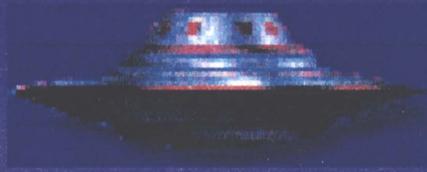


STRANGE DAZE

"If everything on Earth
were rational, nothing
would happen"

- Fyodor Dostoevsky



NUMBER 14

JULY 1997

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CELEBRATES THE MODERN ERA OF U.F.O S

"Left at
Westgate Road"

Larry Warren

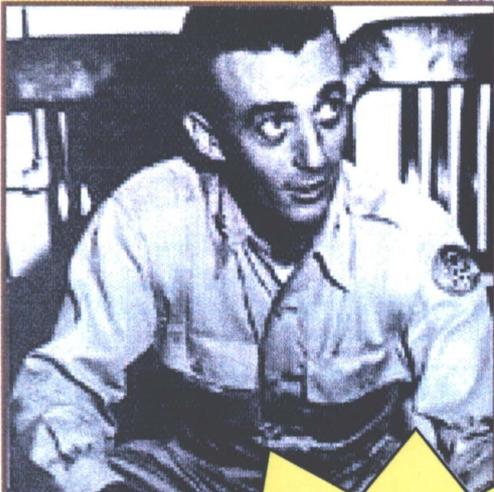
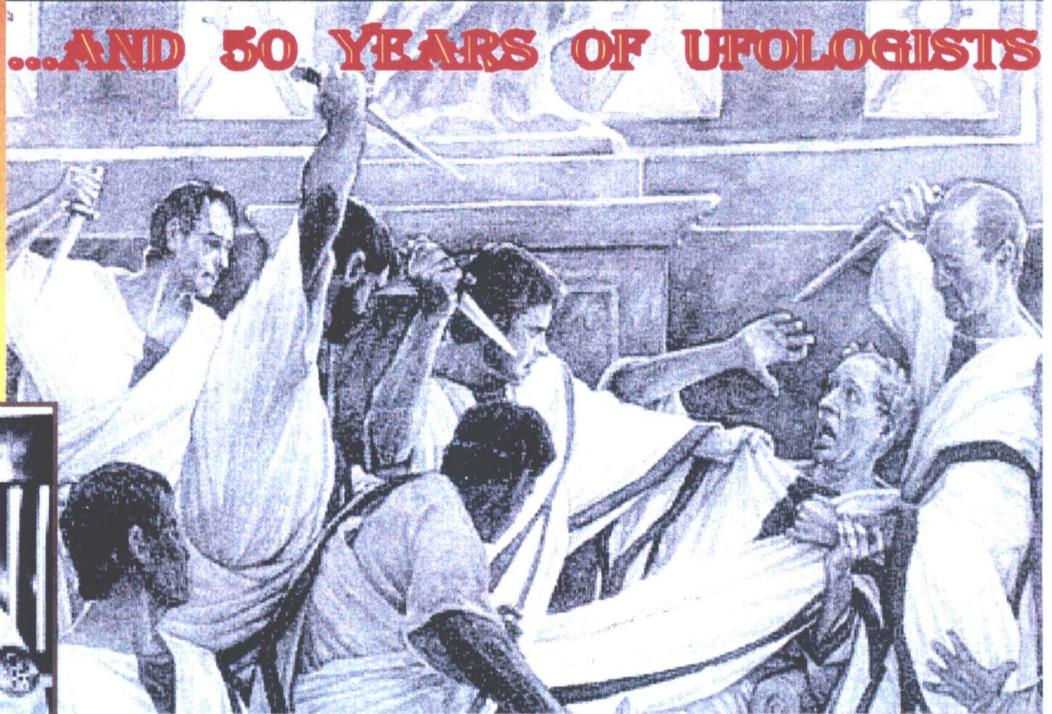
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visit

Newcastle....

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NUFORI NORTHERN U. F. O RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION

STRANGE DAZE NUMBER 14 JULY 1997

Gee Whizz! 50 years of Flying Saucers

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Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, Strange Daze or NUFORI.

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Or why not buy it from a shop: On sale in Newcastle-u-Tyne in Forbidden Planet (downstairs) and Dillons bookstore.



STRANGE DAZE runs exclusively on leaded fuel. Do not attempt to run it on unleaded or super unleaded fuel, as the pages will go all wrinkly and you may cause permanent staple damage.

Left: Covert manoeuvres. Y. Axl Cyderblent, your Editor and Jon Lee return to NUFORI 's top secret headquarters in the Scottish borders after a night of remote sensing in the upper atmosphere.

Editorial

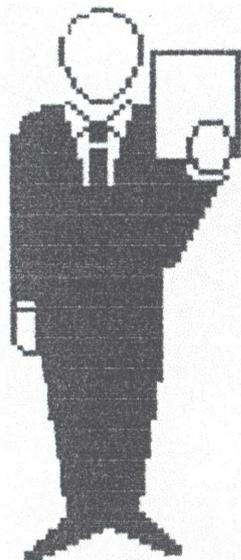
It has now been 50 years since the UFO phenomenon officially started, back at the end of June 1947. UFOs had been seen for centuries before then in one form or another but it was only after Kenneth Arnold's classic sighting that the subject of UFOlogy crystallised into its own separate field. Most of this issue will be devoted to a retrospective of the past half century, with some interesting comments by UFOlogists on what they think are the key moments and people in the history, and on the future of UFOlogy. 1997 is big for UFOlogy, and one of the biggest events coming up is the BUFORA Congress in Sheffield this August. If you get the chance to go to one of these events, please don't pass it by as the big UFO conferences are usually great fun. I hope to see some of you in Sheffield. Ooh, can't you just taste the excitement in the air.

There may be some changes coming up with Strange Daze - indeed, this may be the final issue of the magazine in its current incarnation. Don't worry though, nothing bad is happening and there will still be a magazine. The next issue of SD should be out in November but if there are any major changes I'll make sure everyone knows about it. Sorry to be cagey about it, but it gives me a feeling of power.

Notice to local readers

Editor Dave Newton and the crew usually make a public appearance every Friday night in the Egypt Cottage, next to the Tyne Tees studios on the City Road, Newcastle. So if you're free, come on down to the Egypt and buy everyone a drink. Please.

Also, Dillons bookshop in Newcastle are now having regular evening book launches, with some top UFO authors visiting the city - so watch out for who's coming to town, and if you get chance to come along, say hello to the Strange Daze crew. We'll probably be at the back thinking up awkward questions.



Looking in the mirror, Colin could not help but

think that, despite taking years off him, the plastic surgery had removed some of the character from his face.

NEWS



UFO FLAP IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

UFOs have been seen repeatedly around the town of Saffron Walden, Cambridgeshire. The flap began March 12 when a group of university graduates spotted a UFO while holding a bonfire on Mill Road in Cambridge.

"At first we thought it was a fighter plane," Phil Andrews, 24, said, "And we watched it for about 10 seconds moving south. Then it just shot off in an arc shape at ridiculous speed. There was no sound." On May 1, 1997, a father and son living on Radwinter Road in Saffron Walden, Cambs. spotted "a huge red object" hovering above the motorway.

Two weeks later, on May 14, several people in the town reported sighting UFOs. One of them was Janice Wayback, who said, "My cat saw it first and suddenly sat up. I looked out and saw what I originally thought was a firework but it carried on floating towards Ridgeons. I can't imagine what it could have been. My cat was fascinated."

Another resident reported seeing "a very strange rocket-like thing in the sky" near Saffron Walden County High School. "It moved quite fast and it was not a plane. It was a red gold colour." Tina McCauley was making a Phone call from her home on Ashdon Road in Saffron Walden when she spotted "a round red-gold circular object. It seemed to have two rows of lights around the circumference. It was high enough to light up the sky. It made no noise. It just moved slowly and disappeared over Whiteshot Way." (See the British newspaper Saffron Walden Weekly News for May 22, 1997. Many thanks to SkyCam for sending us this news story.)

TWO UFOLOGISTS FOUND DEAD IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

On Tuesday, June 3, 1997, at about 3 p.m., investigating state police officers found the bodies of two prominent ufologists in a campground in northern New Hampshire (N.H.). The bodies of George W. Perry, 50, of East Providence, Rhode Island and Keith Begnoche, 22, of Blackstone, Massachusetts were found in a tent at the Dolly Copp Campground, located off Route 16 in Pinkham's Grant, N.H.

Relatives of the dead men called the police on Monday after Perry and Begnoche failed to return from their weekend camping trip to Mount Washington. Perry, born in Pawtucket, R.I., was an electrical engineer and inventor and the owner of Alpha Scientific Associates. He was also assistant director of the Rhode Island chapter of MUFON. Begnoche was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gabriel Begnoche of Blackstone,

Mass. and was a freshman at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, Mass.

According to Sgt. John K. Scarinza of the New Hampshire state police, investigating officers found a sales slip in the tent. As a result of this find, the "troopers surmised that the friends died either Saturday night (May 31) or Sunday morning (June 1)."

"One of Perry's two sisters, Claire Bussiere, of Cumberland, R.I. said his death was puzzling because 'He was so methodical about things. Something just went wrong.'"

"She speculated that he might have altered his routine after buying a new tent. Ordinarily, he would turn on a heater to remove the chill, then place the device outside. For some reason, the heater was still inside when the troopers arrived."

"The device was tethered to a 20-pound propane tank. The controls were on and the tank was empty. Medical tests found carbon monoxide in both men's bodies. Apparently, the friends fell asleep before they were poisoned, police said." (See the Providence R.I. Journal-Bulletin for June 6, 1997, pages B1 and B4) Perry and Begnoche had told friends before the trip that they were going to Mount Washington (elevation 6,288 feet) to do some skywatching.

"David Rannacher, a friend of Perry...said he doesn't think the two campers who set out on their camping trip Friday (May 30) ever made it to Mount Washington, although no one can say for sure." (Providence, R.I. Journal Bulletin, June 6, 1997, page B4)

NEW PRESSURE GROUP AGAINST SATANIC UFOs

A new pressure group is warning against the satanic nature of UFOs. The founders of UFO Concern say that alien intelligences "are operating increasingly amongst mankind", and that contacts with UFOs "have seldom been beneficial". The founder of the group is Lord Hill-Norton, a retired Admiral of the Fleet and Chief of Defence Staff. He has written to interested parties claiming that "the subjective influence of UFOs is essentially a religious matter". He says in the letter that quite often UFO encounters were "definitely antithetical to orthodox Christian belief". The Revd Paul Inglesby, coordinating secretary of the group, said last week that response to Lord Hill-Norton's appeal had been good; the group had received 150 letters of support in three months. He said several church-people had expressed interest including two bishops. Gordon Creighton, another member of the group and editor of Flying Saucer Review (a magazine devoted to exposing the sinister aspects of UFO encounters), said his readers had become increasingly concerned with the "UFO problem". They were becoming convinced that UFOs were

"under satanic control". At least one member of the group appeared to be less concerned, however. The Rt Revd Paul Burrough, a retired Bishop of Mashonaland whose name appears on the group's stationery, said on Wednesday that, while alien influences were a cause for worry "a few years ago", he did not feel they were a topic worth considering at the moment. The Revd Dr David Wilkinson, a Methodist minister and an astro-physicist, whose book "Alone in the Universe?" was published this month, said on Wednesday that Christians have nothing to fear from alien life-forms. Dr Wilkinson (who is not a member of UFO Concern) thought it "very unlikely" that there was intelligent alien life in our galaxy, or even the universe, but even if there were, "it would only add to the extravagance of God's creativity." UFO Concern can be contacted at: The Old Store, Athelney, Burrowbridge, Bridgwater, Somerset TA7 0SE.

(source: CHURCH TIMES, 28th Feb 1997, via BU-FORA newsmail)

IRISH UFOs

A report circulated on the Web last weekend, telling of three giant UFOs entering Sligo Bay on the north-west coast of Eire. The report was soon proven a hoax by Irish Fortean researcher Daev Walsh and a resident of Sligo Bay. The hoaxer apparently based the story on a recent genuine UFO report. On May 10, 1997, at about 2 p.m., a British camera crew videotaped "a round luminous UFO" in the town of Bantry, County Cork, Eire. The film will be shown as part of an ITV documentary entitled "We Are Not Alone." The two-part show will air in Britain on June 24 and June 26 at 10:45p.m. (See the newspaper The Examiner of Cork, Eire for May 11, 1997. Many thanks to Daev Walsh for this news story.)

USAF SAYS ROSWELL ALIENS WERE ONLY "TEST DUMMIES"

On Tuesday, June 24, 1997, the 50th anniversary of the Kenneth Arnold "flying saucer" sighting, the U.S. Air Force released a new report on the Roswell incident. In its 231-page document, "The Roswell Report--Case Closed," the Air Force stated that it had "found no evidence whatsoever of flying saucers, space aliens or sinister government coverups."

The new report is "a follow up to a 1,000-page 1994 study" which claimed that "debris found in 1947 came from the crash of an Air Force (Project Mogul) balloon that was monitoring the atmosphere for evidence of Soviet nuclear tests."

"The Tuesday report was designed to answer...what Air Force Secretary Sheila Widnall called 'a complete and open explanation.' It said that as many as 67 life-sized dummies were dropped over New Mexico by high-altitude balloons between 1954 and 1959 to measure the impact of parachute falls on pilots."

"The report suggested (Roswell) witnesses con-

fused memories of the 1947 crash with the 1950s dummies." (See USA Today for June 25, 1997, page 3A.)

GIANT V-SHAPED UFO SEEN NEAR LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

While U.S. Air Force officials were busily debunking the 1947 Roswell case, several UFO incidents took place in the southwestern United States. The first of these took place at 9:30 p.m.

on Monday, June 23, 1997, near Las Vegas, Nevada.

According to the AP report, Las Vegas Metro Police received "quite a few calls" from residents, who reported a giant wedge-shaped or V-shaped UFO northwest of the city, near Area 51. "A police dispatcher who declined to give her name said she and other family members spotted the mysterious object hovering in the sky about 9:30 p.m."

"It was like a pyramid or a V-shaped wedge, with pulsating yellow lights,' the dispatcher told the Associated Press. "It split up; then it came back together. 'We got quite a few calls on it. From all reports, it was something similar to what was seen over Phoenix'" on March 13, 1997.

"It looked like they took the lights of a football field and put them way up in the sky,' said the dispatcher's niece, who also requested anonymity. The woman said she has never witnessed such a display in the 37 years she has lived in Las Vegas. She said her husband and three children witnessed the lights, as well. 'They were these huge round lights, like they were in formation,' she said. 'They were in a wide V-shape and they broke up and disappeared.'"

(See the Las Vegas Review-Journal for June 24, 1997. Many thanks to Jared Anderson and Errol Bruce-Knapp for forwarding the AP story.)

UFOs & BLACK HELICOPTERS STALK CHICAGO SUBURB

On Saturday, June 14, 1997, at approximately 3 p.m., the Simmons family was startled when "a very loud and low helicopter went over my house traveling from the south to the north." The Simmons's home is in Streamwood, Illinois, south of Schaumburg Road, about 19 miles (30 kilometers) west of the Chicago Loop. "The helicopter was a very dark gray, and my husband thought it might be an Apache (AH-64--J.T.)"

"Later that night, at about 11 p.m., when I went outside to move my van, I noticed an extremely bright red light to the west (near Elgin, Illinois). It appeared to be stationary in the sky," Mrs. Simmons reported. "I watched it for a moment or two, wondering why the lights were not blinking, and then noticed to the east, in the direction of O'Hare (International) Airport, an airplane making its approach. The difference between the lights was dramatic, and I noted that there were no white lights or

green lights on this object...This was a very bright red light, like a Christmas light."

On Monday, June 16, 1997, at 10:45 p.m., a friend of Mrs. Simmons's, who lives about a mile away, went outdoors and "immediately noticed an 'intense' red light moving from the west to the east. The light was not as high as a satellite would be, but was definitely higher than the plane traffic. It was moving fast." The following day, June 17, 1997, in the "early afternoon," Mrs. Simmons's friend "saw a black helicopter traveling low enough to see the pilot and moving from southwest to the northeast over Streamwood," apparently heading for Barrington Road. (Email Interview)

BLACK HELICOPTERS SEEN AROUND EASTERN TEXAS

On Tuesday, June 10, 1997, at 3:51 p.m., witnesses in Spicewood, Texas, about 27 miles (43 kilometers) west of the state capital, Austin, sighted a flight of seven to nine black helicopters, tentatively identified as AH-64 Apaches, flying low over the Pedernales River just west of Lake Travis.

On Saturday, June 21, 1997, local residents saw "about a dozen" black helicopters of a model unfamiliar to them tied down on the tarmac at the airport in San Saba, Texas (population 2,336), 45 miles (72 kilometers) northwest of Austin.

On Wednesday, June 25, 1997, people in Oilton, Texas sighted six black helicopters--five AH-64 Apaches and one UH-60 Blackhawk--flying over the town, heading west towards Laredo. (Unsolicited Email)

UFOs BUZZ SEASIDE HOTEL IN CANCUN, MEXICO

On Sunday, June 15, 1997, at 9:30 p.m., Cathy C. was relaxing at her hotel suite in the resort city of Cancun, Mexico with her son, Matthew, and a fellow American, Richard H. Cancun is in the state of Quintana Roo, on the eastern tip of the Yucatan Peninsula, 1,200 kilometers (750 miles) east of Mexico City.

"Rick and I were on the balcony skywatching when something flew in front of us," Cathy reported. "My response was 'What the hell was that!?' I jumped up and ran to the edge and never took my eyes off it." Cathy's suite was on the 5th floor of the hotel, facing the Atlantic Ocean. "It seemed to almost 'buzz' the hotel one time, as if the say, 'Look at me!' It flew in a straight line and then veered off and went straight up...As for size, I would equate it with a small military jet," and the shape "seemed to be triangular, no colored lights, just a softly glowing sphere that appeared to be in the middle section. It moved very quickly and very aerobically."

The UFO was soon joined by three others. "We all saw the four," she reported, "My son and I

stayed out watching for over three hours, and yet it felt like minutes. We had no idea we were out there that long. At times, 'they' appeared playful, as if they wanted us to watch the show. At one point they flew straight down. The distance, according to Matt, was several hundred yards...As for speed, at times they were up in the stars and seconds later, they were down in the clouds, still not ever any noise."

At one point, they witnessed "what appeared to be a falling star, but it was one of the objects followed by a stream of fire. Then both disappeared for a few seconds and then would reappear in another area close by. That happened three times."

"Also...the objects would appear to fly out into the outer atmosphere, as they would fly up and disappear, and then reappear shortly...We strongly feel that it wanted to be seen or did not care if it was seen...Time seemed to stand still. It was amazing! We will never forget that night." (Email Interview)

BLIMP TRIGGERS NEAR-PANIC AS THE AUSTRALIAN UFO FLAP CONTINUES

When a blimp advertising Whitman's Chocolates flew over Sydney and its suburbs earlier this week, it triggered a cascade of phone calls to Australia's National 24-Hour Hotline. According to hotline director Ross Dowe, his office received thousands of calls, the most ever for one night.

The blimp incident followed a month of strange sightings over the Australian states of Victoria and Queensland. On Monday, June 2, 1997, at 7:30 p.m., witnesses in the Taylor Lakes area near Melbourne "reported sighting a cloud-like illumination stopping and then moving again towards the western sky, followed by six orange illuminations."

On Tuesday, June 3, 1997, at 5 p.m., people from Melbourne to Keilor Downs, Victoria (Vic.) reported seeing "a flouro (flourescent) white, upside-down banana-shaped illumination 'moving towards the northwest sky.'"

On Wednesday, June 11, 1997, at 9 p.m., a UFO was reported in Lindissar, on the island of Tasmania off Auyellow tubed or line-shaped object." The following night, Thursday, June 12, 1997, at 6:55 p.m. people at Picnic Point on Queensland's "Sunshine Coast," sighted "a lime-green line with a golden football-shaped illumination halfway up the line." Later that evening, in Rye, Vic., witnesses saw "a foggy white football-shaped object...with (a) line of light on either side of the object." On Friday, June 13, 1997, at 7:30 p.m., local residents saw "a stationary tube-shaped illumination" hovering in the northwest sky at Lara, Vic. On Saturday, June 16, 1997, at 11:20 p.m., witnesses at Holland Park, Queensland reported sighting "a large bright white-line-shaped illumination in the southeastern sky. The illumination was as long as a little finger at arm's length." (Many thanks to Ross Dowe of Australia's National 24-Hour UFO Hotline for these recent sightings.)

MYSTERY METEORS BOMBARD WAIKANAE, NEW ZEALAND

The town of Waikanae, on the North Island of New Zealand, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of Wellington, has been struck twice by strange meteoric bombardments this month.

