are flying snakes in Venezuela and Asia. They lurk in trees and when their lunch strolls past they flatten their ribs and spiral down like a stream of confetti.

Stories of unusual poisonous snakes also abound. There are actually only two snakes in the world that are aggressive enough to chase a man. They are the black mamba of Africa, a member of the cobra family, and the bushmaster of Central America. Both are very ugly customers and their bites are nearly always fatal. Natives claim that the only way to escape either of them is to run uphill. If there are no hills around...

Perhaps the strangest snakebite story of all occurred in Kenton, Ohio on June 9, 1946. Mr. Orland Packer was horseback riding near his home when a giant snake appeared suddenly in his path. He said it was about eight feet long and four inches in diameter. The horse threw him and the snake coiled about his leg, breaking his ankle and biting him in the heel. Then it bit the horse and slithered off into the woods and vanished. A huge search party combed the woods but never found it. The snake was described as having a flat head and a diamond shape on its back. It was definitely not one of our run-of-the-mill Ohio snakes.

Years later I mentioned the Packer incident in one of my books and I was surprised to receive a letter from Mrs. Packer outlining her husband's horrible ordeal. His wound refused to heal, she wrote, and he finally had to have part of his heel amputated. "He was on crutches for almost two years... His fever would rise till he would almost go out of his head then after he broke out in sweats where you could wring water out of his clothes. I changed his bed several times a day so I know..."

I sifted through all my reptile books trying to identify the culprit. Although the basic description sounds like a king cobra, Packer would have died within hours if that had been the answer. The horse survived but lost "a patch of hair" where the snake had bitten it. Packer suffered agonies for years afterwards. There is nothing in my snake catalogs that could explain this incident. The bite of the notorious bushmaster injects a substance which causes the blood to lose its ability to coagulate. Some bushmaster victims find their pores opening up and oozing blood when they enter the final stage before death. Packer's inability to heal suggests a similar kind of venom.

In any case, you don't have to go off on an African safari or join an expedition into central Brazil to see rare and exotic creatures. The United States is still populated with a wide variety of peculiar wildlife ranging from West Virginia's spectacular "Mothman" and occasional reports of ancient pterodactyls on the wing to kangaroos, Himalayan bears, and ridiculous reptiles. Several U.S. lakes are supposed to contain giant sea serpents, and from the reports that pour into my mailbox each year our woods seem to be filled with huge hairy monsters.

## SKYQUAKES AND HITIS

In October, 1976, I was pecking away at a typewriter in the foreign press office in Stockholm, Sweden when the entire city was suddenly shaken by a mammoth explosion. Windows rattled and objects rolled off tables. Local newspapermen besieged the airports and military with queries. Strangely, nothing had exploded in the area and the authorities had no idea what had happened. Various rumors circulated, the most popular being that a Soviet submarine base had suffered a disaster hundreds of miles away on the other side of the Baltic. A few days later another violent blast shook Oslo, Norway and, like the Stockholm explosion, seemed to occur somewhere in the upper atmosphere without leaving a trace.

Skyquakes are a relatively common phenomenon but only a handful of Forteanes were researching the subject until December 1977, when a series of mysterious aerial blasts shook the Atlantic seaboard. Overnight a wide variety of scientists and self-styled experts embraced the subject, and President Carter ordered the U.S. Air Force to investigate.

One scientist widely quoted in the press actually proposed that the explosions were caused by bubbles of methane gas coming up through fissures in the ocean's bottom. Methane gas. That's swamp gas, folks! The explanation is even more unlikely than the phenomenon itself.

Actually these mysterious blasts have been occurring in the Northeast for many years, and there are legends of "phantom artillery" going back several centuries. The most famous account is the "Barisal Guns" of India. British colonists frequently heard the inexplicable booms around Bengal. Others reported similar aerial blasts in the West Indies, around Haiti, and in far-off Central Australia. Lake Bosumtwi, Africa, and Lough Neagh in Ireland were also frequently visited by the mysterious cannons. The Indians in the Black Hills of South Dakota have legends about the explosions, and the Lewis and Clark expedition is supposed to have heard the phenomenon in the Rocky Mountains. Lake Seneca, one of the Finger Lakes in New York state, has a long history of "airquakes," as the newspapers of 1977 dubbed the sounds. The gas bubble theory was already old hat in 1897, and was generally discredited by witnesses who reported the lake was frozen over at the times of the blasts.

On December 2, 1977, a skyquake jarred the residents of New Canaan, Connecticut and was accompanied by strange lights in the sky. The aerial sounds followed a course that led southwards over New Jersey to the Carolinas, suggesting that some object had passed along that route into the famous Bermuda Triangle. Military authorities and aviation officials staunchly denied that any supersonic aircraft were operating in those areas at the time.

Back in 1952, when supersonic aircraft were still limited to a few experimental models, officialdom carried out the same exercise in futility. Residents of Long Island, just east of New York City, were plagued that year by skyquakes and the only newspaperperson to take an interest was the late Dorothy Kilgallen. She tried to find out if any military authority knew the cause and was given the usual runaround. Like flying saucers, skyquakes were a non-subject and the authorities reasoned that if we didn't pay any attention to them they would just go away.

The sobering truth is that skyquakes are on the increase. They tend to occur when UFO sightings increase, and they follow the general patterns of the UFO phenomenon. It is possible that skyquakes are produced by the rapid transit of unidentified flying objects. There is no known atmospheric condition that could cause them, and the hundred-year old scientific speculation that bubbles of gas are the culprits is insupportable.

### ***UFO Routes***

There are two major UFO channels or belts on this planet. One lies 60 degrees North and indicates that a great deal of unobserved UFO activity has been taking place north of the Arctic Circle since 1840. The second channel stretches north to south along 65 to 75 degrees West from Canada to Argentina. This belt includes some of the busiest and most mysterious places on earth... such as the Bermuda Triangle in the Atlantic and the baffling area around Bahia Blanca, Argentina, site of some

of the strangest UFO cases.

We could list scores of peculiar events along this belt from New England to the Carolinas. For example, at 8:15 p.m. on the night of April 25, 1966, a spectacular "meteor" passed along the channel. The brilliantly illuminated object was seen by thousands of people in several states. A number of amateur photographers managed to snap pictures of it. In Pennsylvania there were cases in which witnesses claimed their automobile engines stalled inexplicably as the object passed over. After cruising over South Carolina the thing disappeared southwards over the Atlantic.

At *exactly* the same time, *exactly* on the opposite side of the earth in the Tashkent region of the Soviet Union, a violent earthquake struck, killing ten and leaving 200,000 people homeless! How strange that a major disaster would strike on one side of the world while thousands of people on the other side were viewing an awesome "meteor." Could the two events have been somehow related?

Eerie lights and aerial phenomena have been observed before and during major earthquakes in many parts of the world. But the strange lights and skyquakes of December 1977 were not accompanied by earthquakes. However, the path of the skyquakes did follow the same route as the "meteor" of 1966... the 65 to 75 degree West channel. The "meteor" traveled in silence, indicating it was high above the atmosphere. A natural object entering the atmosphere over New England would make a noise, but it would be in a retrograde orbit and would probably burn up or hit the ground before it traveled as far south as the Carolinas. Any object traveling at supersonic speed and thus leaving a stream of sonic booms in its wake, would have to be under some kind of control to cover such a great distance. So if the skyquakes were caused by an object we can conclude it was a *controlled* object, one which was flying rather than falling.

There is nothing in nature that we know of which would be capable of producing a series of sonic booms over an area of 1,000 miles or more. The aviation authorities have assured us that no man-made aircraft was responsible for the noises. So we are left with an unidentified, phantom aircraft which presumably entered the 65 to 75 degree West channel over New England and soared southwards into the Bermuda Triangle. It must have been a very special Unidentified because many UFOs have been clocked by radar and theodolites in our atmosphere and traveling at supersonic speeds without creating sonic booms. Indeed, most UFOs travel in total silence. A UFO that leaves sonic booms in its wake must be unique. So unique that the noise might mean it was not what we now call a flying saucer.

The correlation between the "meteor" of 1966 and the Tashkent earthquake suggests that some other force is at work here. It could be geological... some environmental force that is affected by geological changes. The lights seen during earthquakes could be a product of that force, a form of static electricity generated by the movements of the earth's crust. Skyquakes could be implosions rather than explosions, caused by the rush of air into holes or empty pockets in the atmosphere. Such holes might be caused by geo-physical changes, or they could be created when a solid object suddenly disappears and the air rushes in to the space it had occupied. There are countless reports of UFOs disappearing suddenly, often accompanied by a loud retort.

So what causes our skyquakes? They seem to be somehow related to UFO phenomenon yet the observational evidence precludes a UFO explanation. What they are, what causes them, and what they mean all remain mysteries. Ironically, the skyquakes of December 1977 led the media to rediscover them and give them a new credibility. They suddenly became a subject even though they have been shattering the peace and quiet of the countryside for hundreds of years. After President Carter recognized their existence the boondoggling began. Government agencies doled out fat contracts to universities to investigate. After several years of such expensive investigations we were offered new variations on the tired old Swamp Gas theory and whatever – or whoever – is behind the "airquakes" continued to rattle our windows with impunity.

### ***Holes In the Ice***

A hole three feet in diameter suddenly appeared in the eighteen inch ice covering a small pond near Wakefield, New Hampshire one January and set off a national furor. The owner of the pond, William McCarthy, poked around with a stick and claimed he struck some kind of object under

three feet of water. Puzzled, he reported his find to the local authorities and was quickly surrounded by Civil Defense experts, National Guardsmen, reporters and television cameras. Efforts were made to pump out the pond and some eyewitnesses claimed that National Guardsmen removed something and hauled it away in a truck. But the official explanation was that there was nothing there.

Mysterious holes in thick ice are comparatively rare in the U.S. but are a common feature in UFO reports half-a-world away in Sweden. Known as HITIs (Holes In The Ice), they crop up annually in the frozen lakes of central and northern Sweden. Swedish scientists and military experts investigate them frequently in an atmosphere of sullen silence.

Three months before Mr. McCarthy discovered someone had punched a hole in his pond I was standing in the middle of an isolated swamp in Sweden staring at another mysterious hole. Representatives of the Swedish Defense Department were braving the damp cold in an attempt to pump it out. Since it was in a swamp, the faster they pumped, the more water gushed into the hole.

In July 1966, a Swedish astronomer had reported seeing a bright object flashing over southern Sweden. He was able to calculate its trajectory and predict the place where it would probably impact. A few days later scattered residents in that area reported hearing a sharp explosion. Two months later a hunter splashing his way through the swamp in Smaland came across a four foot square hole that hadn't been there earlier in the year.

Believing that a piece of space debris or a meteor may have crashed in Smaland, Dr. Sture Wickerts of the FOA (Swedish Defense Department) left his comfortable home in Stockholm and spent two weeks in the swamp. At the same time, members of UFO Sverige, the local UFO club, mobilized to carry out their own investigation. Wickerts and his men worked over the hole in the daytime while the civilian UFO researchers labored there at nights and on weekends. It was a kind of comic race to get to whatever was at the bottom of the hole.

All they found were the remnants of an ancient thousand-year-old logging road.

The hole was off the beaten track and difficult to find, being in the midst of a swamp so gooey that Wickerts had to lay down a road of heavy boards so that pumps from a volunteer fire unit could be hauled in. What impressed me most was that there was no evidence that the hole had been made by something falling from the sky. It was in the midst of some trees, none of which had been damaged, and the hole itself was almost perfectly square. There was no sign of an explosion and no debris had been thrown up out of the hole... which would have been the case if something had dropped there from any distance. It was about 12 feet deep. Divers attempted to descend into it but found the water too murky and too thick with mud to function. Special electrical instruments detected a small metallic sphere in the ooze but it was never recovered.

Swedish UFO researchers have been openly competing with the FOA for years, but it has been a gentlemanly conflict when compared to the often virulent battle between the U.S. Air Force and American researchers. Dr. Wickerts' predecessor, Dr. Tage Eriksson, was an advocate of the swamp gas and weather balloons explanation for UFOs, but Wickerts seems to take the subject more seriously and avoids any grandiosely negative statements, perhaps because flying saucers are now taken very seriously by a large part of the Swedish population.

On October 16, 1976, UFO Sverige held a convention in Stockholm. The huge hall they rented was filled to capacity and several hundred people had to be turned away. Those lucky enough to get in were treated to films and slides about extraterrestrial life. The late George Adamski, the controversial UFO contactee of the 1950s, even has a large following in Sweden. Following the patterns found everywhere else in the world, the numerous UFO clubs are a bit antagonistic towards each other and there are the usual personality clashes and differences of opinion. While the New Ufology is sweeping Europe with its anti-extraterrestrial, pro-Forcean approach, New Ufologists are a minority in Sweden, headed by a few quiet academic types like Hakan Blomqvist.

Swedish and Norwegian UFO events receive poor but objective news coverage and conform to the patterns found throughout the world. There have been a number of cases in which percipients have been injured, apparently by actinic rays from the objects, and several hair-raising abduction cases have been investigated. The UFOs seem to be most active in the thinly populated, hard-to-reach northern regions. The "ghostflier" enigma, which dates back to the early 1930s, is continuing. These

most often take the form of mysterious airplanes which cross the Swedish-Norwegian border in the worst weather. One group of witnesses I interviewed had seen the ghostfliers periodically and timed their flights. They passed over and returned in 45 minutes, indicating that if they were landing at all they were doing so in the nearly inaccessible forests of Varmland.

Since Dr. Wickerts has assumed charge of the Swedish UFO investigation all reports are thoroughly investigated. I spoke to a number of people who had already been carefully interviewed by FOA officials. The notorious Men In Black have also been active in Scandinavia for years, dashing about in big black cars and, on occasion, warning civilian researchers to drop their investigations. Phantom photographers have also turned up there, appearing unexpectedly to snap pictures of witnesses or investigators, then darting away. There have also been a number of strange, unsolved murders in the busy UFO corridors of Varmland.

Both Swedish and Norwegian authorities are particularly concerned with reports of unidentified helicopters and submarines which frequently violate their territories, often penetrating miles inland along the fjords. Meticulous records of these border violations are kept by the FOA. Officials in Stockholm told me they had reason to be convinced that the interlopers were not from the Soviet Union or the United States, the two logical suspects. When I deliberately mentioned a very obscure submarine incident that happened some years earlier, they instantly produced a large file containing the most minute details of the incident. Obviously they are keeping a close watch on these matters.

Flying Saucer literature in all languages is freely available in the major cities of Scandinavia, and there have been a number of original books in the local languages, including several contactee accounts. Several well-printed UFO newsletters and magazines are in existence there and UFO events receive occasional television coverage (the television stations are government operated). The weekly newsmagazines and tabloids are more apt to cover new submarine and ghostflier reports than is the daily press. There is no censorship of UFO news, but, as in all countries, the military officials offer the press only the barest details.

Sweden set up the world's first flying saucer bureau in 1910, following the great wave of 1909. Another major investigation was launched in the 1930s. I made an effort to locate the records of these earlier investigations but came up empty-handed. The records are either lost or are anonymously filed away in some government depository.

Aside from the ghostfliers, phantom submarines, MIB and HITIs, Sweden has also had its share of Big Foot sightings and several Swedish lakes are well-known for their sea serpents. It's worth noting that these same lakes also develop mysterious holes in the winter and there's a rich lore of phantom boats and phantom boatmen, usually accompanied by luminescent phenomena.

Norway and Sweden are countries where the sun never sets in the summer, but where it is a law that you must drive with your headlights on in the daytime. A vast section of both countries are so thinly populated and so inaccessible it would be possible to hide an entire army there. In fact, the Norwegian military suspects there might be actual submarine bases some 3,000 feet below the fjords. One popular rumor claims the Germans began building such bases during World War II. If the bases still exist, someone might still be operating from them. But no one has an inkling of who that someone might be.

## AN IDAHO TRIANGLE?

T-shirts declaring "I traveled the Bermuda Triangle" are a hot souvenir in the Bahamas, and sooner or later there will probably be T-shirts announcing "I survived New Jersey" and "I got out of Idaho alive." Warp zones with high accident rates and frequent disappearances are not confined to the famous Triangle in the South Atlantic. Every community in the country has at least one "Dead Man's Curve" or hazardous stretch of highway where several terrible accidents occur each year. Most of these places are well-known to the local inhabitants and carefully marked with warning signs. But every state also has a patch of highway, usually a straightway free from ordinary hazards, that produces several fatal accidents each year, much to the bewilderment of the local authorities. A few years ago Ivan T. Sanderson was called upon to investigate such a warp zone in New Jersey. We know of similar places in New York and several other states. In West Virginia we once investigated a strip of straight road where, for no discernible reason, drivers were always veering into a river. Most of them drowned. Those who survived could not explain their actions.

The ten-mile stretch of Interstate 15 between Inkom and McCammon, Idaho is known locally as a "mystery road" because so many automobiles have suddenly become junk while trying to traverse it. Two drivers were killed there in a single month one summer, and there were four accidents within four days that July. The Idaho Highway Department and the State Police have been gravely concerned with this seemingly harmless length of road for several years. Rumble strips to shake up sleeping drivers have been installed, along with special guard rails, patches of light and dark colored pavement and other safety devices. The police patrols have been tripled there. Still the accidents continue.

