

YUFOS

YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY

PROJECT RED BOOK

(Vol.4 #6, December 2000)



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inside this document

MORE FROM GLORIA DIXON
THE MEXBOROUGH FOOTAGE: ANALYSED
THE STEPHEN PRATT PHOTO

And much more...

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YUFOS



Vol 4 # 6, December 2000)

CONTENTS

1) AN INTERVIEW WITH GLORIA DIXON (part 2)

Dave Baker talks UFOs and paranormal events with UFOIN and BUFORA stalwart Gloria Dixon

6) THE MEXBOROUGH FOOTAGE- AN APPRAISAL

Expert Bill Rose delivers his verdict...

8) MEXBOROUGH FOOTAGE UPDATE

Dave Baker on the latest developments

10) FROM AROUND THE WORLD...

Haunted houses, abduction advertisers, BBC vs. Hancock & Bauvall and more...

13) CROP CIRCLE FAKED TO PROVE "EXPERT" WRONG

Simon de Bruxelles with comments by Paul Fuller

14) TERRIFIED RESIDENTS DEMAND EXCORCISM OF POLTERGEIST

Bill Brotherton & Tony Belshaw

15) FORUM- the STEPHEN PRATT PHOTOGRAPH

The Controversy re-emerges...

18) UFOs-THE KEY TURNING POINT (pt 6)

Bill Booker approaches the end of the jigsaw

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To re-print articles in this magazine please enquire at the above address- that means me, Dave. I'm sure to say "yes", but it is nice to ask first...and remember to give us a reference now, y'hear?

The articles and views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, YUFOS members or hell, anyone for that matter.

"No tears... it's a waste of good suffering!"

AN INTERVIEW WITH GLORIA DIXON (part 2)

Gloria Heather Dixon became interested in the UFO subject in 1970 whilst living in the United States. Her father resided in the States as an aeronautical engineer working as a parachute specialist in the Space programme during the sixties. Her parents were divorced and a holiday to visit him resulted in a move to the States where she lived in Wilmington, Delaware for twelve years.

She read *Project Blue Book*, the United States Air Force official investigations into UFOs, and during the first part of the seventies heard a couple of unusual stories, which reinforced her interest further. She worked as a PA for an American businessman, who was politically active within the Republican party during the Nixon era and who went on to become a Congressman for Delaware in the seventies.

Her stepfather was an officer in the RAF and they travelled to many parts of the world and Gloria developed an interest in aviation.

She joined the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA) and the Independent UFO Network (IUN) in 1990 and began to attend UFO Conferences, where she admits to "hearing some of the strangest conversations I had ever heard..."

She is now the national investigations co-ordinator for BUFORA, a valued member of the UFO Investigation Network, and also finds the time to produce a bi-monthly magazine entitled *Strange Daze*.

You are interested in reports of near-death experiences and claims of after-death communication. Can you give us examples of some of the cases you have investigated?

I can certainly give you a couple of examples, where the people I have spoken with have felt comfortable enough to tell me of their experiences.

A specific account of a near-death experience was related to me by a journalist from the North East area. She had contacted me initially to help her with some research on a UFO article she was writing for a local paper. From there she told me of several unusual events in her life, two of them appeared to be UFO related. The other was much stranger and had a profound effect upon her.

Amanda was on holiday in Almeria Spain with her boyfriend in July 1993. After a few days they hired a car and decided to visit Granada the next day, but were dismayed when they woke up to gale force winds and torrential rain. They decided to make the trip anyway and set off along the mountain roads. Unfortunately they never got to their destination because the car hit a rivulet on a bend and couldn't hold the greasy road as they aqua-planed into a tree.

She fractured both the bones in her right forearm, and elbow and her blood pressure dropped to a really low level, as she lay unconscious. She clearly remembers at this stage somehow 'lifting out of her body' and seeing herself laid in the ambulance from above. At this point she explained that she noticed some blood on the front of her blue gown, which apparently was caused by an injury to her stomach that she had suffered in the crash. Some time after the crash, when discussing it with her boyfriend, he seemed amazed when she mentioned the blue gown from the crash scene. This gown was apparently put on her while she was unconscious because her own dress had been ripped to shreds, but because of the blood it was changed as soon as they reach the Spanish hospital.

Amanda told me that this incident has changed her a great deal and the way she viewed people particularly wanting to help and show kindness to them rather than just dismissing them. She can acutely feel things from people that are negative or ruthless and also felt as though she had developed in a spiritual way that she had not felt before. Amanda moved to America about three years ago to work as a journalist I believe and I last saw her at a Conference here in Newcastle in 1996.

With regard to after-death contacts, I documented an unusual experience in SD issue 19, which involved the person concerned seeing and hearing her husband, who had died a couple of months prior to that. I have heard so many anecdotal tales from people, who claim to have had contact or seen someone they have loved after their death, as I am sure many of us have. Obviously bereavement is a major factor with these reports, but I feel absolutely that there is more to it than this in some cases, which lie outside of the answers that we have such as imagination, and hallucination because of the desire to see their loved one.

To illustrate this two cases spring to mind. A lady, I shall call Julie, lost her mother when she was only seventeen. A short time after her mother's death she had just got into bed when she saw her mother come through the bedroom door towards her in the bed and appeared to be reaching out to touch her. Julie told me she was terrified and proceeded to pull the bedcovers up over her head and then realised that she wanted to see her mother again, but when she pulled the covers away the figure of her mother turned and moved away out of her bedroom. She felt desperately upset about having been so afraid of someone she had loved so dearly.

The next story is rather longer and I have learned of this quite recently, although it occurred many years ago. The person who told me of this compelling incident is a colleague at work. In the late seventies, he had and still does have a very close friend, who was one of a family of thirteen from the Newcastle area. This friend (Andy) told him a very strange story relating to his eldest sister (Elizabeth), who died in the seventies. It was New Year's Eve and Elizabeth, Andy and their respective spouses were driving in their car to go out for the evening. Andy, Elizabeth and their families lived in Rotherham, but had come up to Newcastle as their mother had been very unwell. Andy expressed his anxiety about her in the car and Elizabeth immediately responded with the words *don't worry about mother, I will be there waiting for her when she finally goes*. Andy asked what she meant by these words, but Elizabeth dismissed them with a light hearted *never mind, let's enjoy the night*. At the end of February, Andy received a telephone call telling him that his sister, Elizabeth had, died very suddenly. Andy went to help with the funeral arrangements at Elizabeth's home and her husband told Andy a strange incident that had happened on the day

of her death. Elizabeth and her husband used to walk together down the side of the hill from their home in Rotherham to go to work in the mornings when Andy would then get his bus and Elizabeth would continue down the hill. On the morning she died, Elizabeth ran back to her husband before he got on the bus and threw her arms around his neck and said *thanks for everything Andy*. She died before she got to work that morning of a heart attack. She was in her early fifties at the time.

While Andy was at Elizabeth's home helping to sort things out on that day, he noticed they had a bookcase built into the wall with many books. He picked up a book and out of this specific book fell a piece of paper with a message from Elizabeth to her brother Andy. She had written the following words.

I tried to tell you on New Year's Eve that I would be waiting for my mother and because you are reading this you now know why.

A strange account indeed and according to my colleague, Andy is as honest as the day is long and was astounded by these events.

There are some convincing tales of after-death communication and I believe that we cannot just dismiss all of them. There are web-sites and books, which examine this phenomenon and I think this is very important research.

The world of UFOs is littered with bogus claims, hoaxed photographs, dubious hypothesis and out-and-out liars. It seems to me that the world of the occult, such as mediums and seances would be very similar...how do you tell the con-men (and women!) from what could be 'the real thing'? Are there any that you do think may be genuine?

I agree with you completely that there is no doubt that the world of psychic researchers etc. are full of all the problems you mention. To be honest, I question the motives of some involved in this area, but I have no doubt that there are indeed those who are genuine and who are gifted and deeply spiritual people. I have certainly met and know several from the Northeast area, who have told me things no one else could possibly have known.

