

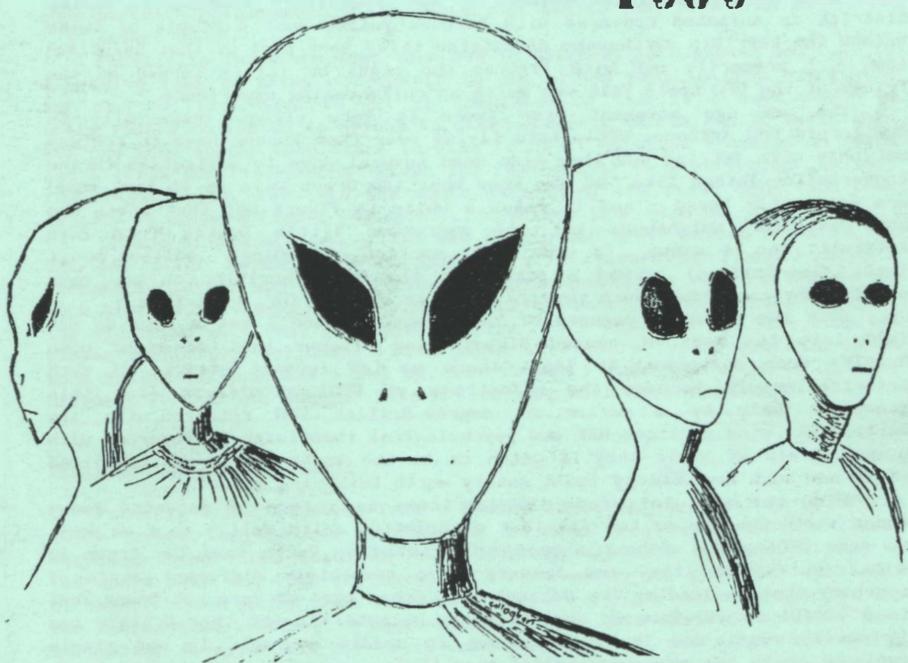
NORTHERN NEWS

UFO

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NORTHERN UFO NEWS SUBS: £6 for 6
EDITOR: JENNY RANGLES COVER: BILL CALLAGHAN

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J. R. Comments . . .

In the last editorial I commented on some of the good things about American UFOlogy. I have now had the chance to sample them first hand with a lengthy tour over there, coinciding with the release of my book ABDUCTION as a US paperback edition (Inner Light). Whilst I will write a stark fuller account of what transpired elsewhere, here is a good place to make a few remarks.

I was in fact out mostly in the 'wild west' of the country (and, quite literally, its UFOlogy) and - aside from the chilling experience of strolling the streets of San Francisco's fashionable Marina district in animated converse with Jacques Vallee just a couple of weeks before the terrible earthquake devastated this very part of that beautiful town - I primarily met with figures who might be fairly termed on the fringe of the UFO field. This was quite an enlightening experience.

The new age movement over there is very strong (especially in California and Arizona). UFOlogists flying over from Europe have to contend not only with jet lag but they also need several days to acclimatize to the conversation. Things like 'Do you know what the Grays were up to last week' are frequently heard - and it takes a while to figure out that these are not next-door neighbours but the aggressive little brutes from Zeta Reticuli who, it seems (a wide cross section of UFOlogy believe, or at least semi-believe) agreed a pact with the US authorities on how many people they can abduct each year in order to consume (er, eat) them.

Even the sensible members of the community (and I met a few) do not fall into the sort of amazed disbelieving stupour that we might upon hearing such statements. At least there are few fervent attacks of such material, largely because the mainstream of UFOlogy differs from this viewpoint only by a matter of degree. British UFO research, with its earthlights, wind vortices, UAP and psychological theorising is regarded with a quaint air of 'well they'll catch on to the truth sooner or later and right now such non-UFOlogy isn't really worth bothering about'.

I do not mean to parade the Americans as a race of paranoid loony tunes (although one or two fit that description quite well - as, I am sure, do some UFOlogists without a passport granted by Uncle Sam). The truth is more complex than that and focuses on a completely different style of approach that is leading the subject into areas that we dare not tread. That is a useful consequence in some respects, because I doubt that Britain has it wholly right and it is dangerous to saddle yourself to one single explanation in the misguided belief that UFOlogy is a scientific easy touch.

Incidentally, I did rather innocently provoke a minor row over my comparison between the *International UFO Reporter* and *MUFON Journal* in the last issue. I was not of a mind to damn one in favour of the other. I termed IUR 'the best regular UFO magazine in the world' and MUFON as suffering more from an ET bias 'although still a very worthy and essential read'. I thought that was non-contentious enough but heady debate ensued between myself and the two editors (Jerome Clark - IUR and Dennis Stacy - MUFON) and, whilst I don't intend to change my comments because I still consider them accurate, I promised to quote Dennis from a letter which he copied to Jerome and which, I gather, the IUR do not fundamentally disagree with.

It seems the primary difference stems from MUFON being monthly (and so more news orientated) and IUR being bi-monthly and tending to concentrate more on deeper, reflective pieces as opposed to raw, undigested 'hot' items. This naturally provides a very different flavour.

Dennis says: "While not to put too fine an edge on pigeonholes, I suppose you could say the CUFOS journal *educates*, while MUFON's *informs*, though obviously there are shades of overlap here as well. One more resembles a magazine, the other a newspaper... I would hope you might advise your own subscribers that both are absolutely necessary..." Well, I thought I did that - However, I do endorse these arguments. If you can afford two (let alone one) of the American giants (as cost wise they both knock spots off British subscriptions) then they will keep you *au fait* with the UFO scene in the most active, controversial and exciting nation in the world.

