

BUFORA

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BULLETIN

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bufora

British UFO Research Association

No 7/8

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CEng., FIMechE.,
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BUFORA EDINBURGH BRANCH

Fraser Gordon
27 Buckstone Dell, Edinburgh,
SCOTLAND E10 (Tel: 031 445 2705)

MEMBER SOCIETIES include Britain's
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Bristol, AVON BS17 2NZ

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

MEMBERSHIP. Membership is open to
all who support the aims of the
Association and whose application
is approved by the Executive
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mation forms can be obtained from
any Association officer.

Secretary:

Miss Diane Rollinson,
29 Recreation Avenue, Harold
Hill, Essex.

Membership Secretary:

Miss Pam Kennedy, MBE.,
30 Vermont Road, London SE19 3SR.

Treasurer:

Hans Streuli
"Acaplana", Bourneside, Wentworth,
Surrey. (Tel; Wentworth 3759)

PUBLICATIONS

Editor:

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

DIRECTOR OF PUBLICATIONS

Arnold West,
16 Southway, Burgess Hill,
Sussex. (Tel: 04446 6738)

Public Relations Officer:

L.E. Beer,
15 Freshwater Court, Crawford
Street, London, W1 (Tel: 01 723
0305)

Librarian:

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

RESEARCH AND INVESTIGATION

Director of Research

Peter Hill, AMR.,FMS.,FSS.
47a Easter Bankton, Murieston,
Livingston, West Lothian, Scotland
EH54 9BD (Tel: 0506 33720)

Director of Investigations

Miss Jenny Randles,
9 Crosfield Road, Somerville,
Wallasey, Wirral L44 9EH. (Tel:
051 630 5394)

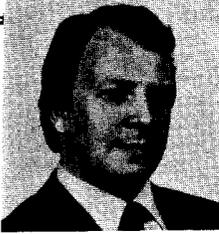
ADVERTISEMENTS

Details of rates from Arnold West.

BUFORA's entry on the
PRESTEL viewdata system
starts at page "50801"
(on EASTEL)



NEW ASSOCIATION CHAIRMAN



ROBERT S. DIGBY

No one was more surprised than Robert Digby himself when asked by Council, at the end of 1982, to become BUFORA's new Chairman. The request followed the retirement of Leslie Bayer who, since 1979, had successfully steered the Association through a very difficult period.

Les, in leaving, acknowledged the challenge which presented itself in running the Association, a complex limited company relying on professionally qualified executives with sophisticated organisational skills. Bob Digby admits that BUFORA's days as an amateur club run by UFO enthusiasts are numbered, but that a great deal still needs to be done to achieve for BUFORA the scientific respectability it has long sought.

At 29 Bob is one of BUFORA's youngest ever Chairmen, although his involvement with Association affairs already spans 12 years. Born in London and educated at Wembley County Grammar and Harrow College of Higher Education, he trained as a research technician for Johnson Matthey - precious metal specialists. He joined the Post Office Data Processing Service in 1978 where he was involved in the running of a Data Communication network. In 1982 he became a Marketing Account Executive in British Telecom's North West London telephone area.

Bob's fascination with UFOs began with a feature article in "The Eagle" annual on George Adamski and he went on to read as much UFO literature as possible, initially American pulp paperbacks. He soon realised, however, that sensational and uncritical treatment of UFOs was not likely to answer the serious questions he was asking. Only one book of that period - "Piece From a Jigsaw" by a BUFORA Vice-President Leonard Cramp - attempted to get to grips scientifically with Adamski's "evidence."

Bob's first close encounter with BUFORA came in 1970 at the "Daily Mail" New Year Show and the Association's effective display left a lasting impression. He joined BUFORA in 1971 and quickly gained practical experience on local skywatches. "Skywatches", he says, "provide a fascinating platform for observing people and their reactions to certain situations. My realisation that investigation into UFO reports and events required not only good observational skills, but a thorough understanding of sociological motivation perhaps led to my missing the UFO event of a lifetime in my concern to study people."

In 1976, at Birmingham, Bob presented his first paper on UFO photographic cases while, behind the scenes, he was busy in the

audio-visual department. Through his involvement he met the then Research Director, Tony Pace, and before long was playing a leading role in the research team, investigating physical trace evidence.

Bob became a member of Council in 1981 and was given the task of reviving J-TAP. His wish as Chairman is to lead BUFORA out of the current recession and give to it a new respectability. Bob says he will strive to encourage discussion, improve existing research activities, strengthen investigation procedures and improve communications both internally and externally.

"What members are looking for from BUFORA is value for money and I am determined that this shall be achieved in this year when the Association celebrates its 21st anniversary. Not only will I do everything in my power to maintain our three existing publications, but I will build on the sterling work of my predecessors, and actively encourage academics, scientists and students to join in our search for truth. We cannot continue to be duped and misled by accepting reports at face value, and with continued support from my excellent management team, I shall, in the months ahead, be looking to answer the case of the UFO, not by studying lights in the sky, but through in-depth analysis of a few well-substantiated cases."

Quality, not quantity, may provide some answers.

RB

1983 THIRD INTERNATIONAL UFO CONGRESS [REDACTED]

BUFORA's Third International Congress at the Lorch Foundation Conference Centre, Lane End, near High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, to be held between Saturday, August 27th and Monday, August 29th, 1983, is attracting some of the world's leading UFOlogists.

Speakers joining those listed in the November, 1982 BULLETIN are: Per Anderson, Paul Devereux, Hilary Evans, Jenny Randles and Dr. Hartley Rutledge.

Admission to the Congress will be by ticket only and they will be on sale from Friday, April 8th, 1983. Various levels of attendance are offered, ranging from one day to three day residential.

Booking forms and a provisional time-table are now available from The Congress Secretariat, 5 Vardens Road, London, SW11 1RQ.

THE CONGRESS WILL BE OF INTEREST TO ALL SERIOUS UFOLOGISTS
AND MUST NOT BE MISSED.

INTERNATIONAL UFO DIRECTORY

An International UFO Directory is being compiled by the Provisional International Committee for UFO Research. The first section, a list of over 250 individuals, is available from BUFORA's Director of Research, Peter Hill, 47A Easter Bankton, Murieston, Livingston, West Lothian, Scotland. Price 75p (UK), £1.00 (Overseas) postage included.

The second edition, UFO societies, is in course of preparation. The eventual set will include four or five sections revised annually, at an economical price, to make them accessible to all UFO researchers and journalists.

BUFORA's meeting at Kensington Central Library on 4th October, 1982, was chaired by Bob Digby, deputising for Leslie Bayer. Bob introduced Andy Collins and "The Aveley Abduction - A New Look." This well-attended meeting included a question and answer session with abductee John Day.

The facts have been published (FRS Vol.23 issue 6 and Vol.24 issue 1) but, briefly, in late 1974 John, his wife and three children drove into a bank of luminous green mist encountered en route from Harold Hill, Essex. They discovered, subsequently, that some three hours - it was after 1 am when they arrived home and not the anticipated 10.15 pm - had been lost. There followed domestic poltergeist activity and pronounced changes in the Days' lives (they became vegetarians, stopped smoking and drinking and took an interest in ecology). Regressive hypnosis in late 1977 under Leonard Wilder indicated an abduction. Andy Collins investigated and became a family friend.