A particular incident took place several years ago on debate that I was part of at BBC Radio Newcastle. The lady concerned told me something in the hospitality suite without ever

having met me before. It was startling and I was so upset by the fact she knew this that it was difficult for me to go on the programme afterwards. I also met a deeply spiritual man many years ago now. He was a healer and held a clinic in a suburb of Newcastle. There was no charge and he conducted healing on many people, who visited the clinic from all over the area sometimes travelling long distances by bus to see him. As I experienced this myself, there is no doubt in my mind that this man was genuine. He helped an enormous amount of people and did not make a penny from his clinic except for a small collection box, if you wished to contribute in any way. He was able to locate any problems that his visitors were suffering from immediately and his hands generated enormous heat, when he conducted his healing sessions. From a personal point of view I felt heat for days afterwards on a specific area of my arm that I had a problem with. It was quite extraordinary. He died of a heart attack several years ago. The only way you knew of him and the clinic was through word of mouth. He was unknown otherwise.

Do you think that there is some kind of life after death?

Yes, I do. I believe that something survives the physical body, the soul, the essence, consciousness, however you wish to define it. Whether this 'essence' remains as your personal identity, I don't know. What I do know is that I have spoken with many people including nurses who are often on the front line of death and I can honestly say I have never spoken with a nurse, who has not experienced some very unusual anomalies with various patients they have nursed and who have died. Even the most hardened and pragmatic nurses have sensed or observed unusual anomalies just before and at the moment of death of some patients, things that they just cannot explain in any terminology at all. To illustrate this I can relay a particular story from a friend, who is a senior lecturer in nursing studies here in the Newcastle. She told me recently of the time she worked in a hospital in Scotland where she was nursing a lady close to death. As everyone knows hospitals are invariably too hot and on this night it was very hot on the ward. The lady was in a ward off to the side and Lianne was sitting with her, when she became aware that room had become ice cold. This was not the case in the rest of the ward, where it was still overly hot. At the same time as the ward

became cold Lianne had a very strong sense of a presence in the room. Just after that her patient died and the room returned to its original temperature.

When I was much younger, I remember being really freaked out by a flexi-disc (remember those!) that came with one of the first issues of Orbis' partwork, *The Unexplained*. It allegedly featured Electronic Voice Phenomena (EVP), supposedly actual recordings of 'dead' people talking on audio tapes that had been tuned to white noise. Do you think this has any more validity than a medium going into a trance and acting as a conduit for spirits?

Yes I remember them well ... unfortunately !! . I have no idea whether this has any more validity than a medium going into a trance. To be honest I am not convinced by some mediums and how genuine their claims are that they acting as channel for spirits. I believe that the healer that I met and referred to in my previous response was certainly a channel for whoever worked and healed through him. You had to be there to see how remarkable it all was

For whatever reason, would you (or have you) ever used a ouija board?

Yes a couple of times, when I was very young and foolish. I don't ever recommend using one of these even for a bit of fun. There is nothing to be gained from their use at all.

Some researchers have drawn parallels between aspects of 'near-death experiences' and claims of alien abduction...if you agree, what do you think this tells us?

Yes, there are parallels drawn between these two experiences by some researchers, particularly those writing exclusively on the near-death experience.. The pioneer of these ideas is of course Dr. Kenneth Ring. In his book *The Omega Project*, he examined near-death experiences, UFO encounters and states of consciousness, and goes on to postulate the idea of an encounter-prone personality with an unusual spiritual psyche, possibly representing an advanced evolution in the potential of the human consciousness. I believe that there are noticeable similarities between not only UFO abductees and near-death experiencers, but

also on many other levels of those who who experience all manner of extraordinary things from ghosts to visionary experiences. As many researchers are aware there is often a background of unusual anomalies in the personal lives of close encounter experiencers. I really do not believe that we can view these exceptional experiences independently of each other.

In your biography you wrote,

" Paul Devereux has also influenced my thinking particularly his excellent Otherworld Conference held in London last year. This conference was designed to address the nature of mental realms, that appear to be involved with extraordinary human experiences, such as encounters with other worldly beings, visions, near death experiences, the abduction phenomenon, lucid dreaming, remote viewing and hallucinogenic trance. The conference objectives were to approach the issues of whether these mental states were simply functions of the brain or were these imaginal realms glimpses of other realities?"

You appear to be suggesting that many disparate 'paranormal' events may actually be linked in some way, part of a vast, single but as yet unknown aspect of the human consciousness. Can you expand on this?

Well, my quote here actually emanated from a description of the Conference goals, so I wasn't actually suggesting anything specifically here, but I believe that this Conference held the key to many of our questions for those involved in all aspects of paranormal research. . Certainly the sheer scope of ideas and theories at this Conference, about the human consciousness, imaginal states and otherworld realities were complex, with an array of speakers from around the world. I do believe that study into human consciousness is the only way forward in order to comprehend who we are and what it means to be human. As we approach the end of the year 2000 and all that this means for us in terms of our social structures, technology and our interaction with nature we need to explore life at a deeper philosophical level and ask some very pertinent questions. Does the essence of our 'being' equate to a level of consciousness that can exist independently of the biological body taking us on a journey to these otherworlds and if so, are altered states of consciousness allowing us access to other

realities? Or are they solely faculties of the brain under extraordinary circumstances, which occur during dreaming, trance states, hallucinations, and life threatening situations perceived or otherwise? In many ways the more you explore these issues, the less you realise you understand or know about anything!!

Without getting too new-agey, do you think that this suggests our minds have un-tapped potential?

It absolutely suggests this. I think we are in the dark ages in our understanding of the capacity of the human mind and the unlimited potential that it has. We really comprehend very little about the nature of reality itself, because in many ways our individual realities are so very different. In Eastern cultures and old religions, they understand much more about consciousness and spirituality. In some ways we have lost this ability in the materialistic Western world in which we live, where values have changed dramatically and I think this is why so many people are on a quest to find a deeper spiritual meaning to their lives. As Dr. Peter Fenwick suggested in a Radio Four debate last year we need a new science to explain the subjective....*a science of consciousness.*

I am sure that many cases we hear about are actually more like urban legends or FOAF tales..what part do you think folklore of all kinds plays in the paranormal?

This is one for Dave Clarke really! I think folklore and mythology play a major part in the paranormal and UFO fields of study. Myths and legends are the supporting walls of many weird and strange tales and reports of curious encounters contained within these traditional beliefs and mythology become confused and blend into each other, so we have a tremendous task sorting out what is a factual account of a real experience against the blurred backdrop of the mythology surrounding it.

Okay, a few sound-bytes...what do you think of...

Tarot cards and other fortune telling paraphenalia

I don't think about this at all. I doubt that it is relevant to anything and there is a great deal of money being made at the expense of the gullible public, notwithstanding those bereaved people, who seek contact with their loved ones by this method. I think, in some case that fortune telling can have dire effects on these people in some instances where the clairvoyant or fortuneteller may be less than honest.

'Crisis' apparitions?

These are very interesting and appear to be experienced by people in a number of different ways including dreams.

Channelling

I think people, who do this should be very careful indeed.

Remote Viewing

I'm not sure what I think about this as I don't know enough about it, but I think they have found a new name for astral projection.!!

Telepathy

I think this happens to all of us at many points in our lives. Nothing-strange here. Quite a natural way to communicate especially with someone we are close with.

Uri Geller

I don't know Uri Geller, so I certainly won't comment on someone I don't know. Obviously I am aware of his psychic abilities, such as bending spoons, stopping and starting watches and clocks and I have certainly heard colleagues, who have seen or met him who have been very impressed at these abilities.

