

The
New

Ufologist

Number 4

ISSN 1358-3174

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The Pineal Connection ... Spanish Air Force UFO Files Declassified ... The Experiments of Nicholas Reiter ... John Mack Escapes Censure by Harvard Medical School ... What's Happening in Germany?

£ 2.50

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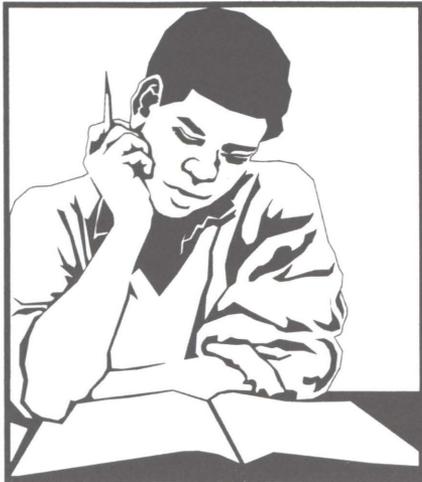
The New UFOlogist is published
quarterly and is available for a
subscription fee of £ 8 for UK
subscribers, £ 12 for European
subscribers and US \$ 20 for the
rest of the world.

Back issues are available on
request. Please make all cheques
payable to "The New UFOlogist".

Submission of material for inclusion
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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the fourth issue of *The New UFOlogist* and the first under my editorship.

So just what sort of animal is he, this new UFOlogist, and how are we to distinguish him from the more common species, *UFOlogistus vulgaris*?

In case you haven't got the measure of him yet, the new UFOlogist considers himself to be representative of the serious, scientifically orientated side of UFOlogy. By serious he means that, while confidently dismissing the ETH, at least in its naive form, he still finds the UFO phenomenon a complex and puzzling one, and does not think that it should be exchanged into small coin by suggestions that it can be explained - or easily explained - in mundane terms. And by scientifically orientated, he

means recognizing that this phenomenon, like any other, is susceptible to the scientific method.

The new UFOlogist likes to think that he has an open mind, like everyone else - but not so open that his brains fall out! Consequently he has little time for alien autopsies and crashed UFOs in New Mexico deserts - and he is not above taking the occasional pot-shot at those who make complete UFOlogists of themselves every time the latest 'genuine footage' comes winging in from across the Atlantic.

This is perhaps a little uncharitable of him since, although he rarely admits it now, he once lent a very serious ear to the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis (oh yes he did!). For unlike some, he did not find the idea inherently implausible. After all, he reasoned (being well tutored in the sciences) there are as many stars in the universe as there are grains of sand on all the beaches of the world. So would not the laws of chance have to be stretched to breaking point for only one star, our sun, to have a planet orbiting it on which life had evolved? Surely the universe must be teeming with life! The question is, the new UFOlogist wanted to know: has this got anything to do with UFOs?

And of course he would have loved the answer to be yes. For we all wish UFOs were alien spaceships (admit it!).

For while medieval man could not face the awful truth that he was not the centre of creation, modern man actually wants not to be alone in that cold, dark, incomprehensible vastness of it all. And the UFO Seeker after Truth wants it more than most. What marked the new UFOlogist out very early on, what set him apart from the rest of the breed, was a refusal to let twinges of cosmic loneliness and millennial angst lead him into blind belief.

So what did he do then, this new UFOlogist? He looked at the evidence. He examined the data - this being, as Hynek used to remind us, simply the reports themselves. And behold! He found aliens of every shape and size assailing him from the pages of every UFO book and journal: dwarves, goblins, robots, long-haired Nordic blondes, Greys, silver suited entities, black dogs (yes!)...and they came from Zeta Reticuli, Orion, the Pleiades, Mars, Venus, Jupiter's moon Ganymede, places where we know there is no life (like the 'dark side' of the moon), nonsense places like a galaxy beyond Neptune...And they came in craft whose technology so closely mimicked and kept pace with our own that he wondered whether, if the UFO phenomenon had been around during the Industrial Revolution, the aliens might have crossed the galaxy in steam-driven spaceships.

And the NU man looked at all this and realized that, however much he wanted it to be true,

things were not looking good for the ETH. So, with a mean looking Occam's Razor in his hand, he turned to his colleagues and politely suggested (losing many friends in the process) that the Extraterrestrial Hypothesis - at least in its naive, nuts-and-bolts, aliens-are-just-what-they-appear-to-be form - was not perhaps the most reasonable interpretation of the facts. His colleagues, however, refused to let their opinions be swayed or their judgement clouded by anything so banal as contrary evidence. Whereupon the new UFOlogist turned and rode off in search of an alternative explanation.

And of course explanations and theories abound. And this magazine will publish any well-argued and sensible hypothesis -or even *crazy* hypothesis if it can be shown to be a reasonable interpretation of the data. Truth often turns out to be crazy - look at quantum physics. "Anyone who is not shocked by quantum mechanics cannot possibly have understood it," said Neils Bohr. And who hasn't, at some time or another, had similar thoughts about this *festival of absurdity* as Aime Michel used to call it (still the best description ever of the UFO phenomenon).

This issue Serena Roney-Dougal asks whether there is a UFO state of mind: an altered state of consciousness conducive to both psi and the

UFO/alien experience.

UFOlogists have long suspected that the UFO 'witness' was perhaps less of a witness than an experiencer. Jenny Randles coined the term the *Oz Factor* to describe such telltale signs as total background silence. UFOlogists' files are bulging with cases where 'even the birds stopped singing'. Since we have no reports from baffled ornithologist we must assume that this tells us something about the witness' state of mind.

In looking at what happens in the brain during such experiences, Serena is acknowledging that the mind and the body are, as she says, indissoluble linked. This is an empirical fact, of course, and only the scientifically untutored would deny it.

This issue also sees the Return of the Milligauss Meter as Nicholas Reiter looks for a correlation between alien encounters/abductions and magnetic disturbances. And don't Reiter's findings tie in nicely with Albert Budden's theory? And don't both fit well into Serena's scheme of things? It really seems we might be on to something here! Now where have we heard this before? Every time you think you're getting somewhere in UFOlogy and the solution is in sight, the phenomenon springs another surprise and you're wrong-footed yet

again.

Serena also makes the fascinating and perfectly valid point that if we *were* to encounter a totally alien life form we would not, *could not*, recognize it for what it was. And she's right, you know! Just try to imagine what a truly alien being might be like (forget the comic books and sci-fi movies - let your imagination loose on this one): multi-dimensional lattices of light; creature from beyond time and space; life forms that exist in a permanent state of quantum indeterminacy? No! These are not truly alien for they can be imagined. So what *would* it be like to encounter a life-form so alien to us that it cannot be imagined. All that would happen, if you think about it very carefully (or even if you don't), is that our world be disturbed - like that of the beetle when the zoologist turns over the stone - but we would register that disturbance in terms of human experience. In short, we would have a close encounter with our own psyche. Now that's an avenue we haven't been down before!

For those who enjoy exploring the wilder shores of UFOlogy, Steven Hawking has recently reached the conclusion - and hold on to your hats if you haven't heard - that time travel is possible after all. And he believes the government should spend money developing it. Hawking had previously dismissed the idea, arguing: '*The best evidence that time travel will never be possible is that we*

have not been invaded by hordes of tourists from the future.' Which we haven't, have we...have we? Mmm...Is that someone's brains on the floor?



THE PINEAL CONNECTION

Dr Serena Roney-Dougal

*Serena Roney-Dougal gained her PhD in parapsychology at the University of Surrey. She is head of the Psi Research Centre at Glastonbury, and author of the book, *Where Science and Magic Meet*.*

Many people these days are suggesting that there is a psychic component to UFO experiences. My research into the pineal gland gives us a fascinating insight into a possible reason why.

I am very interested in the link between psychic experiences and our physical state. The mind and body are inextricably linked whilst we are alive and living on this earth. Everything we do to the body affects the mind, as anyone who needs a

cup of coffee in the morning knows. In parapsychology, it is becoming increasingly clear that an altered state of consciousness can help to induce psychic experiences.

Folklore and the Anthropomorphic Evidence

In Indian terminology *the third eye* is called the 'ajna centre', about which there is a considerable body of information. Some modern teachers of yoga, who also keep abreast of Western research, equate the physical aspects of 'ajna chakra' with the pineal gland, while Descartes called the pineal gland 'the seat of the soul'. Ajna chakra is considered to be the psychic chakra. Thus folklore and yogic teaching suggest that the 'third eye' (pineal gland) plays some part in the process of becoming aware of psi information.

The folklore surrounding the pineal is given even greater credence by certain specific divinatory practices amongst a large number of South American tribes. These tribes all use a vine of the genus *Banisteriopsis*, whose active ingredients are harmaline and other harmala alkaloids, in order to induce visions specifically for a variety of psychic purposes. There are hundreds of psychoactive plants in the Amazon basin, yet all the tribes scattered over this huge area use *Banisteriopsis*.

Banisteriopsis is usually mixed with other plants such as *Prestonia Amazonica* and *Psychotria Viridis* (Cawa), which have hallucinogenic properties, the active ingredient being dimethoxy-tryptamine (DMT), that are considered essential in order to trigger the full effects.

The anthropomorphic evidence, however, points to the harmala alkaloids being more than merely hallucinogenic, the people reporting out-of-the-body-experiences which they consider to be spirit travelling. This use of a psychotropic plant for out-of-the-body experiences matches that of the witches' flying ointment. Other reported experiences can best be compared to clairvoyance and remote viewing. Divination and spiritual healing, in which the shaman enters his spirit body and does battle with the evil spirit that is the cause of the illness are, however, held to be the most important aspects of the rite amongst those who use *Banisteriopsis*, also known as *Ayahuasca*.

Of course, in addition to looking at the anthropomorphic evidence, we will need to carry out tests, under controlled laboratory conditions, to determine what psi-conducive properties, if any, are possessed by harmala or the harmala alkaloids present in the tribes' drink. But let us now look at the pineal gland,

our third eye, which makes a chemical called pinolene that is almost identical in structure to the harmaline in Ayahuasca.

The Pineal Gland

In order to understand the neurochemistry of psychic phenomena, we must now turn our attention to the limbic system, since the pineal neurohormones act upon the hypothalamus and limbic system, the mid-brain. The mid-brain is the mammalian part of the brain, pre-dating that of language. It is the emotional, symbolic, archetypal mind: the area where our hormones affect our brains/minds.

The pineal gland is found right in the centre of our brain. It is tiny, about the size of the tip or the nail of our little finger and is shaped like a pine cone. It shows extreme variability of size, form and internal structure from one individual to the next. In general, the pineal is a very active organ, having the second highest blood flow after the kidneys and equal in volume to the pituitary.