John told his audience that he believed his experience to have been a physical one. Three hours had vanished, although this might have happened instantaneously - a sort of time warp - rather than over an actual three hour period. Since the encounter John, a former carpenter, had taken a fine arts course and gained a BA, his wife had become a nurse and midwife - all dramatic life-style changes. Slides of his work, wood carvings and prints, mainly symbolic, showed a highly individualistic style.

Questions concerned his religious beliefs prior to 1974 - none, the effect on his children, the appearance of the craft and its occupants. He had no rational explanation for what happened - other than something did and it altered his perception of life.

A brief talk by Cynthia Hind on her UFO experiences in Southern Africa and, in particular some recent Zimbabwean sightings, ended the evening.

● Council met in London on Saturday, 6th November, 1982, with Leslie Bayer in the Chair. Hans Streuli and Ian Mrzyglod attended this, their first Council meeting. The discussion ranged over the progress of the 1983 International Congress, the possible creation of an evaluation panel to examine UFO reports, the collecting and cataloguing of BUFORA case histories and the Bulletin's front cover - not universally admired! This has been redesigned. Arnold West reported that the late John Cleary Baker's collection of UFO literature had been donated to BUFORA.

Leslie Bayer was warmly thanked for his work as Chairman since 1979. Council agreed unanimously that his successor should be Robert S. Digby, Editor-in-Chief, J-TAP. Leslie also relinquishes his Council seat.

At Kensington that evening some 60 members and guests heard Robert Morrell, NUFOIS Chairman and editor of its journal pose the question: "UFOs A Scientific Enigma or a Modern Myth?" Mr C.A. O'Brien was in the Chair.

This closely-reasoned talk covered angel hair, Egyptology, the organic matter found in meteorites, earthlights (Paul Devereux's book has attracted wide attention in ufological circles) and organ transplants.

The myth of ufology said Mr Morrell was caused by extremes which must be avoided, precision was vital. The ETH solution, currently out of favour, could be dismissed. The history of science showed that new data constantly altered firmly-held beliefs - not until 1803 were meteorites accepted as being extraterrestrial. He gave details

of a recent CE2 in Brassington, Derbyshire, which, although bearing every mark of authenticity might, when the information was analysed, prove to be something as prosaic as a partly-deflated hot-air balloon.

The evening's raffle sent two winners home with a box of chocolates each and a third with a bottle of pre-Christmas drink. The first prize - a slide projector - went to BUFORA's former treasurer John Spencer.

● Council met on 4th December, 1982 with Leslie Bayer in the Chair for the last time. Publicity and membership recruitment were considered together with the closely related topics of finance and the cost of meetings and publications. John Shaw updated the 1983 Congress programme and mentioned the possibility of Capitol Radio broadcasting a programme on UFOs with BUFORA participating. He and Lionel Beer were talking to the producer. Jenny Randles confirmed that UFO sightings were dramatically down on earlier years but that the quality of reporting had greatly improved.

● The AGM at Kensington was surprisingly well-attended (AGMs not being noted for their drawing power) and numbers increased later to hear Jenny Randles's lecture. In Peter Hill's absence Jenny and Bob Digby reported on the 1981-82 research and investigation work.

Betty Wood was awarded Life Membership of BUFORA for her work as its Secretary since 1967. Diane Rollinson, her successor, was introduced to members. Tributes were paid to Leslie Bayer, John Spencer, Arnold West and the late Anne Harcourt. Messrs Barrett, Mrzyglod and Streuli were elected to Council, and Messrs Beer and Gamble re-elected.

Bob Digby, officially installed as Chairman, said that within a year the Association had lost its Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary - three key figures whose departure might well have led to a constitutional crisis. This had not happened and BUFORA looked to the future with every confidence.

Jenny Randles, over-coming a small AGM room suddenly transformed into an even smaller lecture theatre, gave a fascinating account of "The Oz Factor." "Mind-melding" was the term employed to describe what many UFO witnesses experienced during an encounter, isolation, time and memory distortion and sensory deprivation.

Limited editorial space makes it impossible to do justice to this highly complex and relatively new concept in studying UFO phenomena. Any individual, said Jenny, brings to whatever they witness a high degree of subjectivity and in a CE case witnesses related to the phenomenon from their own personal image store. The OZ Factor closely resembled the waking dream which gave the illusion of complete reality.

Arnold West was in the Chair.

JB.

FUTURE MEETINGS - 7.00pm Kensington Central Library,
London, W8.

Saturday, 9th April, 1983. The Genius of the Few
C.A.E. O'Brien

Saturday, 7th May, 1983. The Seven Day Wonder at
Cergy-Pontoise
Hilary Evans.

UFO activity picked up after a dormant period, and between July and September, 1982 our investigation team finally had something to get their teeth into. You will be reading about some of the more promising cases in the next few issues of the Bulletin.

The number of Accredited Investigators now totals 22, all of whom are signing the declaration to cement their liaison with the newly-adopted "Code of Practice." BUFORA will publish a list detailing all investigators who have returned a completed declaration to myself on behalf of the NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE. Any Investigator who does not belong to BUFORA but who wishes to support the Code and appear on the listing is encouraged to do so. Copies of the Code, in leaflet format, together with two declaration slips (one to be retained and one returned to me) are available at cost price from Arnold West, Publications Director. I very much hope that as many groups and independent investigators as possible will support this bold initiative.

On 9th October, 1982 the second meeting of the NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS COMMITTEE was held in Manchester, and much time was spent discussing current cases. This included the DAN-AIR daylight encounter over southern Italy in June, 1982. A full report is being compiled under the auspices of RICs Philip Taylor and Peter Warrington.

The meeting was held in conjunction with BUFORA's first investigations seminar held outside London. The venue was the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology and the seminar included experiments, exercises and lecture/discussions. Topics ranged from interview technique through to ethical considerations of witness problems and perception of observation. Almost 30 investigators attended and the general reaction was that it had proved very beneficial. I certainly enjoyed taking on the role of a close encounter witness, but did not expect the barrage of tough questions thrown at me!

Our investigation network is still sadly depleted in some areas, notably Wales, north-eastern England and the Hampshire/Dorset area. If you feel that you have got what it takes to become an investigator, drop me a line. But remember, investigation is a skilled job that requires dedication and perseverance.

C A S E R E P O R T S

CASE 79-271 30th November, 1979
Norfolk.

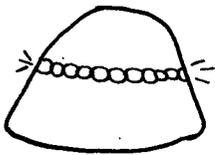
Two independent reports of a mysterious swishing noise that descended upon car drivers on the lonely roads west of Norwich. At about 17.30 two separate married couples were confronted by the noise which seemed to come down and move about them, as if conducting an inspection! One of the couples near a television mast at North Pickenham, saw a beam of light shining through low cloud, which then swooped up into the sky. RAF Watton is in the immediate vicinity.

Investigator: Peter Johnson.

CASE 80-113 3rd May, 1980
Fort William, Scotland.