During the first week of June, a strange object was seen in the southwest sky, about 5 kilometers (3 miles) from Paraparaumu, between 6 and 9 p.m. According to local ufologist David Butterfield, "A fair number of witnesses saw it, but the paper (the Kapiti Observer) only quoted about three or four. The object was seen for maybe 30 to 60 seconds. It was approximately spherical, and changed colour from green to red, I think. The object was bright and left a trail of some description, I believe."

New Zealand's National Television played down the incident as "a meteor shower." But David Butterfield adds, "The phenomenon took out several television channels when it hit, as well." On Friday, June 13, 1997, residents of the Waikanae Valley reported "hundreds of green and yellow illuminations crossing the sky...The lights appeared to be something entering our atmosphere and may have been from the trail left behind from (the) Hale-Bopp (comet)."

According to Ross Dowe of Australia's National 24-Hour UFO Hotline, New Zealand's "Carter Observatory advised that the showers of green and yellow light were likely to be space junk or something re-entering the atmosphere."

"Radio New Zealand reports Wellington Police as saying the biggest meteor was a large green ball of light that appeared to crash into valleys behind Waikanae. No debris have been found at this stage." (Many thanks to David Butterfield and Ross Dowe for these stories.)

UFO HOVERS OVER SOUTHWEST MISSOURI DURING A STORM

On Monday, June 16, 1997, at 9:30 p.m., a couple in Ozark, Missouri (population 2,980), seven miles south of Springfield, observed a strange UFO for 45 minutes. The object remained stationary among roiling thunderclouds in the sky south of their home.

"My wife and I were sitting on the front porch watching the lightning in the clouds when our attention was drawn to four white lights in a diamond-shaped pattern," Mr. G. said. "The lights were moving slowly clockwise and being drawn in towards the middle when suddenly a pale green lights would appear. The white lights would move back outward and repeat this same step over and over." Mr. and Mrs. G. were prepared to watch the hovering UFO all night, "but the clouds thickened

and it disappeared from view." (Many thanks to Brian T. Adams of the Ozark Area Research Group for this story.)

UFOs ACTIVE ON WISCONSIN'S LAKE MICHIGAN SHORE

On Tuesday, June 10, 1997, at about 5 p.m., Rev. Billy Dee was driving home on Wisconsin's Door Peninsula, "leaving the outskirts of the city of Sturgeon Bay (population 8,847)."

As he looked up "into the clear blue sky," Rev. Dee saw "a metallic object that was brightly illuminated by the sun but also threw off its own light. Although small, about the size of a small hen's egg, it was clear and vivid...It was the classic saucer shape craft...At first I thought it may be a small one-engine plane. But I soon gave up that thought, as I viewed the craft for over two minutes before it vanished. I can only describe it as what I saw was dazzling and beautiful, and mind-boggling." (Email Interview)

On Saturday, June 14, 1997, at 3:45 p.m., William H. and his friend Julie were "sitting outside on our friends' porch" in the city of Milwaukee (population 636,212) when Julie spotted something strange in the sky over Lake Michigan.

"Julie says, awestruck, 'Oh, my God, look at that!'" Mr. H. recalled. "At that point we both sprang from our chairs and stared at an erratic bright yellow/orange light doing crazy spirals. And then it slowed down a little and dropped out of the sky. What I want to know is if anybody else witnessed what we saw?" (Many thanks to Steve Wilson and Skywatch International for this report.)

ARAB COLONEL SEES A UFO NEAR THE PERSIAN GULF

Colonel Ali al-Sayed, chief of Civil Defence for the Persian Gulf nation of Dubai, "told a news conference recently that he and a group of friends at his farm in Hatta had seen an unidentified flying object streaking across the night sky. The star-like object disappeared in about ten seconds,

leaving two bright arcs. These were green and blue with some brown tints and they moved horizontally at a steady pace for two minutes before disappearing the colonel claimed."

(See Foreign Report: June 19, 1997, copyright 1997 by Jane's Information Group Limited. Many thanks to Erik S. for forwarding this news story.)

UFO FOLLOWS POLICE CAR IN ARGENTINA

The night of Saturday, June 14, 1997, three police officials drove out of Telen in Argentina's La Pampa province, heading for the nearby city of Victoria. Telen is 655 kilometers (585 miles) west of Buenos Aires, the national capital.

In the car were subcommissioner Galician David, municipal officer Jose Corna and Sgt. Pilar Radel of the Telen police. As they drove out of town "an enormous light" descended from the sky and took up position behind their car.

"It was a light, an enormous and ovoidal light, in a bright orange color and emitting a shaft of light that illuminated the car's windows and the trees along the highway," Sr. David reported. The UFO accompanied the car during the 13-kilometer (7-mile) drive to Victoria. The UFO flew east with them "in the direction of Victoria and, after that, it headed to the south and went into the hills," Sgt. Radel reported. The UFO did not interfere with the radio. The trio used the radio to get in touch with the police in Telen and in Santa Rosa, the provincial capital, 175 kilometers (105 miles) to the south, describing the UFO in detail as they drove along. (See the newspaper La Arena of Santa Rosa for June 17, 1997. Muchas gracias a Eduardo Castor Borgovoni para esta historia.)

UFO CRASHES IN THE SEA NORTH OF GUYANA

On Thursday night, June 12, 1997, Corey I. and his friend were hanging out at the sea-wall in Georgetown, the seaside capital of Guyana, a South American country just north of Brazil.

"The night was very still and clear. There were no clouds in view, and there was little or no wind," Corey reported. "The craft approached from due north at an angle of about 130 degrees. When I first caught a glimpse of the craft, it was 2,500 feet up but descended at such a speed that it was only a matter of seconds before it dove into the ocean."

The witnesses heard no sound, either from the UFO or the splashdown, which evidently occurred several miles offshore. (Email Interview)

UFO APPEARS OVER WATER TREATMENT PLANT IN BRAZIL

On Friday, June 6, 1997, at 5:40 a.m., Paulo da Costa Luz, 43, a truck driver for the Saneamento Basico de Sao Paulo (SABESP) arrived for work at the SABESP water treatment plant in Registro, a city 200 kilometers (120 miles) south of Sao Paulo.

Pulling up to the gate, Costa Luz spotted a UFO sitting on the ground beside the plant. He described the object as circular "with lights that moved, lights in many colors--silver, yellow and blue." The UFO took off and hovered above the plant, where it was soon joined by a second object "of the size of an automobile", and they shown with silver, yellow and blue lights.

Another SABESP worker, Luciano Sergio Domingos, 28, also saw "a yellow light" hovering above the plant and had the object "in view for at least eight minutes." Earlier that morning, Ademir

Jose Pereira, 21, saw "a great ball of fire, blue, at a height of 100 meters (330 feet)" above his neighborhood of Sao Mateus in Registro, S.P.

On Sunday night, June 8, 1997, in Regis Bittencourt, a village near Registro, two women, Emilia Kimura, 28, and Gracilda Mendes, 39, "saw a red, very luminous ball, flying in the sky." The red sphere split in two, and both halves flew away in opposite directions before disappearing. On Wednesday, June 18, 1997, a UFO shaped like "uma bola de futebol de salao" (a soccer ball) appeared in the sky over Sobradinho, D.F., one of the "cidades satelites" (suburbs) of Brasilia, the national capital. The UFO hovered for several minutes over a hospital which was not identified in the Rede Globo TV report. This case is being investigated by Brazilian ufologist Roberto Beck. (See the newspaper Correio Braziliense for June 6, 1997. Muito obrigado a Pedro Cunha e Eduardo Castor Borgovoni para eses informacoes.)

ORANGE LIGHTS SEEN OFTEN IN QUEENSLAND

Weird orange glows were seen in the skies over Australia's state of Queensland during April. On Monday, April 7, 1997, at 1:30 a.m., witnesses on the Queensland coast at Burleigh Heads sighted a skyborne "illumination changing from red to blue" in the southwest sky heading south. On Saturday, April 19, 1997, at 10:30 p.m., witnesses on the Gold Coast north of Brisbane "reported sighting 12 moving orange lights heading to the east. The orange lights travelled straight and level, spread over a distance of three or four football grounds."

On Tuesday, April 22, 1997, at 8:40 p.m., some people in Brisbane sighted "a large blue-green illumination shooting straight into the ground north of Brisbane. The illumination appeared to be one-quarter the size of the moon." In addition, the city of Horsham, Victoria, 200 miles northwest of Melbourne, reported its second UFO on April 30, 1997. At approximately 9 p.m., several residents saw a "large, vertical cigar-shaped UFO, red orange in colour" passing overhead. There was no wind, and the UFO made no sound. (Many thanks to Ross Dowe of Australia's National 24-Hour UFO Hotline for these reports.)

PARISIAN SUBURBS SEE TWO UFO OVERFLIGHTS

Two communities in the southwest "peripherique" (suburbs) of Paris reported sightings of UFOs on Saturday, May 31, 1997. The first incident took place at 5:25 p.m. in Rambouillet, a city 24 kilometers (15 miles) southwest of Paris. Jean-Marc Ricca and his wife were relaxing in the park in front of Rambouillet Castle while their two children were playing nearby.

Suddenly, "My eyes were caught by a bright light above our head," Jean-Marc reported. "The sun was already low, and the light was really bright. What appeared surprising to me was that the light could be identified with a somewhat cylindrical object...I first thought of a plane

but strangely the object was very high in the sky with very high speed (direction:north to south). The object didn't show any condensation trail, which was very easy to check because Paris skies are full of planes." "But the surprise came when we spotted five other objects," he added, "Same shape, same brightness, very close to the first one. The total number was six, with the first five in a rather regular formation with the sixth a little bit further away. We were then convinced that what we were looking at was not usual. The overall observation lasted for five minutes at (in) bright sunlight. I would summarize it this way...high-speed flying objects at medium to high altitude, probably spherical shape, no condensation trail--looks metallic because they were highly illuminated by sunlight." (Email Interview)

Nearly four hours later, at 9:05 p.m. on May 31, photographer Gerard Wander was standing in the Place Denfers-Rochereau, near the Parc du Prince, in the nearby city of Boulogne-Billancourt. While watching a playoff rugby game, Wander and his wife "observed in the sky over the apartment houses what we first took for a children's balloon, then for an atmospheric balloon. From it dangled two long cables as rigid as tree trunks."

"The object flew slowly from the east (Paris) to the west (Sevres)," Wander reported. "It presented a surface of a shiny aluminum color which reflected the setting sun in our east. When it moved to the west, the front part became cloaked in shadow." In size, the UFO "appeared similar to a 5 centimes piece held at the end of one's arm." Wander said. "About 15 millimeters. The shorter of the cables was 3 times the length of the object's diameter. The longer cable was 5 or 6 times that size. Its altitude was difficult to determine. I would say between 150 meters (4,950 feet) and 800 meters (26,400 feet). In relation to the sun, it passed within 200 meters (6,600 feet) of us. Its east-west trajectory was slowly ascending. I saw it for one minute, then the trees blocked my view. We changed our position but by then there was nothing to see but a black sphere in a clear blue sky, much further away in the sky." (Merci beaucoup a Marie Franck et Banque OVNI pour cette histoire.)

UFO SEEN OVER LITHUANIA

On May 12, 1997, at 4:15 p.m., five people in the village of Ginkunai in western Lithuania spotted a daylight disc flying overhead. Ginkunai is near the city of Siaulai, approximately 140 kilometers (84 miles) northwest of Vilnius, capital of the small European nation on the shores of the Baltic Sea. One eyewitness, Kestutas Nesavas, described the UFO as "a saucer animated by a pulsation like a heart, with lights like a (car's) direction signal." Nesavas was the first to see the saucer. He called

his wife and three neighbors. According to their testimony, the saucer approached to within 10 meters (33 feet) of them, always in perfect silence, before flying away. (Merci beaucoup a Thierry Garnier pour ces nouvelles.)

UFO STARTLES MOTORISTS IN THE CANARY ISLANDS

The night of April 27, 1997, UFOs appeared at several locations on Tenerife Island in Spain's Islas Canarias (Canary Islands) group, off the coast of North Africa. The first sighting took place southwest of Santa Cruz de Tenerife and La Laguna, near the airport. Motorists driving south to La Orotava when they spotted "a static and luminous object that was not like any aeronautical, astronautical or astronomical form known." The witnesses, who stopped their cars on the road, described the UFO as "greater than a star though less (smaller) than the moon, of a pale yellow color." They observed the object for "more than 20 minutes" before it flew away to the northeast.

Pedro C., a Spanish tourist from Barcelona, was staying at Room 216 at the Aparthotel Jarden Caletas in the fishing village of Las Caletas on Tenerife when he happened to step onto the hotel room balcony at 11 p.m. He spied "a yellowish light that was (moving) from the coast toward the interior of the island." i.e. travelling from the southwest to the northeast. He watched the UFO for 15 minutes, during which time "it projected a fantastic sparkle and therein after disappeared."

(Muchas gracias a Pedro Canto y tambien Jose Gregorio Gonzalez Gutierrez of Tenerife, quien escribe el libro LOS OVNIS EN CANARIAS para esas noticias.)

BLACK TRIANGLES SIGHTED ALL AROUND AUSTRALIA

On Sunday, April 6, 1997, at 4:30 p.m., people in Liverpool, a suburb of Sydney, Australia spotted "a flying black rectangular object with a red/orange illumination underneath" heading for downtown Sydney. A police sergeant "estimated the object to be approximately 6 feet by 4 feet by 4 feet in size, jet black with a bright light underneath and its speed was about 120 knots traveling to the east from the northwest. Its height appeared about 1,500 feet in altitude: no sound was heard; and the weather was clear with no wind."

On Friday, April 11, 1997, at 11:30 p.m., some people in Melbourne, Victoria (Vic.) sighted "a large matte black triangular shaped object slowly traveling from west to east. The object was sighted blocking out the view of the stars as it passed over." The following day, Saturday, April 12, 1997, at 9:10 p.m., witnesses spotted "five bright orange

illuminations in a triangle formation heading to the southeast" over Campbelltown, New South Wales (N.S.W.), about 40 miles (64 kilometers) southwest of Sydney.

Ten days later, on Tuesday, April 22, 1997, at 8:50 p.m., people in the Newcastle and Wallsend area of New South Wales reported "sighting a large black delta or triangular shaped object traveling overhead, followed by three yellow/orange ball lights" at an estimated altitude of 2,000 to 3,000 feet and at an estimated speed of 80 to 100 kilometers per hour.

On Monday, April 28, 1997, a family was driving their motor vehicle down the Pacific Highway from Newcastle, N.S.W. to Sydney. Then, at about 7 p.m., the 11 witnesses "encountered a triangular red illumination (that) pass(ed) over their motor vehicle on the highway to Sydney. The object slowly traveled over the 11 witnesses about 40 meters (132 feet) up and, once passed over, shot off at a great speed to the east." (Many thanks to Ross Dowe of Australia's National 24-Hour UFO Hotline for forwarding these sightings.)

GLOWING UFOs SEEN OVER AUSTRALIAN DESERTS

On Tuesday, April 8, 1997, people in Fremantle, Western Australia (W.A.), a city about 20 miles (32 kilometers) south of the state capital of Perth, saw a strange glowing UFO. The sighting took place at 10:45 p.m. The witnesses saw "a flouro (flourescent) green illumination descend about 1,000 feet and then hover. After a moment or two, the object then rocketed off to the north faster than a jet could travel. The illumination appeared like a line or green tube with bent ends that angled up at about 40 degrees, something like the wing's end of a (Boeing) 747 jumbo jet. The object was first seen slowly floating down (and) surprised the respondents when it stopped and more so when it 'rocketed off into a cloud.'"

Less than a week later, more glowing UFOs were reported over the deserts of northwestern Victoria state. On Monday, April 14, 1997, at 6:15 p.m., people in Horsham, Vic. reported "sighting a very large ball illumination overhead heading toward South Australia." Horsham is 200 miles (320 kilometers) northwest of Melbourne, adjacent to the Little Desert National Park. The same evening, at 6 p.m., witnesses living in Ouyen, Vic., 250 miles (400 kilometers) northwest of Melbourne in the desert "Sunset Country," saw a "bright ball of light hovering above them for about 15 minutes before taking off towards the west." (Again, many thanks to Ross Dowe of Australia's National 24-Hour UFO Hotline for these reports.)

GLOWING BLUE UFO SEEN IN NORTHERN PORTUGAL

On Friday, May 23, 1997, at 10 p.m., a glowing blue

UFO was seen by twenty people in the village of Quintas, just outside the city of Mirabela in northern Portugal. Mirabela is located in the Trás-os-Montes, about 360 kilometers (225 miles) north of Lisbon and 35 kilometers (18 miles) west of the Spanish border. According to a local newspaper, "about twenty people say they've seen something huge, which they consider to be a UFO...in the beginning (it) had a round shape and (then) began to 'blossom like a marigold.'" "It wasn't steady," said one witness. "It got closer, then went away around a hill, disappearing behind the hill, then appearing again."

"The locals say they were not frightened, actually describing the phenomenon as 'wonderful,' similar to 'a strong blue flash but one which did not illuminate.' According to the witnesses, the phenomenon was seen from several places in the village 'at a height of 60 to 70 meters (178 to 231 feet) and (had) a diameter of about 20 meters (67 feet)."

"The elderly explained the phenomenon from a religious viewpoint, comparing 'the light in the sky to the ceiling of a church.' Others called it 'a sign of the Lord.' Francisco Azevedo, 82 years old, claimed that he had 'never seen anything like it.'" (See the local newspaper for Coimbra, Portugal for May 23, 1997. Muito obrigado a Bruno Miguel Lopes e Luis Ribeiro para esse caso.)

MORE OVERSEAS UFO VIDEO

German ufologist Werner Walter has built up a video clearinghouse for Europe. He's looking for "video exchange opportunities" with UFO buffs across the globe. Werner has great videos, both of UFO sightings over Germany and TV programs devoted to UFOs from central Europe. Interested readers can contact him at this email address: 105156.3630@CompuServe.COM
Many thanks to the excellent UFO Round-up for the latest UFO news

MATHILDE FLYBY

The NEAR (Near-Earth Asteroid Rendezvous) spacecraft has had a brush with the asteroid 253 Mathilde. On June 27th, NEAR closed to a distance of 1,200 km, taking hundreds of images at a variety of visible and near-infrared wavelengths. With an estimated diameter of 61 km, Mathilde is the largest asteroid yet visited by a spacecraft. It's also of special interest because its orbit crosses that of the Earth, and because of its carbon-rich composition. The first image released by NEAR mission managers showed about half of Mathilde, a little world that appears heavily cratered. What looks like a huge pit could be 12 km deep. NEAR's primary objective is a long-term study of the Earth-crossing asteroid 433 Eros, which it will reach in early 1999.

MARS PATHFINDER LANDS!

Mars Pathfinder touched down on the 4th July to become the first craft to land on the red planet since the Viking missions of 1976. Pathfinder entered the thin

Martian atmosphere at high speed, without orbiting the planet first, and slowed down through a combination of drag, parachutes, and retrorockets. Then it landed on the rough and ruddy surface cushioned in air bags and bounced to a stop. A stereo camera and a suite of meteorology equipment is on board, which started transmitting pictures of the landing site (which is located in the mouth of an ancient river channel named Ares Vallis) almost straight away. The spacecraft has since deployed its six-wheel, 11.5-kilogram rover called Sojourner. It carries a stereo camera of its own, along with an X-ray spectrometer to make crude compositional analyses of the rocks and soil within 10 meters of the touchdown site. Everything is working perfectly so far, and pictures are available through the NASA website (which, with over 100 million hits is now the most popular web page ever. Eat your heart out, Persian Kitty).

TIME STANDS STILL

Time stood still for a second on June 30th at 23:59:59 Universal Time, by order of the International Earth Rotation Service in Paris. This was the 21st such "leap second" imposed by the IERS since 1972, when Coordinated Universal Time replaced Greenwich Mean Time as the world's standard. Leap seconds are necessary because the gradual slowing of Earth's rotation causes a discrepancy in the time standards determined astronomically and using atomic clocks.

LARGE OBJECT FOUND BEYOND PLUTO

A sizable body recently found beyond Neptune appears to be larger than any asteroid except Ceres. When first spotted last October 12th by Janc Luu (Harvard University) and three colleagues, 1996 TO66 was just a 21st-magnitude blip. But because it is 45 astronomical units from the Sun - farther than Pluto - 1996 TL66 must be rather large. If its surface is dark, it could be up to 600 km across. That makes it the largest of 43 known objects in the distant cometary swarm known as the Kuiper Belt. For comparison, Pluto is about 2,300 km in diameter and its satellite, Charon, is about 1,200. No other known object bridges the void between the Kuiper Belt and the far more distant Oort Cloud. Whatever its origin, 1996 TL66 undoubtedly represents the first of many such discoveries. Luu's group estimates that thousands more bodies of comparable size and distance await discovery within 30 degrees of the ecliptic plane.

