

STRANGE DAZE

A Journal of Extraordinary experiences, all of which are related to the number 23.



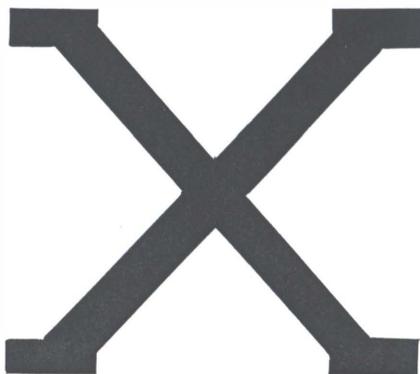
NUMBER 8

FEBRUARY 1996

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News, reviews, serious in-depth articles, cartoons and all the other usual stuff you find in magazines.

The truth is out there?



Welcome to the world of real
UFOlogy

This magazine contains no articles whatsoever on the X-Files TV series.

This is real life, people.

?

NUFORI NORTHERN UFO RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION

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

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Strange Daze is the publication of Northern UFO Research and Investigation.

NUFORI is a small group of UFO investigators, researchers and writers. Since UFOlogists invariably end up arguing and falling out big time, NUFORI does not hold regular meetings. I blame it on microwaves.

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All items submitted for publication should be relevant, written in good English (like what I always writes) and, if handwritten, legible. All submissions will be treated fairly and will not be laughed at excessively. The Editor reserves the right to butcher articles as he sees fit.



"Excuse me, have you any three megawatt jump leads?"

EDITORIAL UFOs are alien spaceships.

How do you react to that statement? Do you agree with it? I suspect a lot of you would, perhaps the majority. That statement is not a fact, of course, but an opinion masquerading as a fact. To be more accurate, we could reformulate it as "To me, UFOs seem to behave like alien spaceships".¹

A subtle difference perhaps, and I would guess that most of you would still agree with it. But tell me, how is an alien spaceship meant to behave? Would you be able to tell an alien spaceship if you saw one? Perhaps they behave exactly like hub caps on pieces of string. ? Perhaps UFOs are military aircraft disguised as alien spaceships. On the other hand, perhaps they are alien spaceships disguised as military aircraft. Alternatively, perhaps UFOs are a little understood natural phenomenon. Tell me, how is a little understood natural phenomenon supposed to behave? Oh dear, this is all getting a bit murky.

According to the ex-Astronomer Royal and Durham University Professor Arnold Wolfendale, "there are no such things as UFOs".² In which case he would not agree with the statement I started this editorial with. If he is right, though, how come thousands of people every year report flying objects, some of which remain unidentified (or are unidentifiable)? Perhaps Professor Wolfendale has made the mistake of thinking that UFOs, if they exist, are alien spaceships.

The initials UFO stand for Unidentified Flying Object. I take this to mean an aerial phenomenon or object that the observer cannot identify. The eminent UFOlogist J. Allen Hynek refined this definition to any flying objects which "remain unidentified after close scrutiny of all the available evidence by persons who are technically capable of making a common-sense identification"³ ie an object that cannot be identified by an expert. To me, this definition relies too much on experts. As for common sense, well, always remember: Common sense tells you the World is flat. The experts are the people who, after nearly 50 years of UFOlogical research are still arguing whether UFOs are alien spaceships, earthlights, Nazi secret weapons from holes in the poles, or hub caps on pieces of string.

The experts of course are only human. (Or, to be more accurate, it seems to me that the UFO experts behave like human beings. Perhaps I am wrong and some of them are secretly Zeta Reticulans feeding us disinformation.) Each expert has his/her own reality tunnel, and chooses to accept or reject whatever bits of evidence come along.

Taking the Roswell footage as an example, I am fairly sure that it will never be proven to be a hoax (or genuine) to the satisfaction of every single UFOlogist. We all weight the different pieces of evidence in an individual way and come to our own conclusions.

It should be easy to become an expert in UFOlogy. After all, we haven't got very far in the last 50 years. Just read up on it a bit, and don't worry, there are no exams to sit. Then try to get yourself noticed. This is the noted faker Elmyr's formula for becoming an expert: "Sheer bluff" ⁴. And this is Robert Anton Wilson's advice: "Keep a straight face and make sure the mass media gives you more coverage than it gives those who try to correct your mis-statements" ⁵.

Right. I hereby pronounce myself an Expert, and I dare anyone to prove otherwise. Watch out for the forthcoming book and lecture tour.

I doubt very much that we will ever find the final solution to the UFO mystery, just as I doubt that physicists will ever come up with a final Theory Of Everything. The theories may become better and better approximations to reality as time goes by, but let us not mistake the map for the territory. For me, it's turtles all the way down, and I hope it stays that way.

1. Writing English without using the form "X is Y", or "A and B are C" was first proposed in 1933 by Alfred Korzybski. In 1949 David Buckland Jr came up with English Prime, or E-Prime, in which all forms of of the words "is" or "to be" are abolished. Removing the "-isness" solves a lot of problems. See "Quantum Psychology" by R.A. Wilson, New Falcon Publications, 1990.

2. Phenomenal News, October 1995, produced by the Scottish Earth Mysteries Society.

3. Ibid.

4. Robert Anton Wilson, "Cosmic Trigger Volume 3", p197, New Falcon 1995.

5. Ibid, p198.

6. Remember: The truth is out there.



===== ***** =====

Question: How many people is it necessary to assemble to give even odds that at least two of them share the same birthday?

Answer: Twenty three.

===== ***** =====

NEWS.....

Regional Lectures in Newcastle. The Quarterly BUFORA lectures in Newcastle continue on the 27th January when Philip Mantle will be speaking on alien abductions, UFO cases from the Northern region and the Roswell film. He will be showing some of the Santilli footage not seen before by the public in the U.K. The lecture will be held in Nixon Hall, Ellison Place in Newcastle city centre, between 2 and 5pm. Doors open 1.15pm, tickets cost £3.00 or £2.00 concessions.

Future lectures include Malcolm Robinson on May 18th, and Jenny Randles on July 27th. See the back of this issue for more details.

Quest International will also be having a lecture in Newcastle, at the Civic Centre on Saturday 6th April. The speakers will include Tony Dodd, Graham Birdsall and Ananda Sirisena, the editor of the Sri Lankan UFO Register. The lecture runs from 11am to 7pm, the doors open at 9.30am. Tickets cost £6.00 or £4.00 concessions. To book tickets, send a large SAE to UFO Magazine, 1st floor, 66 Boroughgate, Otley, Yorkshire, LS21 1AE. Cheques should be made payable to Quest Publications International Ltd.

BUFORA is also holding a one day conference on alien abductions at the Pennine Lecture Theatre, Sheffield Hallam University, on Saturday 20th April 1996. Tickets cost £15 or £12.50 for BUFORA members. See the back of this issue for more details.

ROSWELL FOOTAGE latest. The mysterious cameraman who shot the alleged alien autopsy footage, "Jack Barnett" may well be deceased. Rumours were circulating that the elderly cameraman, who was not in the best of health, had unfortunately died somewhere in the U.S. However, a French TV channel TF1, who screened a Roswell special on 23rd October, had tried to track down a cameraman named Jack Barnett. They discovered a Chicago newsreel cameraman of that name, who filmed Elvis Presley back in 1955 for a movie called "The Pied Piper of Cleveland". This Jack Barnett died in 1957. Has his name been used as a pseudonym? Or were there two Jack Barnetts, both of whom filmed the young Elvis back in the '50s?

It appears that the film footage itself is owned by the German film collector Volker Spielberg, for who Ray Santilli was acting as an agent. The debate over the age and authenticity of the footage continues.

NEW PLANET DISCOVERED Two astronomers, Michel Mayor and Didier Queloz using the 1.9 metre telescope at Haute-Provence Observatory in France have discovered what seems to be a new planet. Using a state of the art spectrograph to measure periodic radial velocity motions, they detected a 4.2 day variation in the movement of the star 51 Pegasi. This indicates a planet, with at least half the mass of Jupiter, orbiting the star at a distance

of a mere 7 million kilometres. 51 Pegasi is a Sun like star 40 light years away. The close proximity of the planet to 51 Peg almost certainly rules out the possibility of life.

Three other planets have been discovered to date, orbiting around the object known as PSR 1257+12, a pulsar. Watch out for more discoveries as the spectrographic techniques improve.

POSSIBLE DISCOVERY OF THE HOLY GRAIL Dr Graham Phillips, a Coventry based historical researcher, traced what may possibly be The Holy Grail to a house in Rugby, Warwickshire. A grail, discovered by the Christian Roman Empress Helena in the 4th Century AD was turned into a sacred relic. The Grail was supposedly brought to Britain in the early 5th Century and came into the possession of the Kings of Powys, whose capital was in Shropshire. The present keeper of the onyx cup is the great granddaughter of a man who re-discovered the Grail in a cave at Hawkstone Park, Shropshire. She had no idea of the significance of the cup, which is now in a bank vault.

(Shame it wasn't discovered in Tipton - Ed)

AROUND THE WORLD There have been increased UFO sightings over the last few months in Brazil's Pantanal, an area of wetland. One town council has approved plans to clear and flatten 5 hectares of land in the Serra Roncador to create a UFO landing area.

Meanwhile, in Malaysia crowds have been gathering at a village in Selangor hoping to see a gigantic spaceship, complete with long eared ETs with red eyes. It is said to have been seen at least five times since September. The Royal Malaysian Air Force dismissed the sightings, saying that no UFOs had been picked up on radar.