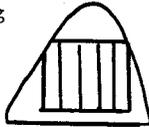
The owner of a hairdressing salon and her husband had been watching the late night film when at 01.30 they saw a brilliant light in the south-east at the top of Glen Nevis. At this distance it looked like a rounded shape, orange at the bottom and flashing a white light on top. Putting on dressing-gowns and grabbing binoculars they went out-

side to watch it move very slowly over them giving an excellent view of the underside. This was triangular with panels inset, through which orange light poured. The white light was in a strip on the side of the dome-shaped object. This revolved.



SIDE VIEW

Revolving, flashing
W. LITS



UNDERNEATH

Orange
light

After moving to the north-west, making no sound, it accelerated and shot away in a flash of light. Several other people in the area have seen the object, for which the investigator can offer no explanation. RAF Lossiemouth could not identify it. The local police found it "very funny"!

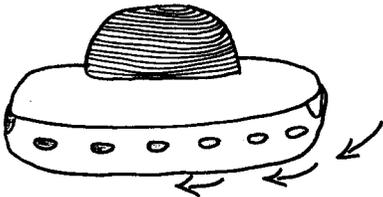
Investigator: Stuart Campbell.

CASE 81-62 16th March, 1981
Doncaster, Yorkshire

ANOTHER TOUCH OF MOONSHINE

David is one of the youngest investigators on BUFORA's books (just 16) but he has been actively involved with UFO work for about three years and this terrific 12 page case report proves just what a promising ufologist he is. It is produced to a standard which I would hope all investigators would emulate, containing site photographs, excellent maps and a full analysis and evaluation of the case. All in all a really first-class piece of work.

The case itself concerns a BUFORA member, who is a night-nurse at Doncaster Infirmary, plus another night-nurse on duty with her. From the fourth floor of the hospital, at 04.00, they saw a "hazy patch of light" at low elevation, by a petrol station.



Rotation of lower half

For the next half-an-hour they watched the object, which remained virtually at a standstill. During the observation the glow materialised into a distinct shape "like a drawing," as if forming out of the mists! It was grey and a classic flying saucer shape. The top remained stationary whilst the lower half revolved in a clockwise direction. There was also a line of lights that flashed on and off. Portholes were visible also.

David did a marvellous job reconstructing the case, the lack of other witnesses (no reports to the police for example) is baffling. He even counted traffic passing by at 04.00 to see

the chances of witnesses from this direction! (That is dedication to the job!)

The witness is insistent that an astronomical explanation would not do, although David did suggest the moon as an option, in view of the basic shape and the long duration. A check of records shows that the moon set close to 04.30 in the part of the sky at which the witnesses were looking. It is, thus, almost impossible to believe that this was not the moon! Once again we have quite a puzzle. The similarities with the case from Sussex (September, 1982 Bulletin) are interesting. Just how does the moon cause such confusion?

Investigator: David Clarke

CASE 82-002 27th February, 1982
Kingsthorpe, Northamptonshire

Mr and Mrs E are witnesses to this sighting, the first investigation by one of our newest accredited investigators. They live in an upper flat on a council estate and at midnight were watching a late-night film. Their two children were asleep in bed. A large window faces west over a line of similar buildings and Mr E. was in a chair which afforded a view through it. He noticed what he first took to be an aircraft in the sky over the houses. But then he realised that the flashing lights were stationary. He realised that this was something odd! After watching for about a minute he called his wife over and went for the binoculars (what a pity nobody ever goes for a camera!) Through the binoculars he could see a doughnut shape with a glowing red dome on its upper surface. A number of blue and white lights were pulsating very quickly all around the edge. The object was seen in total for 10 minutes, still hovering, until it shot away northwards, extremely fast.

The estimate of distance (at reconstruction) of about half a mile, placed the object above the River Nene. No explanation has been forthcoming.

Investigator: Raymond Shaw

UFOs OVER POWERLINES

There has been much talk lately about the piezo-electric effect (see Paul Devereux's "Earthlights"). This proposes that some UFOs are plasma-like phenomena generated by fault lines and often attracted to the vicinity of powerlines. Two recent case histories seem to tie in with this hypothesis.

A Walter Reid investigation from 7th October, 1981 tells of an observation at Hipperholme, West Yorkshire, close to the Craven Fault. A 49 year old civil servant saw a very bright star low on the western horizon at 19.00. This brilliant golden/orange ball descended through a set of powerlines (causing them to scintillate as it did so) and then rose up through them again before moving off. It changed shape as it reached the closest point to the ground into a sort of triangular oval with a darker "kernel."

CASE 82-007 from Mark Brown tells of a sighting at 19.15 on the night of 28th April, 1982 at Thurlaston, Leicestershire. Paul Devereux was consulted on this superb case report and commented that the Croft Hill fault (one of the most prominent in the east Midlands) lies within 1½ miles of the location. The witness is a very well qualified 34 year old electronic project engineer. He

saw a brilliant ball of white light (in daylight) above a line of pylons. It faded after five seconds without moving. Despite his experience he could not explain it. The case report considers the piezo-electric effect as the most viable option; and research suggests that we are on the threshold of exciting new discoveries about this phenomenon.

THE PICKUP BANK ENCOUNTERS

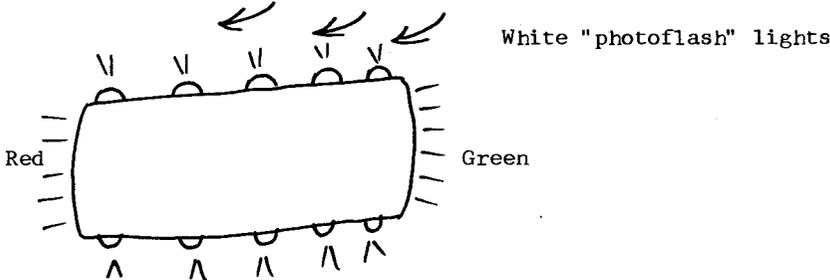
CASE 82-008 17th July, 1982
Darwen, Lancashire.

This may be another example of the piezo-electric effect, as the rocks in the area have been noted in the past for generating light-shows. A fault runs through the area too.

The case concerns George Hill, aged 32, his wife and their two children aged eight and 10. George is a CB radio fanatic and often goes up on the local hillsides to talk to his friends. As this was a Friday/Saturday night his children were with him, although by 01.30 dozing on the rear seat. They were on Pickup Bank just above the town of Darwen.

They first noticed a bright light in front of them above the hills to the north. Presuming it to be a bright star they said nothing to each other until it moved across their view and disappeared. They did not mention it over the air, but about 20 minutes later a silent explosion of light burst out of the clouds around them. It lit up in a weird bluish/orange colour. Then three balls of light of this peculiar colour mix came out of the cloud, split up, and shot off in different directions. There was no sound whatsoever. Two moved eastwards towards Rossendale and the other moved south towards Bolton. Their speed was phenomenal. As this took place George was talking on the CB to someone in Longbridge near Preston. This man was thoroughly convinced by George's fear. Shortly the talk of the UFOs was buzzing all around the air waves!

