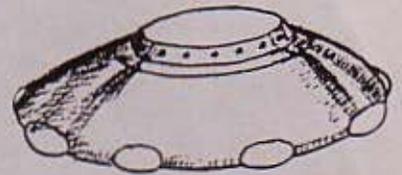
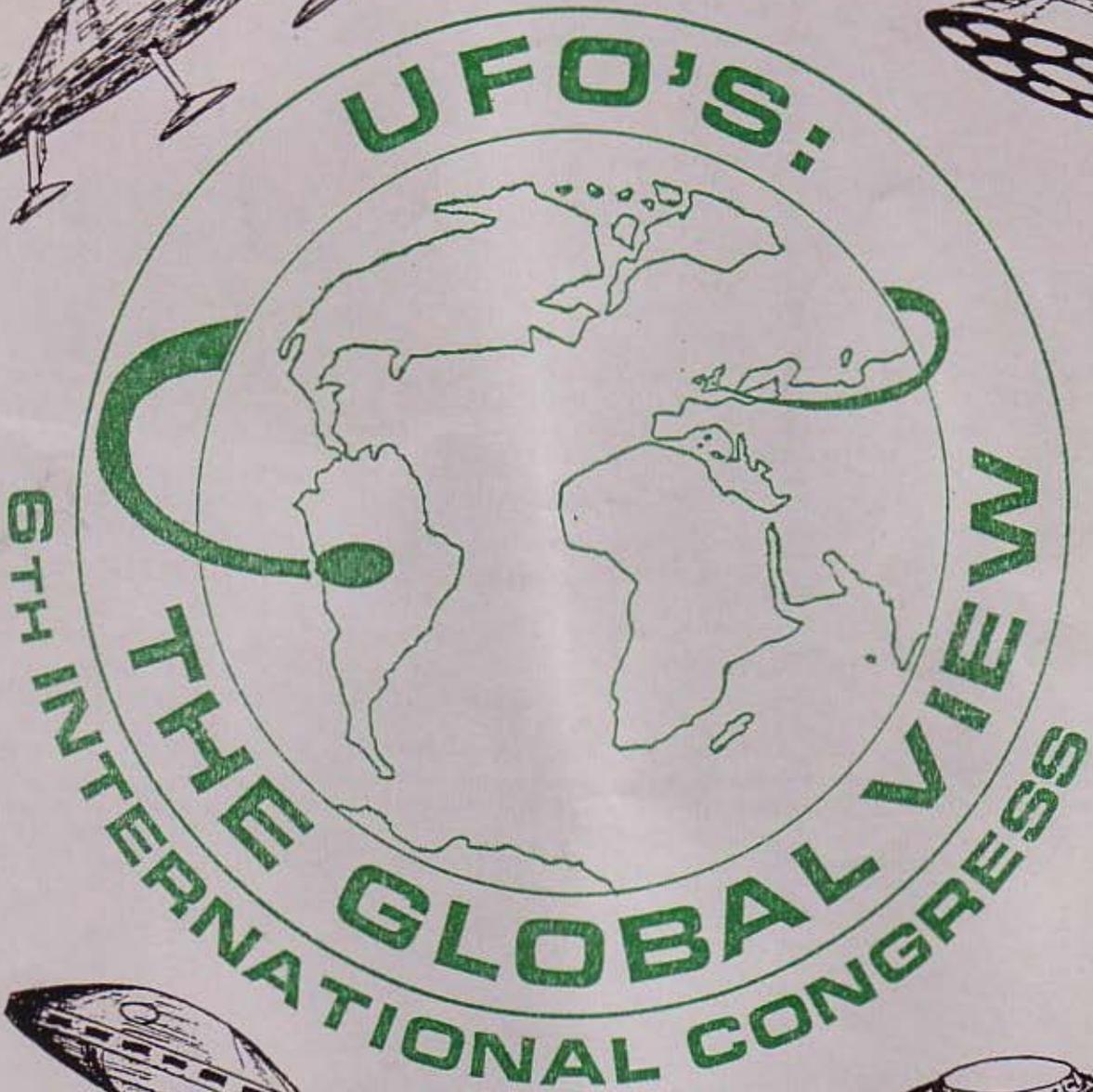
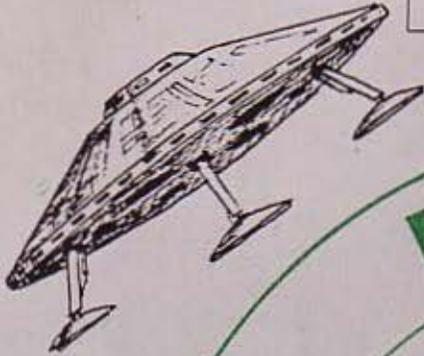
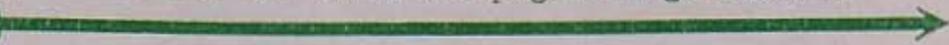


U F O

BRIGANTIA



Go on, now turn the page and go in.....



UFO BRIGANTIA

THE JOURNAL OF THE INDEPENDENT UFO NETWORK

Jan 1991 No 47

"Ufology is just a bowl of All Bran - You wake up every morning and it's there"

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UFO BRIGANTIA is published bi-monthly (quarterly from next issue). We also operate a joint subscription deal with Jenny Randles' Northern UFO News (details on request if you are not already a joint subscriber). Both magazines provide news and gossip, NUN has an excellent round-up of current case reports. Letters and criticisms are most welcome to UFO BRIGANTIA and are always printed. Articles are also sought on any aspect of ufology. If you have something to say, say it in UFO BRIGANTIA. Bizarre, controversial, we don't care. You send it, we'll print it.

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THE IUN

The I.U.N. deserted from orthodox ufology in September 1987 when various ex-WYUFORG, YUFOS and BUFORA members who were dissatisfied with the state of UFO groups and publications in the UK ran away to see together. We saw and we concurred. Formed into small guerilla cells we exist to harry silly ufologists and their sad belief systems, subvert ordinariness and to tell it like it really is. Our public image is that of a network of ufologists who assist each other as and when necessary. In reality we do just that. The I.U.N. also publish case reports, create long-running hoaxes to tell our grandchildren about, and run UFO lectures and courses and have lots of fun. The I.U.N. have plenty overall theories as to the nature of the UFO enigma, but we aren't sure which is right this month.

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CONTENTS

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Page</u>
Editorial	Andy Roberts	3
Crop Circles-A Scientific Answer?	J. Randles & P. Fuller	5
Subscription News	Andy Roberts	15
Letter from America	Rick Hale	16
Another Letter from America	Bill Spaulding	18
The Barnsley 'UFO'	Andy Roberts	21
Reviews	K. McClure, T. Jones	22
Dying Worlds, Dying Selves	Martin Kottmeyer	24

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The Small Print at the End of Time

Sorry we're a bit late this issue. A combination of Christmas and dramatic house renovation is the cause. Happy new year and all that stuff and thanks to the many subscribers who sent Christmas cards.

Writing about ufology in the midst of the Gulf War seems a bit trivial really and puts the silly beliefs about extraterrestrials and cattle mutilations into much needed perspective. However I have no doubt that the fertile minds of some EThers will no doubt come up with a far fetched story about how the

Americans won because they had help from the greys. Nobody 'wins' wars. Even as we speak the four horsemen of the apocalypse are.....

Ufology grinds on however and at Christmas I was sent the January issue of FATE magazine. This issue contains the best piece of UFO research & debate I have seen in a long time. It started back in March last year when writer John Keel put forward the idea that the Roswell crashed saucer stories came about as a result of a WW II Japanese Fugo bomb balloon crash. With the MJ-12 and Gulf Breeze losing support fast Roswell is the EThers Alamo, and saying what Keel did is tantamount to pretending Salman Rushdie doesn't really eat babies on toast, and cages were well and truly rattled. Ace ufologist and unclear physicist Stanton Friedman shot straight back with 1001 reasons why the Roswell object just simply had to be crashed saucer wreckage - "The find in Lincoln County, New Mexico, was crashed saucer wreckage - not a Fugo or other balloon." But you people have all read The Roswell Incident and those other books along those lines so let's look at Keel's argument.

About Keel. He has been involved with ufology since before it began, has been through all the various ufological fashions, and is probably the most misunderstood researcher/writer the subject has seen. Mainly because he is too intelligent for most of his readers, who also have no sense of humour. The Alaister Crowley of ufology! So he is far more well placed than most to pass comment on most aspects of the subject.

Keel's contention is that far from being the vanguard of an invasion by implant wielding nasties the Roswell crash was the result of a Japanese Fugo balloo crash. The Fugo balloons were launched by Japan in the latter stages of WW II and consisted of a 33 ft diameter balloon made from rice paper with a plastic and metal gondola slung below carrying incendiary bombs made from magnesium. According to Keel an American TV show, Unsolved Mysteries recenetly reconstructed the Roswell damage from eye-witness accounts and it was identical to extant photographs of Fugo wreckage. Re-read the many eye-witness accounts to the wreckage in the light of the foregoing - what they found does sound like a balloon now, doesn't it. Consider also the 'hieroglyphics' found on the material. Japanese script would not exactly be a common sight in New Mexico at the time and could easily be mistaken for hieroglyphics. One witness also described seeing 'flowers' pressed into the Roswell debris. Keel says that the balloons (not the gondola or bombs) were made by Japanese children as part of the war effort. Pressing flowers into it would seem reasonable.