Six years ago the police started taking statements from people who happened to witness the accidents. In most cases, the doomed drivers were proceeding normally at moderate speed when, for no apparent reason, they chose to swing off the road, often with fatal results. In one case, a truck carrying two men was followed by a car filled with highway engineers. Suddenly the truck left the road, slammed into some rocks and overturned. The two men survived and had no idea what had happened to them. The men in the car behind them saw no reason for the accident.

Other survivors of crashes on the mystery road told the same story. One minute they were driving along leisurely. The next, they were off the road and upside down with no recollection of what had happened. Medical tests of the victims have yielded negative results. The drivers were well-rested and healthy. The police even tested for unusual gases in the area, and a wind speed study was carried out. No explanation for the accidents has been found, and none of the safety measures have worked. Probably the only solution is to build a bypass and close Interstate 15's haunted ten miles forever.

### ***Warps, Gaps, and Dunks***

With millions of people barrelling along our highways each day, it is not unexpected that Driving Unknowns (DUNKs) are becoming more and more common. The UFO literature is now filled with reports of the strange things that happen to people in automobiles. A majority of our monster and tall, hairy humanoid reports come from solitary motorists, usually those driving alone along country roads late at night. In the average account, the car passes around a bend in the road and suddenly happens upon a landed UFO or a monster shuffling across like a chicken seeking the other side. Many of the classic episodes in the UFO annals began in this way. Add to this the growing number of stories of witnesses who innocently stopped to aid what appeared to be a fellow motorist in distress, only to be suddenly attacked by Men In Black types who grimly warn them to keep quiet about something they saw previously. It is easy to conclude that driving can really be hazardous to your health.

Some people are susceptible to a form of hypnosis when driving, particularly on long trips. They actually lapse into a form of trance, although they generally remain in complete control of their car. Trees or telephone poles whizzing along the side of the road can induce such a trance. A barren

straightaway where traffic is light, such as a road across a desert, can have the same effect. The first thing that is affected is the sense of time, just as the sense of time is distorted in a real hypnotic trance. Professor Graham Reed, a Canadian psychologist, calls this a "time gap experience" because the driver can cover many miles safely in this state. They don't snap out of it until they reach an intersection, a town, or a sudden change in scenery. Then they find they can't recall having driven those miles, and they think the trip was remarkably short until they glance at their watch. While this seems like a genuine DUNK to the driver, it is really not unusual. Investigators often waste much time and paper recording this commonplace experience.

On the other hand, there are many DUNKs and time gap experiences which cannot be so deftly explained. Idaho's mystery road is too short to induce such trances. Yet from the statements of surviving victims of the phenomenon it is clear that they *were* entranced by something. Whatever that something was, it interfered with their conscious minds and forced them to drive irrationally.

Several years ago a British case received considerable publicity, when a driver reported that his headlights suddenly seemed *to bend* into a nearby field at a spot where several strange accidents had occurred previously. Light can be bent by a powerful gravitational field, but a force strong enough to bend a light beam would certainly be strong enough to be felt by the driver, and it would certainly pull the car itself off the road. We have no reports of bent headlight beams from Idaho.

There are other possible explanations for DUNKs, though. Radio waves, particularly microwaves such as radar beams, affect the human body and brain in many ways. A radar sweep from an airport or weather station could, when conditions are just right, affect a driver and he might instinctively, unconsciously, swerve his car in a futile attempt to get out of the beam. Doctors and radiologists have been aware of this for years, and there are frequent studies made to monitor this electromagnetic pollution caused by the growth of microwave relay towers and radar stations. Some people are so adversely affected by these radio waves they become violently ill. Others develop great thirst because the waves dehydrate the body... they literally cook you from the inside out like a microwave oven broils a chunk of meat.

Pilots who have survived harrowing experiences in the famous Bermuda Triangle have reported that their radios and instruments went haywire, and that they felt physically and mentally disoriented; clues pointing to electromagnetic pollution. But since there are no relay towers or radar sets out in the Atlantic, what could be the source?

We know that beams of energy on all frequencies are constantly bathing the earth from space. Some of these beams are trapped or at least weakened by the Van Allen Belt and the planet's atmosphere. But some of these beams get through intact and sweep over our planet in much the same way that our radar beams have explored Venus and Mars. Ancient astrologers were aware of this, and they based their science on their fragmentary knowledge of these "rays." Could it be that someone on some distant world is examining our globe with radar, and occasionally when a human is caught in one of their probes, he drives his car off a cliff or dives his plane into the ocean?

### ***Trips Through Time***

Many motorists have now experienced bizarre distortions of time that can't be explained by psychologists or radiologists because they traveled great distances in impossibly short periods of time. In a number of well-documented instances, airplanes have also passed through one of these inexplicable time warps. Such distortions of space can only be accounted for by some direct, mysterious warping of our physical reality itself. If you draw two dots on a piece of paper, they remain at a fixed distance so long as their reality – the two-dimensional world of the paper – remains static. But if you fold the paper, you can bring the dots closer together. By folding it, you have altered its physical state. Space itself can be folded somehow so that the immediate reality of a plane or car is altered, and the seemingly fixed distance between points A and B are altered. Machines and people caught in these space warps also experience a compression of time.

There is now strong evidence that some UFOs are surrounded by a force field which exerts a strong influence on the space-time coordinates of our reality. It is not a gravitational pull in the accepted sense of the term, yet it possesses some of the characteristics of gravity. The headlights of the car in

England were diverted by such a space-time warp. If it had been stronger, the car and its driver probably would have passed through a reality distortion, as in so many other cases.

We can theorize that a DUNK occurs when a moving object enters the periphery of such a field. A stationary object, on the other hand, might be unaffected physically when you fold the paper. Also, the greater the acceleration of the object, the greater the change when it passes through the warp. Thus a jet plane will experience a greater change in space and time than a speeding automobile. A human being standing or walking in the same warped area will undergo a much less pronounced change. He might "lose" only five minutes or so, and cover only a few yards. A car moving through the same warp might lose twenty or thirty minutes and hopscotch over several miles. A bullet passing through the warp could theoretically zip a thousand miles and plop to the ground *days before it was fired!* Some of the apported objects wich continually turn up suddenly and unexpectedly could be the byproducts of these warps.

While flying saucers usually get the credit for DUNKs, it is possible that these wandering warps are a natural phenomenon, and that the UFOs have learned to utilize them. If our scientists would get off their duffs and get out into the field to study these things, we might find a way to take advantage of these natural anomalies. We might discover we can hitchhike on them and travel from New York to Los Angeles in seconds. The logical place to begin such research is any one of the hundreds of mysterious roads like Idaho's Interstate 15. Maybe if we can learn why perfectly competent drivers suddenly run off the road, we can also learn how to eliminate roads altogether. The oil companies won't like it very much, but the world of *Star Trek* may be just around the corner or the next bend in the warp.

## WHERE DID THE EARTH COME FROM?

The popular scientific explanation for the creation of the Earth is a lot of rubbish. The sun is an atomic bomb composed of hydrogen atoms constantly ripping apart and turning into helium. A chunk of the sun is not likely to cool and solidify. It would convert to energy and gas and dissipate into space. If the process proposed by scientists could produce a planet the size of the earth (and it can't), the original object would have to be larger than the sun. And helium would be a basic ingredient of the resultant atmosphere. Our atmosphere is mostly nitrogen. Helium is one of the rarest of all gases. It is found only in the United States, mainly in Texas. If the Earth was, in fact, an offshoot of the solar process, there should be pockets of helium everywhere. (The great dirigibles of the 1920s and 1930s had to be abandoned because of the high cost of helium led the designers to rely on dangerous hydrogen gas for their gas bags.)

We know from the study of rock formations that the Earth is around three billion years old. Until very recently astronomers believed the moon was created about the same time as the Earth and was even made of a piece of material wrenched from the Earth itself. But the moon rocks brought back by our astronauts indicate the moon is older than the earth by at least a billion years!

Finally, the Earth seems to be dramatically different from all the other planets in our solar system (most of the others are gaseous). How come? Were the nine planets created at different times in different ways?

As we learn more about Mars we may find that it is far older than the Earth or moon and could have supported life aeons ago. That life no longer exists. Did the Martians migrate? Or were they transported somewhere else by "metal birds" at a certain period in their development?

If the Pleiadians are a super-race with a super-culture, maybe they not only have the means for space travel; maybe they also have a technology so incredible they can manipulate whole planets. Some of the more mysterious features on our planet could be their handiwork. After earlier colonies had failed or perished, they set up a system of elaborate experiments, dumping some earthlings in the Arctic, planting others in arid desert regions, and so on. They chose to reside temporarily, according to tradition, in the rarified atmosphere of our highest mountains and in Tibet while they supervised this fantastic project.

Some historians have suggested that our memory of the Garden of Eden is really a memory of some other world. More likely it is just the memory of bewildered ancients who found themselves suddenly transported to inhospitable deserts, their memories as befuddled as the memories of our modern UFO contactees.

All of this is merely an intellectual exercise. The case for extraterrestrial life is built upon a very fragile premise. Probabilities are not certainties. Myths and legends have been so distorted through constant telling and retelling that they are hardly reliable sources for hard facts. We can only base our speculations on what we know and have learned through the modern appearances and manipulations of unidentified flying objects. *And the major lesson of the UFO events is that the source of the objects is occupied with deceiving and confusing us.* Our Pleiadians are allegorical.

Man's search for extraterrestrial life may be a fruitless enterprise based upon our growing and fearful loneliness. If there are people sitting on a doomed planet in the Pleiades, they may be only sharing our fear and loneliness. Dr. Loren Eiseley, the great naturalist, put it this way a few years ago: "Somewhere across space great instruments, handled by strange, manipulative organs, may stare vainly at our floating cloud wrack, their owners yearning as we yearn."

We seek to find meaning in our meaningless existence. We hope that we are not alone, and we view the Sky People with optimism as an indication that we are not. But the Sky People have always looked back with hollow eyes, viewing us as specimens in some galactic test tube. The ancients who busied themselves with stone constructions oriented with the Pleiades may have known more about our heritage than we do. They may have yearned not for contact with some extraterrestrial race but for the hills of home.

### ***Serving Man... On A Platter***

Several years ago a short story appeared describing how the flying saucers arrive on Earth and their pilots quickly win us over with their wisdom and kindness. They even offer to transport large numbers of earthlings to another planet for a new, more fruitful life. Millions of people clamor to make the trip. Huge spaceships arrive to collect these willing emigrants.

In the course of the story, a book discarded by one of the spacemen falls into the hands of a scholar who laboriously translates it. The book is titled, *How To Serve Man*.

The story ends with the revelation that it is a cookbook!

While the little apocryphal tale was only pure fantasy, it revived the earlier warning of Charles Fort. He wrote that he suspected this planet was *owned* by something or somebody; that we are all property.

The late Ivan T. Sanderson, a great Fortean thinker, reached a similar conclusion. He suggested that the earth was a gigantic farm and that we – mankind – are only the crop.

Sounds silly, doesn't it? To think that cannibals from outer space might one day land and solve our overpopulation problem overnight.

But if you give it just a little thought, you will realize that billions of people have understood and believed this very thing for thousands of years. This belief is the foundation of all our great religions.

### ***The Mysterious Prophecy***

In 1966-67, Ivan Sanderson and I appeared together on many speakers' platforms in the Northeast. Wherever we went someone invariably stood up in the audience and asked us a bizarre question. It was always the same question, and it was always asked in grim seriousness. We heard it mostly on scattered college campuses. So far as we could determine, the question had never been published anywhere. It was just a rumor that had somehow spread over the entire country in those years.

Here's how it went: Was it true, the questioner would ask, that flying saucers were landing on college campuses and kidnapping hundreds of students, mostly females, never to be seen again? Was it also true that all the relatives, friends, and teachers of the kidnapped students were then being brainwashed in some mysterious manner so that they lost all memory of the missing students? In short, the kidnappings were carried out in such a way that it was as if the victims had never existed. No one who knew them could remember them.

Sometimes our questioners would credit this incredible idea to Jeanne Dixon, the famous Washington seer. Eventually, the rumor did reach her ears, and in 1968 she issued an emphatic denial to the press. She had *never* said – or even thought about – such a thing.

The kidnap plot rumor alarmed and worried a great many people coming, as it did, at a time when UFO sightings around colleges were occurring in great numbers.

We did not know very much about flying saucers. Only a handful of cultists and cranks were following the UFO situation closely, and relatively few books on the subject were then available to the general public. Very few people knew that amnesia often seized UFO witnesses. And fewer still were aware that a number of people had apparently been kidnapped by UFOs. So the 1966 rumor was remarkably sophisticated considering the scarcity of UFO information.

In 1967, a writer named John Fuller published a non-book based upon the transcribed testimony of Barney and Betty Hill while under hypnosis. They had been treated by a psychiatrist for emotional problems suffered after a strange encounter with a UFO in 1961. The actual recordings of their recollections under hypnosis are hours long, and when Fuller condensed the tapes for his book, he left out many important details. Details which tend to discredit the reality of their remembered experience.

But Fuller's book on the Hill case was a bombshell. Among other things, it implied that the flying saucers were, in fact, capable of inducing amnesia (the Hills had no conscious memory of the story they related under hypnosis). An even more condensed version appeared in a national magazine, lending undue credibility to an already incredible situation and inadvertently supporting the rumor.

In summary, the Hills recalled being taken aboard a flying saucer in the mountains of New

Hampshire and being subjected to a medical examination there. They were then told they would remember nothing of the experience. And they didn't... until recurrent nightmares drove them to the psychiatrist.

### ***Curious Backlash***

Although the authenticity of the Hill story can be seriously questioned, it did produce a curious backlash. Other people came forward with similar stories, some dating back to the 1940s. These people had remained silent for years, fearing ridicule. Essentially, they all recalled being stopped on lonely highways and taken into some kind of a structure (not always a flying saucer), where they were thoroughly examined medically. Characteristically, their memories of these episodes were as cloudy as the Hills'!

But historical records of this kind of adventure cover the past two thousand years! There is nothing new here. Earthlings have been suffering strange distortions of reality ever since. Occult and religious lore, and the widespread fairy stories of the Middle Ages all recount the same thing. Mrs. Hill recalled some kind of long needle being thrust into her abdomen. This needle feature can be found in stories dating back 500 years.

When you view all these tales *in toto* it sounds as if someone has been periodically collecting human beings and inspecting them as we might inspect cattle.

The flying saucer believers of the 1960s tried to find all kinds of meaning in Fuller's fragmented account of the Hill case. They saw it as proof that curious visitors from another planet were merely studying a sample of life here. But there is really much more to it. Much more.

Someone from somewhere has been keeping close tabs on us for *thousands* of years.

## DISNEYLAND OF THE GODS

In 1925 Charles Fort wrote that "... ships from other worlds have been seen by millions of the inhabitants of this earth, exploring, night after night, in the sky of France, England, New England, and Canada..."

Fort was reporting a phenomenon which would not officially exist for another twenty-two years, and which ceased to exist officially in 1969, when the U.S. Air Force quietly put away its flying-saucer-chasing equipment. The odd little man with the world did not. He knew from his extensive research into scientific journals and old magazines that mysterious machines and aerial constructions had been widely seen throughout history; that the occupants of these marvels had often been viewed by amazed earthlings, and, in fact, some of man's most cherished myths were based upon contact with such objects.

One example is the legend of the Watchers. Strange beings from some other place or some other space-time continuum have *always* been sitting in our skies, silently watching us struggle upward from our caves. In the mountains of Tibet the ancient lamas knew all about the Watchers. Occasionally westerners would stumble upon them, too, in that distant and inhospitable land. Nicholas Roerich, the artist, explorer, and humanitarian reported seeing gleaming metal disks soaring above the Himalayas in the 1920s. Frank Smythe, the famous mountain climber, observed a "pulsating tea kettle" hovering nearby, as he struggled alone up the face of a mountain in Nepal. Before he saw it he had the uneasy feeling that something or someone was watching him, benevolently, as if concerned about his safety.

In the big UFO years of 1966-68 missionaries on the Himalayan roof of the world wrote letters describing their own encounters with the phantom aircraft. During that same period a handful of scientists laboring in remote Antarctica were reportedly watching great circular objects soaring over ice fields near the South Pole.

The Watchers enjoyed another year of tourism over this cosmic Disneyland in 1973-75, popping up almost everywhere at once, and then disappearing as suddenly and mysteriously as they had come. From the long history of this phenomenon we know we haven't seen the last of them. They will be back, and a new generation of young people will stand on the earth's hills and study the night skies expectantly.

### ***Gods or Spacemen?***

One morning in the year 40,000 B.C. a hairy man-animal heard a buzzing sound outside his cave. When he crept to the entrance he was stunned to see a strange intrusion into his rugged environment; a gleaming metallic object rimmed with transparent windows. Behind those windows stood the tall, silent Watchers, their faces dark and expressionless. The man-animal retreated and, for the benefit of his descendents, sketched the object onto the wall of his cave. The sketches still exist in Africa, Australia, France, and China.