Almost as soon as the three light balls had gone the youngest child said that he could hear a buzzing noise - high-pitched and faint. Not surprisingly, by this time, the occupants of the car (alone on a deserted hillside) were rather frightened. George could hear the buzzing "inside his head" and wound down the window to peer upwards. Hovering right overhead was an "oil-drum" shaped object with rounded ends. One end glowed orange/red, the other green. All



around the the edge were brilliant flashing "florescent" lights - "like a camera flash going off." The humming noise was louder now. In sheer panic George started up the car and fled the scene.

Some interesting points to note. First, the night was described as "fantastic for CB reception", suggesting unusual ionospheric conditions which might support the theory that the light-balls were induced ionisation effects. However, the witnesses did display clear signs of exaggeration and some of the aftermath to their story does not bear out. It is also known that civil aircraft "glide" over the area (see my forthcoming, spring, 1983, book "The Pennine UFO Mystery"). MUFORA think the think the event may be explicable in such terms. The real answer is probably a combination of real light effects, mis-identification and exaggeration.

Investigators: Mike Sacks, Jenny Randles
and MUFORA

INVESTIGATIONS DEPARTMENT REPORT

A decision about the status of BUFORA's report files has recently been taken by Council. These files are perhaps the greatest asset that the Association has, and it will be a marvellous boon to the membership (and to UFOlogy in general) that they are now to become accessible.

The files are housed at a building operated by BUFORA's librarian, Robin Lindsey, and we are very grateful to him for the services he has kindly offered. Naturally it will take a little time to properly establish the system which will include the following services: (a) An opportunity for researchers to visit the facility and study the files (plus over-night accommodation for those who wish to undertake major studies) and (b) photo-copying opportunities for specific cases to be transferred from the files to researchers.

This is a big job, as the files already total many thousands case reports. There will also be certain restrictions on specific data to comply fully with the Code of Practice. But, in general, the facility will complement the established data repositories of Newcastle upon Tyne Central Library (which has the country's finest collection of UFO books and back issues of many major magazines) and Nottingham (where the local group NUFOIS house NUFON and UFOIN files on a similar basis to that now being offered by BUFORA)

From 1983 cases onward BUFORA will be issuing annual catalogues of data so that members will know just what is available on file. It is hoped to have on sale at the 1983 Congress a catalogue, now in preparation, listing the full content and basic information contained in the files prior to 1983. These will be invaluable documents for would-be researchers.

It is unlikely that more than a rudimentary service will be available to members immediately. Should you have any queries please contact Robin Lindsey, 87 Station Road, Whittlesey, Peterborough PE7 1UE. Telephone: 0733 203414. JR

● CODE OF PRACTICE. Copies of BUFORA's Code of Practice for UFO investigators are available from Arnold West. These cost 20p each, plus 15p postage and packing or £1. for six copies post free. Copies are free to AIs.

The Code was formulated early in 1982 following meetings during 1981 between BUFORA and a number of other ufological bodies. The Code sets out principles which should be followed during an investigation. Investigators must bear these rules in mind whenever they are investigating UFO phenomena.

Children and teenagers have as many UFO encounters as do adults. Usually these are ignored because most UFO investigators prefer the testimony of people employed in a profession or career rather than that of children.

The reason for this prejudice is mainly because most UFO investigators do not want to discover anything too bizarre since it might jeopardise scientific recognition of their subject. It is surprising that people investigating an unknown (unknown since we know little about it) phenomenon have such fixed ideas about what is and what is not relevant to their studies.

Typical is a letter I received from an UFO investigator: "Concerning the reference made by the schoolboy to a 'stick man' I dismissed it partly because there was only one person who saw it, and secondly, that the lads had claimed to have seen so many UFOs in that area" (Woodhall Spa, Lincolnshire).

"Anyway I'll quote from the letter I received from the lads.

'On Sunday afternoon boys are allowed to go to Bardney. In the summer term, 1976, about mid-June, we saw a "stick man" jolting along. It was black with a round head, not making any noise. It was about 150 yards away from us, and it was quite hard to see.'

"In my letter to Ken Phillips (BUFORA National Investigation Co-ordinator - NW) I said that if the 'stick man' had been seen by more reliable people, and also if these young boys had not seen so many 'UFOs' (and many of them sounded like phantoms!) I might have felt that the report justified an intensive investigation. However, even if the report was investigated little could be achieved because: (a) it took place (allegedly) in summer 1976, (b) its value is very limited as I certainly would not hope to have to resort to reports made by young boys who; (i) could not be bothered to report the incident in 1976, (ii) probably have very strong imagination, (iii) seem to be searching very hard to find a UFO.'

It is obvious that we are losing a lot of useful material because of prejudice and the need to be "scientific" (not many ufologists know what that term means anyway!).

Investigators must not be deluded into thinking that they know the answers before they examine the evidence.

Children can deal with their environment in a huge variety of ways. They are adaptable to new situations, and their behaviour reflects the conditioning they receive or inherit. If they report UFOs and various other experiences within the UFO context, we should examine why they have such experiences, and compare their experience to those of adults.

UFO books might inspire a child to look for UFOs, but why should they trigger-off experiences which are nothing more than "pure fantasy"? To ask "what is pure fantasy"? or "What is the mechanism behind this metal phenomenon"? are more relevant responses, than dismissal. Their relevance to adult UFO experience is clear.

A typical UFO report was sent to me by a nine year old boy from Gainsborough, Lincolnshire.

"I saw the UFO, it was spinning round across the sky, sometime in summer, it had a red light at the top and a little white light at the bottom. First it just missed our tree, in our backyard, then it went across Whites Wood Lane. After that I got back into bed, then half past one in the morning I saw something

flashing so I rushed to the window and I saw the UFO again but about six seconds later it just vanished in thin air, I could just see stars so I got back into bed. It was a Tuesday I cannot remember the date. It did not make a noise."

This sighting occurred in 1971 and the boy sent a drawing of the UFO which showed a bell-shaped object with a door at the side. He thought that the object was spinning on its vertical axis. The boy told his story in a straightforward, logical manner with no attempt to embellish or speculate.

Compare that with one I received in 1978 from a 27 year old man, also from Gainsborough. "The time was 10.20pm, Feb 1st. I saw a large silver disc shooting across the night sky, it made a landing behind some trees, I observed 2 figures standing by the spacecraft about 6ft tall, the saucer made off at more than the speed of light, I estimate in about ½ hr. What was it? Could it have been a space craft from the star system of Andromeda or beyond the Milky Way?" The letter ended with a request for space enthusiast pen pals.

That letter was written in order to seek attention and friends; the child's was a simple attempt to record a memory.

The following account, had it involved an adult, would have been classified as a sighting of a good old intergalactic spaceship.

On 4th November, 1977, 12 year old Timothy Pearson, his younger brother Nicholas, and their friend Roger Shaw were building a bonfire on waste ground near their home in Stradbroke, Sheffield, Yorkshire. At about 8pm they all saw a strange light in the sky. "It was like this star what (sic) kept moving in circles" said Nicholas. Timothy also saw it, but was unimpressed. He described their sighting: "we saw a light...Like it went across the sky, it vanished. Then about 10 minutes later, it came back in (the) same place, went back across and vanished in (the) same place again. I don't know what that was." This light was seen towards the north moving left to right on an horizontal trajectory.