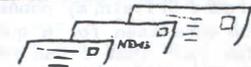
You can always keep in touch with what you are missing if you don't read these two fine journals, because I tantalise readers with the 'For your perusal' column; showing the variety of topics they both cram in.

Advert over!

Finally, to those who fret when NUN is slightly late, please don't. It is a massive task to bring out and it is not always easy to drop everything for four or five days to get it completed on time. If I have books to write, visits to the US to attend to, other domestic chores, and so forth then NUN can only appear when there is time to do it. We haven't missed an issue and I think our timekeeping (given the restraints) is pretty good, as very few issues spill over into the month succeeding the issue date (and then usually by no more than a few days)... so please bear with us.

Oh, and if you are one of the 250 people who wrote whilst I was in the USA and still haven't had an answer, try to understand. I don't have a secretarial staff and letters flood in at a prodigious rate. If I spent as much time as necessary to reply in detail to them all (especially those of the agonising sort that go something like - 'I know you are very busy, but please answer the following five pages of closely typed questions in as much detail as possible - and by next Friday') then NUN would be quietly slipping further and further into a time warp with each new issue.

NEWS ROUND UP:



.. Recently I had a letter from a reader of one of my books in Holmfirth (West Yorks) who claimed that he had a possible solution to the famous Wessenden Head close encounter (the floating egg seen by Alan Fallows on the moors near the town in August 1975). The writer is a teacher who tells of a 1987 conversation with a short term craft teacher (name unrecalled and now untraceable, believed to be in Saudi Arabia). This man had reputedly been an amateur inventor and had spent some time 'several years ago' attempting to invent a novel type of polythene. He allegedly moulded a large mass of this into a balloon, which was pumped full of air in his moorside garden near Oldham. At 20 feet diameter it blew away and he was 'highly amused' to hear sightings of UFOs over the next few days. Whether this is in any way relevant we do not know, because the Alan Fallows sighting was not reported in the media at the time. But if accurate the story certainly could be a plausible explanation. Apparently, at no time was the 'inventor' told of the teacher's UFO interest or his knowledge of the Holmfirth 'egg'.

:: In the wake of his successful (and ongoing) BOLIDE project, sharing data on UAP, Hilary Evans now launches SLIDE (Street Lamp Interference Data Exchange). A forum for cases, anecdotes and comments on humans said to be able to interfere with streetlamps mentally. Interested? Send an SAE to Hilary at:- 59 Tranquil Vale London SE3 0BS

GLASNOST UFO STYLE:

Few people can be unaware of the amazing news greeting me a couple of days after arrival home from the USA to the (ah) 'sanity' of Britain. The Soviets had finally caught a landed UFO with giant pilots. The truth was out. We were *not* alone. The universe had forever changed... or had it?

We can trace the genesis of this tale back to high summer. When Britain was basking in a heat wave and a silly season crop of circle mania the Soviets were being invaded by UFOs. The *Financial Times*, no less, lead the way on 5 Aug with 'Glasnost helps open up a whole new world'; explaining how in the light of new liberalisation policies State TV was having the Soviet version of Russell Grant, clairvoyants, faith healers and assorted loonies prancing around on screen all the time. Surprise, surprise people started seeing UFOs. Fireballs, lights and a sighting by children in Vologda where a bunch of LITS that wouldn't even tax Steve Balon's fabled investigatory prowess too much cavorted about the skies for days on end and resulted in a 'giant' alien without a head going for a stroll in a nearby meadow.

Meanwhile, back on the commune, Soviet Military Review was quoted at length by the *erudite Sunderland Echo* (?) (26 Sept) expressing grave fears that these pesky UFOs might cause a bit of a problem if a missile were accidentally fired or 'star wars' laser beams triggered into action. The Grays would no doubt decide to up their quote of human strogonoff.

Little did they know it, but as the *Echo* reported darkly on this major policy statement, the industrial city of Voronezh, three hundred miles south east of Moscow, was undergoing its own version of space sickness. Of course, said news arrived in the west care of the super efficient Soviet postal system two weeks later, after they changed ponies.

At 3.21pm on Monday, 9 October, after teletypes clattered in news offices around Britain, my phone rang and those paragons of truth and virtue at the *Sun* were keen for a quote about this latest Russian saga. Bluffing through the fact that I had no idea what they were talking about I filled their heads with tales about UAP, earthlights and 'safe' UFOlogy and obviously left the poor old reporter thumbing through his address book for the next UFOlogist to try and coax (hoax?) into an unguarded quote.

By evening I had done more interviews (including a live piece on BBC Radio in London), had swapped notes with other besieged UFOlogists and was at least moderately aware of the 'facts' now featuring in major evening papers and almost every national the following morning (10 October).

Most of the locals just carried an agency story, devoting large space and serious treatment and adding their own headlines. These ranged from the sedate to the silly, but the *Leicester Mercury* was typical with 'Space aliens have landed on earth, say Soviets' - showing the amazing degree of credence given to what reads like a tabloid contactee yarn.

Few papers chose to trivialise it. The *Manchester Evening News* linked it in with the selection of Britain's first astronaut and praised his skill at karate, saying he might need it now in space! One or two went for local angles, getting quotes from their resident UFO spotter. You don't need two guesses who was the quickest group to seize the initiative and plug themselves. We had the *Doncaster Star* telling us that 'a South Yorkshire space watch group has today said that it believes reports from Russia that aliens from outer space landed... (Paul White of) the Aetherius Society said that detailed reports had to be given credence... "We are not flying saucer spotters because they only collect evidence and store it in the hope of proving one day that UFOs exist. We *accept* they exist..."... Quite.