No other part of the brain contains so much serotonin, a neurotransmitter, 5-Hydro-Tetramine (5HT), that works at the synapses, or is capable of making the neurohormone melatonin, which is almost certainly a precursor of the possibly psi-conducive pinoline.

Both serotonin and melatonin exhibit a circadian rhythm, serotonin concentration being greatest during the day and melatonin at night. This rhythm is free-running if one is in constant darkness, but is severely disrupted if one stays in constant light.

Melatonin is produced by the pineal gland and is also found in the retina. Melatonin controls eye pigmentation and thus regulates the amount of light reaching the photoreceptors in the retina. There are possibly very important implications here with regard to colour and intensity of light required to induce specific states of consciousness. For example, some mediums always used to work either in the dark or in red light because they found that the strange phenomena they produced, such as ectoplasm and phantom limbs, would happen more readily. Many people consider that magical rituals need specific light colours for specific effects. The Ganzfeld, used by some parapsychologists to help induce a psychic state of consciousness, specifically uses a red light to induce the hypnagogic state.

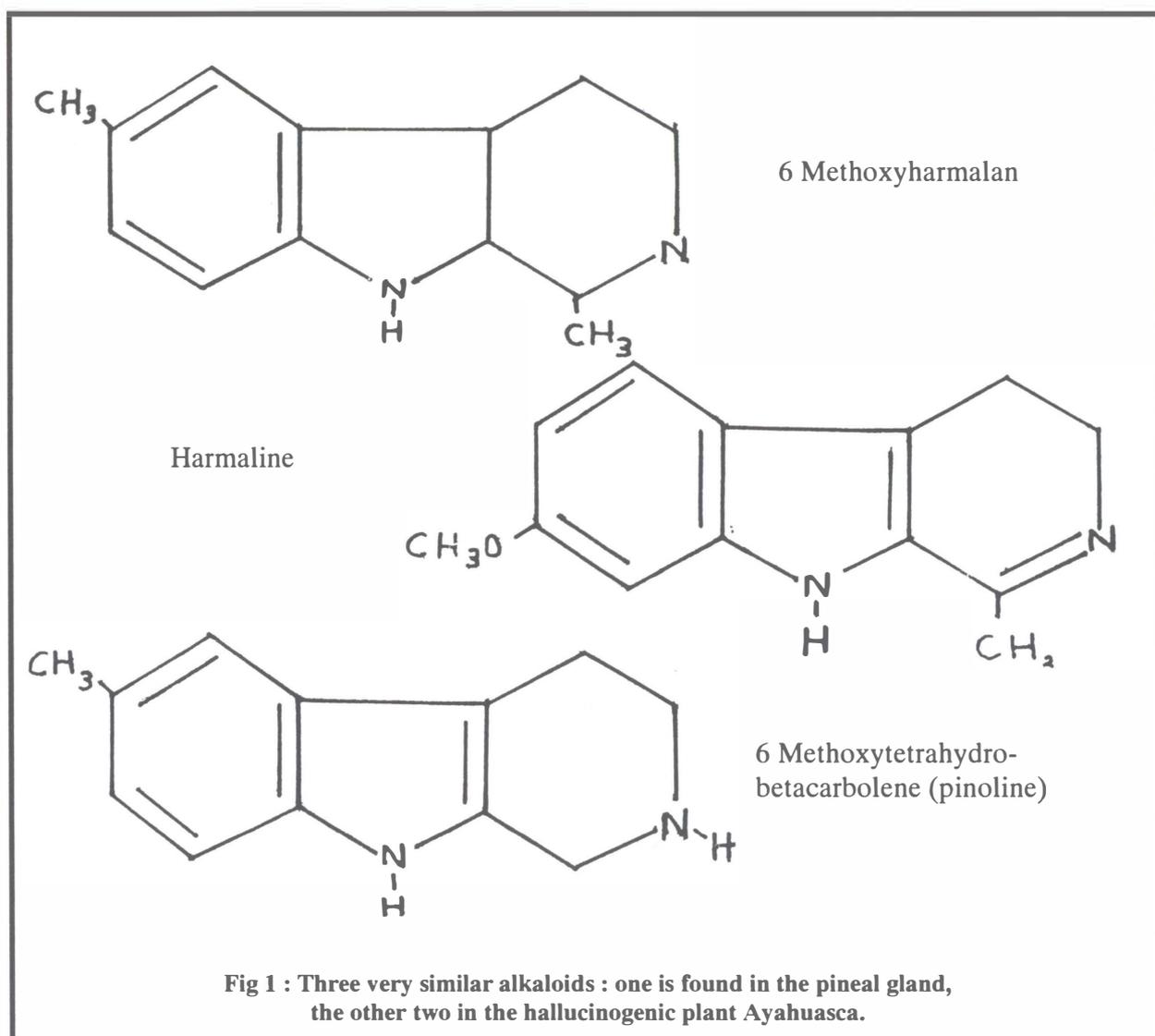
Melatonin is a neuroendocrine transducer, which means that it is a hormone which also has an effect on neurones. At a neural level, the single clearest effect of melatonin is that it induces drowsiness during darkness. Peak production is three to six

hours after the onset of darkness, and peak levels of melatonin occur at 3 a.m. when cortisol and serotonin concentrations are at their lowest. This could well shed some light on other strange folklore surrounding psi phenomena. For example, members of many spiritual systems such as Catholic monks, Buddhists and Yogis all recommend rising at 3 a.m. to meditate, or to chant matins, or some other practice which is primarily aimed at personal development but which seems to bring enhanced psi effects in its wake. And what about our own saying that 'midnight is the magic or witching hour when witches ride abroad'? One's circadian rhythm of sleeping and waking can be altered by taking melatonin. This is now being used to help with jet lag on a trial basis.

Consider how many more UFOs are sighted at night than during the daytime. It would be interesting to see if these night-time experiences differed in any way from the daytime ones.

Beta-carbolines: Harmaline and the Pineal Gland

This section is the linchpin of the whole of my hypothesis concerning the pineal gland, namely that, together with serotonin and melatonin in the pineal gland and retina, there is another class of compounds called beta-carbolines, which are produced by the pineal



gland and which are chemically very similar to the harmala alkaloids of Banisteriopsis. The pineal gland is therefore involved in altered states of consciousness of a potentially psi-inducive state.

Neurochemical terminology can be very confusing, so it must be clearly understood that harmaline and the harmala alkaloids are all beta-carbolines, of which there are many varieties with very similar properties. See figure 1

(above) which shows three alkaloids which all look very similar. The first (pinoline) is found in the pineal gland; the other two are found in Ayahuasca.

In 1981 researchers found that pinoline was present in the human pineal gland. They also found that the pineal contains as much pinoline as it does melatonin. The nocturnal production of both melatonin and pinoline link with REM (rapid eye move-

ment), dreaming sleep. Babies, foetuses and small children dream and sleep a lot and have higher melatonin levels. They are also considered to be more psychic. Most people who sleep eight hours a night will have four dreams every night of their lives. The dreams occur every ninety minutes through the night. One researcher has suggested that the periodicity of REM sleep is due to the interaction between pinoline and serotonin, and that pinoline is functional in inducing REM

dreaming, lucid dreaming and other naturally occurring ASCs such as some meditative states. All of this suggests to me that when we experience visions, images, a clairvoyant knowing, or a pre-cognitive flash, that these images are linked with a particular state of consciousness. This is not a reductionist, materialistic view because I am not saying that our visions are *just* neurochemicals in the brain. What I am saying is that by understanding our experiences at this level we can better understand what is happening to us.

Sensitivity to the Earth's Magnetic Field

I have suggested that the pineal gland makes a hallucinogen which could well take us into an altered state that is psi-conducive and which affects us at physical, emotional and psychic levels. Shifts in the intensity of the earth's magnetic field (EMF) appears to be one of the environmental conditions which affects pineal activity and psychic sensitivity.

An intriguing picture is emerging which suggests that the old idea of a 'sixth sense' could be just that: a sensitivity to the Earth's magnetic field that is in some way connected with our psychic sensitivity. Our sixth sense is so subliminal that most people aren't even aware that they possess it. It is

not a psychic experience but, because it is a subliminal perception, the psychological process by which we become aware of the information is similar to that by which we become aware of psychic information. From a practical, subjective level, therefore, awareness of the EMF and awareness of psi information will manifest in very similar ways. Thus map dowsing, a psi activity, and field dowsing, which is probably sensitivity to magnetic fields, manifest in similar ways.

The main point I want you to remember from this is that we are being affected subliminally at all times by changes in the EMF, and this has enormous implications.

This magnetic sense as a direction finder has been extensively researched in both animals and humans. For example, the wood mouse uses magnetic cues for direction finding. And there is the well-researched homing pigeons' magnetic direction sense. Baker, in his book on human navigation, tells how he blindfolded people and then took them on a coach trip that twisted and turned. At the end of the trip they were asked to point to where they had come from. He found that a significant number of people could do this, but if they wore magnets on their heads they lost this ability. Baker's work has been taken a step further

by Gai Murphy who worked with children sitting in a swivel chair blindfolded. The chair was spun and the children then had to say which direction was north. She tested 1,279 children and found that young children have no magnetic sense of direction until about aged 11, and then girls become really remarkable in their accuracy whilst boys remain inept. When the girls wore a magnet at eye level, the result was a significant decline in accuracy. Murphy reckoned the boys were insensitive because they tried to logically deduce which direction they were facing rather than 'just guessing'. Girls guess and so allow their subliminal magnetic sensitivity to guide them to guess correctly.

The magnetic field affects not only direction finding but also other aspects of behaviour. The circadian rhythm in gerbils is entrained by the daily magnetic field fluctuations. 60 Hz electric fields as well as artificial magnetic fields affected rat behaviour, there being a decrease in emotional reactivity after exposure. Tuna could detect changes in magnetic fields as small as one nanoTesla (nT, less than one twenty-thousandth of the Earth's field). A comparable system in humans could easily be sensitive enough to account for the results of dowsing experiments. This is really quite likely as magnetic fields within the ultra-low and extremely low frequency range influence humans. Some

Indian researchers showed that sudden increases in the EMF of about 20 nT are sufficient to lower seizure thresholds and precipitate convulsions in people who suffer from epilepsy, whilst others found that one hour exposures at 0.1 Hz fields between 10 and 50 nT generate physiological changes in humans. Admissions to psychiatric hospitals for depression have been found to correlate with increases in intensity of the EMF in April and September. And some people can become so acutely aware of the EMF that facing south makes them ill, whilst east and west are neutral, and facing north makes them feel better. (Quiet periods in daily EMF variation average about 10 nT. During magnetic storms, e.g. the aurora borealis type of storm, there are huge changes approaching 500 nT. Household wiring and power lines can create magnetic fields ranging between 100 nT and 100,000 plus nT.)