Were these Watchers gods, as the first man supposed them to be, or astronauts from some distant planet? Perhaps they were earthlings, beings from a splendid continent separated and protected by the oceans from the hostile jungles of the cave men, thriving in a land where magic and technology were one. Their flying machines spanned the world, and they watched with detachment as the man-animal appeared and multiplied.

Later, as the men spread slowly across the landscape, the Watchers came forward from the skies and from the seas to offer gentle assistance. They taught men to farm, and gave them the fundamentals of law and mathematics. Man, in turn, dedicated his greatest works to these gods. He carved their images from blocks of stones. The arts of dance, painting, and storytelling all began as a means of paying tribute to the wondrous Watchers.

Over time the benign Watchers changed. They demanded first animal sacrifices, then human sacrifices. They claimed credit for natural disasters, and men began to fear them. Around the world great pyramids were built, and beautiful young women were left in temples on their summits at

special times of the year. The gods came down from the sky and, according to legend, mated with the human women. These women bore special children, giants with incredible physical and psychic strength who assumed command of tribes and whole nations. The world was divided into a score of zones or kingdoms, each ruled over by one of these hybrid kings. To preserve their godly lineage, the royal families intermarried; but the Watchers retained control by appearing frequently before the kings and issuing orders, even laying the plans of battle for ancient wars. Men were disciplined to obey the kings and their gods without question. In a sense, these gods *owned* the earth and had direct control over all its inhabitants through the God-king system; a system still in effect in many parts of the world into the twentieth century.

### ***"I Think We Are Property"***

Charles Fort recognized the subtle warp and woof of human history when he stated, "I think we are property. Someone owns this earth. All others warned off." The gods were, at one time, very real, and their directives to mankind were not initiated out of concern for the human condition but calculated to protect the earth itself! Man was caught up as the pawn in some dark and forbidding celestial chess game. Events that seemed totally senseless to one generation would suddenly acquire important meaning several generations later. We tried to rationalize our predicament with inventive theologies and cosmologies. We rewrote history until it matched our ideals and concealed our often ugly motivations. Our true history became myth and our myths became our substitute for history. That part of history and pre-history which lay beyond our feeble memories was filled in for us by entities who professed to belong to the Watchers. An oral history was passed on to the men who consorted with the Watchers, and we accepted much of it without question. After the great libraries of China and Egypt were destroyed, our prophets filled in the lost chapters of human progress. We passed through ages of magic, when superstition and fear of the unknown cast deep shadows across the human psyche. Later, when we embraced anew the cosmic overlords and became enslaved in the Dark Ages, we rewrote history again. In 1848 we began the long, painful escape from the God-king system and entered the modern industrial age. Political ideologies replaced religion as the forces which moved us, and the old gods grew misty and mythical while the new gods, the alleged beings from outer space appeared in our farm fields. Is Ashtar, the self-appointed chief of the Intergalactic Federation, merely an updated version of Ashtoreth, the multi-breasted goddess of the ancients?

### ***Meanwhile, Back In Atlantis...***

About three hundred years ago we stopped believing in witches, goblins, and leprechauns and became very scientific. We finally figured out that the Earth revolves around the sun instead of vice versa. We even discovered that the blood in our bodies circulates through veins. In 1969, Neil Armstrong came back from the moon with the news that it wasn't made out of green cheese after all. There is, however, disquieting evidence that none of this information is new. Our planet is at least three billion years old and there is growing evidence that great civilizations existed here while our ancestors were still climbing trees. They probably knew all about the circulation of blood and the mineral content of the moon. And they seem to have known things about our planet that we are still trying to rediscover.

In the 1920s a man named Alfred Watkins stood on a hilltop in England and suddenly noticed something no one else in modern times had bothered to see. Stretched out along the rolling hills were thin lines or tracks, pursuing absolutely straight courses for miles. They traversed impossible terrain, loping up steep mountains, cutting across swamps and bogs, connecting England's most ancient stone monuments like Stonehenge and the *tumuli* (man-made mounds). These tracks or leys, as they are now called were apparently laid out thousands of years ago by some unknown race, for some unknown purpose.

Accompanying these leys are mammoth man-made ridges of earth which do not appear to have served any practical purpose. They could not have been part of some irrigation system, and they are too low to serve as fortifications.

To compound the mystery, Watkins' leys are by no means unique to England. Identical systems can be found in South America, Africa, China, and elsewhere.

At one time in the distant past primitive men everywhere were engaged in the construction of these tracks and the strange monuments that adorn them. Enormous labor must have been required, with thousands of people struggling generation after generation to haul baskets of dirt and huge stones, sometimes for hundreds of miles, to build them.

But why?

### ***Traces of a Lost World***

On many remote Pacific Islands there are vast stoneworks as impressive as Stonehenge. Some of these monuments are made of stones not even found on the islands. One the coral atoll of Tonga-Tabu, for example, we found two upright stone columns weigh seventy tons each, topped by a crosspiece weighing twenty-five tons. How did the builders get these huge stones to the atoll in the first place? And why did they bother?

The ancient city of Metalanim on the shore of Ponape Island in Micronesia is now in ruins, but it once could have housed two million people. No one knows who built it or when. Some of the blocks in these ruins weigh fifteen tons, and the stone used in the city is not from the island. Canals and waterways intersect the city, some of them big enough to float a battleship.

Three thousand miles to the southeast of Ponape Island, on tiny Malden Island in the Line Island chain, there are the ruins of forty stone temples whose architecture is identical to that of Metalanim. Basalt roads lead from these ruins into the Pacific Ocean. The island is uninhabited and covered with guano (bird droppings). But if we draw an imaginary line southward from Malden for twelve hundred miles, we arrive at Rarotonga in the Cook Islands. Here another ancient road of basalt blocks rises out of the ocean.

Other scattered Pacific islands boast of huge man-made mounds like those found throughout the United States and England. And strange statuary though the natives of the Pacific were not statue builders.

The intricate network of leys in England is somehow connected to similar formations in China on the other side of the world. Great man-made ridges have been measured from the air in Florida, England, and Peru. The ridged field at Lake Titacaca in the Andes covers two hundred thousand acres and is spread over 160 miles. All of these things seem to be interrelated, as if they were once part of some great civilization – a common culture that spread throughout the world and then died.

In the last century stone chests dug up in the mounds of the Mississippi Valley were found to be identical to chests unearthed in mounds in Yorkshire, England. But we call the American *tumuli* "Indian mounds," even though the American Indians deny any knowledge of who built them or why.

In the early 1800s a great religion was founded by a boy named Joseph Smith, who discovered a stone chest filled with gold plates in a mound in New York state. He claimed to be able to translate the plates and so produced the Mormon bible, a purported history of North America in ancient times.

A number of scholars – and not a few crackpots – have studied these archaeological mysteries and accepted them as evidence for the lost continents of Atlantis and Mu (or Lemuria). And, in fact, these things do seem to verify ancient myths of a super-culture that blossomed in the Atlantic or Pacific thousands of years ago. When you toss other things into the pot, such as the *Piri Re'is* maps, a startling picture of the ancient world takes form. (The *Piri Re'is* maps were made in 1513, apparently copied from much earlier maps, and depict parts of the world then unknown, including Antarctica.)

### ***Where Did They Go?***

We have a reasonably complete history of the past two thousand years, and a half-baked archaeological reconstruction of the past five thousand years. But there are so many gaps in our knowledge that most of the popular archaeological theories really have very little merit. Indeed, we

can't even be sure that the Egyptians built the Great Pyramid of Giza. Peter Tompkins, a leading authority on the pyramid, has stated, "... as more is discovered it may open the door to a whole new civilization of the past, and a much longer history of man than has heretofore been credited."

It is generally assumed that the British Isles were populated by scattered tribes of very primitive cavemen types at the time Stonehenge and the leys were built. Yet recent computer studies have shown that Stonehenge was a very sophisticated structure, built by someone with a modern knowledge of astronomy. It was hardly the work of cavemen. And the leys were already ancient when the Romans invaded. In fact, the Romans built some of their roads along the old leys.

The Great Pyramid may have already been in existence when the first Egyptian empires were formed, just as the great mounds of North and South America were already here when the first Indians arrived on the scene.

The unanswerable question is: Who preceded modern man and what happened to them?

Whoever they were, they were inspired by something or someone to construct great ground markings which can only be seen from the air. The leys of England had gone unnoticed for hundreds of years until Mr. Watkins spotted them from his hilltop. Since then aerial surveys have discovered gigantic figures cut into the hills and valleys of Great Britain. There are giant horses and even the form of a huge caveman brandishing a club. It is almost as if someone were marking a hill to inform aerial visitors "Cavemen live here."

Here in the United States, many of the great mounds of Ohio, Minnesota, and Mississippi are built to resemble the figures of serpents and elephants. Elephants! The beasts have been extinct in North America for many thousands of years. Again, you could stand on the top of one of these mounds and never recognize its true shape. They can only be seen from airplanes.

From Florida to California there are intricate patterns of lines cut into the ground and visible only from the air, just as the astounding Nazca lines of the Peruvian desert forming spiders, snakes, and other animals can be recognized only from an airplane.

Why did our mysterious ancestors devote so much time and energy building these seemingly worthless mounds and designs?

### ***The Tracks of the Dragons***

Until Marco Polo's adventurous journey, China was very isolated from the western world. There was no communication between ancient China and ancient Britain, yet both of these widely separated countries maintained identical legends of great dragons. Along the leys of England there are innumerable churches and monuments raised to commemorate historic battles with fierce dragons, hideous animals which were described in much the same way as the Chinese dragons.

But the Chinese dragon lore extended beyond mere fights with wild animals. The Chinese laid out dragon paths, noting that weird flying objects appeared year after year, following the same route. These routes became sacred, and persons of high position were carefully buried in mounds planted along these routes. The Chinese also developed their complex Yin and Yang concept, believing that electromagnetic currents or fields of force pursued specific lines. This field was mapped out over the centuries and marked in much the same way as the leys of England.

In the 1950s, France's leading ufologist, Aimé Michel, discovered that UFOs followed specific routes over France year after year. Other ufologists, such as the late Dr. Fontes of Brazil, extended this discovery and tried to trace worldwide UFO routes. This "Straight Line Mystery" became a ufological controversy. Some scientists said it worked, others called it hogwash.

Here in the U.S. it has been noted that UFOs seem to appear frequently in the mound areas of Ohio, etc., and even seem to traverse lines between such areas.

This planet is surrounded by a magnetic field which follows different courses in different parts of the world. Places marked by magnetic anomalies and compass deviations do seem to experience more UFO sightings than places where the natural magnetism is more normal.

Even more peculiar is the fact that many of the ancient temples of both the East and West were carefully built directly over magnetic anomalies. How did the ancient peoples locate these spots? Was their science as advanced as our own?

It could be that they located these places through observation alone, by studying the flights of mysterious objects century after century, until they had determined their exact routes and could mark the places where those routes intersected.

Did they then lay out designs on the ground to guide these aerial visitors or pay homage to them in some way?

### ***The Tragedy of Wilhelm Reich***

Dr. Wilhelm Reich was recognized as one of the most brilliant psychiatrists of his day. He was a close friend and colleague of Sigmund Freud. His books on psychiatry have become standard texts. But in the 1950s, Dr. Reich was seized by a strange obsession. He retired to a house in Maine to work on an elaborate theory. He came to believe that there is a high frequency field of force surrounding us which supplies energy and life. He called it Orgone.

In many ways, Reich's Orgone theories duplicated ancient Chinese beliefs. He suspected that UFOs (which he saw frequently in Maine) somehow used this Orgone for their propulsion, and he constructed instruments which, believe it or not, caused UFOs to explode or dissipate.

Today many scientists are engaged in research similar to Reich's. We may be on the threshold of new discoveries which will explain some of these ancient mysteries. But, in a sense, history just seems to be repeating itself. We may be only rediscovering the things the ancients knew.

For the past ten years German scientists from the Max Planck Institute of Extraterrestrial Physics (Munich) have been working with NASA to chart the earth's magnetic field. Hundreds of rockets have been launched into the upper stratosphere all over the world, where they release clouds of barium gas. These luminous clouds spread out in the magnetic field like iron filings clustering about a magnet. These experiments, and many others like them, have gone largely unnoticed by the public, but modern science is coming to grips with these problems and mysteries.

Dr. Reich may one day be vindicated and hailed as a great pioneer.

### ***Linking the Mysteries***

Evidence that ancient people had an incredible knowledge of astronomy has been found throughout the world. Stone calendars found in South America are accurate down to a decimal point. Ancient records from the Middle East reveal knowledge that could only have been gained through the use of telescopes and sophisticated instrumentation. The intricate ley systems of Britain and China prove that the ancient peoples knew as much – or more – about the earth's magnetic field as we do.

Many legends of early man suggests that the "sky people" who once visited the earth taught us the rudiments of agriculture and astronomy. These mysterious "gods" were of such great importance in the lives of the ancients that the only traces left of some ancient civilizations are the stone monuments and temples built in tribute to the gods.

Is it possible, we must ask, that these "sky people" might have conned early man into constructing guideposts to aid them in their sorties over this planet? The leys were worthless as roads, but they did point out the flow of magnetic currents. Did the craft of the "sky people" depend on these currents as a glider depends on air currents?

Did we map out this entire planet to satisfy the needs of the mysterious aerial gods?

Dr. Reich may have been on the right track. There may be forces surrounding us which were well-known to the ancient peoples, which have been loosely defined in the mathematical art of astrology, and which are a vital part of the UFO mystery.

What will happen when we at last learn the answers to these riddles? Will we begin working on leys of our own? Or, having unlocked the secrets of the universe, will we simply disappear as suddenly and mysteriously as the learned ancients did?

## THE MISSING YEARS

Don't anybody leave the planet. Ten thousand years are missing! There is a baffling void in our scientific knowledge of the years between 15,000 B.C. and 25,000 B.C. It is as though those ten thousand years never existed. Modern methods can date ancient relics and bones with a fair degree of accuracy. The Leakeys in Africa have turned the clock back five million years by finding human bones indicating that our ancestors were roaming this mud ball even then. Archaeologists have uncovered primitive tools and living quarters from as many as 30,000 years ago. But the finds stop at around 25,000 B.C. The stratas of earth become barren until we reach the 15,000 year level. The five-million-year-old humans seem to have vanished entirely for a long period.

Where did all the people go? Did human life on Earth come to a dead halt for 100 centuries? And, if so, how did it start up again?

There are innumerable theories for this anomaly. Believers in the Atlantis legend claim that Atlantis, the fabled hub of ancient civilization, was destroyed sometime between 12,000 B.C. and 15,000 B.C. Sometime later, a new civilization arose in the Indus Valley in India and in Egypt.

Did the Quaternary Period (Ice Age) wipe out some great ancient civilization? If intelligent life existed five million or more years ago, there was plenty of time for it to grow and flourish before the planet went into the deep freeze about three million years ago. Due to some inexplicable change in orbital mechanics, the earth turned cold and more than one-fourth of the land surface was covered with glacial ice. The ice receded around 35,000 B.C. But that didn't end our troubles. Authorities such as Professor Charles Hapgood contend that sometime around 12,000 B.C. there was another planetary upheaval. Perhaps the entire globe tilted over on its axis. Dramatic changes of climate and topography occurred. Fossils, sea shells, etc. found deep in Africa's Sahara desert prove that it was once underwater. The rich coal and oil deposits of the Arctic and Antarctica are proof that those regions once nourished all kinds of plant life.

Were our ancestors cowering in caves and frantically swinging from tree to tree while these catastrophes were taking place? Or were they removed to a safer place – even another planet – until the crises had passed?

Today there are many warning signs that a new global disaster is in the making. Polar ice is melting at an alarming rate. The earth's rotation is now measurably slowing down. A distinct wobble has developed on the earth's axis. The ecological balance of the planet is upset. Major climate changes are beginning to occur. The earth's natural magnetic fields are fluctuating wildly. Even the old reliable sun is beginning to misbehave. Sunspots cycles are changing and explosions on the sun have been so massive they have endangered some of our space flights.

### *History Repeats*

How often has this happened before? The earth is approximately three billion years old. *Three billion*. Our records of man's chaotic habitation extend back a mere 5,000 years. Beyond that point we have to rely entirely on archaeological speculation and anthropological guesswork. Dr. Leakey found a human skull that was at least two million years old. It is probable that intelligent forms of life were struggling here ten million – even twenty million years ago. They may have gone through all the stages we have passed in 30,000 years, from caves to space exploration. Just measure our progress in the last 500 years. Five centuries ago most of the world was unknown. The people of Asia, Africa, and South America knew nothing about Europe, and vice versa.