Nicholas went home shortly afterwards and Roger at about 9.15 pm. Five or 10 minutes later Timothy, who had remained, saw a bluey-white light that "seemed to appear from nowhere." This "strange glowing object" was roughly seen in the north-east. "It moved across, from the right-hand side, over, then hovered for a bit, then it just, like went down" he said.

".....it were biggish, about as big as a garage" and although it was glowing it did not illuminate the rest of the countryside. "About five minutes I saw it, in the sky" he commented "then I watched it for about five minutes while it were down."

This light landed in a field at the top of the hill in front of the witness. The field was bounded by four or five trees and Timothy said: "I could see like some bits of light behind (the) trees."

He ran home and "I told my mum to have a look outside, but she didn't." Both parents were sceptical of his story. During the sighting he was scared: "I hardly got any sleep that night because I couldn't wait to go and have a look where the strange object landed" he wrote.

At 8am he awoke and went to the field. I asked if he was apprehensive about visiting the spot to which he replied that he wanted to see the area, especially since his mother had laughed about his sighting.

The field had a grass crop approximately a foot high.

Timothy found "...an oval section of the grass flattened down. On one side of the oval was some green sticky stuff. I dipped my finger in it and it was warm. I wiped the stuff off and went home. I didn't tell anyone because I don't like being laughed at."

He said the sticky stuff resembled darkish-green jelly and attached to the side of some of the flattened grass in the middle of the flattened portion was "a brown patch."

Timothy's observation comes from an interview with him and Nicholas and from a letter Timothy wrote to Jenny Randles, in response to an article in "The Sun,"

Roger Habb and I found Timothy and his brother helpful and articulate. Timothy admitted an interest in UFOs and had read books about them. He said that on November 4th, 1977 "We had been looking all night" for UFOs. He particularly likes stories about UFOs and "little green men" and had read about the Kelly, Kentucky humanoids seen on August 21st, 1955. He claimed that he did not believe in UFOs until his sighting.

A transcript of Roger Hebb's and my interview with Timothy and his brother, and the former's letter, reveal two discrepancies. In his letter he wrote: "About ten minutes later (after first seeing the UFO - NW) it took off and disappeared into thin air." When asked if he saw the UFO take-off into the sky after it had landed in the field he replied: "No, I just went in."

His letter stated that he had seen similar things since then, but in our interview he claimed not have had any other kind of experience with the unknown. I do not think these discrepancies are sufficient to doubt the rest of the testimony. We must bear in mind the time which elapsed between the UFO sighting and the interview.

The relationship between the observed UFO and the alleged landing traces are circumstantial, and several things could have accounted for them (farm machinery, fungus, camp fires etc).

Two weeks after Timothy's sighting 20 six and seven year old children saw a UFO from the playground of Wawne Primary School. Wawne, North Humberside, is a small, fairly secluded village north of Hull.

At 2.45 pm on 18th November, 1977, the children saw what they described as a spinning object resembling an upside-down dish surmounted by a top cupola section with windows.

Mr Michael Yates, separated three children, Robert Stevenson, Lisa Patterson and Caroline Swift, and in isolation, were told to make plasticine models of what they had seen. Three remarkably similar models resulted.

That these children observed something in the sky, disc-shaped and spinning on its vertical axis, cannot be denied.

What does this prove? Like adult accounts of UFOs we have some very interesting anecdotal evidence but nothing to move scientific opinion away from its entrenched position. Children make good eyewitnesses, but there are limits to their abilities and these must be recognised.

To the question "Do children have 'real' UFO encounters?" we can reply that they have sightings very similar to those of adults; but since no one has yet discovered a 'real' UFO or evidence of a 'real' UFO, this is all problematical.

The parallel of a kitten seeing its reflection in a pond is a relevant one. It strikes out a paw at the apparition and, splash, the image disappears. "What," think the kitten, "was that strange phenomenon?"

As UFO investigators we are in the same position - chasing evidence for phantoms - when the whole problem of the UFO puzzle could be resolved by looking at the evidence in a different manner.

Adults and children report seeing strange phenomenon in the sky, and their testimony is reliable. However, even if we cannot find any logical explanation for these sightings, because there is no shred of physical evidence, we, in the objective world, cannot accept the reality and substance of their content.

Instead of looking for elusive, objective evidence for the existence of UFOs let us instead examine the really high strangeness cases which occasionally occur in a new light.

The first came to my attention when I participated in a phone-in programme on UFOs in February, 1978. A woman, identified only as Barbara, described a UFO sighting made by her seven year old son, whom I shall call "Peter."

This was alleged to have occurred on Wednesday, January 18th, 1978, exactly two months after the Wawne sighting, at Anlaby Primary school, Anlaby, North Humberside, is six miles south-west of Wawne.

Peter was in the playground when he heard a sharp whistling noise - similar to the sound of someone blowing into a pen top. He looked up to see a round object with small windows in it which looked "how you would imagine a flying saucer." It was changing colours as it came to land on the flat schoolroof.

Three people got out of the craft and walked onto the school roof. Peter said that they appeared armless and wore gold suits. From their backs hung wires or tubes which connected them to the craft.

Peter ran to tell a friend who was a few yards away, but when they looked back the three people had turned around and gone back to their craft. The latter took off slowly, as it did so Peter could see through the underneath the three occupants returning to their seat. Once clear of the buildings it went away "just like a boomerang."

That evening Peter was rather nervous about going to bed but otherwise he did not suffer any after-effects.

His mother supplied this information in a clear, precise manner without trying to sensationalise and she sounded genuinely puzzled about the whole affair.

The interesting aspect is the wealth of bizarre detail, the changing colours and sound of the UFO; the transparent underneath of the craft; the small windows; its motion on take-off; the occupants in their gold suits; their lack of arms and the wires or tubes connecting them to their craft (paralleling equipment used by human astronauts in carrying out extravehicular activities).

I was unable to contact Barbara or to obtain further information about this intriguing case. Little can be added which offers any explanation. One ufologist in a position to investigate this case in detail stated that it was a "classic" encounter and left it at that. He knew Peter had seen a visiting spaceship, that was sufficient.

Are such high strangeness UFO encounters caused by visiting aliens? Many ufologists seem inclined to believe this. An example of investigators' belief in the physical existence of UFOs is illustrated in a report investigated by Andrew Collins, Barry King and Graham Phillips. This involved a young boy who is referred to as "Trevor P." He lives with his parents at Hutton, Essex.

On Tuesday, 22nd July, 1975, whilst in the vicinity of Dovey Vale, near Machynlleth, Powys, Wales, Trevor decided to walk up a nearby 250ft hill, in order to pass the time whilst his parents inspected a cottage. On reaching the top he saw in front of him, at a distance of less than 50ft a strange craft. Because of his exposed position he leapt behind a boulder and watched from there.