SPINNING BLACK HOLES

In the June 20th issue of the *Astrophysical Journal Letters*, Shuang Nan Zhang (NASA/Marshall) and others report that two black holes they've been studying with spacecraft are spinning 100,000 times per second. They deduced this by accurately determining

the closest stable orbit to a given black hole, which depends on the latter's spin rate. Zhang notes that this knowledge will be enormously helpful in determining how much angular momentum a black hole has "swallowed" during its lifetime. The observations also confirm Einstein's prediction that black holes do spin.

CURIOUS ASTEROID DISCOVERED

Discovered in 1986, this 5-km-wide body designated 3753 has an inclined and eccentric path that crosses the orbits of both Earth and Venus. Simulations by Paul Wiegert (York University) and two colleagues show that 3753 circles the Sun in what's termed a horseshoe orbit with respect to Earth. It works like this: the asteroid circles the Sun in just a bit under 1 year. Over time this slight mismatch allows it to overtake Earth, every 385 years to be exact. But as it comes near the Earth's gravity adds a little energy, expanding its orbit. Suddenly circling the Sun in just over 1 year, the asteroid never quite catches Earth and moves away. Then, 385 years later, Earth catches up, this time robs 3753 of a little energy, and drops it into a smaller, faster orbit.

The asteroid thus appears to be a companion of sorts, under Earth's control. The only other known example of such horseshoe orbits involve Janus and Epimetheus, two small satellites of Saturn located just beyond the ring system. Sometime within the next 100 million years, however, asteroid 3753 will escape its captivity, either crashing onto one of the inner planets or being flung away onto a totally new path. Details appear in the journal *Nature* for June 13th.

IS THERE WATER ON THE MOON?

A new report, published in *Science* for June 6th, suggests that there might not be any water at the lunar poles after all. Radar echoes collected during the Clementine mission in April 1994 hinted that patches of ice might lie near the lunar south pole, mixed with dust in the frigid floors of permanently shadowed craters. But additional radar work with the 1,000-foot Arecibo radio dish has dimmed that prospect. Exploiting favorable Earth-Moon geometry in 1992, Donald Campbell and Nicholas J. S. Stacy used Arecibo's radar beam to peer into the shadowed craters. The presence of water ice would have changed the returning beam's polarization in a telltale way, but that was not seen. "We don't see anything that suggests ice," says Campbell. However, Clementine scientists are standing by their results. The truth may be learned later this year, when a spacecraft called Lunar Prospector returns to the Moon to conduct a sensitive search for ice in the polar regions. If the Moon proves to be bone dry, as the Arecibo data suggest, it would place stringent constraints on the amount of water that could be delivered to the lunar surface by infalling comets -- miniature or otherwise.

EVIDENCE AGAINST LIFE ON

MARS

New evidence argues against a Martian meteorite containing microscopic fossils, as has been suggested by a NASA/Stanford research group. In a paper published in the May 15th issue of the journal *Nature*, Edward R. D. Scott (University of Hawaii) and two colleagues report that bits of carbonate that harbor the putative fossils were created not by some warm, babbling brook but rather during a high-powered impact some four billion years ago. The blast heated the carbonate to at least 1,000 degrees C and injected it while molten into tiny rock crevices. However, Scott's group did not find any of the round, multizoned carbonate globules seen by the NASA/Stanford team. Thus it may be that some parts of the meteorite ALH 84001 was affected by shock, while others escaped damage. (Source: Sky and Telescope news bulletin)



CASE INVESTIGATIONS

by Gloria Dixon

REPORTS FROM AROUND THE UK

INTRODUCTION

This year we are celebrating fifty years of the modern era of investigation and research into UFOs. June 1947 marked the beginning of the term *flying saucers*, an unfortunate term used by the reporter when Kenneth Arnold tried to describe the movement of the objects he observed during a flight near Mount Rainier in the Cascade Mountain of Washington State, USA. This had not been the first time however, that the term had been used to describe UFOs. In 1878 a Texas farmer used the description *large saucer* to describe an unidentified object he had seen. However this was not picked up by the press at that time. As John Spencer remarks in his book *The UFO Encyclopedia* 'the sighting was of short duration, at far distance, not corroborated by radar or other sightings, and in fact adds very little to our knowledge of the UFO phenomenon.' *The significance of the sighting has always been the media attention it attracted and enormous public interest which started at that time and has never seriously abated.* The June sighting was swiftly followed in July 1947 with the now infamous *Roswell Incident* and so the modern day UFO phenomenon was born.

This fifty year anniversary has led to even more extensive speculation and media coverage on this subject. Is it possible there could be more coverage and speculation than there has already been? Unfortunately, yes there is. I am sorry to report that a large percentage of all the programmes leading up to 50 years of UFOs have not enhanced our knowledge of the subject very much further. Many have been lightweight and those with a more serious overview of the subject so often seem to miss the

significant points entirely. That of course is not to say that some of the information has been most relevant and effectively presented. The **Strange But True** great debate aired on LWT on 28th June was interesting specifically in the poll taken on those who believe aliens had already visited earth, the results of which were 92% of callers believed this to be the case. However, was this result a question of the public's opinion being heavily influenced by the media's saturation coverage of UFOs rather than the feeling that there was any real substantial evidence that this could possibly be the case? This is obviously not known, but I think it is a point to raise here. In some ways because of the high profile UFOs have taken on, this is now creating a mythology and religion within the UFO movement that is hardly a good thing, particularly if any kind of proper objective research is to be conducted. There are many well researched and plausible theories to explain these sightings, but unfortunately no one theory ever seems to encompass all reports and no matter how hard they try researchers cannot make their particular theory fit each and every case. Electromagnetic pollution and earthlights can be scientifically measured, and there is little doubt that these can be responsible for some of the sightings and encounters that people report and that electromagnetic fields can stimulate the temporal lobe of the brain causing hallucinatory effects or inducing feelings of an alien presence and some aspects of the close encounter experience. Many cases of close encounters with some kind of alien presence are also reported during altered states of consciousness prior to sleeping or awakening. Scientists in areas of this specific study cite 'sleep paralysis' and hypnagogic states as being responsible for these extraordinary reports, but often do not fit the circumstances of these reports and many witnesses are unimpressed with these theories.

So, fifty years onward what on earth is going on, and more importantly where are we going in our quest for answers? In many ways people need mysteries in order to give meaning to the fact we exist at all; we love mystery, we love those elusive connections with something else that is always just around the next corner, or just on the periphery of our lives touching us for brief moments and making us aware that this is not all there is... there must be more and indeed there is much that we cannot comprehend. UFOs are part of this mystery and as many readers will be aware there is a great deal of speculation as to what may be going on including the idea that we are being visited and abducted by aliens and taken aboard their spacecraft where they carry out medical procedures with an agenda that is straight out of a science fiction movie. So.... extraterrestrial visitors... but from where, and within the technological limitations that we understand, how could they possibly travel here! Maybe they are time travellers, a theory looked at by **Jenny**

Randles. Certainly, time travel is possible in theory, but it remains just that.. theoretical. Are UFOs and aliens psychological in origin, internally generated and reinforced by the powerful imagery surrounding us now? What about other dimensions or parallel universes as described by **Jacques Vallee** in his excellent books **Dimensions** and **Passport to Magonia**? Are these theories responsible for some of the UFO encounters, all of them or none of them? Is this phenomenon about us and the virtually unexplored potential of the human consciousness? OR are the real UFO sightings and encounters so utterly unknown to us, that they are actually beyond our capacity to express verbally to other people, therefore the imagery that we have in the form of aliens and spacecraft is used to create a scenario that we need, in order to try and explain what happened to us and in doing so come to terms with our sighting or experience? People are looking for answers, but answers to what questions? Whatever way people perceive these extraordinary encounters and subjective as they appear to be, does this mean that they are not real? As **Dr. Peter Fenwick** states in his book **The Truth In the Light** '*Science still does not understand the conversion of the objective world outside to the subjective world of meaning.*'

The bottom line here is just what is it we are researching when we look at the UFO experience? There appear to be two separate phenomena occurring. The small percentage of sightings observed in the sky that appear to defy any explanation, and the close encounter experience where UFOs and/or occupants appear to interact with the witnesses under quite bizarre conditions and where missing time occurs and witnesses sometimes suffer partial amnesia and fragmented memories about the event. Are close encounter experiences anything to do with UFOs at all? One of the central points here is that witnesses describe seeing brilliant lights prior to the UFO event that they cannot identify, either entering their home and bedroom or whilst they are driving on a routine journey or walking in the countryside. These lights cannot be explained in terms of aircraft, reflections or any other familiar source. Is this a special kind of light phenomenon that appears to open the doorway to these baffling sightings and more often to the close encounter experience. Brilliant white lights... linked to many anomalous phenomena, including the near death experience particularly as studied in **Dr. Kenneth Ring's** exciting book **The Omega project** in which he examines the phenomenon of human encounters with UFOs and the striking similarities with near death survivors. In these findings he posits an *encounter prone personality* with a special spiritual visionary psyche possibly representing a new stage in the evolution of the human mind.

Fifty years on we are progressing, though slowly - far too slowly in fact - in our search for answers to this most curious and compelling phenomenon. It is **imperative** we learn to work together within the UFO

community sharing our information and research, discarding the politics that slides so easily into this subject. This way we can begin to investigate UFOs instead of each other! Time in many ways is of the essence if we are to go forward in our search for answers to the genuine UFO encounters.

It is difficult for researchers to stand back outside of the ufological circles and outside of the inherent belief systems that are so prevalent, but stand back we must in order to be truly objective within this strange but fascinating subject. It is time to begin, it is time to take stock, it is time to look past the anecdotal paradigms that pervade this subject and it is time to carry out some real work and research into one of the great mysteries of our time...UFOs - Out there or in here, and what they can tell us about our world, our universe and more profoundly, what they can tell us about ourselves!

Sighting reports are continuing to come in at an average rate of eight to ten per week. Close encounter experiences are being reported with increasing regularity and with this in mind I would like to record a summary of events from **Joanne Woods** (pseudonym) in Milton Keynes.. These are being investigated by Ray Reed, a BUFORA Regional Coordinator for the area, and they are significant in their content.

Location West Yorkshire and Buckinghamshire
Primary Date Summer/Autumn 1982

Joanne Woods contacted BUFORA by letter in May. I responded and received a further letter from her where she indicated she would like to speak with someone about some very unusual experiences that appear to be occurring to both herself and her daughter. I spoke with her at length via phone on 17th June 1997.

Background

Joanne is 36 years of age. She has a fourteen year old daughter and has been married twice and is now separated from her second husband. She and her daughter are living with her parents in Milton Keynes.

Details of her experiences

In the Summer or Autumn of 1982. Joanne was living in Silsden, near Ilkley, West Yorkshire, and whilst in bed drifting to sleep, she states she felt peculiar and couldn't move. She states that there appeared to be a change in the atmosphere. She panicked and try to reach the light above her to put it on. When she did, she describes as though she was looking at the room through a 'jellyfish'. After five minutes these strange events ceased. During this time her husband was downstairs watching TV, when he lost reception on all channels for a while. A few months later Joanne experienced a similar incident once again, her feeling of paralysis and fear were acute. She tried to awaken her husband asleep beside her but could not make any sound. In the morning, upon waking, Joanne noticed a scar on here right leg about an inch in diameter and which appeared hollow and at the same time she experienced a burning sensation.

She emphasises that this scar had not been there prior to going to bed.

Joanne has also experienced this paralysis sensation and awoken in the morning to find that she has dirty hands and feet, with scratches on them, and dirt under the nails of her feet and hands. She likens this to when one has been out walking in the garden or country without shoes. She is adamant she always goes to bed clean and having taken a bath first. Upon discussing these events with her first husband John, he recalls that he has vague memories of his wife calling for help, but could not wake up..

During a period of 7 years from 1982 to 1989 Joanne had several of these unusual experiences. These would be sporadic, occurring every few months or years. After separating from her first husband, she moved in with her parents in Milton Keynes where her father was converting the garage into a bedroom for both Joanne and her daughter, then 7 years old.. Joanne was unhappy about a sharing a bedroom with her daughter as she felt *her daughter would not be safe sharing a room with her!*. During this time Joanne met Steve who was to become her second husband. Prior to the garage being converted Joanne was sleeping on the sofa in the lounge as Steve, who was staying with her parents, was sleeping the spare bedroom. Joanne again experienced these *strange feelings* on this particular night and felt she could not move and it appeared as though there was a wind blowing around her. She forced herself to move and crawled across the floor to switch on the light. After 2/3 minutes things seemed to go back to normal, although she noticed the curtains moving.

On another night whilst Steve was staying with them she had this unusual sensation again, and with sheer will power managed to forced herself off the bed and crawled to the living room where she found Steve awake and reading. He was horrified and said it appeared as though *she was surrounded by a whirlwind and there was some kind of activity around her*. Steve told her that he was aware, on occasion, of something curious going on and of hearing a distressed voice and the impression of bright lights. Joanne also has memories of an experience where she recalls a figure standing by her bed and a plastic tube being placed in her mouth. She likens this to an 'asthma inhaler'.

In MARCH 1990 Joanne and her daughter were sharing the bedroom that had now been converted from the garage. As she lay down next to Jade (her daughter) she had the feeling of paralysis. She had just got into bed and therefore insists she was not asleep and in the darkness became aware of a light like a glow. She then saw Jade, who had been sleeping on stomach go into a kneeling position. She remembers thinking *not her, leave her alone*. Jade's head went back and her pupils rolled back and then she appeared to fall face down. The next

thing Joanne was aware of was that it was 8am and she saw Jade's feet twitching under the duvet and the rest of her body was rigid. She screamed for her mother to call for an ambulance. After many tests at the hospital, they diagnosed an epileptic fit, which they felt would be a one-off seizure as she had never experienced them before. However two weeks later Jade had more seizures increasing to three to four per week. Brain scans and tests showed no abnormalities. Therefore, this was put down to a 'genetic epilepsy'. This is now under control, but she still has the odd fit at times. Joanne is convinced that her daughter started epileptic fits after seeing something happen to her mother that night in the garage/bedroom.

In 1990 Joanne and Steve married and moved to Windsor where they lived until 1992 when they moved to Glasgow. After an epileptic fit in Glasgow and whilst coming around Jade became very distressed asking who the people were around her and that she was in something which was moving. She now remembers certain things and reports laying on a table with bright lights and unusual faces around her.

About two months ago Jade told her mother that she has a strange recurring memory that has something to do with her mother. This was the trigger that led Joanne to contact BUFORA..

An interesting footnote here is that Joanne has discussed with me that she experienced psychic events in her childhood that involved ghosts. However she feels that the on going events she is experiencing now are not related to the psychic events and that this is a different phenomenon. When discussing these alarming incidents she has never at any stage used the words, aliens or abduction, although she admits to watching various programmes on this subject....is there anyone who can avoid this?

Research needs to be conducted into epilepsy, particularly the 'aura' stage of the attack which can induce powerful recollections of some event or place or even a formed image of some scene, or an illusion of having experienced something before which is really being experienced for the first time (deja-vu). This may be relevant to the fact that Jade is remembering images that are frightening to her. I shall seek advice from the BUFORA Psychology consultant. I will also ask for assistance from Dr. Sue Blackmore on whether sleep paralysis and hypnagogic states could be factors within these experiences.

Ray Reed will investigate this report more fully over a period of time, also taking a close up photograph of the scar on Joanne's leg.

Any results from these areas of investigation will be documented at a later date

Location: Woodcote. Near Reading
Date: 26th May 1997

At 10.55pm LP was letting his cat out when his attention was drawn to a loud roar that seemed to have a definite pulse or echo to it. Going further into his back garden for a clearer view he could see lights fairly lowdown in the sky and moving slowly from left to right. They were in a triangular pattern and he describes them as a yellow/white colour and static. He could distinguish an edge at the back which he speculated was illuminated the two lights at the base of the triangle. The object passed behind a tree and he rushed inside to make notes coming out again almost immediately. The object reappeared and he then lost sight of it behind a bank of trees. LJ went inside the house again but could still hear the pulsing roar outside so went out into his garden once more. He then heard the sound of what he assumed to be two or three helicopters coming from behind the trees where he lost sight of the triangular object. The noise grew louder and over the tree tops flew what LJ described as a truly spectacular object. There were two banks of 10 or 12 brilliant ruby red lights on either side of three bright white lights positioned at the front, middle and end of the object. The front light was strobing and as the object came nearly overhead, he counted the number of lights and felt that could have been three or four rows of these ruby lights on each side of the bright white lights. LJ states that the noise from the object was similar to a helicopter as it over flew, but he could not make out any shape to it other than that given by the lights he saw.

Tim Matthew, Chairman of the Lancashire UFO Society is also looking at details of this report as he has been conducting invaluable research into reports of the many flying triangles that are being reported in the Northwest and indeed many other areas of the UK. LJ's second sighting has an unusual light formation, and I am looking for any other sightings that may share this particular formation of lights.

Location: Tadworth, Surrey

Date: 21st April 1997

SC and her husband were asleep in bed when they were awoken at 3am by a fox barking outside their window. At the same time they became aware of a terrific rumbling noise right overhead. SC likened this sound to *a giant boy on a giant skate board coming over the top of her roof*. They did not have their bedroom window open, but the curtains were moving as though there was a wind. The noise lasted for about 10-15 seconds and when they got up to go to the window, the noise ceased and there was nothing to be seen. The noise appeared to emanate from the south as though it was moving north. The following morning SC and her husband were astonished to discover black silt all around their house on the ground and in the garden, which appeared to have been lifted out of their gutters. This, SC informed me, was nothing short of amazing as their gutters has been full of this black silt which had literally fermented into their gutters and was going to take a great deal of time and

energy to clean out. All their gutters were clean, as though the silt had been lifted out. Her husband's workshop about 100 feet away at the end of the garden had gutters that were now clean, and the rubbish now lay around the workshop on the grass. Obviously they live in close proximity to Gatwick and Heathrow airports, but we have not been able to establish any aircraft in the area at this time.

I would like to take readers back in time for the next two cases, one of which is from the North East of England and other from South Wales.

Location: Sunderland. Tync and Wear

Date: September 1951

Gordon B was on leave from his the Royal Tank Regiment after returning from Hong Kong and being posted to a top secret tank range at Dundernann, Kirkcudbright in September of 1951. Whilst spending his leave in his home town of Sunderland, he attended the Roker Park Football ground to see Sunderland play Portsmouth. During the match a man next to him pointed out an object high in the clear blue sky. Gordon describes this object as looking like two soup plates stuck together which gradually dropped to about 10,00 feet before zig zagging away upwards at incredible speed and disappearing. The sighting lasted about twenty minutes and Gordon was convinced he had observed a UFO. Upon reporting back to his unit, he described his sighting to his sergeant and an enquiry was held, when a military officer from the MOD visited the regiment and spoke with Gordon and his Sergeant privately about the object he had witnessed. The *top boffin* as Gordon describes the man from MOD indicated that certain people within the military were very much aware that there were indeed UFOs and that information was being withheld.

Gordon has spent a great deal of his life searching for answers to what he saw that day and in 1989 wrote to the MOD about this incident. He did receive a reply with the usual dismissal and Gordon went on to have his case reported in a local newspaper several years ago and was also featured in a two page article in The Sunderland Echo about two years ago. Unfortunately this did not bring forward any witnesses from the Roker Park game that day who may have confirmed Gordon's sighting.

Location: Cwmbran. South Wales

Date: Summer 1968

Jill R was twelve years old at the time of her sighting and they were living on a new housing estate where building was still going on in Fairwater, Upper Cwmbran. It was between 11-12pm and her father had just come home from a late shift. Jill and her mother decided to walk their dog prior to retiring for the night. They walked through the unfinished estate and were standing on a clear warm night looking toward the top of the nearby

mountain when they became aware of two lights which appeared to be moving steadily closer to them. Suddenly right above them was a metallic oval object the size of a large car, which was hovering very low and they felt was no more than a height of 45 feet above them. It appeared to be very still and they were aware of a blur of colours, pinks and purples. It then appeared to be spinning and they felt as though things were in *slow motion*. They were then aware that it was moving away towards the valley and Cwmbran town centre. It suddenly shot up and Jill describes it as *going into the stars*. They both felt very calm, but panicked later on and upon returning home Jill's father asked where on earth they had been for so long, although both mother and daughter felt they had only been away for several minutes. This is an interesting area and there is another recent report from this area describing unusual light phenomena. Certainly many parts of Wales have generated some strange and anomalous phenomena and events over a very long period of time. Have readers noticed how many UFO incidents occur over or near mountains, and forests or copses?

Would readers please feel free to contact me if they are aware of any corroborating information on cases documented in Strange Daze. Many thanks.



1947 -1997:

50 Years of UFOlogy

Compiled by Dave Newton.

Over the last 50 years UFOlogy has been through some ups and downs as well as up the wall and around the twist. This following list of dates and events is not meant to be exhaustive or particularly objective; rather, I hope that it gives a snapshot of some of those events that hit the headlines and have shaped the subject that we all know and love. Apologies if the list doesn't include your favourite cases - there are a lot to choose from. I'd like to thank **Dave Sivier** for reminding me about a few of those cases which I'd forgotten. The history of UFOs is a long one, with sky chariots and burning shields being seen for centuries. More recently, phantom airships were seen, the *foo* fighters of World War 2 and the ghost rockets over Scandinavia. But we'll skip over those, and start our mini-history in June of 1947.