The friendly Aetherians were spreading the gospel according to George King to the one viewer watching Sky TV that day (hands up if it was you?) and also in the *London Evening Standard*, where Chrissie Aubrey (complete with model Adamski spaceship) explained how she used the opportunity to pressure the MoD, because ... (followed by a page of usual Aetherian waffle about cosmic masters). The harrassed spokesperson at Air Staff 2 replied by saying if a spaceship hovered over Aldershot they might be interested but; "This Russian thing is no big deal and has absolutely nothing to do with us."

In mainstream UFOlogy we had the *Birmingham Mail* explaining that 'Aliens fear us - Boffin' and quoting said 'boffin' (dear old John Hurley) advising the Soviet aliens were on a reconnaissance mission to "assess our firepower" because they were scared of us (You now have a choice, folks, they are either here to guide us, fear us or eat us). DIGAPs Arthur Tomlinson was also cited by them as being sceptical because the Soviet aliens were not like our usual visitors - "4' 6" with a large bald head, bug eyes, a grey-blue skin, no nose or ears and slit for a mouth." Who looked in the mirror?

The *Irish Times* had Conor O'Clery reporting direct from Moscow so had more; explaining how the ONLY Soviet press headline (in a small newspaper) was 'Sensation' and noting that it came hot on the heels of a Russian claim to have captured the yeti on 21 September (sadly, probably keen to try the Sunday Sport for a higher offer, the yeti had escaped from the boot of its captor's car on route to a press conference). This paper at least set the sighting in some sort of proper sociological context.

Most dailies stuck to the press release. Yet who would credit a headline in the *London Times* soberly reading 'Ten-foot tall aliens invade Russia - official'?

The *Daily Star* (naturally) went mad, giving a front page lead and a full inside page. The aliens (otherwise 12 foot or 10) were shrunk by them to 9 feet (Star journalists can only work with as many numbers as they have fingers). They further alleged that Voronezh was a "City in terror as spaceship lands in park," taking the basic report and jazzing it up in such a way that there was no bull - just clear statements that the spaceship left behind 'substances never found on earth before'.

The *Express* had a lovely quote from Yuri Sidorov, London TASS correspondent; "We are a serious agency and do not report things that are not true. Personally, I do not believe in flying objects, but if TASS says something it must be so." The story, completed by a couple of bogus pictures, interviewed its UFO expert Steve Baloney - reputed to have 'studied the subject for 28 years' (which given his age means he was the only UFOlogist to need a nappy change during his first investigation)... "I have every reason to believe this is genuine" ; Steve nodded sagely.

But it was *Today* who this time played it big. They had two major features. The first had an illustration of a giant alien stood next to a human. One problem - they forgot to tell the artist that the aliens were supposed to have tiny heads. The tale also claimed that a 'leading Russian scientist' had said there was 'no doubt' the aliens had landed. He was Genrikh Silanov, of a local geophysical lab - hardly a Nobel prize winner.

Next day (11 Oct) Ms Aubrey and her model spaceship rode again and Richard Lawrence had warming news from ET.

"We're damn lucky they are friendly. If they were 'nt London could have been obliterated or invaded by now." Maybe Londoners give them indigestion.

Amid claims that the world was eagerly awaiting news of the Russian aliens Tony Dood, YUFOS and co were now in on the act.

They broke the news that a spaceship with two live aliens (giants or Grays?) was shot down over South Africa earlier this year. Neither *Today* nor YUFOS tell you the source of this tale was a few months ago on trial at the Old Bailey for orchid smuggling. After a plug for UFO World '89 (ta!) the article peters out into more dubious claims (eg 'In 85% of sightings the aliens are four feet tall with very large heads' or Tony Dodd alleging that the Soviet alien description is "a fairly regular one" (since when?).

Such was the sobriety of the treatment that for the first time ever (on Tuesday 10 October) all four British TV channels featured the story on key news bulletins. More importantly BUFORA was represented on them all, with Mike Wootton (journal editor) featuring on BBC news and 'Newsnight' (BBC-2) and yours truly on the ITN counterparts. We both stressed the Soviet use of UFO stories for propoganda and I had more time so was able to talk about the way Glasnost and the media freedoms were leading to a need to become more discriminatory about dubious tales, as the west had faced for years. Newsnight had the interesting theory that increased competition in the Soviet press was to blame. Pravda had lost 4 million readers since Glasnost and (they hinted) was learning from the Sunday Sport and Daily Star!

So what is the truth? I am grateful to the many journalists who helped me out (especially reader Paul Jackson who sent copies of the original teletype messages spread over two days as they came out of Russia). Through my association with a half hour investigative radio programme on Southern Radio linked by Tommy Boyd (transmitted 15 October) I was also able to garner more details direct from a reporter working on the case in Moscow.

The sightings are spread over several days between 23 and 27 September (at least 3 of them). They occurred less in a park and more on a bit of waste recreation ground beside blocks of flats. It was 6.30 pm (duskish) and none of the many adults in the flats saw anything. The prime witnesses are a group of boys playing football who repeatedly saw strange lights fading in and out and eventually a tall silhouetted three-eyed figure inside a pink ball that was hovering low on the horizon (near venus). The children (aged between 13 and 16) were pretty scared. At one point the alien seemed to point something at a youth and the youth disappeared, reappearing minutes later when the UFO vanished. But this disappearance is suspect because there was a lot of panic and it was getting dark amidst the undergrowth.