Even while the Wright Brothers, Ford, and Edison were working to alter our entire civilization, there were still *millions* of people living in Africa, Asia, and South America under primitive conditions. It is probable that five million years ago, even 30,000 years ago, human life existed in various stages of progress simultaneously. The gods of the cave men living on the fringes of the great glaciers may have been advanced earthlings; survivors of an earlier civilization, earthlings who were even then reaching for the stars while the cave-dwellers were still trying to invent the wheel. Then around 25,000 B.C. something terrible happened. The advanced culture all but

vanished. The few scattered survivors, vastly outnumbered by the primitive cave men, labored to preserve millions of years of knowledge by teaching the primitives the rudiments of astrology, alchemy, and the laws of magic (which are really advanced physics). The catastrophe of 12,000 B.C. finished off the super-culture, and primitive man inherited the earth.

### ***Are We Robots?***

All great religions teach us that we are robots, mysteriously controlled by a supernatural force; that we were constructed in the image of our Master. While Darwin's Theory of Evolution satisfactorily explains what happens to life after it is created, it fails to explain the act of creation itself. Many scientists have abandoned the concept of evolution, grudgingly admitting that the more complex life forms on this planet seem to be the product of design rather than some hit-or-miss natural process.

From birth you are programmed in much the same way that a computer is programmed. A genetic code predetermines all of your basic characteristics. This system is augmented by a supernatural system. Millions of people in every generation have their minds reprogrammed by this supernatural system. It involves a beam of high-frequency energy transmitted on the exact frequency of the recipient's brain waves. In many instances, the beam is visible and appears to be a beam of light coming from the sky, or from an object in the sky. This is a well-observed, carefully recorded phenomenon. In religion the process is called "Illumination."

Today we tend to relate these beams of light, and their effects on humans, with the UFO phenomenon. Each year thousands of people are the foci of such beams and, very often, develop increased IQs and dramatic changes of personality after their experiences. Once a relatively rare occurrence, this reprogramming process has become commonplace in the past thirty years.

Did this same mysterious force control men and direct human events five million years ago? Is it a force from outer space? Or is it a force unleashed millions of years ago by some super-culture here on earth – a culture that once had the ability to construct biological robots? Is that super-culture still in command?

### ***The Monolith***

The end product of evolution will not be a superman. It will be a machine, probably a supercomputer. Computer technology is advancing so fast that within a few years we will undoubtedly perfect a mechanical brain superior to the human brain. Transistors and miniturization will enable us to build this brain compactly. It may look like nothing but a metal cube a few feet square.

We are just discovering the psychic potential of the human brain. Experiments in ESP and psychic phenomena are reverifying what the ancients already knew: that the human mind can, within certain limitations, manipulate physical matter and reality itself. Our supercomputer will have this same capability, but to a very advanced degree. Its sensors will inform it of everything that is happening on earth. It will be able to read minds of the survivors of the next cataclysm, and perhaps even control them. Their descendents will worship it, having lost all memory of our civilization. They might build a temple around the supercomputer and guard it zealously without ever knowing exactly why.

This may sound like a very outlandish concept. But our civilization is heading in this very direction. Our space program is winding down. If – rather, when – real economic disaster strikes, we will altogether abandon our dream of colonizing the planets. Development of the supercomputer, a kind of ultimate dictator for the whole planet, will assume priority. Forty years ago the first crude UNIVAC computer filled a whole building, and it was inferior to the pocket calculators you can buy today in any electronic store. The supercomputer of tomorrow will be designed to run the whole world more efficiently and more objectively than any man could.

Stanley Kubrick's movie *2001: A Space Odyssey* visualized such a computer. A slablike monolith that influenced apes and turned them into men appeared, placed there by the denizens of some other planet to watch over us and guide us.

Such a monolith may already exist on earth. It may have been built millions of years ago and now is

growing old and tired, so it is guiding us to a point where we will be able to replace it with a new model. And then we will vanish and future archaeologists will be puzzled because human history will seem to cease after the year 3000 A.D. Then around 13,000 A.D. a cave man will be clawing his way over a glacier, when a beam of light will strike him and he will invent the wheel.

Over two thousand years ago a metallic black cube was discovered in the sands of the Arabian desert and the people of that time viewed it with awe. They actually built a city around it and have guarded it so closely that any non-Arab who dared to penetrate its temple was put to death. A thousand years later the cube – it is called the *Kaaba* – was absorbed into the Muslim religion and became the most prized artifact of the Muslims. It still exists. It is still heavily guarded in Mecca. Skeptical scientists who have never even viewed it dismiss it as a meteorite. But millions believe it somehow runs the world.

Where did the *Kaaba* come from? Tradition states that it was given to Abraham by a supernatural being. Was this a being from outer space, or was it a straggler from an ancient civilization, or even a psychic projection generated by the *Kaaba* itself?

### ***It's Alive!***

Individual ants are quite stupid, but put a thousand ants together and they form a single, collective mind with incredible abilities. They devise military stratagems and even execute elaborate feats of engineering. Alone, an ant is a brainless biological automaton. In a group, it becomes an integral part of a larger, intelligent organism.

There are other examples in the animal world. Tiny underwater animals join together to form larger organisms which have the ability to lure and catch large fish and feed the whole colony. A microscopic African flea forms a tiny ball with thousands of its fellows on the tip of a blade of grass. When an animal brushes past, the ball clings to it, breaks up, and the fleas spread all over the animal's body. When all are in position a signal is somehow passed among them, and they all bite the animal simultaneously. It falls screaming in agony from a thousand tiny jaws pincering into its flesh.

Dr. Carl Jung, the psychologist, speculated that mankind is somewhat like those ants and fleas. The unconscious minds of all of us might be joined collectively, he suggested, by radiolike waves of energy. The collective unconsciousness of mankind would thus form a single massive brain quite independent of us but capable of manipulating us and our reality, just as our individual minds can dream and, within strict limitations, reshape our immediate environment.

Zoologist Ivan Sanderson went a step further. He saw our planet as a living organism with its own mind and hidden purposes. Today many scientists have adopted this view. They speak of the "biosphere," the total planet as a single organism. The ecological forces on this planet are part of the whole. Wind and water currents are like the arteries of the human body. Each system supports the others. If you interfere with one system you disturb the whole organism. Since 1848 we have been deliberately destroying many of the interlocking systems. The earth is screaming in agony and perhaps that great mind, the collective unconsciousness, is desperately reaching out to us, trying to communicate with us on our level.

For the past twenty years the ufonauts have been repeating two phrases over and over again to the flying saucer contactees (who now number in the many thousands). "We are One," is one of their favorite declarations. "You are endangering the balance of the universe," is their warning. They are apoplectic over our atomic experiments (over 1,000 nuclear bombs have been exploded in the earth's atmosphere since 1945), crying that we are not only threatening our world but are also affecting "many other worlds."

When Thor Heyerdahl crossed the Atlantic in a reed boat, he noted that the *entire* ocean was now polluted with oil slicks and human garbage. Most of the oxygen in our atmosphere is produced by a tiny algae that grows in the ocean. Pollution is killing off the algae at an alarming rate. The planet is battling for survival. Since all lesser organisms have a built-in instinct for self-preservation, we can assume that earth has a similar instinct. When the earth is viewed as a living organism, mankind becomes a kind of disease – billions of germs or parasites spreading out and witlessly destroying the

interdependent eco-systems.

As the pace of the planetary crisis quickens, the Watchers increase their mysterious surveillance. The night skies are filled more often with thousands of cosmic eyes. More and more people are stopped on lonely roads by strange forces which reprogram their minds as easily as we alter and reprogram computer tapes. Humans are tagged just as we tag wild animals to watch their migratory movements and chart their habits. The UFOs do not seem to be part of some distant intergalactic system at all, but are closely related to both mankind and the earth itself.

In its early time the earth may have needed man, but now we have become a plague threatening the entire organism. The signs and wonders of our present day may be the subtle beginnings of global convulsions to come – convulsions that will spring from the planet's urge for self-preservation and ultimately destroy us.

The earth is not inhabited. It is infested.

## THE MOONSTONE MYSTERY

Thousands of years before the Indians settled in North America, another culture thrived there. They were primitive by modern standards but, like the early Egyptians, they were fine craftsmen and very industrious people. They mined copper, iron, lead, gold, and even coal. They drilled for oil. They were also great builders and dug canals and irrigation systems all over the continent. Remnants of their efforts still survive, including massive stone walls, roads, and pyramids of earth. They measured the seasons and the movement of the stars by erecting circular stone astronomical computers similar to England's Stonehenge.

In those far-off days, huge mastadons still roamed this land. Our unknown predecessors carved artifacts from mastadon tusks and scratched pictures of the animals in the faces of cliffs. They even left depictions of dinosaur-like creatures, resembling the fable dragons of China and Great Britain. And in the tradition of the Chinese and British dragon carvings, they usually dress a circle or disc in front of the creature.

The disc was, in fact, a very significant part of that culture. Thousands upon thousands of tiny stone discs, laboriously carved by human hands, have been found at archaeological sites throughout the country. Most of them are less than six inches in diameter. Many look like miniature cog wheels notched with such precision that they almost seem machine-made. A large quantity of these clogged stones have been found in the Bolsa Chica area of southern California in a stratum of earth dating back 8,000 years. Others have been found in the lower levels of the huge man-made mounds of the Ohio and Mississippi valleys.

Scientists have failed to come up with a comfortable explanation for these curious artifacts. Some have suggested they were used in games, like modern checkers. Others think they might have been used as money. They must have had some important purpose for the task of carving them was certainly arduous and time consuming. Lacking a better term, archaeologists call these things "Moonstones." They are a constant embarrassment to scientific theorists; most of these moonstones are hidden away in boxes in museum basements. One set of moonstones found in New York state was doubly embarrassing. The New York discs are rimmed with a series of carefully spaced holes and were found in the lower layer of a mound which dated them as having been carved long before the first Europeans arrived. When scientists studied the holes, they were nonplussed to discover *they had been drilled with a steel drill*. Of course, the Indians did not have steel drills.

Even more puzzling were the three discs found at the Old Crow site at Lindenmeier, Colorado. Archaeologists date the artifacts found there as being 170,000 years old! The discs have uniformly carved edges and are identical to discs found half a world away at Laugerie-Haute, France. Other objects found at both sites include bone needles, stone spear points, and awls. These things were apparently created by a pre-Ice Age culture.

The stone and bone discs may have been used as money. Or maybe the cavemen just like to play tiddly-winks.

### ***Stone Spheres***

The North American moonstones are dwarfed by the hundreds of stone spheres scattered in the jungles of Central America, largely in Costa Rica. Some are as big as eight feet in diameter and weigh more than sixteen tons. Others are only a few inches in diameter. All are perfectly formed spheres. No one knows who carved them, when, or why. Were they bowling balls of giants? Did they have some religious significance? One thing is certain. It would take an enormous amount of effort to carve just one of these balls and grind it down to a perfect sphere. To do the job, the ball would have to be constantly rotated, and rotating a sixteen-ton block of stone would be no easy task. Some of these spheres have been found laid out in a measured geometric pattern on the jungle floor. How were they transported and moved into place?

One group of large spheres are laid out in neat row aligned with magnetic north. Did the cavers have a magnetic compass?

Colonel Fawcett, the explorer who vanished while searching for a legendary lost city in the jungles of Brazil, studied native stories about stone spheres which glowed so brightly at night they were used as street lights.

Some of the spheres in Costa Rica are mounted on stone pedestals. If some magnetic anomaly caused them to glow at night, they would probably light up a large area.

But can stones glow?

### ***Morehemoodus***

East Haddam, Connecticut was the site of a very strange luminous rock story in the late 1700s, according to an article published in the *American Journal of Science* in 1840.

"About fifty years ago, a European by the name of Steele came into the place and boarded in the family of a Mr. Knowlton for a short period," Reverend Henry Chapman reported. "He was a man of intelligence, and supposed to be in disguise. He told Mr. Knowlton in confidence that he had discovered the place of a fossil which he called a carbuncle, and that he should be able to procure it in a few days. Accordingly, he soon brought home a white round substance resembling a stone in the light, but which became remarkably luminous in the dark. It was his practice to labor after his mineral in the night season. The night on which he procured it he secreted it in Mr. Knowlton's cellar, which was without windows, yet its illuminating power was so great that the house appeared to be on fire, and was seen at a great distance. The next morning he enclosed it in sheet lead, and departed for Europe, and has never since been heard of."

The Indians called the East Haddam, Connecticut area *Morehemoodus*, meaning "places of noises." Strange explosions, like heavy cannon shots, have always haunted the place and are still heard there occasionally. Fortean researcher William R. Corliss has located a number of modern reports of this phenomenon, known locally as the Moodus Sounds. Scientists are at loss to explain the noises.

### ***The Stone Workers***

While the natives of Costa Rica were making stone spheres and the Indians were seemingly senselessly carving thousands of tiny stone discs, other mysterious stone masons were hard at work all over the world. During the Vietnam War a place called the Plain of Jars was the scene of several battles. The Plain of Jars is a high plateau surrounded by mountains and gets its name from the fact that it is strewn with huge stone jars; over one thousand of them. Some of these jars are six feet high, and some are big enough to hold six men. They are carved of limestone and granite, and they seem to have always been there. The people of Indochina don't even have any myths to explain their existence. Why would anyone devote so much labor to carving such useless artifacts in such a remote and inaccessible place?

When the first Europeans landed in New England, they were surprised to find ancient stone towers, great man-made mounds of earth and other strange structures dotting the landscape. Many of these important monuments were torn down and plowed under in the early years of occupation. But new discoveries continue to be made. In the 1930s hundreds of miles of fine roads, some forty feet in width, were found in the Southwest. The Indians did not have horses or wheels and so had no real need for roads.

Dolmen (standing stones) and massive Stonehenge-type structures are also scattered across the United States and, like their many counterparts in Denmark, Great Britain, and France, they were built with mathematical precision. Modern scientists believe they were used as astronomical computers. The American Indians were mostly nomadic hunters and lacked the advanced knowledge necessary to build such a thing. Some of these mysterious monuments are thousands of years old.

The ancient American builders also left a massive system of irrigation canals so carefully surveyed and laid out that their construction was far beyond the abilities of the Indians.

As the first Europeans in North America drove the Indians back, they also wantonly destroyed most of these ancient structures. Treasure hunters chopped up the great mounds, usually finding nothing but a few bones, pots, and beads. Settlers broke up the stone walls and buildings to use the stones

for their own cabins. Only a few hundred of the largest mounds were preserved, largely in the Ohio and Mississippi areas. The mounds of Mexico met a similar fate. A Christian church was built on top of the largest ones. The largest of all, larger and older than the Great Pyramid of Egypt, is the step pyramid at Cuicuilco, Mexico. Archaeologists have found that the lower layers were covered with volcanic ash which could be carbon-dated, and they estimate that the pyramid was constructed at least 8,500 years ago! In other words, an advanced pyramid culture was hard at work in the Americas thousands of years before the Egyptian civilization began.

We know shamefully little about that culture because archaeologists can't fit it into their theories. They still maintain the myth that the Indians migrated to this continent from Asia across the Bering Straits even though there is no evidence to support the notion. The Indians themselves have other explanations for their origins. The Cherokees claim they came from the East, across the Atlantic ocean. The Hopiis and other southwestern tribes believe they migrated north from Central and South America.

Scientists digging in New York state have unearthed artifacts that were obviously made by Eskimos. Eskimos in New York! How did they wander so far from their Arctic tundra? Or did they start from here, driven northwards by the invading mound builders?

Throughout the Mississippi and Ohio valleys there are all kinds of ancient structures and traces of a civilization that may have been comparable to the early civilizations of the Indus Valley in India and the Nile Valley in Egypt. Stone cities dating back as far as 8,000 years are now being unearthed in the Mississippi Valley. Excavations into the upper layers of some of the so-called Indian mounds have turned up metal artifacts of iron, copper, and various alloys. The American Indians had no knowledge of metallurgy and were limited to hammering ax heads out of meteoric iron, a substance so rare that the axes were reserved for religious and ceremonial purposes. Yet suits of copper armor, carefully and expertly worked from copper tubing, have been discovered in some mounds. Large numbers of skeletons with copper noses have been found. The noses were apparently part of the burial preparations; preparations as delicate and complicated as the Egyptian mummification process.

In the Great Lakes region a huge network of ancient copper mines can be seen. Some of these mines were in use 2,000 years ago and must have required thousands of workers to extract and process the ore. The Indian culture centered around flint arrowheads and animal skins, not mining and metallurgy.

Oil was a useless liquid to the Indians. They used it only in medicines, in very small quantities. The first important modern oil well was discovered in Titusville, Pennsylvania in 1860, but later very ancient shafts were discovered there indicating that someone had been digging for oil hundreds – even thousands – of years before. Tools, ladders, and construction methods similar to those found in the old copper mines around Lake Superior were unearthed at Titusville. Another ancient oil well was discovered at Enneskillen, Canada. And a worked lead mine was found on a farm outside Lexington, Kentucky.

North America was once a beehive of industrial enterprise.

### ***The Moon-Eyed People***

Indian myths and traditions tell us that large parts of this continent were once inhabited by strange white men. The tribes around what are now the states of Kentucky and West Virginia claimed that a bizarre group of "moon-eyed people" once lived in those places. They had pale skins and large round eyes so sensitive to light that they rarely ventured outside during the day. They lived in villages of stone houses which they guarded fiercely. The Indians learned to avoid them and, in fact, the rich, fertile hills of West Virginia were never settled by the Indians because it was the land of the moon-eyed people.