Keel opines that media UFO contamination is the reason that so many people can now be found who 'know' it was a crashed saucer. Curiously, as the evnt recedes in time more people seem to have witnessed the wreckage. Hmmm. Why would the authorities not have just openly stated it was a Fugo balloon, if it was one? Who knows, but when Kevin Randle, co-author of a new book on Roswell, asked the military to declassify

the Roswell file they told him to go away. In 1965-66, when Keel asked to see the Pentagon files on the Fugo balloons he was also refused. Draw your own conclusions. "Revived every few years by untrained, inexperienced amateur enthusiasts who are dedicated to trying to prove their personal beliefs in flying saucers" as Keel says the pro-ETH Roswellers are sadly constantly re-inventing the ufological wheel - but not getting past the square shape seen on Flintstones cartoons.

With growing contentions, well researched and all having some basis in reality, frequently raised that the Roswell incident was one of a number of a mundane objects, it is time for the ETHers to prove it was none of those things rather than suggest it was something else. We know balloons and rockets exist and crash. We know people cannot accurately report what they see and we know the UFO myth exists. And we know there is money and kudos to be gained by suggesting you know THE TRUTH. I would suggest that any reader interested in pursuing this line of thought obtains the January 1991 issue of FATE magazine.

The facts about the Fugo balloons are not the ramblings of a disordered ufological mind either, they are well documented in numerous magazine articles and books. In short, according to Keel, the Roswell mystery is solved (again!!). The real mystery is why so many people have allowed themselves to think it really was an alien craft.

'Normal' ufology seems pretty dead at the moment and the strangeness fanciers are, even as we speak girding their loins for the first corn circle (read cuckoo) of the summer. It would serve them right if the various teams of hoaxers stayed at home this year!

Those people out there who think that the crop circles and such nonsense are created by some form of 'non-human intelligence' (this is going to be the big theory over the next few years I think), should draw cold comfort from the type of 'non-human intelligences' described in the writings of occultist Kenneth Grant. In an interview in STRANGE magazine, no. 6 about a magickal working rocket scientist and occultist Jack Parsons was involved in, Grant is quoted as saying; "The working began in 1945-46, a few months before Crowley's death in 1947, and just prior to the wave of unexplained aerial phenomena now recalled as the 'Great Flying Saucer Flap'. Parsons opened a door and something flew in." Grant expanded on this idea in a recent interview in SKOOB OCCULT REVIEW, saying the message of these intelligences is "That caution is required in the use of the technologies which man is in process of developing". Another theory for you all to suck on and one certainly no weirder and lots more fun than 'non-human intelligences' warning us about water shortages. These intelligences might be after your ass tho. Time to dust off that old Banishing Ritual of the Lesser Pentagram your uncle left you, or to rattle that rosary now perhaps. Better still, find a piece of meteorite, build a city round it and form a religion to ward 'em off, and wash it all down with a stiff djinn and tonic.

So, if we're talking about alleged non human intelligences I think the occultists and magickians who have been at it for donkeys years know slightly more than the bunch of English chancellors and wannabe ufologists who are currently pontificating on the crop circles (and soon probably a great many other things). Fundamentally they wouldn't know a 'non-human intelligence' if one mounted them.

On a final note, please read carefully the subscription news on page 15. However, if you are entertaining any doubts about re-subscribing to UFO BRIGANTIA in the future, please bear in mind a recent letter to YUFOS QUEST magazine in which the writer a 'Mrs B.' said "UFO BRIGANTIA makes me hopping mad and I dread it coming through the letter box. I don't know whether I can bring myself to renew my subscription to it." Wonderful, the power to affect people's minds without ever leaving the privacy of our armchairs. And Mrs B?. She didn't. Dare you? Ah well, back to the bunker.

CROP CIRCLES - A Scientific Answer?

By Jenny Randles & Paul Fuller

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Editors note: This article originally started life as a draft for Jenny and Pauls presentation at the 1990 Oxford Crop Circles Conference. But it's here now and represents an excellent overview of what Jenny & Paul think and is a timely reminder to all ufologists about some of the basic facts which most seem to have forgotten. It's worth mentioning while I am here that Jenny has just been awarded an Honorary Life Membership of BUFORA for services to ufology. About time too.
.....

When you meet a friend in the local pub and they tell you that they have just seen a flying saucer, how would you react?

Perhaps many of us would cast a sharp glance at the glass on the table and wonder how to recommend something a little less strong to drink without causing undue offence.

Most people's feelings tend to be a mixture of hilarity, sympathy and mild curiosity; the latter because - whilst few scientists may admit it - many, just like non-scientists, are intrigued by tales of UFOs.

But just exactly what do we mean when we use that phrase 'tales of UFOs'? A fairly common translation might be 'stories that are not meant to be taken all that seriously about someone claiming to have seen little green men aboard a spaceship from another planet'.

This heavy degree of presumption is easy to understand, because it is the one forced upon us by over 40 years of media mythologising about the subject. Unfortunately, it has little - if any - correspondence with the truth. UFO - in fact - stands for nothing more than 'Unidentified Flying Object' - ie something perceived to be flying in the sky that is not immediately recognised by the witness. It is not even the same thing as an 'Unidentifiable' flying object, let alone an extraterrestrial spaceship.

What you read about in the tabloids regarding 'flying saucers' tends to be garbled, sensationalised and heavily filtered by their own preconceptions. They WANT an exciting, dramatic science-fictional explanation for the cases they promote because this sells copy. In the media mind (and that of most people who thus become ensnared by UFOs) there is a truism.. 'Mrs Jones sees spaceship' is news... 'Mrs Jones sees spaceship but it was really just a weather balloon' is not.

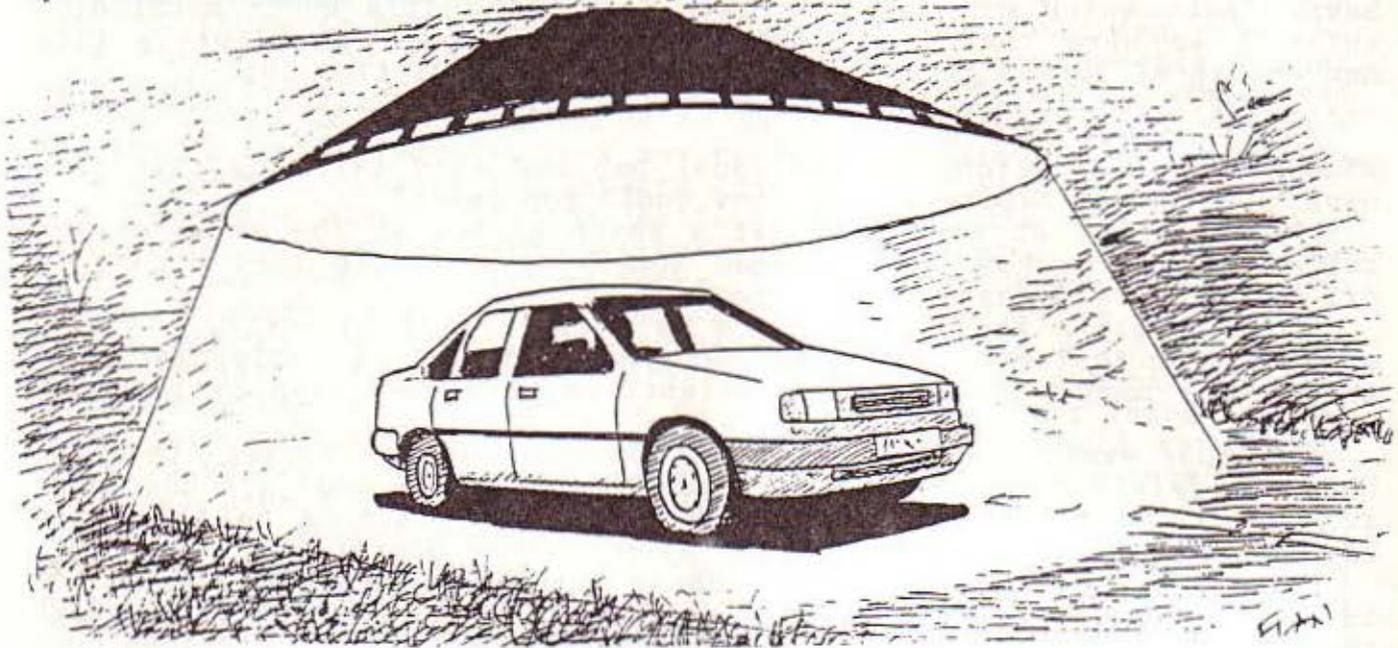
Indeed a typical report about UFOs to be found in the public domain is about as closely related to probable reality as a Star Trek script can be said to reflect the modern scientific truth of the day within the current weeks issue of Nature.

Let us start by looking at a case in pint. It took place at 4am on 20 January 1988 on the central highway between Perth and Adelaide south of the Nullarbor Plain in Australia. The road was quiet but a couple of trucks and a car driven by the Knowles family from Perth were spread across several kilometres.

To cut short what was a protracted and quite frightening experience here is a summary of what serious, dedicated investigators with the group UFO Research Australia found to have taken place.

The Knowles' were on their way to pay a surprise visit to a family in Adelaide during the country's Bi-Centennial celebrations. What they saw ahead of them on the road was little more than a funnel of light (described at closest approach as akin to an egg resting in a tapered egg-cup - or, in other words - something that looked suspiciously like - a vortex funnel). This swayed about from side to side and was glowing, but also disappeared from time to time.

During the most harrowing phase of the experience they felt the thing was actually on top of their car (although they saw nothing) and believed that the vehicle was literally sucked up off the road for a time before being dropped down again. There were numerous peculiar effects, such as a strange smell (akin to bakelite) and a black powder which came into the car. Their voices also underwent a peculiar alteration in pitch as if responding to major pressure changes in the local atmosphere. In their panic to escape the UFO the car burst a tyre and careered off the road.