The UFO did leave marks behind (or rather marks were found on the waste ground in daylight later). These were some ordinary reddish rock and a rough circular patch with indentations. A Soviet boffin wandered around doing ESP tests to 'sense' the route the aliens took and when he 'tuned in' the kids confirmed this was the same route they saw the beings stroll along. The scientist quoted by the British papers as confirming that the aliens had landed (geophysicist Silanov) really said the following: "The rock they described as extraterrestrial is in fact a piece of iron ore which could easily have originated on earth... There was a landing site, or something resembling one, but the symmetrical depressions could also result from the leak of an underground pipe or cable, an underground reservoir or other geological feature. Don't believe all you hear from TASS... We never gave them (some) of what they published."

Much of this went unreported in the USSR, as I learnt when I told them what I had found out when asked to do an interview for Moscow radio on 17 October. They were fascinated and I took the chance to tell them about Soviet space launches masquerading as UFOs! In return they were then quite keen to know about US stealth aircraft being tested under the camouflage of UFOs. The KGB obviously read Northern UFO News!!!

FOR YOUR PERUSAL



Major articles elsewhere

UFO Times Sep 1989 (BUFORA Sub £16.50: 16 South Way Burgess Hill RH15 9ST)
Another pleasing issue ranging over circles, statistics, cases, photographic analyses and a full review of what you missed at the July ICUR congress.

MAGONIA Oct 1989 (£3, for 4, 5 James Terrace Mortlake London SW14 8HB)
An American special, with Dr Eddie Bullard and Dennis Stacy examining the abduction and MJ-12 themes and justifying the approach of US researchers.

ENIGMAS Sep 1989 (£6, for 5, 4 Woodlea Park Sauchie Alloa FK10 3BG)
A lively little magazine relating all the news and activities (UFOs, ghosts etc) of the SPI. Always worth a look especially for Scots who have emigrated

IUR Jul/Aug 1989 (\$35, for 6, 2457 W Petersen Av, Chicago, IL 60659 USA)
Focuses on abductions in Australia and Italy and Paul Fuller and Wim van Utrecht devastate the UNICAT data base.

MUFON Journal (\$30, for 12, 103 Oldtowne Rd Seguin Texas 78159-4099 USA)
(Jul) debate rages over Kenneth Ring's imaging hypothesis, the MJ-12 affair winds on... (Aug) the explosive Las Vegas conference fully reviewed.

JUST CAUSE Sep 1989 (\$15, for 4, PO Box 218 Coventry CONN 06238 USA)
An explicit destruction of MJ-12 and those associated with it. Fascinating.

STRANGE 4 (\$19.95, for 4, PO Box 2246 Rockville MD 20852 USA)
This US clone of Fortean Times is every bit as good and is packed with much amazing stuff, including quite a bit more about UFOs (being as it reflects the American subculture). Treat yourself - you won't be disappointed.

CAVEAT EMPTOR Fall 89 (\$16, for 4, PO Box 4533 Metuchen NJ 08840-4533 USA)
Gets better every issue... an irreverent look at the American UFO scene which isn't afraid to say what it thinks, and that is usually sensible.

BOOKS OF THE MOMENT



Whilst in the USA Whitley Strieber's latest diatribe escaped. Entitled 'Majestic' I think you can guess the theme. Published AS a novel it takes the Roswell 'UFO crash' in 1947 with a few facts but mostly speculative fiction (involving many real people). Confused? You will be. The reviews I have seen are saying its moderately dull. American UFOlogists are not best chuffed at their prize case being half-inched for a feeble sci-fi plot and from my flip through it in a San Francisco store (probably now a pile of rubble - which should account for a few copies, anyway) Strieber also brings in the David Langford 'Denizens of another world' book - one of the most obvious recent hoaxes, which the author has at least had the decency to admit as such in 'New Scientist'. That it pops up in 'Majestic' is a shame.

'Communion: The Movie' premiered in the US as this magazine reaches you (coming here soon). I spoke to some who have seen private showings. They say it is like a Hitchcock psychological thriller with very low key special effects. You are left puzzling over the reality level of the events.

BUFORAs "Controversy of the Circles" is selling out its reprints as fast as they appear. A few copies are (currently) to be had for £4.20.

Brand new from BUFORA (edited by yours truly with contributions from dozens of UFOlogists) is UFO WORLD '89. Like its predecessors this reviews all the key events, news and cases in world UFOlogy; although this time from two of the most momentous years in UFO history (1987 and 1988). At 52pp and 20,000 words its a bargain at just £2.25... As a limited special offer to clear the last few copies of the first two in this annual series - for a total of just £4 you can have UFO WORLD '86 and '87 thrown in as well.

All cheques/po's to BUFORA Ltd please (available via our NUN address).

EARTHLIGHTS REVELATION 1989 Paul Devereux 240pp
£12.95 Hardback published by Blandford Heavily illustrated (inc colour)

I took a pre-publication copy of this little gem on the 24 planes I flew criss crossing the USA. In doing so I read it twice and enthused about it to those who cared to listen. Its the most enjoyable and important UFO book I have come across in a decade (Strieber, Hopkins and Good all not excepted). I wouldn't say that I support it 100%, but 80% is of exceptional significance to UFO research. You owe it to yourself to find out why.

Am I going over the top? Perhaps. But this is a big improvement on Devereux's 1982 book 'Earthlights', putting the subject of geophysically created UFOs into such firm perspective that you need to be brainwashed by the 'Grays' not to recognise its potential. A large factor in why it is so much more persuasive is that it includes (fully credited) material from David Clarke and Andy Roberts on Pennine cases and geologist Dr Paul McCartney on theories. This is the ultimate book about lights in the sky.

I guess you imagine that UAP are much less exciting than 'real' UFOs. But we know that UAP exist and they are eminently open to scientific evaluation. That is what this book does so well. It offers a nation by nation, region by region, review of UFO windows and the work done in them and shows beyond a shadow of a doubt that SOME (very probably many - quite possibly most - and maybe even all) UFOs seen there are the product of physical and chemical processes triggered by the earth itself.