THE Editor of UFO journal Strange Daze has recently been accused of using the profits from the magazine sales to build an extension onto his bookcase at his home in Newcastle. The Editor denied the rumours, stating, "I don't know how these ridiculous rumours start. The profits were ploughed straight back into UFOlogy. I used the cash to help pay towards a new typewriter ribbon".



Other Space Debris...

The "Greys" are now everywhere. The Christmas issue of sci-fi comic 2000AD (Prog 972, Dec 1995) featured a grey dressed in a Santa Claus costume, with the cover caption, "Dreaming of a grey Christmas".

Watch out of "Strange Days", the movie starring Ralph Fiennes, produced by James Cameron and directed by Kathryn Bigelow. It's set in the future on the eve of the next millenium and deals with the catastrophic effect

of cerebral cortex virtual reality. Sounds good. (What, the movie or cerebral cortex v.r.? - Ed.)

Source: Encounters magazine, Jan 1996.

American singer/songwriter Frank Black is to release a single called "Men in Black" based on those strange beings who reportedly harrass UFO witnesses. He has also been asked to contribute a track for an X-files concept album, the songs being inspired by the subjects featured in the series.

Source: New Musical Express, 9th Dec 1995.

Roswell the Movie, Roswell the coffee mug, and now Roswell the kit. The Testers Corporation of America are releasing a UFO kit based on eye-witness accounts of the craft seen at Roswell in 1947.

Source: Encounters magazine, Jan 1996.

Club Alien is a once-a-month techno-rave disco, revolving around UFOs and their occupants. Light shows and huge grey busts set the scene for an evening of alien entertainment. For more information contact The Rocket, 216 Holloway Road, London N7 - Tel 0171 2673332.

Source: Sunday Times, 3rd Dec 1995.



Compiled by Craig C. Jackson.



"What does he mean, "The head gasket's gone" ?!"

THE FEUD COURT.

Readers of Strange Daze 7 will recall the article by former UFO Times editor Ken Phillips, in which he accused BUFORA of being run "...by cover-up, suppression, silence and bungling ineptitude." Ken's accusations that case files were possibly being deliberately mislaid were replied to by the BUFORA Chairman, John Spencer, who said that "Ken is becoming a sad and bitter man and it is clouding his otherwise considerable intelligence."

I am pleased to say that there has been some improvement in this situation; Ken now seems satisfied that no-one within BUFORA is deliberately suppressing material (or has he been "got at"?), although there is some confusion still as to the whereabouts of some case material. I would like to hear what the BUFORA Director of Research, Steve Gamble, has to say about this matter. Here is Ken Phillips latest communication:

MEMO TO QUEST, MAGONIA & STRANGE DAZE CONCERNING MISSING FILMS

To be scrupulously fair to BUFORA over the missing films and files issue, I wish it to be known that the Needham photos and the Hampstead video have been returned to their owners; the latter with a report synopsis from BUFORA's Research Section.

In former correspondence regarding these 'missing' films, I claimed that someone within the BUFORA system was suppressing this material. It is now apparent that I was wrong over this and I apologise to the Council of BUFORA. However, the question of the whereabouts of both BUFORA's case files and that of the Estapona and Misty View films remains unclear. As soon as I hear any further news concerning this mystery, I shall, of course, update all relevant parties.

Please feel free to print this memo in your respective magazines so that all concerned is brought is aware of current developments.

Ken Phillips,

Witness Support Group.

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16-12-95.

Now on to a feud of my own. Check out this review of Strange Daze 7 by Jenny Randles in her magazine, Northern UFO News:

"Stapled together in a hard to read fashion but worth the effort as it always has lively debate inside. This one is about BUFORA. The magazine staunchly defends the group and Philip Mantle (it is **put together by council members** [emphasis added]). But I think there is a fallacy in their key argument that BUFORA had to go public with the footage at Sheffield to bring it to sight of UFOlogy...the point is BUFORA never **had** the film to work with nor was it "**theirs**" to show. They acted as publicity agents for Santilli and got nothing in return (except more ticket sales thanks to the PR). The film was on TV within days and would have been available to all whether BUFORA stood up to Santilli's failure to let them do any research or gave in, as they did...Mantle, given chance to reply to many pages of detailed criticism from two former senior officers (myself and...Ken Phillips), gives the mag just one word in response - yawn!"

1. I don't actually think that Strange Daze is stapled together in a particularly hard to read fashion. Is having two staples through the left hand margin too complex for some readers to handle??? If so, please write in to the NUFORI address (if you can write), clearly marking your envelope with "I have difficulty reading Strange Daze, which is stapled together in an outrageously unhelpful fashion".

To prove my point, I am sending to Jenny an especially hard to read copy of Strange Daze 8. Happy reading, if you ever manage to remove all the staples.

2. On a more serious level, who are these BUFORA council members that put together Strange Daze? I put together Strange Daze almost totally unaided, and I am not even a BUFORA member, let alone a council member! (How do these stories start? The next thing you know, I will be a secret government agent...)

3. Jenny gives the impression that Philip Mantle's response of "Yawn" was in reply not only to her letter, but also Ken Phillips' criticism of BUFORA. Wrong. I felt that Ken's letter was best directed to the BUFORA Chairman (and ultimately to the Director of Research) as it was a criticism of the Research side of BUFORA. If Ken had been critical of BUFORA's UFO investigations, I would have asked the Director of Investigations, Philip Mantle to comment.

Jenny doesn't give Strange Daze a bad review by any means, but I feel that it is misleading.



"Mirror, signal, manoeuvre!"

SIGHTINGS FROM THE NORTH EAST AND AROUND BRITAIN by Gloria Dixon.

1995 has seen a tremendous upsurge in both UFO sightings and close encounters reported to many UFO organisations and groups around the UK. One of the major reasons for this has been the enormous coverage by the media on the subject of UFOs and related phenomena over the past year. The focus of this interest was of course the controversial Roswell Footage that emerged at the beginning of 1995 and the great debate that ensued following Ray Santilli's preview of this footage at BUFORA's International Congress last August in Sheffield.

There are some positive and negative areas here. On the minus side, this means that unless some people have been locked away without access to a newspaper, radio or television, everyone has digested some form of information pertaining to the subject of UFOs and all related phenomena. Therefore there is much imagery available. Many more people accessing all this information are looking up at the sky and observing all manner of explainable objects, which at times can look most unusual under different atmospheric conditions. However, on the plus side the extensive coverage has made more people aware of the various organisations to which they can report their sightings and feel quite comfortable about doing so. This can

only be a good thing as we are receiving many more reports, and emerging from those are the significant sightings and encounters that hopefully will illuminate the way ahead in the study of these strange and compelling events.

I would like to comment here on UFO sightings that so often involve laser light displays, particularly in the run up to Christmas. There is no doubt that laser lights have generated many UFO reports, and indeed can look very strange to those not in the immediate vicinity of the laser light show. They can be described in various ways, and I quote from various reports I have received: "like headlights in the sky", or "many small round lights intertwining in the sky". They are also described as lights spinning and rotating. Laser lights bounce off low cloud and can look extremely peculiar as they do this, sometimes as though they are immersed within the cloud. The report documented below describes just how strange one of these displays can look to a witness. This sighting was reported to BUFORA:

Date: 17th October 1995;

Location: A5, approx 2 miles from Oswestry;

Investigator: Dominic Beglin (BUFORA).

I.A. was driving home to Lllamarmon at 8.30pm and when two miles from Oswestry she observed an object that appeared to be coming towards her and was above her car at approximately tree top height. This object stayed with her and above her car for a further two miles along the A5. She described the object as round, with a cloud around it, and it was spinning one way inside and the other way on the outside. It then just disappeared - It did not shoot away, it just disappeared.

The witness also stressed that there was no other traffic on the A5, which was most unusual and she emphasised that she had **never** driven on the A5 when there had been no other traffic. She described her feelings about this sighting as though "life stood still". When she approached the roundabout and the object disappeared, she felt confused and frightened.

After considerable investigative work, Dominic contacted PC McCloud of the Gwynedd Police, who informed him of another report from two people on the 18th October. These witnesses were in a state of shock when they reported their sighting, which they described as a ring of bright white lights in some low cloud. PC McCloud, a colleague of his and the two witnesses all went to the area to view these lights which appeared to be sometimes low and sometimes high up in the sky. Two other people in the area were amused by their interest and informed the two policemen and witnesses that they were observing a laser light display emanating from the **Vic Night-club** on Brook Street, Oswestry. There were also nine other calls received by the police in connection with this sighting.

A laser light display certainly appears to be the most reasonable explanation for IA's sighting on the 17th October, particularly due to the fact that this particular nightclub had started to use laser light displays as a regular feature. With reference to IA's feelings of confusion and fear during her sighting, my feeling is that when we see something for which we have no frame of reference it is natural to feel apprehensive; and to reiterate on my comments at the start of this article, much imagery is available, and naturally this will be reinforced when observing unusual lights in the sky - particularly when driving alone without any other traffic on the road at the time. As Dominic so correctly pointed out, there were descriptions of similar feelings between the two witnesses, with their sighting on the 18th October, and IA's sighting on the 17th October.

Date: 17th/ 18th June 1995.

Location: Alston, Cumbria;

Investigator: Gloria Dixon.