This ties in with my research into the pineal gland in two ways. The first is the strange fact that the pineal starts a process of calcification around puberty. No one knows why, but calcification is a bit like the process of our noses becoming more bony as we grow older, bones being primarily calcium as are our teeth. It has been found that bone, horn hair, and feathers produce their own electrical signals when under stress and so are sensitive to electromagnetic fields in that they are piezo-electric trans-

ducers. Some researchers think that there is a neural basis for the magnetic compass based on their research into the pineal gland, and I propose that this magnetic compass sense could be the calcified part of the pineal gland. It's worth thinking about and researching anyway, and makes even more sense in terms of the pineal as the psychic chakra providing the link point between our material bodies here on this earth and the psychic-spiritual aspect of our beings for which electricity and magnetism seem to be some sort of link. This effect is a very important one. It makes me wonder about the old divination practices that used bone or tortoise shells for divination and about the Amerindian use of feather head-dresses as possibly antennae; the Neolithic gods and goddesses were all horned, and the witches definitely had a strong superstition with regard to hair and nails. I think this piezo-electric effect is the clue that links all these magical practices.

The Earth's Magnetic Field and Psychic Ability

Canadian researcher Michael Persinger has done some research taking really old collections of spontaneous psi cases from a book called *Phantoms of the Living*, in which thousands of cases of

reported apparitions had been checked and cross-checked to make sure that the person really had had a psychic experience. There are geomagnetic data which go back to Victorian times when these cases were collected, and Persinger correlated the dates of the cases with the EMF and found that spontaneous telepathic impressions were more frequent on days when geomagnetic activity was decreased in intensity. He obtained a similar correlation for cases taken from a more recent collection by an American parapsychologist called Ian Stevenson, who has done some fascinating research on reincarnation, and also cases taken from *Fate Magazine*.

Then Persinger studied reported poltergeist activity and found that these correlated with sudden *increases* in geomagnetic activity. He also found that reports of bereavement hallucinations (seeing a vision of someone who has just died) occur when geomagnetic activity is increased and considers that these correlations hold over decades as well as diurnal timespans, there being some decades that have a noticeably quieter geomagnetic activity than others, e.g. 1870 - 1879 and 1890 - 1909. He feels that this might explain the historical episodes of times when there has been an upsurge in reported psychic cases, as we are experiencing now. Peak displays of spontaneous experiences concerning death and crises occurred between 2 and

4 p.m. with a secondary peak at 9-11 p.m. This timing is really interesting because it fits in so well with what I have just mentioned concerning the pineal gland, the peak melatonin production occurring six hours after dark, and so, on average over the year, between midnight and 3 a.m. Since then these findings have been corroborated by numerous experimental studies.

This research has been criticised by people who urge that local geomagnetic measurements are made. This criticism is a valid one, and therefore most of the research on the pineal gland reported below uses local measurements or artificial magnetic fields.

The major suggestion from this body of data is that psi ability is affected by the EMF in such a way that when the magnetic field is *different from* normal, different sorts of psi are more likely to occur. This suggests to me that sensitivity to psi is in some way affected by the EMF. We all know that certain practices enhance psi effects, e.g. being hypnotised, and it seems as if a shift in magnetic field strength may be a similar psi-conductive situation. A lot of UFO cases report electromagnetic anomalies and this could be a trigger for psychic experiences in the UFO context.

There is thus a very clear strong link between our earth and our

psychic spiritual sensitivity. The pineal gland is responsive to the EMF. The production of melatonin in the pineal gland, which is almost certainly a precursor of the possibly psi-conductive pine-line, is affected not only by light and stress, but also by the EMF. The fact that the EMF affects the functioning of the pineal gland suggests a neuro-mechanism by which our psi ability is affected by the EMF.

The Pineal and the Earth's Magnetic Field - the 25 Hour Clock

Over the past decade there has been some interest in the effect of the EMF on the functioning of the pineal gland. Most of the experiments have been performed on animals of various kinds and we should be wary of generalizing to humans. However, the tiny amount of research that has been done with humans in no way contradicts the animal research. What follows is a selection of research findings culled from the neurochemical literature that best illustrates this.

In 1980 it was found that the EMF affected the electrical activity of pineal cells. It is well known that the brain is electrical - we measure brain waves, using an EEG (electroencephalogram). But to find that the EMF affects this

electrical activity is a new discovery, and for it to affect the pineal gland is very interesting. This finding was corroborated in 1983 and not only for the cells of the pineal gland but for the automatic nerves that connect the pineal gland with the retina - its source of information about light, daylength, moonlight and season of year, as well as other nerve messages to the pineal gland.

Also in 1983 it was found that artificial fields, differing only slightly in strength from the EMF, inhibited the melatonin biosynthesis in rat pineals at night by inhibiting the enzyme that makes melatonin from serotonin. Again it seems as if the *change* in magnetic field is the important factor, because animals habituate to artificial fields.

Not only does a change in magnetic field affect the electrical activity of the pineal and automatic cells, but it actually affects the production of the pineal's major neurohormone melatonin, that which is in control of our endocrine system. Could this be one of the reasons for our mood fluctuations with, say, the full moon? The pineal is linked with the endocrine system. The endocrine system affects our sexuality, stress levels and emotions, and this is affected by changing magnetic fields. The EMF changes according to the sun's activity, the rising of the moon and perhaps even the other planets though this has not yet been demonstrated. In

other words, the pineal gland is our biological clock involved in regulating everything from our sleep-wake cycle to our menstrual cycle, to puberty onset and ageing and now it has been found that natural variations in the EMF is the *Zeitgeber* (literally time-giver). These natural variations are caused by such things as the solar sunspot cycle of 11 years. Shielding the EMF desynchronises circadian rhythms in humans significantly, even when light perception is not secluded. This suggests that the magnetic component of the regulation of circadian rhythms is very important. When people live in constant darkness (or artificial light at a low level that the pineal interprets as night) it is found that its circadian rhythm carries on, but on a 25 hour rhythm. Since the moon circles the earth on a 25 hour cycle, and the moon affects the EMF it is possible that this is one aspect of the various factors which govern our circadian rhythm.

The pineal gland, and particularly its production of melatonin, is definitely affected by both magnetic and electric fields, such that a short term intense change in the EMF in either direction inhibits melatonin production. This could possibly underlie Persinger's apparently contradictory results noted above in which he sometimes finds a correlation with days of low EMF and sometimes with a sudden increase in EMF. It appears to be the sudden

change in EMF that is the important factor and the changes in direction of intensity are correlated with different sorts of psi experience. Thus all this research suggests that through the pineal gland we have a physiological means by which the EMF can change our inherent sensitivity to psi awareness.

UFOs and Geomagnetism

Research into UFOs, ley lines and ancient stone circles suggest that these, like dowsing, may be connected with geomagnetic anomaly and with the magnetic effects of the solar system on our planet. Persinger and Lafreniere have analysed a range of UFO and anomalous happenings. Their results suggest that UFO phenomena tend to cluster in specific areas, though there is the confounding effect of population density (where there are more people, more people are likely to see and report UFOs). When this is accounted for, you get both window areas - Warminster, Dyfed, Barmouth and Cumbria - and times. UFO sightings tend to occur or be reported most often in April, July, August and September.

The core theory for explaining the earth lights aspect of UFOs involves seismo-electricity. The areas where most earthlights are reported

are primarily areas of seismic related stress, that is, areas that are prone to earthquakes or at least tremors. Not all areas of geological faulting that produce seismic stress will actually move so that we can physically feel it; normally the move is much more subtle than that. During seismic strain, pressure on the rock crystals produces electromagnetic fields through a modification of the piezo-electric effect. The fields created by this process then produce such effects as ball lightning, will-o-the-wisps, and other earthquake and UFO related light effects, and are also connected with psychological and psychic effects such as poltergeist outbreaks.

Stresses at faults may accumulate over long periods of time. As a result, a localised 'electrical column' could be formed. It is *while the stress is present* that such an effect would be created and phenomena would be likely to occur. The existence of electrical columns produced by accumulating stress would affect all living things as well. When parts of the brain are electrically stimulated, dreamlike states can be induced and vivid imagery unleashed even in waking consciousness. Such stimulating currents are not large and could conceivably be produced by transient currents associated with tectonic stress. This links in with all I have said with regard to the pineal gland and psychic events.

While the major source of energy for such a mechanism comes from electromagnetic fields associated with geological stress, much smaller displays might be triggered by fields generated by meteorological events such as thunderstorms or impulses from the sun and moon. Researchers have shown that magnetic anomalies can be produced at the earth's surface above certain mineral deposits during times of geomagnetic storms.

Earthquakes produce luminous electrical activity; before, during, and after the quake, electrical discharges to the air take place. However it is important to remember that mere stress in the rock is sufficient to produce a piezoelectric effect. In general, the overall pattern of UFO sightings are related to earthquake epicentres, but it is the earth's movement and the related electromagnetic field that is the significant factor.

UFOs and the Psyche

Paul Devereux talks at length about the psychic aspects of UFOs. Devereux, Jacques Vallee and several others have all considered that the reported form of UFOs and their occupants are created more by our conceptions, by archetypal symbolism, by our twentieth-century collective unconscious, than by any inherent form in

the energy field that we call UFO.

One of the lores of psychology is that we can only perceive that which we can conceive. Something that is totally alien just cannot be seen by us because we have no conception of it. Something that is totally outside our world or world-view has nothing to which it can be compared, and if it is at least partly ethereal, then it will be seen according to that image to which it is closest within the person doing the perceiving. Nowadays the collective myth is that of space beings - so we see UFOs. The beings are human-like, but different, alien to us. What amuses me here is the transparent connection between the little green men of UFOlogy and the Green Man of the pagan religion. That aliens are a modern form of faery folk becomes more and more apparent the more I look into it.

Devereux writes of the 'foo fighters' in World War Two, which were the first well known UFOs: 'Some airmen reported that the lights *seemed to be responding to their thoughts.*' The hypothesis is that there is some sort of two way interaction through psychokinesis between our minds and the energy field of the UFO. In a parapsychological theory called Conformance Theory it is proposed that the more

subtle and sensitive the material the easier it is for our minds to affect it. It is possible that the energy form we call UFO is a profoundly sensitive energy form responsive to our subconscious mental cues.