Some minutes later at the nearest town of Mundrabilla they met with local residents and the truck drivers (one of whom had seen the light in the distance as he passed the location). As daylight arrived these observers were able to attest to the fine dust, the smell and four small dents in the roof of the car. They could also tell that the family (mother and three adult sons) were evidently shocked by what they had seen.

The story was reported to Police at the town of Ceduna that same morning and an investigation began. Unfortunately a TV station heard about the matter and intercepted the family before they arrived in Adelaide. They were soon to find themselves tempted by the proffered media stardom.

Once they had given the TV station their exclusive story no time was wasted by the media moguls in spreading this around the world. Britain was typical. BUFORA receives press cuttings via an agency and so we could monitor the reaction from all national and regional sources. This case generated almost 150 separate stories in such newspapers. Most British dailies carried it. This was the largest amount of publicity for any single UFO case yet on record within this country.

What were these stories like? The headlines all over the world followed a predictable trend as started by that Australian TV station. Whilst the Knowles family had simply reported (quite honestly) what had occurred and spoke of lights, smells and pressure forces, these quickly escalated in some quarters into craft and alien powers. The stories ranged across mildly presumptive yarns such as 'The pong from Outer Space' (a British tabloid) to another (non British) source that reported (in somewhat of an exaggeration) how an 'alien beam' had 'destroyed' the Knowles car!

In other words, the case quickly became so far removed from the reality that even the witnesses reported having difficulty recognising

their own experience from some versions. The understandable reaction of most sensible folk, all serious media and virtually every scientist who heard this tale was to quickly forget about the hysterical nonsense and assume that it was reflective of what occurred and of no value whatsoever.

This was the sort of understandable - but damaging - mistake that both science and the serious media tend to make all the time when it comes to UFOs. In fact, the case had a very great deal more to it and WAS of great interest. Indeed- as we will see in a little while - it could well have been one of the best visual encounters yet to go on record with the meteorological force that lies behind the crop circle mystery.

You may think that we have taken this case out of context - choosing a story that just happens to fit today's debate.. If this is true - and we dispute it - then it is true only to a limited extent. The overwhelming majority of UFO evidence concerns reports of lights in the sky and other vague things. Proof of alien powers and of spaceships comes only in the mind of those who manipulate the data and are desperate to believe in them.

Here are just a few now well-established facts:-

(i) 75% of all UFO sightings refer to lights in the sky. They are nearly all explicable after reliable investigation. These UFOs quickly become IFOs - or Identifiable Flying Objects. Typical misperceptions are of aircraft lights seen under unusual circumstances, stars, bright planets, meteors, satellite debris re-entering the atmosphere, gas clouds released by rockets as part of scientific experiments, weather balloons and more bizarre examples such as owls that are glowing in the dark after ingesting diseased fungi!

(ii) A few lights defy simple explanation - such as the piece of movie film taken in broad daylight at Cuddington, Bucks. in January 1973 by building surveyor Peter Day. The orange ball of fire that drifted across the sky was seen by two other sets of independent witnesses as well as the cameraman. That something was there is not in question. It MAY be jet fuel trapped in unusual meteorological conditions but seems more likely to have been a rare atmospheric process. Indeed, there are certain locations around the world that we call 'window areas' where almost identical floating gaseous lights have been seen on a regular basis. Much photographic evidence now exists; including that compiled by scientific expeditions mounted by research institutes and universities. Two of the best locations are the Hessdalen Valley in Norway and the Big Bend national park of Texas. Britain has its own 'window' - the Pennine Hills between Skipton in North Yorkshire and Macclesfield in Cheshire, but scepticism and the lack of credibility which the UFO field incites has so far blocked any scientific expeditions which could - and should - be mounted here. There are consistent factors about meteorology, geology and atmospheric physics which seem to link these 'windows' together and if we can overcome the problems of scientific taboo surrounding these matters then real progress could be made.

(iii) There are a VERY few cases where apparently solid 'craft' have been reported. However, these apparent 'craft' are very often read into amorphous shapes through the human desire to create artificial design in natural phenomenon. Photographs taken during the international geophysical year by a scientific expedition setting up a weather station on the uninhabited Atlantic rock of Trindade Island are a case in point. The photos that were taken look like craft to some eyes but actually depict no more than a fuzzy saturn-shaped mass that was presumably some sort of atmospheric event.

This same process of seeking artificial intelligence behind what is

probably no more than a natural process is rife throughout ufology. It has now spilled over to the crop circle mystery, where rather than assume some sort of natural scientific explanation to be involved, the truth is being distorted and disfigured and provokes allegations of alien powers and strange intelligences.

There is a simple reason for this. Most of the popular media pundits are really ufologists - wearing the hat of 'circle research scientists'. As yet the media have not cottoned on to the fact that these people are promoting the theory that an alien 'intelligence' lies behind the crop circles - or if they have, the media have by preference largely ignored it, presumably for the same reason that they sensationalise UFOs.

Sadly, for many, an answer to the crop circle mystery is the last thing they want. It spoils all the fun and ends the wanton speculation that the media enjoy. Inconvenient things like eye witnesses who SAW circles being created, the overwhelming evidence in favour of a meteorological solution and the total lack of any factual evidence beyond pure speculation that demonstrates a need for non-human intelligences behind the crop circles - all gets brushed aside.

Remember that there is another truism popular amongst the media. It says - 'Never let the facts get in the way of a good story.'

From our many years of UFO investigation a number of 'Facts of UFO Life' have emerged. We would like to share these with you. We believe that the evidence supports them beyond any reasonable doubt.

UFO Fact of Life No. 1

As many as 95% of all reported UFO sightings (quite possible even more) are not UFOs in any true sense of the word after careful investigation. They are merely BELIEVED to have been unexplained at the time of the event by someone unfamiliar with the natural phenomenon that they had misperceived. During 1976 the US Centre for UFO Studies paid professional astronomer Allan Hendry to investigate UFO reports full time for a year. Hendry's job was to try and find explanations for the 1,307 UFO sightings reported via the centre's toll free telephone line by contacting airports, the police, meteorological organisation and employing simple common sense. Hendry found that almost 90 per cent of reported UFOs were simply nocturnal lights, and of these 90 per cent were immediately explicable. Of his entire sample of 1,307 cases, only 113 reports remained unexplained after investigation, and even some of these suggested evaluations that could not be proven. This finding has been repeated time and time again all over the world by responsible UFO groups.

UFO Fact of Life No. 2

Our first fact of life tells us that 95% of the MILLIONS of witnesses now know to have made UFO sightings from every civilised nation on earth are often seeing evidence of craft and intelligences (usually aliens in spaceships) that simple does not exist.

This indicates that there is a subconscious model common to 20th century society about what UFOs must look like, what they can do and what causes them to appear. This cultural stereotype is the result of a thousand-and-one science fiction films, books and plays that promote the myth that UFOs represent alien intelligences. This is responsible for reinforcing stereotypical images through the major media outlets.

UFO Fact of Life No. 3

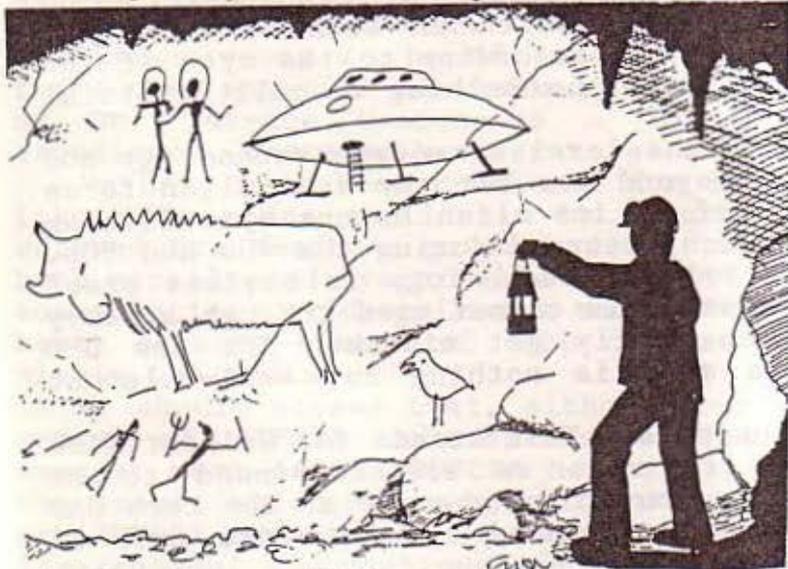
The cultural stereotype began with the 'birth' of the UFO phenomenon in 1947 when a private pilot (Kenneth Arnold) observed a formation of

crescent-shapes over the Cascade Mountains of Washington State, USA. A journalist reported on this account (where Arnold termed what he saw as FLYING 'like saucers when skipped across water' - or - perhaps more familiar to most of us - skipping a flat stone across the surface of a lake). The reporter used the term 'flying saucer' referring to this motion but almost everyone who subsequently heard the tale assumed that 'flying saucer' described the objects shape. Artist reconstructions, science fiction movies and (much more importantly) thousands of witnesses started to literally depict UFOS AS saucer shaped. In other words, we know for certain that a key tenet of the UFO myth (the reputed saucer shape) is not a real feature of the phenomenon at all, but an accidental consequence of a chance phrase used to describe another aspect of it. This effect of social trends moulding and, to a large extent, CONTROLLING THE FORM of the phenomenon can be seen repeatedly within the evidence.