What I do know is that when Philip Mantle had his very serious heart attack in August 1999, I went to see him in the hospital and stayed with his family for a couple of days. At that time, it was very touch and go and Phil was seriously ill. I was at his home looking after his children late one night, while Sue, his wife was at the hospital and Uri Geller telephoned to ask what the situation was with Phil. I spoke with him and remember being very upset at the time. Uri Geller was caring and sensitive to my

distress and extremely concerned and compassionate about Philip. He made some private comments to me regarding Philip and I was very touched by his comments to me regarding Phil so as far as I am concerned, this said many things about the man behind the name of Uri Geller.

James Randi.

I guess he is the ultimate debunker of anything that would be considered remarkable, but I really don't really think about him at all. Everyone is entitled to their own opinions and ideas. It gives some real balance to the subject and we certainly need that.

Finally, What are you working on at the moment?

BUFORA work, and the next issue of Strange Daze. I am also doing some long term research into NDEs and ADCs-----

BUFORA web-site (www.bufora.org.uk)

Strange Daze
(<http://members.aol.com/sluff44/strangedaze/>)

Strange Daze, Unit 2A, East Cheap, Heaton, Newcastle upon Tyne NE6 5UA

NEXT MEETING

TUESDAY, 9th JANUARY 2001

7:00pm – 10:00pm

THE THREE CRANES

QUEEN STREET

Sheffield City Centre

THE MEXBOROUGH FOOTAGE: AN APPRAISAL

By Bill Rose

Bill Rose has written numerous articles on photography, astronomy and space flight. He is a photojournalist by profession and runs a small business specialising in P.R photography. Bill is also the technical editor of "Strange Daze" magazine.

He has a degree in economics, completed some undergraduate studies in astronomy and holds a recognised qualification in scientific photography.

To date, he has contributed to a number of technical books and is currently working on two new publishing projects.

In 1995, Bill was responsible for creating the infamous "North Sea Aurora Aircraft" photo, which was subsequently stolen from Astronomy Now magazine and continues to circulate illegally around the Internet. Although this photomontage was made to accompany a serious article on aerial phenomena, it has now taken on a life of its own and regularly appears without any credit as a secret aircraft or alien space vehicle.

Dave Baker of YUFOS provided this VHS recording. He has examined and verified the original 8mm camcorder tape provided by the witness. (MPN)

Tape length: 8 min 10 Sec

The camera used to make this recording, was a Canon UC6000. This is a low brand 8mm model of fairly recent manufacture. It provides a maximum resolution of about 250 lines, although this will be slightly less in practice.

The UC6000 is fitted with a 16:1 ratio zoom lens, with a focal length range of 3.9mm-62.4mm and the camera uses a 1/3in chip.

This makes it possible to translate these figures into 53mm camera terms, showing an equivalent focal length range of about 30mm-500mm. More usefully, we know that the angle of view varies from around 70+ degrees wide angle, to about 5 degrees at full telephoto.

My reference data quotes a maximum shutter speed of 1/10,000 sec for the UC6000, although I don't think this has a great deal of bearing on (the) issue.

The Canon UC6000 has mono sound and is probably manufactured (at least in part) by Sony. The specs for the UC6000 is quite basic, but the reference I have checked, give it a fairly good rating.

There is no evidence of horizontal sync jitter (tape transport instability) and the image is fairly sharp. It is clear that manual focussing was used.

The camera has a fully automatic exposure system with no manual override and because of this, there are signs of underexposure. (The sky is always tricky for auto exposure systems)

I can see no evidence of optical phenomena or electric anomalies generated by the camera and nothing leads me to believe that any trickery was used. So I have no doubts that this recording is authentic.

There is no time or date shown on this recording and it appears that MPN disabled the function, prior to the event. (1)

The witness (MPN) can be heard in the background of the recording commenting on what can be seen. There is some background noise. The tape lasts for just over 8 minutes with no additional unrelated footage on either side of the event.(2)

The witness (MPN) has managed to avoid excessive camera shake, which is quite an achievement. My references show that the UC6000 has no image stabiliser, so it is tempting to conclude that MPN used a tripod.(3)

CONTENT

A single object can be seen moving away from the observer at relatively low speed, but the resolution limit and boundary fringing makes it virtually impossible to determine the object's appearance or true shape.

The object shows positive motion and appears to be just under the cloud base.

The first object is joined by a second object, which seems to emerge from cloud cover. According to the witness, these objects are travelling northeast, presumably away from Rotherham/Sheffield. (4)

I cannot determine if these two objects are related to each other in any way, or whether their presence in the sky at the same time and heading is purely coincidental. However, there is an obvious temptation to link them together.

I do not know this area around the north of Sheffield particularly well and have not visited there for many years, so I cannot comment on regional air traffic. Having said this, the first object does not appear to be a fixed-wing aircraft or feature any visible irregularities in shape that might indicate this. I also feel that the camera's audio system would have picked up any engine noise that was present.

The object shows no apparent variation in colour and it is fairly dark, giving strong prominence against the sky. I think it's fair to apply all these comments to the second object.

It is virtually impossible to gauge size or distance in these circumstances and I have given some thought to the issue, allowing for the lens's angle of view full telephoto, looking at birds which passed in the foreground at about +3m 48 sec and trying to estimate the cloud base and possible slant range.

Unfortunately, I have been unable to reach any worthwhile conclusions about this and would not want to place a definite size on the object. That said, I feel that object size could be a little bigger than the witness has estimated. I think more progress could be made in this direction, but detailed analysis takes time and plenty of patience.

Generally speaking, the estimates made by the witness do not seem unreasonable, but I must challenge the accuracy of the witness's description of the object. (In the YUFOS Sightings Report documentation.) This would

have been largely based on observation through the camera's viewfinder, which is a relatively low-grade monochrome electronic display, providing less information than the colour image played back on a TV.

CONCLUSIONS

Don't quote me out of context, but these objects are definitely UFOs. That is to say, unidentified aerial objects not alien spaceships! I have some reservations about the idea of large bird/s. My instinct tells me this/these object's/s behaviour does not quite match that explanation, but it would definitely be worth pursuing an ornithological line of enquiry.(5)

I think there is virtually no likelihood that the objects are normal fixed-wing aircraft. The motion seems much too slow and I would expect to hear some engine noise. On this second point, I think that a helicopter can also be dismissed.

However, I can't help thinking that hang gliders are pretty fair candidates (Even if this idea has been dismissed by YUFOS already.) They are compact objects and a Saturday afternoon would be the obvious time for this type of recreational activity. Does anyone know if hang-gliding activity takes place in this area?(6)

Balloon/s (not hot air) are another possibility and just conceivably, radio controlled model aircraft, which are often inaudible above 1000ft. (7)

This is certainly one of the more interesting pieces of UFO video footage I have seen recently. I'm sorry I can't come up with anything more positive on this occasion; although I have no doubt that an answer could be found.

Bill Rose, October 2000

THE MEXBOROUGH FOOTAGE: UPDATE

By Dave Baker

Since receiving Bill Rose' excellent appraisal and communicating further with both Bill and the witness, Michael (MPN), I have made further inquiries to attempt to identify the objects on the video. In this update, I will attempt to address a number of the points raised by Bill as well as review the possibilities of the case.

1) Disabled date/time function.

In my initial report published in PRB Volume 4, # 4, I explained why Michael had disabled this particular function on the camcorder. To clarify, Michael and his wife Denise had visited York the day before (Friday) and filmed some of their trip. On the Sunday they were planning to make another trip, and Michael had disabled all of the functions ready to add new titles later. This also explains why the camcorder was so 'at hand' when the UFO was first spotted.

(2) Unrelated footage on camcorder tape.

Michael had put a new cassette into the camcorder ready for the following day's trip. Like many people, Michael films on camcorder cassette tape, then transfers and edits the footage onto VHS tape, which is of course easier to view on a TV via a video recorder. Having not had the chance to transfer and edit the previous day's footage, and not wishing to be left with too little spare cassette space, Michael had put a new cassette into the camcorder for Sunday's trip. Once he had filmed the UFOs, and in order to avoid accidentally erasing or damaging the UFO footage, he never used the remainder of the blank tape on the cassette. When Michael made a copy of the UFO footage for my use - the copy later analysed by Bill Rose- there was obviously only that footage he could include.