The other key element in shaping UFOlogy has been the UFOlogists themselves. The big names in UFOlogy - including Allan Hynek, John Keel, Jacques Vallee, Jenny Randles, Tim Good, Budd Hopkins, et al - have had an enormous influence not only on the way their fellow workers look at and research the subject, but also on the public at large. Never (as far back as I can remember, at least) has there been so much discussion of UFOs and so much acceptance by the

public that UFOs are a genuine phenomenon. That much is good news. But as always, there are many divergent opinions among the UFOlogists and with UFOlogy being a small pond with a lot of big fish in it, there is always tension and personality clashes. For example, Budd Hopkins refuses to share a stage with skeptic Philip Klass; and BUFORA members are awaiting/dreading the forthcoming scrap between Philip Mantle and Matthew Williams. If you're interested in the political ins and outs, you might want to subscribe to Andy Roberts' new newsletter, "The Armchair UFOlogist". (Details from the editorial address.) What tangled webs we all weave.

"What do you think, Smashie?"

"It's backstabtrocious, in a saucers-skipping-across-water type way, great mate".

Let's rock.

1. The 1940s

24th June 1947: Kenneth Arnold flies into history when he spots nine oddly shaped aircraft flying fast in formation across the Cascade Mountains in Washington State, USA: After reporting the sighting to the press, the phrase "Flying Saucer" is coined. People start seeing flying saucers. What did Arnold see? Hans van Kempton put forward the theory that Arnold observed a secret flight of Republic XP-84 Thunderjets; Paul Devereux has made a good argument that he could have seen earthlights in the geologically active Cascade mountains; Steuart Campbell says that Arnold saw a mirage of nine distant mountain peaks; and Arnold himself came to believe that he had seen a species of animal that lives in the stratosphere. Below: Kenneth Arnold and his plane.

30th June 1947: Kenneth Arnold becomes one of the first UFOlogists when he travels to Maury Island, Puget Sound, Washington to investigate a UFO sighting that



happened on 21st June. Harold Dahl, his son, another crewmember and a dog were on a boat when they observed several UFOs, the central one of which spewed out molten metal fragments. One killed the dog and another badly burned Dahl's son, and they collected samples of the metal. The next morning a man in a dark suit arrived and told Dahl "Silence is the best thing for you and your family. You have seen what you ought not to have seen!" This begins the legend of the Men in Black. The molten metal was in fact slag from the Atomic Energy Commission's plutonium processing plant at Hanford, Washington, that was dumped over the sea and accidentally fell on to

the boat. The Man in Black in this case was a security agent of the AEC.

8th July 1947: The Roswell Daily Record evening newspaper leads with the headline: "RAAF Captures Flying Saucer On Ranch in Roswell Region". Rancher W.W. "Mac" Brazel found wreckage on the Foster ranch, 75 miles northwest of Roswell, after a stormy night of the 2-3 July. After collecting parts of the material and taking it into Roswell, the military go out to the ranch and transport the wreckage to the Fort Worth headquarters of the 8th Air Force on 8th July. Later in the day the Army calls two press conferences, claiming that the debris is from a weather balloon.

7th January 1948: Captain Thomas Mantell dies after crashing his Air National Guard Mustang aeroplane. After witnesses in Kentucky, Tennessee and Ohio reported seeing a UFO, four F-51 Mustangs were ordered to investigate. One of the aeroplanes was low on fuel but the other three, led by Mantell, closed in on the UFO. Climbing, Mantell reported at 15,000 feet that the UFO was "metallic and tremendous in size". At 22,000 feet the two other planes dropped out but Mantell remained in pursuit. The crash investigators thought that he had probably blacked out at 25,000 feet and his plane had continued to climb until it lost power and fatally dived back to earth from

30,000 feet. The question remains: Why would an experienced pilot have taken his plane to twice the recommended altitude without oxygen? Unsubstantiated stories that the wreckage was radioactive and that Mantell's body had disappeared from the plane still persist. Mantell was probably chasing a Skyhook spy balloon, a classified project at the time.

22nd January 1948: The US Air Force's Project Sign starts work investigating UFO sightings and encounters. The project lasts 386 days. On the 11th February 1949 Project Sign becomes Project Grudge.

20th August 1949: Clyde Tombaugh, the discoverer of Pluto, along with his wife and mother in law saw a group of six or eight rectangular UFOs over Las Cruces, New Mexico. Skeptic Dr Donald Menzel suggested that they saw reflections of city lights on a temperature inversion, but Tombaugh rejected this explanation.

2. The 1950s

1950: Donald Keyhoe writes his groundbreaking book, "The Flying Saucers are Real" and the ideas that (1) flying saucers are alien spacecraft and (2) the government are hiding the fact takes hold. Frank Scully writes the best selling "Behind the Flying Saucers" about a landed saucer near the town of Aztec, New Mexico, being recovered by the US Military. In September of 1950 the first edition of Immanuel Velikovsky's "Worlds in Collision" is published, to the fury of the scientific community.

11th May 1950: A Mrs Trent from McMinnville, Oregon, manages to take a very famous UFO photograph from her farmhouse. Paul Trent and his wife were repeater witnesses, who claimed to have seen many UFOs. Despite discrepancies in her story, the saucer in the photograph has not been conclusively shown to be a hoax.

March 1952: Project Grudge, under the new leadership of Captain Edward J. Ruppelt, becomes Project Blue Book.

19-20 July and 26-27 July 1952: UFOs are seen over Washington DC accompanied by radar returns. Jet interceptors are sent to investigate the UFOs in the early hours of both mornings.

1952 is a record year for UFO sightings reported to Project Blue Book; There is a world wide wave of sightings that starts in April, peaks in July and then tapers out in November.

20th November 1952: George Adamski, a burger bar assistant on Mount Palomar, California, claimed to have met with a Venusian in the Mohave Desert. The beginning of the Contactee era. In 1953 George Adamski and Desmond Leslie write "Flying Saucers Have Landed".

9th September 1953: Albert Bender calls a meeting to wind up his International Flying Saucer Bureau after a visit by three Men In Black.

Autumn 1954: At least 156 reports of landed UFOs are made to the French authorities between September and November, and only 15% of the reports come from lone witnesses.

21-22 August 1955: A Bizarre siege takes place at the Sutton farm in Kelly, near Hopkinsville, Kentucky. Elmer and Billy Ray Sutton shoot at several 3 feet tall, yellow eyed creatures with huge ears that appear after Billy Ray observes a UFO landing in a nearby gulch. Bullets have no effect on the intruders, so the two brothers and Billy Ray's wife June lock themselves in for three hours. Getting tired, they then flee to Hopkinsville and inform the police, and six officers escort them back to the farm and make a search. The creatures return later after the police have left. And get shot at again.

13th August 1956: Radar at RAF Bentwaters in Suffolk detects a UFO approaching from the North Sea at a speed of 2000 to 4000 mph. After passing over the base, it is picked up on radar doing aerobatics near RAF Lakenheath. Two Venom NF2a fighters from RAF Waterbeach are sent to intercept, but the UFO eludes them and disappears heading north at 600 mph. The Condon Committee calls this case "the most puzzling and unusual case in the radar-visual files" and "the apparently rational, intelligent behaviour of the UFO suggests a mechanical device of unknown origin as the most probable explanation."

15 - 16th October 1957: Twenty three year old Brazilian farmer Antonio Villas Boas is out ploughing a field by headlight late at night, when he sees a large red light descending towards the end

of the field. The light turns out to be a flying saucer, and he is grabbed by three tall creatures after his tractor engine dies. On board the craft he is introduced to a very beautiful but otherworldly naked woman, and the couple do what comes naturally. Twice. The woman points at her stomach and then to the sky, before leaving. Villas Boas is then given his clothes back and escorted from the craft, and into the annals of UFO history.

3. The 1960s

19th September 1961: The abduction of Betty and Barney Hill, the classic case into which nearly all abduction narratives are now shoehorned. The couple are returning late in the evening from a holiday in Canada to their home in New Hampshire. Near the town of Lancaster, Betty notices a bright light near the Moon and they stop the car to look at the object through binoculars. The object appeared to be pancake like with a row of windows, through which they can see figures. When the couple eventually reach home, they seem to have lost some time.

After the encounter Barney began to suffer from ulcers, high blood pressure and exhaustion, and eventually underwent regression hypnosis with Dr Benjamin Simon in Boston. The hypnosis performed on the two revealed that they had been taken aboard the UFO and had a medical examination performed by the humanoid creatures, who had large eyes, no noses and thin, lip less mouths. Sound familiar?

24th April 1964: Patrolman Lonnie Zamora has an encounter with a landed UFO near to Socorro, New Mexico. "It looked like a car turned upside down...standing on [its] radiator or trunk" said Zamora. He also sees two small people near the object dressed in white coveralls. Investigators later find four burn marks where the object landed, and four V shaped depressions in the soil where Zamora saw the object's supporting legs touch the ground. Project Blue Book investigator Dr J. Allen Hynek concludes that "a real physical event" occurred.

1965: Gordon Faulkner takes a photograph of the "Warminster Thing". Warminster and Cley Hill in Wiltshire become well known in the mid and late 1960s for the UFOs that haunt this window area.

1966: "The Interrupted Journey" written by John G. Fuller is released. The book deals with the UFO encounter of Barney and Betty Hill. It has sold steadily ever since, and remains a classic.

20-21st March 1966: Dr J. Allen Hynek, consultant astronomer to the USAF's Project Blue Book, is sent to investigate UFO sightings at Hillsdale and Dexter, Michigan, USA. Hynek concludes that these particular sightings are caused by swamp gas, and Michigan becomes briefly known as "The Swamp Gas State".

7th October 1966: The US Air Force commissions the University of Colorado to make a scientific study of UFOs. A panel of specialists is set up under the leadership of Dr Edward Uhler Condon.

15th November 1966 - 15th December 1967: John Keel's "year of the Garuda", the Mothman flap in West Virginia. This is seminal in that it provided the raw material for Keel's book "The Mothman Prophecies", published in 1975 which challenged the dominant ETH.

1968: The 965 page "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects" is produced by the University of Colorado's research team headed by Dr E.U. Condon. An enormously detailed work which takes a long time to read. And not worth the effort, according to some UFOlogists who regarded the whole Condon study as a whitewash. However, the Condon study's findings remain the benchmark of serious in-depth analysis, and it deserves to be read: Make up your own mind.

July 1969: The first manned Lunar landing takes place when Neil Armstrong of the Apollo 11 crew steps down onto the surface of the Sea of Tranquility. Or a sandy film studio, for those who are fans of conspiracy theories and "Capricorn One".

17th December 1969: Secretary of the US Air Force, Robert C. Seamans Jr announces the closure of Project Blue Book. This ends the USAF's official interest in UFOs.

Dr J. Allen Hynek forms the Invisible College, which eventually becomes CUFOS - the Centre for UFO Studies

4. The 1970s

1970: Jacques Vallee's classic volume "Passport to Magonia" is published, on the links between flying saucers and the creatures of myth and legend. Another classic out this year is John Keel's "UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse". A good year for UFOlogy.

1972: Dr J. Allen Hynek writes "The UFO Experience" after being asked many, many times to "recommend a good book about UFOs". Not being able to do so, he decided to write it himself.

22nd February 1973: Maureen Puddy has alien abduction experience while physically still in the company of investigators Judith Magee and Paul Norman. This is important as it seems to corroborate the theories of the psychosocial school and the skeptics that there is at least a psychological component to the contactee/abductee phenomenon.

1974: An amendment is made to the 1966 Freedom of Information Act in America, making possible the release of documents from government files to the public. UFOlogists make good use of this in the years to come: by 1981, 3000 pages of previously classified documents on UFOs have been released to the public.

27th October 1974: John and Sue Day and their two children are driving home to Aveley in Essex late in the evening, when they see a UFO and the car plunges into a dense green fog bank. Expecting to arrive home at 10.20pm, they find that it is actually one in the morning when they reach home. Regression hypnosis reveals that they have been abducted by

the UFO during their period of missing time - the Aveley abduction remains as one of the most astonishing and complete close encounter stories in the UK files.

October- November 1975: UFOs make aerial visits to various weapons stores in the USA. It becomes known as the "NORAD flap", with UFOs appearing over Loring Air Force Base (Maine, a nuclear weapons store), Wurtsmith AFB (Michigan, weapons store), Malstrom AFB (Montana, ICBM launch sites), and Minot AFB (North Dakota). Aircraft sent up to intercept fail to identify or make contact with the UFOs.

1975 - 1978: In Switzerland, farmer Edward "Billy" Meier allegedly meets five Pleiadeans in 105 encounters and manages to take over 600 photographs. Ground Saucer Watch analyse some of Meier's photographs, declaring them "hoaxes, both crude and grandiose".

1976: The findings of the US Air Force's Project Sign, Project Grudge, Special report #14 and Project Blue Book are revealed in Brad Steiger's book "Project Blue Book". And in 1977 Dr J. Allen Hynek writes up his analysis of the Project Blue Book files as "The Hynek UFO Report".
Gee Whizz!

19th September 1976: Two F-4 Phantom jets are scrambled by the Iranian Air Force to intercept UFOs that have been seen over Teheran. The jets suffer communication and electronics failures when they get within 25 miles of the UFOs.

1978: Following the TV "documentary", the book "Alternative 3" is produced and becomes a cult conspiracy classic. The truth behind the brain drain...the Superpowers are taking them to Mars, as the Earth is doomed. Or something.

10th November 1978: Kuwait experiences a remarkable UFO sighting. A cylindrical UFO lands near to the Kuwait Oil Company's pumping station gathering centre number 24 at Umm Al-Aish. The oil pumps and Kuwait's international telecommunications cease working while the object is on the ground.

1979: Allan Hendry writes "The UFO Handbook", acknowledged as the best book ever written on investigating, evaluating and reporting UFO sightings.

9th November 1979: Foreman forester Robert Taylor has a run in with a 30 foot high UFO that has landed in the Dechmont Wood near the M8 Motorway in Scotland. Two spherical objects with protrusions, like sea mines, roll towards him and grab his trousers just below the pockets. The objects start to pull him to the UFO but he resists and blacks out. When Taylor awakes, the UFO is gone and he shakily makes his way home. Lothian and Borders Police later confirm that there are marks at the landing site indicating that a machine weighing several tons had been there. In May 1992 a cairn and plaque are erected at the site of the Livingston Close Encounter.

5. The 1980s

1980: Charles Berlitz and William Moore write "The Roswell Incident", which really begins the interest in this classic case. Stanton Friedman's name is not on the book, and he's not happy as he researched it with Bill Moore.

28th November 1980: One of the UK's most famous UFO encounters takes place when, at 5.15am, PC Alan Godfrey is driving along the A646 near Todmorden in West Yorkshire. Originally looking for a herd of stray cows, he finds instead a brightly lit diamond shaped UFO floating just above the road. Driving near to the object, he sketches the UFO. Suddenly, he finds that he is several hundred yards further down the road and the UFO is gone. There is also a mysterious split in his boot, and a dry patch on the road as though something had hovered there, stopping the rain reaching the tarmac. Three other officers on the moors that night report a bright light heading towards Todmorden. PC Godfrey later undergoes regression hypnosis, which reveals memories of meeting a tall humanoid called Yoseph and smaller beings under four feet tall.

27th December 1980: A UFO heading towards to English coast is detected on radar by RAF Watton in Norfolk. The object disappears from radar in the vicinity of Rendlesham Forest and the twin US Air bases of RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters. Lights are seen in the woods and security personnel are sent out of the east gate to investigate. According to the deputy base commander Lt. Col. Charles Halt, they came across a conical or triangular UFO "metallic in appearance" landed in the woods. According to other witnesses, more events happened on other nights and that communication took place between the visitors and some of the airmen in the woods.

29th December 1980: Betty Cash, Vickie Landrum and grandson Colby Landrum observed a dull aluminium coloured UFO and 23 other aircraft apparently engaged in a chase near the town of Huffman in Texas. The UFO passed directly over them, and the car soon became too hot to touch. The three occupants of the car developed symptoms of exposure to intense X-ray or ultraviolet radiation within a few hours. The symptoms included swellings and blisters on the skin; hair loss, eye swellings and vision problems, headaches and stomach upsets. Vickie Landrum and Betty Cash attempted to sue the US Government for \$20 million, but the case was thrown out on the grounds that the US military did not operate the UFO.

1981: Budd Hopkins' first book on alien abductions is published, "Missing Time".

1982: Casting a different light upon UFOlogy is Paul Devereux's new book, "Earthlights - Towards an understanding of the UFO Enigma".

30th June 1983: Debbie Tomey, later to become known as Kathie Davis, sees bright lights in the yard

of her house, and the next morning finds an 8 foot circular mark on the ground. Under regression hypnosis with Budd Hopkins, she finds out that she has been abducted. She has further abduction experiences on 3rd October 1983 and again in 1986. Budd's book follows later.

11 December 1984: In Burbank, California, Jaime Shandera receives an undeveloped roll of 35mm film. He takes it to UFOlogist William Moore who gets it developed, revealing copies of documents from 1947 and 1952 now known as the Majestic 12 or MJ-12 documents. The MJ-12 panel consisted of 12 eminent scientists secretly set up to investigate the crashed saucer recovered from Roswell in 1947. The documents on the film were supposedly a briefing paper for President Harry Truman and a brief for President-elect Eisenhower. Now widely believed to be a hoax, but a clever one; inside knowledge of the intelligence world was probably required to construct the MJ-12 papers. Philip Klass showed that Truman's signature was photocopied from another document and that the typewriter used for one of the documents was not made until 1963.

27th December 1985: Horror writer Whitley Strieber wakes up in the early hours of the morning and has a most peculiar experience. The "visitors" are here, and they're going to shove something very unpleasant up Whitley's behind.

1987: Budd Hopkins' book "Intruders" hits the shelves, detailing the events surrounding Kathie Davis. More influential is the book "Communion" by Whitley Strieber about his own experiences with "the visitors". The grey alien face on the front cover of Communion enters popular culture - Welcome to the modern age of alien abductions. Timothy Good writes "Above Top Secret" which is dedicated to Donald Keyhoe, with a foreword by Admiral of the Fleet, the Lord Hill-Norton.

29th May 1987: Jaime Shandera, William Moore and Stanton Friedman make the Majestic 12 documents public, being forced to do so by Timothy Good who also had copies and included them in his book "Above Top Secret". Nice one Tim.

November 1987 - May 1988: Ed Walters sees and photographs lots of UFOs in the sky around Gulf Breeze on the Florida coast. Naval optical physicist Bruce Maccabee authenticates the photographs as genuine, and Budd Hopkins visiting Gulf Breeze thinks that Ed Walters has been abducted. Surprise surprise.

30th November 1989: Linda Cortile is allegedly abducted from her 12th storey apartment in Manhattan by a UFO. The UFO, and Linda floating in mid-air, is also seen by a witness on the Brooklyn Bridge and two alleged secret agents allegedly driving UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar to a heliport. Budd Hopkins later writes a book on this case, now known as the "Manhattan Transfer".

6. The 1990s

30-31st March 1990: Five months of flying triangle sightings over Belgium culminate with a radar and visual encounter with a slowly moving triangular UFO. Two F-16 fighters of the Royal Belgian Air Force are scrambled to intercept the FT, but lose it after it dives and hugs the ground. Sightings of flying triangles across Europe and the UK have continued ever since.

25th May 1990: A report from the USSR tells of three surface to air missiles being fired at a UFO 1000 feet in diameter above Mary, Turkmenistan. The UFO destroys the missiles with three beams of light, and also forces two jet interceptors to crash.

April 1991- August 1992: In several different reports, airline pilots and passengers describe aerial near misses with mystery missiles. The first report is on the 21st April 1991 when Alitalia pilot Achille Zaghetti reports 10 feet long brown missile crossing his path 22,000 feet above the English coast.

1993: The X-Files first appears on TV.

November 1993: The crazy world of UFOlogy becomes just a little more sane with the very first edition of *Strange Days*. It contains articles on regression hypnosis, Bob Oechsler, close encounter investigation and a review of the IUN's Sheffield Conference in August '93. It runs to a mere 14 A5 pages and about a dozen copies are run off for NUFORI members.

1994: Stuart Campbell's book "The UFO Mystery Solved" is released. Well, that's that solved. Another classic book released this year is "Without Consent", by Carl Nagaitis and Philip Mantle. Included is the case of Mik Burley, regular contributor to *Strange Daze*. Both books are savaged by some members of the UFOlogical community, for different reasons.

September 1994: The US Air Force announces that the debris found at Roswell in 1947 was not from a weather balloon after all. They claimed it was from an experimental balloon built of tinfoil and balsa wood that was designed to carry instruments to detect Soviet nuclear explosions, and went under the name of Project Mogul. A reasonable explanation, believed by many.