UFO Fact of Life No. 4

UFOS did not suddenly spring out of nowhere in 1947. This year merely represents the time when the term 'flying saucer' (Later UFO) was invented and so created a pigeon-hole into which to slot peoples experiences.

In fact the books of journalist Charles Fort record many media stories of UFOs in the period 1890-1940 and a great deal of historical anecdotal evidence has been compiled; eg from computer specialist Dr Jacques Vallee and folklore researcher Dr Thomas Bullard. This proves conclusively that UFOs have been seen throughout the ages and were interpreted according to the culture of the era. What were effectively little more than strange lights were turned into something of contemporary relevance by social trends.



People SAW signs from God or the Devil during the middle ages, fantastic airships by secret inventors during the latter part of the last century and phantom weapons and rockets from Nazi Germany during and immediately after World War Two. 1947 appears to be a watershed merely because it is the time when the current social myth took hold of the evidence and turned these same light phenomena into alien spacecraft. Indeed there are increasing grounds to believe that with the incorporation of the crop

circles into a 1990s concept of greenhouse effects, ozone layer holes, rebellious earth forces and universal warnings about pollution and environmental decay we are seeing the first signs of a new phase in this seemingly necessary social myth - taking it away from alien spacecraft and into an era of 'Cosmic Ecology'.

These facts seem to us to have an obvious consequence. If UFOs represent the space-age version of a long-standing social myth (which the 'alien crop circles' may now be superseding) then almost all of our assumptions about both UFOs and crop circles may be false. We are not finding solutions to the actual phenomena but inventing ideas that are stimulated by nothing more tangible than the face-paint that disguises the real core of the experience..it's current mythological disguise rather than its true cause.

What is that real core? It is something (or more likely some things) that have been present in our atmosphere throughout history, for which science does not as yet have adequate explanations and for which we therefore tend to resort to supernatural style myths to accommodate this failing.

We ought to remember that science is not at the summit of knowledge. This is a mistake every generation makes, only for its folly to be demonstrated when new facts, theories and phenomena are discovered and become integrated into our world view.



For many years astronomers denied the fact that people saw meteorites fall to earth because, they insisted, stones did not exist in the sky so could not fall to earth. It took someone from another branch of science entirely - a chemist - to PROVE that meteorites were extra-terrestrial and so HAD come from space. This opened up a new field of astronomical research. Yet meteorites, like many other phenomena, obviously existed even before they were understood or adopted as part of scientific dogma. Rainbows were seen long before mankind had the physics to explain them. The sun was deified long before we came up with a theory of nuclear reaction to show how it functioned.

This the reality of the UFO mystery and it may take meteorology to play the role of devil's advocate and show many other fields of science what it is missing within the data.

There are strange things going on within our atmosphere which presently defy full scientific explanation. When seen by witnesses they are clothed in spectacular fashion according to the myth of the day - exhibiting undeniable proof through something we call 'cultural tracking'.

These encounters are always AT the level of modern technology and scientific comprehension - NEVER beyond it. Yet any true alien force would have shown indisputable proof of its alien nature by utilising FUTURE technology in sightings which occurred during the 40s and 50s. The fact that it only used 40s and 50s technology is obvious proof that what we SEE as the UFO phenomenon is camouflaged through a heavy mask of social factors which can easily get mistaken for the UFO phenomenon itself. In fact this mask is nothing but semi-relevant candy floss.

We use the term UAP to make our point. This stands for Unidentified Atmospheric Phenomenon - which is what we are convinced to be responsible for the few remaining unexplained phenomena. The term UAP presumes less because UFO is far too tainted by the media myth of alien spacecraft.

Is there just one type of UAP or are there several? We are again convinced that the UFO phenomenon is a rag-bag assortment of various different UAP. Anything on the fringes of atmospheric science gets shunted into this area, where science ignores it (because science is afraid of the peer ridicule if one takes UFOs too seriously).

Ufology - in effect - no longer has much call to exist as a science in its own right because in effect it has become a branch of meteorology.

There may be half a dozen different types of UAP, and some are more relevant to geophysical processes than meteorology. However, two UAP types seem to be responsible for a very large proportion of UFO reports and along with the geophysical events (often known as earthlights) may be said to have more or less SOLVED the UFO mystery.

The first of these meteorological UAP is what we might call 'Super Ball Lightning' - typified by the following case.

The date was 30 December 1977 and location Exhall in Warwickshire. At 4.30 on a cold and cloudy day a golden ball of light appeared from out of cloud and was seen to hover above electricity pylons. It had a shimmering haze around it and remained stationary for some moments before suddenly accelerating upwards into cloud. At the spot where it vanished a distinct hole appeared in the cloud cover and this persisted for some minutes before beings filled again. The hole was several times the apparent diameter of the ball.

This is a relatively simple story - representative of many UFO case files. Here the witnesses (four in number) observed a natural atmospheric phenomenon which seems to have had an ionizing radiation field associated with it and that field presumably charged the cloud during its passage and so created the artificial hole in the layer that persisted until that charge naturally dissipated.

The records of UFO groups are full of cases which offer interesting pieces of scientific data which might help us understand the phenomena that are responsible. Often there is some correlation with the accepted meteorological phenomenon of ball lightning, but we believe that extreme or peripherally related forms of this may tend to get reported out of the meteorological field - with witnesses being under the impression they are UFOs. This must distort the data base upon which atmospheric physicists make deductions about the form and behaviour of ball lightning.

UFO records may include countless examples of 'super ball lightning' (plus some examples of standard ball lightning). But science rejects them because of the bad press ufology rates. This situation benefits nobody and one way to improve matters is to clean up the image of ufology, which we are seeking to do through our research.

The other phenomenon with which UFO records are liberally sprinkled and which seems to be of immediate importance to meteorology is the force that may well lie behind the crop circles - the phenomenon dubbed by Dr. Terence Meaden as a 'plasma vortex' and which we, for expediency, henceforth refer to as a Meaden vortex.

We have both been convinced for some years that the crop circles - like UFOs - are explicable by natural atmospheric processes. We have watched Dr. Meaden's gradual development of his work and supported it both morally and practically since 1983. All the accumulated (and still accumulating) evidence seems to us to be in support of a vortex as the basic primary source of crop circles and we have constantly said so within the media.

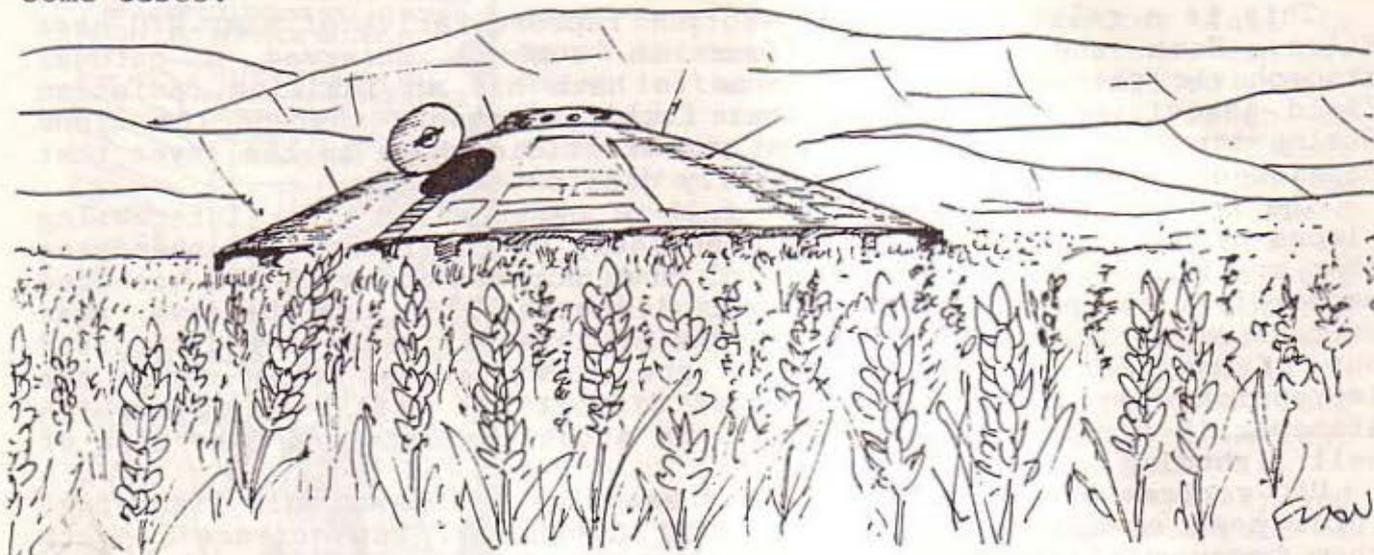
We should stress that, although our work has often been through the medium of BUFORA and represents what is probably a consensus view amongst most of the BUFORA heirarchy, it is NOT a position adopted by the group (which holds no corporate opinions). We recognise that there are BUFORA members who dispute our conclusions, and are happy with that disagreement and continued fair debate on this issue.

Another thing we should like to stress is that we diverge somewhat from Dr. Meaden in terms of the extent to which we believe hoaxing to be involved within the crop circle phenomenon. Ever since we saw the hoaxing of a quintuplet formation by the Daily Mirror in an effort to catch out the Daily Express (July 1983) we have been aware of the increasing predominance of this factor within the data base.

Our opinion is that there is evidence for a direct correlation between the rising numbers of reported circles each year, the increased media attention levels AND the incidence rate of hoaxing. We further contend that an unknown number (but probably many) of the huge 1989 total of 300 crop circles were likely hoaxes. That hoaxers can choose complex formations and key sites in an effort to establish clues about an intelligence also provokes pseudo-evidence about the artificiality

of the phenomenon. We further believe that likely hoaxer candidates come from the fringes of the UFO movement or sources out to test the gullibility level of the field.