(3) Use of a tripod.

Michael flatly denies using a tripod, and explains that his 'expert camerawork' was simply down to resting his elbows on the rail of the balcony on which he stood. This seems perfectly reasonable to me, especially considering that he appears to be a fairly experienced camcorder user.

However, Bill's point is a valid one, which is that *if* a tripod had been used, it would indicate that Michael was prepared for the objects to fly past and was prepared to film them.

Consequently, it would prove that he knew the objects were going to fly by, and that he knew exactly what they were, all of which indicated a deliberate hoax. I have rejected this possibility.

4) Direction of objects' trajectory

I have confirmed from speaking further with Michael and from comparing the video and a roadmap that the objects were heading in a northeasterly direction, towards High Melton and Doncaster.

5) Birds?

Birds was one of the first explanations YUFOS considered on viewing the footage on my TV. We had suspected birds of prey gliding on thermals, but now agree that the objects appear too large. It was UFOIN's Andy Roberts who suggested herons as the culprits. The time of day, the warm, still weather conditions and the large size appeared fitting to Andy and to me too.

At the November YUFOS meeting, the footage was given it's first airing to members. Some people were sceptical of the bird theory, pointing out that the trajectory of the objects is too even and direct. When birds glide on thermals, they rise and fall with the warm air currents. Some members also considered that the objects appear too large even for herons, although we must consider that there is no real points of reference in the video to judge size comfortably.

However, we decided that as none of us are acclaimed ornithologists, we had to acquire expert knowledge in this area. I contacted the

Earth Centre at Conisboro, and at the time of this writing I am waiting to arrange a time for one of the park rangers to view this footage and offer his opinion.

6) Microlites

Bill states correctly in his report that YUFOS had initially ruled out microlites or hang-gliders. I had rejected this for similar reasons to those later voiced by UFOIN's Andy Roberts: that surely at some point in the video, in particular during the initial seconds when the first object was closest to the camera, something of the harness and pilot would be seen, if only as an irregular shape to the otherwise apparently clearly defined elliptical object.

At the same time, I bow to Bill's assessment that the resolution of the video is not as sharp as it could be, which could explain this.

In order to eliminate microlites or hang-gliders from our inquiries, I contacted Sheffield Aero-club, who informed me that the club closest to Mexborough that hires microlites is 'Rainbow Microlites', at Sandtoft Airfield in Belton, Doncaster. More importantly, this is the (very) general direction in which the objects were heading. A quick phone call to Sandtoft told me that although their microlites would indeed fly over Mexborough, there was none hired out on the day in question.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge that of course, we only have Michael's word of the date of the event, as the camcorder's time/date function had been disabled, and the footage could have been taken at any time.

However, if Michael had checked with Rainbow Microlites to find a day when they had *not* hired out equipment, and claimed that *this* was the day he filmed the objects, it would surely have been more convincing to tamper with the date/time function to give a false reading which fit in with this 'fake' day.

I personally find this difficult to believe, and am convinced that Michael's footage was taken on the day and time he claims.

It is possible that these objects are indeed microlites, but from a club I have been unable to track down, or even personally owned, which could prove more difficult, if not impossible to trace.

At the above-mentioned YUFOS meeting, most members thought that microlites were a more likely explanation, but held the same reservations as I did – that the object seems to be too clearly defined to be such a craft.

7) Balloons, radio-controlled aircraft

I had considered that the objects could have been the popular 'UFO' balloon toys that are available in numerous toy-shops and sci-fi memorabilia outlets. These contraptions are bright, oval-shaped mylar balloons of varying colours, fuelled with hydrogen, and powered by a radio-controlled device. These are often even advertised as being perfect for faking UFO videos.

I am unsure of the range of the various models of radio-controlled aircraft and 'UFO' models, but I assume that any operator has to keep their model in good sight all the time. I think that as the objects obviously travel some distance and are at a considerable altitude, and the fact that there are two apparently identical objects, this is an unlikely explanation. Interestingly enough, there is also a club at Sandtoft for radio-controlled aircraft enthusiasts, but obviously this is a few miles away from the site of the UFO encounter.

As I write this, I am a couple of days away from the yearly UFOIN meeting, which will be held here in Sheffield. Part of the meeting agenda includes the showing and analysis of a number of pieces of UFO footage, including the Canary Islands film featured in a previous YUFOS article, and the Mexborough Footage.

As there are a number of highly qualified and experienced researchers attending the meeting, we may well get a fresh slant on the nature of these mysterious objects over Mexborough.

Any further news will be featured here in the pages of Project Red Book.

FROM AROUND THE WORLD...AND BEYOND!!!

UFOs, conspiracies, fortune and paranormal events compiled by Dave Baker

SEE IT, IMAGINE IT -- IT'S THE SAME TO YOUR BRAIN

(November 1, 2000, Reuters)

WASHINGTON - Imagining something and actually seeing it are virtually one and the same to the brain, researchers said on Wednesday.

They said the same parts of the brain light up when a person thinks of a face or a scene as when the same person actually looks at a photograph of the same face or place.

And, the team at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology reports, they can tell, with 85 percent accuracy, whether a person is thinking of a face or a place, just by looking at how his or her brain lights up.

"We use some of the same brain machinery when we actively see and when we simply imagine," Nancy Kanwisher, associate professor of brain and cognitive sciences at MIT, said in a statement.

Writing in the *Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience*, Kanwisher and Kathleen O'Craven of the Rotman Research Institute in Toronto, Canada said they used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to look at the brains of volunteers.

fMRI allows researchers to see blood flow and activity in various parts of the brain in real time.

"These findings strengthen evidence that imagery and perception share common processing mechanisms and demonstrate that the specific brain regions activated during mental imagery depend on the content of the visual image," the researchers wrote in their report.

Kanwisher and colleagues had, in previous studies, identified a part of the brain's cortex called the parahippocampal place area, which responded strongly to images of indoor and outdoor spaces, but not at all to faces.

Another cortical region, called the fusiform face area, responded strongly to images of faces.

In their latest study they concentrated on these two areas as they asked volunteers to look at photographs of places or faces and then to later create, with their eyes closed, a mental image of the same faces and scenes.

The fMRI images "reveal a striking similarity between regions activated during imagery and those activated during perception," they wrote.

Finally, the researchers checked to see if, simply by looking at the fMRIs, they could tell whether a person was thinking of a face or a place, and found they were correct 85 percent of the time.

ALIEN ABDUCTION HYPNOTISERS DENY PLANTING SUBLIMINAL ADS

A US firm that promises to hypnotise people to make them think they have been abducted by aliens has been accused of planting subliminal adverts in their customer's minds at the same time.

Alien Abductions Inc promises to provide "personalised, realistic memories of the alien abduction that you have been waiting for your entire life".

But its team of "doctors, hypnotists and memory implant technicians" have been accused of implanting paid-for adverts for companies.

Abductees are then said to be magnetically drawn to use the advertised products thanks to the subliminal messages implanted in their brains.

Adverts implanted are said to include two for firms who sponsor AAI's website.

The company is denying "advertising implantation" for profit but admits it has implanted certain ads that "increase the effectiveness" of the experience.

"We have implanted customers with the desire to visit the Bug Jar (in Rochester, NY) not because of any monetary arrangement, but because as "Your Bar on Earth," the

atmosphere at the Bug Jar works to enhance the Abduction Experience," the firm says on its website.

"Likewise, the compulsion to seek out and promote the work of certain design firms, such as Bullet Graphics (also of Rochester), is implanted because these firms incorporate special "trigger images" into their work."

AAI offers personally customized abductions, including "interspecies breeding," medical experimentation and alien sex fantasies.