This is not to say that some UFOs are not visitors from outer space - some may be; there is absolutely no way at present of telling. It is just that some UFOs seem to be connected with energy fields related to the earth, and we perceive them in terms of our cultural mythology. We are able to create thought forms through vivid visualization, concentration and emotional energy. This is exactly what is being suggested here. And this is equivalent to certain theories put forward to explain hauntings - that a place has an energy which we then put a visual and/or auditory image to. The geomagnetic anomaly associated with the areas in which UFOs are most commonly found affects our pineal gland, which produces more beta-carboline, which takes us into a psi-conductive dream state of consciousness where we are both psychic and 'think' at the collective unconscious level of our mind, in dream images, hallucinations and archetypal primary thought processes. It is at this level of our minds that we are most in touch with, or at one with, the World Mind, which is manifesting as UFO form. Thus the UFO energy will respond according to the prevailing conditions, psychic ability of the



Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, speaking at the 8th International BUFORA Congress, Sheffield (England), August 19-20, 1995. (Photo by Luis González).

cial. The information acquired in this way was marked confidential and passed to the Air Force Staff (then Ministry of Air). There was not an investigation as we UFOlogists - and indeed the Air Force itself - understood the term.

JR. How were you able to persuade them to release information?

VBO. It was all a matter of trust. Since the mid-eighties I had been corresponding with the Ministry of Defence about the possibility of UFO documentation in the Air Force being declassified, but nothing happened. In 1988 I began a research project with my colleague Joan Plana, with the aim of finding out how the

various armed forces in Spain had dealt with UFOs, what procedures had been followed and how much information had been acquired. This involved a lot of correspondence with the Air Force. During 1990 and 1991 I established many personal contacts and held meetings with officers at the Public Affairs Office, particularly with the Colonel in charge of the Air Safety Section (Operations Division, Air Staff, Air Force Headquarters, Madrid) who had custody of the UFO files.

After many conversations, followed up with letters of request and memoranda, I came to realize that UFOs are a scientific problem and nothing to do with national defence, and there are serious, competent investigators working in UFO research. However, by not making the information public, they were helping to perpetuate the myth that there was a military cover-up. It was simply a matter of common sense, and the present-day generation of Air Staff military are honest and open-minded, and recognize the legitimacy of what I was soliciting on behalf of the Spanish UFO community.

JR. Have they told you how many cases they have collected, how many of these are close encounters and how many they were able to explain?

VBO. When an internal memo was written in May 1991 by the Air Safety Section, recom-

percipient, and so on. Many witnesses of UFOs appear to have had prior experiences, which suggest that a person who is psychic is more likely to see a UFO, although I have seen no survey of this sort done. It would be interesting to initiate UFO witness questionnaires in order to elicit this sort of information.

However, with global phenomena like UFOs one is not dealing with a personal, subjective thought form, but an image that is shared by a whole culture - in this case a Westernised global culture, since UFOs have been reported mostly in Europe, Russia, America and Australia. UFOs are archetypal for our time. The prevailing imagery of the Westernised global culture of the twentieth-century means a technological, and more specifically a galactic outlook - our aliens no longer come from Mars, they come from Sirius or Betelgeuse or whichever other star system is stirring us, like the Pleiades! Our science fiction is similarly a product of our species unconscious imagery.

The feeling that I have about such things as UFOs and other anomalous phenomena that appear to behave intelligently is that we are dealing with an aspect of the planet herself as an intelligent being: another aspect of Lovelock's Gaia hypothesis, but at a more mental level. We are part of this planet. Our minds are part of the evolving life of the planet, as are the levels of consciousness of other animals,

and so just as we embody one form of consciousness evolved on this planet, so the hypothesis that this planet has a sort of World Mind that manifests in anomalous ways is a hypothesis that has a certain appeal.

REFERENCES

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M. Shallis, *The Electric Shock Book* (Souvenir Press, 1988).

R.R. Baker, *Human Navigation and the Sixth Sense* (Hodder & Stoughton, 1981).

Hilary Evans, *Visions, Apparitions, Alien Entities* (Aquarian Press, 1984). A recommended introduction to the research that suggests we are dealing with one underlying phenomenon that manifests in various forms.

Details of Serena's forthcoming lectures, classes and workshops may be obtained from: 14 Selwood Road, GLASTONBURY BA6 8HN.

SPANISH AIR FORCE UFO FILES DECLASSIFIED

Jenny Randles interviews
Vicente-Juan Ballester
Olmos

Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos is one of Spain's leading UFO researchers. He is author of numerous books on the subject and was the first European to gain access to official government data

JR. How long has the Spanish Air Force been investigating UFOs?

VBO. In reality the Spanish Air Force has *never* investigated UFOs. Since the early sixties, the Air Authority began to receive reports of strange lights in the sky, objects of unfamiliar shape sighted by both civilian and military pilots etc. In December 1968, some basic rules were drawn up detailing the procedure to be followed when UFO cases were reported by the public. This entailed a simple questionnaire being filled in and an evaluation of the case by an appointed offi-

mending that UFO archives be declassified, the number of cases totalled 55 (a poor figure indeed, but these were only the reports that reached the highest ranks of the Ministry of Air. We know there were others that did not reach this level, and we are now in the process of trying to find those lost records).

Then I urged that every Air Command be requested to forward their own files to Headquarters so that they could be centralized before declassification took place. They accepted my idea and, after they had done what I suggested, files increased to sixty-six. Today more have been added after renewed searching resulted in missing reports turning up in far-out air bases, air control units etc.

Up until 1 September 1995, forty-nine files have been released, covering the time from 1962 to 1979. These contain 1,108 pages of material and refer to 71 UFO events. They reached some kind of conclusion with some of the cases, didn't with others. UFOs were a very marginal issue for the Spanish Air Force and they were not concerned with whether cases were explained or unexplained. As soon as it became clear that a certain incident did not pose a threat to national security, they lost interest in it. No statistics exist on identification/unidentification. It is the role of researchers such as ourselves to determine which of these cases can be explained and which

cannot. After analysing the information available, I have come to the conclusion that 64 cases are explicable and 7 are either UFOs (genuine unexplained phenomena) or are still under investigation. Out of 71 cases, 9 can be classified as close encounters: 2 UFOs and 7 IFOs.

JR. Do they believe that any of the reports provide evidence that we are being visited by extraterrestrials?

VBO. The Spanish Air Force has expressed no official opinion on UFOs. By declassifying all this material, they are acknowledging that it is not their field, and that they are therefore not competent to form an opinion or make any statement about what lies behind the phenomenon. I believe they simply do not know, because they never did a proper research job. There are some interesting explanations, challenging even, but these were always the personal opinion of the official responsible for evaluating the case.

JR. Have they looked into any theories of UFOs such as earth energies or UAP (Unidentified Atmospheric Phenomena)?

VBO. No such research has ever been done by the Spanish Air Force.

JR. In Britain we are aware of the Canary Islands sightings and photographs. Researchers thought that this object resembled a chemical cloud from a rocket launch, possibly from a submarine. As I understand it, the Air Force considers this a strong case. Was the rocket launch theory investigated?

VBO. There are three major cases in the Canary Islands: 22 June 1976; 19 November, 1976; and 5 March 1979. These cases were well investigated as far as gathering data from the witnesses was concerned, but the essential follow-up research was not done. If it had been, I'm sure we would now have a definite explanation. The official in charge of the case had a basic training in astronautics, but had no advanced technical knowledge of rocket launching. A craft of unknown origin is suggested as a possible explanation for the first two cases. (Years later, this same officer has acknowledged in personal correspondence to me that reports on all these cases are consistent with missile type launchings.

We have concluded that the first two cases of 1976 are probably due to the optical, luminous effects of the injection into the upper atmosphere of solid combustible fuel from rockets when changing stages (this physical process was discussed with Professors Platov and Chernous, of the Russian Academy of Sciences, during a

private meeting during the celebration of BUFORA's 8th International Congress, 19/20 August 1995 at Sheffield. As far as the 1979 sighting goes, there is little doubt that this is a typical example of a rocket launch. Whether or not it was a launch from a submarine submerged in the Atlantic Ocean, 1,000 km west of Canary Islands, we cannot yet say. The Russian Navy has denied firing such a missile. I would welcome any information on rocket launches or missiles fired from any expert in the field.

[In a post-interview discussion VBO told me that the one puzzle is the photograph by a doctor - but a case being a puzzle during that wave doesn't make it a UFO. JR]

JR. In Britain we have had many reports of aircraft encountering small UFOs in mid-air. I recall similar cases over Spain and the Balearic Islands in the past. Have there been other recent cases of this type, and what do you think they might be?

VBO. No such incidents have occurred in Spain. Radar tracks of unspecified category, lights seen by pilots, yes; but when a solid physical UFO is observed, it invariably turns out to be a weather balloon or the like. The famous 11 November case of an aerial encounter over the Mediterranean Sea near the Balearic Islands has finally been identified following

investigation by Spanish Antonio Fernandez (of my Valencia team) as the lights of a petrochemical complex located north of Algeria. Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction ! To return to your question, since there are no similar reports in Spain, I can't form an opinion.

JR. Have there been any Spanish Air Force aircraft sent in pursuit of UFOs, and did they capture anything on film?

VBO. Although not all cases have been declassified yet, we still do not have a definitive answer. Statistics published by the Air Force indicate the following percentages for 66 files: radar, no scramble - 13 cases; radar, scramble (jet for interception) - 7 cases; no radar detection, scramble - 1 case; no radar, no scramble - 45 cases. The Air Force specifically states that for the eight interception cases: `It must be noted that in none of the cases did the aircraft make use of their weapons. Nor did any situation arise which suggested any threat from the detected phenomenon. In none of the reports that have so far been released do we have ground based radar detection, airborne radar detection and visual observation by the pilot occurring simultaneously. When the pilot sees something weird, it is not detected by radar (suggesting a distant stimulus of an astronomical kind); sometimes the

jet is vectored toward a radar track, but the pilot of the aircraft sees nothing (evidence of an anomalous propagation echo or the like). Anyway, this question will be resolved once and for all when the declassification process is over and we have all the UFO files in our possession.

JR. What is your personal assessment of the evidence released?

VBO. Up until now I have been able to explain ninety percent of all reports. And may I say, hasn't this been found to be universally true. The work of Allan Hendry of the Centre for UFO Studies and many other UFOlogists and analysts from all over the world - free of prejudice - have arrived at a similar figure. Most of the so-called UFO reports can be explained when proper scientific methodology is applied to their study. This is a brand new sample and it is not surprising that a study of these military cases leads to the same conclusion. Anyway, it is fascinating being able to review cases that have been secret for years, and with this military information fill in some of the gaps in our private archives.

This process has led to some important developments. One of these is that the Spanish Air Force has now introduced a new procedure to be followed when a UFO case is reported before it is declassified, and

this is a real improvement. Secondly, we have developed excellent relationships with Intelligence officers in charge of UFO matters which may be useful in the future.

JR. Do you think other files exist which have yet to be made public?