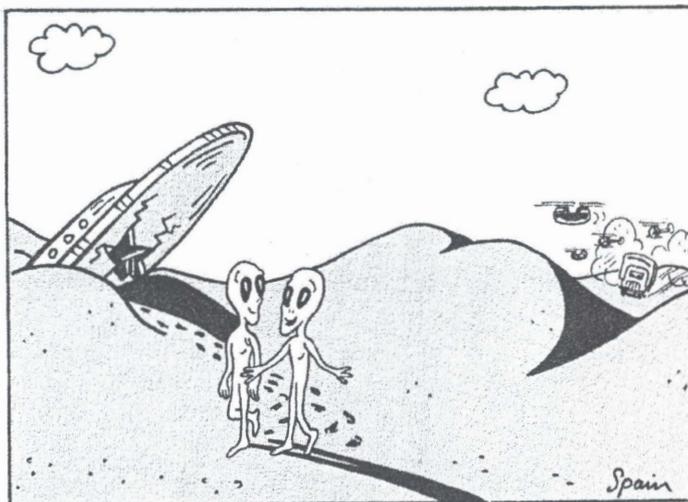
1995: Ray Santilli's controversial "alien autopsy"



video is released, and is almost universally panned by UFOlogists in the US and the UK as a hoax. Philip Mantle tries to get the film a fair hearing and suffers the consequences. Ray Santilli does not provide enough samples for proper analysis, and the story behind the discovery of the film is extremely suspect. Nevertheless, the film still has support among some UFO fans and will continue to appear in UFO documentaries forever more. Above: Ray Santilli (right) trying to convince Rod Howarth (left) and John Lundberg (the Martians are coming).

23rd September 1996: Mary Morrison, her son Peter and her friend Mary witness a triangular UFO in the sky above Falkland Hill, Fife, while on the way to the shops. On the return journey they stop the car and see bright lights in the trees, and small grey figures busily picking up boxes and cylinders. A bright beam of light shining down from the sky illuminates the road in front of their car, and startled, they jump back into the car and drive to a friend's house.

June 1997: Someone in the US Air Force announces that the alien bodies found at Roswell were dummies used in parachute tests. "Any dummy could recognise dummies" says one witness. No-one believes this explanation.



"Hey, we'll be fine! I've heard the natives are called Aztecs and that they'll worship us like Gods with great food, great drink and crazy all-night parties!!"

4th July 1997: The Mars Explorer lands safely on the surface of Mars. Or perhaps a sandy film studio, if you've been watching the repeat of top film "Capricorn One".

2001: Contact with aliens who claim that *Strange Daze* is their favourite terrestrial publication. [Why thank you, Mr Sivier - Ed.]



UFOlogy Past and Future

For a broader view I asked some of our UFO chums a few questions: What were the key events in UFOlogy over the past 50 years? Who did they think were the most important people? And are they optimistic about the future? Here are some of the responses I received:

They Shoot Saucers Don't They?

by Andy Roberts

Your humble editor asked me to pen a few words on the history and future of UFOlogy. For the record I'm not a researcher or investigator as such - that's far too serious an occupation for me. Rather I think of myself as a commentator, clinging to the coat tails of the kaleidoscopic twister we call UFOlogy. Wheeeeeeeeeeeeeee.....

1. Lying Sources

The '50th anniversary of UFOs' will prove to be the biggest red herring in fifty years worth of red herrings. It has now assumed an independent power, becoming a cause celebre for groups to hang events on, publishers to hang books on and for the media just to hang on to. But as we all know it is only and I stress the word, only the 50th anniversary of one particular sighting, the one which happened to spawn the phrase flying saucers. And not even a very good sighting either. To digress a moment, how do we know Arnold didn't make it all up? He *was* the only witness after all. A whole genre name based on the say so of one piloty bloke? Hmmmmmmm. A cursory glance at the details of Arnold's sighting will demonstrate that the name 'flying saucers' is a red herring, a slightly more than cursory glance at the history of anomalous objects seen in the sky will demonstrate that with Arnold nothing actually *began*, but that a long period of disparate, disconnected sightings, flaps and waves actually *ended*; where now are phantom airships, mystery planes, ghost rockets and foo fighters?. Rapidly expanding world wide communications during the post atomic, post sacred space age led to a sharp focus was brought to bear on one *type* of anomalous aerial phenomena. The type that fitted the need. A cultural template was formed and the road to now slowly but surely began to unfold.

2. Key events

This all depends on your perspective. Some researchers would immediately identify key events as being 'significant' cases such as perhaps Roswell or Socorro. Something which supports *their* world view in UFOlogy. I'm no different. However, a 'key' is a tool with which to unlock something and I have no knowledge of anyone's key events unlocking anything other than yet another compartment in the pandora's box we call UFOlogy (we've called it other things before, we'll call it other things in the future.) Holding on to one particular case as being the 'key' to the whole problem is a dangerous business, as time and time again they fall to explanation. Holding on to any idea too strongly is the genesis of obsession, paranoia and conspiracy fever and oh, I've just described UFOlogy! Keep a pinch of salt handy at all times. To me personally key events have been events like The Cracoe UFO case, which was my first real awakening

into the tremendous mysteries of perception, rumour, belief and denial which the human mind can persuade itself with. Other key events have been when previously 'good' or 'solid' cases are explained, such as the Willamette Pass photo case. These are 'key' cases in the literal sense of the word, because meaning has been unlocked from mystery. The perceived problem with these types of key events is that they are often interpreted as 'reducing' the UFO mystery to the human level of misperception, misunderstanding, hoax, ignorance, myth making or whatever. To some UFOlogists, those driven by one single belief, these interpretations are often unacceptable, and this is why many 'solved' cases are met with fervent and bitter denial often resulting in the further entrenchment of a belief system. And round and round and round and round we go. They miss the point entirely. To me this is not reductionism, as I believe all events to be far more than the sum of their parts. Rather it is a thing of great wonder, demonstrating the magnitude and possibilities of psyche and culture in conjuring something so dramatic and pervasive.

So 'key' events for me are always the ones which explain rather than mystify. That isn't to say in any way I believe that there is no significance in UFOlogy. I do believe that the UFO phenomenon as a whole is of *great* mythic significance. My definition of 'Myth' here being delineated by Joseph Campbell as being "The secret opening through which the inexhaustible energies of the cosmos pour into human cultural manifestations. The prime function of mythology is to supply the symbols that carry the human spirit forward, in counteraction to those other constant human fantasies that tend to tie it back." Whether UFOlogy helps carry the human spirit forward rather than back is open to discussion! But in short to me *this* is where much of what is central to the UFO phenomenon lies, and which is also present in all the major mythologies throughout space and time on this planet. The myth of alien contact, the myth of 'lost' knowledge, the myth of human/alien sexual liaison and so on. They all exist in mythology and folklore prior to 1947 and they are all being redefined for the UFO age. We are even seeing new motifs being added, specific to our time and trouble; those of the myth of pollution and world destruction, allegedly shown to so many "abductees" and reflecting the relatively new ecological awareness of mankind. But rather than it being an external agency (the aliens) who are warning us, I tend to the belief that by some mechanism we are just talking to ourselves in the same way as our ancestors did with their myths.

None of this necessarily negates a physical component to the UFO mystery, as I believe that most people who say they saw a UFO did in fact do so. But there's seeing and there's 'seeing'. There is also most likely an as yet unexplained set of agencies at work in some of the cases- earthlights, meteorological phenomena and so on. Hell, there may even be real aliens. Only kidding! We have to be able to separate

and identify trigger from experience, to be able to see how the one informs the other, and in the CE4 type cases what the meaning is (if any) if it is not literally true.

If all this hippy nonsense seems a bit of a Keel/Vallee interpretation then I make no apologies. I was lucky enough to be exposed to their and similar writings at a formative age. It could have been worse. It could have been Donald Keyhoe. But then of course I would now be Tony Dodd. You see what I mean?

3. They Put A Spell On Me - Influential individuals.
Phew! So many. I think it has to be accepted and acknowledged that *anyone* who has ever investigated a case or written about any aspect of UFOlogy is influential. Simply because their work can be read and can therefore influence others. To a large degree we all jointly create and sustain the subject as it is perceived and we're *all* influential. Hoorah. However, if you want me to pick some 'stars', there are many. I've always had a tendency to go for the wilder thinkers such as Keel, Vallee, Constable, Fort, J.R. Hartley, Anton Wilson and so on. Not because I believe more than a small proportion of what they believe but for the eloquence with which they put things, the breadth of their knowledge and the fact that they do not hold to a narrow interpretation of the UFO phenomenon. And most of all because they make interpreting the act of being alive on this planet at this moment in time a hell of a lot of fun. Keel is now a spent force I think, but Vallee continues to hold promise and I hope he comes out of his 'retirement' and writes again very soon. I'm also highly impressed by the writings of Michael Miley, Keith Thompson and Patrick Harpur. Heresy to the hard core ETher but all writers who, again, amplify the magic of existence and the puzzles which continue to beset us.

Others include Allen Hynek for his sense and perceptive thinking and Allen Hendry for his excellent UFO Handbook - which should be read by everyone in the field (or even indoors if it's wet!). To name but two. Most of those I've noted are from the USA but in this country Jenny Randles has done more for UFOlogy and UFOlogists than anyone else is ever likely to. She has been responsible for popularising the field which has continued to bring new people into it. Paul Devereux too has opened up some interesting areas of thought, although all too few UFOlogists seem to take any notice of him.

4. Where's it all going?

Altogether now, "We're on a road to nowhere.....". A few years ago I was concerned that we were getting 'Americanised' in the UK UFO scene. Then I thought what the feck, let's sit back and enjoy the ride! Programs like the X Files, Dark Skies, the recent upsurge in paranormal zines and the infamous Mantilli alien autopsy video have all served to muddy the

waters. But they've also served to make it all so much more entertaining, if harder for the new bugs to the subject who have so much more untangling to do before they can even begin to think clearly. The 'real' work still gets done. To me, these days, the most important thing is just to keep a track of *what* is happening. It's more or less a full time job just keeping up with the ideas and the required reading! Optimistic? Moi?

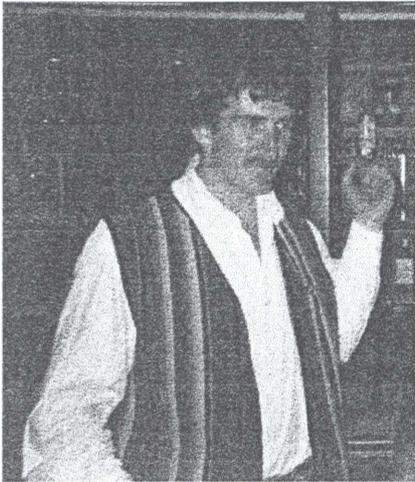
I think things will carry on much the same. As anyone who has been in the subject for even a few years knows all too well most of UFOlogy is - directly or indirectly - internal politics. "Oh," say people "but I just want to get on with investigating". I'm sure you do dear. But..... The people who investigate cases, form groups, write books and articles, edit magazines or join forces in any way are the people who shape the subject, the people who feed it to the media who amplify it and feed it back into the culture. It goes round and round. Just *how* do you want UFOlogy to look? Witness how many times people say or write "this year will be the big one, the truth will be out". Every year since 1947. Nothing has changed has it? There's just more of it and it's more complicated. So I'm optimistic things will continue as they always have in the subject. Theories will come and go. Think about it. Who's interested now in, say car stops, or ground traces, angel hair or anything else which at one time were the very cutting edge of the subject. Not many. Now young Johnny Researcher wants abductions, implants, conspiracies, MIBs and so on. We're never really happy with our mysteries are we? These current infatuations will change too and in another few years another subset of paradoxes will join the list of what UFOlogy encompasses. As for me, well, I've tried to get out of the subject a few times, managing it fairly successfully between 1992-95. But I'm afraid for me, as for many others, UFOlogy is both stimulant and narcotic, the dizzy ride it gives is addictive and I'm never happier than in the thick of it. Because, I think, at root we are engaged in debating what *actually is*, and there is no finer pastime if you don't take it too seriously. I look forward to the 75th anniversary of UFOlogy in which those of us who are lucky enough to be spared the grim reaper will be reminiscing like this as usual. Of course the aliens will be no nearer landing on the White House lawn (although people will be insisting they are) and UFOlogical factions will be hissing and spitting at each other as if their very lives depended on it. Which they do.

Meanwhile, someone has just seen a strange light in the sky. A woman wakes, her nerves shattered by the savage memory of the previous night's abduction. Ants go about their daily business, tides turn, the world spins and stars collide in the vast deep of space. In a second hand bookshop somewhere a small child has bought a copy of 'Operation Trojan Horse'.

The mysteries continue.

So much happening, but so few answers: A reflection on UFOlogy by Malcolm Robinson.

Picture Below: Malcolm Robinson.



“Well I’ll tell ya, they moved just like if ya skipped a stone across water”! These famous words were uttered 50 years ago by American Kenneth Arnold who has been credited as starting the modern era of “flying saucers”. It’s now

50 years since Arnold saw 9 objects traversing the sky over the Cascade mountains in Washington State. Are we any further forward? Do we know any more now about UFOs than we did 50 years ago? Certainly UFO sightings are on the increase and the triangular UFO shape would appear to be the most commonly reported object seen these days. UFO abductions too would seem to be on the increase, if we are to believe the world’s UFO journals. What can we expect the next 50 years to hold for the subject of UFOlogy? Will the truth be known? Well for me it’s hard to say. Although UFO reports are up, we don’t appear to be any nearer to understanding what is going on. I could reiterate about what other UFOlogists feel is going on, I.e. that UFO abductions are all about a genetic interbreeding programme, the gathering of sperm and ova samples to introduce into “alien life-forms” seems to be the speculated answer. Bu come on, this has been going on for over 50 years. Surely any desperate “alien” would have enough genetic material by now to repopulate umpteen planets never mind their own one!

Why the need to continue doing it? Or are the UFO abductions all in the mind, a global psychosis of immense proportions? My own personal opinion is, and has been since I worked on the Scottish A70 UFO abduction case, that human kind is most certainly dealing with some form of “alien” intelligence who are visiting planet Earth for reasons best known to themselves. That UFO abductions occur, I have no doubt. Anyone who as studied the data at close hand will tell you that the evidence is truly compelling and is growing daily. I would go as far as to say that such is the evidence, that people have been hung for less evidence than we have to substantiate the UFO phenomenon. But what I can’t understand is “Why?” why the abductions? Why the trauma? I suppose our earthly minds cannot really accept and comprehend how an “alien” mind thinks. Do “we” stop and look under a stone and try to understand a colony of ants or

small insects? Is the gulf between us and them (the aliens) so great that we’ll never begin to understand what they are doing to us? As a researcher of UFO sightings and the A70) case, I am bloody angry at what’s going on, I don’t apologise for using those words. Humankind are being taken without consent from their normal friendly environments, and catapulted into a totally alien environment which confuses and traumatises those individuals who have the misfortune for this to happen to them. And what is more alarming is the fact that research would indicate that UFO abductions are not a one-off, that some would think they are. Research shows that many people have been abducted since childhood. Much has been written about this, and my aim is not to tread over old ground. The foundation for this article is to try and reason “why”, 50 years on we know so little, and with so much happening, this beggars belief! I would honestly hate to think that 50 years from now we will still be in the same confusing position. Science is always progressing and we humans love to solve a mystery. I would love to say that th UFO mystery must surely be one of the biggest challenges to humankind yet, and it is a challenge to which we must never slack. Pioneers like Dr J. Allen Hynek led the way, followed by the sterling work of Jacques Vallee. There are many candidates who have advanced the study of UFOs over the last 50 years. Jenny Randles and Timothy Good from the United Kingdom get my vote for advancing the education of UFOlogy to the British people (and of course many others). I hope that the phenomenon will cast off its veil and show face, only a fool can discount what is going on. It is up to UFOlogists the world over to meet this challenge, let’s hope though that it doesn’t take another 50 years.

David Sivier writes:

You ask what I think the key events and most influential people in the field have been over the past 50 years. They’re bloody good questions. I’d like to answer the one about ufology’s most influential first. The single most influential person in ufology’s long history, in my opinion, is Ray Palmer, far more so than Kenneth Arnold. People had been sighting anomalous objects in the sky before Arnold, but it was Palmer who supplied a ready-made explanation for the objects in the guise of the Shaver mystery and who promoted both it and Arnold in the pages of *Fate*, *Amazing Stories* and the other pulp magazines he edited. Arnold’s contribution lies mostly in his description of the way the objects moved ‘like a saucer skipped through water’. This ‘soundbite’ became flying saucers, and influenced their popular image, right enough, but without Palmer’s backing interest in them would either have fizzled out or gone the way of similar crazes before the War. It would have been of interest only to Fortean or to a small section of society, rather than the mass craze it became in the 50s. Arnold’s important really for what he was, rather

than who. As a pilot, he was a trained observer in a glamorous profession so Palmer could easily be promoted as an expert and hard-headed man of action. The debacle at Maury Island which left airforce officers dead or missing along with debris from a saucer acquired some of its glamour from Palmer sending Arnold off to investigate. Without Palmer's backing that episode would have been of only minor interest, instead of being the classic case it later became. From Palmer is derived the whole mythos of alien bases beneath the Earth, extraterrestrial intervention in human affairs and the aliens' use of ray weapons to kill or influence their opponents.

The other major influence is Gray Barker for his book 'They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers' which established the legend of the Men In Black. Although the series of investigations Barker carried out was triggered directly by Albert Bender abruptly leaving ufology and closing his organisation down, supposedly because he had been ordered to do so by three men in dark suits, this was merely one incident among several in four countries - America, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. On its own the incident with Bender could have been written off as a fluke, an anomalous incident which fitted no category and which could have been put down to a number of causes. Barker's book made it part of a pattern and suggested that they were either part of the intelligence community, or else were themselves Outsiders. John Keel in the back of the most recent edition of his book 'The Mothman Prophecies' alleged that a lot of MIB incidents seem to have been due to Barker faking them, or that notes passed around supposedly as proof of the MIBs interest ultimately came from him or his circle of friends. He also suggested that all the rumours about Hanger 16 a [18?] and Area 51 were also part of Barker's hoaxing. Even if these beliefs were genuine, and if you show me a lawyer for Barker I'll say they were, then Barker has still influenced ufology by crystallising and providing an image for the paranoia running through saucer research.

I'd say the single most influential of the contactees was George Adamski. In many ways he was the classic. A small businessman in a humdrum job - he ran that hamburger stall, remember- but with his mind on higher things. The weird mixture of Eastern, theosophical mysticism and Extraterrestrial technology still influences more aspects of the subject than rationalists like myself would care to think. I'd put his influence as being stronger than that of William Dudley Pelley or Hunt Williamson for the simple reason that he made more TV appearances than they did. Not just in America, but over here and in Poland, while preaching peace and universal harmony. Similar cult leaders like George King and Spaceship Ruth Norman in a lot of ways merely followed in his footsteps.

The most influential abduction case is that of Betty and Barney Hill. From them you get the whole mythology of the medical examination, sperm being

extracted and spindly aliens with large wraparound eyes and stiff speech. They, like Antonio Villas Boas, who had sex with an alien, are the classic cases in defining the sexual nature of the abduction experience and in its harmful and inexplicable after-effects. The Hills were sick for days afterwards, as was Villas-Boas, allegedly of radiation poisoning. These unfortunates turn up in just about every book written on the subject, even at the most trivial level. Alien abductions and transport of humans aboard saucers had occurred well before then, but it was these two cases, I believe, which shaped the experience into the classic one of medical b*ggery from beyond the stars we see today.

I also think that J. Allen Hynek, John Keel and Jacques Vallee are, after Palmer, the three most important figures in the UFO field. Hynek's important because he broke with the American military and told everyone what they knew all along - that there was a cover-up going on, while attempting to give some kind of intellectual and scientific credibility to the study of UFOs. If it wasn't for him, then even sceptical scientists like Dr. Blackmore still wouldn't come near the subject because of the popular image of it being dominated by loonies. Keel and Vallee are important for linking ufology squarely to the faeries and other Fortean phenomena. Their attacks on the ETH effectively kick-started the psychosocial movement within ufology, as at least one of their Cerebral Phosphorences at John Dee Cottage has admitted.

As for Dark Side ufology, the names that spring to mind for that are Hopkins, Linda Moulton Howe and Bill English and Bill Cooper. Hopkins has spent well over a decade poking around in other people's heads making their experiences conform to that of the Hills, while Howe linked it all to the paranoia and genuine fear of cattle mutilations. English and Cooper simply drew it all together, along with the earlier stories of government deception and Area 51 to produce the classic stuff of Dark Skies and The X-Files.

