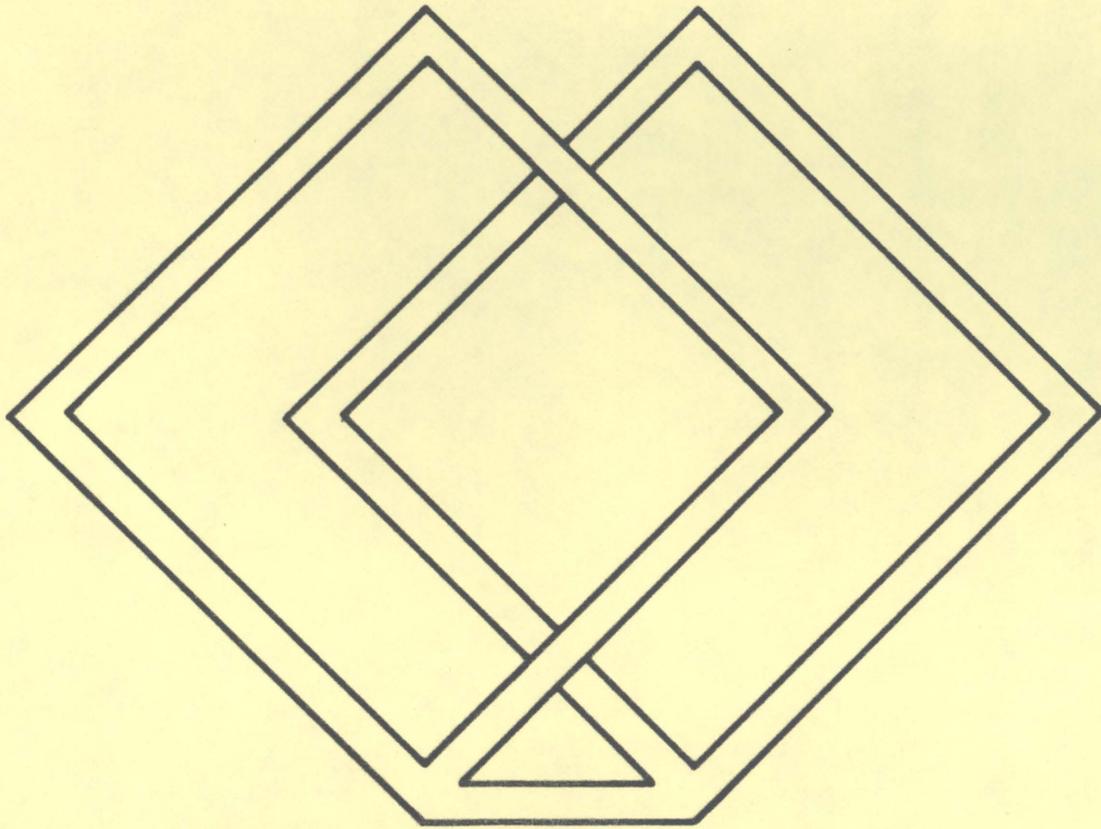


# THE JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

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Editorial

by Frank Gillespie

MOMENTUM - WHY SHOULD IT BE CONSERVED?

The Law of Conservation of Momentum is a corollary of Newton's three Laws of Motion, which were formulated to describe the dynamics of particles - dimensionless blobs of pure mass. It has become customary to assume that real objects behave in the same way as particles, but nobody has ever established any sound basis for believing that this is necessarily true. On the contrary, it is possible to postulate hypothetical situations where real objects violate the conservation either of momentum or of energy. Sound logic indicates that energy should be conserved; but what is so sacred about momentum? The product of mass and velocity - it is an artificial concept, with no physical meaning which even justifies giving it a name of its own.

It is easy to prove that interstellar travel at near-light-speed is impossible if momentum is conserved - the amount of reaction mass required for acceleration and deceleration is absolutely prohibitive. However, if momentum is not conserved, and if there is some practical way of changing the momentum of an isolated system of real bodies, then there is no travel barrier between Earth and neighbouring star systems. This, of course, applies in both directions; and the laws of Nature (as distinct from the Laws of Science) are available for use by all.

Only a bold man (or a foolish one) would deny the possibility of extra-terrestrial visitors in the vicinity of Earth, purely on the basis of the Law of Conservation of Momentum.