A statement from the company says: "Making people believe that they've been abducted by aliens is more than just a business to us ... it's our way of giving something back to the world."

It says: "Thousands of individuals are abducted by extraterrestrial beings each year" and goes on to add: "So why wait?"

(World Of The Strange Weekly Newsletter)

BBC'S 'HORIZON' CENSURED FOR UNFAIR TREATMENT

(Jane Robins, Media Correspondent, The Independent, 9 November 2000)

Horizon, the BBC flagship science programme, is to be criticised for the first time by the Broadcasting Standards Commission for being unfair to two authors who believe the world was once dominated by a "lost civilisation".

The BBC has been forced to re-edit the *Horizon* programme "Atlantis Reborn", which questions the maverick theories of Graham Hancock and Robert Bauval, authors of the bestsellers *Fingerprints of the Gods* and *The Orion Mystery*. The two men have also challenged the BBC to broadcast a live debate in which they can argue their case - but the corporation confirmed yesterday that no debate was planned.

Mr Hancock and Mr Bauval believe that an advanced civilisation with sophisticated technology once inhabited the earth but was destroyed by a global cataclysm at the end of the ice age, around 10,500BC. Their theory suggests that the "lost civilisation" was behind the building of the pyramids - an argument that helped to sell more than four million books, and

which was questioned in the *Horizon* programme.

Dr Edwin Krupp, an astronomer, said the authors' assertion that the pyramids at Giza represented the constellation of Orion "could be made to work only by turning upside down either the image of Egypt or that of the sky".

The authors' essential rebuttal of the upside-down argument was left out. They contest that Dr Krupp's evidence relies on the modern convention that north is up, and that the ancient Egyptians would have modelled the pyramids on Orion "as they saw it".

BBC insiders acknowledged yesterday that the programme was being edited "a teeny bit" to include Mr Hancock and Mr Bauval's response - in time for a rebroadcast due on 14 December - just over a year after the original. The corporation is sticking by the programme's team, and points out that only one of 10 complaints by the two authors was actually upheld by the watchdog.

The unsuccessful complaints included Mr Hancock's assertion that the programme made him out to be an "intellectual fraud", and Mr Bauval's argument that it made his Giza-Orion Correlation Theory - which also links the Nile with the Milky Way and the Sphinx with the constellation of Leo - seem to be a con.

STATE VET HAS ANSWER TO ROSWELL CATTLE MYSTERY

Mystery no longer surrounds the cause of death of 30 cattle on Marcelo Macias's ranch near Roswell, New Mexico (population 45,000.)

It was nothing exotic. It was a weed.

It was not, as a Boston (Massachusetts) radio station revealed Thursday morning, October 26, 2000, "caused by aliens."

The culprit weed got wrapped into a one-ton bale of hay, was further ground up at the ranch corral and was then ingested by the cattle between dusk and dawn on the night of October 18, 2000.

Twenty-three pregnant cows, three bulls and four early-season calves dropped dead in the darkness."

Thurman Reitz, the assistant state veterinarian, said he got a report from a laboratory Thursday morning saying tests had shown evidence of nitrate poisoning.

Reitz said the nitrate came from one or more common weeds that were harvested along with the grass in the hay bale. A specific weed hasn't been identified.

"This can be pretty nasty stuff," said Reitz, referring to the nitrate. "Livestock poisoning like this happens occasionally but not to this extent."

Reitz said nitrate poisoning alters the animal's blood and deprives it of oxygen.

"Basically, they suffocate," he said.

Reitz said he got a call at 9:30 a.m. Thursday from a Boston radio station, wanting to know if aliens were involved in the deaths of the cattle. Reitz said he was barely awake until the caller got to this question.

The veterinarian told the radio station that aliens weren't involved.

At his ranch, Macias said he got the hay for free not long ago from a Hagerman (New Mexico) rancher who said the bales were three or four years old.

New Mexican growers said hay that's three or four years old is still good "if it has been stored right and it is covered over."

Macias said he brought about 100 bales to his ranch and has 90 bales left.

"I don't know what I'm going to do with them. The police told me I can't burn this much hay," said Macias, whose ranch lies northeast of the Roswell city limits.

"I've been feeding that hay to my sheep and nothing has happened, and no more of my cattle have died," he said.

Macias's son, Marcelo Jr., said the dead cattle were trucked away by a company that handles dead livestock.

HOUSE FOR SALE BUT GHOST MUST STAY

(Christoph Driessen *The Advertiser* in London 04 December 00)

A handsome farmhouse in the South Wales town of Barry is for sale - but the contract requires the buyer to leave the "resident ghost" in peace.

Exorcism of any kind is strictly forbidden, since owners Ray and Maureen Bronson have become rather fond of their "resident spirit".

"We want to move to a bigger house but we both feel that 'Tom' should stay here where he belongs," Mr Bronson said, although he admits having once been so frightened of Tom that he slept in the car.

After a chat, man-to-ghost with a vicar as an intermediary, both sides felt a lot better and began to get along fine.

Apparition or delusion? Statistics show that more young people in Britain believe in the supernatural than they do in the Christian God.

One survey found that nearly one in every two Britons believes that ghosts are genuine.

An industry of "ghostbusters" and other self-appointed experts in disposing of troublesome astral beings has sprung up to meet the demand.

Paranormal considerations play an increasingly important role in the buying and selling of property.

Last year a couple sued a firm of estate agents, claiming they had been sold a haunted house. The court rejected the claim.

Meanwhile, eye specialist Trevor Kirkham went to court after a farm he bought in Lancashire failed to live up to its reputation of being haunted. He said the apparition of a headless friar had been promised. The court awarded him about \$217,000 in damages.

The reputedly most haunted house in Britain as listed by the *Guinness Book of Records*, Littledean Hall in the Forest of Dean, was recently offered for sale for more than \$1 million.

"CROP CIRCLE 'FAKED' TO PROVE EXPERT WRONG

BY SIMON DE BRUXELLES

(*The Times* - Tuesday, November 07 2000)

A UFO researcher who wanted to prove the experts wrong about crop circles became the first person to be fined for creating one yesterday. Matthew Williams, editor of *Truthseekers Review*, a magazine that investigates paranormal phenomena, created a seven-pointed star in a cornfield near his Wiltshire home after hearing a self-styled expert claim that it could not be done.

Williams, 29, was fined UK100 and ordered to pay UK40 costs by Devizes magistrates yesterday after pleading guilty to causing criminal damage to the crop. Despite his conviction, Williams maintains that many crop circles are the handiwork of extra-terrestrials rather than hoaxers equipped with planks and bamboo poles. He said: "There are some real circles, but unfortunately there are researchers who aren't telling the truth."

Williams and an American friend spent three nights creating the giant design in a field at Manor Farm in West Overton. He then e-mailed pictures of his handiwork to the expert who had made the claims on an American radio station he had listened to on the Internet.

Michael Glickman, author of a number of books on crop circles, suggested in an interview with the radio presenter Whitley Strieber that certain patterns of crop circle, particularly seven-point stars, had to be the work of extra-terrestrials because they were too complex for humans to create.

Williams contacted Strieber via e-mail and told him that what Professor Glickman had said was incorrect. When Strieber challenged him to prove him wrong Williams gathered his equipment and headed into the night on August 23 this year.

After the hearing Williams, an unemployed computer technician from Bishops Cannings near Devizes, said the public were being conned by so-called experts on crop circles. He said: "A lot of people will be upset by the creation of this seven-point star because they have a lot to lose by the truth coming out.

"The general public are being conned. The majority of crop circles are man-made, although I do believe some are the work of the paranormal. Researchers are spoiling the real truth and are determined to say that all crop formations are the result of another life form when they know this is not always the case."