On this side of the pond the most influential figures in ufology are Tony Dodd and the Quest crew, Peter Brookesmith, Jenny Randles and Paul Devereux. Randles is important if only for the sheer volume of material she writes, and the constant promotion of her subject. If you go looking for any ufological literature in any bookshop, chances are that at least one of those in stock will be by her. The same with Brookesmith, though he's also important because of his work in editing The Unexplained. Everyone I know who's become interested in any aspect of the paranormal came to it through reading the above mag. There are bits of it still being reprinted, and I've got a feeling that it's now been released onto disc or something, so it's influence certainly hasn't died.

I include Paul Devereux as his background in Earth mysteries through the Ley Hunter made the subject accessible to influences and people who would previously have disdained ufology. By organising the Dragon Project and propounding his 'earthlights' theory he's made the subject amenable to sceptical sci-

ence. Earthlights provides a useful, acceptable scientific model which has been taken up by people as diverse as Jim Schnabel and Sue Blackmore. It's the conduit by which otherwise obscure research by neurologists such as Persinger has become injected into the subject. Earthlights, like it or not, is now the favoured explanation against the ETH. There are other views, but not half as widespread.

It's also important to note that The Ley Hunter in its '70s hippy phase also opened ufology up to influences from the earth mysteries subculture, especially in the form of the Chinese dragon lines which became wedded to Watkin's old straight tracks. Thus there arose any amount of speculation, which still goes on today, that ley lines are part of an international power grid set up to power an ancient technology like flying saucers.

I include the Quest bunch up against more respectable ufologists like yourself, McClure and the Magonians simply because, despite the best efforts of all the above, Quest are on the newstands. I came back to ufology largely through reading the articles by Martin Kottmeyer and Andy Roberts that McClure published in The Wild Places, so they're certainly not without incident. McClure, however, is far too infrequent to have much of a direct influence, and the Magonians, although serving as a rallying point for the psychosocial movement, simply don't have the numbers. Strange Daze has, I think, done important work and is one of the very few UFO magazines that will honestly give both the sceptics and true believers alike an equal voice in its pages, but, like the others, its voice is severely circumscribed. In terms of a mass influence, no small, subscription-only magazine can compete with the likes of Quest's UFO Magazine and the masses of imitators that have mushroomed around it, like UFO Reality. They're big, they're glossy, they've got lots of pictures and they tell the ufological public exactly what they want to hear. Yes, UFOs are alien spacecraft, yes, they're abducting people and yes, the government knows about it but doesn't want you to. UFO Magazine in particular is incredibly market oriented. It's mostly advertising for Quest's own products, and so it spreads its influence around. In fact, given the lack of independent thought in these magazines, they largely serve as a conduit for the mythology being developed in America. The last time I looked at UFO Magazine it was full of drooling articles either about Aurora, new, top secret American submarines, or else packed full of old news, like the Kecksburg UFO crash and George Adamski.

The most influential organisations in Ufology now seem to be not Hynek's Centre for UFO Studies, but MUFON in America and Quest International over here. Five years ago I would have said BUFORA unhesitatingly. I'm afraid BUFORA now is playing second fiddle to Quest, BUFORA's UFO Times suffers from being a subscription only magazine while, unfortunately, UFO Magazine is in just about every outlet of WH Smith. It's true that BUFORA hold

conventions but so, unfortunately, do Quest. The IUN collapsed a few years back as well, leaving Quest well in the lead.

I'd also like to throw in a few wild cards at this point. Two of the most influential people in Ufology have been Mikhail Gorbachev and Pat Mills, of 2000 AD. I don't think Gorbachev has ever believed in UFOs, but until his brief period in power the Russian authorities clamped down and suppressed all UFO reports. Glaznost and perestroika, however, raised the lid on this in Russia, leading first to the reporting of UFOs in the Russian press and then to full scale weirdness like the Vladivostok humanoids. The ending of Communism and the return of religious freedom has basically led to the flowering of all aspects of the paranormal in Russia, UFOs included. Thus, what amounts to an entire continent, has suddenly been opened to what Mulder would call 'extreme possibilities'.

I chose Pat Mills because of his role in editing and creating 2000 AD, especially the Slaine strip. This was about a Celtic warrior, but it borrowed very heavily from the Earth mysteries crowd with ley lines being used to supply electromagnetic energy to power an ancient Atlantean technology, including beam weapons. The strip also featured an evil race of aliens, the Cythrons, stranded on Earth in the remote past by their opponents in a galactic struggle. These aliens burrowed upward through time to torment and abuse humans while preparing to leave Earth. Thus, you have the henge monuments as a massive global power system, a la Shuttlewood, and Earth as a prison planet a la Orfeo Angelucci. Mills based an awful lot of the strip on mythological and occult doctrines. It certainly influenced a number of my friends into becoming Wiccans (the modern witchcraft movement). It's influence on how many people joined ufology is less obvious, but as the one now is so closely linked with the other I somehow don't think it was negligible.

In this country I think the influence of Arthur Shuttlewood is incalculable. I don't know how many people actually read his books, possibly very few, but he was the chief promoter of the Warminster 'thing'. Although this has now been exposed as a hoax, the number of people who did develop an interest in ufology through the Warminster flap is enormous, especially as, by and large, they're still around. Even in Magonia.

I suppose I should mention Erich Von Daniken. Although his theories have now been discredited, not everyone has yet cottoned on and you can still buy his books. Whenever UFOs come up in the conversation of those outside the hallowed ranks of the initiates, ancient astronauts also appear. Despite everything that's been said about him, Von Daniken and the rest simply refuse to die.

The same goes for Charles Berlitz. His books on the Bermuda Triangle at one point became almost synonymous with ufology, while his book on the Philadelphia experiment is still very widely believed. The Fortean Times or someone proved that the Philadelphia exper-

iment is really another myth, but people I know still believe very strongly in it. Without Berlitz and the Philadelphia experiment, all the stuff about Montauk would probably never have arisen. Even when the names are forgotten, some people refuse to die, haunting investigations like ghosts. As for ufology, I'm simultaneously optimistic and pessimistic about it. I'm optimistic because I don't think ufology will ever die. Magonia's been predicting its death for over a decade now, and that still hasn't happened. People are still having anomalous experiences they link to space and extraterrestrials, and I cannot see this ever abating, no matter what I and the other sceptics may say. Nor do I believe that when humanity ventures out into space this will ever stop either. Kim Stanley Robinson in his book 'Red Mars' mentions Martian colonists talking about the Little Red Men they see out of the corners of their eyes, much as today's very terrestrial humans see ghosts or fairies. Stories, legends and myths are the essential meat and drink of the human mind. Humanity has an almost compulsive need for them, especially those in unpredictable or hazardous occupations like actors or sailors. When humanity ventures out into space, they'll encounter aliens. If we don't, we'll invent them in the form of technological goblins or the genii locii of the worlds we visit. And perhaps on one of them we'll encounter a genuine, unambiguous alien presence.

I'm pessimistic about ufology's future because I can also see the abductionists going on as much they have been. I can, unfortunately, only see abduction research being stopped if at least one of the major proponents either dies or is involved in a tragedy that demands he makes a full retraction. And even then, I think the phenomenon will simply carry on without them. It's grown too big. It's now rolling under its own momentum. If Mack, Sprinkle and Hopkins now say it's all b*ll*cks and they got it wrong, the rest of the crew will only say that they've somehow been 'got at' by the authorities and ignore them. Aside from that, it's part of an underlying demographic trend which will be extremely difficult to counter. Prof. Showalter, in her book *Hystories* links the abduction phenomenon to other forms of hysteria in our culture like Gulf War syndrome and the Satanism craze. It's a controversial book, but I think she's on to something. The world and society is changing too quickly and too radically for a lot of people to catch up, and so there is this growth of conspiracism and irrationalism. I'm sure it'll die down to a large extent after we reach the year 2000 and find we're still here, but international pressures and the pace of change will still continue. The only way I feel it can be uprooted and destroyed completely is if there is a massive overhaul of the counselling profession. Only when and if the BMA and somebody else completely discredits hypnotherapy and past-life regression, and the medical authorities demand a very strict code of professional conduct, complete with watchdog governing body, will that happen. I'm not sure that that will, unless there is

some tragedy that will cause national outrage against these people. The guiding philosophy now *seems to be* against greater regulation, though Blair's doing something to reverse that. And despite the report condemning the witch hunt in the Orkneys, the Satan hunters are still out there, holding their conferences and looking for some new victim whose life they can destroy and then lay it at Lucifer's door. To uproot the abductionists you'd need a full assault on all forms of psychological pseudery and alleged counselling. In the immediate future I can see a lot of the glossy UFO Magazines going down the pan when the year 2000 comes and goes and the X Files ends. I can see UFO Magazine surviving, but the rest are on very shaky turf. The publisher of Fortean Times expects the passing of the millennium to put a dent in its readership, and the FT has been going for far longer and has a far broader base than, say, X Factor which is desperately riding on the X Files' coat tails. The X Files itself is rumoured to have only one season left to go, and a film is being mooted. Whether there will be a series of films following that, as in the case of Star Trek and Bond, I leave to you to speculate. The X-Files will remain a fan phenomenon, but it won't have the same mass appeal. I can see the millennium coming and going, taking with it X Factor, the UFO Files, and (at least I hope) Sightings and some of the other glossy crap now littering our newsagents, leaving most of ufology back where it has always been - in the realm of the small press.



The Black Chamber by Dean James

"The cryptocracy is a brotherhood reminiscent of ancient secret societies, with rites of initiation and indoctrination programs to develop in its loyal membership the special understanding of its mysteries."
W.H. Bowart: Operation Mind Control.

American conspiracy researcher James Shelby Downard may not be the most prolific author in the world, but he's certainly one of the most paranoid. An intriguing but hopelessly erratic figure, he has few contemporaries and provokes even fewer comparisons. It is impossible to sum him up in a few words. Perhaps a line from an old John Esteven novel says it best: "Human nature is like a creek; dam it up and it goes stale on you; begins to crawl." So it is with Downard. The creek has been dammed up for so long that it isn't just stale but downright rank. His work reflects a lifetime spent probing the workings and inner structure of America's secret power elite. A heady brew of mystical toponomy and Masonic twilight language, it inevitably raises more questions than it answers.

Particularly significant are several references in an unpublished manuscript titled *Skullduggery* to something called the Black Chamber, which Downard first of all equates with The US State Department's Cipher

Bureau. Then: "What's in a name?" he continues. "Does the name Black Chamber suggest the occult?" And again: "The US Department of State's Cipher Bureau was officially closed by Secretary of State Henry Lewis Stimson on October 31 (Halloween), 1929... [But] some people in the State Department - and in the Black Chamber- just didn't get the message..."

Subsequent events related in the text make it clear that Downard is in fact describing his own vision of the Black Lodge; an occult cabal shepherding humanity inexorably along the road to Babylon and hell on earth.

Commissioning editors in search of good conspiracy-related material would do well to turn in the direction of Tennessee resident James Shelby Downard. Few authors have done more to expose the structure and inner workings of America's secret power elite. His work shows an intuitive knowledge of the occult. King Kill 33 is woven with a kind of mystic strangeness; likewise Violence is on the Wind and Blood is in the Air, which details his experiences at the hands of "loathsome nigger voodooists" in Cape Haitien circa 1933. [Careful now - Ed]

I once approached Downard about the possibility of representing him here in England and gently suggested that it might be advisable to remove the phrase "jungle bunnies" from a manuscript titled Maydays before submitting it for publication. Downard indignantly refused, and the idea came to nothing.

Alien Sex Fiend by David Sivier



"Let's blame all the incidents upon mass hysteria it's better than admitting that you don't want me near ya!"

Jon Downes and the Amphibians from Outer Space
"Mad Gasser of Mattoon"

One of the early stories carried by that bastion of culture The Sunday Sport was a heart-rending tale of interplanetary voyeurism. One couple's love life was cursed by alien peeping Toms, who, when they too got carried away watching the lovers' passion, began to jump up and down. Naturally this caused the afflicted pair no little distress, especially as the police could not be called upon to arrest ne'er-dowells from Zeta Reticuli. No doubt, though, their discomfort was palliated somewhat by the cheque they received for their story from the Sport's hacks. Up till a few weeks ago I filed this story with the rest of the above diseased organ - in the bin. Until, that is, it was jolted loose from my subconscious by a passage in John Keel's 'The Mothman Prophecies'. Keel noted the high percentage of lovers among UFO witnesses, mentioning particularly one couple who were caused great embarrassment by the sunburn they received from the en-

counter. An all-over tan shared with your lover is a difficult thing to explain when you acquired it in the middle of the night and it's the early 60s, when free love had not yet become part of popular culture, and certainly not in backwoods Virginia.

Aliens watching humans court and copulate makes some kind of sense. Humans, as Desmond Morris once observed, are sexy animals. Unlike the other creatures on this Earth, they don't limit their breeding to a single season. Gender differences and reproduction inform almost all of their culture. From the moment they're born, gender shapes their social identity, with, until very recently, the sexes busying themselves largely with separate spheres and interests. Marriage customs determine the forms of family life which shape the nature of society as a whole. Human cultures display a bewildering variety of reproductive practices, from strict monogamy where divorce is difficult or impossible, to polygamy. There are even one or two human cultures where promiscuity is accepted and common, and no stigma is attached to a brief fling. Family structure influences in its turn kinship patterns, and rules of inheritance. It may even determine the individual's place in that society. Stalking alongside these factors are the vices of incest, deviation, adultery and prostitution, practices which occur in nearly every culture, but the tolerance of which varies. Adultery and prostitution may be accepted, but incest is always regarded with disgust. Sexuality informs concepts of courtesy and good manners. Women, for example, may kiss each other in greeting, while men generally reserve themselves for a handshake. Getting the two mixed up could lead to some very unpleasant consequences, probably involving violence. The evolution of human intelligence itself may owe much to our reproductive strategies. By limiting ourselves to producing one or two infants at a time, rather than the vast litters of other animals like rabbits, human mothers can invest more time in bringing the children up, and thus a longer infancy is possible. A long childhood means a longer time for the child to absorb information. So humans are free to learn more, and develop their intellect.

To creatures that may have a radically different sexual biology, such as those animals which reproduce by budding, or are hermaphroditic, or which change sex according to season, or are neuter clone creatures such as Doctor Who's Sontarans, human sexuality represents a rich area of study. The twentieth century, the era of the UFO, has seen significant changes in sexual practices. In the West, homosexuality and premarital sex is no longer a taboo, though acceptance of homosexuality is certainly not widespread. Politicians and sociologists consider, and frequently bemoan, the effect the above have on society. Human cultures are now in transition, wherever they are, and sexuality is one aspect most deeply affected by the process. It is a rich time for an alien race to study.

What's incomprehensible is that they do it very badly.

Every anthropologist changes the society he studies merely by his presence. Every anthropologist tries to keep this impact to a minimum.

The Greys don't.

They have, allegedly, the ability to turn people off so that they don't notice their spaceships, which are, however, invisible anyway. Yet someone always notices their craft. Those poor souls whose memories they wipe remember them weeks or months later, after they've been returned to their beds dripping with nitrogen and with their underwear on back-to-front. And why bother going to all that trouble anyway? There are enough humans doing the work for them. The health and beauty sections of bookshops usually stock any number of manuals. Every week, it seems, there's some new report in one of the newspapers about the bedroom activities of the nation, not to mention the reports on human sexuality issuing from scholars like Kinsley and Hite. They could simply walk into a newsagent and buy the entire top shelf, saving some money, of course, for the adult section of the local video store and the Anne Summers catalogue.

I am not being entirely facetious with the above comments. One abductee allegedly saw two 'Greys' in a New York book shop, heavily disguised with furs, scarves, hats and glasses, but still their recognisable extraterrestrial selves. If the ETs wanted something a bit more scholarly, they could always enroll on UCLA's human sexuality course, provided that their current partner approves. And if they're really desperate for human semen for genetic experimentation, they could simply raid a sperm bank. This drags us into the foetid reaches of the abduction debate. Here the 'Greys' are no longer passive observers, but active participants, raping their victims to gain their semen or get them pregnant with their hybrid spawn. Probes are used to extract sperm and eggs in surgical techniques so advanced they leave almost no scar on their subjects. Yet in contrast to the advanced techniques at their disposal, the 'Greys' don't go in for artificial insemination. They seem to prefer to do it themselves, using whatever genital apparatus their race possesses. Abductees are shown their hybrid children in incubators, but these are only used after the pregnant mother has had her unborn child ripped from her womb by their technology.

Another thing that doesn't make sense.

Even at our level of technology, in vitro fertilisation is a reality, and the artificial womb may soon join it. Why use human women when a carefully supervised hatchery could provide the perfect conditions in the most infinitesimal degree? And all this before you come to the physical makeup of the 'Greys' themselves. They're described as being small, insectoid, with an exoskeleton and no external genitalia. They are completely different from humanity, yet seem to breed with us with the minimum of technological intervention. Breeding between even closely related species, such as lions and tigers, is difficult, and the resulting offspring is infertile. Furthermore, in the wild such crossbreeding only goes

on when the animals do not have a mate of their own species at hand. When crossbreeding does occur it seems driven by biological imperatives rather than pleasure. The Greys, however, are not only able to breed successfully with humans, but also excite them, although they themselves use a lot of technology and remain curiously detached and impassive while doing so. This, though, seems to bear out the purely biological reasons for their actions. They are, after all, supposed to be a dying race, driven to their excesses by the will to survive. Obviously, this doesn't necessarily include enjoying what they do. It seems more likely to me that the origin of these alien sexual shenanigans lies in the deep recesses of human neurology and consciousness than in sex-starved visitors from the stars. But more of this later.

John Keel noted the curiously asexual nature of the aliens in his book 'UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse', and commented on the androgynous appearance of the Venusians, with their delicate features and long blonde hair. Remember, the Venusians raised their bouffant heads in the 50s, when a man was only a real man if he had a short back and sides or a crew-cut. Even today, after more than a decade of hippy and hard rock rebellion, long hair is often taken as a sign of effeminacy in men. Keel compared the Venusians with the popular image of Biblical angels, who, although described as the 'sons of God', are also often given a feminine appearance in art, and whom theology considers neuter.

This strange genderless depiction of astral beauty seems to draw on two different strands of human thought about aesthetics and sexuality. The first is the automatic equation of beauty with femininity. Although women now may describe a goodlooking man as beautiful, historically men were only handsome. Women were beautiful. 'The fairer sex' is still a popular circumlocution for women, and anybody who challenges that identification is, if male, either a misogynist or a homosexual. Women's perceived delicacy, both of biological construction and in aesthetic and emotional taste made them appear aetherial creatures to Victorian gallantry, luminescent beings midway to the astral planes. Even in the middle ages, when women were strictly subordinated to male control, the 13th century Italian friar St. Bernardino could castigate men for being coarser and less dainty than their finer sisters. Bernardino based part of this statement on the story of the creation of Adam and Eve. Adam was created from clay, dirt, and so was always going to have an affinity with that material. Whatever he did, he would always be filthier than his female relations. Women were cleaner and more dainty because they were created from Adam's rib, a far more refined material than the coarse matter from which Adam was created.

Sex roles also play a part. Masculine beauty was always associated with athleticism and martial prowess. Greek sculpture is full of nude athletes and heroic warriors. Now, God may be the Lord of Hosts,

but Christianity, Judaism and Islam holds out the promise of a loving, merciful God. Love, mercy and tenderness are sentiments far more closely equated with femininity. Thus, although the God worshipped is a masculine deity, popular depictions of him acquire a feminine appearance. You think of the popular icons of Christ showing Him as a slender, swan-necked beneficent being. This transferal of feminine attributes onto masculine religious figures is not confined to Christianity, however. It occurs in Buddhism with the Bodhisattva Kwan Yin. Although as the Buddha of compassion in popular Buddhism she is definitely female, she has her origins in the Buddha Avalokiteshvara, a male disciple of the Buddha. Avalokiteshvara's compassionate nature caused him to become equated, and then confused with the feminine deities already existing within Chinese Taoism. Hence Avalokiteshvara, a masculine Buddha, became the goddess Kwan Yin.

The ufonauts lack of gender is rather more difficult to explain. Peter Brookesmith states firmly that its origins lie in the asexual nature of the angels in Christianity and the repression of sexuality within the semitic religions. While this argument is not without virtue, it ignores the deep concerns all religions have over sexual activity. Buddhism, too, has a strong tradition of celibacy and asceticism. Tantrism, which promotes mystical union through sex, has become a symbol to many Westerners of the more relaxed sexual mores of the East, but the inmates of the great lamaseries lead lives of abstinence comparable in hardship, and sometimes exceeding, those of their counterparts within Christendom. One of the ideological strands influencing Christian attitudes to sex were certain strands in Greek and Zoroastrian thought which equated sex, and the material universe, with sin and suffering, aside from the obvious Biblical sources. No culture is entirely comfortable with sexuality and the sexual act. The Dowayo people of Cameroon have been described as having a society where adultery plays much the same role as television does in the West. Yet in some senses they are deeply prudish. The members of the opposite sex are prohibited from seeing each other's genitals for fear of the dire effects the mere sight would have upon their own anatomies. For all the myriad explanations, no-one really knows the reasons behind circumcision and other forms of genital mutilation performed in so many societies. These operations are profoundly unpleasant and terrifying to those upon whom they are performed. So much so, that perhaps the real reason is that they do serve as a more than effective ordeal through which the individual must pass during his or her initiation. Incest taboos, like taboos on eating certain foods, are universal. The ufonauts asexuality seems to reflect a profound psychological unease about sexuality pervading human society as a whole, not just Christianity. The androgynous and asexual appearance of the ufonauts finds its closest parallel not in orthodox Christianity, but in gnosticism, where the primal man

in texts such as the Poimandres of Hermes Trismegistus is described as being both hermaphroditic and a virgin before the Fall.