Still, I do have some reservations. His over-exuberance, for one, and zest to use this work to decry UFOlogy for not listening since 'Earthlights' came out. He tries to apply his ideas literally to everything - and that grates a bit. He may be right in re-assessing the Kenneth Arnold case as an earthlight formation because of the tectonic activity in the region, but other hypotheses (eg misperception) are disregarded and here, as at other times, you wonder if he force-fits any case into the earthlights slot on the strength of relatively weak circumstantial evidence.

You see this further when he bubbles about fault lines in and around the village where Margaret Fry lives (Llangernyw, North Wales) and so explains why she has reported so many LITS in the pages of this magazine. Unsaid (but vital) is the fact that an active UFOlogist in a small local community boosts the number of cases they receive by a process of social awareness. That fault lines around about MAY be important (but may equally be a coincidence). Britain is, after all, riddled with them.

Most will have greatest difficulty accepting the author's claim that earthlights explain 'solid' UFOs, abductions, cover-ups, Uncle Tom Cobble and all. That he gets carried away is best seen by his interesting resolution of the CE 4 from Hopkins 'Intruders'. Naturally, it's an earthlight - an example that is not his strongest case and will no doubt enrage American UFOlogy.

I also found a bit odd his decision to use the Mrs B 'Dynasty abduction' (which NUN readers will be very familiar with) as typical of the CE 4. He claimed we wouldn't have seen its true nature but for the coincidental arrival with the Dynasty show still fresh in the mind, but I doubt that. The case has other extreme features. Also important; none of the links that thread the truly impressive CE 4s together (eg see my book 'Abduction' or Eddie Bullard's work) seem to be understood by Devereux.

The 'Pennine' cases in here are selective too. They focus on the many UAP but ignore the strange tales of consistent UFOs (eg the ones with three 'bumps' underneath). I can think of several MUFORA cases in and around Macclesfield/Buxton which don't strike me as earthlights. Overall I was left vaguely worried about the sweeping assumptions on offer about all sightings.

In truth I do think he is onto something vitally important, but the very fact that crop circles, Terence Meaden and ionized vortices don't even figure once in the text illustrates somewhat graphically that Paul Devereux has not got all the answers - only some of them. This book may seem to spell the end of the alien UFO. It doesn't do that. But the beginning of the end..?

MEDIA MATTERS:

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A look at UFOs in the public eye



The Sunday Sport lost one of their prime resources in August with the sudden death of UFO pundit Rex Dutta. His demise was featured in the Aldershot Mail (22 Aug) where he was said to be "a leading authority on UFOs". Right up until the end he was supplying the goods.

The tales from this wonderful rag have continued to plumb the depths. On 14 May the East Anglian UFO Society (composed of Brenda Butler and erstwhile BUFORA man Ron West - and easily the most successful self promoters of the last year) were behind "Housewife's Kinky alien love jelly" - where we learn that they have uncovered the shocking truth about how aliens smother abductees in "nookie jelly" before "submitting them to frenzied bonking sessions". One member of the group told of how "the dirty little green men" had tried it out on her but she has forgotten what happened to her next. Shame!

David Barclay - who hosted the recent IUN conference (!) was the Sport's ace correspondent on 11 June in 'Alien gin and tonic fell in my lap'. Because (and there really was nothing more to the story than this) some big hailstones fell in Wales during the summer, Barclay unbelievably told them; "I have studied UFOs for more than 40 years and this ice must have fallen from one. It's logical. Oh yes?"

Getting ever sillier, Rex Dutta gave one of his last performances in support of the 25 June story; 'Alien showed me 100-inch space whoppas... all three of 'em'. You don't want to read any more of that, do you? Oh well, alright. Apparently, a Watford electrician was stopped in his car by "this horny creature... I was strangely drawn to it, especially when it started stripping off... She told me in a sexy voice 'Hundreds of us from venus have picked Britain for our summer hols this year. The only drawback was the British weather, but we've managed to do something about that.'"

So - there you have it. Andy Collins, in his recent book, brought you the secrets of the great October 1987 hurricane. Now we bring you the truth behind the heat wave of summer 1989. You don't believe it? Rex Dutta did. "They can control weather - no problem" he assured the Sport.

Rex was back one last time (alias Rex Dutter - all those lovely quotes and they can't even spell his name right!) The exclusive (9 July) was 'Alien loveslime killed my petunias'... apparently a courting couple on some guy's lawn were really aliens because all his flowers died off afterwards. Rex was ready to save the world's floral life. He said that the alien slime was deadly to plants and dangerous to humans, advised the witness to keep off the grass (and the pot too, no doubt) and assured; "Aliens have the ability to take on any form they wish. It is highly probable they took on the form of a copulating earth couple." Quite.

They will miss dear Rex - certainly more than UFology will. But the Sport wasted no time in recruiting replacements. Dave Kelly (of the IUN yet again - come on lads what are you playing at?) endorsed their yarn of a man whose unremembered car crash was the result of a hit and run spaceship! There may be something in this case, but the IUN surely should know by now how much damage they can do to UFology by helping the Sport spin tales.

And to complete the trio - Philip Mantle (yep, of the IUN!!!) was centre stage on 8 October backing another, er, 'mildly suspect' saga where some bikers claimed 'alien hells angels' - "green and seven feet tall...wearing swastika covered German war helmets" and with "long hair, beards" and ponging "to high heaven" had attacked them with V signs and graffiti. Philip says; "I have dealt with a number of similar cases..."