Modern armchair anthropologists have speculated that the moon-eyes may have been remnants of the famous "lost colony." Soon after Virginia Dare, popularly referred to as the first American, was born in 1587, she, her parents, and the entire Roanoke Island colony disappeared into thin air. When supply ships arrived from Europe they found the island deserted. The nearest Indian tribes were not

hostile and were also baffled by the mass disappearance. The only clue left behind was a meaningless word carved into a tree: *CROATOAN*.

For five hundred years the Vikings maintained a large settlement on Greenland and then, like the Virginia colony, the entire population vanished suddenly and mysteriously. Had they simply migrated *en masse* to North America?

Indian legends about tall, blond, pale-skinned gods abound. Some of these gods sound like armor-clad Vikings. But others were supposedly dressed in long, flowing robes. The Piutes speak of sacred plateaus where these gods resided out west. They were said to be equipped with magical rods which caused the skin to prickle (electric shock?) and induced paralysis. In some legends these gods are described as having the power of flight. They rode the night skies in great metal "birds."

The Eskimos, who bear an interesting resemblance to the ancient Olmecs of Central America, maintain that they were originally flown to the far north in "metal birds." Like the Virginia colony and the Greenland settlement, the Olmecs vanished suddenly and mysteriously.

Aside from the moon-eyed people and the blond gods, the Indians also had to contend with giants. The Delaware Indians believe that their tribe once lived in the west but migrated eastward. In those days the land east of the Mississippi was inhabited by a race of giants who built mighty cities and fortifications. They were called the Alligewi. Both the Allegheny River and Mountains were supposedly named after them. The migrating Indians asked for permission to pass through the Alligewi country and were refused. So the Indians went to war against the giants and eventually drove them out. The Alligewi are said to have fled westward, down the Ohio River and up the Mississippi into Minnesota. Bones of people seven to ten feet tall were found in the Minnesota mounds in the last century.

The natives of Ecuador in South America also have an old story of how a tribe of giants landed on their shores in reed rafts and tried to take over. From the knee down "they were the size of an ordinary fair-sized man" and their eyes were "the size of small plates." These giants slaughtered the Indians and raped their women, but were finally wiped out by some cosmic disaster – a meteor struck their settlement and destroyed them.

Were these giants the moon-eyed Alligewi from North America looking for a new home?

### ***Our Lost History***

Hard physical evidence found all across this continent indicates that an advanced culture thrived here long before the Indians made their mythical migration across the Bering Straits from Asia. Because the mounds, henge, etc. are strikingly similar to constructions found in Europe, Asia, and even remote Pacific islands, we can speculate that this culture was once worldwide. It probably reached its zenith before the Ice Age ten thousand years ago, then deteriorated in the wake of the geological calamities. That early culture mapped the whole planet, and fragments of those maps were handed down over the centuries until they reached Columbus. The giants, who once tossed huge blocks of stone around and built the puzzling monoliths that still stand on every continent, gradually reverted to a fierce, uncivilized state, driven by the urgent requirements of survival.

Atlantis may not have sunk into the ocean. You may be living on it.

## CLONES, HYBRIDS AND SLEEPERS

From the mountains of northern Sweden to the hills of Tennessee one of ufology's most persistent rumors has been enjoying a rebirth. The rumor first began circulating in 1950, only three years after flying saucers had suddenly emerged as a topic for discussion and investigation. In the 1960s it swept the world and became an accepted truth to many advanced ufologists. But its basic premise was so obscure and preposterous that many rejected it and forgot it until the upsurge of landings and contacts in 1973. This is the rumor or theory that the ufonauts are conducting biological experiments with human beings and may even be creating an army of pseudohumans by using the sperms and ovaries from unsuspecting earthlings.

The number of reported contacts supporting the biological experiment theory is mounting rapidly now as more and more investigators take an interest in the once shunned contact cases. In the mid-1960s I visited several college communities in the northeast and collected a series of incredible reports from sincere young men and women who claimed they had been abducted by UFOs and subjected to sexual experimentation. The males said that their sex organs had been examined and special instruments had extracted semen from them. The females claimed they had either been forcibly raped aboard UFOs, or instruments, usually long needles, had been inserted in their lower abdomens to remove substances from their ovaries.

Only two cases of this type received any publicity: the Villas-Boas incident in Brazil in 1957, and the Betty and Barney Hill abduction in 1962. However, *neither* case had been published when I came across the first witnesses to tell me these things.

Early ufologists, however, knew of such reported biological experiments and based their hybrid theory on them. Essentially, the theory asserts that there are living among us today people who are crossbreeds, half earthling and half space person. These people are allegedly loyal to, and controlled by, the ufonauts. They are hybrids. The time will come, the theory goes, when a large part of the earth's population will be hybrid.

There's more. Many women involved in close encounters with UFOs become pregnant soon afterwards, although they have no memory of anything beyond a simple UFO sighting. Some are more than a little astonished by their unexpected pregnancies. I have kept in close contact with several of these ladies and followed the developments with great interest. The children they produced seem exceptionally bright and are frequently surrounded by poltergeistic manifestations in their early years. Otherwise they appear to be normal. In more than one case the lady's husband was slightly disturbed because their offspring did not resemble him or her.

It all sounds like John Wyndham's science fiction classic *The Midwich Cuckoos* but the facts are there. In the 1960s I tried to interest several different editors in an article on this intriguing aspect of the UFO phenomenon but they all felt it was "too far out," as indeed it is.

It will come as a shock to many ufologists who are now circulating the hybrid rumor that this concept is *thousands* of years old and is, in fact, an important part of occult, psychic, witchcraft and religious lore. The sexual intervention of supernatural entities is mentioned throughout the Bible (in the story of Abraham, for example) and Christianity is founded on the belief that Mary was impregnated by the angel Gabriel.

Witches are said to have intercourse with the devil. Gypsies believe that any woman who is seduced by the devil has special powers afterwards and such women are given very special respect. Numerous rites in Black Magic involve sex practices and sexual submission to the strange entities who materialize during the rites.

In *Oahspe*, the amazing book written by a New York dentist while in a trance state back in the 1880s, there are pages of pictures of special children with sober faces and deep black eyes who were supposedly hybrids planted here by some unknown force.

Several modern contactees have seen strange things happen to their families. Their teenaged daughters have staggered home claiming they had been sexually assaulted by space beings. Their wives have disappeared for hours or even days and returned suffering from amnesia and pregnant.

Several of the early contactees in the 1950s enraged the "scientific ufologists" with their tales of having been required to express their manhood on other planets or while flying around in saucers. The hybrid concept has a marked effect on the ufologists who accept it blindly. They become totally paranoid. They believe that hybrids have infiltrated highest government circles; that they are even running our world. In the 1960s, Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara was frequently accused by contactees of being a hybrid.

A related theory is the clone rumor. A clone is an exact duplicate of a living organism. Theoretically, a clone can be manufactured from a single cell of your body. Each cell contains all the necessary biological information to construct a duplicate. Scientists around the world have been working on this process for years. Several modern contactees told how they were taken aboard a UFO and a small sample of their skin was scraped from their arm. If we had the technology and know-how, a small sample is all we would need to create an exact duplicate of a person.

Exact duplicates of several well-known ufologists have been seen by reliable witnesses. In occult lore, such duplicates are called *dopplegangers*. They are an age-old psychic phenomenon. In the 1960s, a *doppleganger* of New York ufologist James Moseley turned up on a number of occasions. And a *doppleganger* of yours truly appeared repeatedly in several states, from Long Island, New York to West Virginia, while I was actually occupied elsewhere. Were these characters clones; physical entities made of solid flesh? Or were they psychic projections of some sort?

Several years ago a young Englishman came to me with some very interesting photographs. He had attended an outdoor rally in Britain and had snapped pictures of the crowd. When he examined the photos later he was surprised to see two strange-looking men standing in the crowd. They were not together, but were widely separated in the crowd. Both were dressed identically in black turtleneck sweaters. Both had very short hair (unusual for that time and for men of their apparent age). Oddest of all, both had identical facial characteristics. They looked like twins. They had high cheekbones, angular faces and thin lips. They really stood out in the photograph.

Similar beings form an integral part of our Men In Black (MIB) lore. These MIB have even attended flying saucer lectures and conventions. In some reports there have been three of them, all looking exactly alike. Were they clones?

Today there are many people who have become convinced that they, themselves, really are hybrids. A number of contactees, some of them quite well known, started life as orphans and never learned the identity of their true parents. Like Lee Harvey Oswald, some contactees have been seen in places where they had never been. How the "scientific ufologists" ranted and railed against Howard Menger when he told stories of *dopplegangers* and teleportation!

Some contactees have lived in terror for years, fearing that they were going to be whisked off to some farm on some other planet and bred like cattle.

Are there really hybrids and clones living among us? If there are, I have never personally met one, but I have met a lot of peculiar people. Perhaps you lost a few minutes of time when you saw a weird object in the sky a few years ago. Perhaps there's another you out there somewhere.

### ***Sleepers***

In the esoteric parlance of the intelligence community a "sleeper" is a spy who is kept deliberately inactive for years while living in "deep cover." He or she remains on the payroll but doesn't do any actual spying until finally, sometimes years after entering the intelligence service, the Organization has a special need. For example, it was recently revealed that an East German spy was sent to live in West Germany and carry out one specific mission. His job was to train his own five-year-old daughter and promote her into a job, after she had grown up, as a secretary in a West German government office. It sounds incredible, but this kind of long range planning and manipulation is common in the shadowy James Bond world of intelligence and espionage.

Sleepers are planted throughout our society. Some live and work in a community for twenty years or more, accepted by everyone as teachers, journalists, or businessmen, drawing a monthly check from some agency in addition to their regular income, and waiting for the day when they might suddenly be called upon to break open a safe, take furtive photographs, or even in extreme cases

shoot somebody between the eyes.

Candy Jones, the famous model and wife of the late Long John Nebel, the New York radio talk show star, was a slightly different kind of sleeper. Through hypnosis and drugs, the C.I.A. turned her into a deep cover spy. She was sent on missions in a trance state, using a false name and even, believe it or not, a false personality given to her through brainwashing techniques. When she returned from these missions she resumed her own life and personality and had no memory whatsoever of her escapades as a spy. She was a victim of an intelligence practice that has been in use for forty years.

In the 1960s I discovered to my astonishment that sleepers are common in the UFO phenomena. Like Candy Jones, ordinary people report being employed to carry out all kinds of missions, but have no conscious memory of those missions when they return to their normal lives. In contactee terminology they are said to have been "used."

Like all contactees, such sleepers have two important characteristics. They have latent or active psychic abilities, and they are very suggestible; that is, they are easily hypnotized. Very often, as I have pointed out in my various articles and books, a false memory or confabulation is planted in their minds to account for the periods during which they were being used. A person who has no memory of, say, one week, returns with the vivid impression that he or she has been taken to another planet. The human mind is such that layers can be laid in the unconscious mind. The confabulation fills the uppermost layer while memories of the sensory impressions of the actual experience are hidden in a deeper layer. An inexperienced investigator using hypnosis reaches only the surface confabulation and does not even attempt to reach the layers below. Once the amateur has brought the confabulation to the surface, the hidden layer is buried deeper than ever and becomes almost impossible to reach.

As in conventional intelligence produce *a la* Candy Jones, the sleeper must first be hypnotized or drugged into a deep trance. Subsequent trances are easily induced by a "trigger." Triggers can take many forms. A sound at a specific pitch can cause the victim to lapse into a trance. Such sounds can even be transmitted by telephone. Lights flashing in a specific pattern can do the job. Or even a simple word or command can be used. After Dr. Benjamin Simon first hypnotized Betty and Barney Hill he was later able to put them into a hypnotic state by simply saying, "Trance, Barney." Mrs. Nebel often went into a spontaneous trance when she looked at herself in a mirror.

I have examined contactees who were keyed to fall into a trance when they saw a certain written symbol... usually a Greek letter, or combination of Greek letters. They believed they had seen these letters painted on the side of a spacecraft. It is more probably that the letters were shown to them and they were given a post-hypnotic suggestion, along with a surface confabulation of a spacecraft and their minds blended the two.

Ordinarily a post-hypnotic suggestion will wear off in a few months or, at most, a few years. Therefore once a person has undergone a contact experience, the hypnotic episodes must be repeated periodically. This is why percipients who claim a close encounter often have repeated experience spaced no more than three years apart. Unfortunately, the subsequent experiences are usually well hidden in the unconscious mind and the witness may have no conscious memory of them. Only the initial experience, with its vivid surface confabulation, can be recalled at all by ordinary techniques.

Silent contactees who suffered some form of UFO contacts years ago, even as children, can become sleepers and experience periods of temporary amnesia throughout their lives without ever relating them to their first UFO contact.

The minds of some percipients are too unstable to adjust to this kind of overt tampering. In some cases a classic conflict develops between the conscious and unconscious minds. The material hidden below the surface layers works its way through and there is an overlap that leads to confusion, even partial insanity. Betty and Barney Hill sought our psychiatric help because they were bothered by horrible nightmares, a standard result of overlapping. Others suffer to a great degree because the material in the lower layers infiltrates the conscious mind. They become fanatics... UFO evangelists... convinced that this material is very real. Still others, like Candy Jones,

find themselves battling two personalities. In innumerable cases in my UFO records we find that the hidden material actually took over the conscious mind causing the contactee to assume an entirely new personality and, in extreme instances, declare himself or herself to be a space person!

People who make the adjustment without these problems can serve as sleepers in all kinds of ways. A mysterious phone call of beeping sounds can send them into a trance, during which they may write and mail a "crank" letter or carry out some other activity which they normally would not do under any circumstances. After they have performed this action they return to normal and have no memory of it whatsoever.

The frightening thing about all this is that each new UFO wave may bring more people under the hidden control of this phenomenon. We have no way of estimating how many sleepers there may be after forty years of UFO sightings. And we have no way of finding out the triggers in use. We can say that almost every person who develops an obsession with UFOs has been subjected to some form of processing at some time in his life.

Who or what is doing this? Is there some sinister organization plucking us off highways to hypnotize or drug us? Are invaders from outer space embarking on a worldwide campaign to brainwash us prior to landing and taking over our world? This doesn't seem too likely. This phenomenon has always existed and lies at the root of all our religious beliefs, our myths and superstitions, the ancient arts of witchcraft and black magic, and the fundamental fictions that have given us most of our social and political ideas. From the medical symptoms of the contactees we can deduce that the phenomenon consists of an energy form rather than a solid physical structure. This energy, like a radio wave, is sometimes visible to us as glowing shapes or beams of bright light.

Years ago the intelligence community discovered ways to produce the same effects through hypnosis, drugs and brainwashing techniques. But it is unlikely, if not altogether impossible, that any nation could or would attempt to use these methods on whole populations. Perhaps it was the C.I.A.'s studies of UFO contactees that gave them the idea and led to the creation of sleepers like Candy Jones.

## OTHER REALITIES

Parapsychologist Dr. Meade Layne was one of the first serious UFO investigators in 1947 and his *Round Robin* newsletter was a pioneer publication eventually imitated by hundreds of others. In those days very few educated observers dared to enter the flying saucer controversy. Dr. Hermann Oberth of Germany and astrophysicist Morris K. Jessup of the U.S. stood almost alone. Both were enthralled with the extraterrestrial explanation while Layne took a more unpopular position. He saw links between the UFOs and psychic manifestations. He labeled the UFO pilots "Etherians" and speculated that they did not come from some other planet but were crossing over into our reality from some other dimension or space-time continuum. It has taken ufology nearly forty years to catch up with him.

Dr. Layne witnessed the UFOs mysterious vanishing act in the early years and coined the words "mat" and "demat" (for materialization and dematerialization) to describe their behavior. Next to the famous "falling leaf" motion, this was the most frequently reported action of the strange aerial objects. Years later photographers equipped with infrared lenses and film added to the puzzle by successfully photographing aerial objects which were not visible to the naked eye. Apparently the disappearing act really consisted of an ability to somehow traverse the visible spectrum of light (which is very narrow) and pass from the invisible field of infrared at one extreme to the invisible area of ultraviolet at the other extreme.

It has now been well established in thousands of sightings that the UFOs emit both infrared rays (heat) and ultraviolet rays (which burn the skin and eyes). But passing across the visible spectrum is not really an interdimensional action. It is more likely that some UFOs are masses of plastic energy which are normally invisible to us, but which can – when the conditions are just right – alter their frequencies and enter the visible spectrum. In other words, UFOs are always present in the skies but can only be seen at certain times... or by certain people; people with latent or active psychic abilities whose eyes are tuned to see slightly beyond the visible spectrum. Recent studies by ufologists all over the world have, in fact, found that a majority of UFO witnesses do have some psychic ability. The most exclusive group, flying saucer contactees, are very psychic.

### *Alternate Realities*

A few years ago Allen Greenfield of Atlanta, Georgia revived Layne's findings by postulating the theory of alternate realities. He wondered if UFOs could not be coming to us from another reality very similar to our own. They had somehow figured out a system for crossing some mysterious barrier of time and space to visit us. They did not come from a distant planet but, in a sense, were our next-door neighbors even though we were not fully aware of their existence.