The craft had a round hemisphere mounted on top of a "paddling" pool-like circular base. The latter had large bright round lights and the top of the hemisphere had one mounted light. The base lights gave off a colour Trevor could not identify. Inside the dome the boy saw two translucent, white, jelly-like entities. Their outer surface moved constantly and inside them he could see hundreds of doughnut-like discs. The entities appeared to be attending to a large metal control unit in the centre of the craft. Trevor took in details of his sighting in a frightened state of mind for 20-25 seconds, then a ramp was lowered from the right-hand side of the craft. It took about eight seconds to descend and one of the entities began to float towards the exit.

It was at this stage that the boy ran as fast as he could down the hill. He cannot remember what he said, but his father testified that he cried "You won't believe me - come on!"

The father watched his son run back, lay down on the hill for a few seconds and then run down again in a "petrified" state. The boy shouted "A jelly man got out of it."

Apparently on his return trip he saw the object, with the two jelly entities in their former positions, and with the ramp raised. This time he heard a constant noise like "a car 'revving' up, but quieter." The craft's lights flashed simultaneously, and took on the colours of the surrounding countryside, so that they blended with the environment and, as a consequence, disappeared.

Trevor and his father visited the spot but found no traces or other physical evidence. His father did notice that the wind blowing through the grass created a peculiar sound - an explanation for the strange revving sound.

The next day Trevor could not speak (and his brother also suffered from a sore throat) a doctor diagnosed tonsillitis. A few weeks later Trevor complained of a thumping noise in his head, and became blind in his left eye. For six weeks he could not sleep normally. The blindness travelled from the boy's left eye to his right. A psychiatrist said that the condition was probably psychosomatic. From being a quiet, introverted child Trevor became aggressive and argumentative. Three years later (1978) he still had the same eye disorder and consulted a psychiatrist on a regular basis.

We do not know Trevor's age, or anything about his family, from the few facts we possess it seems that he suffered an hallucinatory experience. The UFO had no objective reality, but it might have been a projection of his unconscious mind attempting to externalise his own thoughts and feelings.

Let us examine his sighting from this viewpoint. The UFO had strange lights and a metal control unit; presumably the product of a super technology. Yet the technology derived from the intelligence of grotesque jelly-like creatures. When one creature was about to emerge from the UFO Trevor ran away (he cannot remember much about this part of his experience) and then returned to watch the UFO and crew merge into the environment. The UFO could be anywhere, protected by its chameleon properties, and the occupants could visit and frighten him once more with ease

These entities might represent his own emotions and his fear of these breaking loose from their womb-like container was represented by the entity preparing to leave the UFO.

Investigators described Trevor as a "loner" perhaps like the UFO he wishes to merge into the protection of the environment. This hallucinatory experience was probably the first initial onslaught of a psychotic condition which might have a root cause in neurosis or organic lesion. Aggressive behaviour and a psychosomatic condition are further evidence for such an hypothesis. We can say with some confidence that this experience was psychological in origin with the witness suffering from a rare childhood psychosis.

Andrew Collins in his report (FSR Vol.24 No.4) stated: "Everything points to the fact that Trevor P. did have an objective encounter with a strange craft and entities that were very real to him. Whether it would have been possible for others to have seen the object would have depended on how physical the object really was."

The reasoning behind such a conclusion is that the experience created the psychosomatic after-effects, a view often held by UFO investigators when they find that a close encounter witness "starts" suffering from psychological problems. A great number of UFO investigators cannot accept that a UFO experience could be but a part of an individual's general mental problems (whether emotional or organic)

On 24th April, 1965, Ernest Bryant claimed that near Scoriton, Down, Devon, he saw a UFO land, and spoke to its occupants. Bryant died of a brain tumour on 24th June, 1967, and it is apparent from the evidence that he suffered from a need to tell "tall stories" and perhaps also from hallucinatory visions as a result of his illness. UFO investigators wanted to believe Bryant's story and did not want their faith destroyed. Some people still believe Bryant's story.

One reason why UFO investigators are reluctant to examine the "pure fantasy" of children is because they do not want to deal with the psychology of such experiences. The implication of the word "psychology" is that the UFO witness is mentally deranged. This bias results in UFO literature being filled with material that could easily be explained in psychological ways, rather than being offered as evidence for extraterrestrial visitors.

Trevor P's encounter is an extreme example of the kind of psychological explanation that can be offered to diminish the majority of close encounter evidence. My opinion is that the psychological interpretation of UFO cases casts light rather than darkness upon ufological evidence. If ufologists can supply proof strong enough to contradict any kind of psychological explanation, the route could be opened to establishing ufology as a science in its own right.

I would recommend all UFO investigators to examine every close encounter case, however bizarre, and on completion of the investigation the case should be analysed as critically as possible. In this survey of English sightings by children it can be seen that their observations supply valid material equal to reports by adults.

REFERENCES

- Remarks about the "stick man" were contained in a letter to the author dated 25th July, 1977.
- Details of the Gainsborough UFO were contained in a letter from the witness, dated 2nd January, 1972 and from a questionnaire completed a week later.
- The information on the close encounter and entities made in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire were contained in a letter from the witness dated 24th February, 1978.

An interview with Timothy and Nicholas Pearson was conducted by Roger Hebb and myself on 22nd March, 1978.

A letter written by Timothy, 23rd February, 1978, was also used as a source.

Information on the Wawne UFO was obtained from "The (Hull) Daily Mail" 21st November, 1977. Interview with the witnesses 1st and 7th December, 1977.

Details of the Anlaby encounter are taken from the transcript of a Radio Humberside programme "Countrywide" broadcast 7th February, 1976.

The Machynlleth encounter is contained in FSR (Vol.24. No.4 January, 1979. Collins, Andrew "Jelly-like Entities at Machynlleth." If my text is not clear enough on Andrew Collins's conclusions in his article, he does clearly state that he believes the witness happened to chance upon a physical object.

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Since writing this article more interest has been shown in childrens' sightings. Jenny Randles and Paul Whetnell reveal the complexities of such cases in "Alien Contacts" (Neville Spearman 1982) and Janet and Colin Bord have provided children with a book which contains reports by children "Are We Being Watched?" (Angus & Robertson 1981) The magazine "Magic Saucer" contains material by and for children.

Part of the material in this article was published in the author's "Enigma Variation" column (Fortean Times No.33) Some of my comments are rather provocative, but my main aim is to point out the apparent neglect of childrens' sightings due to the bias of investigators. I am concerned with the idea that UFOs cause psychological problems rather than their being a product of a person's psychological problems and created by factors unrelated to UFOs and ufology. Perhaps in the future we will see more detailed studies on childrens' sighting.

My examination of a 14 year old boy's sightings which have continued over many years is contained in MUF0B NS 11 and 12. This case was ignored by some investigators and this has inspired me to write this article.

BUFORA on PRESTEL

LIONEL BEER

Not many people have their own PRESTEL telephone line yet, but perhaps your firm has a set? or, failing that, a number of central public libraries have demonstration sets. Incidentally PRESTEL should not be confused with ORACLE or CEEFAX which are transmitted as television waves. The PRESTEL system has unlimited potential computer storage for information, unlike the other two systems, which are limited by what can be transmitted.