Michael and Helen M. from the Whickham area contacted me to report a strange event that took place while they were camping last June near Alston in Cumbria. The following events occurred on that night:

Michael and Helen and their four children, plus Michael's brother and his children were camping about two miles outside of Alston. They were not on a regular campsite due to their dislike of the rules and regulations attached to them. They had instead chosen to camp on the edge of a field. They erected four tents and after some fun and activity, most of the others had fallen asleep. The area was pitch black except for the camp fire and at about 11.30pm Michael, Helen and Samantha (their neice) noticed dozens of balls of light suddenly appear. Micheal described them as smaller than ping pong balls moving side to side and jumping about. They had no idea what these lights were or where they had come from. They were about six feet above the ground and they observed them for approximately 30 seconds. Then, they just disappeared: "They were there, then they weren't", is how Michael described them. After this for 2 or 3 minutes they felt apprehensive and moved around the campfire. Two to three minutes later they became aware of a light about 150 metres in length over the bank of the fell area, roughly 400 metres away. This light then appeared to come down from the fell and to spread like a torch across the field from one side to the other. Michael states that it seemed to be coming from **underneath the ground**, as he is adamant that there was no apparent source for this light from a helicopter. He is very familiar with the sodium lamps used by the farmers, and outdoor life in general. They observed this light for approximately 20 seconds.

Michael then went on to describe a pulsating light composed of several small circles that seemed to appear on the ground close to him and which seemed to bend around the front of the camp fire. He became very apprehensive and gathered all of his family into the large tent, while he stayed up through the night to check whether any other unusual lights appeared.

The following day they checked with the Hexham police and RAF base, but there were no other reports and as far as they know nothing else in the area. This particular area is within a ten mile radius of Cross Fell; according to another report I received last year, **Cross Fell** is an extremely haunted spot with very unusual activity taking place including UFO sightings and some kind of paranormal activity, as well as sightings of Halifax and Lancaster bombers from World War II. Earthlights may be of relevance here but more research needs to be carried out around this area in order to gather together as much information as possible, as I feel that this may add some significant insight into this sighting report. I have asked Richard Burns, a BUFORA investigator from Cockermouth to carry out some research into this area in the coming months.

Date: June 1992, plus several other incidents;

Location: Tyne & Wear;

Investigator: Gloria Dixon.

Victoria Gray (pseudonym) wrote to me after the first BUFORA lecture here in Newcastle to report several events that have taken place in her life, and specifically something that happened in June 1992. She had reported these events some time ago to various UFO researchers, but said she felt like a statistic.

In June 1992 Victoria reported waking up in the night and looking out of her bedroom window and seeing a very bright light shining down through an area of fog. She describes this as "like a scene out of a Victorian time". There was no noise, but she saw what she thought were three children, about three feet in height and pale in colour. There was someone else in the garden who appeared to be an adult wearing a dark suit or robe of some kind. She could hear chattering from the "children" but had no idea of what they were saying. Looking down she could see them coming nearer and they appeared to have what she described as a rope. She had the impression that they were going to use this to somehow climb up to her window, but did not feel frightened (as would be very normal under these circumstances!). Instead she said she felt that the window was closed, therefore there would be no entry for them. She then returned to bed and did not wake her husband sleeping next to her. She cannot understand this. The next thing she became aware of was

that there was a bright light and a silhouette that appeared to emerge through the curtains and come into the room. This terrified her and she describes this entity as having "no eyes" in that they were huge, but without a pupil and very pale. She remembers nothing after that and the following day felt apprehensive, as though someone was watching her. She was afraid of being in the house on her own and developed a fear of the dark and going to bed at night. This fear went on for a period of about three months, during which time she had impressions of different images from that night. She had the impression of being led along a tunnel wearing a strange garment, by two small entities. She then became aware of being in something akin to a lift and then in a room she describes as white where someone was sitting at a panel. These images would be very intense and upsetting, and fortunately she began a three year college course on urban studies which helped her to get her mind away from these strange events.

There have been other inexplicable events during her life before the 1992 incident. At age 24 she experienced what she described as a "vivid dream" and remembers a woman with a pale face and dark hair standing at the bottom of her bed, beckoning Victoria to go with her. She has no other recollection of anything after this except that she changed from being a happy go lucky person to being totally afraid of everything. Because of this she insisted that her family (husband and two children) make an exchange on their home in order to move. This apparently did not help much, but she started a secretarial course in the September of that year which helped to take her mind off this event.

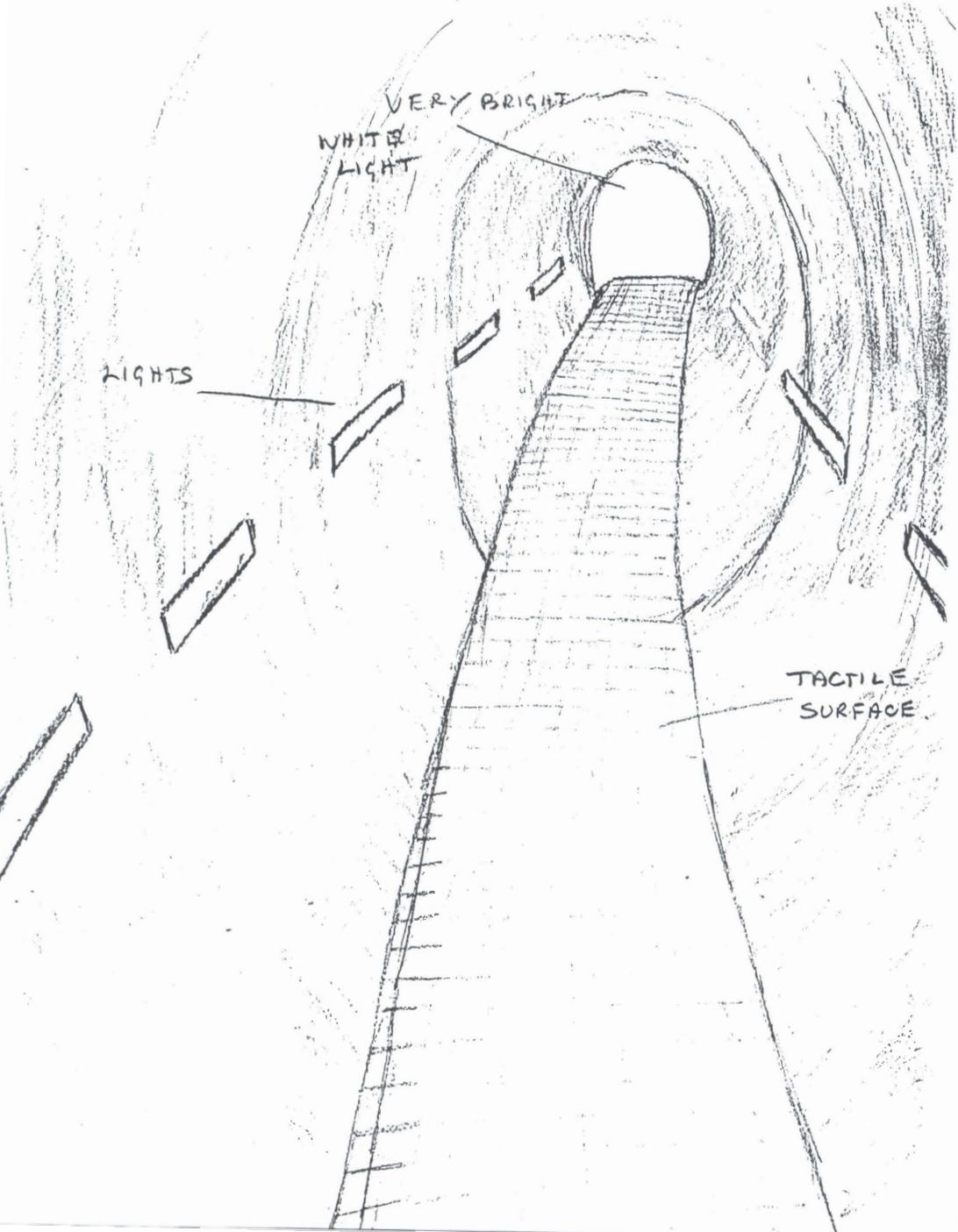
Victoria reports two other experiences, one at age ten, when she had another dream like experience in the night and a girl appeared at the bottom of her bed and beckoned Victoria to go with her. She said she did this, but does not remember anything after that. At the age of five she recalls very vividly strange lights in the hallway of a house where she lived with her parents in Southern England.

Victoria also said that her daughter (aged ten) used to suffer from night terrors. She is adamant these were not the normal nightmares. In 1993 her daughter awoke screaming one night and her chest was pounding. She told Victoria of grey monster' arms coming through her bedroom window and kept saying "I can't go with you". It took a great deal of time to calm her eight year old daughter. Victoria has been married twice and has four children by her first marriage. Her second husband has a fifteen year old daughter who, when she stays with them, sleeps in the bedroom of their youngest daughter (with the night terrors). About a year ago after staying with Victoria and her father she told them that she had a wonderful dream the

VICTORIA GRAY

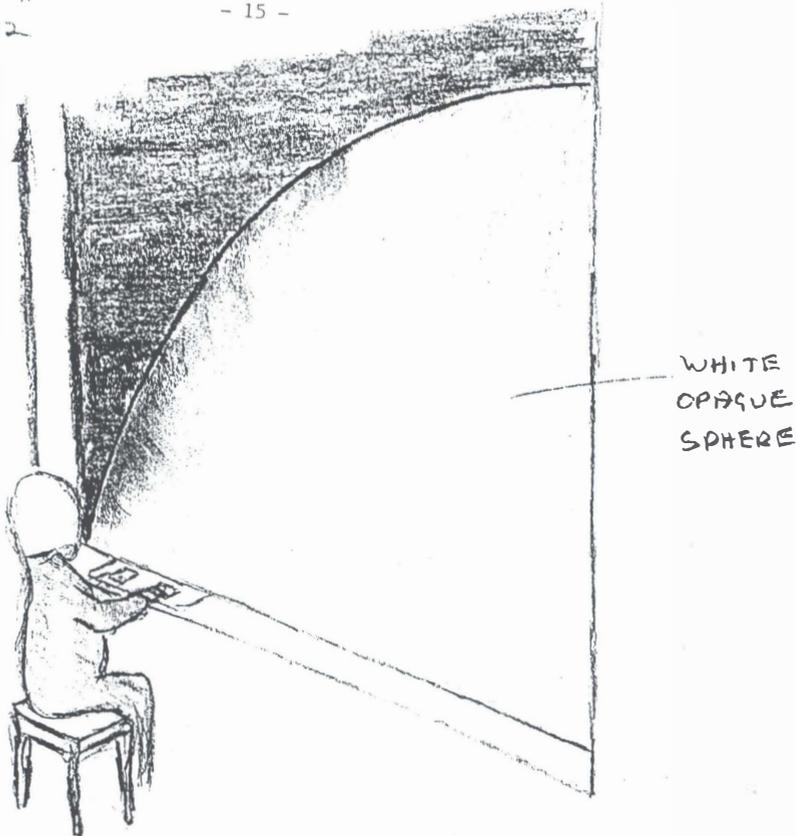
MAY JUNE 1992

- 14 -



VICTORIA GRAY
MAY/JUNE 1992

- 15 -



This is out of proportion - the figure should be smaller - can't remember the features

previous night where the "Martians" came and took her on a spaceship. Apparently she often has similar dreams when staying with Victoria and her father.