Some of the UFO contactees also spoke of "time travellers" and offered cryptic explanations for the UFOs' wild talents. Others who had close experiences with the objects and entities but did not claim direct contact, offered information which seemed to indicate that while the flying saucer occupants looked human or nearly so, they lacked free wills and were almost robotlike. When they spoke, they seemed to recite like a computer. They rarely revealed any humanlike emotions but seemed more like confused ghosts, humanlike yet very inhuman. If they came from another reality like our own, it must be a very grim place.

The best clue about their place of origin lies in the definitely unearthly behavior of the objects themselves. Flying saucers do not actually fly (that is, they are not supported by the air in our atmosphere), rather they defy all of our laws of motion. They levitate. They are not disturbed by turbulent air as our airplanes are, and they have often been seen making right angle turns at high speeds, demonstrating their disassociation with normal inertia and gravity forces. Of course, if they hail from another dimension or an alternate reality their actions may be governed by an entirely different set of natural laws. The forces that bind us to Earth are not necessarily uniform throughout the universe.

If most UFOs are actually masses of energy with the ability to tune their frequencies – the

vibrations of their atoms – up and down the electromagnetic scale, they could not only alter their color while in the visible spectrum, but they could change their sizes and shapes as well. A reddish cigar-shaped object seen at one point could become the silvery saucer-shaped object seen a few miles away. If the saucer should land and discharge a tall spectral passenger, he could actually be an integral part of the saucer itself... a robotized extension of the energy mass. The mass would possess intelligence, not the robot. And, in fact, innumerable witnesses have muttered incomprehendingly, "I don't know why, but I had the feeling that the saucer itself was *alive!*"

Is there an alternate reality populated with living masses of energy something like intelligent lightning bolts?

### ***From Seances to Science***

Dr. Layne's method for communicating with the Etherians was simple but unscientific. He spoke to them through trance mediums and transcripts of some of these amazing seances are still available. (In the 1980s, this is called "channeling.") As a parapsychologist Layne was familiar with the weird phenomenon of materialization. And it occurred to him that UFOs were following the unnatural laws of psychic phenomena. Their appearances and disappearances could be equated to the materializations of ghostly entities in the seance room.

Spiritualism was all the rage in the last half of the nineteenth century and materializations were almost commonplace. Entities would slowly appear in dimly lit rooms and then perform physical acts, shake hands with the sitters, even leave fingerprints in trays of wax. Then they would just as mysteriously fade into thin air. While they came in all sizes and shapes, the most common type was an Indian-like figure with high cheekbones and Oriental eyes. Often these characters wore some kind of metal headpiece. People are still describing such beings except that they no longer pop up in seance rooms; they step out of glistening flying saucers. Ray Stanford, a famous psychic and the twin brother of Dr. Rex Stanford, a well-known psychiatrist, claims to have been present at the materialization of such an entity.

Perhaps the most famous of all the witnesses to materializations was Sir William Crookes (1832-1919). As an inventor, he ranked with Edison and Einstein, and developed the Crookes Tube, forerunner of the X-ray tube and an important step towards the perfection of modern television. He was also one of the first men of science to become interested in psychic phenomena and he made many important contributions to the infant science of parapsychology.

"I have seen a solid self-luminous body, the size and nearly the shape of a turkey's egg, float noiselessly about the room," Crookes wrote. "I have had questions answered by the flashing of a bright light a desired number of times in front of my face... *In the light*, I have seen a luminous cloud hover over a heliotrope on a side table, break a spring off, and carry the spring to a Lady."

Was he describing UFOs? No, he was writing about things that had materialized in seance rooms. But his most famous experiments were his study of the mysterious "Katie," a female entity who appeared no less than forty-five times and permitted the scientist to touch her and even to give her a medical examination. She only appeared after a lady medium collapsed in a trance. (Katie was taller than the medium and different in other ways.) Sir William naturally explored every possibility for trickery but could find no explanation for the phenomenon.

In countless modern UFO cases we have examples of mediumship. One or more of the witnesses collapses before or during the materialization of a UFO or entity. Usually investigators regard this as a reaction to the smell (which is often terrible) or energies radiated by the object. But since these events follow the same course as comparable psychic manifestations it is more probable that the collapse of the witness contributes directly to the UFO materialization. Parapsychologists have long suspected that the occult force needs to draw on energy from this reality. Human mediums apparently supply this energy. There are also innumerable cases in which cows, horses, dogs, and cats may have been the energy source. Barney Hill, the best-known of all modern contactees, stepped into a field with a pair of binoculars to look at an aerial object. Later he found the strap on the binoculars had been broken, but he had no memory of how it happened, probably because *he was entranced*. He was barely conscious throughout the interruption in his *Interrupted Journey*, but

his wife, Betty, was apparently awake throughout.

In the Pascagoula, Mississippi incident in 1973, Calvin Parker was unconscious while Charles Hickson was only paralyzed. Both men were allegedly hauled into a UFO and examined by neckless beings with crablike claws. Was Parker the medium in this case?

If you sift through the UFO literature you will find many comparable cases, such as the Flatwoods, West Virginia monster story of 1952. A young National Guardsman passed out in the presence of that weird creature. This need for energy could also explain why so many luminous UFOs have been seen hovering around power lines and the antennae of radio transmitters. Ivan Sanderson studied cases of this sort and wondered, "Are we providing a free lunch for energy forms from space?"

Brinsley Le Poer Trench and Gordon Creighton of England, Dr. Jacques Vallee and Aime Michel of France, and most of the leading ufologists around the world have quietly abandoned the extraterrestrial (interplanetary) theory. They now regard the alternate reality or interdimensional concept as a more valid explanation for the things that continue to haunt our skies. Several important parapsychologists such as Dr. Jule Eisenbud and Dr. Berthold Schwarz have quietly entered into UFO investigations. Ideas that once seemed laughable are now being carefully considered by a generation of new ufologists. The "hardware boys" (those who believe UFOs are manufactured machines from another planet) have had over forty years in which to prove their case. It is plain that they have failed.

Dr. Meade Layne's Etherians are beginning to seem more real than the Martians and Venusians of yesteryear's ufology. But proving that they come from an alien space-time continuum populated by living energy will be just as difficult as proving they come from another planet with "a superior technology." Earth will be a free lunch counter for a long time to come.

## ON TOP OF MOUNT OLYMPUS

The story of Antonio Villas Boas of Brazil is now very well-known. In 1957, he was allegedly taken aboard a UFO and introduced to a blonde space lady with whom he had sexual intercourse. Before his X-rated adventure began, the little men on board the object pulled off his clothes and bathed him with a wet sponge. "The liquid was as clear as water," he later told Dr. Olavo T. Fontes, "but quite thick, and without smell. I thought it was some sort of oil, but was wrong, for my skin did not become greasy or oily."

The Greeks and Romans believed that the gods used ambrosia as an ointment when they bathed. In many ancient cultures, human sacrifices were anointed with oil before their hearts were ripped out. This practice overlapped into Christianity. Christ's followers rubbed him with an expensive oil before He was crucified, and, in fact, the very name Christ comes from the Greek *Khristos* which means "the anointed one." (His real name was Yehoshuah... Joshua. The name Jesus Christ was not applied to Yehoshuah until several hundred years after His death.)

It is intriguing that Antonio underwent the ancient anointing ceremony aboard that space ship in Brazil.

Larry Foreman of California didn't receive a cosmic bath, but during a series of UFO contacts near Socorro, New Mexico in the 1960s he claims to have tasted ambrosia. To him it was "some kind of punch, berry of some kind, I think." Foreman's story includes stone walls that weren't there, and a variety of obvious hallucinations common to the victims of enchantment.

In May 1969, a Brazilian soldier named Jose Antonio underwent a remarkable experience when he was kidnapped by a group of tiny humanoids and transported to a cavern-like room of stone. There his captors offered him a drink from a stone cube with a pyramidal-shaped cavity in the center. It was a dark-green liquid with a bitter taste. But he said he felt better after drinking it.

Woodrow Derenberger, a contactee in West Virginia, also felt better after he drank a liquid given to him by an alleged ufonaut in 1967. Derenberger had been suffering from a stomach ailment and he claimed the outer space potion cleared it up.

### ***Can These Things Be?***

Those who guzzled ambrosia on Mount Olympus were supposed to have enjoyed increased intelligence and heightened perceptions afterwards. In the modern UFO cases many of the percipients have undergone dramatic changes after their initial contact experience. Their I.Q. increases, they develop psychic abilities, and they acquire very suddenly new knowledge of science, astronomy, and ontology. Others, unfortunately, deteriorate instead. They become nervous wrecks, divorce their wives, lose their jobs, go bankrupt, and have a very hard time. But the ancient gods had a nasty reputation for causing the same kind of havoc in the lives of those who were privileged to meet them.

Could it be that the modern UFO phenomenon is nothing more than an updated version of these ancient games? The gods of old were accepted as *residents of this planet*. It is unnecessary to assume they are visitors from some far-off planet. They have always been right here, manipulating us, muddling our lives, festering our beliefs in spiritual and supernatural matters. The rites of many modern religions are nothing more than slightly modified versions of the rites of the ancient Druids and other cults which dealt directly with the gods. The fairies of the Middle Ages were also regarded as residents of earth. One popular belief was that they lived under the seas.

We are forced to base our speculations about the phenomenon on the testimony of scattered witnesses who, no matter how sincere and truthful they might be, are seeing only what they are supposed to see and remembering only what they are supposed to remember. Their trips to other worlds may be trips of another kind altogether, produced by sips of ambrosia rather than the roaring rockets of some advanced extraterrestrial civilization.

### ***The Ambrosia Factor***

When mortal men were ushered into the presence of the gods in ancient times, according to mythology, they were invariably handed a goblet containing a thick, syrupy liquid and were told to drink it. If they were suffering any ill effects from their visits to the palaces of gods (usually on top of some mountain), their symptoms vanished as soon as they drank from the goblet. So the first legend to spring up around this ambrosia claimed that it had medicinal powers, that it was a magical cure-all. Later this was greatly embellished. Ambrosia was supposed to make the drinker immortal, and it rendered divine powers... the ability to communicate directly with the gods.

Even though belief in the gods of the Romans and Greeks gradually faded away, the Ambrosia factor remained an integral part of supernatural manifestations. In the Middle Ages, most of Europe was engulfed in an epidemic of fairies and little people. Millions saw the diminutive creatures and thousands even claimed to have been kidnapped and taken into their underground palaces. Some men even returned with bizarre tales of having been forced to mate with the Fairy Queen, presumably to introduce a human strain into the fairy world. As in more ancient times, those selected for these palace visits were plied with food and drink... especially drink; a thick, sweet substance identical (apparently) to the ambrosia of the old-time gods of the mountain tops.

Scholars, historians, and priests who investigated the fairy manifestations eventually decided that the little people did not really exist. The witnesses, they speculated, had been "enchanted" by some mysterious force. Nothing was known about hypnotism in those days, and even less was known about hallucinogenic drugs, but the voluminous descriptions of these fairy episodes clearly indicate that the victims were exposed to one or both. The fluids forced down their throats may have been a forerunner of LSD, opening their minds to complex hallucinations and clouding their memories of what *really* happened. It was not uncommon for an "enchanted" man to stagger home like Rip Van Winkle, thinking only a few hours had passed but finding that several days – even weeks – had elapsed since he had entered the fairy domain. This compression of time is a sure sign that the victims had been hypnotized in some way, and had a completely false memory inserted into their minds to account for the period in which their bodies had somehow been used by the enchanting force. It could be a form of possession; the occupation of the human body by an outside intelligence.

The fairy faith died out after 1848 and the introduction of spiritualism. Spirit mediums lapse into an unconscious state and *willingly* turn their bodies over to forces professing to be the spirits of the dead. The rapid spread of spiritualism made the old fairy game unnecessary. The enchanting force now had a growing army of willing victims.

### ***Venusian Booze***

During the 1930s a Polish emigré named George Adamski set up shop in California as a teacher of universal truths and mysticism. He served as the guru to a small following of a few hundred people and would have remained totally obscure in a state filled with countless obscure cults if flying saucers had not suddenly appeared in 1947. Soon strange aerial objects were appearing nightly over Adamski's home on the slopes of Mount Palomar.

Adamski was already steeped in the lore and practices of self-hypnosis, spiritualism, and the esoteric religions of the Far East. His mind was already trained to accept cosmic interlopers. He embraced the UFO mystery with enthusiasm. Within a few days huge cigar-shaped objects were landing on the desert near Mount Palomar and tall, long-haired Venusians were holding face-to-face meetings with the aging guru. Modesty not being one of Adamski's virtues, he gleefully told his followers about his experience and soon his story was appearing in newspapers and magazines.

Adamski's new friends were quite obliging. They invited him aboard their craft and flew him to the moon. But, of course, before they whisked him into outer space they offered him a drink. One of the beautiful Venusian women on the space craft handed him "a small glass of colorless liquid." It tasted like water, he later wrote, but was "a little denser, with a consistency something like a very thin oil."

Since he was one of the first UFO contactees to publicize his alleged experiences, Adamski quickly

became the center of controversy. The self-styled "scientific ufologists" who then were few in number (and still are) frothed at the mouth each time his name appeared in print. He was denounced as a liar and a fraud despite the fact that he produced photographs to back up his story and, on a number of occasions, other witnesses were present when he met with the saucer pilots. He was taken more seriously in Europe, where he traveled in the late 1950s, and was accorded meetings with various luminaries and a private audience with the Pope.

In 1965 he was stricken with a heart attack and died.

Penniless.

### ***Route to the Stars***

Throughout the 1950s, the flying saucers endlessly repeated the well-known fairy games of old, frequently pausing to pail water from streams and wells in front of astonished witnesses (an old fairy practice), and indulging in the kind of mischievous pranks which had led the American Indians to label the little people "Tricksters." (Indians were seeing the wee folk long before the Europeans arrived on this continent.)

More and more UFO contactees bravely followed Adamski's example and revealed their experiences publicly, often to their everlasting regret because they were usually ridiculed and harrassed into silence.

A sign painter in New Jersey, Howard Menger, claimed that UFOs were landing on his farm and on one occasion he met a tall entity in a suit of shining armor who sounded exactly like one of the ancient Greek or Roman gods. In another age Adamski and Menger would have probably been elevated to the rank of High Priest and their tales of these encounters would have been carved into stone. But in these enlightened times the general public viewed the contactees as clowns and lunatics while the believers in UFOs and extraterrestrial intelligences snarled that they were hoaxers and publicity-seeking charlatans.

As more and more contactee stories appeared, a number of interesting facts and similarities developed. It was especially common for the contact experience to begin with a sudden, almost blinding flash of light, then the object or entity would materialize in front of the startled percipient. (This same factor was present in many of the fairy stories, and in many religious miracles.) Often the percipient would find himself rooted to the spot, unable to move. This is a clear indication that he or she was in a trance state after the light flashed. After the object departed the percipient would cease to be paralyzed and would discover that several hours had passed even though it had seemed like only a few minutes.

Adamski and Menger both sincerely believed they had been aboard a space ship and had even flown to the moon. But were the memories of their experiences any more reliable than the memories of the men who had been seduced by the Fairy Queen in her underground palace? What the witnesses see is not nearly as important as *what made them see it*.

### ***The Strangling Spacemen***

Descriptions of the ufonauts have been varied, from little men a few inches high to towering giants. But one type has turned up more often than any other. He is of normal height – five to six feet tall – and resembles a normal earthling except that his facial features are quite angular. Often he appears to the witness to be of Oriental extraction, with elongated eyes, high cheekbones, and a dark complexion.

One of the most ignored aspects of these contact cases is probably also one of the most important.

These strange beings have trouble breathing.

They seem to be gasping for air when they speak, as if they were suffering from asthma. Their faces turn red with the effort. When they move, they stagger uncertainly, almost as if they were drunk. They have trouble putting one foot in front of the other. Their eyes don't seem to focus. Sometimes they look right through, or right past, the witness. Or one eye seems out of synch with the other. When they talk, the words come out in clipped phrases between gasps, as if they were reciting something they had memorized.

In short, these mysterious visitors show all the symptoms of a well-known medical ailment called aeroembolism, also called "the bends."

### ***General Marshall's Statement***

In 1955, Dr. Rolf Alexander, a prominent British ufologist, had a remarkable conversation with his old friend General George C. Marshall. General Marshall was one of the top men in government in the 1940s, serving as Army Chief of Staff. According to Dr. Alexander, Marshall told him, "Visitors from outer space are trying to work out a method of breathing and staying alive in our atmosphere before landing and establishing contact."

Apparently the general was privy to detailed secret reports containing information of such a bizarre nature that even when this same sort of information became available to ufologists in the 1960s they chose to ignore it.

When a British contactee named Arthur Bryant described his first encounter with UFO pilots in 1965, he said, "When I first saw them their breathing was laboured, but after some minutes this seemed to wear off."

This labored breathing is a common factor in many contact cases and in many Men In Black episodes as well.