I will be pleased to withdraw my censorship of these silly remarks as soon as Philip proffers reports on any other ET bikers on his files!

Come on the IUN - you are highly regarded in the field and have too much sense for this. Don't compromise your credibility any further.

Finally, it seems that comedian Eric Sykes has a new TV comedy series on the way entitled "The UFOs are coming Wednesday." Can't wait.

UPDATES:

Mundrabilla... The case bubbles on. According to the more esoteric researchers in Australia (ie Victoria UFO Research Society) the black ash recovered from the car still defies description, but had such a high chlorine concentration it is staggering. The witnesses have been medically monitored in the 18 months following the event. Mrs Knowles effected hand still reputedly swells up at night and psychiatric evaluation and hypnosis has revealed neither evidence of fabrication nor any 'abduction' features. However, VUFORS are still searching because they believe four hours went missing from the night drive (even though the witnesses never mentioned or noticed it). They also now believe the caravan that the Knowles say they swerved to avoid hitting (and which has never been traced) was actually a UFO. It was called a car and caravan because "they were the only words (the driver) had to describe that image". VUFORS claim to be the largest UFO group in the southern hemisphere and the third largest in the world. They also seem pretty big on talking themselves into inflated belief systems.

Silent Vulcan... A detailed case file has just been submitted by Clive Potter and Kevin Flannery of LUFOIC/SKYSCAN on the case at Abbots Bromley in Staffordshire on 22 September 1987 - one of the best on record of the 'silent vulcan'. This type has dominated the Midlands in recent years (see UFO World '89 for summary report). This new excellent four witness sighting of a very close approach is the best evidence yet for a remarkable UFO.

Clive Potter concludes the report with the comment that it is believed the UFO is a secret military device (eg an airship) and the incredible consistency from case after case explains why we have adopted that view. In the past few years NUN has been full of cloned reports. See, for instance, the South Wales triangle UFO of January 1983 (featured in the BBC Wales TV documentary that I made on these in 1984) and the Burnley case of January 1985 in UFO World '86... Indeed, as I write another case has come via Jodrell Bank from Delamere Forest in Cheshire, occurring on 23 October 1989 under MUFORA follow-up now... It is fascinating to notice how many of these sightings occur around the 22/23 of each month, for some reason.

BRIEF CASES:

Some current investigations

CASE 6103 MUFORA 21 June 1963 Winton, Worsley, Lancashire H. Hudson C5-5

The witness, Mrs G, originally contacted SKYSCAN in Worcester, then LUFOIC in the Midlands. After a year when Eric Morris of the Cheshire group had it (for some reason) but nothing happened, it eventually found its way to MUFORA. Aside from getting an R1 from the witness no follow up was possible as she was elderly, infirm and not on the telephone.

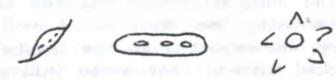
The woman had "never forgotten" the incident and it is indeed an impressive one. At 01.00 on this summer morning (warm with a clear sky) she was with one other person (whom she refuses to name for personal reasons). From her bedroom she saw the UFO over a wood in the north-west (since built on as a modern housing estate). It was extremely low and seemed "still and unearthly". She was in a state of great peace and "incredible silence" as the thing floated above some electricity pylons. It was dome shaped, silvery in colour but with several brilliant red lights on the base that were so alive they looked like eyes. The top cast of a rainbow of shimmering colour into the atmosphere - a very interesting optical effect. It stayed for an estimated 10 minutes, doing nothing, then climbed away to the west. MUFORA followed up similar stories from Worsley around 1975 with local rumours about secret craft test flown from the local Chloride battery factory!

On her R1 Mrs G wrote; "My daughter has advised me not to discuss this... For reasons I cannot explain I am not permitted to have any knowledge of what it was. I have tried to give you some help, but have been told to leave it at that." Another intriguing case bites the dust.

CASE 6513 MUFORA August 1965 Sunderland, Tyne & Wear

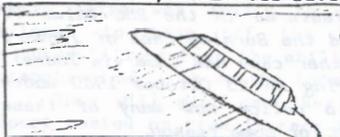
C 6-5

Roker Park Sunderland strikes yet again (after a couple of other recent appearances in these pages). This time a now retired man, his estranged wife and their adult daughter (then aged 8) were all witness to a series of events whilst walking along the Roker beach on a clear but breezy day at around 19.30 pm (as dusk was fast approaching). The first thing to be seen was a series of four orange lights, in a line abreast formation heading across the sky and out to sea.



Mr J says; "Curiosity turned to amazement, when after a few minutes they all stopped dead and without apparently circling, reversed on the same trajectory inland and disappeared into cloud". Were they jet aircraft catching the setting sun?

Whatever, 45 minutes later something quite dramatic occurred. A disc appeared from out of nowhere. It was blue tinged but had struts of orange down the side. Indeed the interior seemed to be glowing with this orange colour and the struts rotating on a course that took them past it. Mr J says it was not unlike a rotating lighthouse beacon in its effect. It was tilted at 45 degrees to the horizontal and moved away to the east. Around 20 minutes later a loud humming noise was heard above but nothing was seen as it was now dark and there was overcast sky. The story was reported to the *Sunderland Echo* who featured it at the time and checked into air movements (allegedly discovering there were none).



CASE 6916 BUFORA May 1969 Farnworth, Bolton, Lancashire C 3-5

Ms J (then a teenager) was awoken at 02.00 by a "buzzing" inside her head. It was more a feeling than an auditory sensation. But she got out of bed thoroughly perplexed by it. Through the bedroom window in the northern sky she observed a round ball of orange light hovering on top of a neighbour's bungalow. She watched it on and off for 2 hours during which time it occasionally bobbed up and down, then disappeared by 'going straight up'. Later she woke her mother who told her to forget all about it and concentrate on her O level exams.