Victoria has kindly sent to me drawings to try to give some visual impact of her experiences. What I found of great interest with the events experienced by Victoria is that her 1992 experience is very similar to a description from another case that I investigated nearly two years ago, also from Tyne and Wear. Victoria could have have no knowledge of this,

as it has only been documented in Strange Daze. She had never even heard of this magazine, let alone read it. [Shoot the publicity officer - Ed.] However, I have put her in touch with this other lady, as she was quite desperate to talk with someone else who had undergone inexplicable events of this nature. I found Victoria to be a totally pragmatic and intelligent lady. She developed artistic abilities after these experiences, in that she started to write stories, something she had never done before. Also she feels that her 3 year course on urban studies has been significant and that her selection of these particular studies resulted from influences involved with her experiences....Interesting, and once again there appears to be a pattern that emerges from these events that are linked to the UFO experience. My interview with Victoria will be documented in a casefile, which will be sent to BUFORA's Research Department.

This case once again demonstrates the rather similar patterns that are reported by a large cross section of people from all over the world. The close encounter experience can be quite diverse in the imagery reported and individual perceptions and interpretation of what exactly has occurred, but the effects and feelings of the witnesses afterwards are in many ways similar in that they so very often report a change in their lifestyle and how they view the world, and indeed the meaning of life itself.

These changes evolve, sometimes dramatically, into artistic abilities that were never there before. Sometimes the witnesses report psychic abilities in the form of healing, precognition, a variety of paranormal events, and also a "sixth sense" that, although inherent in us all, appears to the close encounter witness in a more substantial way, where they can use it in a constructive manner. It is recognised by many researchers now that the parallels between the close encounter experience, the near death experience and the out of body experience are compelling. In fact the whole paranormal field of study can no longer be ignored or sidelined when researching and investigating the close encounter experience. It is not a separate issue at all, it is part of a much larger picture and at the centre of all this lies the human consciousness and the nature of reality itself.

Some readers may remember the case of Peter Nelson from Bellingham, Northumberland, who photographed a UFO on the evening of the 21st August 1994. The case appeared in an earlier edition of Strange Daze. We have

recently received back an analysis of Mr Nelson's photographs from Jeff Sainio in the USA. Jeff is the Staff Photoanalyst for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON):

Photoanalysis
Peter Nelson
August 21, 1994 11:35pm
Bellingham, Northumberland England

Three photographs of a nocturnal light were submitted, as well as an enlargement. Only one of the photos shows the UFO.

One of the non-UFO photographs, 34A shows two red points, which another analyst stated could not be sodium-vapor lights. Low-pressure sodium-vapor lights (which give a ghostly gold light) emit almost exclusively at 589.6nm, which appears yellow to humans but exposes the red component of film. High-pressure sodium lights (which give a more natural yellow light, will expose yellow.

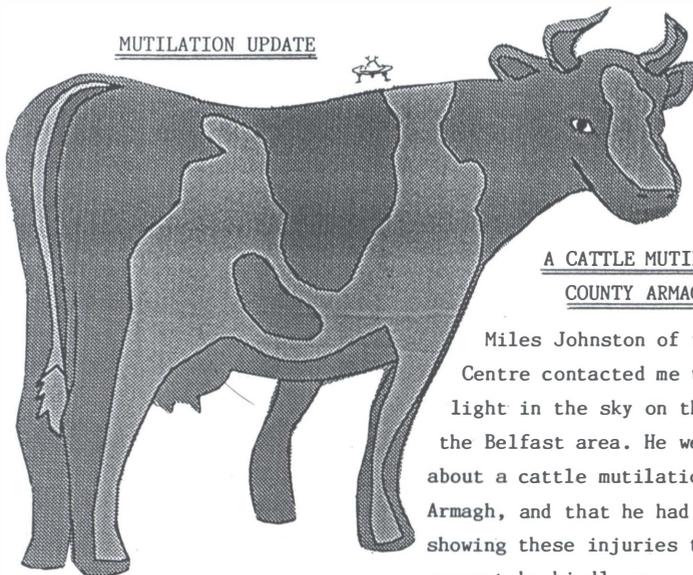
The photograph of the UFO near the moon showed motion-smearing of the moon due to camera motion. Despite this, maria on the moon can be distinguished. This would have been a long exposure and smearing is expected. By digital subtraction I was able to "clean up" the moon image, however this degraded the UFO image. I suspect the photographer tracked the UFO as it moved, keeping its image sharp while smearing the moon. People will do this naturally and may not remember doing so. The UFO size is about 1 degree high and 1 1/2 degree wide. Since it is near the moon, it is close to the moon's 30-degrees above the horizon. This corresponds to a length of about 2.6 feet per 100 feet distance; if the UFO is at 20,000 feet altitude, it is 40,000 feet away and 1000 feet long. If closer, proportionally smaller; if further, bigger. For this to be a commercial airliner, about 100 feet engine-to-engine, it would need to be at 2,000 foot altitude and plainly audible.

The moon image in the photo provides a color reference, showing that the UFO color has roughly a 4:2:1 red:green:blue ratio. This is inconsistent with the color of a jet engine. which is predominantly in the blue and green for a properly-burning jet. Only an excessively-rich fuel mix will give such a red color. The image shape is also inconsistent with a jet, which only emits significant light inside the engine. Nighttime sightings of jets typically only record the running, landing, and anticollision lights, and not the engines.

A rocket may have this color, but not this shape. The witness testimony is completely inconsistent with a rocket, and I doubt the witness would have time to see a rocket, get a camera, and take five photographs.

This photo could easily be faked, but if the photographer is sincere, I know of no conventional object that would generate this image.

Thanks are due to Jeff Sainio for analysing these photographs. Mr Nelson's UFO remains unidentified.



A CATTLE MUTILATION FROM CAMLOUGH,
COUNTY ARMAGH. - Gloria Dixon

Miles Johnston of the Irish UFO Research Centre contacted me to report an unusual light in the sky on the 16th September in the Belfast area. He went on to tell me about a cattle mutilation reported in Co. Armagh, and that he had obtained slides showing these injuries to the cow. At my request he kindly passed them on to BUFORA investigator Andrew Allen, who mailed them to me. This incident has been documented in a Belfast newspaper where it is claimed that the carcass was discovered near Camlough, Bessbrook, County Armagh. This incident was reported to Tony Dodd, the Director of Investigations for Quest International by the photographer. Tony has these photographs and will be investigating this report. Therefore I am unfortunately not at liberty to show these photographs at the moment, particularly as the photographer wishes to remain anonymous.

However, the photographs I have in my possession show very unpleasant injuries around the rectum area and also flesh removed from the head and stomach. There are also claims that vital organs have been removed. Andrew Allen visited the area in Camlough and spoke with some of the local farmers, but was unable to obtain any information about the incident.

EDINBURGH SHEEP MUTILATION - D.N.

Thanks to David Colman for sending to me a photograph of the sheep that he discovered in a field near to Edinburgh Airport, which was covered in the last edition of Strange Daze. The right ear and eye of the animal are missing, and there is a large square hole cut under the neck. The straight edges of this cut look most unnatural. Both Ron Halliday and Tony Dodd have looked at the case, and there is nothing conclusive to report yet; David Colman: "It looks like it is a 50/50 case. I am afraid the photo gives little clue about the means of death. It only gives an overview of the wounds."



Extraterrestrial Intelligence: An Astronomer's Perspective - Dr Tim Kendal

The question of the existence of extraterrestrial intelligences (ETI) has troubled mankind for millennia, but it is unlikely whether the subject has aroused so much controversy and public speculation as now. It is certainly only in the last thirty or forty years that any facet of this vast topic has been subjected to serious scientific scrutiny. Even now, however, to speak of UFO's, or to raise the topic of abduction phenomena in scientific circles is to invite ridicule. This is unfortunate, since it prevents free discussion. However, I believe that it would be timely to present again some of the relevant arguments that are firmly rooted in the science of astronomy, before going on to more speculative matters. It is as an astronomer that I am writing this article; however I will not attempt to give an overview of the latest developments in the area (for such, I refer the reader to proceedings of many symposia on the subject that have been published, notably those of the International Astronomical Symposium No. 131, which should be available in university libraries). Rather, I will adopt a personal viewpoint.