During my UFO investigations around the country I have collected many interesting stories which I have never published, usually because the witnesses refused to let me use their names in print. But there are some documented accounts from my personal files.

*"They had an odd manner of speaking... as though they would inhale, then speak until they had expelled all their breath, then inhale again and begin to speak again."*

- From a deputy police officer's description of his encounter with three mysterious men in black suits in 1968.

*"He seemed to wheeze... like a man with asthma. He appeared to have difficulty breathing... One of his eyes appeared to have a 'cast,' like a glass eye. His eyes did not seem to move in unison."*

- Testimony of a family in Cape May, New Jersey, describing a mysterious visitor who appeared shortly after they had experienced some unusual UFO sightings in 1966.

In 1967, a young family man from Belpre, Ohio had some interesting sightings. Shortly afterwards he had a brief encounter with two black-garbed Oriental-looking men. He said they appeared confused or drunk and seemed to have difficulty walking.

In the spring of 1968 an "Indian" in black clothes appeared in the middle of the night on a college campus in Minnesota following a series of UFO sightings. He behaved in a drunken fashion. The witnesses were interviewed by Jerome Clark, well-known American ufologist.

In 1969, a "drunken Chinaman" staggered into a newspaper office in New York state while a reporter was typing up a local UFO report. He was dressed in a black suit. After much wheezing, he managed to say, "Don't print that story." He staggered out, bumping into furniture. The reporter followed after him immediately but the street outside was completely deserted.

In the fall of 1969, an astonished motorist in Massachusetts found the road blocked by a large saucer. A red-faced man with "popping eyes" came up to his car and asked the witness to drive him into the nearest town. The man wore a short black coat and "very shiny green trousers made out of some material I have never seen before." As soon as the man got into the car the object on the road lifted silently into the air and vanished. The witness tried to talk to the person but he seemed to have great difficulty breathing. When asked where he was from, he replied, "You wouldn't understand." The driver was thinking of going straight to the local police station as soon as he let the man out. But when the person got out of the car on the main street of the town he wheezed, "Nobody is going to believe you, so don't bother." He appeared to stagger uncertainly as he moved away.

### ***Too Much Nitrogen***

What ails these strange black-suited people? Apparently our atmosphere is getting to them. At sea

level the earth's atmosphere is approximately 80 percent nitrogen and 20 percent oxygen. Aeroembolism, also called Caisson disease, is caused by bubbles of nitrogen. According to the *Merck Manual*, a reference book for doctors, "In decompression from greater than atmospheric pressure, localized sharp pains in the abdomen, or about the joints of the extremities ('the bends'), vertigo ('the staggers'), nystagmus (oscillatory movement of the eyeballs), tinnitus (subjective roaring or hissing in the ears)... may be present."

Apparently these entities are like deep sea divers who come up too fast. When they step into our atmosphere their bodies are suddenly attacked by nitrogen and they suffer from vertigo and nystagmus.

In a number of cases, such as the Cape May incident above, these beings asked for a glass of water so they could take a pill. After swallowing the pill their behavior became more normal.

Noxious gases play a role in many UFO reports. The objects, and sometimes the entities, are often surrounded by the smell of rotten eggs. Chemists identify this as being the smell of hydrogen sulfide.

In a few cases, the witnesses have been deliberately gassed before the ufonauts made their entrance. The best-known incident of this type is the previously discussed story of Antonio Villas-Boas, the young Brazilian farmer who, in 1957, went aboard a UFO and had a sexual liaison with a blonde, long-fingered female. Before the girl showed up, he said, a nauseating gas that smelled like "burning oil cloth" filled the chamber where he was waiting. It made him ill and he threw up before he adjusted to it. Could he have been exposed to the normal atmosphere of these people?

### ***Gods and Gases***

Were the gods of the ancient peoples actually ufonauts playing strange games? Descriptions of the ancient gods match the modern ufonaut descriptions and this apparent problem with aeroembolism may explain why the gods always chose to settle on mountaintops. They seemed to prefer places where the air was thinner and, possibly, the risk of aeroembolism was not so great.

In many parts of the world, people still believe there are gods in the mountains, from the Andes in South America to Tibet. The Piute Indians in North America have legends about blonde, long-haired, long-fingered gods who lived on sacred plateaux. Indians who wandered into these areas were paralyzed by "metal tubes" wielded by these gods. The Hopi and Navaho think their gods, the *Kachina* people, ride around in luminous aerial objects and reside in the San Francisco mountains. When that "fiery cloud" visited Moses it settled atop Mount Sinai and Moses struggled to the summit alone to spend forty days there.

In earlier times the smell of brimstone (sulfur) was associated with the appearances of these strange airborne phantasms and the demons and gods who supposedly accompanied them. So the modern sightings – and smells – are nothing new.

### ***Questions of Origin***

There are many reports describing ufonauts seen wearing helmets or breathing apparatus of some kind. These stories cover everything from a simple tube running up the ufonaut's nose to elaborate space helmets attached to tanks worn on the back. There are at least two photographs of helmed ufonauts. One was filmed by an engineer named Monguzzi in the mountains of Italy in 1952. (Unfortunately for Mr. Monguzzi, his pictures were too clear. He was accused of a hoax and even lost his job after he released the pictures.) The other was taken by a fireman in England in the 1960s. He snapped a picture of his daughter in a park near an atomic laboratory and when the film was developed, there was the image of a tall man in a white spacesuit with a helmet of some sort on his head. A man no one had seen at the time the picture was taken.

If these photos are authentic, and there will always be doubts about that, they clinch the argument that some ufonauts need artificial aids in our atmosphere.

If sulfur and hydrogen-sulfide are important components of their atmosphere, where could they come from? Methane gas (good old "swamp gas") seems to be the main gas in the atmosphere of Jupiter. Perhaps the only place in our solar system rich in hydrogen-sulfide is – the center of the

earth itself. And if anybody is walking around down there they're under very high pressure. If they came up to the surface abruptly they would get the bends just like a deep sea diver.

Since 1944, there has been a large group of people who actually believe that flying saucers and ufonauts do come from the center of the earth. There are even people who claim to have visited the deep caverns populated by these mysterious beings; beings who look very much like us except for the Oriental cast to their features.

### ***King of the World***

There are countless myths about the Elder race who once populated this earth but were driven underground by some catastrophe. In the Orient there still exist beliefs in this underground race ruled over by the King of the World. It is even said that this race controls human events on the surface, and that various surface cults take orders from this hidden race, committing political assassinations and other crimes to further the Elder's mysterious ends.

A writer named Richard Shaver gave the Elders a new name in 1944 when he updated the ancient legends. He called them "deros," acronym for "detrimental robots," and claimed they controlled us through the use of fiendish rays.

According to the dero believers, the flying saucers come to us from gigantic holes at the North and South poles.

But perhaps we should take a new look at the old legends. It does seem to be a fact that a god-like race of superior beings existed alongside early man. Who were they? Where were they from? Where did they go? Did they go underground into the volcanic interior of the earth leaving only a dim racial memory behind? Are they still there, breathing sulfuric fumes, rising from their dark dominion from time to time to stagger down our streets on unsure feet, eyes rolling, bodies tortured with aeroembolism?

On a warm June evening in A.D. 1430, four peasants in the village of Jaen, Spain, witnessed a remarkable procession. From four separate locations they watched an estimated 500 people parade along dusty roads, led by a tall, beautiful woman in a white robe carrying an infant in her arms. She wore a glowing mantle ablazed with iridescent colors casting so much light it nearly blinded the witnesses. The procession was headed by seven youngsters dressed in white and bearing white crosses, followed by twenty priests marching in two rows, all chanting in an unintelligible tongue. Hundreds of people swarmed behind them with hordes of barking dogs bringing up the rear.

The procession wound its way through the deserted streets to San Ildefonso church where the flowing lady ascended a silvery throne. Suddenly, at the stroke of midnight, the entire mob vanished inexplicably, leaving the four amazed peasants standing alone in the darkness. There was not a single footprint or trace of the procession in the dirt along their route.

When they reported their strange experience, the four witnesses were subjected to weeks of questioning and investigation by civil and religious authorities. They had all apparently seen the same identical things and their report led to the origin of a sacred cult that flourished in Spain for several centuries.

According to the extensive records of the event, one of the witnesses had heard a voice on June 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> which whispered: "Do not sleep and you will see good things." [Source: *Nuestra Señora de la Capilla, Madre, Patrona y Reina de Jaen* by Vincente Montuno Morente, published in Madrid in 1950.] The procession appeared at 11:30 p.m. on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June.

Ghostly parades were not restricted to the fifteenth century. In my own investigations I have heard many bizarre tales from sincere witnesses describing gatherings of strange beings on beaches and hilltops. There have been mysterious convoys of automobiles racing through small towns in the wee hours, their drivers pale and seemingly entranced. In one case on Long Island, two witnesses reportedly saw "hundreds of dogs, all sizes and breeds" blocking roads and converging on a field where UFOs had previously been seen. Oddest of all, phantom police cars and men in police uniforms have appeared in remote places, diverted traffic, and then vanished. Ivan Sanderson and his wife were once detoured by a mystery man in a naval uniform on a back road during one of their investigative stories.

In a simpler age the testimony of a solitary witness was sufficient to launch a legend. The thousands of religious miracles, so carefully investigated by religious authorities through the ages, were usually witnessed by one or two people, most often small children. It is probable that a large part of all mythology and folklore has a basis in fact; that a few witnesses actually saw (or thought they saw) the gods or monsters. In the days before the printed and electronic media, such incidents were preserved by oral tradition. When a succession of witnesses had reported essentially the same thing, often in the same geographical location, generation after generation, the existence of the god or demon became an established fact. Even the most hardnosed skeptic regarded the cumulative testimony as empirical.

The gods of ancient India and Egypt undoubtedly found life in this fashion, just as Ashtar and his cronies from outer space are now becoming a part of our modern culture.

### ***The Propagandists***

All of the manifestations of the past have served one primary purpose. They have advanced belief in some theological, philosophical, or technological concept, and supported one of the many frames of reference employed to hide the real nature of the phenomenon from us. They engage in what we now call psychological warfare, and they have always exploited our eagerness to believe. The modern UFO scene is a sociological minefield because it has produced a worldwide propaganda movement of willing evangelists advocating the existence of people from another planet who altruistically intend to save us from ourselves. The leading extraterrestrial proselytizers have not had direct experience with the phenomenon themselves. Most have not even seen a funny light

bobbing across the sky. Nevertheless, they are convinced that there's someone out there and they happily spend all their time lecturing, appearing on radio and television, and making movies advancing their ideas of the great benign invasion from the cosmos. There are obviously many grave dangers in this kind of blind belief.

Our studies of the UFO percipients and contactees are teaching us that these encounters are more hallucinatory than real, that some complex hypnotic process is involved, and that the real phenomenon is hiding behind a carefully engineered smokescreen of propaganda. Those funny lights and their hypnotic waves of energy are part of something that is related to this planet, and to us. But that something may be far beyond our meager powers of comprehension. There are forces that can distort our reality and warp our fields of space and time. When we are caught up in these forces we struggle to find acceptable explanation for them, and then the manifestations begin to conform to that explanation and so reinforce it. Every few centuries, however, we abandon the old explanations and come up with new ones. Then the phenomenon obligingly tailors itself to those new beliefs. This factor alone indicates that part of the phenomenon, at least, is directly related to the human psyche, and these events are in part the work of the individual and collective unconsciousness.

In the past several years a number of psychiatrists, doctors, and scientists have quietly gathered empirical evidence that some force whose origin and purpose remain unknown to us has the power to produce amnesia... and other even more horrendous effects. Usually we hear about these incidents by accident. There is no way of knowing how many thousands of people may have been temporarily abducted and examined in recent years. It could happen to you on the way home from a party. You could wake up the next morning in your own bed, puzzled because you couldn't remember anything that happened after you left the party. But you would naturally decide you probably had had too much to drink and dismiss it from your mind.

The historical record indicates this inspection process is a continuing one. Also, from what we now know of this – which is admittedly not enough – it seems to be hereditary. If your great-grandfather had an experience of this type during the great UFO wave of 1897, you are likely to have had it in 1967. Persons with Indian blood are more likely to have some form of UFO experience than anyone else, except for Gypsies. The phenomenon is selective, and a study of the UFO records suggests that certain groups are selected more often than others. Although Jews represent about 5% of the U.S. population, less than 1% of the known UFO witnesses have been Jewish. The phenomenon is more intense in Catholic countries (i.e. Brazil, France, Spain, etc.) than in others. Barney Hill was black, and black witnesses are a rarity, but this may be because the black people are still cut off from normal channels of reporting (newspaper reporters in many regions of the U.S. might still tend to ignore a black witness).

Finally, studies by Dr. Jacques Vallee and others demonstrate that age is often a factor in the selection process. A twenty-year-old is more apt to undergo a UFO experience than a fifty-year-old. But maybe *everyone* in the selected groups undergoes these experiences when they are in their late teens or early twenties... even though very few remember anything about it.

### ***Are UFOs to Blame?***

We now know that this phenomenon operates in many ways, on many levels, using many different frames of reference. The flying saucer concept is just a frame of reference, like the secret caverns of the fairies in an earlier epoch. Flying saucers may be no more real than those legendary caverns. But they can become real if you believe in them hard enough. For the past forty years or so a small knot of evangelistic types have served as unwitting propagandists for the phenomenon by trying to convince the rest of the world that flying saucers are real spaceships from another planet. Yet there is no more hard evidence today for the reality of UFOs than there was back in 1947. There is, however, now a considerable body of lore. A modern mythology based upon questionable observations and enthusiastic speculation.

People who indulge in spiritualistic beliefs, witchcraft, and black magic, and a dozen other frames of reference also experience these medical-type "dreams" and spells of lacunar amnesia. They

blame evil spirits, the devil, and other chimerical entities for these events... and just as convincingly as the UFO enthusiasts who are stumping for extraterrestrial visitors.

The true source of these phenomena has concealed itself behind all these frames of reference by creating manifestations aimed at supporting each frame and advancing each particular set of beliefs. It – the source – is thus able to go about its mysterious business unimpeded while we all search vainly for visitors from space.

### ***Holes in the Sky***

This planet has always been a Disneyland for the Gods. Since man first started swinging in the trees he has been aware of the existence of another, higher intelligence. And he has lived in terrible fear of It. When he pronounced Its name aloud a sudden bolt of lightning would part his hair. The Old Testament is a chronicle of horror, describing an egocentric collection of supernatural beings who were always doing rotten things to gentle souls like Job. If we can believe all the myths and legends that have been handed down to us, man has just been a pawn in some unintelligible cosmic game. The Gods have always been inimical to the human race.

We now know that there are forces on this planet that can be invisible to our limited powers of perception. These are blobs of energy that can assume any form, create any belief system, distort our reality in any way they see fit. They are the Watchers, part of what H. G. Wells called W.O.W. - Wings Over the World. They were probably here when giant saurians stomped about the planet. They probably watched the first male and female *homo sapiens* scratching their flea-ridden bodies, and They separated those primitives into leaders and followers and gave them obsessions and compulsions to wreck their simple lives. The first man to play with fire was probably opposed by a Hochstetter who denounced the flames as being unrealistic and dangerous.

The history of the past forty years shows how little we learn. The UFO mystery has been studied and solved again and again. First there was Dr. Layne with his occult connection. By 1955, there was a wealth of literature, a small part of which viewed the phenomenon with great accuracy and understanding. But the True Believers persisted in accepting the contactee confabulations at face value. Newcomers always had to start all over again. In 1969, an Air Marshal for the Royal Air Force, Sir Victor Goddard, gave a lengthy speech in London, revealing *all* that the RAF had learned about UFOs in its years of investigation. That should have been the end of the matter. But it wasn't. Sir Victor discussed many of the things that are described in this book and the True Believers were baffled, befuddled and angry because he had failed to acknowledge the wonderful extraterrestrials. So the parade of ignorance continued.

In the 1980s, the trance mediums of the old-time spiritualist seances have been replaced by "channels." Whereas the communicating entities of the late 1800s had posed as Indians, Tibetans and Atlanteans (there was a big Lost Atlantis craze around the turn of the century), the modern "channels" were purportedly space beings. (Although one of the most popular was a woman who strutted about the stage claiming to be a 30,000 year old Atlantean, spouting juvenile philosophy.) The follower types have flocked to the channels and, in some cases, showered them with money. But it is all just a tired old game revived largely by a movie star, Shirley MacLaine, who has blundered into bewhiskered occult notions like reincarnation, crystals and all of the basics of witchcraft. She took her show on the road and many thousands of people paid \$300 a piece to hear her message. People who had missed the great psychic explosion of the 1960s and early 1970s, now embraced the New Age.

Pagan religions have also enjoyed greater popularity than ever. People suffering from the economic miseries of inflation, unemployment and the grave decline of America's industries, have turned to witchcraft and magick (spelled with a "k") in the hopes that somehow they can manipulate the invisible forces that are the target of every prayer and incantation. Today there are stores all over the country selling the things needed for pagan rites. We are clearly entering into a new age of magick while conventional religions whither.