Paul Fuller, of UFOIN and YUFOS correspondent comments :-

1) Williams is not the first person to be fined for making a crop circle. The first were two 17-year-old agricultural students, Gabor Takacs and Robert Dallos, of Szekesfeharvar in Hungary in 1992. They too paid a relatively small fine as the Hungarian court decreed that whilst they had to pay for the loss of the crop they pushed down they didn't have to pay for the (much larger) area of crop that was subsequently visited by sightseers and UFOlogists.

2) *The Times* misses out that fact that Strieber (originally) claimed to have been abducted by aliens. This is surely relevant to the story as it demonstrates how despite the overwhelming evidence of people making complex crop formations over the past two decades there are still some people who believe that these patterns are messages to mankind from an alien intelligence!

3) The claim that Williams still believes that some crop circles are the result of "the paranormal" and/or "ET" was contradicted by the article in the *Daily Express* (9 November 2000) but supported by the article in "*The Guardian*" (7 November 2000). In general newspaper reporting of this case has been very poor as all the usual rubbish about crop circles has been trotted out without anyone bothering to do much research or attempt to get their facts straight.

4) I don't wish to condone circlemaking/hoaxing but take my hat off to Williams for his justification for making the circles. He will make no friends for having done this. The circlemakers/hoaxers will be annoyed with him for having got caught and the believers will attack anyone who dares to challenge promoters of their cherished belief systems. It is also noteworthy that like a good scientist Williams set up a falsifiable hypothesis and went out and tested it. His mistake, as the court ruled, was that he

conducted his experiment without asking the farmer first.

5) Williams' unnamed friend is Paul Damon, who has been accused by other circlemakers of making crop circles dating back to the early 1990s. It is a mystery to me why Damon was not also prosecuted as other newspapers report that he was involved in making the same crop circles that led to Matthew Williams' prosecution.

Paul Fuller

TERRIFIED RESIDENTS DEMAND EXORCISM OF POLTERGEIST

By Bill Brotherton and Tony Belshaw (Wed, Nov 15, 2000)

A TEAM of religious ministers have performed an exorcism-type ceremony on a Sheffield estate.

It follows a spate of terrifying incidents which residents say have plagued them over the past 18 months, including pictures falling off walls, vases being smashed, noises like a hammer - and strange child-like footsteps.

At least six residents on Winn Drive, Winn Gardens, Middlewood, are blaming the spooky goings on on building work at a former graveyard near Middlewood Hospital.

They called in churchmen from the New Testament Church, Nursery Street in a bid to be rid of them.

Now, thank heavens, it seems to have worked.

Catherine Cook, aged 24, said: "Three of them came around and laid their hands on our shoulders and prayed for us. They were singing and praying. I felt a bit better. Thankfully nothing has happened since then.

"I think it is the spirit of a child because I heard little footsteps at night running along the landing."

Catherine even changed the locks and called in the police - thinking someone was playing tricks on her. But the problems continued.

Neighbour Nicola Jones, 26, has had her electric alarm clock switched on and off, room lights flashing on and off, has heard a noise like a child running up the stairs and a window being smashed.

She and other neighbours have also suffered horrible nightmares.

Nicola, an interior design student, said: "The nightmares are horrendous and I can't take it any more. I don't want to live anywhere else I want to be in there but I just can't stand it."

Middlewood Hospital has been demolished and houses are now being built on the land.

Catherine Cook added: "My grandmother used to work at Middlewood Hospital and she said they often had reports of poltergeists on the wards. They have carried out exorcisms there in the past too."

The Reverend Benjamin Grey, of the New Testament Church, confirmed that a group of people, including a minister, had been sent to the estate to rid it of the spirits.

"Some people may call it an exorcism," he said. "We call it praying for deliverance.

"When we go to a house we try to find out what is going on. Sometimes it is people playing tricks - but we do know these spirits exist."

FORUM: THE STEPHEN PRATT PHOTO

The following article is re-printed here as the fore-runner to a minor controversy which has hit both YUFOS and UFOIN. The series "A Century of Sheffield Saucers" by Dr. David Clarke was originally published in the pages of *Project Red Book*, and is archived on the YUFOS website. One section of the series detailed David Clarke's opinions on the 1967 "Pratt photograph", one of the most famous and controversial UFO photographs in British ufology.

It appears that Kevin J. Pratt, brother of Stephen Pratt, the photographer, browsed the article and objected to the article relating to his brother's case. Kevin contacted me to voice his displeasure, and I agreed to print his version of events, as long as David Clarke was allowed to respond to Kevin's accusations. Below is the original article, followed by the correspondence that followed. (Dave Baker)

From "A Century of Sheffield Saucers (part 4) "The Flap of 1967-" by Dr. David Clarke, originally published in Project Red Book Vol 3 #3, September 1999

THE STEPHEN PRATT PHOTO CASE

By Dr. David Clarke

But other cases reported during those two strange years remain a mystery, including the still unexplained photo taken by teenager Stephen Pratt near his home in the pit town of Conisborough, near Doncaster. Like many other photographic cases, the Pratt photo has since gone on to become a "classic" which has managed to retain its mystique because it has never been subjected to an analysis by the latest techniques available to UFOlogy.

Stephen was a 15-year-old schoolboy when he saw what he described as "a strange orange glow" in the sky as he returned from a visit to the local chip shop with his mum Theresa.

She sent Stephen back to their home on Leslie Avenue to fetch brothers Kevin and Gary, and dad Walter, to see the burning orange object dancing through the sky.

Using his brother Malcolm's Kodak Instamatic 50 the youngster managed to take one picture of the UFO before it disappeared towards Rotherham. The film was later taken to the local chemist for developing, who decided the negative in question was not worth printing, and it had to be taken back a second time before a print was eventually made.

When it was finally developed, the family were astonished to find no trace of the orange ball of light, but instead found three black

saucer-shaped craft silhouetted against the overcast sky, flying in apparent formation towards the camera.

Even to a non-expert eye, suspicions are immediately raised by the fact that the "saucers" on the Pratt photo are out of focus while the chimney pots of the terraced houses and the prominent lamp-post are sharply in focus. In the case of many well-known hoaxes, this effect is usually produced as a result of the "UFO" being actually nearer the camera than may be claimed by the photographer - suggesting the "objects" are really cut-outs pasted or painted onto a sheet of glass or window through which the photo was taken.

Despite these suspicions, claims have been made that Kodak experts had pronounced the photograph "genuine and untouched." Shortly after it appeared in the local and national press in November 1966, Dr Geoffrey Doel, then chairman of BUFORA, announced that a "thorough examination" of both the negative and Stephen's story had convinced them the claim was genuine. Doel described it as "an excellent picture and one of the best we have seen."

Such a conclusive endorsement was enough for Stephen. He said: "That's a big relief. I'm fed up with having my leg pulled by people asking me if I've seen any more flying saucers. Now the laugh is on them."

Two years ago, on the 50th anniversary of the UFO mystery, I was able to speak to Stephen Pratt and his brother Kevin, who both continue to maintain that the photo was genuine. It has since appeared in books and magazines across the world, but Kevin claimed it had brought

Stephen and other members of the family nothing but misery.

Stephen had moved from the area because of the harassment he had received, it was claimed.

"People have had a go at us in the street and it reached the point where it came to blows," said Kevin. "On top of that people have said that Stephen admitted it was a hoax and that we stuck cardboard shapes on to glass to fake it. But it was a genuine sighting with more than five witnesses and I was there when the photo was taken."

The obvious flaw in Kevin's argument is that the "orange lights" observed by the five Pratt family members bore no resemblance to the UFOs, which actually appeared upon the photo. The two could have been completely separate incidents, which eliminates the suggestion that all five witnesses could not be mistaken. Without definitive evidence as to when the photo was actually taken, and whether it coincided with the sighting of the orange light or was actually produced later, it is impossible to reach any definitive conclusion about this case until Stephen decides to tell us more.

But perhaps a most significant clue was that in 1998 when Kevin came forward to defend the photo, he claimed the brothers were happy to submit the original negative to the most advanced computer analysis techniques to authenticate it once and for all.