VBO. Everything known to the Air Force Safety Section in 1992 was transferred in January of that year to the MOA (Air Operative Command, Torrejon Air Force Base, Madrid). MOA has sole responsibility for processing UFO information, including classification and declassification procedure. The formal pronouncement of the Air Force Chief of Staff and the MOA Commander-in-Chief is that all the available information on UFOs will be made public after review. There is ample proof that no information is being concealed; on the contrary, MOA Intelligence officials are striving to recover from the past old files and notes related to UFOs that may exist in other places. I have complete trust in them and, may I add, I am following this process very closely.

The Joint Chiefs of the Staff of the Army, Navy and Air Force met in April 14, 1992 to downgrade the classification level of UFO reports. In September 1992, the first file was declassified. Files can be consulted and photocopied in the Library of the Air Force Headquarters in Madrid.

FURTHER READING

Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, "The Spanish Air Force Files", *International UFO Reporter*, 18 (1993).

Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, "UFO Declassification in Spain: Military Files Available to the Public", in *UFOs: Examining the Evidence*, ed. by Mike Wootten (BUFORA, 1995) pp. 51-56.

Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos, *Expedientes Insolitos* (Madrid: Temas de Hoy, 1995). Autographed copies may be obtained by sending £20=00 to the author's address: Apartado de Correos 12140, 46080 Valencia, Spain.

Visionary Dramas and Systematic Effects (BAE 15.5). In this piece I identified the physical effects that abductees encountered after their experience of physiological reaction to electromagnetic fields in the environment. Such things as bruise-like marks, pinhole-like lesions, red wheals etc. are all allergic reactions to electromagnetic fields by hypersensitive individuals.

One of the physical effects, which is not an allergic reaction per se, is the so-called nasal implant. The extraterrestrial myth has it that nasal bleeding as a post-CEIV effect is due to aliens inserting monitoring devices into the nasal cavities, and CAT scans of affected individuals have in fact found that there is something there, although it is very small.

However, it was three British zoologists working at Manchester University who found that there exist in human sinuses naturally occurring magnetic iron particles. In January 1983, Baker, Mather and Kennaugh presented a paper in *Nature* (301.6), outlining their findings and showing a photograph of this magnetite layer in the thin spheroid and ethmoid bones of the human sinus. You do not have to be a genius to realize that this is entirely consistent with my findings that abductions are triggered in electrically hypersensitive individuals by electromagnetic fields in the environment. It is these magnetic particles which, when suddenly gyromagneti-



THE EXPERIMENTS OF NICHOLAS REITER

Introduction by Albert Budden

In the Autumn of 1994 I wrote an article for the *Bulletin of Anomalous Experiences* entitled 'Alien Abductions:

cally disturbed by a power surge from a radio transmitter, would rupture the tiny capillaries supplying blood to the sinuses and induce minor bleeding. No aliens involved.

After publication of this article in *BAE*, the editor, Dr David Gotlib MD, wrote to tell me that I should be aware of the work of Nicholas Reiter, a researcher in Gibsonburg USA, and sent me his address. Reiter had had articles published describing his experiments with abductees. He showed that when a powerful magnet was placed on various areas of the skull they experienced a variety of sensations not felt by control subjects. This, of course, is a lesser version of Persinger's experiments using directed magnetic fields on the temporal lobe, which induced many of the signs and symptoms reported by those who have undergone the alien contact experience e.g. abduction experiences.

Also, Reiter's results are entirely consistent with the major premises of my electromagnetic pollution theory, i.e. that abductees are electromagnetically hypersensitive and that their CEIV perceptions are the result of irradiation by fields in the environment. Whilst Reiter's use of powerful magnets on the skulls of abductees is not so controlled as in Persinger's experiments, it is something that can be safely carried out by experienced investigators, and my own efforts have shown

that subjects who have had other anomalies also report cranial, nasal and ocular sensations, although I have found that the magnet has to be a powerful one, despite the fact that the skull is entirely transparent to magnetic fields. More of this in another article using Anne Silk's medical analysis of the effects and sensations induced. However, do try it, as I would be interested in the results obtained by others. (Magnets 1,000-2,000 gauss used.)

Another extensive experiment carried out by Reiter is even more interesting. Basically what he did was put magnetic field detectors into the homes of a number of abductees all over the USA, and found that they were triggered on the nights when a CEIV experience occurred, and not when no experience was reported. Again, this supports my conclusion that abductees are electromagnetically sensitive and their CEIV experiences are triggered by irradiation from transmitters in the environment. His results were confirmed when he tested subjects with life histories filled with anomalous events and encounters. Again, this supports my Unified Field Theory connecting the paranormal and UFO related encounters through electromagnetics, where I maintain that the latter is an extension of the former.

Extract from an unpublished paper by Nicolas Reiter, with intertextual comments by Albert Budden.

"It seemed logical, at the onset of the project I was about to undertake, to draw upon the results of my earlier research. As some readers may recall, my previous work in the field (which I refer to as *abductology*) concerns the relationship of magnetic and electromagnetic fields to anomalous events and experiences. This work was summarized in two reports published previously in the *Bulletin of Anomalous Experiences*: "The Magnetic Implant Response" (2.4) and "Magnetism, UFO Abductions and the Anomalous" (3.4).

For the purpose of clarification, I will briefly review these results and observations which, to a large extent, form the basis of this present work.

1. During the winter of 1990/91, it was observed that several UFO abductees experienced strong, unusual physical and mental sensations when large permanent magnets were held near specific areas of their heads.

2. In 1991, further investigations by myself revealed that out of a quasi-random selection of volunteers, a surprisingly large number (14 out of 50, or 28%)

experienced similar or near-identical sensations when magnet-tested.

3. Follow up interviews, extensive conversations, and a simple survey revealed that individuals who were magnet-responsive (MR+) tended to have life histories filled with anomalous events and encounters. Among these events were missing time, nocturnal paralysis, poltergeist activity and seeing 'ghost lights'. It seemed obvious that these are some of the types of phenomena reported so often by self-acknowledged and regressed abductees.

By late 1992 I was convinced that magnetic fields or modulation were very deeply connected with the abduction experience. An extraordinarily significant clue to the magnetic connection presented itself to me in the form of testimony from four independent experiencers/abductees.

These individuals, each without the knowledge of the other, reported that the sensations of the Magnetic Response (i.e. where magnets were placed on the head) were quite similar to those experienced either before or during an abduction event.

[From this it is clear that my proposal that electromagnetic fields trigger the CEIII/IV experience is supported quite independently. Reiter's subsequent work confirms this even further. AB.]

I desired to find answers to three basic questions:

1. Are abduction experiences and other anomalous activities accompanied by measurable magnetic disturbances?
2. Is it possible to show statistically that those who experience anomalous activities are to some extent more prone to magnetic disturbances than non-experiencers?
3. Would the presence of even a small mechanical device alter the 'routine' of abduction-type intrusions into some people's lives?

Objectives defined, I now settled on an operating strategy. A quantity of no less than ten discrete magnetic field disturbance indicators would be built by myself and distributed to volunteers. Among this group would be 'classical', hypnotically regressed abductees, experiencers of anomalous or ab-

duction-like events who had never been regressed, and at least two or three individuals who were, to their knowledge, non-experiencers. The devices, which I dubbed Magnetic Field Markers (or MEMs), would be set up by the volunteers in an in-home location where unusual events were likely to occur. In almost all cases, even those of the non-experiencers, this location was the bedroom of the volunteer.

The core of this project was the MEM itself, and the following criteria were considered for the form and function of this device:

1. The MEM would be a small purely mechanical indicator, relying on a magnetic compass-style pointer.
2. A deflection of the MEM from magnetic north would be recorded by a physical entrapment or "sticking" of the pointer in the deflected position.
3. The pointer, if tripped, could be easily reset by the user.
4. The MEM should be sensitive to magnetic disturbances at, or slightly below, the ambient geomagnetic field strength (typically 0.5 gauss in most of North America). How-

ever the MEM should, at the same time, be insensitive to micro and low milligauss variations. This would ensure that passing airplanes or trucks would not befuddle our statistics.

5. Quantitatively speaking, the MEM would provide only an indication of a magnetic event. Magnitude and direction of the activating field would not be discernible, except to confirm that said field was stronger than the minimum needed to cause deflection. Empirically this figure was found to be about 0.05 gauss.

Upon construction, all MEMs were set up and tested with a 2000 gauss magnet. Pointer deflection and sticking would occur when the test magnet was held at 90 degrees west of north with respect to the orientated MEM pointer.

On March 20th 1993, the first MEM (1) was set up in my residence as a control. I felt that since my life had been so agonizingly anomaly-free it would be interesting to observe what magnetic events if any might be detectable from natural or man-made sources. No deflections were discovered and I decided that a draft-blocking cover was desirable and a jar or cup was added. The MEM seemed completed and

relatively insensitive to any vibrations other than direct bumping or shaking.

By April 12th, MEMs 2, 3, 4, and 5 had been received and set up by volunteers. The project was in full swing! By mid-November, fifteen MEMs had been built and twelve had been put into service. As April turned to May, results began to trickle in, and some were surprisingly positive. I decided to distribute the suggestion to all volunteers that the MEMs be checked twice a day for 'sticks', once upon waking and once before retiring. Therefore we could compare daytime sticks with nocturnal ones.

How the MEMs were distributed:

MEM 1. This was left in my home.

MEM 2. This was given to Mr Green, a mechanic in his late thirties. Green resides in rural northwest Ohio and was a participant in the Magnetic Response experiment. Both Green and his wife have experienced close encounters with UFOs, and both have experienced several periods of missing time in their adult life. Other paranormal activity encountered by the Greens over the years includes poltergeist occurrences and nocturnal paralysis. MEM 2 was put into service on 4.12.93. [*Note the American*

system of dating is used here and throughout this paper. Thus 4.12.93 is 12th April, not 4th December. Ed.] It was set up on the dresser in the Green's bedroom.

On July 18th, Mr Green informed me that on the night of 15/16th something unusual had occurred in his house, and that in the morning he had discovered a 'stick' on the MEM. Green claimed that he had vague memories of being up and moving about the house in the early hours of the morning. He described a disturbing recollection of something having sex with him. The day after, Mr Green's penis became red and inflamed, and remained this way for several days.

When I visited him, I took an accurate Hall Effect magnetic gaussmeter. On the second storey we discovered an unusually high magnetic ambient and a very unusual region of magnetization in the Greens' bedroom closet. Also, the MEM could not be reset. It seemed that the dresser or the plastic of the MEM base was charged electro-statically.

Post-encounter soreness of the sexual organs is surprisingly common, and it is relevant to note that users of lap-top computers complain of the same thing. It is caused by the action of intense magnetic fields on the structural tubes, which inflame them, inducing a condition known as ductitis.