As I have already explained, it doesn't take much proof to launch a new cult or belief system. Great religions have been founded on the claims of a single person who professed to talk to God, angels

and/or demons. George Adamski and others have built up worldwide followings on the silliest of assertions. The majority of people have a built-in urge to believe in something... anything. Those who are too pragmatic or scientific to accept religious frames of reference can get swallowed up in other belief systems like ETs or eccentric scientific or political ideas. The key ingredients are a charismatic leader (who is often a schizophrenic) and followers who are obsessive-compulsive personalities. The Hochstetter types who will always appear after a frame of reference has been established, have the same characteristics as the followers but are more extreme. They are True Believers in the opposite of whatever the belief system may be. Like all the others, they have a "trigger" which can set them off. Religious fanatics can be turned on with a single phrase from the bible.

All of the assorted cults and groups of believers and disbelievers are beginning to froth at the mouth as we approach the end of this century. Almost every frame of reference has a set of established beliefs for the millennium. The bible tells us that Armageddon will begin in a field in Palestine. In 1917, the phantom lady seen by three children at Fatima, Portugal supposedly left a message about the end of the world which Pope John refused to reveal to the public. The hardy UFO believers have suffered through many predicted end-times over the years, sometimes going to sit on mountaintops to wait for the UFOs to arrive and save them. It has been a very long wait. Almost every year the UFO buffs have tensed their loins for a "C" Day, "M" Day or just plain Evacuation Day. The bible even spells it out, telling us that 144,000 chosen people will be rescued. Everyone else will fry while all the dead rise up from cemeteries and general havoc breaks loose. The French prophet Nostradamus predicted that a "great terror from the sky" would hit this planet in 1999.

In 1961, four young girls in the little village of Garabandal, Spain, shared a vision of a "lady" with long, thin hands, a long angular face and thin lips. On the lady's right, they said they saw "a square of red fire forming a triangle with an eye and some writing. The lettering was in old Oriental script." The entity gave the children several messages, one which clearly stated that the coming end of the world would be signaled by the appearance of a hole in the sky. A hole in the sky? That didn't make much sense in 1961.

The girls had a series of conversations with the lady. Since they were solid Catholics they assumed she was the Virgin Mary. Thousands of True Believers poured into Garabandal and watched as the girls went into trances. No one else was able to see the lady. A large cult has grown up around "the miracle of Garabandal." When, in the early 1980s, scientists in Antarctica discovered a huge hole in the ozone layer above the South Pole, Garabandalites flipped out. Once more it was time to get ready for the end.

Let's not forget the American Indians. They also have many solemn predictions about the grand finale. Their messengers and gods were copycats of the longhaired folks on Mount Olympus and in the Arabian desert. Whenever and wherever these entities have appeared they have always promised that they would return again one day. And their next visit would mark the end of the world. Since one does not argue with an apparent godly being, this promised return has become an integral part of many belief systems. The Jews have been waiting for thousands of years for a Messiah to appear. The Christians believe that Joshua will come back riding on a glowing cloud and it'll be curtains for this tired old planet. The modern "spacemen" from flying saucers always say they will come back one day, supposedly to evacuate the chosen few to a safer planet. The Hopi Indians have long referred to the big pow-wow in the sky as Purification Day. Other tribes have labeled it The Harvest.

The Harvest?

Ancient Navajo legends state that the first sign of the approaching end will be the appearance of a nine-pointed star. There have been many sightings of nine-pointed UFOs in recent years. Many other ancient prophecies are coming true in these closing years of the twentieth century. Across the planet millions of people are already mentally packing their suitcases.

There have been countless dry runs of the End of The World but somehow we never seem to learn. A large number of people believed that 1844 was going to be the big year. And there was almost

wholesale hysteria in 1899 when everyone was convinced there would be no 1900. Spiritualism had started in earnest in 1848 and by 1899, nearly everyone was talking to a wide assortment of spirits who, as always, were filled with lies and fiendish pranks. Today the "channels" are repeating the same charade.

You can bet your britches that there will be a growing cacophony of End of the Worlders as we plunge into the 1990s. The same antiquated scenario will be played over and over again. By 1999 there will be a kind of universal panic.

When the very first atomic bomb was exploded in New Mexico, the attending scientists made bets among themselves. Some thought the bomb would set off a chain reaction that would destroy the whole planet. Others bet it wouldn't. Fortunately, the optimists won the bet. In a way, I am making the same bet. I agree with the bible, that the end will come suddenly "like a thief in the night." But I don't think it will happen soon. Nor do I think we need fear an atomic war, even though the Pentagon has been successfully terrorizing the American public, and the world, with that threat for forty years.

In his farewell address to West Point, General Douglas MacArthur announced that he believed that one day we would be caught up in a war with "evil forces from another planet." The General was an avid UFO fan. But in the twenty-five years since his speech we have spent millions and millions on exobiology and the search for extraterrestrial life. Our scientists have come up empty-handed and now they are stampeding to the old anti-ET position. Even science fictioners like Arthur C. Clarke are now begrudgingly admitting that it looks as if there is no such thing as extraterrestrial life. They myriad planets we once imagined do not exist. There is no evidence of any form of life in our own solar system outside of earth. The universe consists of debris from some great explosion long before the beginning of time and it took a long series of coincidences and freak accidents for this planet to become infested.

Apparently, particles of energy left over from that explosion first took charge of this mudball and they've been in charge ever since. H. P. Lovecraft called them The Elders. They have been leading us around by our collective noses for aeons. But now, for some reason that is not yet clear, a merging is taking place. The Elders are slowly revealing themselves to us. What was once forbidden knowledge is now becoming known to millions. Even our scientists, those poor backward slobs, and the Hochstetters are recognizing the presence of these forces. The Industrial Age is coming to a close and science is rediscovering magick. Our civilization, which took centuries to build, is now coming apart. Violence stalks the whole planet. Dishonesty and corruption grip our decaying governments. Our schools have become warehouses for children who, thanks to the Pentagon's terrorist campaign have lost interest in our fragile society.

But is it the End Time?

Or is there a new beginning somewhere in the near future?

## THE LAST LAUGH

They've got us surrounded. Those *chimera* of the ancient Greeks, reeking with fire and brimstone (sulphur), still stalk us. The tall, hairy monsters with the glowing red eyes march through suburbs in Ohio. Kangaroos prance around New Hampshire. Dinosaurs frighten motorists in Texas and Pygmies in Africa. Ninety-foot sea serpents frolic in lakes with only a few inches of water in Ireland. Little green men visit Brazilian farmers and French vineyards. Tall, long-haired gods in shining armor chat with sign painters in New Jersey and fertilizer salesmen in Nebraska. Weirdly iridescent wheels of light pursue airliners in Alaska and lonely motorists in the Ozarks.

Aside from the small band of Fortean scattered around the world, nobody seems to notice all aspects of this phantasmagoria. It has been going on since the beginning of our race and it will continue long after we have all shipped out to another planet because our prophets have warned us that this place in space is unsafe.

We have never learned.

Thousands of years ago, the authors of the Bible told us beware of those who claimed to represent distant states, powers and principalities. Did they mean those sly characters who now profess to be visiting from other planets? Undoubtedly.

The RAF tried to tell us about these things in 1969.

But the believers went on believing. Belief is the enemy.

These myriad creatures are not real in the same sense that a gorilla is real. They march across muddy fields leaving tracks that end abruptly as if they had vanished into thin air. Then the sad, misanthropic Hochstetters attack the witnesses, lending their peculiar brand of lunacy to an already lunatic situation.

Large groups of people often see astonishing things in the sky. Like our monsters, these things also come and go in a mysterious manner. Countless witnesses have said they vanished "like a light bulb going out." Again, the Hochstetters have simpered and snickered. Since such things can't be within the confines of our reality, the witnesses must all be liars and kooks.

The truth is that we are dealing with distortions of reality, with hallucinations and transmogrifications, with energy forms that feed upon magnetic storms and sometimes upon living things. The evidence is in. The answers are here.

But the believers do not want crass scientific answers to the complex notions of their theologies. They want their beliefs confirmed, not explained.

Each generation has produced its own Shirley MacLaines. In some generations, whole countries have been seized by the blind, irrational fanaticism that produced the Children's Crusade of the Middle Ages and Hitler's Germany. A large part of the folklore of Ireland is based upon the presence of little people living in magical hills. There are many places in the United States so haunted that the Indians always refused to go near them. Today, those same places are still haunted by weird aerial lights and hairy creatures that scream in the night.

We are like ants, trying to view reality with very limited perceptive equipment and then basing our theologies and philosophies on what are essentially misperceptions. The real problem is that there is a much larger reality around us that we can not see but can only sense. While we grovel on our way to the twenty-first century, someone or some thing is watching with amusement. Like Columbus, we don't know where we've been, where we're going or even where we are.

### ***The Coming of the New Age***

When the people of Ireland first discovered the wee people, they founded a whole new subculture based upon the firsthand experiences of reliable people. Similarly, the outbreak of UFO contactees in the early 1950s led to the creation of a whole new belief system. Most of those first contactees were simple people... farmers, housewives, factory workers and quasi-mystical "seekers." Though the majority were barely literate, they often spent months or even years laboriously writing books about their experiences. In many cases, these books were even allegedly dictated by the long-haired

entities directly. Legitimate publishers frowned on these amateurish efforts, so many of these would-be authors scrimped and saved and published their books themselves. Their dedication was fanatical, and many of them suffered incredible hardships to get their message across. Usually such books found an audience of a few hundred and were quickly forgotten.

One recurrent theme in this offbeat literature of the 1950s was the prophecy that we were about to enter a New Age. An age when there would be a wholesale stampede to the occult, to Ouija boards, tarot cards, and astrology. This prediction seemed patently ridiculous in 1955, when we were in the midst of total materialism and preoccupied with the expansion of our technological society. Nevertheless, New Age groups sprang up around the world, issuing newsletters filled with messages from the Sky People and prophecies of the Brave New World.

The press and establishment science snickered. Flying saucers and long-haired space pilots were so much rubbish. And the world was now too scientific and too reasonable to ever again take a serious mass interest in the occult.

The New Age people and the UFO contactees would have the last laugh.

### ***The Revolution of the Mind***

The 1960s became one of the most important periods in human history, not because the world embraced the occult anew, though it did. But because the mysterious intelligences of some other world began to intersect with our own, just as they had done in very ancient times. Their influence upon the human condition was widespread and subtle. It engulfed a whole new generation beginning with culture and music, just as the ancient Sky People influenced early culture and introduced art, story-telling, even dance.

Experimenters with LSD discovered they could sometimes induce hallucinations identical to the visions of the earlier mystics and contactees. The frightening Drug Culture burst onto the scene. In Liverpool, the Beatles revolutionized music almost overnight. The long-hair they affected in 1964 seemed silly to most of us, but within three years long-hair had become the badge of a whole generation. Eccentric dress became the norm. A new kind of non-conformist conformity swept over youth around the world, spreading out from England and reaching even behind the Iron Curtain.

Simultaneously, also in 1964, UFO sightings increased phenomenally everywhere in the world. A new breed of contactee appeared. The long-haired Sky People were now stopping lawyers, doctors, government officials, police officers, and newspapermen on deserted back roads. Unlike their zany predecessors, most of these new contactees remained comparatively silent. A few, like a prominent physicist in California who underwent contact in 1966, tried to rationally apply the teachings of the Sky People. Interested groups of educated people clustered quietly on college campuses and institutes of higher learning, exchanging news of The Space People.

It took awhile for the press to catch on to what was happening. The dam didn't burst until March 1966 when, finally, the multitude of UFO sightings began to make the headlines everywhere. Flying saucers became a 90-day wonder again. National magazines like *Look* and *Life* were filled with UFO stories. The U.S. Air Force squirmed uncomfortably and handed the whole mess to a group of scientists at Colorado University.

Meanwhile, the predictions of the New Age groups of the 1950s were coming to pass. Millions of people began to explore the psychic and occult literature, after having UFO sightings and psychic experiences of their own. By 1970, Ouija boards were outselling Monopoly sets.

### ***Changes in the Patterns***

Flying saucer sightings and incidents remained at an alltime high from 1964 to 1968 and then they seemed to die away. During that period UFO contacts occurred on an unprecedentedly high level. Many of the people who had these experiences showed peculiar changes of personality and lifestyle. Some divorced their wives and abandoned their careers. Some became convinced that they were space people themselves, like the West Virginia high school teacher who soberly informed his students that he was really a Venusian, or the Nebraskan police officer who sacrificed a promising career after his UFO experience.

On more tragic levels, there was an increase in the numbers of murders and crimes carried out by people who claimed the space people had ordered them to do it. And multitudes of young people were marching to a different drummer, tuning in and dropping out, rejecting the materialism of our society, going off to live in caves on Mediterranean islands or the forests of Canada.

High schools and colleges around the country installed courses in witchcraft and the occult. Black magic and even Satanism replaced the goldfish swallowing collegiate fad of yesteryear. Fourteen-year-olds held serious discussion of reincarnation and their past lives. Men and women accepted or rejected each other according to their astrological signs.

All of these things took place in unison, during a single epic decade. On the good side, we became collectively conscious of the horrendous damage our technology was doing to our planet (the early UFO contactees had been warned of this very thing). Frenetic movements such as Women's Lib, Civil Rights, and the Sexual Revolution all began to make inroads during this period, altering our sociological structure dramatically and producing political reforms. Each of these movements had their prophets and visionaries and "illuminated" leaders. The term "consciousness raising" became a part of our new vocabulary.

### ***The Winding Down***

In July, 1969, men walked on the moon for the first time, achieving an ancient dream and, perhaps, fulfilling some important but mysterious phase of man's destiny. That same year, Colorado University informed a weary public that UFOs were not extraterrestrial spaceships, and the U.S. Air Force shut down Project Blue Book, its flying saucer investigation group. The press rarely mentioned UFOs after that, although they are still being seen with tiresome frequency.

Books on the occult were outselling books on such perennial topics as sex. (A decade earlier no major publisher would touch an occult book because there was then only a "fringe market.") The New Age had not crept up on us. It had arrived with awesome suddenness. Whereas only a few thousand "crackpots" had believed in flying saucers in the 1950s, by the late 1960s millions of people all over the world believed we were receiving visitors from outer space. In 1971, the ambassador from the African state of Uganda stood up in the United Nations and delivered a speech about the UFOs in his country, demanding that somebody ought to do something. Dr. J. Allen Hynek, the air forces' UFO consultant for twenty years and a leading UFO skeptic for most of that time, published a book declaring "where there's smoke there must be fire." Some members of the Colorado UFO project, such as Dr. David Saunders, also defected to the ranks of the believers.

Is all of this accidental and coincidental? Or are we going through a repetition of history; not physical history but spiritual history? The myths and the religious lore of mankind demonstrate that the arrival of the Sky People wrought great changes, often in a very short time. In some epochs these changes were for the worst. We do not have the necessary historical perspective to look back on the 1960s and accurately weigh the full merits of the revolution which took place. But it does appear as if the coming of the great UFO wave of 1964-68 was inexorably linked with the many changes of the period.

Evolution seems to have gone into reverse! Educational systems are collapsing worldwide. Illiteracy is rising so fast it can hardly be measured. People who can't read are, of course, cut off from the past, from history, from the thoughts and perceptions of great minds, from art and culture, from everything that has any meaning. The loss is staggering. We are becoming a race of animals living only for the immediate moment, with no vocabularies, speaking in grunts and guttural noises like the cavemen. In 1987, there were five billion of us. In less than twenty years there will be ten billion. Ten billion uneducated animals fighting for food, killing each other wantonly.

The optimists among the New Age thinkers hope that we are really entering a new phase in our evolutionary progress but I'm afraid all the signs are negative. Man has ceased to evolve. Look at how we've slid backwards in just the past decade! Our social structures are falling apart. Armed motorists are shooting each other on California's highways. People are killing each other over parking spaces in New York.

The 1970s were called the "Me Decade" because selfishness and greed suddenly became accepted

qualities. This obsession with self was even more destructive than the "Positive Thinking" mania that swept the 1950s and destroyed critical reasoning, a very important and necessary ability in this modern world. In a twenty year span we became a group without any critical faculties, dedicated entirely to self-interests and to hell with everybody else. It was only natural that there would be a frantic search for workable beliefs in the 1980s and 1990s. The shallow, unthinking couch potatoes of the TV age need someone else to tell them what to do and they don't have the critical reasoning ability to judge the validity of the belief systems they pursue.

We are biochemical robots helplessly controlled by forces that can scramble our brains, destroy our memories and use us in any way they see fit. They have been doing it to us forever. We are caught up in a poker game being played with marked cards. Yet, in the closing years of this century, we are like the inveterate gambler who, when informed that the game is crooked, shrugs and says, "I know... but it's the only game in town!"

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

John A. Keel, world-traveler and self-taught investigator into the unknown, began writing professionally at the age of sixteen. He is recipient of honorary Ph.Ds for his work in herpetology and archaeology, and many other awards. His previous books include *The Mothman Prophecies*, *Our Haunted Planet*, *Operation Trojan Horse*, his autobiography *Jadoo*, and numerous other titles. John Keel lives and works in New York City.

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