"Stephen and I are convinced it will pass any test," he told me. However, after arranging for two experts -one based at Manchester University and the second at the British Journal of Photography - to analyse the picture, nothing more was heard from the Pratt brothers.

Readers can draw their own conclusions from this fact.

Quite out of the blue, as I have never had any dealings with any member of the Pratt family before, I received the following e-mail, from Kevin J. Pratt, which I reproduce here verbatim.

Dear Sir

I am concerned about your report regarding our experience in March 28 1966. And I wish to set matters straight regarding the skeptical article no doubt furnished by the skeptical Clarke himself. Firstly the reason why we didn't get back in touch with Mr. David Clarke was not due to the fact that we were avoiding testing of the negative or the camera, It was due to Mr. Clarke himself, after being tipped of about the nature of Mr. Clarke's skeptical approach to our encounter and past inaccurate published reports by Mr. Clarke's offensive approach to matters that he cannot comprehend. We felt that our case would not get the unbiased scientific approach that it deserved. All the same the negative was analyzed by computer. Focusing on the penumbral rim of each object. After colorization of the monochrome negative and transference to 16 bit IFF format the gradient shades of each object were counted. The outcome was that there was very noticeable reduction of the penumbral scale. Simply meaning that the objects were in formation away from the camera lens. The cheap type of monochrome film used at the time, so I am informed, was taken from the public domain and used in specialist fields such as space research due to its emulsion properties.

If it were at all possible to take such a photograph like this using a fixed focus Kodak instamatic 50 camera in twilight conditions of cutouts placed on glass, the penumbral rim would remain the same on each object at the same focal length, as it is, the reduction from the larger object to the smallest implies distance, the penumbral rim being some kind of radiation or vapor. The camera was tested and the fact remains that it would prove extremely unlikely that a boy with such a cheap camera could achieve such a photograph with one shot especially so far beyond the cameras focal capabilities. Ask any photographer familiar with the Kodak instamatic 50 type camera and find out for yourself, ask them if they could produce similar results in poor lighting conditions with one snapshot, I know we have had some of the best have a go and they had to use expensive specialist Nikon equipment and only after numerous attempts using more than one roll of film could they get anywhere near the same result.

When all said and done such foolish people as your reporter can assume what they wish, we have become accustomed to such assassins in the past and quite frankly they can believe what they want to, it wont change a thing. My only grievance is that the opinionated arrogance of such people cause damage to UFO investigation. Anyone seeing such remarks as displayed in your article would think twice before putting themselves up to ridicule

thereby preventing them from coming forward with impotent information and/or evidence. In conclusion I don't expect that this report will receive the same coverage as the offensive report which prompted my response, this is not unusual, we are used to such treatment by self important, opinionated authors, whom wouldn't understand the truth if it hit them in the face.

You can believe what the hell you like, but don't publicly ridicule my family again please.

Yours Sincerely Kevin J. Pratt

My response was this:

Hi Kevin,

Thanks for your letter. I assume that the article you refer to is on the YUFOS website, in the section about Sheffield UFOs? David Clarke did indeed write a series of articles about the history of UFOs over Sheffield, which appeared in our magazine and on the website. This is actually quite dated, but I assume you have only just come across it.

I am very sorry if this article has caused any offence to you or your family, but as I have been unable to trace you, I have not been able to ask for your side of the story. All that I am aware of is that at some point someone from your family admitted that the photo was a hoax, one which had gotten out of control. Later, I heard that you or someone else from your family had retracted this, saying that the hoax claim had been made to avoid negative publicity. So personally I have no knowledge of the case. However, as with our monthly magazine, articles which appear do not reflect the opinions of the editor (that's me!), or YUFOS. Otherwise we wouldn't print a thing, because there would always be someone disagreeing to everything.

However, if you give your permission, I will be more than happy to include your rebuttal to Dr. Clarke's article in the next issue of our monthly magazine, and if I can persuade our webmaster, on the YUFOS website.

Your point that a sceptical outlook can lead to potential witnesses being too scared to come forward is a valid one, though, and something we try to avoid by being generally open-minded.

On a final note, we hold monthly meetings, which you are welcome to attend to speak to the group about your sighting and the history of your photograph, in a further attempt to get to know us, and set the record straight.

Kevin Pratt attempted to contact Dave Clarke but did not have his most recent e-mail address and I was not about to pass it on without Dave's permission. However, I did pass on Kevin's letter, to which Dave responded:

"Kevin Pratt can huff and puff all he likes, but it won't alter my contention that his brother's photograph remains one of the crudest hoaxes in UFO history.

"That opinion is shared by many other seasoned UFOlogists and is based upon years of experience investigating similar "cut and paste" photographs such as the Alex Birch case.

"It's not up to me to or the skeptics to prove anything, I'm not making any claims simply expressing an opinion.

"It's up to Kevin to demonstrate that his brother's photo is not a hoax. If he was so sure the photograph would stand up to independent verification he would have no hesitation in making the original negative and print available for analysis. At the moment his stance is that he will only allow those who "believe" the photo is genuine to inspect it.

"Promoters of UFO photographs cannot pick and chose who can and cannot undertake analysis, if they expect their stories to be taken seriously they must submit their claims to qualified and named experts in the field.

"Kevin cannot even provide us with the name and qualifications of those he claims have undertaken such analysis. We are expected to take it on blind faith alone that the photograph is genuine simply because Kevin Pratt says so.

"This might satisfy believers but will not convince anyone in the real world that the photograph is anything other than the result of a schoolboy prank which got out of hand.

"I challenge the Pratts to submit the photograph for analysis by Geoffrey Crawley of the British Journal of Photography, one of the most respected experts in the field.

"What I said in my article for YUFOS stands, and it remains my contention that the "saucers" in the photograph are close to the camera, which explains glass or are cut-outs pasted onto a sheet of glass and rephotographed.

"Anyone with even a basic knowledge of photography could reproduce the Pratt photo by using the same method, and indeed have done so.

"My conclusion remains that the case is a hoax and Kevin Pratt's renewed campaign upon anyone who questions his version of events simply reinforces that opinion.

"As for his attacks on 'gutter press journalists', it's ironic that journalists suddenly become useful when Kevin wishes to promote the photograph as a means of promoting his new book which that

why they are out of focus and yet the houses and lamppost are sharply in focus. The obvious conclusion is that the saucers are either painted on Consibrough is a cosmic stepping stone for saucers travelling through the cosmos.

"It is the job of journalists to investigate the stories of people who make wild claims in order to promote themselves and sell their products to a gullible general public. Pratt's reaction is precisely what I would expect from someone who has been "rumbled" to use an old South Yorkshire expression.

"Fantastic claims require fantastic evidence and so far Pratt has failed to meet that challenge. My challenge to Pratt remains: Put up or shut up."

There's really nothing more to say, and I cannot see how engaging in a slanging match with Pratt will be an economical use of my time.

UFOs- THE KEY TURNING POINT (PART 6)

BY W.H. BOOKER (YUFOS)

How many times have we heard of UFOs giving off sparks and making the hairs stand up on the head or the back of the neck? Looking at the facts, the UFOs must therefore be generating static electrical charges. Many UFOs also generate a very powerful bright light, at times changing to different colours. This means that the frequency of light waves being changed from the low end; red, to the higher frequency; blue or violet, or even higher ultra-violet. This part of the electro magnetic wave spectrum is normally produced by white-hot objects, and certain gas discharges. Ultra-violet affects photographic film, causes fluorescence and photo-electric effects, and is also a hazard to eyes and skin.

One of the subjects missing from many UFO sightings is sound. During our short study of sound we mentioned the audio-frequencies-sounds humans are normally able to detect. The other higher and lower frequencies, subsonic and ultrasonic we are unable to detect. Audio sound-waves can come direct from the original source, such as from a 'plane or train in the distance, or during a normal conversation in a room, person to person etc.