The existence of ETI: scientific predictions

In the year 1600, the philosopher Giordano Bruno was burnt at the stake for his heretical postulate of "a plurality of worlds". Nowadays, the Catholic Church has decided that if ETI are found, their souls will need saving, just like the rest of us. This particular piece of stupidity should serve only to demonstrate the great changes that have come about in philosophical discussion of ETI in the last few centuries. To speak of a plurality of worlds did not remain heresy for long; in subsequent centuries astronomers tended to assume that all the known planets in the Solar System were inhabited, mostly because it seemed a waste if they were not. This belief filtered through into the popular mind, as demonstrated by such works as H.G. Wells "The War of the Worlds". Nowadays, with life elsewhere in the Solar System all but ruled out (although the existence of life in a water ocean beneath the icy crust of the Jovian moon Europa is a not implausible suggestion), the question of the existence of Earthlike planets outside the Solar System becomes paramount, for reasons given below, and it is an area in which scientific thought can make much progress. Firstly, however, I will make it clear that for the purposes of this discussion I am restricting the definition of life to "life as we know it", i.e. biochemistries based on the element carbon. Alternative forms of life, such as the silicon based life beloved of science fiction writers are possible (the chemistries of silicon and carbon are similar because they occupy similar positions in the periodic table) but carbon is unrivalled in its capacity to form complex molecules. This restriction allows the discussion to be narrowed to discuss only planets with Earthlike environments.

The first steps in the search for ETI were taken in 1963 by Frank Drake and his co-workers. "Project Ozma" listened in on a handful of nearby sunlike stars at the 21cm wavelength of radio emission from interstellar hydrogen molecules (a wavelength chosen because any sufficiently advanced technical civilisation would know of it) for regular signals that could be of artificial origin. This illustrates the first requirement for ETI; a parent star similar to the Sun. The Sun is a star in the stable phase of its lifetime, known as the "main sequence". Stars not on the main sequence can be

immediately ruled out as they show variations in their energy output that would be catastrophic to any ETI on a nearby planet; even small fluctuations in the solar energy output, of the order of a few percent, would make life on Earth impossible. However, not just any stable star is sufficient. For stars very much less massive and cooler than the Sun, their energy output would be too feeble to support life on any neighbouring planets, unless of course they orbited very close to the star, in which case it is likely that the rotation of star and planet would be tidally locked, and, like the Earth-Moon system, one hemisphere of the planet would always face the star, with an adverse affect on the possibility of life arising. (Isaac Asimov, in his book *Nemesis*, got around this problem by having a life-supporting planet circle a large gaseous Jupiter-like planet, which in turn orbited a very dim star). For a hotter star, its stable lifetime would be likely to be too short to allow time for ETI to evolve, at least to a complex level. These constraints leave many stars in contention: however we also must rule out sunlike stars which exist in binary systems. This is an important consideration as perhaps two thirds of all stars exist in binary or multiple systems. It is possible that a planet may circle the primary star of a binary, with the secondary star at a very much greater distance, or a planet may orbit the centre of gravity of two stars which are very close together. In both scenarios it may be envisaged that the planet may still exist in a zone where the fluctuation in the amount of energy it receives from the two stars collectively is sufficiently small. (Carl Sagan and others have speculated that ETI on a planet in the former type of binary star system would rarely know night, and their capacity to do astronomy would be severely retarded). However, enough single sunlike stars remain in the Galaxy that such speculations would seem, for the moment, unnecessary. Astronomers, through statistical surveys of large areas of the sky, can evaluate the number of such stars with some accuracy, nearby examples include tau Ceti and epsilon Eridani, as well as the star zeta Reticuli, so beloved of the more imaginative among us.

We may now ask what fraction of these sunlike stars might have planets suitable for ETI, or indeed for a future visit by ourselves! Current astronomical thinking is that planetary systems are extremely common. Infrared observations of stars such as Vega have shown the existence of disks of cool matter, interpreted as planetary systems in formation. There is no reason to suspect this should be any different for stars more like the Sun than Vega (which has twenty-six times the solar luminosity). Careful observations of individual stellar motions through space have revealed a "wobble" due to the gravitational effect of an orbiting planet, as in the recently documented case of 51 Pegasi. However, it is a different question to ask if these planets are suitable for life; the planet of 51 Peg is likely to be a gas giant, similar but more massive than Jupiter. But having assumed that the formation of planetary systems is commonplace, computer simulations can shed light on the likelihood of the existence of a rocky/metallic planet like the Earth at the correct distance from the parent star, for its surface temperature to be similar to that of the Earth. These show that there is no reason to suspect any law that prevents this.

Astronomy can tell us, then, that Earthlike planets are likely to be relatively common throughout the Galaxy. Unfortunately our technology is not yet sufficient to either resolve them directly in the glare of the parent star, even using an instrument such as the Hubble Space Telescope. We are better off searching for gravitational effects.

Instruments used to measure radial pulsations in the stars themselves (work is in progress, for example at the University of Birmingham, to extend research on stellar pulsations from the Sun to nearby red giant stars) should in principle be able to detect the gravitational signatures of relatively small planets; this involves the detection of radial motions as small as a few kilometres per second. However, astronomy alone can not tell us a great deal more, even theoretically speaking. Biologists can go somewhat further, estimating the likelihood of life arising, given suitable conditions. Current opinion is that where conditions are right, life will gain a foothold. Thus the prognosis for the existence of extraterrestrial life is rather good. That is not to say that we can convince ourselves that the Galaxy is full of intelligences that are our equal or superior. We cannot evaluate the likelihood of the emergence of intelligence through purely evolutionary mechanisms, still less the probability of a technological civilisation like ours, arising. And even if such civilisations have emerged on other planets in the Galaxy, we are unable even to speculate on how long they may exist for (and thus evaluate the number of such civilisations existing now): after all, we are not in a position to evaluate this factor even in the case of our own planet. We remain left with an argument that the existence of ETI is certainly not ruled out, but with no way of making any more positive statement.

The possible nature of ETI

I wish to emphasise here that only a technological civilisation, for example one that possesses radio telescopes, would be detectable and indeed able to be detected across interstellar distances. It is well known that artificial radio emissions from Earth will by now permeate space out to a sphere of radius sixty or seventy light years. Yet other types of ETI may exist. Dolphins possess intelligence, and a highly complex and systematic language, and it could be suggested that they may also possess a highly developed philosophy, for example. This may sound far-fetched, but it demonstrates that there is more than one evolutionary road ETI could take. There is no rule of science which states that intelligence itself requires two hands, two eyes, two legs. What is likely though, I feel, is that those ETI which had evolved similarly to us, i.e. through developing the use of tools, *would be precisely those ETI which would now be pursuing the possibilities of interstellar travel and contemplating other ETI*. They would also, since they had followed a similar evolutionary path, resemble us, at least superficially. It is possible of course that every ETI goes through a technological phase at some stage in its evolution, but it is far from necessary. I therefore postulate that any *technological* ETI would at least bear a passing physical likeness to us. The common dictate that there is no reason to suppose that technological ETI would resemble us in any way is pervasive, but relies solely on the assumption that different evolutionary processes will be completely divergent; that there is more than one way of dealing with the same basic problems of survival in the environment. But without this assumption, it is possible instead that in a similar environment to that of Earth, similar organisms would evolve, in response to the similar requirements and demands of the environment. Basing all our knowledge on one planet as we must, we cannot which of these paradigms represents the truth of the matter, which is why it would be a great step forward to discover any extraterrestrial life, however lowly. What is clear, though is that if ETI are in possession of an advanced technology than they must have discovered the same physical laws as ourselves, since these are the same, as we can

tell from astronomical observation, throughout the Universe. Communication would therefore be possible through the shared language of physics and mathematics.

The interaction between ETI and ourselves, if and when it occurs, is a favourite subject for late night speculation. Human history shows that when two cultures meet, the less technologically advanced suffers. However it is hard to think of a justification for the extension of this law into space; it is hard to conceive of there being any struggle for natural resources, say, when uninhabited asteroids and planets would provide a much more ready resource. It is often taken as an assumption that any ETI sufficiently advanced to progress into space would have learnt the pitfalls of technology slowly and painfully, in a similar process to that which humanity is embarking upon at the present time. It is taken for granted that during this process some control of aggressive instincts by a higher rationality is also learned, and as we are likely to be the technologically inferior party in any encounter, it is probably best to assume that ETI will be at best benign and at worst indifferent to our existence. In summary, it is likely that any overtly hostile ETI would have destroyed itself long before it was able to embark on interstellar travel. Following on from this, it is possible that ETI which had not suffered this fate would recognise though that we would not be indifferent to their existence, and react accordingly, that is, by not allowing themselves to be detected. Many questions are often asked along the lines of "If ETI exist, why are they not here?", or more colloquially, "If flying saucers are real, why don't they go land on the White House lawn?" To my mind, the above argument goes a long way towards answering such questions.

Philosophical implications: UFO's and abduction phenomena?

My second postulate, then, is that if we have been discovered by ETI, they would know that unfortunately we are not yet sufficiently advanced to react to their appearance with anything other than fear and hostility. They would know that the knowledge of their existence would cause a massive destabilisation of our society. Of course, this argument is a dangerous one, for it could be used equally well to show that knowledge of ETI is being hidden from us by the machinations of the higher echelons of our own governments. For the moment though, I shall use Occam's razor and leave aside this complication.