We can state absolutely that we are certain that not all hoaxes have been recognised as such - despite claims to the contrary by some crop circle researchers. Indeed, some hoax circles have been promoted as mysterious by members of this fraternity who seek to demonstrate that a supernatural explanation is to blame. There are also signs of 'name games' and other evidence of convoluted HUMAN involvement in some cases.



That said, we are satisfied that hoaxing is NOT the only factor at work and that a Meaden vortex offers the best solution presently available - especially for basic crop circle types. We wholly reject the unnecessary and sensationalist claims about 'unknown intelligences' and 'unknown forces' that certain influential crop circle researchers are repeating. In our view they have jumped to completely speculative solutions when phenomena more in line with accepted science MUST be considered as the better option if the facts support them. And indeed - we contend - the facts do appear to support them.

In addition to our chronicling of the social history of crop circles in our BUFORA booklets we have recently spent some time on a major literature and archive survey of the UFO phenomenon in an attempt to ascertain whether it offers support for the concept of a Meaden vortex.

IF such a vortex exists then it must have been reported before the birth of the crop circle mythology - which we can date to those circles found at Westbury, Wiltshire, in summer 1980, because these were the first to achieve national media attention. Earlier vortex sightings would have probably been reported within the context of ufology, just as other rare atmospheric processes appear to have been so reported in the past. Hence the UFO data base offered an empirical test of the Meaden Vortex theory.

The result of the investigation forms the basis of our new book - Crop Circles: The Mystery Solved? But here are some of the highlights:-

(i) We found six 'new' pre-1980 circles from Great Britain. All were reported - in the local press or to UFO organisations - at the time of occurrence. At least one was photographed. EVERY SINGLE ONE was outside of Wessex. In our view this is very effective evidence that the 'Wessex Triangle' is a - media inspired - myth, and the predominance of circles in this single area since 1989 is partly a

product of increased searching and the media attention focused upon Hampshire and Wiltshire. Although we accept that there may be other factors at work; eg the incidence of sea breeze fronts, large areas of cereal crop in the region, etc.

(ii) On an international scale we also found more than 20 'new' recorded cases of crop circles from many countries. These countries included; Australia, Brazil, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, Sweden, Uruguay and several states of the USA.

(iii) We found extensive evidence of close geographical links between crop circle locations, UFO 'windows' and 'waves' where sightings are concentrated (both temporally and spatially) and cases where vehicle interference and other ionization effects were reported.

A classic illustration here is the hills to the north east of Marple, Cheshire, which sported a car-stop and light phenomena in 1968, a cloud-cigar vortex case from 1974 and a daylight observation of a vortex with physiological effects and a reported crop circle left in its wake in 1988. All of these events were completely independent of one another and occurred within an area of just a couple of kilometres. Again in the Aylesbury - Tring area, crop circles, UFOs and a classic car stop case have all been recorded in a similarly confined area (very near where the movie film of the UFO reported area was also taken). Once again, in this location, a steep hill slope escarpment traverses the area, and precise wind directions can be correlated from the time of events with corn circles and UFO sightings, thus establishing evidence of a meteorological link.

(iv) A very large number of eyewitness observations were uncovered describing what retrospective analysis strongly confirmed to be Meaden vortices. These repeatedly contained features, such as a tornado funnel, unexpected blasts of wind and spinning compass needle effects which become explicable in the light of the Meaden theory; although to the witnesses and investigators at the time they were baffling aspects of an 'alien' UFO. These cases spanned EVERY type of UFO experience - from lights in the sky to car stop cases, and from ground trace landings to claims of alien kidnap. Even the most bizarre were remarkably well suited to the Meaden theory.

(v) Within the case data we found many recurrent and significant clues to the physical status of the UAP that seems to lay behind them. These often referred to what appear to be either atmospheric vortex effects or ionization and included examples of glowing, ionized clouds, relevant physiological symptoms, signs of electro-static attraction, 'levitation' effects on people and vehicles and more.

Here is just one typical case. It occurred at Salto, Uruguay at 4am on 18 February 1977 when strange lights were observed by a rancher, his family and farmhands. Cows were running wild, a 60lb police dog reacted fiercely and generator driven lights failed as a saturn-shaped mass glowing orange and rocketing from side to side hovered within the farm grounds. It emitted such a powerful wind that some branches were torn from adjacent trees. The massive dog 'attacked' the UFO but froze in its tracks when within 15 feet. The human witnesses wisely stayed further back but felt waves of heat and powerful electrical tingles close to shock-level intensity strike them as several bolts of 'white lightning' emerged from the underside of the mass and earthed into the ground. The glow now deepened to red and drifted away. As it did so the generator returned to normal but the lighting still did not work and it was discovered that the wiring had burnt out through a power overload. The closest human witness developed a red skin rash on exposed parts of the body and the dog stayed in and refused to eat in the immediate aftermath of the encounter. Three days later it was found dead at the spot where it had 'frozen' when attacking the UFO. An autopsy revealed it had been 'cooked' from the inside. The day after the sighting a single circle of 35 feet diameter was found flattened into the grass at

LETTER FROM AMERICA

RICK A. HALE, WASHINGTON, USA

INTRODUCTION

Philip Mantle writes: After the publication of the Aveley abduction case in booklet form, the IUN received a letter from a Mr Rick A. Hale, a resident of Washington in the USA. Mr Hale was keen to correspond with John Avis, the central figure in the Aveley case. Mr Hale was of the opinion that his own abduction experience was similar in many ways to that described by John Avis. Unfortunately we were unable to put Mr Hale in contact with John Avis since we no longer know of his whereabouts (if anyone reading this does know where he is we would appreciate it if you could let us know), but Mr Hale did agree to share his experiences with the readers of UFO BRIGANTIA. What follows is Mr Hale's own personal account of his abduction experience, related to IUN investigator Philip Mantle in personal correspondence.

Andy Roberts writes: This is the first in a series of long letters sent to the IUN from Rick Hale. Not our usual cup of tea but I am running them over the next few issues because I think that Rick's candid account of his perceived experiences show vividly the kind of mind set that many 'abductees' etc suffer from and also because it is a good account of grass roots ufology. It's also a bit of a cautionary tale of US UFO investigators if you read between the lines.

MISSING TIME

Dear Mr Mantle,

I would first like to thank you for your time to respond to my letter and to pass on this information to John Avis if he reappears in Britain, plus your very kind offer to help me if possible.

I will first tell you of my encounter before hypnosis which I underwent 12 years later. I was 21 years old and unemployed and in search of a job. I was hoping to get a job working in the woods for a logging company. I was single and had just moved back home with my parents, who lived in Seattle, Washington. Before I was laid off my job, I lived in the small logging town of Larrington, Washington, for about 7 years, and worked as a road grader operator.

After I had finished moving my belongings back home I packed up my car with camping equipment. It was in the month of June, 1976, and the weather was nice and warm so I was job hunting, fishing and camping out, basically enjoying myself. At the time of the encounter I was in the area between the towns of Ellensburg and Ole-Elum, in a spot called Indian John Hill, on a road just off Highway 190. It was a dark warm night and I was heading towards a camp ground I knew about, to get some sleep. I was thinking of eventually heading to Idaho, where one of my uncles lived, to try and get a job, but I never made it.

Now before I get too far ahead of myself, let's back up a couple of days. Because this I feel is very important. I was camped at Forks, Washington, near the Pacific Ocean, which is a very popular logging town. I was at the camp when a thought hit me that I never have thought about before. It went something like this, "if E.S.P. or mind reading is true, or a fact" in some people. By the way, I had proven to myself it is possible about a year before this. And "if E.S.P. is an evolved phenomena." That is to say "birds of a feather flock together creating a generation of highly psychic beings in a few thousand years or more,

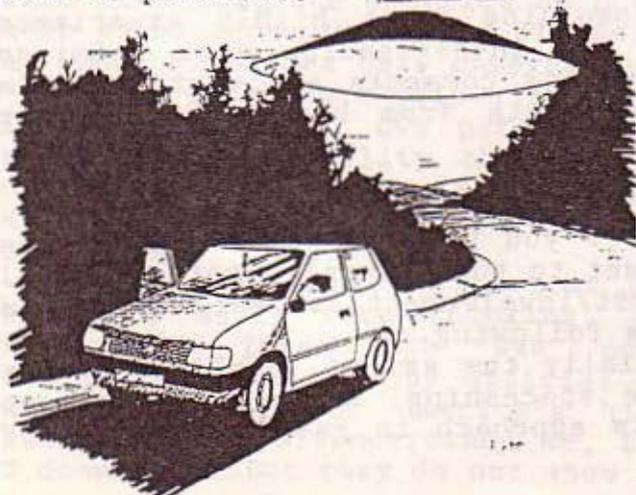
maybe millions of years. Then it should be possible to contact any alien beings whose civilization is older than ours, who might be close enough to Earth to pick up on a persons 'vibes', that are directed towards the alien beings, kind of like S.E.T.I."

My frame of mind about UFOs at that time, was that it would be very exciting to travel in outer space, exploring the different worlds, and I would be willing to leave this planet to do it. So I decided I would try to contact a UFO by directing my thoughts to space and try to convince or entice a UFO down to land and let me come aboard, and I would drive around going to different places where I thought they would like me to wait for their craft. I realise this would sound kind of crazy to most people, but at the time it seemed quite logical to me.