Table 1 : Results of the Magnetic Field Marker experiment with Mrs Brown

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>MEM stick</u>	<u>Day/night</u>
24.4	non noted	yes	night
7.5	A	yes	night
10.5	A (?)	yes	night
28.5	A and E	yes	night
14.6	F	no	-
3.7	A	yes	night
13.7	B	yes	night
20.7	A (?)	yes	night
26.7	D	no	-
29.7	F	yes	day
4.8	B	yes	night
17.8	F	yes	day
28.8	A and B	yes	day
25.8	A and B	yes	day
28.8	B	yes	night
31.8	C	yes	night
18.9	A (?)	no	unclear
30.10	C	yes	night
24.11	D	yes	night

MEM 3. This was used by Dr White who was considered to be a control, with an anomaly-free life. He reported a stick on 4.10.93, although it was not associated with any unusual event and he feels that it probably resulted from a bump to the MEM cover.

MEM 4. Used by Miss Pink who is a repeat experiencer of abduction events and who has been hypnotically regressed on numerous occasions. She would typically recall grey entities and apparent reproductive /quasi-medical protocols. MEM 4 was set up on April

12th about a meter from the bedhead. She kept a log of MEM sticks and unusual events. A total of 10 sticks were recorded, all of them nocturnal. Her log reads:

5.19. Odd event. Tape recorder on pause. I never use the pause switch - it's not easily accessible.

6.8. No stick on MEM but had an event I,m sure of. I was in my truck during the night - not under my control.

7.5 Sticker, event. Awoke with headache and eyes unfocussed.

7.12 Event, sticker.
8.3. Sticker. No event, I think, but possible.

8.25. Sticker. Awoke at 4 a.m., afraid.

9.19 Sticker. Awoke with slight nosebleed.

10.6 Sticker. Headache. Slight bleeding in right nostril.

10.11 Awoke abruptly at 3.14 a.m. with thought that I checked MEM, but actually did not. I checked later - there was a sticker. Had tender lower abdomen.

11.12 Sticker. Strong emotional event - definitely not a dream.

12.1 No sticker, but I woke up with some bruises that weren't there before. Sticker. Event - lost 25 minutes on watch.

No sticker. Watch batteries totally dead. Bruises on my leg again.

The results of this MEM are somewhat inconclusive and show up the fact that this device does not detect electrical fields, which would have triggered a hallucinatory event and could have induced physiological field effects. For me, this indicates the shortcomings of the MEM device.

MEM 5. This was used by psychotherapist/teacher Mrs Brown in the S.W. of the US. She is a life-long experiencer, now aged 50. Her experiences can be categorised:

- A. Abduction.
- B. Encounters with entities in dream-like

state.

C. OBEs

D Noted presence of invisible entities (sense of presence).

E. Unusual electrical activity around home.

F. Other lights blowing out, garage door opener activating spontaneously.

[It is significant that the sense of presence can be induced by irradiating the temporal lobe of the brain, and the unusual electrical activity is undoubtedly caused by power surges from local transmitters. A.B.]

The table on page 21 provides a more coherent view of Mrs Brown's unusual activities and their relationship with the MEM. Event types labelled A to E in the previous section.

MEMs 6 and 7. These two units were sent to a Canadian UFO researcher. It was reported that both were very difficult to set up, and neither were put into field use.

MEM 8. A second control. This unit was given to Mr and Mrs Teal who live approximately 30 meters due east of my home, and from 3.6.93 to the present there have been no sticks.

MEM 9. On June 17th 1993 it was set up in the bedroom of Mrs Indigo. She is a

mother of two and, along with her husband, is self-employed. She has apparently been the target of abductions and paranormal activity for most of her life. More recently, at least one of her children has displayed indications of nocturnal abduction events. Both Indigo and her eldest child have observed nocturnal LITS. She has experienced considerable peripheral anomalies such as poltergeist activity, a sulphurous smell in her house and difficult-to-explain telephone harassment. On July 12th 1993 I was speaking with Indigo on the telephone when a screeching, probably digital, tone jammed our conversation for about five seconds.

[This effect is typically due to a power surge affecting the telephone system. Similarly, it appears that intermodulation effects at hotspot locations can produce physical phenomena such as the movement of objects which can be identified as poltergeist cluster effects. Anomalous smells are typical of olfactory hallucinations induced by the destabilization of the brain's electrical activity. A.B.]

On the evening of June 13th Mrs Indigo observed a spurt of unusual electrical activity in her home. At least two light bulbs blew out violently, and several digital clocks in the house 'glitched' and reset themselves. The microwave oven became inoperative. The following morning, a stick was

found on the MEM. A second stick was found on the morning of June 23rd. Indigo had retained memories of an abduction-type event occurring during the night.

[Once again, these electrical anomalies are typical of power surges in the house from microwave transmissions, and it indicates the the location is in an EM hotspot. Reiter now relates a physical phenomenon typical of electrical hypersensitivity.]

Indigo claimed that after this her MEM was not resettable for several days. The pointer would cling to her fingers when a reset was attempted, as though her body was electrically charged. On July 1st, a third stick was discovered after a night when an abduction event apparently took place. Indigo claimed memories of entities and indications of a severe nosebleed on her pillow. Again the MEM was impossible to reset and remained so for at least a week.

Within the period between the July 1st event and the end of the year, Indigo claims that several other sticks were found on her MEM. However the dates and circumstances of these events are not known, because Mrs Indigo's notebooks went missing in December after an apparent break-in.

Such missing object events are sometimes indicative of auto-

matic behaviour, where the EH subject carries out the relocation of them and has no memory of having done so. I have one CE4 percipient on my files who went into the bathroom one morning to find potatoes scattered about, also due to automatism or 'missing time'.

MEM 10. In July, this was sent to Mr Orange in California. He has never experienced an anomalous encounter or paranormal event and no sticks were reported.

MEM 11. This was given to Mrs Purple and placed in her bedroom. On the morning of August 20th she awoke with memories of a disturbing dream. In it she had been leading a group of women through a large building on a cleaning assignment. She was surprised to discover blackish-brown dirt or material under her fingernails as she was dressing in the morning. A stick was found on the MEM.

This is also typical of automatic behaviour, and I would guess that Mrs Purple actually did some housework in an EH trance state during the night, which caused the dream. Had it occurred during the day it would have registered as a period of 'missing time'.

MEM 12. Mrs Purple gave her MEM to her next door neighbour, Mrs Yellow. She was a non-experiencer and no

sticks were recorded.

MEM 13. This was used by Mrs Blue who is in her early forties. She is a life-long experiencer. Several sticks occurred, but the log of these was lost.

MEM 14. This was given to an abductee, but no formal notes or records have been forwarded.

MEM 15. On November 17th the last MEM to be distributed was set up by Mrs Red in the eastern US. Both she and her husband are abduction experiencers. From November 1993 to February 1994 there were 20 abduction-type events recorded and 14 sticks associated with them. Six events showed no sticks on the MEM."

[Reiter continues this paper by describing MEM activity which began in his home. It is too lengthy to reproduce here, but it would seem that a magnetic anomaly appeared and, tellingly, he commented in a letter to me that his wife literally jumps from the sofa every time he begins to use an RF Tesla coil in the kitchen. I would guess than an RF transmitter has been newly set up in the locale which has created a hot spot in his home, and his wife has become sensitized to the RF fields it emits.]

Conclusion by Albert Budden

It will be clear to the reader that the MEMs that Reiter constructed were very simple devices and magnetic measurements could not be made. It just tells us either yes or no regarding the presence of a magnetic field, although even this simple indication may be compromised if the field was beam-like or otherwise localised to part of the room so that it did not affect the MEM.

In combination with the fact that electrical fields were not detectable by the MEMs, I think that this is why CEIII/IV events occurred without a 'stick'. Both magnetic and electric fields can trigger a reaction, and induce hallucinations in individuals depending on which they have become sensitized to, i.e. if they have been irradiated by magnetic fields then they will be more sensitive to these than electric fields, although when these are re-radiated by ferrous objects, a magnetic field will be produced also. The situation regarding field types and levels is not simple and one needs to read the literature, such as that listed in *Allergies and Aliens*.

However, this experiment is valuable in that it does show that magnetic and/or electromagnetic fields are, as Reiter concluded from his earlier work in which he placed strong magnets on the heads of abductees and paranormal experiencers, intrinsically involved in

such experiences. This in turn supports my central premise concerning the EH individual and electromagnetic pollution regarding the stimulus behind the CEIII/IV experience, and also my Unified Theory that 'visitations', whether by apparitions, entities or 'aliens', are both hallucinatory/visionary events, induced by electromagnetic hypersensitivity.

FURTHER READING

Albert Budden, *UFOs-Psychic Close Encounters: The Electromagnetic Indictment* (Blandford, 1995).

JOHN MACK ESCAPES CENSURE BY HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL

Paul Fuller

Pullitzer Prize winner, UFO author and professor of psychiatry John Mack has escaped censure from a panel of top academics at the Harvard Medical School for his controversial work with UFO

abductees. According to an unsigned statement issued by the panel, Daniel Tosteson, the dean of the School, met with Mack and "urged Dr. Mack ... not, in any way, to violate the high standards for the conduct of clinical practice and clinical investigation that have been the hallmarks of this faculty." The dean also "reaffirmed Dr. Mack's academic freedom" to conduct research into any subject he wishes. The statement confirms that Mack remains a "member in good standing" of the faculty.

Mack's supporters hailed the announcement as a triumph for academic freedom. However, according to the *Skeptic*, the key issues faced by the panel concerned Mack's public endorsement of witnesses who claimed to have been abducted by large-eyed, greyish aliens who sexually abused them, and his failure to submit the claims made in his controversial best-selling book *Abduction: Human Encounters with Aliens* to a peer-reviewed journal for independent evaluation.

According to the *Boston Globe* (August 3, 1995) the Medical School's preliminary report "chastised Mack for 'affirming the delusions' of this many patients who claim to have been abducted." It seems clear from the year long behind-closed-doors investigation that the faculty committee had to balance two difficult mutually incompatible issues - namely the perceived affect on the School's public credibility when one of its members is

seen to publicly endorse sensational claims and the issue of academic freedom to allow researchers the right to conduct research into new study areas. Clearly the outcome weighed in favour of the latter.

Mack's work has been investigated by a Special Faculty Committee headed by Arnold Relman, a former editor of *The New England Journal of Medicine* and an emeritus professor at Harvard Medical School. The committee have stressed on several occasions that they were not considering disciplinary proceedings or removing Mack's tenure. However, this didn't stop Mack from hiring several lawyers to defend his position. Boston lawyer Roderick MacLeish Jr, who represented Mack, reportedly said, "It's an issue of academic freedom. History has not been kind to individuals and entities that tried to suppress controversial or unorthodox viewpoints and this is that kind of case." Dr Arnold Relman stressed that "It was not our function to describe whether John Mack's astonishing claims are true. All we were asked to do was to determine whether he was using the kind of scholarship and rigor and commitment to the evidence that one would expect of a member of the Harvard faculty."