Apart from these aspects, there is also a strong homosexual element to the abduction phenomenon. Many of the abductees are gay, such as the two women abducted during the Tujunga canyon incident. This couple were delicately described by the Flying Saucer Review as leading a 'lesbian oriented lifestyle'. The same magazine debated if they were selected by the UFO crew for abduction for precisely that reason, being more interesting subjects than a heterosexual couple. My own feeling is that if a UFO crew can make that deduction about the occupants of a car travelling at speed some distance from them, if only initially, then they're already capable of gaining so much information from afar that a physical examination aboard their craft is pointless. But I might be mistaken.

Aside from the sexual orientation of the abductees, the aliens during examination may insert probes into their ani, as part of or during the process of otherwise sexually molesting their victims. Whitley Strieber, for example, describes such a violation in his book *Communion*. There seems to be little physiological reason for such activities, and the associated invasions of their victims' nasal passages. The alleged implantation of miniature tracking devices in the abductees' bodies, sometimes in their genitals, does have a parallel in tribalism, however. The menfolk of a number of tribes hang metal objects from their genitals for various reasons. In the Phillipines there is the ampallang, a rod inserted laterally through the penis and hung with balls, feathers etc. and supposed to enhance the sexual enjoyment of the man's wife. The men of the Mon people used to insert balls into their flesh marking the number of children they had fathered. Mercifully for their masculinity, they stopped at three. These examples, taken together with the recurrent phenomenon of circumcision, seem to place this aspect of the abduction experience firmly within the human drive towards genital mutilation.

An advocate of the reality of the abduction phenomenon might remark that there is a dimension to it not mirrored in human rituals. To abductionists such as Mack and Sprinkle, the aliens come to heal and teach more than rape and mutilate. They are spreading cosy messages of cosmic awareness and ecological sensitivity. They want to educate us to prepare for some catastrophe. This is surely markedly different from the dark excesses of the Jungian subconscious performed in the depths of the forest or desert? The answer to that one is a definite 'no'. Not at all. Circumcision and other mutilations commonly take place during initiation ceremonies, where the individual becomes a full adult member of their community. This coming-of age is accompanied by the impartation of secret knowledge that the community considers too holy or important to be passed onto the uninitiated, which usually includes the womenfolk, as well as

boys. Remember, most tribal societies are patriarchal. Egalitarian societies are extremely rare and there probably has never been a true matriarchy. Women are excluded from the tribal rituals of the aborigines and the great secrets of the men's lodges among the Jivaro, for example.

The secrets imparted to the initiates may be the profound myths of that society's founding, justifying the power structure and practices within that society. Sexuality may form an intimate part of these proceedings. Among the Dowayo, women are kept ignorant of the nature of circumcision, being told that during the initiation ceremony the boys' ani are sewn up. A re-enactment of the origins of the rite of circumcision forms their most sacred ceremony, and parts of this ritual inform the other rites in the Dowayo religion. Initiation is the boys' introduction both to sexuality and adult life. All this seems to boil down to an equation of the acquisition of reproductive abilities with social responsibility. Once the boy becomes biologically a man, capable of fathering children, society intervenes to make him a member of the adult community by recognising his new reproductive potential. This new status is marked by ceremonially marking its biological origins in the shape of the organs themselves. Sexual activity is seen both as a cornerstone of society, in the form of marriage and children, and as its most disgusting antithesis in the form of incest and sexual violence. Its power and dynamism need to be socialised, tamed into submission for the good of the people. Hence, the boys' genitals are changed according to societal prescriptions at the same moment as the child rejoins society as a man. The same kind of logic seems to pervade the abduction and contactee phenomenon. The abductees are subjected to an ordeal of sexual terror before being given a message that will prepare humanity for its coming of age when it finally joins the Galactic Club and the space brothers land waving their penis sheaths and bullroarers. Only if we heed these messages will we be considered adult enough to join the interstellar federation or other such cosmic lodge. Not that such millenarian speculation is confined to the New Age fringe. The progress of modern technology and scientific speculation has led even sceptical thinkers to ponder humanity's place in the cosmic scheme of things. We do seem ready for a great evolutionary leap, though to what is still a matter of some debate. Books with titles such as 'Coming of Age in the Milky Way' merely give the game away.

There are differences, however. The most obvious is that initiation rites usually only involve boys, though some societies do have special initiation rituals for girls. Most abductees, on the other hand, tend to be women. The other is that in traditional tribal cultures the secrets imparted during initiation are for the sole benefit of the initiate, not to be made known to the unworthy. Of course, the 'Greys' do their fair share of obfuscation, pronouncing in good Gnostic fashion that some secrets are not for inferior humans,

but those secrets they do reveal are seemingly actively desired by the 'Greys' or Venusians or whoever to be spread all over the planet. Humanity's collective maturity is the goal, not that of a single individual.

The alleged sexual molestation and abduction of their victims while still children is not an objection to my thesis of cosmic initiation. Paederasty formed an important part of the ancient Greek educational system and was practised by one tribe of the Ostrogoths, probably under Greek influence. The young warrior only escaped an older man's tutelage when he was old enough to kill an enemy himself. There doesn't seem to be a lot of hope for us, unless, I suppose, we invade Alpha Centauri. The true explanation for these activities lie not in the activities of real, nuts 'n' bolts alien ships, piloted by real nuts 'n' bolts 'Greys', but in the convoluted grey of the human brain. The psychologist Michael Persinger attributed Strieber's bizarre experiences, including those of having his behind interfered with, as being due to 'anomalous activity within the anterior parahippocampal gyrus with special involvement of the amygdaloid complex and adjacent uncus'.² In a theory which is now probably familiar to most of you out there, he relates UFO abduction and demonic possession experiences to disturbances within the brain's temporal lobes. Furthermore, the differences between the abduction experiences of men and women he attributes to the probable differences in structure between the sexes' brains. Men are supposed to be left-hemisphere dominant. This part of the brain controls logic and spatial awareness, and is supposed to explain why men tend to do better at mathematics than women. Women, on the other hand, are believed to be right-hemisphere dominant, which makes them more creative and intuitive, and linguistically more adept. Abduction and demonic possession are supposedly right brain processes, which is why they are reported by more women than men. Social conditions may exacerbate the sexual aspects of the phenomenon. Schnabel notes the number of possession hysterics among nuns, particularly that of the Loudun case of 1633-4 which was novelised by Aldous Huxley. Repressed sexuality often surfaced under the guise of demonic possession into exhibitionist displays of fits, convulsions, sexual displays and blasphemy usually aimed at the nuns' confessor. Similar possession phenomena, such as the zar cult of Arabia and north Africa, go on today in many traditional societies. These phenomena allow women to express usually forbidden desires, not always sexual, under the supposed explanation that they are in the terrible grip of demons and so are not responsible for their actions. These possession cults have been attributed to hysteria within the possessed, rather than supernatural beings. Societal pressures against blatant displays of sexuality may fuel that hysteria. It may be contested that twentieth century women have escaped the puritanical sexual repression of their historic forebears. This statement is erroneous. Although there is now a greater freedom accorded to women's sexual activities now,

many women still feel that a double standard in sexual behaviour exists between the sexes allowing men licence while forbidding it in women. No woman wants to gain a reputation as a 'slut' or 'tart'. The change in sexual mores has left many people confused and in doubt about what is acceptable sexual behaviour. Furthermore, as society gradually frees itself from its inhibitions, crimes that have always plagued humanity but which previous generations considered too revolting or shameful to be made public, such as rape and the sexual abuse of children, are now discussed. It can therefore appear to members of a more conservative generation that society is drowning in a wave of promiscuity and sex crimes.

In addition to all this, Western society is now in a period of great social crisis. Its economic and political dominance over the rest of the globe is coming to an end, while internally changes in the structure of society and its fragmentation into different groups has been a concomitant fragmentation of the moral consensus. The Satanic Abuse and general child abuse hysteria acts as a release for otherwise inarticulate but deeply felt social pressures. Regardless of whether you're a Marxist feminist or Ultra-right Bible-thumping evangelical, everybody hates a kiddy-fiddler. It's a cause everyone can unite upon. And so the hysteria surrounding sexuality is increased. But I've digressed.

Back to the different structure of the sexes' brains, the dominance of the left hemisphere in men is believed to produce the predominantly anal images found in male abduction narratives, while the dominance of the right in women gives rise to both anal and genital imagery. This may also explain the homosexual aspects to the phenomenon. The brains of male homosexuals, it is now believed, share certain similarities with women, this shared structure governing their sexual orientation. It may well be that male homosexuals by virtue of their differing brain structure will experience an abduction closer to the female narrative. Their left-brain dominance may shape the anal imagery of the phenomenon, while the alleged feminine structures in the brain may either colour the experience with overtones usually only found among women, or, given that women usually report more religious experiences than men, ensure that a higher proportion of homosexual men than heterosexual report the experience. How this affects lesbian women is unclear. Although dissection of the brains of male homosexuals has seemed to show similarities between their brains and those of women, dissection of the brains of lesbian women has not shown similarities between their brains and those of men.

Any attempt to invoke differences within the structure of the brain to cognitive differences between the sexes is highly controversial. No neurologist can tell the sex of a brain merely by sight. It requires a detailed examination to ascertain the sex

of the brain's former owner. The most obvious difference between the sexes' brains is that women have a thicker corpus callosum, the neurological bridge between the two hemispheres of the brain. It also needs mentioning that in terms of abilities, there is no absolute distinction between men and women. Women tend to do better at languages than men. Men tend to do better at maths and art. This has not, however, prevented the appearance of brilliant male novelists, poets and translators, nor that of superlative female mathematicians, scientists and artists. Statements such as that men tend to work things out one step at a time, while women want to see 'the whole picture', which are still often quoted, seem to me uncomfortably close to the pronouncements of the Nazis' chief ideologue, Alfred Rosenberg. Rosenberg declared that women think 'holistically' while men think 'atomistically', or that men's cogitation is 'harmonic' while women's is 'lyric'. Either way, he attempted to invoke the supposed cognitive differences between the sexes to support the Nazis' antifeminist programme and their limitation of female activity to the traditional domestic sphere. It still remains unclear how much of the gender roles and behaviour is a social construction, without any roots in human biology.

It also seems to me that the reason a high proportion of UFO sightings are made by lovers has absolutely nothing to do with brain chemistry. Lovers usually drive or walk to secluded spots away from the rest of humanity, and may spend part of the time watching the sunset or the stars. They see UFOs because they're out in a position to see them, not necessarily because the little Grey perverts are out in force looking for a couple of snoggers to molest.

So, what's left to say about aliens, UFOs and sexuality? That question may never be truly answered, so long as the deep processes of human cognition and neurology remain a mystery. What is clear is that the evolving UFO and abduction mythos has its roots deep in human neurological processes and strong links to religious and mystical phenomena most clearly expressed in contemporary tribal cultures. The religious and ritual dimension of western civilisation has been largely stripped away by the advance in scientific and materialist thinking and in egalitarian and democratic social structures which do not support the governance of elites possessing secret cosmic knowledge, and in which the ending of childhood is not celebrated as strongly as in traditional cultures. Confirmation, Bar Mitzvah and an 18th birthday party with your mates down the pub don't have quite the same impact as a coming of age circumcision among the Maasai, for example, however less painful and preferable the former is from our point of view. It may well be that the abduction experience is really merely deeply suppressed tribal urges coming to the surface with a vengeance. Heroes are symbols of cultures in transition, as someone once remarked. The great heroes of the world's civilisations are those individuals, like Quetzalcoatl and Moses, who bring civilisation and law to their benighted peoples, thus bringing them a few steps further from the savage to ... what? Western

culture has thrown off many of the forms of its Judeo-Christian basis, and now faces issues and technologies which its founders could never have foreseen. Its future, economic, political and social is in doubt. The abductees could be its fumbling attempt to produce a new culture hero for a new millenium.

While you ponder this, I'd like to make one last caveat. I have used examples from tribalism as illustration of universal concerns about society and sexuality. Please do not go away with the Jungian idea that somehow modern tribal peoples share the same impulses and social structures of primitive man. Every culture, including that of the tribal peoples, is the result of thousands of years of speculation and evolution on their part. They are necessarily no more relics of a primitive human state than technocratic Western society with its customs. Only by comparing one society with another may one get an idea of universal human fears and goals. Even the West has customs that may strike the non-Western visitor as strange and savage. As Bela Bartok once said. 'No nation has its own culture, only its own barbarism.' I'll leave you to ponder that while I get my warpaint on and show you my collection of severed heads.

Notes

1. Brookesmith, P., Communion Cups and Crashed Saucers part 2, The Godlings Descend in Magonia 56, p.13.

2. Perceptual and Motor Skills. 1989. quoted in Schnabel. Dark White, p. 133.

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1. Barley, N., The Innocent Anthropologist, Penguin 1983. See pages 73-5 and 77 for a discussion of Dowayo sexual attitudes and circumcision.

2. Bord, J. and C, Life Beyond Planet Earth?, Grafton, 1992.

3. Brookesmith, P., The Godlings Descend, in Magonia, Rimmer, J. ed., pp. 10-15.

4. Jonas, H., The Gnostic Religion, Routledge, 2nd edition, 1992.

5. Keel, J., Operation Trojan Horse, Abacus, 1975.

6. "The Mothman Prophecies, Illuminet Press, 1991.

7. Schnabel, J., Dark White, Penguin, 1994.

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Reviews



Left at Westgate Road:

Larry Warren & Peter Robbins at Dillons bookstore, 16/6/1997.

June 1997 has been a busy time UFOlogically at Dillons bookstore at the Monument in Newcastle. With the current interest in UFOs still high, new books are appearing at a frightening rate, and Michael Arch at Dillons has managed to get some of the superstars of the subject up to Newcastle.

On the 16th June, American pair Larry Warren and Peter Robbins came to launch their book "Left at East Gate", which deals with the Rendlesham Forest (RAF Woodbridge/Bentwaters) case from Christmas 1980. Robbins is the major writer, with Larry Warren being the star witness of the event when he was a young (19) airman working at the US air base. Over a series of nights near Christmas 1980 strange lights and activity were observed in the woods near the joint airbase, and on one night Larry Warren was part of a detachment sent into the woods to investigate. He's sure his superiors knew what to expect; they were equipped with lights, tape recorders, cameras, radiation detectors and so on when they went left at the East gate and into a close encounter. Warren saw lights transform into a mysterious object, he saw entities and he said that communication took place. Yes, there was contact, but not in the way the media have portrayed it.

They made some very good points. This incident only happened in 1980. Warren and other witnesses are still alive, and they can be tracked down. The deputy base commander, Lieutenant Charles Halt, has gone on the record and lectured on what happened in Rendlesham Forest. There is a paper trail of documents that can be followed. There was physical evidence of what occurred in the woods. The tape recorders and cameras recorded what happened. As Warren pointed out, you could remove him from the incident completely, and the Rendlesham Forest incident would still stand as one of the great UFO encounters of our time. The Roswell incident is 50 years old this month, and the trail has gone cold. The primary witnesses are dead, and we have probably learned as much as we can about Roswell. Not so with Rendlesham, which could be the new Roswell.

Robbins said that their book is not just about the incident, but about the people involved and how they were treated by the Military and the intelligence organisations who presumably knew "the truth" about what went on. Robbins said that his phone had been tapped (badly - deliberately so) and his mail opened, and Warren had his passport removed for a while. That may be so, and it may have more to do with Warren's revelations about the airbase than about his description of the events in the woods. He said that in 1980, RAF Woodbridge/Bentwaters held the largest stockpile of tactical battlefield nuclear weapons in NATO, which would have forbidden by the weapons treaties then in place. Even if nothing more emerges on the UFO incident, Warren and Robbins should make us question the methods of the American security agencies, the massive presence of the NSA (the American National Security Agency) in this country and their involvement with British Telecom of all people.

It seems ironic that such a momentous UFO event in this country should happen near an American airbase. But I sometimes wonder, if it happened at a British, MoD run RAF base, would we have any evidence or witnesses at all? - Ed.



Above: Peter Robbins (left) and Larry Warren signing books at Dillons.

Book Review:

“Left at East Gate” by Larry Warren and Peter Robbins.

Publisher: Michael O’Mara Books Ltd, 9 Lion Yard, Tremadoc Road, London, SW4 7NQ. Price: £15.99 (Hardback)

The first major discovery on this planet was the wheel, now comes the second most amazing discovery, THIS BOOK and the facts that it contains. This is such a riveting read that you’ll find it hard to put down. This book must surely rank as the most important and influential book of the last forty years. (Steady now - Ed.) This is not an understatement, this is fact! The book tells the story of the incident which occurred in Rendlesham Forest back in 1980 by one of the people who was actually there, not a friend of a friend, but someone who was so close to what could well be a machine from another world. To try and do a small review on this book is well nigh impossible. The Rendlesham Forest affair is well known to seasoned UFOlogists, did a “crash” and “repair” of a UFO occur in this forest next to RAF Bentwaters? Witnesses claim to have seen a strange object rest above the grass, then zoom in and out through the trees. Small beings with large cat-like eyes who “floated” and conversed (telepathically) with American Air Force personnel were also observed. Several of the witnesses to the events of that night were debriefed the following day and shown cine-film of UFOs at various locations throughout the world (and also on the Moon). A Commander Nicholson then told the men that what they had seen in the forest represented technology far superior to our own, and that the Government (American) has known about it for some time!

Larry Warren, co-author of this book, was a security policeman at RAF Bentwaters, and he witnessed one of the nights events (they occurred over three nights) and was later “drugged” and taken to an underground

base at RAF Bentwaters where he claims to have seen similar UFOs and conversed (telepathically) with a grey being who told him numerous things, including that they, the aliens, have bases on Earth and have been here since World War Two. “Religion was created for the Human Race” he was told, a statement that really unnerved the 19 year old Larry. Larry decided to try to speak out about what was quickly turning out to be a whitewash of those nights events and went on a one man crusade in order to get people to learn about what happened. Indeed, Larry’s eyesight was impaired after seeing this UFO in the woods. This book tells the story of how Larry Warren and later his

co-author Peter Robbins had to struggle with authority to try to get to the bottom of this, in which they were thwarted at every turn. Both Larry and Peter believe that their phones were tapped, probably by the National Security Agency. Helicopters overflew Larry’s property filming and taking photographs of his house. During all of this time, Larry was receiving visits by small beings who would enter his apartment and then dissolve!

We then pick up on Lt. Col. Charles Halt and his role in one of the nights’ proceedings, he also saw the beings and made a live audio tape as he and his men pressed on through the woods in search of the object. A copy of this tape was later sold by Dot Street and Brenda Butler (co-authors of “Sky Crash” with Jenny Randles about this case) to the News of the World for £2,00. Indeed, Manchester based lawyer and UFO researcher Harry Harris, also sold a copy of the Halt tape for \$2,000 to Nippon TV. No Comment!

Early UK investigation of this case in 1983 by Ian Mrzyglod and Martin Shipp concluded that this case did not require further investigation! Boy, were they ever wrong or what! The book continues with Larry’s struggle to get at the truth, but I was amazed to learn that Warren had managed to photograph an “alien” albeit inadvertently on a holiday snap! Why wasn’t this photograph included in this book?! Larry was none too fond of Randles, Street and Butler’s attempt at a book on this event - Larry read “Skycrash” and then named it “Skytrash” due to certain statements and comments! The book then goes into cloudbusting, would you believe, and devices of this kind were found at RAF Bentwaters. Peter and Larry speculate that a large cloudbusting device may have been the real reason for the tremendous damage caused to various parts of the forest and other area of England in October 1987. One of the most amazing chapters for this reviewer comes when we read about Larry and Peter’s return to Rendlesham Forest in 1988, for would you believe on their first night there (8 years on from the main event), they are no sooner in the forest than they start seeing UFOs. A transcript of that night is given and it is riveting stuff I can tell you, especially when a “wall of light” illuminates the woods, similar

to what occurred in the recent "Fife Incident" investigated by SPI up in Scotland (See last issue - Ed). Larry's quest to find the truth sees the break up of his marriage and an attempted suicide bid but eventually through the help of some good friends he sees the light and realises that he must go on, that there is so much still to be done.