A hypothesis often put forward to "explain" the absence of alien entities from Earth is called the "Zoo Hypothesis". Essentially, the postulate is that we are being observed by ETI, who do not wish us to be observed and have the technological means not to betray their presence. From the above, it may seem as though I believe the Zoo hypothesis to be a likely scenario. However, it has a sinister adjunct: that the reason ETI do not wish to be observed is not that they do not wish to destabilise our society, indeed quite the opposite. At best, they are studying us analogously to a scientist observing bacteria under the microscope, and at worst they wish to destroy or enslave us. It is my opinion that such fears as these are culturally borne, that they are a modern manifestation of that most ancient of fears: fear of God, a collective guilt and self-hatred. Furthermore, if that sounds an odd thing to say, consider instead that if we were going to be zapped from above it would have happened by now. Coming of age with "Star Wars" (both Luke Skywalker and Ronald Reagan versions) we are bound

to expect nothing more and nothing less. Everyone knows at least dimly that the activities of humanity are slowly poisoning the planet and all the life on it, but also that it is all but impossible, without great hardship, to escape from those decrepit tyrannies of economics and profit imposed upon us by our leaders. Trapped in this dilemma, we should not fall into the trap of negation that is enshrined in the Zoo hypothesis. I have tried to show that there is no reason to expect and certainly no point in assuming that we are surrounded by ETI with malign intentions; rather, we should forget all about ETI and try to seek ways out of the dilemma that is our cultural heritage.

Having in this way disposed of the popular conception of malevolent alien beings by reasoning that they are likely to be indifferent to us, at least for the present, I now have to address those who are convinced that ETI are among us, that they are liaising with our governments, abducting humans for purposes of experimentation, and suchlike. I am not of the opinion that every single story in the annals of UFOlogy is a hoax or an invention; I am quite prepared to believe that some fraction, perhaps the vast majority, of people who have seen UFO's or undergone a paranormal experience to which they attribute a link to UFO's are recounting what they see as a true experience. Having not experienced such myself, I cannot dictate otherwise. That these occurrences tend to take place in remote areas and are experienced only by a handful of people, of whom none are ever either well known or of high status in society, is of course entirely in accordance with the theory that ETI are doing their best to remain hidden, whether they are in cahoots with government or not. What is not clear is why they should need to abduct humans to use as laboratory mice, but if they have some great need of which we could not begin to envisage, then it is clear from the above arguments why they should need to wipe out the memory of their abductee or cause them to suffer some discontinuity in their personal sense of time. There is something extremely alluring in the temptation to believe in conspiracy theories; these all state essentially that all the publicity for UFO and related phenomena over the last fifty years or so, culminating in the recent public exposure of the Roswell incident, is an attempt on the part of government to purvey disinformation, to distract attention from what their real dealings with ETI are. Why now, say the conspiracy theorists, should this incident suddenly be back under the spotlight? Why indeed? Possibly because somebody somewhere thought that it would be a great way of cashing in on the current fashion all things bizarre and millennial. Instead, I find it neater to suppose that such accounts would find quite sufficient publicity without the aid of any conspiracy, and that they are a real attempt on the part of ETI to impose knowledge of themselves gradually, to minimise disruption to society. It is not necessary to assume that they are doing this with the knowledge of government. I do find it odd though that ETI should choose this method, as it is resulting surely in greater fear and paranoia in the public mind than ever. Surely it would be far better for ETI to seek out those whom they suspect would cope well with the knowledge (such as people with no strong sense of organised religion, for example), which would not necessarily be those in government, and ally with them in deciding the best way of springing the knowledge of their existence on to an unsuspecting planet.....

All this is rather like mediaeval philosophers arguing the number of angels that can fit on the head of a pin, and may indeed turn out to be seen in a thousand years time as

the exact equivalent. I'm afraid that, dull as it may seem, it is best to leave aside the existence of ETI altogether and appeal to a psychological explanation, at least for abduction phenomena. This takes the modern appeal for all things extraterrestrial and places it squarely in the tradition of arcane beliefs in fairies, ogres and trolls, goblins and hobgoblins, little people, leprechauns. Back when the extent and nature of the Earth were unknown, when uncharted oceans cascaded off the edge of the world into the void below, there was room enough on Earth for these mysterious denizens, whom people often met and carried out dealings with, often in great danger! But now there is no room on Earth for such delightful creatures; with our knowledge of the world and our dominion over it we have squeezed them out. Yet a vestige of them remains inside our heads, and we still have a need for them to be an objective reality. So where do we place them? The only place that is left.....outwith the Earth. And we did not consider fairies to be always malevolent, did we? Capricious indeed, but never always just plain nasty.....

Of course when and if I am abducted myself, I shall claim that the resemblances between such creatures of myth and the alien entities abductees describe are evidence for the objective reality of both! For now, I believe we should take note of our need for "otherness" and be wary of our tendency to tie it down to a "belief" in ETI; we may as well have incarcerated it within the walls of organised religion. Both would be mistakes.

Postscript: On the possibilities of Interstellar Travel

I should now like to return, by way of conclusion, to what science can tell us at present about the concept of interstellar travel. We know that the nearest sunlike stars are of the order of tens of light years distant, that is, it would take tens of years to reach them at the speed of light. We know also that Einstein's Special theory of Relativity states that material objects cannot attain light speed, since at light speed their masses would become infinite, and hence the energy required to move them would also be infinite. It is not possible to add together velocities linearly without limit. On board a spaceship travelling close to light speed, a clock would be seen to run slow, relative to a stationary observer. There is no absolute standard of time in the Universe. This effect is very small at normal speeds, but even so it has been measured by comparing the time interval measured by an atomic clock on board a jet aircraft, with that measured by an identical clock on the ground. The difference is not due to any shortcomings in the clock itself. This is best seen by analogy with the length contraction that also occurs as light speed is approached; at ninety percent of the speed of light one could still measure the length of one's finger, pointing in the direction of motion, as three inches, but one's ruler would have contracted by an equal amount. But to a stationary observer one would look oddly foreshortened. Similarly, masses increase to infinity at the speed of light, as stated earlier. The consequence of this non-linearity is that the speed of light cannot be exceeded. Or can it?

By interstellar travel, I would like to mean travel to the nearest stars within, say, a few days. It would be possible to travel at speeds very much less than that of light, if one was prepared to set aside tens of thousands of years for the journey, and to leave the prospects of arrival to one's remote descendants. Someday, perhaps in the next few

hundred years, a sufficiently large, genetically viable group of people, who would perhaps have existed for several generations on board a space station somewhere in the Solar system, cut off from Earth, and developing their own culture and values, will decide to do this. But what of the more impatient among us?

Most people are familiar with the concept of a wormhole in spacetime, offering a short-cut to another part of the Universe through a higher dimension. This shows that only by escaping from the three dimensions of space and one of time that we observe can we hope to reach a distant point in the Universe faster than light. By analogy, imagine that instead of living on the two dimensional surface of a sphere, as we do, we are living on the two dimensional surface of a doughnut. (Although they are curved, both surfaces are two dimensional because any point on them can be described by only two coordinates). To pass from point A on the inner surface of the doughnut to point B opposite, we have to go halfway round on the inner circumference of the doughnut. But if we could travel in a third dimension, we could leap straight across the gap! Increase the number of dimensions by one, and we have the situation of the real Universe. A wormhole represents exactly such a "leap across the gap" commonly known in science fiction as a jump through hyperspace. Wormholes, however, are fragile structures; mathematically speaking, the jury is still out on whether it would be possible for a macroscopic object such as a spaceship to traverse one. It may collapse as soon as it is so disturbed.

There is one remaining, theoretical possibility, described recently, along with wormholes, in a paper in the Quarterly Journal of the Royal Astronomical Society, by Ian Crawford, a British astronomer. This possibility appeals to Einstein's General Theory of Relativity, which describes the force of gravity not as a force but as a curvature of spacetime. Massive bodies follow straight lines (or geodesics) in four dimensional spacetime, which appear curved in three dimensions. Again by analogy, imagine the Sun as a heavy ball on a two dimensional rubber sheet: the sheet is distorted by the Sun's mass, and a small ball rolled in from a distance, without sufficient energy to escape, will fall directly in towards the distortion. It follows that if mass causes a curvature of spacetime (and mass and energy are equivalent, through $E=mc^2$) then if it would be possible to create an artificial curvature of spacetime (i.e. gravitational field) if one had enough energy (perhaps through a matter-antimatter annihilation reaction) which could be focussed in the required direction. The effect of this would be to bring two previously distant points in spacetime into juxtaposition, in other words, to travel *instantaneously* from one to the other. This process is logically equivalent to taking a short cut through a higher dimensional space, and also to travelling forwards in time. If I were to move instantaneously to a point one thousand light years distant by this method, then I would arrive one thousand years ahead of the time I could have arrived had I been travelling in real spacetime at approaching light speed.

Summary

It is my contention, then, that a sufficiently advanced ETI may have worked out the technologies of such a means of travel, and may have decided to use it to investigate our Solar System, since our Sun is a stable star of the type that could support an

orbiting life-bearing planet. However, being more advanced than us, it is not likely that they would have any reason to need anything from us, nor would they allow us to know of their existence, since they would suspect that that knowledge would have an adverse affect on the stability of our society. I argue that we may encounter ETI at some future time, when we will be able to react to them without immediate instinctive aggression, and that until then, they need not concern us.





"Sorry, you haven't paid for "Relay". "

CHANGE AND DECAY by David Sivier.