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SOME ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO A "PRELIMINARY CATALOGUE  
OF AUSTRALIAN VEHICLE INTERFERENCE UFO EVENTS".

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Keith Basterfield

In January 1982 ACUFOS published a catalogue of vehicle interference reports. In the introduction Paul Jackson and I requested readers to advise us of any additional details/cases which were not included in the study. A few such cases have since come to light and this seems an appropriate time to update the information contained in that catalogue.

New cases :

3 Jan 1955 Melbourne VIC 0725hrs

Two persons in a car reported seeing a flying object come within 70m of them after their vehicle's engine stalled.

(Passport to Magonia, Vallee, case 359).

Jun 1961 Barabon Siding QLD Ca 0000hrs

A car belonging to Mr William Ellis broke down and so he got out and started to raise the bonnet when he saw four white 'inverted saucer-like objects' flashing past. They were seen for 20 minutes. Three of them seemed to be moving around a larger, brighter one.

(UFOs over the southern hemisphere, Hervey, p102).

13 Mar 1967 Mandurah WA

Two teenagers observed a globe of light moving in a straight line when their car's engine died. The sighting lasted only a few seconds, but the headlights remained on. The object was bluish in colour and vanished in the distance, still moving at a steady rate. The engine could then be restarted without trouble.

(ACUFOS).

19 Mar 1969 Gladstone QLD

A saucer shaped object approached two cars, hovered near one and began pulsating. As its brightness increased the car's headlights spread wider than normal. As it dimmed the lights went back to normal. The two cars kept driving together, but the object again hovered.

(Data-Net Apr 70).

3 Dec 1980 Murray Upper QLD 1900hrs

Whilst two men were observing a strange light in the sky from a vehicle, the car's engine died, the radio stopped working and the lights flickered but did not go out. Five or six seconds after it had ceased, the radio made a noise described as 'static with morse code like beeping'. The noise carried on until the light left. The object moved to hover over the car. It stayed there 20-30 minutes. After this interval of time it moved

left, stopped, turned and left. They could find nothing wrong with the engine, which then started first try. During the event the light emitted a constant, high pitched drumming sound which they believed caused vibrations to the car.

(UFOR(FNQ)).

6 Jul 1982 Hampshire TAS 1930hrs

Approaching Hampshire by car a man found the vehicle gradually losing power. It stopped and he turned off the ignition and the lights which were still on. He opened the door and noted an adjacent barbed wire fence throwing off sparks. 20-30 metres beyond the fence, 6m off the ground, a stationary, blue/black 'oval' was seen. The object diminished in size as if leaving. The fence stopped sparking and the man was able to start the car and leave. Nothing wrong was found with the car and nothing abnormal found in the paddock over which it had hovered.

(TUFOIC).

Further information was obtained on one case:

13 Jan 1958 Casino NSW 2345hrs

Brian Crittendon, 21, was chased by a dome shaped object that emitted a narrow beam of light toward the ground. He was so frightened that he drove home on a half flat tyre, followed by the object, for 5 kms, only 50m away and 10m above ground. It overtook his car at over 110 km/hr. Radio interference was noted.

(Passport to Magonia case 457. 'UFO Bulletin' Mar 58).

An examination of Mark Rodeghier's excellent work titled, "UFO reports involving vehicle interference" reveals two cases reported therein which appear incorrect. These are:-

20 May 1963 Mt Gambier SA 2130hrs

Rodeghier's version has the vehicle stopping for no apparent reason, but according to the Australian QUFO magazine written in June 1963, one month after the event, the witness himself says he stopped the car. No other version I have access to states that the car was affected.

1 May 1968 Heyfield VIC 2300hrs

Rodeghier carries a version of an account which is apparently a confusion of the 29 Apr 68 Heyfield Vic location and the journalistic hoax event said to have taken place at Borroloola NT. For details of an investigation into the NT non-event see the New Zealand 'Spaceview' for November 68 and the ACUFOS Bulletin February and March 1982.

If readers are aware of other cases which have not yet been listed would they kindly send details to the author via the Centre. Thankyou.

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ARE THERE "CASES OF MISTAKEN IDENTITY"?