So that's when I started heading towards Eastern Washington, because its terrain is wide open plains and desert with less people, compared to the west side of Washington, which has more rain and clouds and people. I stopped and waited at a few spots near Ellensburg, but with no results. It was starting to get dark so I gave up my 'vibe sending' and started heading towards a camp ground I knew about. By now it's been dark for about an hour or two and I turned off I90 on the Tanume Creek exit. I came to a stop sign and a fork in the road. The road to the right went to Tanume Creek, where the camp ground was, and the road to the left had a sign that said Eagle Valley. Since I never have been down that road I had a strong urge to explore it, so I turned left and started heading towards Eagle Valley. The road paralleled I90 for about a mile, then it headed over I90 on an overpass with no exits.

At that moment I thought I was back on the Tanume Creek road because it does look like the same thing, it goes over I90 too, and looks very similar, especially at night, and at that moment maybe 150 yards passed the overpass, the road makes a wide turn to the right, then straight. As I was making the turn my headlights shone onto 3 beings to my right. They appeared to be about 6 feet tall, dressed in white suits with white helmets and dark coloured visors, very similar to those reported in the Aveley abduction. The beings seemed to be about 10 to 20 yards away, walking slowly in a grassy field towards the road I was on. Now, you would think I would be happy that I had made contact, but my reaction was quite the opposite.

A strange numbing fear swept through my body, from head to toe. Then I felt like I was going to panic. My next thought was to stop the car and turn it around and get the heck out of there, because I did not know where the road was going to end up at. And as far as I knew at the time, no one lived out there and I did not see any traffic along the way either. The feeling of being alone with these beings was too much for me to handle. I wanted to get back to civilisation as soon as possible.



As the beings were moving so slow I thought I could turn the car around fast enough and drive past them before they could reach the road and really freak me out. So I stopped about a quarter of a mile or less past the beings and I had to jockey the car back and forth about 3 times in the middle of the road. Fearing the possibility of getting stuck in a ditch. I finally got the car turned around and started back towards the 3 beings. That quarter of a mile drive back was the

longest drive of my life.

At this point I noticed a beam of white light, "like a large search light in fog", in the sky behind where I had seen the 3 beings. It's hard for me to tell how far away it was, but it seemed to be about 30 degrees above the horizon, maybe a mile away, making a slow turn, I saw no other lights around it, and it seemed to be heading in my direction. I thought to myself, hurry up and get out of here. At first I thought I would not make it out, but before I knew it I was back on the overpass and I could see the headlights of the traffic below, which made me feel a lot better.

I made my mind up then to spend the night in a busy motel. So I headed back towards Ellensburg and checked in at the Holiday Inn, just off the freeway I90, just about 20 minutes drive away on I90. Then an odd thing happened while I was down in the lobby paying for my room. There was a band playing in the cocktail lounge and when the band stopped, someone announced that this was the last call for drinks. So it must have been close to 2.00 am. I recall thinking that it must be about 12.00 or 12.30 am. I did not think much of it, I just lost an hour and a half somewhere that's all.

There are more strange things that continued to happen, but basically that was the main event. Everything written down here did happen, I swear to God.

If the 3 beings were in fact people, humans pulling some kind of a gag. It sure fooled me. In fact I can find no reason for anyone to dress like that at that time of night. Or it was one heck of an hallucination. I will write another letter soon telling you about my hypnosis sessions and what was revealed. I realise this story does not sound much like what happened to John Avis, but you will just have to wait I've finished telling you the rest. I would also very much appreciate your honest opinion on the matter. Thank you for your time,

Rick A. Hale.

More Next Issue Kids!

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Another Letter from America

Editors note: In recent years some UFO researchers have concluded that some UFOs are actually secret aircraft and cover technologies owned by various world governments who are only too happy to have them thought of as UFOs (who believes ufologists?). This has become known as 'The Federal Hypothesis' (FH) and has been attributed to many aspects of the subject, from alleged crashed saucers to the even more dubious underground bases. During the writing of Phantoms of the Sky Dave Clarke corresponded with Bill Spaulding of Ground Saucer Watch (GSW), in the USA about the subject. Spaulding is a highly experienced veteran of the type of in depth UFO investigation most prominent researchers can only dream about and his comments are worth thinking about deeply. The following are extracts from his letter to Dave Clarke.

Dear Mr Clarke,

I am in receipt of your letter where you present numerous questions and requests for information pertinent to the federal Hypothesis (FH). As an introduction to my own interest/involvement, as well as most of GSW's members to the FH, I offer the following.

In the beginning, GSW and especially the writer, publicly pursued the conclusion that some UFOs were spaceships, not of this planet. There is a two-fold reason for this approach to researching the UFO phenomenon as follows:

1. If 'researchers' wish to effectively work with other 'researchers' one must have common ground. This was easily obtained by simply stating one has an identical belief system to UFOs. There is a perfect correlation between UFOs and religion. If one wishes to obtain information from other 'believers', then you must believe in the same thing. Otherwise you are branded as a sceptic.

2. If one wants to pursue the government (official) UFO documents it is better to be classified as a pro-saucer researcher. Todd Zechel, our former Director of Research, with associates within the U.S. government intelligence agencies, proved this was an advantage since our initial lawsuit against the CIA in the seventies.

I personally never could realistically believe the saucers were extraterrestrial. There is no proof! I believe, if researchers make the claim of ETH, they they must prove their claims. To date, all they have accomplished is a series of over interpretations and an opening in the UFO field to the liberal researchers (those that believe in contacts, abductions, crashed discs, et al.)

When one takes the time to study the UFO evidence, the photographs, witnesses, documents, etc. it is easy to think there is a coverup existing. Researchers continually state "if the government would only release their data, we could prove the existence of extraterrestrial visitations".

Once we realised that in the documents obtained under the lawsuit and the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act) the data showed there was less of a case to prove UFOs in the terms of spaceships. This point obvious, we embarked on a program to obtain indirect saucer information.

To date, we have discovered numerous 'classified' technologies of which many could have been overinterpreted as 'real saucers'. Other data obtained from visits (under the FOIA) to the White Sands Missile Base, NORAD, the National Archives, etc. show that there exist numerous bases where 'UFO' reports/sightings were originating from. Liberal researchers who rush to each little mystery, wittingly and unwittingly publicise these sightings out of proportion by making ridiculous claims. This is similar to attempting to prove the fundamental belief of the bible by simply reading the book.

Because their belief in saucers masks logic and does not even address an opposing viewpoint, researchers not only have closed minds, they also use circular reasoning, which only helps them 'support' the ETH. Believers are a funny group of people whereas they laugh at incidents such as George Adamski, stating it is a hoax, yet with open arms they claim some abductee/contactee cases as bonafide, when they have a lesser amount of evidence than the Adamski sightings!

The skeptics are just as guilty, even though they are essentially correct within their assumptions that all cases are misrepresentations, hoaxes etc. Yet, the skeptics do not provide acceptable answers to the saucer phenomenon. Obviously all cases are not hoaxes or whatever. Too many sound witnesses have observed a real object.

Each of these categories, the conservative skeptic and the liberal believer, have their own personal reasons for expanding these belief systems. When in reality the only thing that is accomplished is the confusion of the body politic/media. UFO research is in a real mess. There is no objective, nor is there a real plan to objectively evaluate the phenomena.

Once we realised the obvious problems with the ETH and began a program to start free thinking, we started to gain important UFO information. This data was not the 1940-60 prosaic saucer references/claims made by official documents. Rather, it pertained to mounting evidence of America's high technology weapon testing and systems. Do not misunderstand me, there does exist some good official UFO documents. But they do not show the existence of saucers as

spaceships. Rather, they show a deliberate trail of misinformation about saucers, a ruse to cover up high-tech testing. The CIA took over control of the UFO investigation during the Robertson Panel (1952) era. This authority was granted from the NSC (precursor to the NSA) and the USAF became an 'arm' of the CIA to gather sighting data.

The concept of the CIA was brilliant, as UFO researchers cried coverup of important UFO information by official sources, while the body politic was in partial agreement and then, eventually, confusion as the CIA conducted its program of saucer disinformation.

Realistically, there is no way that flying saucers from another planet could continue to be kept secret in the free world for 40 plus years. Particularly in light of the fact that most of America's highly classified programs, including stealth, lasers, SDI, atomic weapons, germ/nerve gas testing, RPVs etc have all been made semi or fully available to segments of the populous, especially those industries working on the projects.

GSW has obtained its data by pursuing avenues other than requesting flying saucer information from official sources. Eventually we will publish most of this information in the form of a book on the subject.

For now the saucer investigation is a joke, as more and more researchers lean towards the extraterrestrial hypothesis. I am glad to see that there exists others who are not fooled by the current wave of flying saucer fever. Our intent is not to attempt to change the minds of others pursuing the ETH, but rather to show the futility of circular reasoning. Too many persons have spent too much time & money in their pursuit of their belief system and it will be difficult to change this thinking. But it is not as difficult as the believers attempting to prove the existence of saucers as spaceships.

Respectfully

William H. Spaulding, Director, Ground Saucer Watch.

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ODD ODDS

- 2-1 Milkmen to be extinct by 2000 AD.
- 5-2 Cliff Richard to be knighted by 2000.
- 10-1 British driving on right by 2000.
- 20-1 Next US president a woman.
- 33-1 Next US president black.
- 100-1 Man on Mars by 2000.
- 100-1 Aliens from outer space to land on earth dead or alive within a year.
- 500-1 British Government to admit of the existence of extra-terrestrial UFOs.
- 500-1 Proof of Loch Ness Monster/Yeti within a year.
- 500-1 Elvis to be found alive in 1990.
- 1,000-1 The Second Coming within a year.
- 1,000-1 Corn circles proved to be created by inhabitants of Phobos, a moon of Mars.
- 10,000-1 George Bush to announce in Congress that he has met an alien, within a year. (These odds were refused to those who wanted to bet on Ronald Reagan.)
- 25,000-1 Lord Sutch to be next Prime Minister.