Last year brought the sad death of the 8th Lord Clancarty, otherwise known as Brinsley Le Poer Trench. Trench was long known for his interest in UFOs and their connection to Earth mysteries. He appeared at many UFO conferences and was himself the author of several books on the subject. Most significantly, he was the head of the House of Lords All-Party UFO Study Group. The transcript of the January 1979 UFO debate at the House of Lords, with the preface by Lord Clancarty himself, swiftly became a classic of the subculture when published as a book by Open Head and Pentacle Press. He was also noted for his opinions on the evolving crop circle phenomenon in the '80s, to the chagrin, if Jim Schnabel can be trusted, of those who considered themselves to be far more scientific observers. Paul Screeton, writing in *Folklore Frontiers* (a magazine which successfully combines the interest of the folklorist with the ebullience of the Sun) noted many examples of his personal kindness and the eccentricity of his views. In a world where the UFO scene is rapidly descending into paranoia and racial hatred, the death of someone who had an optimistic view of the phenomenon is surely a great loss.

But, as Nigel Pennick once said, "UFOs attract the bizarre and cranks, and the House of Lords has more of these per square yard than anywhere else", his place has swiftly been taken by Lord Hill-Norton, a retired Admiral of the Fleet, Chief of Defence Staff between 1971 and 1973 and a senior member of the NATO military staff in the '70s. He first came to the public's attention in the subject through giving his vocal support to Tim Good, writing the commentary in the book "Alien Liaison". [And also the Foreword

to Good's book "above Top Secret" - Ed.] Now it seems that he has once again joined the controversy. Lending his support to demands for the release of government information on UFOs, Lord Hill-Norton was reported as saying "The evidence makes it clear that something is being covered up. It is absurd to pretend there is nothing going on when it is perfectly plain that there is." ¹

Answering his critics, he stated, "Certainly people mock. But I know a great deal more about his than the people who are mocking. For example there is a great deal of specialist work going on in the States." ² A dogged persuer of the truth, he stated firmly, "I want to know who is in these UFOs and where they come from." ³

This was in response to the latest UFO controversy. Three years ago a triangular UFO was allegedly chased over from Belgium by three American F-16 fighters at over 1000mph. Derek Sheffield, a retired printing consultant has been "harassing" officialdom about it for these last three years. The MOD has been totally uninterested in his claims and so he has enlisted the help of Lord Hill-Norton. The good admiral has stated that he is prepared to write a foreword to a book by Sheffield about the incident. According to Hill-Norton, "The object was tracked by two German radar stations and one in Belgium. Britain would have been alerted". ⁴ Support has also come from former European President Egon Klepsch, who is encouraging Sheffield to petition the European Parliament. This sounds suspiciously like a description of the US splyplane "Aurora", especially as an image captured on satellite imaging equipment used by David Watson of the University of Leicester's Physics and Astronomy department. Taken on the 15th April 1993, they show an object with a strange contrail heading into England from the North Sea, before breaking east, possibly returning to the main NATO base at Geilenkirchen in Germany. If this is the notorious Aurora, which is still very much top secret, then the government would definitely not wish the affair to be made public.

There is rather more to it than that. The EU's Energy, Research and Technology Committee has fielded a report, "The Creation of a European Observation Station for the Sightings of Unidentified Flying Objects". This recommends setting up an all-European UFO tracking station. Needless to say, this has been widely derided in the Eurosceptic press as completely loony. "Sceptical earthlings" were said to be "bug-eyed" (ho-ho) over the "bizarre scheme to spend more money". ⁵

First of all, the idea for an all-European observation post for the UFOs isn't new. It resurfaces every now and then, to the same squeals of rage and disbelief from the Eurosceptics. Used to dealing with scandals

and profligacy, such as the EU's Common Agricultural Policy, this really does seem like another waste of money. There are fortunately several arguments to the contrary.

Firstly, several European nations have departments of state which take an active, scientific interest in UFOs. One of these is France, where UFO investigation is undertaken by a department of CNES, the French NASA. This should ensure standards of scientific professionalism in the investigation as well as access to specialised equipment, which is unavailable to the amateur.

Secondly, if foreign objects, whether of terrestrial craft or, unlikely as it may be, alien spaceships, are invading European airspace, surely ministers, if not the peoples of Europe, have a right to know.

Thirdly, UFO reports have been linked in recent years through the work of researchers like Michael Persinger at Laurentian University to geomagnetic anomalies arising from tectonic stress. If this is true, then proper investigation of UFOs could be of immense benefit to the Earth sciences.

Fourthly, the "earthlights" hypothesis holds that close encounters and abductions are hallucinatory "virtual" experiences caused by the intense UFO magnetic fields interfering with the brain's temporal lobes. Furthermore, British researcher Albert Budden has also linked it to allergies to electricity. If either of these hypotheses is true, then there is also a clear danger to public health, which should certainly be investigated.

I could go on, but would be too lengthy, and I'm not sure there would be much point. Most of would, I believe, consider the subject worthy of serious scientific research at long last. Unfortunately, despite having "such a warrior" as Lord Hill-Norton "on our side", I really doubt that we "will soon have the answers".⁶

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Roswell UFO Identified? - Craig Carl Jackson.

A recent documentary on the Roswell incident made by Channel Four featured a witness named Frank Kaufman who gave a detailed account of the

crash site and alien beings. He even produced a document complete with drawings which he made at the time. When I saw the drawings they looked vaguely familiar. Then I remembered other illustrations I'd seen of an alleged stealth aircraft called the Black Manta TR-3A. The two matched almost exactly. The Manta, according to aviation writer Mike Keep is a strategic reconnaissance aircraft which had seen service in the Gulf War although this is only based on eye-witness testimony. A report in 1994 stated this craft had crash landed at RAF Boscombe Down in Wiltshire and had been taken to Palmdale Air Force Plant 42 in California, USA for repairs.

The prototype of the Black Manta was said to have first flown in 1981. Could the design have been on the cards for a lot longer than that - perhaps 1947? Could the TR-3A be based on the design of a craft from another world? The choice is yours.

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UFO Magazine (UK) - Jan/Feb 1995.

Omni - September 1994.



REVIEWS!! [By the editor unless otherwise indicated] NEW MAGAZINES:

North East UFO Reporters Magazine (NEUFORM)

So far, this Gateshead based UFO group have produced two issued of NEUFORM, one back in March and the second, Winter edition. Nicely produced A4 sized magazines (someone obviously has a good PC and printer). Issue two only runs to 17 pages, but it contains some interesting articles and has good potential. On the other hand, it could become a local version of Quest's "UFO Magazine". If you are interested in the local North East UFO scene, check it out. Write to Steven Ede, NEUFORM, 23 Manorway, Hedworth Estate, Jarrow, Tyne & Wear, NE32 4PB. Issue 2 cost 85p, and membership of the NEUFORM group is only £4 a year.

COVER UP No 1.

This is the newsletter of David Colman's new Scottish group, Lothian Unexplained Phenomena Research, which he has formed since his split with Malcolm Robinson's SPI group. (I still prefer Lothian Unexplained Phenomena Investigation, or LUPI.) There are 6 A4 sides in this slim first issue. I like the format, and I hope it does well. Contact David Colman, 49 Limefield Crescent, Bathgate, West Lothian, EH48 1RF for more details on Cover Up and LUPR.

Phenomenal News No 1, October 1995.

Another new magazine from Central Scotland. This one is from Ron Halliday's Scottish Earth Mysteries Research group and is edited by Viv Alexander. Perhaps the fact that Bonnybridge is one of the World's UFO hot-spots has caused this mini explosion of Scottish UFO mags. This first issue (which looks unnervingly like Northern UFO News) is free, so write in quick. A good first issue. The annual subscription fee is £4 per year for this quarterly journal. Write to Ron Halliday, 35 Fountains Road, Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire, Scotland.

Encounters

A big, glossy newsstand publication dealing with UFOs and the paranormal. The price is a bit steep at £2.99 for a monthly issue, but issues 2 and 3 have come with books and issue 4 has a free 1996 UFO Calendar. For me, it knocks spots off Quest International's newsstand mag, "UFO Magazine", so buy Encounters instead.

Recommended publications:

Encounters: see above.

Fortean Times: The Journal of Strange Phenomena. Currently bimonthly, FT will be going monthly from May 1996. Issue 85 will be out on the 10th Feb, priced £2.20. Available from newsagents.

Enigmas: The magazine from Strange Phenomena Investigations. 40+ pages packed with information from Malcolm Robinson's group. Good value at £11.50 for a years subscription of 5 issues. Write to Malcolm Robinson, 41 The Braes, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire, FK10 2TT.

Magonia: One of the best magazines available on UFOs, abductions and Fortean subjects: "Interpreting contemporary vision and belief" says the cover. £5 for four issues, from John Rimmer, John Dee Cottage, 5 James Terrace, Mortlake Churchyard, London SW14 8HB.

The Ley Hunter: The best journal around on "Earth Mysteries", containing serious scholarly articles along with letters, reviews, etc. £5.80 for 3 issues, payable to Empress. TLH, PO Box 92, Penzance, Cornwall TR18 2BX. Almost as good and perhaps a little more approachable, is 3rd Stone, £7 for 3 issues payable to GEM Publications. 3rd Stone, PO Box 258, Cheltenham, GL53 OHR. You'll never hear surf music again.

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LETTERS: Please sent letters to "D.A. Newton" at the NUFORI postal address.

Sw One possible answer to the "abduction" syndrome is that "they" are introducing themselves gradually to our species, through the contact with individuals. Whether it be of a "study" or "sexual" contact, they are slowly making us aware of their presence in our midst.