CASE 78-286 NUFORC 29 February 1978 Benefield, Northants E. Still A 4-6

Clever detective work (going to the village and finding the witness) lead to this follow up of what was little more than a story.

Mr F woke up at 06.50 on a drizzly morning and saw through a window facing south a bright greenish-blue almost fluorescent light or beam. Mrs F was woken up and saw it too but was sufficiently scared to return to bed. So she brought his adult daughter, who saw it and discussed it with him. They both felt it was coming closer. Mr F had binoculars and his daughter a camera and so they went downstairs to get these, but in the few moments of doing so they both forget entirely why they had come down! Eventually they returned upstairs, saw the light again and at 07.05 it went out suddenly. They reported it to the local paper and afterwards were called by a police officer who saw it but said he dare not make his sighting public. They had also called three air bases for help, without success. The only one that took any notice of them was RAF Alconbury.

In a second sighting on the same date at Pytchley near Kettering (07.15) a woman catching a bus saw a large white glow low on the horizon in the south seemingly fading away over the rooftops. She said it was like a large electric lightbulb.

Now its time for all amateur UFO sleuths to try and crack this case. I am pretty sure I know what was seen. Can you figure out a viable solution? The answer is on the next page.

I think it significant that venus was low in the southern sky at this time and I am sure that it was behind the second sighting. I expect more arguments from you on the first, but through misty cloud and some sort of atmospheric effect it still could be. I'd personally have to go for that answer on this case, I think... If you dispute that let us know why.

CASE 79-181 LUFOIC 8 November 1979 Burbage, Leics R. Burton A4-6

A mother and three teenage children were returning from the local swimming baths to their home when they saw an oval patch of white light in the sky. As they grew nervous it seemed to follow them, stopping to hover when they stopped and moving when they moved. Eventually they reached home, went inside and told their husband/father. But the light was now gone.

Some days later it was noticed that two of the children had small marks on the cheek like birth marks or old operation scars. The investigator (10 years later) was able to establish that they were still present and in the same position on both children (now grown up).

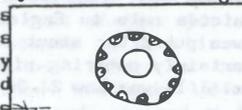
The sky was overcast, seemingly ruling out stars or planets, but the stop and start motion of the light is a classic indication that this was a distant object and the apparent motion was caused by the movement of the witnesses rather than the object itself. There seems a possibility of a bright stellar object through low cloud or mist, or else a ground light reflecting off low cloud. Both these would create an effect that might appear to take an intelligent interest in the witnesses as they 'escaped'.

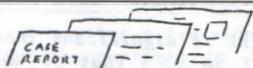
CASE 8431 MUFORA November 1984 Leven, Scotland P. Hough C5-5

An entire family group of 7 reported seeing UFOs emerge from behind Bass Rock on the River Forth at approximately 23.30. They were white ovals which formed a line abreast pattern and after about five minutes faded out one by one as if moving to the distance in the south east. Somewhat similar lights from Kirkcaldy are reported in case 8415 (see NUN 112, 1985). These were at 23.50 on 20 October 1984 (which is day of the week consistent with the Leven sighting - only approximately remembered). Stuart Campbell evaluated the Kirkcaldy lights somewhat vaguely as meteors.

CASE 8833 MUFORA 9 June 1988 Leasowe, Merseyside P. Hough B5-4

Miss L (whose 1985 sighting from the M53 at Wallasey is already on record) reported that she emerged from the leisure centre after playing squash with her boss, Mr J (a chemist) at 23.10. An object with two bright headlamps "like a car" was spotted. Red and blue lights dotted the rim. It hovered silently for about 15 minutes and then 'shot off'; although the sky was overcast. Why nobody else saw it is unclear. Mr J constantly refused to cooperate (filling in a useless R1 saying 'Same as Miss L' and nothing else! He had seen 'many UFOs' and declined all efforts to interview him with various excuses (although insisting he saw UFOs often). His handwriting was almost indecipherable too. After efforts by Harry Hudson as well as Peter Hough MUFORA were forced to abandon this case as of uncertain status but with an unreliable back-up witness.



CASE HISTORIES:

AN ENCOUNTER ON BEACHY HEAD

MUFORA Report by Jenny Randles/Roy Sandbach

Sometimes instinct means a lot in UFOlogy. When MUFORA received a seemingly indecipherable jumble of a letter from a man in Eccles after one of my TV shows, the reaction of most members was to ignore it. Another crank. But Roy and I 'felt' there was more to it and asked the witness (who was not on the phone) if we could go and visit. A classic case was masquerading behind what looked like a waste of time and effort.

Mr O'D is a wonderful, sincere man of Irish descent and has had quite an amazing life. Born in Tipperary in the Silver Mine Mountains of the central west he recalls that at age approximately 15 (in 1944) his mother reported how a strange aircraft passed over their tiny homestead. "It was funny, like a big cigar. There was no sound. I didn't see it, but it effected my mother deeply because she was very religious."

Despite professing no belief in such things as ESP or the paranormal it is clear that our witness has had some experience. In 1964 (still in Tipperary) he was hunting with a friend on a railway line when an old woman appeared on the sleepers. "I could see her as plain as day. She was a solid three dimensional woman. But my friend Tommy couldn't see her at all. Then she just vanished. I will never forget her face. I didn't recognise her but it was smiling."

Not long after this Mr O'D decided to go forth into the world and seek his fortune. "I am a single man," he said proudly. "And I have been drunk in four continents. If I could I might remember some things that the police would want to know." His trips have included being a miner 4000 feet underground in Australia, and during his time there he once walked from one side of the Nullarbor Plain to the other (this being the desert outback region where the famous Mundrabilla case occurred in 1988).