(by) John Prytz

In a recent ACUFOS Journal editorial (March/April 1983 - p.1), Frank Gillespie presented an argument for "Cases of Mistaken Identity" in the supposed solutions to perhaps a vast number of UFO case histories. That is:

"...the rate of incidence of UFO reports fluctuates over a very wide range...(but)...the proportion (F.G. emphasis) of events remaining unidentified after investigation is small, and very nearly constant... . In other words, there appears to be a large and irregular, but simultaneous world-wide fluctuation in the incidence of sightings of planets, satellites, meteors, balloons, aircraft and swamp gas. ...which leads us inescapably to the conclusion that most of these identifications must be erroneous! ...the possibility that most 'identifieds' really aren't, opens up a whole new vista in UFO investigation."

While there is nothing overly new or unique about the observations that:

1) There is a direct relationship between the erratically fluctuating number of identifieds and unidentifieds arrived at following analysis of UFO reports, thus...

2) Producing a constant ratio between the identifieds and the unidentifieds, or, in other words, a fairly constant proportion or percentage of unknowns, and that...

3) This proportion of unidentifieds, relative to the total number of reports received, is small...

The conclusion leapt to is novel - and questionable.

There is no reason that I can think of why the number of identifieds (including the minor fraction category of "insufficient information", and whether the identification was "definite", "probable", or "possible") should not flux. Quite clearly there will be certain times and certain places where combinations of circumstances will be such that natural events witnessed by those living in and around that area will take on an increased degree of unfamiliarity. Social factors will also play a role here, even if only to a small degree.

The number of bona-fide unidentifieds should also be allowed to flux. If UFOs are in part (the unidentified part) under the control of an external intelligence, then they can increase or decrease their comings and goings as they see fit, resulting in our unidentified report category fluctuations. Even if our unidentified UFOs were the sole product of internal intelligence we would have to allow for some flux, although the flux should parallel some factor(s) part and parcel to the human mind, being, and population.

There should however be no relationship between the fluctuations of the identifieds and the unidentifieds apart from that expected on the grounds of probability alone. If the identifieds mirror unidentifieds, there must be some commonality between the two - some common controlling factor. That in turn could suggest that the two are really one and the same thing, and Frank does just that. However, rather than say, or conclude, as Frank does, that therefore the "'identifieds' really aren't" (most of them anyway), another, and in my opinion more logical or reasonable, conclusion is that many "'unidentifieds' really shouldn't be"! That is, some unidentifieds should really have been identifieds.

That this should be the case is understandable in that many UFO organisations, including the "professional" Big Boys (ie: USAF, RAAF, CUFOS, etc.) don't always themselves have enough experience, qualified investigators, professional equipment, time, money and a host of other factors to be able to come to grips with the phenomena.

Witnesses are interviewed hours, days, weeks, etc. after-the-fact. Even professional scientists will admit that some natural events are so rare, poorly understood, even uncatalogued, that they, farless amateurs (including military investigators), would be hard-pressed, even out of their depth, making positive (even possible) identification. The UFO phenomena cannot be removed to, and studied, in the laboratory. For these reasons and more, it will be safer, even mandatory, to assign an "unidentified" label to what could be a substantial number of natural events.

For example, if I were to go out into the field and investigate UFO cases, I'd no doubt have an unidentified rate of 80% or more because of many limiting factors, some of which would be beyond my control.

In conclusion, I believe that Frank's conclusion that "most ...identifications must be erroneous" is in fact erroneous. I'd suggest that instead many of the unidentified identifications are erroneous, and that in fact this nicely accounts for any degree of parallel between the number of identifieds and unidentifieds, simply because there is a large identified (or potentially identifiable) component within the category "unidentifieds".

Further, this also nicely addresses part of the embarrassment-of-riches problem. It jives well with a (paraphrased) statement of Carl Sagan that he could more readily believe in the ETH theory if there were to be a few bona-fide (UFO) spaceships sighted every couple of years, instead of hundreds sighted every day.

I'm sure the matter won't rest here. There is plenty of scope for work in this area - this can of worms that Frank has resurrected. As examples of potential future work, projects, or tests, consider:

1) Doing a really rigorous statistical analysis on any UFO data relevant to the issues raised by Frank and myself, from any UFO group or organisation(s) - local, state, regional, national, and/or international.

2) Working on sub-parts of the identified category. How do the individual components relate to each other? What if the sightings of alledged (definite, probable, or possible) planets, satellites, meteors, balloons, aircraft and swamp gas all paralleled each other? There we know there should be no correlation whatever. If there is, that's funny (peculiar, not ha-ha).