Then we have in-direct sound, from a TV or radio via the speakers. The sound has been modified to travel long distances, such as the astronauts on the Moon, via radio-waves, or music etc through the speakers on a TV set. This is done by modulating or combining audio-waves with radio-waves of certain frequencies for us to be able to receive them via radio or TV.

Radio waves are, as mentioned earlier, electromagnetic waves, the same as light waves, only at lower frequencies. I did not mention that light waves could be amplified, but we know that they can, by way of laser light rays.

I would like to think that we could modulate or combine light waves or laser rays, with audio, sub-sonic or ultrasonic waves, to create some form of 'super energy'.

Indirect sound can be amplified to unlimited amounts, as most of us know from discos to ghetto-blasters (Ultimate car stereo radios). UFOs are very often seen to change colour very quickly before moving off. This change in colour or change in light-wave frequency may give us some clues as to their form of power.

One of the main things that has puzzled me, as well as many UFO researchers is how they are able to come to a stationary position and just hover, without making a lot of noise, maybe just a humming sound, like a bee. According to the laws of gravity, a bee should not be able to fly at all, due to it's body size and small wings. But it does. Is it due to the weight of it's body, or is it like a balloon, filled with air, that floats upwards due to it's buoyancy. Something like a cork held under water- if you let it go it floats to the top. This is due to the density of water being greater than the cork. The density of water can be changed, by adding salt. Like the Dead Sea- everyone floats in it, you cannot sink due to it's greater density.

If we could concentrate the density of air enough just below an object, we could possibly make it float. This may not be as ridiculous as it sounds.

Quite a large number of sightings from observers, especially of saucer-shaped craft have mentioned that the centre or lower part of the craft appeared to be rotating. If part of it were rotating very fast, it would be difficult for the eye to detect. A very fast rotating motion below any craft would cause the air to form a vortex or whirlwind, which could possibly keep the craft hovering. At the same time, could this have created some of the mysterious crop circles?

Observations of saucer-type UFOs have been seen to descend with a particular wobble, very much like a gyroscope slowing down, or a child's spinning top.

There are a number of mechanical units that when in rotation can produce some form of energy. The first that comes to mind is the Wimshurst machine. This was invented about 150 years ago. It consists of two glass plates, usually about 12 inches to 18 inches in diameter, that rotate in opposite directions, with wire brushes causing friction on each surface, producing very high voltages, sufficient to ionise gasses.

This particular unit reminds me of the many descriptions of UFOs, giving off sparks or a luminous aurora, due to electrically charged particles which can cause a release of energy in the form of light.

So can we yet see any form of a picture from all these little pieces of information? I hope it will stimulate some kind of enthusiastic discussion.

Another mechanical unit which produces energy is the van Der Graaf generator. This is a unit that continually separates positive and negative electrostatic charges and in doing so produces a high voltage. The fundamental structure of a Van De Graaf generator consists of a large hollow, very smooth metal sphere, supported on an insulating tube, possibly glass. A fast electric motor driving a belt of either rubber or silk, carries a negative or positive charge from an electrode at the bottom of the belt up into the inside of the sphere. The outside of the sphere gradually becomes charged, and in some generators of this type, voltages as high as 500kv or 10,000 volts can be produced. Some of these large machines are used to split atoms for research purposes.

Despite these very high voltage charges on the outside of the sphere, the inside of the sphere is completely free of any charges. In fact. Experiments with sensitive equipment have been conducted inside a sphere when in use. If any of these charges should be transferred to another hollow sphere, they would only collect on it's outside surface. Should there be a sharply curved edge on these spheres, such as we see around the outer edge of UFOs, from this curved edge there is a much higher concentration of electrical charges. These charges are very often seen to be carried away, in what we call 'electric wind' and the air is said to be ionised. It looks like a blue or violet haze around the edges. I mentioned earlier these sparks or luminous aurora, are charged particles which release energy in the form of light.

To me this looks as though we may be getting a little closer to how these UFO craft operate.

One of my other theories is to produce a strong magnetic field inside one of these spheres- in other words to try to stimulate the same situation we have on Earth, with it's magnetic field and static electrical field on the surface. I quoted earlier that this Earth of ours is a giant space vehicle travelling through the heavens.

Some of this information may be an area for the more experienced scientists to make further experiments in.

There is a wealth of scientific knowledge from the past. In India we get many verses translated from the *Mahabharata*, devoted to flying machines - called *Vimanas* with detailed information on the principles of their construction. In another ancient Indian text, the *Samarangana Sutradhara*, the advantages and

disadvantages of different types of aircraft are discussed at length: their relative capabilities of ascent, cruising speed, and descent, and even a description of the fuel power source – mercury- and recommendations, regarding types of wood and light/heat absorbing metals.

In another ancient classic of India, the *Ramayana*, there exists curious descriptions of travel by aircraft, thousands of years ago.

Here is an account from the ancient writers, which may of course be mistranslated from the original:

“Inside it one must place the mercury engine with it’s iron heating apparatus beneath. By means of the power latent in the mercury which sets the driving whirlwind in motion, a man sitting inside may travel far distances into the sky. Four mercury containers must be built into the interior structure. When these have been heated by controlled fire....the Vimana develops thunder power through the mercury. If this iron engine with properly welded joints be filled with mercury and the fire be conducted to the upper part, it develops power with the roar of a lion...and at once becomes like a pearl in the sky.”

It is only now, after many years that we are beginning to recognize some of the scientific techniques that were discovered a long time ago.

There are many outstanding examples of lost knowledge from the past, also references to many advanced cultures. Some going back as far as 20,000 BC. But at the same time there are some very inexplicable stories in more recent times.

A few years ago the American Navy tried a generator, a magnetic one called a ‘degausser’. This generator was ‘pulsed at resonant frequencies’ so as to create a tremendous magnetic field. This supposedly made a complete ship and all of it’s crew disappear in a dock in Philadelphia. This became known as ‘The Philadelphia Experiment’. A book was written by Charles Berlitz and William Moore, which gives a detailed account of this experiment and the many tragedies that followed. I think that they were trying this experiment out based on Einstein’s unified field theory, but everything did not work out as planned.

There are many strange stories that come from India. Only recently I read about a feat of levitation practiced on a regular basis. This

involved 9 or 11 people placing their hands on a large granite rock. Then, they all chanted a rhythmic melody until the rock rose well above the ground – 4 to 5 feet, then suddenly dropped back to earth. I cannot possibly see this case having anything to do with electronics, Einstein’s unified field theory or gravity. But maybe sound waves could be the connection?

From the beginning of my story I have tried to impart as much knowledge, accumulated over the years about the UFO phenomenon. Also, I have attempted to pass on a wide variety of facts, figures and simple common sense, plus give a few details about our Earth, the planets, and information on our atmosphere, environment, gravity, and magnetic and static electrical fields.

Without diagrams and sketches it is not easy to explain how everything works, especially when it comes to the nature of atoms, electrons, negative and positive charges, and the man-made generators that produce high voltages. If you pick up any simple school physics book you will get a good idea how these things work.

Looking back, I think I have covered a little more than the original 5 subjects (speed, time, sound, light and gravity) that I originally intended. Must have got carried away!

As far as our senses are concerned, smell, touch, taste etc have not been covered to any great extent, not has telepathy, ESP or any other physic phenomena. The main reason for this is that I feel I don’t have sufficient knowledge to go deeply into these subjects. But that doesn’t mean they should not be studied any further.

So during all the UFO sightings, past and present, are we using all of our senses? UFO researchers need to know, from each sighting, the full extent of all the senses, from smell, sound, sight etc, including location, time, weather or any other unusual situations at the time. The observer should ideally have plenty of equipment with him, such as camera, video camera etc. But as we all know, this type of phenomena never turns up when you are ready for it! It usually comes when least expected!

At the start of “The Key Turning Point” I said that I would give you the full story of my own sightings, which I will in the final part of the series, next issue.