Sources: Ladbrokes, William Hill. At least one person has put money on at the above odds.

The Road To Paranoia

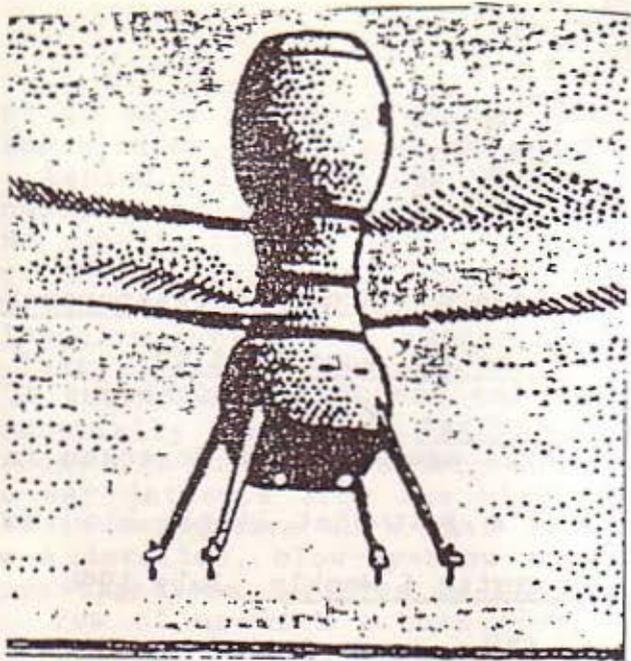
In UFO cases, paranoids are made, not born. The entities make it very clear that their victim's every move is observed. The mail and phones behave mysteriously and provide further evidence of this continual surveillance. They are given very precise predictions about the future. Not the usual wearisome generalities of the professional seers ("There will be an earthquake somewhere in April"), but exact information such as, "Next Thursday you will receive a phone call at 9.32am informing you of the death of a distant relative". When the call comes in at exactly 9.32 on the appointed day, the victim is further convinced that the entities know everything about the future as well as the past.

The UFO lore is clearly based on classic manifestations that have no connection with outer space.....Many are driven nuts by the phenomenon, or they fall into the patterns of fanaticism and become UFO evangelists.

John Keel in STRANGE magazine no.3

I wouldn't bet on it!
Guardian, 1990

THE BARNLSLEY UFO



Sentinel of the skies: a rotary-winged unmanned aerial vehicle

Silent spy hovers on the horizon

THE SKIES over British cities may soon contain tiny, silent aircraft that can see, listen and even scent everything that goes on hundreds of feet below.

The use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) by law enforcement agencies in the United States — largely to monitor the movements of drug dealers — is alarming civil liberties groups there. Now, the makers of one version of the aircraft are planning to market it in Britain, and have already received an inquiry from Avon and Somerset Police.

Some of the smaller versions could well be used in industrial espionage and sophisticated versions have been deployed in the Gulf to watch the build up of forces in Kuwait and the Saudi-Iraq borderlands.

UAVs were first developed and used by the Israeli Defence forces in the Arab-Israeli war in 1973. But then the machines cost millions of dollars, were difficult to operate and sometimes unreliable. In the 1970s and 1980s, companies developed the rocket UAV which sped past the target relaying information to a ship or land base. These drone systems are still in use, but for many applications they are too fast.

One of the largest modern UAVs is the Tracer craft, developed secretly by Boeing. It has a wingspan equal to that of a jumbo jet and can circle 60,000 feet high above its target for more than a week.

Canadair's Sentinel, on the other hand, is a rotary-winged vehicle which looks like a large dust-

By Henry Porter

bin and can hover for four hours over a target while transmitting information. It has been tested by the US Forces and is also used to watch the movement of people, cars and boats suspected of drugs trafficking in the Caribbean. If Canadair goes into large-scale production, the cost of a Sentinel will be as little as £60,000-£70,000.

"When it's high up you never know it's there," said Catherine Chase, of Canadair. "It's very quiet and it could be used to watch a whole area of a city. It is also painted with a special material which means that it does not easily show up on radar."

The possibilities of UAVs are enormous. "You can put anything in these machines," said Chip Johnson, who watches the aviation industry for *The Wall Street Journal*.

"Many have infra-red equipment and also they are developing long-range chemical sensors which smell out drugs. I can see why people are worried about the invasion of privacy."

The smallest UAV on the market is the hand-launched Pointer, powered by an electric motor and tiny lithium batteries. This is the model that is interesting the British police. It looks like a model aeroplane, has a 9ft wingspan, weighs less than 9lbs and can be operated by anyone after two or three minutes' instruction. It has a flight duration of an hour and it transmits pictures or recordings to a small pack on the ground.

The report opposite is from the Independent on Sunday 2/12/90 and as you can see reports on UAVs. It seems obvious that at least some unexplained UFO reports must pertain to this type of machine and indeed one the IUN looked into almost certainly is. I quote from Phantoms of the Sky (Hale 1990) page 37.

"One UFO report which reached us during the current wave of activity appears to confirm suspicions that RPVs (Remotely Piloted Vehicles), may lie behind a number of UFO reports. At 8.30 pm on 20 April 1988, over one hour before the outbreak of UFO sightings in the Barnsley area, two witnesses walking in an area of farmland at Staincross, to the north-east of the town, observed a large 'triangular-shaped' flying object with coloured lights which appeared to be operated by a man in a car who used an aerial or control box to guide it in flight. At the same time, a fleet of four or five cars appeared on the lane and 'looked as if they were chasing the object'; the cars appeared to have spotlights attached which the occupants were using 'to search the fields'. These cars disappeared at high speed in the distance, apparently in pursuit of the 'flying triangle', the man with the 'aerial' having departed at the same time. It appears more than likely that the 'UFO' observed at Staincross — and perhaps later in the evening over the outskirts of Barnsley — was a remotely controlled flying object. Who were the operators, what was the purpose of the exercise, and why did it apparently take place in secrecy?"

This piece follows nicely on from the Federal Hypothesis suggestion of Bill Spaulding and further brings home the fact that few observers are aware of what is being flown in the sky and are even less equipped to identify what they do see.



What is it?

"An antidote to stupidity" - Nicholas Lezard, Sunday Correspondent 5/8/90

"Rigorously rational" - Stephen Biscoe, Yorkshire Post 21/8/90

"A painstaking and worthy examination of the history of sightings of objects in the sky" - Roy Herbert, New Scientist 15/9/90

"The book Magonia might have written a while ago" - Peter Rogerson in Magonia 10/90

"A boon for those with one table leg that's just that little bit too short"

Allan Staithes - Wobbly Table Fanciers Gazette & Weekly July 1990

It's
PHANTOMS OF THE SKY

OK. You've heard about it. You've had the conference, the T-shirt, we've even tried to flog it to you. Now you can even read about it. PHANTOMS OF THE SKY by David Clarke & Andy Roberts is available, selling like hot cakes, and so we persuaded the Pope of the Paranormal, Kevin McClure to review it for us. This what he said (and we didn't have to bribe him at all):

PHANTOMS OF THE SKY by David Clarke & Andy Roberts. Published by Robert Hale Ltd. 204 pp. ISBN 0 7090 4086 5.

This is it - Ufology for grown-ups! The sturdiest nail yet in the coffin of schoolboy skywatching. With any luck, the book that sets the standard for the public presentation of our subject for several years to come.

It is said that there are two types of UFO investigation; one intended to identify the unidentified; the other to ensure it remains just that. I'll go a stage further, looking at the relationship between investigators and the cases they deal with. For some, it's a series of one night stands: taking out something a bit fancy, being seen around with it: taking and using whatever's on offer, then dropping it in favour of the next attraction. For others, it is a long-term relationship, involving hard work and commitment, perspective and understanding. Not surprisingly, this sort of consistency offers substantial rewards, and anyone who knows David and Andy's work will not be surprised to find them in the front rank of this latter group.

Phantoms is not an exercise in debunking. It does not use the tactic of picking out a flawed case here, a hoax there, and writing off the subject on the basis that the few must represent the many. That approach has rendered the U.S. sceptics virtually impotent. No, David and Andy fill this book with names and places, cases and dates. It is as good an overview of the ufology of recent years as is available, set firmly in an informed historical context. All the important events of the eighties are there (except Gulf Breeze - if that's important). There's MJ-12 and Rendlesham, earthlights and airships, Richard Shaver and the Halifax Slasher, Streiber and Hopkins, Roswell and Medjujorge and Mary Jones (God bless her), all neatly stated and analysed. You can see the scope, and as important as those cases are the ones in which the authors have themselves been involved, illustrating what to do and what not to do, how misperception is less lethal than misinvestigation. Their lively accounts of Cracoe, Phantom Helicopters and other U.K. cases will be

Within the historical tradition the oldest figure espousing such a belief is apparently Zarathustra (c.628-551 B.C.). He predicted an imminent transfiguration of the world by means of an ordeal of fire and molten metal³. In the Hebrew tradition, Ezekiel began issuing prophecies of doom in the year 587 B.C. He prophesied Egypt would be made so desolate and waste that no man or animal would set foot in it for 40 years⁴.