3) Finding out if there exist parallels with non-UFO topics of a "pseudo-scientific" nature. Do identified ghost events parallel unidentified hauntings?

Frank has opened up an important topic - which I hope he will expand into a full-length ACUFOS Journal article - reaching conclusions that if true "opens up a whole new vista in UFO investigation". I've intercepted and carried the ball to the opposite goal post. However, the game is too important to be left to the "gut feeling" impressions of just two players. Hopefully some of you readers will join the teams.

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Author's Note: This paper has been abridged, and slightly revised, from that of an original in-depth analysis of the issues raised, using TUFOIC data, upon the advice of the Journal's editor. The original is available upon request by writing to the author at:

P.O. Box 189, Curtin, A.C.T., 2605, Australia.

PATTERNS IN UFO IDENTIFICATION STATISTICS

by Frank Gillespie

One of the problems of being the editor of a journal, is that one is expected to come up with an 'editorial' for each issue. Editorials are traditionally concise comments on subjects of major importance and wide interest - exactly those subjects which need comprehensive treatment! Earlier in this issue, John Prytz quite rightly takes me to task for trying to cram my thoughts on a significant aspect of UFO identification, into the span of an editorial. It is an important topic, quite worthy of the space devoted to it in this issue; and also worthy of input from sources other than John and myself.

Many times, when dealing with UFO events, I have been forced to conclude that there were really only two logical options from which to choose: either an apparently lucid, competent and rational UFO witness was way, way off the beam, or else that witness had clearly and closely observed a non-terrestrial, manufactured object of some kind. However, in a much greater number of cases, the UFO was seen indistinctly, or very briefly, or at great distance; or - far too often - the witness was unable to convey to the investigator an adequate picture of just what was seen. In such cases, it was all too easy to take advantage of the poor quality data, and assign some common object as identification, without any real justification whatsoever. For every event involving a good look at a close-up object, there are bound to be several involving a poor look at a distant object - quite possibly the same or similar objects in each case. UFO identification statistics should exhibit this relationship, but they do not. Instead, the 'unidentifieds' consist almost entirely of 'good look/close-up' cases, while the equally unidentifiable 'poor look/distant' cases are often tagged with an unwarranted identification. This is the rationale behind my claim, that many 'identifieds' really aren't. I do not mean that all these cases automatically become 'extra-terrestrial craft', (which could, in fact, be a perfectly valid 'identification'). I do mean that many of the current 'identifications' as planes, balloons etc. must be wrong, because they give rise to a pattern of UFO statistics which is at odds with any reasonable concept of reality.

The objects commonly assigned as UFO identifications (satellites, balloons, meteors etc.) may all fluctuate in numbers from time to time in any particular locality; but by and large, these fluctuations will be virtually independent both of each other, and of the fluctuations in other areas. By lumping together all such objects, all around the world, these fluctuations should be averaged out to the extent that they are barely noticeable. If, for some reason, there is some tendency for the total numbers to fluctuate considerably, then that reason should be both obvious and provable. Two such reasons would be the rising public interest in UFOs, and the proliferation of UFO organisations to receive and investigate reports. Both of these required the prior existence of UFOs, so neither of them can explain the dramatic rise in unusual UFO type events in the years

immediately following 1944. John Prytz has looked diligently for some other internal intelligence effect which could account for this phenomenon ("Genesis of the Modern UFO Phenomena", ACUFOS Journal, Jan/Feb. 1983), but without success. Until such time as somebody does identify a force capable of simultaneously affecting potential UFO witnesses everywhere, I think we must assume that real reports of common objects as UFOs are not likely to fluctuate greatly from year to year.

If, then, the real 'identifiable' UFOs do not exhibit large real fluctuations, such fluctuations as are there should show little, if any correlation with the numbers of UFO reports as a whole. At the moment, the figures produced by possibly over-enthusiastic UFO investigators show a very strong correlation - and this just does not make sense. Suppose, as I have already suggested, the dividing line between 'identified' and 'unidentified' were to be shifted so that the former consisted entirely of 'positively identified' cases - would this make for believable statistics? I invite organisations and individuals everywhere to examine, on this basis, all the UFO statistics they can obtain, and let me know the results. If they don't know how to do this, I can do it for them if they send me the raw data. With sufficient such results, it should be possible to decide for sure whether I am right, and most 'identified' UFOs really aren't; or if John Prytz is right in wishfully thinking that more 'unidentified' UFOs should be classed as 'identified'; or (horror of horrors) if both of us are wrong.