During a CBS radio interview with Klass on 12 May 1995, MacLeish stressed that the Committee was only interested in whether Mack had complied

with the University's standards and that the issue had nothing to do with whether aliens existed or not. MacLeish adds that Harvard's move against Mack was opposed by "volumes of letters from tenured professors in the fields of medicine, psychiatry, paediatrics and astrophysics saying: 'Look, this person has something important to say and he ought to be able to say it.' ". However, according to the *Washington Post*, August 14th 1995, Dr Relman claimed to have received "many, many complaints" from other members of the Medical School about Mack's claims.

A more revealing insight into this outcome is discussed in Klass' *SUN*. According to a letter issued by Mack supporter Daniel Sheehan, the key issue was outlined in a secret draft report prepared (without Mack's knowledge) by the Special Faculty Committee, which indicated that "it is professionally irresponsible for any academic, scholar or practising psychiatrist to give any credence whatsoever to any personal report of a direct personal contact between a human being and an extraterrestrial being until after the person...has been subjected to every possible available battery of psychological tests which might conceivably explain the report as the product of some known form of clinical psychosis".

Sheehan claims that the leaked report alleged that "to communicate in any way whatsoever to a person who has reported a 'close encounter' with an extraterrestrial life form that this experience might well have been real... is professionally irresponsible". Sheehan claims that the report made a specific finding against Mack that "such conduct on the part of Dr John Mack was 'in violation of the standards of conduct expected of a member of the faculty of Harvard University' ". Clearly this preliminary report was carefully modified prior to publication.

Mack appears to have responded to criticism of his research methodology by proposing a controlled experiment to compare 40 control subjects with 40 abductees to determine whether the abductees differ from the control group in terms of their mental well-being. However, according to Klass, Mack admitted during a 1994 CBS radio interview that he had subjected only 4 of his 90 abductees to the standard range of psychological tests.

Saucer Smear comments: "It looks like Harvard University psychiatrist and abduction researcher John Mack has beaten the rap regarding the effort to censure (and censor) his UFO work. The details are clouded

in academic top-secret security, but the announcement has been made that Mack will not be censured, though he was issued with "an unusual public warning from the Dean not to let his enthusiasm for UFO research steer him from the path of professionalism". According to the September 1995 issue of *SUN*, Mack has subsequently withdrawn from a two-day UFO conference to have been held in Connecticut, following advice from Dean Daniel Tosteson.

REFERENCES

Philip Klass, 'Dr Mack: Harvard to Conduct Experiment on "Abductees"', *Skeptics UFO Newsletter*, July 1995.
 'Abduction Therapist Boylan Loses License: Harvard Cautions Dr Mack', *Skeptics UFO Newsletter*, September 1995.

Michael Schermer (ed.), 'Harvard Professor Investigated for Alien Beliefs', *Skeptical*, 3 (1995).

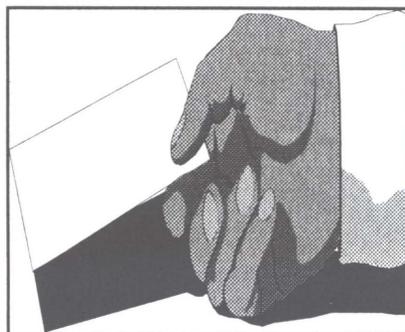
RIGHT TO REPLY

If you think an article is Castor and Pollux, say so. But please remember that invective directed at a particular individual rather than his argument can get you (and us) into serious trouble. Unfortunately there are people out there all too ready to sue at the drop of a hat or slip of the pen. They are a

nasty bunch (but don't tell them I said that!) - but the law is the law, and it's on their side.

Owing to the fact that space in this publication is finite, letters exceeding the maximum length of 600 words will either have bits taken out or be redirected to the Rambler's Association.

Write to us at: 293 Devonshire Road, BLACKPOOL, FY2 0TW. We look forward to hearing from you.



Albert Budden

To the Editor

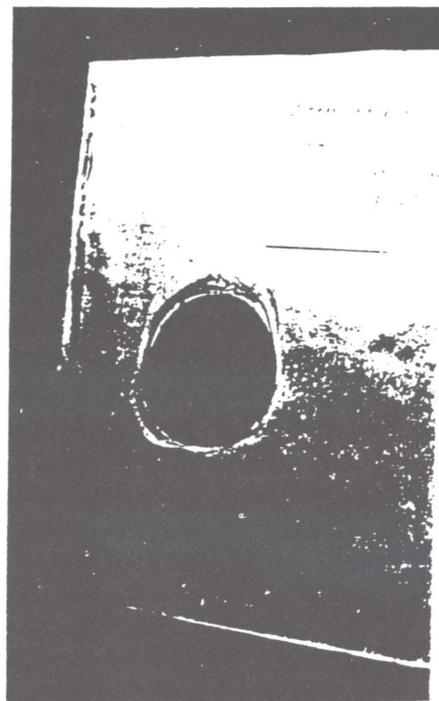
Kevin McClure writes (last issue): "The 'mutilation' near Bratton is apparently based on a non-expert report, uninvestigated by Albert Budden himself...I do not think that any such event has ever been recorded. That an entire [male sex organ] and an ear could be cauterised off by ball lightning coming out of the

body is beyond imagining."

I am not too sure what McClure means by 'a non-expert investigator', as this incident was investigated by Joe Dormer of the Fylde UFO Investigation Group (now LAPIS). Perhaps McClure could check with this long-standing group to discern their field experience and proficiency before dismissing them in this way. Has he seen their lengthy and in-depth case file on this event (which involved the police) as I have? Because if he has not, how could he assume such an absence of 'expertise'?

As far as doubting that ball lightning could have the ability to inflict the thermo-electrical damage described, I suggest he considers the following, taken from the *Guinness Book of Facts and Feats* (Guinness Superlatives, 1977):

"Evidence for damage by ball lightning comes from the University of Edinburgh, where on 8 July 1972 an almost circular hole of 1.9 by 1.8 inches (49 by 46 mm) was made in the window of the Meteorology Department. An irregular crack ran across the bottom of the pane, which broke when being removed. The remainder of the hole was photographed, and the missing circle of glass found intact inside the room. The edge piece, and that of the glass surrounding the hole, had a fused appearance on the interior of the pane, and was



(left) Damage by ball lightning to window of the Department of Meteorology, University of Edinburgh, 8 June 1972 (D.H. McIntosh). Also, (right) photograph from *Meteorology* by A.E.M. Geddes published in 1921, showing window damage by ball lightning in Aberdeen. (D.H. McIntosh)

smooth to the touch. A similar pane of glass was photographed and published in 1921 in a book entitled *Meteorology* by A.E.M. Geddes. The size of that hole is 2.5 by 2.3 inches" (see above photo).

If ball lightning can do this to glass, what could it do to the soft tissue of an animal such as a horse? Isn't this exactly the thermo-electric cauterising effect I describe?

McClure says he knows of `no

ball lightning case that even begins to relate to these parameters of size and duration, let alone apparent purposiveness'. Does he not know of the well publicized event of 24 February 1979 where an earthlight (not the same thing as ball lightning as he seems to think) was first spotted in a quarry in Bacup before travelling some 40 miles or so to the coast at Blackpool. It was sighted by quite a number of people who wrote to Jenny Randles, who was able to plot

its probable flightpath. This orange ball of light was reported as appearing as 'big as the full moon', and is but one example of many where this size was reported. I have one case in Poland where the BOL spanned the width of a small road and overlapped on either side. This was witnessed by a doctor and ambulance crew as it blocked their path in the middle of the night.

McClure asks why the good people of Amesbury, Andover

and the other surrounding towns saw nothing that night. How does he know they didn't see anything? Has he checked all the regional case files for reports of this UFO? Anyway, as these places were some distance away, it is unlikely that people in these towns would be able to view a low level light such as this miles away on Salisbury Plain.

McClure seems unaware that the Stonehenge case is typical, where lights such as this have been repeatedly reported as pacing cars and other vehicles. As far as regarding the case as a hoax, again McClure seems unaware of the checks investigators make. The central witness has a medical background (and history of paranormal events reaching back to childhood) which is invariably linked to UFO related events such as this one, the details of which she could not have known the significance of, especially as it was before the publication of *Allergies and Aliens*.

Dennis Stacy
Editor, MUFON Journal

To the Editor:

For some unfathomable reason, both Paul Fuller and Jenny Randles (*The New UFOlogist*, issue 2) seem to have gotten their Roswell reports seriously confused. The report to which they refer was issued by the Air Force, *not* the Government Accounting Office (GAO). It's

hard to see how the mistake was made, as the cover page of the report, above the official seal of the Department of the Air Force, clearly states: "Report of Air Force Research Regarding the 'Roswell Incident' ". Same is also stated on the attached "Memorandum for Correspondents", which accompanied the Air Force report. (I believe I provided Paul with his copy of the report, so maybe I should apologize if any of these pages were omitted!) The GAO report has yet to be made public, although I've heard that it may appear in as little as six months.

With this in mind, a few other points should be made. GAO auditors are granted the appropriate security clearances and access to *any* government agency documents, the CIA and Atomic ENERGY Commission included. In a nutshell, that's their job: they monitor government records in order to assure that proper procedures are followed. As far as the GAO itself and its ongoing audit goes, any 'UFO' at Roswell is purely a secondary issue. Whatever Roswell was, their mandate is simply to determine if the Army, Air Force and/or any other government/military agency that may have been involved followed proper procedure in terms of both handling of any internal documents and records, and in

their actions toward any civilians (i.e. were witnesses really threatened etc.?).

The Air Force report to which Fuller refers is merely the Air Force's initial response to knowledge of a GAO audit. It covers only Air Force records simply because that is the scope of their report. They could not be expected to examine CIA, AEC or even Army files and records, simply because they have no jurisdiction over, or special access to, same.

The Air Force Report is highly unusual in one regard, however. Instead of being released directly to the Government Accounting Office and Congressman Schiff's office, as would be proper protocol, it was made public at the Air Force's weekly Friday press conference. In other words, it was a blatant attempt to steal a publicity march on the GAO's own unreleased report. What repercussions this will eventually have on Air Force-GAO relations remains to be seen, but it can be assumed, without too much stretch of the imagination, that neither the GAO nor Congressman Schiff are particularly happy campers about it.