This theory is purely speculation, as I believe that I have been subjected to both study and sexual contact with something not of this Earth. Some of the many thoughts floating around in my head are as follows:

1. If the study of humans is to ascertain our genetic characteristics in relation to theirs, there **must** be a reason behind their labours. Could it be to see if our species are compatible? If so, this second thought comes to mind;
2. If our genes can be fused together, the many cases of sexual contact could be a way of making their species more Human in appearance. This would be advantageous in being more acceptable to the human eye, as our inherent racism **must** be overcome for successful contact on a large scale. If they look more like us, we are more likely to accept them.
3. The human being is one of the most adaptable of creatures on this planet, so maybe we have something that **they** want.
4. The people they have been "in touch" with keep their mouths shut, as you might say, for fear of ridicule. Who is better, someone who can remain quiet, to contact, or someone who shouts their mouth off? If you are making a study of an animal in its own environment, you don't want a large number of those creatures panicking and kicking up a fuss around you. You carry out your study in such a way as to cause as little disturbance as possible.

What I am saying may or may not make sense, but to me it is perfectly clear. Someone, somewhere is up to something and we are starting, at last, to get wise to them! In my view, there is no need for alarm or panic. We **cannot** trust our governments or ministries of defence. They are **all** in the business of saying one thing and doing another, lying to and deceiving their people simply because it suits them, and they enjoy being in power. Various people, like myself, have lost faith in politicians because of the way they treat people as innocent minded children who need protecting from the unknown and therefore decide to remain quiet about many things. In many cases, they fear the consequences of the people being shown an alternative lifestyle, the way the Iron Curtain did during the Cold War. If we are shown how to

feed ourselves properly, take care of our sick properly, eliminate most of the greed that our species suffers from, then the politicians would be out of a job. Hence, their wish to keep the people ignorant, George Orwell style!

I am not a Messiah or a leader of people; however I do believe that I have something to say that may be of benefit to us all. It is my opinion, due mainly to my experiences, that "they", whoever they may be, are on their way to making "full" contact with the Human race. Some of us may not like it, but when it comes we had better be prepared. The "Cold War" waged on us by our own government and MOD is only stalling for time, and they know it!

"Joe Publik" (Name withheld)

Now on to the comedy section:

~~Sx~~ There are seven solar systems in our Milky Way galaxy, The Elohim had seven bases on our planet in [the] remote past, later on great civilizations have evolved in those areas. Traces of contacts with Elohim are found in Greek mythology, Mahabarata with its two parts, Vedas and Ramayana, the Gilgamesh, Kojiki of Japan, the Popol Vuh and the Chronicle of Akakor, the Book of Enoch, the Cabala, the Bible, eg. take "Genesis Revisited" by Zecharia Sitchin - from ancient Sumerian records he state[s] that [the] Tower of Babel was in fact a rocket and this same is stated in Claude Raël's book. Also look up [a] book by P.V. Schlemmer & P. Jenkins "The Only Planet of Choice" - the book covers 34,000 years of Earth history - a very interesting book - it explains what crop circles have in common with [the] pyramids of Egypt, or how time relates to gravity and vibrations of planet [sic]. Also look up a book by Ann Walker - "Little One", by Arrow books, 1995. You will find there [a] full scientific report on Global Heat increase and irreversibility of Two-state climate disintegration - the report originates from [an] extraterrestrial source.

Pleasant reading.

- E.I.

Editor's comment: And I suppose the Moon is made of green cheese, and UFOs are powered by rubber bands. Spare me, please.

~~Sx~~ While on holiday in Scotland last summer I came across some unusual features in the grass on the Isle of Arran. These features consisted of bare rings, where very little grass grew, surrounding a circular area of very vigorously growing grass. The bare rings seemed to consist of dead grass and dried cow dung. These "crap circles" had obviously been there a few weeks, because new grass was pushing its way through the dried matter.

The question is: Why would a farmer, or indeed the cows themselves, arrange the dung in circles, approx 1 foot wide and of diameter 4 or 5 feet? I have several photographs of this interesting phenomenon.

Yours, M. Therion

Editor's comment: Anyone with an explanation for this phenomenon, please write in to the NUFORI postal address. Please clearly mark your envelopes with "Scottish Crap Circle Enigma".

Copies of the photographs available for a small charge.

~~Sir~~ From our knowledge of Evolution and life on Earth, we know that no one species of animal lives entirely in isolation. Every creature contains large numbers of other species some of which are necessary for survival. Look at Human beings - our digestive systems are full of different organisms. If humans and these bugs are allowed to evolve together, an equilibrium is reached. However, if a new bug is introduced to the species, the results are crippling and often fatal because we have no resistance.

If the Greys have travelled from different planets, where are their germs? Have any abductees died, or suffered from highly unusual diseases? I would have expected alien plagues to have decimated humanity by now. ?

The opposite may also be true - the greys would have no resistance at all to our diseases. The common cold should prove fatal. Either the greys are not extraterrestrial at all, or else they are **not** doing genetic research, as such. Perhaps their experimentation is to isolate our resistance to Earth germs. They can then inoculate themselves, thus protecting themselves when they stage their full scale invasion.

Yours, Mr C.D. Player

Editor's comment: As far as I am aware, no abductee has ever died as a direct result of being abducted or from a disease picked up during the experience.

Interesting point.



X - Tiles Special Offer!!!

We have a limited number of these special X-Tiles, a must for all fans of UFOs and the paranormal. These beautiful white ceramic wall tiles are hand decorated with a large marker pen "X". Ideal for sticking to walls, they make excellent presents for those you love.

The price - a mere £5.00 each, including postage and packing.

Hurry! Stocks will not last long!

Please send your orders (payment in used fivers only) to the editorial address. Please clearly mark your envelopes with "I am X-tremely gullible".



British UFO Research Association

FORTHCOMING ATRIACTIONS

Jan.27th '98.....**PHILIP MANTLE**, Author, Broadcaster and International Lecturer. Director of Investigations. (BUFORA)
Co-Author of " *Without Consent* -

.....will be discussing Footage of the ROSWELL FILM; showing footage *never before seen* in the U.K!

.....Abductions! Including in depth appraisal of Northern Regional cases
Accompanied video and slides.....

NIXON HALL, Ellison Place. Admission: \$3.00 (\$2.00 child/DAP/students)

May 18th '98.....**MALCOLM ROBINSON**

Lecturer, Broadcaster and Author ,
Scotland's Leading UFO and Paranormal Investigator.

.....will be discussing "scottish u:f:ology" including the BONNYBRIDGE Sightings!
.....Abduction Cases

.....CLOSE ENCOUNTERS!

ELLISON BUILDING, Ellison Place. Admission : \$3.00 (\$2.00 child/DAP/students)

JULY 27th.....**JENNY RANGLES**

Britain's Premier Ufologist!
Broadcaster and Lecturer

Prolific Author of 30 plus Books and Publications

.....Subject to be Announced!!

NIXON HALL, Ellison Place. Admission : \$3.00 (\$2.00 child/DAP/students)

All tickets for the above Lectures
will be on a strictly Limited basis
Come Early to avoid Disappointment

ALL Lectures: 2-5p.m unless otherwise stated
(DOORS OPEN 1.15p.m)

Further Information from City Information Desk, Newcastle Central Library.
University of Northumbria at Newcastle
Ellison Place

Newcastle Upon Tyne.

_____ a day of _____ **Abductions**

Delving into the claims of alien visitation

**Pennine Theatre, Sheffield Hallam University
Saturday, 20th April 1996. 10.00am to 6.00pm**

The growth of alien abduction reports around the world has been colossal over recent years.

The British UFO Research Association is to focus on the claims of abductees and the continuing abduction research at a special conference.

This one day conference will be held at the Pennine Theatre, Sheffield Hallam University, Pond Street, Sheffield.

At present, the full itinerary of speakers has not been finalised. However, BUFORA is very pleased to invite Whitley Strieber to speak for the first time in the UK about his experiences, which prompted the writing of his book, *Communion*; quoted by many as a turning point in alien abduction awareness around the world.

Other speakers will include Philip Mantle, John Spencer and Mike Wootten.

British abductees including Linda Jones will also be invited to relate their experiences during the day.

A wide range of UFO related material will be on sale at the conference exhibition.

Tickets for the full day event are priced at £15.00 each with a special discounted price of £12.50 to BUFORA members.

To order your tickets in advance complete the booking form below and send it along with your remittance to:-

**BUFORA (Abduct),
1 Woodhall Drive, Batley, West
Yorkshire, WF17 7SW, UK**

Please make your cheques, postal orders or international money orders payable to **BUFORA Ltd.**



Whitley Strieber

Updates on **BUFORA On-Line** <http://www.citadel.co.uk/citadel/eclipse/futura/bufora.bufora.htm>

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BUFORA Membership No

Please send me _____ tickets @ £15.00 for non BUFORA members and £12.50 for members. I enclose £_____ remittance.

WITHOUT CONSENT

A Comprehensive Survey of Missing-Time and
Abduction Phenomena in the UK

Carl Nagaitis & Philip Mantle

The first ever British investigation into a mystery which has baffled scientists and laymen for four decades:

The Abduction Phenomenon

Ever since the phrase **Flying Saucer** was coined in the United States to describe a sighting of a UFO back in 1947, thousands of abduction cases have been reported, the majority in the USA.

In Britain a mere forty cases have come to light. These cases range from individuals who have had missing time experience, to people who have been pursued by UFO's, to groups of people who allege abduction by alien beings and even visits to spacecraft.

Journalist Carl Nagaitis and Philip Mantle, Director of Investigations for BUFORA (British UFO Research Association), focus on attributable experiences from all over the British Isles. Case accounts have been thoroughly researched, witnesses interviewed and hypnotically regressed, and all the current theories to explain abduction phenomena gathered together into one comprehensive volume.

The result is an extraordinary catalogue of the inexplicable, complete with photographs never before published.

Order your copy at the special discounted price of £12.50 (including p&p), saving £4.49 direct from the author, Philip Mantle.

Please make your cheque, postal order or international money order payable to Susan Mantle and send it along with the order form below to:

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