Whatever the outcome of this little controversy, I do want to make one fact very clear. In the study of any research subject, it is important firstly to use as much relevant data as possible, and secondly to consider this data as a whole, not piecemeal. There is no substitute for a rigorous statistical analysis, but anyone can look for obvious patterns in the data. Such patterns, if they exist, must have some real meaning; but it is in the interpretation that an amateur is likely to go sadly astray - even professional statisticians are not immune in that respect. In this particular instance, there is no dispute that the pattern 'identifieds' proportional to 'unidentifieds' exists - the dispute is in the interpretation. This is a typical example of a common situation, where the resolution of such a dispute cannot be found in the data itself, but must be sought elsewhere. The big question is, "Where should one look?". John looked at possible deficiencies in UFO investigation capabilities, and came up with one answer. I looked at the lack of any known causative factor, and reached the opposite conclusion. What do you think is relevant, and what conclusions do you draw?

xxxxXXXXXXXXXXxxx

ADMITTED HOAXES

by George Hume

The writer of an article in a 1961 'Flying Saucer Review' had a word of advice for new readers, from which I would like to quote, as it will serve to introduce some of my own observations on this matter. "The hoaxer presents a very difficult and annoying problem, and those who decry the subject of flying saucers as nonsense are only too ready to seize on an obvious hoax in order to discredit all other testimony"; and later, "Those who would investigate the subject with an open and fearless mind should examine each incident on its own merits ---- . The only 'admitted hoax' is the one confessed to by the perpetrator".

I ask the question, should we take any more notice of a 'confession' by a hoaxer than we did of his original photo or story, which by his own admission was not genuine?

In Western Australia we had what has been labelled the Maddington hoax of 1969. My own research has convinced me that the original polaroid photo of a saucer snapped by chance, a tiny but clear image in amongst clouds at 3000 ft, was certainly genuine. A man-made object some 9" in diameter was thrown up the next day, and it was by this means the photographer claimed he had created the hoax. Our group 'P.U.F.O.R.G.' saw the model, but never at any stage were we able to see the original photograph. Although our newspapers enlarged the photo, and stated the saucer would have been at least 100 feet in diameter as estimated by the focal length of the camera and cloud cover height at the time, no record of this can be found on microfilm, or amongst the negatives they have showing many shots of the man-made object. Flying Saucer Review for October 1971 carried an article by Nancy Wilson, who carried out a detailed investigation of a "U.F.O. Landing at South Fremantle, W.A.", June 16th 1969, the day previous to the Maddington photo incident. This craft was only 12 - 14 feet in diameter, and might well have come from the 100 foot one. I cannot find any reference to this in newspaper files either.

The Maddington photo hoax was confessed the following day; but in recent years we have had photos confessed as hoaxes after 10 years. It is not within the scope of this article to present my own case that some original photos may have been genuine; perhaps that will be possible some time in the future.

I would like to conclude by commenting on an article in 'Discover', America's leading science magazine (so described), called "Space Kidnappers". R. Leo Sprinkle, a counselling psychologist at Wyoming University, has become the principle investigator of UFO abductions using the technique of regressive hypnosis. A Phoenix housewife relived some childhood events, including a UFO abduction. A few months later she returned for more hypnosis at the urging of the 'National Enquirer' (which paid her travel expenses). This time she described how she was transported instantaneously to an underground city on a distant planet where she met one "Aranon", who took her on a tour of this and two other planets. Sprinkle said "This is one of the most remarkable cases I have come across", and the story appeared in National Enquirer December 15th 1981. Early this year Sprinkle received a letter from the housewife, "Now it is time for me to reclaim my integrity and to establish myself in Truth. I am not a contactee, I have never had an extraterrestrial experience."

Which story can we believe?

However, Sprinkle is not discouraged. He announces a 4th annual Contactee Conference from June 23 - 25, when contactees "can participate in hypnosis sessions for exploring their UFO experience."

Pity the poor UFO researcher, who has to try and separate the genuine from the false!