However, he returned to Britain and was then in a period of stable employment in Eastbourne when the main drama was set to unfold.

It seems that the date was a weekday during October 1972 (we cannot be more precise than this). Mr O'D would then be aged 43. He was working in the still room at a seaside hotel ("I love the sea - and although I only had to make tea and coffee it was worth it"). He admits he had a couple of Guinness's then set off around 19.30 hrs for a walk over the golf links on Beachy Head (the cliff top beauty spot notorious for having the highest suicide rate in England). This is the old part of the town, near the Black Swan pub. After about 90 minutes of walking in the cool, cloudy evening (and certainly sobering right up!) he began to probe his way back towards the hotel. It was now 21.00 approximately.

Mr O'D took a short cut by the golf house under a wire fence but he was suddenly startled as huge dark clouds rolled in from the sea, plunging the unlit area into almost complete blackness. He was frightened of walking off the top and into the sea in confusion and so stopped dead in his tracks and waited, contemplating his next move. Probably sleeping in a bunker.

Then a "huge star" appeared out over the Channel. It had a remarkable violet/blue glow to it; "Like it was a solid thing - just like it could see right down." Mr O'D had often seen troops out there on manoeuvres with helicopters and this was his immediate thought about what he now observed. However, that idea was short lived as "the thing swooped around in front of me and had lights like those on an arcade - they move about and were so penetrating that they sort of attracted my attention. I thought I was dead. I really did. I said to myself 'that's your lot'."



The object now in front of him was dark and invisible behind the glare. It seemed to be on the ground, but Mr O'D was quite majestic in his refusal to 'fill in'. He kept saying that he couldn't see the shape properly because the glow of the moving lights had been so intense and he would only draw what he actually saw, not what might have been there. The arc swept in a circle through about 50 feet and was "moving-rotating-flashing". The area of sky covered was many times that of the moon and the multiple colours (around 30 lights in all) were vivid - "especially the greens and reds which were lovely". He was stunned and mesmerised by the whole stagemish.

As Mr O'D stood enraptured within 30 feet of this thing he felt his hair stand on end and his skin tingling and then a voice suddenly penetrated into his mind "In an English you have never heard - absolutely clear and no hint of Irish. But it was friendly, yet persuasive." It said "Do not be afraid" - so he walked forward, repeating to himself 'It's alright - It hasn't killed me. I'm safe'. Then - as if there was no transition at all there was no longer any grass beneath his feet. Instead the surface was hard and solid. He swayed a little with the switch and realised shortly that he was in the middle of a road - "and no lunatic walks in the middle of a road". It took some time to establish his bearings but he recognised he was on a street about three quarters of a mile from the golf course. How he had got there he has never been able to recall.

He made his way to the hotel (just five minutes walk) and was amazed to find the night porter on duty as that man always comes on very late. The whole place was locked up and coffee (normally served until 1 am) had ended. Over three hours were unaccounted for. Mr O'D was still dazed and the night porter asked what was up. "I saw a star" was all he could say, which prompted the response; "Did you see any camels as well?"

The next afternoon Mr O'D marched into the police station and asked; "Have you got one of those things that can tell whether you are lying?" The ever helpful desk sergeant said he should go see his own doctor or a psychiatrist and packed him out the door before he could properly explain what had happened on Beachy Head. About two weeks later a plain clothes 'officer' (who showed an identification card) arrived at the hotel, asked for Mr O'D and requested he tell his story. Mr O'D wanted to know how (what he took to be a CID man) knew his name, because he had NOT been given chance to tell it at the police station. The officer claimed he had been checking door locks that night and had seen something himself so when he heard a man had reported something tracked him down.

We were both very favourably impressed with Mr O'D. He was obviously intelligent and rational and unwilling to leap to conclusions. He was reading a UFO book when we met and asked us; "Do you think I should carry on reading? It might interfere with my memory." He told us a lovely story about seeing a UFO as he walked along the canal bank at Eccles - 'slow moving, flowing lights' - but he worked it through, then probed it and concluded it was just a ship. He chuckled heartily at his misperception in a way that demonstrated both his exceptional objectivity and sincerity.

Mr O'D does not want hypnosis. He feels if he were meant to know he would remember. He had vague 'feelings' that the people in the object were "Beautiful, vulnerable creatures - like little children - friendly." But he also at least half suspects it was secret military technology he encountered and is willing to consider anything. "I wish some of those smart blokes had been with me that night. Maybe they could explain it. It's different from anything else I've ever seen before or since but it doesn't really bother me what folk think. I'm a Catholic, though I don't go to church. I believe in God and I don't care what any man says - whether he's Patrick Moore or Albert Einstein - *I saw that thing.*" We are sure he did.

WORDS

If you missed the summer double-issue of UFO BRIGANTIA there was... new inside info on the NASA space shuttle UFO... the full report on the Cannock Chase landing with physical traces... was the Roswell crash a secret device and lots more... If want to get both and only subscribe to NUN - then just send an extra £6 to 'top up' (and save £1). You can also resubscribe NOW at the joint rate of £11 for all 1990 issues (ie six NUNs and six BRIGANTIA's - one a month). Be warned subs may go up shortly. Send monies to NUN address with all cheques payable to "NUFON".

SATURDAY 18 NOVEMBER 1989 1.30 - 5.00 pm Manchester Central Library
 Slides... Movie film evidence reviewed... All the latest briefings on modern UFOlogy; including Pennine earthlights, the mystery circles, Rendlesham case (City centre venue, nr Oxford Rd station - details MUFORA - Tel: 0942-604265)

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