I don't expect the GAO audit to shake loose a saucer from the Roswell pantry, either, but it may ultimately turn out that the Air Force has been too clever by half by not handling the report properly. Other potential

fall-out remains to be seen. Of particular interest, however, is the fact that the Secretary of the Air Force released certain retired personnel from their security oaths, presumably allowing them to speak freely about Roswell in particular and not UFOs in general). Once the toothpaste is out of the tube, so the speak, it's pretty hard to put it back in. In other words, a legal precedent has now been established which will prove almost impossible to ignore or reverse in the future. At the same time, it will also make it more difficult for some "shadow" witnesses to raise the same defence: "Gee, I'd like to tell you guys all about the UFOs I saw when I was employed by the Air Force, but there's this little matter of my having signed a security oath...", wink, wink, nudge, nudge.

In the meantime, let's keep our own records straight regarding the as yet unpublished GAO report on Roswell, whatever the latter ultimately represents.

[The GAO report on Roswell was released on 28 July 1995. Ed.]

SKYWATCH

by Joe Dormer

January.

Mercury begins the New Year as an evening 'star' of magni-



tude 0.5. It is at greatest eastern elongation, 19 degrees, on the 2nd, after which its angular distance from the sun decreases until, on the 18th, it is at *inferior* conjunction (between us and the Sun). It then becomes a morning star.

Venus also begins the year as an evening star, and is a brilliant -4.0 magnitude. By the end of the month it is visible until about 10.30 p.m.

Mars is not visible this month, setting only minutes after the sun.

Jupiter is a morning object of magnitude -2.2. It can be seen in the constellation of Aquarius, rising about 6 a.m. toward the end of the month.

Saturn is an evening object of magnitude 1.2, setting at **8.30 p.m. on the 31st.**

Uranus is always difficult to see with the naked eye, and is anyway too near the sun to be visible this month.

Full moon falls on the 5th, at 9 p.m.

February

Mercury is a morning star which is at greatest western elongation (26 degrees) on the 11th. However, because the plane of the ecliptic is not steeply enough inclined to the horizon it rises little more than an hour before the sun, and the sky is already too light for it to be seen.

Venus and **Saturn** can be seen close together in the constellation of Pisces on the 2nd and 3rd, Venus moving increasingly further east of the ringed planet as the month progresses.

Mars is still too close to the sun to be visible.

Jupiter is still a morning object, rising at 4 a.m. by the 29th (leap year, remember).

Saturn is low in the evening sky and not easily observable.

Uranus, having passed through conjunction with the Sun, is now a morning object, but is still too close to the Sun to be visible.

Full moon is on the 4th at 4 p.m.

March

Mercury is at superior conjunction (on the far side of the Sun) on the 28th, after which it moves into the evening sky.

Venus' magnitude is now a brilliant -4.4 (the smaller the magnitude number, the brighter the star). By the end of the month, it remains visible until after 11 o'clock in the evening.

Mars still cannot be seen, though when it does become visible later in the year it will be a morning object, having conjoined with the Sun on the 4th.

Jupiter is now a -2.2 magnitude planet, rising before 3 a.m. by the end of the month.

Saturn is in conjunction with the Sun on the 17th and then becomes a morning star.

Uranus rises about 1 a.m. late in the month, but you will still need binoculars to see it in the constellation of Capricornus.

Full moon occurs on the 5th at 9 a.m.

CALENDAR

This section of The New UFOlogist is open to any UFO group or individual wishing to advertise a UFO event. Please send details of your event to the Editorial Address on page 2, listing the date, venue, title, speakers, contact name, address and telephone number, and any other relevant details.

20 April 1996

Conference: A Day of Abductions.

Venue: Pennine Theatre, Sheffield Hallam University, Pond Street, Sheffield.

Organized by BUFORA.

Speakers include Whitley Strieber (first time in the UK), Philip Mantle, John Spencer and Mike Wootten. British abductees, including Linda Jones, will be invited to relate their experiences. Further information and tickets from: 1 Woodhall Drive, BATLEY, W. Yorkshire, WF17 7SW. Tel: 01924-444049.

25/26 May 1996

Conference: Monuments to Life? (25th) / UFOs - No Defence Significance (26th).

Venue: The Great Hall, Imperial College, Princes Gardens, South Kensington, London SW7.

Organized by Quest International.

Speakers: Richard Hoagland, Nick Pope, Graham Hancock, Robert Bauval, Tony Dodd and Graham Birdsall.

Contact: 1st Floor, 66 Boroughgate, Otley, near LEEDS, LS21 1AE. Tel: 01943 850860.

1st June 1996

Conference : Monuments To Life ?

Venue : University of Leeds.

Speakers : Richard Hoagland, Graham Hancock, Robert Bauval.

Contact: 1st Floor, 66 Boroughgate, Otley, near LEEDS, LS21 1AE. Tel: 01943 850860.

20/21 July 1996

Conference: Supernatural Research.

Venue: Power House, Llanedeyrn, Cardiff.

Organized by the South Wales UFO Group.

Speakers include Nick Pope, Colin Andrews, George Wingfield, Dr Francesca Rossetti, Andy Russell and Michael Roll.

Contact: Kerry Blower, 10 Glaslyn Court, Croesyceiliog, Cwmbran-Gwent, NP44 2JE. Tel: 01633-874983.

SIGHTINGS UPDATE

Date: 19 November 1995

Location: Blackpool

Source: Joe Dormer, LAPIS.

At around 5.45 p.m. on the evening of Sunday 19 November, Gary Baildon (who has no objection to his name appearing here) was watching television in his upstairs flat in Bloomsfield Road, Blackpool, when the television went off and all the lights in the house went out. Thinking that a fuse had blown, he grabbed a torch and went downstairs. He then noticed that the streetlights, normally visible from a downstairs window, had all gone out. Opening the back door, he crossed the yard and leaned over the gate, but there were no lights to be seen either in the street or from neighbouring houses. It was then that he became aware of a bright light flooding the yard. At the same time he could hear a humming sound, with intermittent crackling. Turning round he saw a triangular object in the sky, lit around its perimeter with fluorescent-type lighting. Within a fraction of a second of his catching sight of the object, however, the lighting went out, though he continued to watch the unlit object as it glided across the sky from north to south.

This case is currently being investigated by LAPIS who have ascertained that there was a blackout in the area, affecting both houses and streetlighting (which are fed by separate generators!) and that there was also a blackout further north at Fleetwood around the same time.

There are some remarkable similarities between this and other reports of triangular UFOs sighted as far apart as Belgium, the US, Japan and England, which are said to announce their presence by a burst of bright light (often compared to sheet lightning) lasting only a matter of seconds; are accompanied by a humming sound; and appear within an hour of sunset. For the record, Gary also described 'a weird feeling..like you feel the presence of someone in the room' before the light actually came on, which is also commonly reported.

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN GERMANY ?

Werner Walter reports:

Werner Walter is the founder member of CENAP (the Central Investigations Network for unusual Aerial Phenomena) and editor of CENAP Times. He has investigated more than 150 UFO reports from all over Germany.

May I first of all explain that CENAP is one of the oldest UFO groups in Germany but, with only seventy members, one of the smallest. This is because we have a more sceptical and scientifically orientated approach to the phenomenon than most. In investigating sightings from all over Germany, we see as our primary task that of trying to separate what is the genuine phenomenon from what is not. Before we can be sure that there is a genuine phenomenon we have to get rid of all the IFOs, and that is a big problem because we have found from experience that even the best of witnesses - a fighter pilot in one instance and a university professor of astronomy in another - can be mistaken and mis-perceive ordinary, never mind unfamiliar, objects in the night sky.

Daylight Disks (DDs in the Hynek classification, which we use) are very seldom reported in Germany, and most of the photographs we have of these are either of poor quality or obvious fakes. Most witnesses report Lights-in-the-Sky, but people continue to see these in terms of alien spacecraft of the kind they read about in the papers or in the popular UFO literature. CENAP sees this as the main sociological problem facing UFO researchers, though I must add that this is not the view shared by most UFO groups. We have in Germany, just as in most other countries, a large community of UFO enthusiasts who organize

themselves into various UFO groups and subscribe to magazines with New Age or esoteric titles. They pose a problem for serious researchers by continually spreading wild rumours and publicizing sensational and dubious stories under the banner of "genuine well documented cases". All of this has a big influence on a gullible public who are taken in by all this stuff about Space Brothers from Venus or wherever. These people, such as the celebrated...[here Werner mentions a well-known UFOlogist whose name I'd love to print but daren't for fear of litigation. Ed.]...are shunned by serious researchers because they give UFOlogy a bad name. No doubt you have such people in England.

The frequency of reported sightings has doubled in recent years. This has been at least partly due to what we call the Skytracker: a laser device which, with a power output of 4,000 watts, can produce light effects as far away as 35-40 kilometres from the source. This has become something of a UFOlogist's nightmare.

Between July and October this year, people living in a triangular area bounded by the cities Worms, Mannheim and Weinheim began to report glowing objects, the apparent size of which was said to be twice that of the full moon, cruising round and round in the sky, often for hours at a time. In one case, the 'spaceship' (actual word used to describe it) remained in view the whole of the time the

witness was on the phone to me. With his hunting gun in his hand and stories of alien invasion spinning around in his head, he was, he said, preparing to defend himself against the extraterrestrials when they landed. When I explained to him that what he was seeing was a Skytracker device, he called me an idiot and hung up.

A week later the same man called back and reported the same phenomenon, but this time it had been seen by his wife and daughter on the Highway between Viernheim and Weinheim. And because it was raining everyone could see the beams of light projected from the ground high into the clouds. Meanwhile a police patrol in Mannheim had tracked down the source of this light to a disco in Lampertheim. After this mystery was solved and an officer on night duty at the police station had explained to me the origin of these UFOs', I issued a press statement, since which time I have been able to get a good night's sleep. (Perhaps I should explain that most witnesses call me immediately after spotting the UFO.)

Now to CE3 and CE4 cases. We have had a trickle of these over the last couple of years, but they have all followed a familiar pattern. In one case an elderly woman called me only a few minutes before the witching hour from the Austrian/German Border because

an alien Grey was in her bedroom. She could see it clearly in the corner, she said, even as she spoke to me. Moments later her husband, returning home from work and hearing his wife wittering on about an alien entity in the room, grabbed the phone and said: 'You should have realized that my wife is crazy. She sees a UFO every time an aeroplane crosses the sky, and everyone else can see it's only an aeroplane. Now my wife reads books on UFO abductions and believes she sees aliens all around her.' And with that he hung up.

Although I know this is contrary to what other investigators have found, in all the cases we have looked into involving aliens and alien abductions, we have found the subject to be psychologically disturbed. In two cases, the subject was receiving psychiatric treatment.

Meanwhile reports continue to come in and people go on believing what they want to believe.

Werner Walter.