THE RUMOUR, THE LEAK, AND THE UFO(by) John Prytz

Rumours are part and parcel of every profession and field of interest. Wherever, whenever, whatever human beings are involved in rumours won't be among the facets lacking. Usually they come and go of their own accord, frequently helped along the way by fairly quick-smart confirmations or denials backed up by the required supporting evidence. But every now and again a rumour resurfaces so frequently that it becomes almost an inseparable part of the who, what, where, when or why of things - a modern myth is born.

Ufology is no exception to the phenomena of rumours and perhaps ufology has more than its fair share. Like most other subjects, ufology spawns rumours, and just like within other fields, ufological rumours quickly fade away forever, to be ever replaced by fresh ones. And, like other areas of human interest, ufology too has had several rumours which over the years have resurfaced so often as to become immeshed as part of the ufological mythos, and no historian of the subject would dare fail to devote space to it.

Many people will have an intense belief in ingrained rumours, even while acknowledging that it is a rumour, because it keeps cropping up. If a tale is told enough times, people believe it - "there must be something to this otherwise it wouldn't keep resurfacing" - no matter how illogical it is. Therefore, belief in rumours, including ufological rumours, may have more to do with reenforcement than with a ready-made "will-to-believe".

Perhaps the best known ufological rumour deals with crashed flying saucers, usually from the American south-west; the late 1940s and early 1950s, but from other places and times as well. The most recent resurfacing is probably the book by Charles Berlitz and William Moore titled The Roswell Incident (Granada, London - 1980) and the science fiction film Hangar 18 (see UFORAN, Jan./Feb. 1982 - p.32).

For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction, and that can apply to rumours as well as in physics. The balancing reaction to the rumour is frequently the leak which can confirm or deny the rumour and so end its life. And, the longer a rumour stays a rumour, in particular by the time it evolves into a legend, the better the odds that there's nothing to it. It's not much fun to adopt that philosophy, it runs counter to "it keeps coming back so it must have some substance to it", but at least that's my premise. Why?

People who know, who could confirm or deny a rumour, who carry secrets, be they housewife or a professional whatever, love to talk - sometimes for money; sometimes for a cause; but usually because talking, spilling the beans, is human nature. That's why security/secretcy laws, etc. are so strict and carry such massive penalties - they have to adequately counter human nature. But, not even the toughest set of laws and penalties can stop all the relevant knowledgeable people, all the time, on all the issues, from leaking like a sieve. And the more who know; the bigger and more important the issue; the longer time goes on, the greater the likelihood that the definitive proof of any rumour (if it exists; if it really is true) will crawl out of the woodwork. It's nearly impossible to stop transmission of juicy information!

For example, all Australians know how journalist Laurie Oakes leaked the details of the 1980 Federal Budget. The Australian Government can take some comfort in that they aren't the odd country out in terms of leaky budgets.

"President Reagan's Budget became the super-leak of the week, yesterday as television networks, wire services and newspapers across the country broke a news embargo and disclosed details of record deficits and spending cuts." ("Budget was super-leak of the week" - Age, 8 Feb. 1982.)

Or...

"Britain's security service, MI5, has been called in to help to investigate the disclosure in The Sunday Times of parts of the 1981-82 Budget two days before it was handed down." ("MI5 to probe leak of UK Budget details" - Sydney Morning Herald, 19 March 1981.)

Isolated examples? Consider the following "leaks" culled from The (Melbourne) Age from just little over a single year in duration.

"Leaked Foreign Affairs and Defence Department documents show that Australia helped persuade the United States to commit combat forces to Vietnam - and that Australia volunteered to send a battalion there before receiving any American approach." ("Canberras Viet offer came before US request: documents" - Age, 6 May 1981.)

"The State Department has said it was investigating an unauthorised release of secret papers detailing US policy on South Africa." ("Policy paper leak being investigated" - Age, 1 June 1981.)

"A transcript of the May Premiers' Conference revealing trenchant infighting between the Premiers and the Commonwealth has been leaked to 'The Age'." ("Transcript of Premiers' fight with PM leaked" - Age, 17 June 1981.)

"Commonwealth Police have taken the extraordinary step of checking the Opposition Leader's office in their search to find out who leaked ASIO's annual report to the media." ("Police check Hayden's office over ASIO leak" - Age, 3 July 1981.)

"The Federal Government maintained a frosty silence at the weekend about the leaking of a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Stone, which strongly criticised the Prime Minister's policy on the Third World." ("Government silent over Stone's criticism of PM" - Age, 20 July 1981.)