The book then goes into the role played by the NSA, and Peter Robbins does a tremendous job of bringing out some home truths about this organisation, with fact that will shock you to the roots. It is fair to say that Larry and Peter were slightly frightened of agents from the organisation, as Larry had found himself the focus of their attention. Peter Robbins sums up by saying that trying to get to the get to the truth of what went on that night was like trying to fight a tank with a spider's web (I liked that one). [I didn't understand that one - Ed.] But, was this event just one big drug induced event? We know that after they were debriefed, they could have been fed some drugs or some hypnosis could have been used. Drugs and/or hypnosis might have led them to believe that what they saw was a UFO with alien beings, but if so, why? Peter tells us that RAF Bentwaters and Woodbridge secretly housed the largest stockpile of tactical battlefield nuclear weapons in the whole of NATO infrastructure and that Geenham Common, the site of many antinuclear demonstrations, was in fact only a diversion and a cover. If something happened to those missiles it is fair to say that the Americans would not want this getting out, and so covertly conjured up this false scenario as a cover. That's just pure speculation on my part, however.

Charles Halt says "There are more things that went on in that forest that night than you'll ever know"! What on Earth does he mean?!

This book is a giant. This book will be a best seller, there's no doubt about that. For once you read this, you will be left in no doubt that something of immense importance occurred in those woods that night, and Larry Warren & Peter Robbins are to be congratulated for an extremely important and Earth shattering book, which I can see being made into a film.

Buy this book, and see what I'm raving about, you won't be disappointed.

- Malcolm Robinson.

Nick Pope at Dillons Bookstore, 26/6/97

On a wet and windy Thursday night, Nick Pope delivered his talk on "alien abductions" and signed copies of his new book "The Uninvited" (Not an original title, Nick). After reading all of the dreadful reviews of his first book I was expecting the worst, but was pleasantly surprised by the well spoken civil servant. Nick Pope, The Man from the Ministry, the Real Life Fox Mulder is certainly the man of the

moment. Being the MoD's former UFO expert has drawn the media attention and he is wisely milking it for all he can. This is his second book and he seems to know his stuff well, despite not investigating the phenomenon for anywhere near as long as some amateurs in UFOlogy. His talk could have been given, without notes, by any number of well read UFOlogists as he wasn't giving us anything new, but I doubt that they would have given as balanced a view as Nick did. As a general overview of abduction history and theories, his talk was a great introduction to the field. He admits that he is convinced by the extraterrestrial origin of some UFOs and the abduction experience, but he gave a good airing to the theories of others: Jacques Vallee, John Spencer, Michael Persinger, and so on. He pointed out that abductions generally come in two types: the bedroom abduction, and the road abduction which often involves vehicle interference. Is there any qualitative difference between the two, I wonder? The second part of his book consists of interviews with a number of people who have experienced "alien abduction", and he admits that it is a complex field. It is not as simple as some of the ETH believers, particularly the Americans, would like us to believe. But within all the complexity, Nick still believes that there is a genuine interaction between humans and extraterrestrials.

If you are new to the field, then you could do much worse than to buy Nick's book. But if you are a veteran, then there won't be much here to impress you.

Dr Mike Dash at Dillons Bookstore, 26/6/97

Mike Dash from the Fortean Times was here promoting his book "Borderlands", which covers a wide variety of unexplained and Fortean phenomena. He started his talk with two seemingly absurd cases, the "Mince Pie Martians" case from Rowley Regis in 1979 and the "talking toilet" case from Germany, which may well have been a hoax. He went on to discuss such phenomena a spontaneous human combustion, lake and sea monsters, alien big cats, the BVM, Bigfoot, ectoplasm and seances, false memory syndrome, UFO photographs and much more. I would think it hard to draw conclusions from such a varied selection but Mike managed to draw out three tentative conclusions:

1. Unexplained phenomena refuse to be easily compartmentalised;
2. There is no such thing as a consistently unexplainable phenomenon; and
3. We have to look for answers within ourselves.

Mike presented a wonderful variety of slides, but it was disappointing that he chose to talk almost exclusively to the projector screen rather than the audience. And it must have been disappointing for him to have travelled up from London to talk to a relatively small audience. A shame, as this may be one of the better

books of 1997.

Book reviews:

"Secrets of Masonic Mind Control" by Michael Anthony Hoffman.

Publisher: Wiswell Ruffin, PO Box 236, Dresden, NY 14441, USA.

Modern conspiracy research owes Michael Anthony Hoffman a sizeable dowry. No one has done more to expose the structure and inner workings of America's hermetic power elite. His slim volume *Secrets of Masonic Mind Control* is a classic of the genre indicated by its title. It begins with a revisionist account of what Hoffman terms "man's peregrination away from Eden" Then: "Heaven existed once on Earth." the text continues, "and attempts to artificially rebuild it are not only the height of artifice and insanity but also, as Lovecraft and Machen hinted, indicative of something far more ominous: preparation of the Earth for rehabilitation by demonic entities once expelled, who breath dioxin and require plutonium for sustenance, for whom the entire era of industrial pollution would indeed be a golden age..."

At first glance this may look like the stuff of bad science fiction, but readers should be cautious about dismissing it out of hand. Irrespective of whether Hoffman's putative "demonic entities" actually exist, there can be no denying that his basic premise rings true. Man is waging a pathological war on nature and seemingly regards the present era of industrial pollution with a kind of perverse pride. His relentless onslaught is not only the height of artifice and insanity, but may indeed be indicative of something far more ominous: entry into what Hoffman refers to as "the nigredo phase of [society's] alchemical transformation".

The burden of proof for any claim must inevitably rest with the claimant, and Hoffman certainly argues his case convincingly. An important and original researcher, he puts something of himself into everything he writes. *Secrets of Masonic Mind Control* leaves many questions unanswered but nevertheless forms a significant addition to what James Shelby Downard calls "the Making Manifest of All that is Hidden." Like everything bearing the Hoffman by-line, it deserves a place on any serious conspiracy buff's bookshelf.

- Dean James.

"Alien Contact: The First Fifty Years" by Jenny Randles.

Publisher: Collins and Brown Publishing, London House, Great Eastern Wharf, Parkgate Road, London, SW11 4NQ. Price: £14.99 (Hardback).

We are now into the 50th year of the modern era of "Flying Saucers" and in this time there has been a

multitude of weird and wonderful cases, which not only include strange objects seen in the sky, but entity reports as well (in other words, alleged sightings of what could be termed "aliens").

Jenny Randles is a prolific writer and investigator of phenomena such as ghosts, poltergeists, and other weird and wonderful events, but the UFO phenomenon is Jenny's speciality and one would have expected she would write a book such as this in this 50th anniversary year. So what do we get? Well, you name it and you're sure to find it in here. "Alien crash landings", "Contacts with beings from other worlds", "UFOs in space", "Alien Abductions", "Star Children", "Roswell" (well come on, it had to be in here, didn't it!) "Betty and Barney Hill", etc. For seasoned UFOlogists, we've heard it all before, it's old hat. But for the many new and younger people who are now showing a thirst for this phenomenon and who are reading up on it in their thousands due to the success of the X-Files and other such TV shows, well you can do no better and although Jenny didn't have the space to go into her cases with any great detail, what is given is important and much to the point. Moreover, there are many good photographs and illustrations which are peppered throughout this book which gives the reader a "feel" for the story.

The book takes the reader through the years 1947 to 1997 and in each year cases are presented. Some would argue that not all the best UFO cases are in here, but of course there have been so many that it would be a brave man/woman to pick out what he/she [careful now - Ed] considers to be the best case of the year, considering how big this planet is and that this is a global phenomenon.

My only gripe about this book (and it is a small one) can be found on page 136 in which for the year 1996 Jenny briefly mentions the important "Fife Incident" in Central Scotland. No mention of the research work conducted by SPI (or others) is mentioned and the sparsest of details are given. That point aside, this is an educational book for those newer members to UFOlogy. As a source book it will certainly leave its mark, and although a pot pourri of similar books are on the market, Jenny's writing style and presentation wins hands down.

A fine book then by Britain's top UFOlogist and deserves its place on your bookshelf.

- Malcolm Robinson.

"Fairies: Real encounters with Little People" by Janet Bord.

Publisher: Michael O'Mara Books Ltd, 9 Lion Yard Tremadoc Road, London, SW4 7NQ. Price: £15.99 (Hardback).

Ask anyone in the street what they think of fairies and I'm sure you'll get a mixed response, from the obvious (!) to "I don't know". This book presents an

absolute wealth of data about fairies (the wee folk) which when reading it proved a big surprise to this reviewer. I didn't know so many incidents had been recorded and it is well done to Janet Bord for finding them. Janet tells us that most often the people who see fairies do so unexpectedly, more so when their mind is blank and they are idly day-dreaming. The witness is usually alone, however if someone else is there sometimes a parallel vision can be experienced. Folklore states that fairies are often seen dancing, and Janet speculates that perhaps they are performing some kind of ritual, in a similar way to the witches who for centuries have been seen in the habit of congregating at lonely places at night, that's a fair point.

Also a fair point is when Janet goes on to say that "perhaps" if "we" were all psychic and not preoccupied with the trivia in our lives, then we would all see fairies (and probably other things as well I think!). What amazes this reviewer is the constant bright colours that these fairies wear. The green jacket, the red bobbed hat, the yellow trousers, etc. It would seem that there is no fashion sense in fairyland (mind you, some would say otherwise)! he largest number of fairy sightings this century have come from Ireland where the fairy tradition has lingered longest. One of the more recent sightings of a fairy was in the early 1900s in the Aran islands off Donegal. 1% year old Brian Collins witnessed 2 little men about 3 and a half feet tall dressed in green with brown boots who were laughing and talking in Irish. The surprising thing about this book that I found was the fact that not only do we have reports of fairies seen outdoors, but there are many reports of fairies seen indoors as well which I found most remarkable. But wait, there's more, what about a fairy car, a fairy boat, a fairy plane!!! Yes, all this is described in detail within this book.

Probably the most remarkable tale to be told is the story which concerns one "wee man" about 18 inches high, being torn to shreds by two dogs. This case is from America, and apparently he was dark green in colour and had normal internal human organs, as was seen by his ripped body. The following day, there was nothing to be seen at the site of the incident. Most sightings of fairies are by children we are told, but there are sightings by adults, some of which are given in this book. One of the more interesting chapters, particularly to this reviewer, was the chapter devoted to UFOs and their occupants, which in some cases Janet tells us, are very reminiscent of fairy accounts. Janet's own speculations are that some of the little people "might" be real, and that they live in another world which exists parallel to ours (Mmmm).

I for one never expected this book to rise above a dozen or so fairy cases, but what I found was a multitude of cases concerning reports of little people from different parts of the world (although the majority featured in this book come from the British

Isles). There is no doubt about it, this HAS to be a classic of its kind, for a study book of this nature, and I take my hat off to Janet Bord for a thoroughly interesting and thought provoking book. This has opened my eyes to the subject of small fairy "entity" reports, and I would suggest that you purchase this book, sit down with a glass of wine, and enter the domain of the little people. Yes, a thoroughly entertaining book.

- Malcolm Robinson.



Letters.

More over the past few months from our colleague Mr Karma Nips (founder of ARSE), causing embarrassment as usual. He was so impressed with the picture on the cover of our last issue, SD13, that he wrote to various parties (Carol Vorderman, Alien Encounters magazine, possibly others...) telling them about the fantastic "photograph" I had of Albert Einstein and a flying saucer. The good folk at the office were much confused by the letter from LWT on behalf of Carol Vorderman, and addressed to Mr K. Nips, c/o NUFORI.

Below is the text of the letter I received from Nina Pendred, Editor of Alien Encounters magazine:

Dear Mr Newton,

I have today received a letter from Mr K Nips (or Rips?), copy of which enclosed. He refers to a photo you have in your possession, but seem unwilling to release to the general public. I would like to assure you that any photos we receive for publication are treated with the strictest of confidence. Our aim is to make as many people as possible aware of the UFO phenomenon, not cause embarrassment to those who supply us with evidence.

If you would like to submit your photo to Alien Encounters, then we would be delighted to study it, and if suitable, offer you a suitable fee for publication.

Yours sincerely, Nina Pendred.

What do you think, folks? Should I put her out of her misery?

Anyway, here's the latest contribution from Mr Karma Nips:

Sir/

I begin with praise for your last issue, (the Magazine, I hasten to add), but move on to complain shortly thereafter.

The inclusion of my letter in the last "Strange Days" was an excellent choice. Having read all about my newly formed "ARSE", (Armchair Researchers Study of the Extraordinary), your readers will now be intrigued and excited to know more. However, my wife Kitty, myself, Mr Smethick (ARSE Treasurer) and the entire ARSE membership, (both still upset) were left mystified and bemused by your introduction to our first letter. "I detect a sense of humour" you wrote, "the same writer as the other letter writer", you insinuated, "in

the paid service of the MOD and Harry Harris' drinking partner" you would have probably added had space allowed.

Let me assure you that ARSE is incorruptible. I refuse to see it become stained and smeared like so many other so called "UFO Groups", (GEPAN, MUFON, KUDOS, OFWAT, TGWU). No. Those who join ARSE are guaranteed a hyper-jump into the unknown, a shift in their world paradigm view and the acquisition of the forbidden knowledge of Craal*, all from the convenience of their armchairs.

Congratulations though on your amazing picture scoop from the last edition. UFO Magazine will be apoplectic when they see your "Einstein with catapult and hovering saucer" photograph as featured on the front cover. Judging by the blueness of the sky, Mr Smethick (ARSE Treasurer), suggested that the picture was taken in a hot, arid atmosphere. I think we're talking the deserts of New Mexico here, and the photo really will silence those debunkers once and for all! My wife Kitty said that you should contact "that nice Mr Santilli for some marketing advice" but I favour Carol Vorderman. After her ground breaking paranormal BBC show "Strange - but it's all true", I know she would love to do one of her one hour specials on it with you. I myself once contacted her offering her the Patronship of ARSE and am proud to state that she wrote back. The signed photograph and polite letter of rejection hang in ARSE HQ to this day as a lovely momento. Indeed, because of this contact I have "oiled the wheels" and have written to her on your behalf, suggesting her team investigate your photo. (Lets not forget your friends when you're on that lecture circuit gravy train!)

Have your readers, like myself, enjoyed the recent Channel 4 documentary, "Dark Skies"? Once again the news

media choose to ignore the amazing footage being screened and depict UFOlogists as sad losers with no lives or friends. Finally, would new members please not call at ARSE HQ (my house) as we rarely answer the door and have the curtains drawn all day whilst engaging in watching UFO Magazine's excellent selection of top quality UFO videos.

The Truth is out there - on your chair!

Karma Nips.

* The forbidden knowledge of Craal is only available to those members paying the extra £30 surcharge fee.

Gez Whizz! At this point a quote from our resident astrophysician Dr Tim springs to mind: "A rabid bunch of credulous b*st*rds". Anyone wishing to join ARSE or write to Mr Nips can do so via the editorial address.



End Notes:

Coming Soon: Topping the bill will be popular beat combo "Man or Astroman?" (below) revealing all about their UFO connections!



THE PARANOID WORLD OF DR BOB DODDMAN

UFOLOGIST



RADIO CONTACT HAS BEEN LOST WITH RICHARD BRANSON AND THE CREW OF THE VIRGIN CHALLENGER BALLOON DURING ITS ROUND THE WORLD ATTEMPT FREAK WEATHER CONDITIONS OVER THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA MAY HAVE CAUSED THE CHALLENGER II SERIOUS PROBLEMS



DAMN... I'VE STILL GOT THAT STIFF NECK FROM THE TIME I SPENT LOOKING FOR COMET HALE-BOPP'S COMPANION...



WHAT ON EARTH! I MUST GO AND INVESTIGATE



MYGOD.. THERE ARE INJURED HUMANOIDS AND A CRASHED FLYING DISK.. THIS IS ANOTHER ROSWELL!



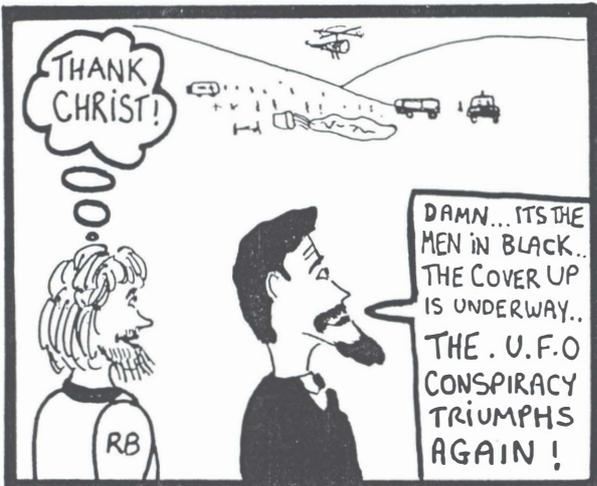
EXCUSE ME.. MYMOBILE'S KNACKERED!

THE ENTITY IS APPROACHING... WHILST STILL CLUTCHING A BLACK BOX... I SHALL HELP THE MESSENGER OF DESTINY

CAN YOU HELP US MAKE CONTACT WITH THE AUTHORITIES?



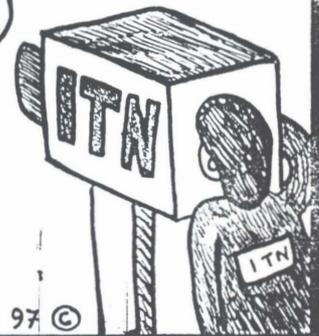
SPACE BROTHER... YOUR ALIEN RACE HAS NOT LEARNED FROM MANKIND AND HIS HOSTILE WELCOME.. BEWARE! SOON.. YOU WILL BE BEATEN BY RIFLE BUTTS AND THEN TAKEN TO WRIGHT PATTERSON AIR BASE IN CHILD SIZE COFFINS...



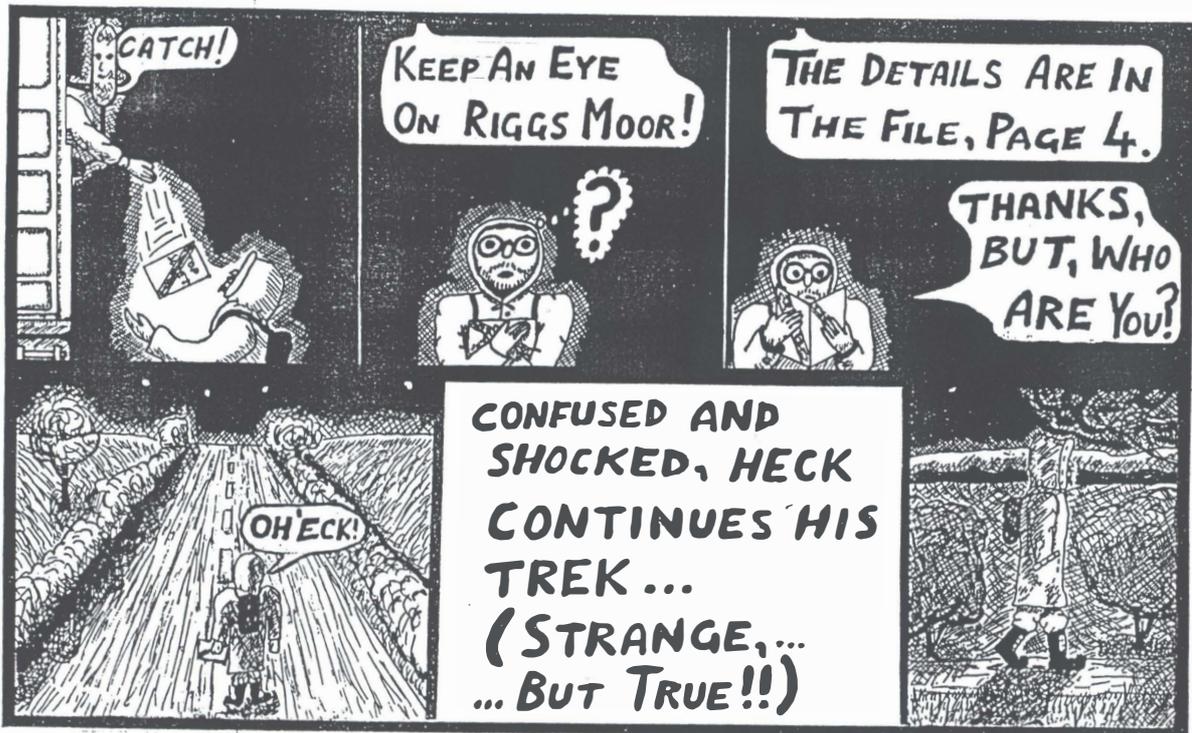
THANK CHRIST!

DAMN... IT'S THE MEN IN BLACK.. THE COVER UP IS UNDERWAY.. THE .U.F.O CONSPIRACY TRIUMPHS AGAIN!

AT LEAST I'LL CATCH RAY SANTILLI BUYING THE AUTOPSY FOOTAGE!



PARR 97 ©



Sister Matilda « 3 »