If you would like to see the BUFORA pages (frames) which contain topical information, ask for the EASTEL data-base. Or you can go direct by typing up page no 50801, which is the BUFORA lead frame, containing our logo. From there you press "1" for the UFO index and you are on your way.

We are trying to get "UFOs" reinstated on the main PRESTEL subject index pages and need your help. Please write to the PRESTEL unit of British Telecom and ask for "UFOs" to be put on the main index as there is a lot of information about the subject on EASTEL.

John Rimmer is the Editor of MAGONIA

Jenny Randle's summary of the spectacular low-level sighting near Dorking early in 1982 (BUFORA Bulletin, September, 1982) is of particular interest for a number of reasons, not least, from a personal point of view, for similarities it has to a sighting I experienced in the winter of 1981. I am not sure of the exact date, but it was shortly after 8 o'clock on a Tuesday evening, I can be sure of those facts because I was on my way to a Magonia editorial meeting.

I had just got off the train and was walking alongside the station towards the pub, where I was to meet my colleagues, when I became aware of a bright, shimmering light straight ahead at about 30-40° altitude. It was hovering motionless, but seemed to be growing brighter then seemed to separate into a red and a green light, and a bright white light beam projected forward. Still there was no movement. Suddenly there was a tremendous flash of light which almost blinded me with its intensity, when I looked up at the light I could see the two coloured lights still in the same place, but this time apparently flashing on and off the top of a large glowing white triangular object. It still seemed to be in the same part of the sky directly in front of me and only after I watched it for a few moments more it very slowly moved off to my left, and seemed to be coming closer. Although I was walking along a pedestrian footpath and there was no motor traffic (and the train had left minutes before) at no time did I hear any noise.

So much for my sighting. It was quite a dramatic series of events, especially the flash of light, which seemed to come from nowhere, and was intensely bright. But I am afraid the rest of the story becomes something of an anti-climax, albeit an instructive one. I did not rush off and tell my BUFORA RIC what I had seen, nor did I make it front page news in Magonia. For, although I have described exactly what I saw that winter evening, I left out one or two things that I knew, and I stopped my narrative just a few seconds too soon!

Readers of Magonia will know that our editorial meetings take place in a pub in Richmond and one of the drawbacks to life in this otherwise delightful town is that it is directly under the main flight-path into Heathrow. A low-flying aircraft comes directly over the town literally every two minutes throughout the day. The path from Richmond station almost directly parallels this flight-path. So, as soon as I saw the lights in the sky I knew (but could not see) that that this was an aircraft flying directly towards me, and thus having no apparent motion. The white beam, of course, was caused by the switching on of landing lights. At first these lights were shining directly forward, so I saw a light-beam, then they were swung downwards, ready for the final approach. A beam from these very powerful lights swung down, and across the ground, by chance swinging directly into my face. I do not know how many yards I would have needed to be to the left or right to avoid such a brilliant illumination, but I must have been bang in the middle of a-couple of thousand watts of light beam. By now the beam was pointing almost directly down, illuminating the slightly misty winter air, and producing a clearly defined illuminated triangle, with red and white lights on top.

So, another UFO hits the dust. But if I had not known about the flight path, if I had been somewhere where low-flying aircraft are a rarity, if I had not still been walking along that footpath a minute or so later, when the plane was almost directly overhead and deafening me with its engine noise, what then

The question of noise is important. This was a large passenger airliner, flying very low, but I did not hear any engine noise over the very quiet background (the nearest road is a couple of hundred feet away behind some high buildings) until the aircraft was almost literally on top of me. Whether this was wind direction, atmospheric conditions or just a very quiet plane, I do not know. But it serves to expose one or two fallacies which are current in ufology. Lack of engine noise certainly does not rule out an aircraft as an explanation. "Hovering" or "motionlessness" does not rule out a fixed wing aircraft (no need to invoke Harriers). Aircraft lights do sometimes play very strange and startling tricks, and they are not always handled by pilots according to strict civil aviation rules.

Bearing this in mind, and the memory of my own experience, I would not be as sure as Peter Mackiell in dismissing Gatwick's suggestion that it was one of theirs (Heathrow is not that far away either). I think it may be significant that M53 Motorway UFO is only a few minutes as the Aer Lingus flies, across the Mersey from Liverpool airport. I think the OZ factor in this case (although most certainly not in many other cases) can be explained by the excitement of the witnesses, and their concentrating on the object. From my experience this section of road can get quite busy during the day, but is not exactly bumper-to-bumper at night. Unfortunately we are not told what time of the "clear cool" night these events took place.

I think it a reasonable conclusion that the two witnesses on this occasion saw a low-flying aircraft under unusual conditions, despite Peter's willingness to swear on the Bible to the contrary. I would not have sworn on the Bible about my sighting, but if I had not had known what it was I saw on that particular evening I would certainly have needed a couple of pints at the pub to steady my nerves - just to be on the safe side I had them anyway!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

25th June, 1983. ASSAP/BUFURA et al Fair and Garden Party at East Moseley, Surrey.

24th September, 1983

BUFORA's 21st Anniversary Conference 2.30-6.30pm. Lecture Theatre Suite, Kensington Central Library, W8.

Programme will include an Address by Founder President Graham Knewstubb, a discussion Paper, a slide show of UFOs and personalities (some unashamed nostalgia!) a raffle and an informal quiz with prizes. A buffet tea will also be served. Members £2.00. Non-members and guests £3.00. Cheques should be made payable to BUFORA Ltd. Pre-booking is recommended and applications, together with a 9" (DL size) envelope should be sent to Lionel Beer whose address can be found on the Council page.

This promises to be a most interesting and enjoyable event both for those who remember BUFORA's foundation on 22nd September, 1962, and were perhaps at the inaugural meeting and for more recent members.

Further details on both events will appear in future issues of the BULLETIN.

BOOK REVIEW

Earthlights. Paul Devereux.
Turnstone Press Ltd., Wellingborough,
Northamptonshire. 254pp. £9.95.

Paul Devereux's excellent and painstakingly researched account of the UFO phenomena embraces seismology, meteorology, megalithic sites, psychokinetism and ancient shamanistic powers. The author comes up with a general theory for UFO activity that accounts for both the physical and physical aspects of the phenomena. It is a pioneering work and, for that reason, is likely to create controversy amongst ufological circles. All I will say is that his arguments are very convincing and that they must be read by all serious ufologists.

Mr Devereux's argument is that UFOs and their "occupants" are created from the same material which materialises from piezo-electrical effects which are created by ground faulting. The effects ionise in the atmosphere and generate moving plasma which are then seen as UFOs. The searchlight beams of light from the UFOs which some witnesses have interpreted as lights emanating from the "craft" are, in fact, streams of ions feeding energy from the earth to the plasma itself. Work in America on producing globular light forms in a laboratory by crushing rock (pace the BBC-2 horizon documentary "The Case of the UFOS" October 19th, 1982) proves that Paul Devereux's thesis is a valid one.

This phenomenon says the author was known to late Neolithic and early Bronze Age man who built his stone sites in areas of high faulting in order to exploit the energy sources and thus invested the sites with their sacred nature.