"The Minister for Industrial Relations, Mr. Viner, has been seriously embarrassed by a leaked Cabinet document which casts doubt on his claims last week about the state of the Government's deregistration case against the Builders' Laborers Federation." ("Leak undercuts Viner: Cabinet paper proves lie, says Hawke" - Age, 23 Sept. 1981.)

"The Federal Opposition Leader, Mr. Hayden, yesterday appealed to Labor MPs to stop leaking confidential party material to the media." ("Hayden call for end to party leaks" - Age, 19 Nov. 1981.)

"The Defence Department has issued a strong reminder to its employees of the consequences of leaking confidential information. Details of the memorandum from the head of the department, Mr. Bill Pritchett, have been leaked." ("Beware of leaks, says leaked memo" - Age, 2 Feb. 1982.)

"Mr. Bob Hawke yesterday accused Caucus colleagues of 'deliberate and contrived leaking' to damage him." ("Leaks are aimed at me: Hawke" - Age, 6 Feb. 1982.)

"The State Department has launched an investigation into the leak of off-the-cuff private comments by the Secretary of State, Mr. Haig, about diplomacy and Diplomats." ("Haig plays down staff leak" - Age, 22 Feb. 1982.)

"An internal Housing Commission memo leaked to the Victorian Opposition, says that the system of housing is 'near breakdown'." ("Commission near collapse, says memo" - Age, 23 Feb. 1982.)

"The Australian army ordered spraying of defoliants at Nui Dat, Vietnam, in 1969 knowing that they were toxic, according to a photocopied document leaked to 'The Age'." ("Army knew spray was dangerous" - Age, 25 Feb. 1982.)

"The Taxation Commissioner, Mr. Bill O'Reilly,...said he had begun 'a rigorous and severe' internal investigation into the leaking of the 1980-81 tax records of Mr. Pat McCabe, co-author of the Victorian report on tax avoidance schemes." ("Police called in over McCabe leak" - Age, 9 June 1982.)

There need not be a great deal of comment about the above. It should be obvious that leaks are frequent - there are lots of things which fall off the backs of lots of trucks; leaks, for whatever reason, aren't confined to unimportant things. In fact, any leak worthy of the name, will be in a (politically, militarily, diplomatically, etc.) sensitive area, and often the more sensitive the better! If it is worth it to someone to hush something up, it is equally worth it to someone else to leak it - at least most of the time and under most circumstances.

Now let's look at the ufological rumour of crashed flying saucers. Such a rumour, if true, involves, or must involve, several elements.

Firstly, it is a really BIG story.

Secondly, it is a really sensitive story. Lots of heads are on lots of chopping blocks if the story were ever confirmed. Office politics being what they are, lots of people would love to play the role of executioner.

Thirdly, lots of time has elapsed since the rumoured crash(es).

Fourthly, lots of people, from low ranking military enlistees and civilian clerical staff, to various law officials, to local, state and federal politicians (and their staff), to senior ranking military officers and bureaucrats, through to the President and the American Cabinet, would know (past, present and future) about the existence and continued existence of crashed flying saucers.

Fifthly, lots of people not in the know will be trying to find out. That includes sticky-beak journalists building up their reputations; lawyers employed by ufologists to utilise Freedom of Information laws to uncover bits and pieces of the puzzle; intelligence agents from other friendly and not so friendly nations, etc.

This combination of a big/sensitive secret, known by lots of people, over long periods of time, and of interest to lots of outsiders, I would suggest places the likelihood of there really being any crashed flying saucers into one heck of a low percentile category.

But what about the incentives not to leak such a story? Historically, not even the death penalty has been able to stop all attempts to tell all. Ideology, money, and just plain feeling like a cat on a hot tin roof with an itchy tongue, have been known to conquer even the most fearsome attempts to hush things up. Consider that if YOU had THE EVIDENCE that an alien spaceship had crashed on Earth, wouldn't you, upon reflection, have just

that little bit of trouble biting your tongue?

But there is one time when no imposed legal penalty means very much, and when the incentive to "get it off your chest" and "let it all hang out" would be extra strong. That time is just before, or just after, your own death. The scientist or the 4-star general with THE PICTURE of that crashed Roswell flying saucer, would gain a sort of historical immortality if that picture's location were released. Such a release could come upon the knowledge that you were going to die of cancer is less than 6 months; on your deathbed; contained within your private papers in some bank vault which would be subject to family scrutiny (with a final request for it's public release) after your demise.

Consider if you will that just about all flying saucer crash rumours place the event between 1947 and 1957. Let's split the difference and say that a UFO crashed in 1952. Of course such an event would be common knowledge to various "need-to-know" officials, obviously in positions of high authority and responsibility. That suggests an age group of from 40 to 60 (let's split the difference and call it 50). Now a general, top scientist, senior politician, who was roughly 50 in 1952, would be on or about 80 in 1982. Several of those officials would have already kicked the bucket; others aren't far behind. To take a secret of that magnitude with you would be, I would suspect, very tough. So tough in fact that I would suggest that at least one such person would have released the knowledge by now - if of course the crashed UFO rumours are true, and hence the existence of knowledgeable officials which must follow suit.

There are many reasons for suspecting that this particular UFO rumour is not true - that a flying saucer would crash under such a set of conditions as to allow the powers that be the opportunity to cover it all up is in itself suspect; the problems associated with the logistics of the transport of such a massive object from Point A (the crash site) to Point B (some military/scientific base); the cloak-and-dagger tone of the crashed flying saucer literature always so very elusive when one tries to pin down something of substance, etc. I'd add to that list the well documented sociological phenomena of the leak. That such a process operates, yet has failed to operate on the existence of a for-real crashed flying saucer, suggests further that no flying saucers have crashed in the shape, manner or form suggested by those rumours.

And from that specific example, one could generalise a "law of ufology" to the effect that any long-term cyclic UFO rumour/myth, without benefit of leak, is more fodder for the science fiction writer than the ufologist.

P.S. To Overseas/Non Australian Readers - The (Melbourne) Age, which I extensively used and quoted above, is not some "rag" newspaper full of sensational "blood & guts" headlines and bare boobs. The Age would be akin to Australia what The New York Times is to America, or The (London) Times is to England.

UFO/IFO: A PROCESS OF ELIMINATION

A SCUFORI/PROBE joint publication, edited by Ian Mrzyglod, 1982.

reviewed by Mark Moravec

For many years, ufology has suffered from the fact that many people attracted to the subject have been more interested in seeking and believing "strange stories", rather than in scientifically investigating the phenomena. Fortunately, the ranks of the truly scientifically orientated ufologists - those prepared to study the UFO phenomena in a cautious and critical manner - have gradually been growing.

UFO/IFO: A Process of Elimination is a manifestation of this latter trend. The report, in the form of a 41-page, illustrated booklet, has been compiled by two English UFO groups, the Swindon Centre for UFO Research and Probe. It examines the process of investigating UFO cases and the lessons to be learned from identified cases.

A couple of the articles cover elementary ground familiar to most UFO researchers - notably how to sort out UFOs and IFOs. But most articles do offer useful resource material for the investigator. Ian Ridpath discusses astronomical IFOs; psychologist Sue Blackmore discusses the processes of perception; Eric Crew looks at ball lightning; and other articles examine lens flare photographs, aircraft lights and balloons.

Several case studies are included and offer insight into the psychological processes involved in a person misperceiving a terrestrial phenomenon and converting it into a report of an exotic object. In one case, a report of an Adamski-style disc turns out to be aircraft. How this comes to be makes for a fascinating case study.

Recommended - especially to active field investigators and to those interested in the methodology of investigation. Available from: SCUFORI, 29 Lethbridge Road, Swindon, Wiltshire SN1 4BY, England. Cost is £1.00 postpaid. To make it worthwhile, Australian researchers might consider combining this investment with a subscription to the rather excellent quarterly, The Probe Report. This is available from Probe, 16 Marigold Walk, Ashton, Bristol BS3 2PD, England at a rate of £4.40 pa, and they could supply you with the UFO/IFO report for the extra £1.00.

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Compiler's Note: See "Part One", March/April 1983 - p.12.

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Compiler's Note: For some future bibliographic columns I would like to run as a series master compilations of authored/edited publications by ACUFOS ufologists, irregardless of the actual source of publication. This idea requires of course your co-operation. If any of you would like to be an "author/editor topic", please send as complete a listing as possible (or desired) of your UFO and related publication credits to me at PO Box 189, Curtin, ACT, 2605. Don't forget to include all appropriate bibliographic details, including co-authors and co-editors (if any).