"We know" says Devereux, "that UFOs have their highest incidence in fault regions, areas of mineral enrichment and (relatively) low thunderstorm activity. It has been shown that the megalith builders displayed similar preferences. This should alert us to the possibility that there may be some fundamental connection between these two patterns." (Author's emphasis).

Certainly we are a very long way indeed from the much less believable world of ETs from the planet Alpha Whatsit with their unconvincing anti-nuclear messages, even if piezo-electricity and seismic faulting is a lot less newsworthy.

But ufology does contain countless cases of witnesses claiming to see not plasma but "nuts and bolts" space craft together with their humanoid occupants. Mr Devereux explains that it is the UFO that changes form not the individual's observation of it.

"The UFO 'hardens' into the form that is finally identified as a spaceship, robot or little green man. The data clearly tell us that UFOs can shapeshift: it is a prime characteristic of the phenomenon." (Author's emphasis).

The book is subtitled 'Towards an understanding of the UFO enigma.' This reviewer's opinion is that Mr Devereux goes a long way towards explaining that enigma, that his views will be widely challenged make "Earthlights" a book of the greatest possible value.

My only quibble is that this very expensive book (almost £10) has been appallingly badly proof-read.

JB

Letters

From: Mark F. Brown,
BUFORA RIC, Midlands

Force Field Craft

After reading the May, 1982 Bulletin and "Facts About Force Field Craft" I felt compelled to write. My senses cannot comprehend the feeling of misrepresentation I feel this article evokes. What Facts? We were presented with a list of occurrences and suppositions by the author with no detail of where these facts came from, no source of reference - so that we may convince ourselves that Mr Ferraro has achieved some major breakthrough in the procuring of secret military data. His literary style and, indeed some of the article's content would place him alongside such best-selling writers as Von Daniken and Berlitz, but I am afraid I would not give such information shelf space. If the article had been presented as speculative then it might have been acceptable, but for BUFORA to print such a totally biased, unsupported article is unforgivable and a blatant affront to any investigator who tries to justify his every statement to a critical world. If valuable bulletin space is to be given to such unsupported material then BUFORA's image can only suffer from it. I would ask that in future the author's biography be included with any published article. The absence of one may suggest to some readers that the author holds a senior position with BUFORA and is therefore presenting ideas currently in favour with a particular research project - I sincerely hope that this is not the case.

I will view future Bulletins with interest as I feel our link to society should be compiled with the same objective and sceptical appraisal as we investigators are attempting to bring case material.

Arnold West, Director of Publications replies:

The article referred to by Mark Brown is a miscellany of information gathered together by Romero Ferraro from various undocumented sources, many long-time researchers will recall reading these "facts" years ago.

No suggestion has been made that the writer has access to secret or restricted material, he only needed a good memory and a wide range of UFO (and other) literature published during the past 30 years or so. I truly regret not having the time to trace all the "facts" to their origins myself.

The Bulletin caters for a wide range of readers from the "gawp and wonder" brigade to the ultra-cautious investigator, and it includes articles of interest to both. J-TAP presents a more scientific approach for the serious researcher.

"Facts About Force Field Craft" was published with the full realisation of its speculative nature and this should have been obvious. In any case it has provoked a good deal of reaction and that can only be a good thing.

I can re-assure Mark Brown that a suitable introduction will precede controversial articles in the future.

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From: John Rimmer.
Editor "MAGONIA"

Alien Races

John Paynter's ludicrous racial stereotyping (BUFORA Bulletin, September, 1982) needs only a few moments consideration to reveal its absurdity. Perhaps someone should tell the "bird-like skeletal" peoples of Mongolia that they really should not win such a disproportionate number of Olympic medals for wrestling and weight-lifting. The Negroid peoples, allegedly from high-gravity planets, should of course excel, in our low gravity, at pole-vaulting and high-jumping - the only two field events dominated by white athletes!

I am intrigued by Paynter's image of extraterrestrial space brothers introducing us to the delights of paper underwear. I suspect the whole article to be a joke, rather like Romeo Ferraro's "farrago." If so, it displays complete naivety of it social and political implications.

From: Nigel Watson, BUFORA RIC.
Althorpe, South humberside.

One of John Paynter's basic mistakes is his misconception about Darwin's theory of evolution.

Paynter writes: "I feel that if we did evolve from the ape to our present state there would be no such things as an ape in the world today." What Darwin actually stated was that apes and humans have a common ancestor, but diverged along the evolutionary path. What I dislike most is Paynter's assertion that humanity can be put into four major groups and that membership of a certain group is a causal factor in the phenomenon of racial hatred. Even if we accept his classification how does it explain how racial hatred comes about? Men and women have different bodily configurations but that has not caused us to hate members of the opposite sex en masse (Amazons excluded). Paynter's systems does not explain why hatred exists between Protestants and Catholics

I also dislike Paynter's ideas because they make it easy to explain the phenomenon of racial hatred and even easier, as a consequence, not to do anything about racial harmony.

John Paynter replies:

Socio/political issues are a red herring in a serious scientific study. I refuse to answer comments that are out of con-

text with the main consideration.

I am convinced that the planet was colonised from other planets at some time in pre-history. My reasons for this are outlined in my article.

Man is naturally discriminative of alien cultures because of his inherent territorial instinct, this discrimination has been unnaturally exaggerated by man's universal ignorance of his true origins. Legislation cannot effectively neutralise the animosity that abounds in a multi-cultural society. Essentially, all it does is aggravate the situation by sweeping the root cause - frustration - under the carpet. Each and every nation on this planet directly descended from the original group has a history of a super-society spoken of as a "Golden Age" that dates back into antiquity; the four home planets in fact.

Another erroneous conclusion drawn concerns racial stereotyping. Because of inter-breeding there are many racial strains on earth. However this in no way minimises my assertion that originally there were only four "Alien" races in that antediluvian colonisation of this planet. People have inherited physical characteristics from cross-breeding which explains why there is such diversity of physical features in any one race.

Man and ape have a common origin - a universally accepted premise originally propounded by Darwin. My point is that the apes on earth today are NOT from the same origin as modern man. The reason being that at the point of divergence, both groups, presumably, had the same intellectual potential. Since each and every organism has a natural propensity to evolve, despite itself, the ape of today should be as evolved as the primitive tribesman of Australasia. I see no reason why one group should have stopped evolving and remained suspended in time for at least 15 million years.



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Peter Hill intends to update the bibliographies, and will also undertake research for members who should write to him giving surname, initials, address, telephone number, BUFORA membership number, subject of study and date required. As long a notice as possible would be appreciated for completion of any given bibliography.

Single copies are free to members, but a sae should be included with the request. Further copies and bibliographies for non-members will be priced at 50p each. Enquiries should be addressed to Peter Hill.

STAR-GAZING

Professor Graham Smith, PHD., FRS, has succeeded Sir Martin Ryle, FRS as Astronomer Royal.

Professor Smith, 60, was Professor of Radio Astronomy, Manchester University and Director, Nuffield Radio Astronomy Laboratories, Jodrell Bank.



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