Christianity continued the tradition. The beliefs of Jesus that the world would end in his generation was central to his ministry⁵. The cataclysmic imagery of Mark 13, Matthew 24, and Luke 21 - famines, pestilences, wars, earthquakes, roaring seas, the darkening of the Sun and Moon, and falling of stars - leaves no escape for him in deserving the title as Western civilisation's premier doom and gloomster. Following in the footsteps of Jesus came the Revelation of St. John. Its poetic vision of horror, D.H. Lawrence emphasised, "had a greater effect on second rate people throughout the Christian ages, than any other book in the Bible."⁶ The perpetual rescheduling of the second Coming even into the present generation must be regarded as one of the greater testaments to the faith of Christians than to their historical sense⁷.

Christianity is hardly alone in its obsession with the idea of the end of the world. Science fiction has long been a playground for fantasies about global catastrophe and the end of mankind. David Ketterer, a student of the apocalyptic themes in literature, regards these fantasies as part of the basic plot of all science fictions⁸. In his inimitable way, Stanislaw Lem has pointed out how SF frequently evokes the air of negative omnipotence in its almighty horrors of atomic Last Judgement, technologically-spawned epidemics, crystallizations, automatizations, and inundations of the world. Every self-respecting fan owns a library of the agonies of man which have become refined to the degree that the end of the world has become "as formally elegant as a well thought out gambit" in chess. Specialists have slaughtered humanity in thirty different ways and slyly look for more. "Structurally this end of the world SF has put itself on the same level as the crime novel, and culturally it acts out a nihilism that liquidates horror according to the law of diminishing returns⁹. Brian Aldiss, a historian of SF, has observed the fin de siecle tint of the eighties has increased this preoccupation with the theme of the Dying Earth¹⁰.

Science fiction, through prophecy, at least is overtly fantastic. End of the world ideas do get promulgated as beliefs even in the secular and rationalistic spheres of thought. There have been numerous reschedulings of the California Superquake within recent memory¹¹. poleshifts and earth changes a la Edgar Cayce have also had a wide audience¹². The asteroid Icarus was once expected to crash into the earth. Astrologers in India predicted a day of doom. Ecologists offered numerous visions of imminent eco-catastrophe. A complete tally of such beliefs might prove amusing, but it can be left to others. The points should be apparent by now. These ideas seem to fall outside the realm of rational concerns about human survival. The mind repeatedly leaps beyond logic to reach it. It is a passionate error bespeaking something about the human soul. But what?

The Psychology of the End of the World

Psychology seems to have developed one or two insights into this phenomenon. Fantasies about the destruction of the world are a common feature of psychotic mental universes. Freud is the most prominent psychological interpreter to observe world-catastrophe beliefs are not infrequent in the agitated stages of developing paranoia¹³. His favourite paranoid, the respected Judge and Doctor Daniel Paul Schreber, held a conviction of the imminence of a great catastrophe either by the withdrawal of the sun, by earthquake, or by pestilence

through nervous disorders. Though he initially placed this event 212 years in the future, Schreber came to believe that period of time elapsed and he was the only real man left alive. His doctors and attendants were 'miracled up, cursorily improvised men.' With the passage of time, he concluded he himself had passed away and had been replaced. Despite the florid nature of the delusions, in practical affairs Schreber was reasonable and well-informed and never bothered people with his private beliefs save to publish a book stating them¹⁴.

Many are not so fortunate and are reduced to a state of debilitating madness. In The Autobiography of a Schizophrenic Girl, a young lady named Renee describes in the early stages of her developing psychosis how she came to believe the frozen wind from the North Pole wanted to crush the earth, to destroy it¹⁵. She, in due course, regarded it as a sign or omen and confided to friends her fears that 'planes were coming to bomb and annihilate them. She covered her conviction with a jesting manner because of misgivings her fears were unfounded and not generally held. Her sense of unreality continued to deepen and she began to see her madness as a country she described as an implacable blinding light, shadowless. It was an immense space, limitless, flat; a mineral lunar country, cold as the wastes at the North Pole; a stretching emptiness where all is congealed, crystallized, and unchanging. It was at once dazzling, astral, and cold. As time progressed she had waking fantasies of an electric machine that could blow up the world and rob all men of their brains. This machine then took control of her life and made her do self-destructive acts like putting her hand in a fire.

William J. Spring, who made a study of these world destruction fantasies, affirms eschatological concerns are frequently met in schizophrenia, especially in the early stages¹⁶. Floods, wars, revolutions, earthquakes, plagues, and mass poisonings form some of the more common motifs. The wiping out of the human race is generally the anticipated outcome, but nations and mere cities have served as stand-ins. Ernest Keen, a narrative psychologist, goes even further than some observers and affirms he has "never known a paranoid who did not have cataclysmic content" in his expectations about life¹⁷.

Lawful relationships in psychological materials are usually subject to qualification and doubt and Keen's law is probably no exception. We can regard it as a reasonable working hypothesis however. The cause of this relationship has been the subject of some theorising over the years. Not all of it can be trusted, eg Freud's libido interpretation¹⁸. But there is one explanation which has garnered a degree of clinical acceptance. It is nicely embodied in the following parable told by the fictional, prototypical debunker Michael Webb¹⁹.

'As a philosopher I have a special license to be peculiar; so now I'm going to tell a fable. It's short and soon over - so listen closely.

One day a peasant walking along a river bank saw a fox struggling in the water. 'Help, help' the fox cried. 'The world is coming to an end.' 'You are mistaken my friend,' replied the peasant, 'all I see is one small fox drowning.' 'Oh...is that all?' Hunter said after a moment's silence. 'What's the moral?' 'The moral is short and easy to remember: when around deep water, watch your step.'

The fable is as astute as it is succinct. As Freud put it, the end of the world is a projection of an internal catastrophe. The ego is experiencing disintegration, dissolution, or loss of identity and these impulses are mirrored onto the external world²⁰.

Of 11 patients with world destruction fantasies, William Spring found the idea of the patient's own death played a prominent role in eight. Two fantasised about suicide, six had delusions of dying or already being dead²⁰. The identification of self with cosmos is a

frequent endpoint of the paranoid process of self-development. This is tragically illustrated by one of Spring's patients who believed himself God. He believed people feared that if he died, they would die. One day in a fit of anger he pronounced retribution. "it's the end of the world!" He threw himself onto the floor!²²

These fantasies also emerge when the dying is real and not delusional. In a study of near death experiences, Kenneth Ring found visions of world destruction formed a small but significant fraction of the total. Despite their compelling vividness and similarity, the time frame of these prophecies have already expired and so must be regarded as psychological and cultural artifacts of the mind confronted with personal extinction²³.

The fantasy of catastrophe is also a constant in the induced quasi-psychoses created by hallucinogens. Stanislav Grof has observed that death-rebirth struggles of the self are a standard feature of LSD experiences. He has offered a comprehensive portrait of the wide range of the accompanying fantasies under what he terms the second and third Basic Perinatal Matricis which he regards as analogues of the death of the foetal self in the birth trauma. Among the myriad motifs he has observed in LSD experiences have been: earthquakes, volcanoes, hurricanes, tornadoes, electrical storms, gigantic comets and meteors, Armageddon etc. Grof understandably regards these subjective concomitants of disturbances of intrauterine life and death as the "source of schizophrenic experiences and paranoid conditions."²⁴



SO YOU GUYS CAN SEE INTO THE FUTURE EH?... WELL COME INSIDE & LET ME TALK TO YOU ABOUT THESE THINGS US EARTH PEOPLE CALL 'FOOTBALL POOLS'

The association of paranoia and schizophrenia with cataclysmic delusions can be explained rather naturally within the framework of object relations theory. Schizophrenia and paranoia result from poorly developed ego defences. There is a failure to form an identity separate from parental figures. Such individuals have egos easily susceptible to fragmentation and annihilation in the face of mental traumas. This internal depersonalisation is mirrored in their cosmic fears²⁶.

The persistent recurrence of end of the world prophecies, thus, can be laid to the persistence of suffering in the world and the inevitability of some fraction of humanity being vulnerable to trauma on a deeply personal level and projecting those fears onto the external world.

UFOs and the End of the World

There are few areas of culture with the rich diversity of cataclysmic imagery found in the UFO mythos. With the background of the discussion of end of the world psychology, we can illuminate now some of the psychodynamic underpinnings of some aspects of a select number of UFO experiences.

= Wilhelm Reich was officially declared to possess a paranoid nature by a prison psychiatrist and informally colleagues in the Vienna psychoanalytic circle regarded him in that light long before²⁷. His wife separated from him due to irrational accusatives of infidelity. In the waning years of his life he believed he was involved in a war being waged from outer space with DOR, a negative form of orgone energy he defined as "Dead Life Energy"²⁸. UFOs were an agent in the creation of a deteriorating environment he termed the 'emotional desert'. He saw the effect in the destruction of rocks, trees and forests; the drying up of the atmosphere etc. Simultaneous with persecution by the FDA, Reich declared seeing far and wide a DOR emergency - evidence the War of the Universe was on²⁹. Later he predicted the "complete destruction of the globe of mother earth looms on the horizon of the future."³⁰. Of Reich's space-gun and cloud-buster adventures in Arizona, David Boadella, his biographer, regards it as evident his mind had "tumbled

beyond retrieve." 31.

= Even before the events of Communion, Whitley Strieber was whispering fervently about conspiracies and giving the appearance of being 'the quintessential paranoid'. His early life, it is known, conforms perfectly with the recipe for creating a paranoid: a trauma filled childhood, a proud and ambitious family, a fall from grace into financial ruin sparking social insights and ridicule, rejections and a subsequent withdrawal into himself 32. Strieber's works of fiction recurrently deal with apocalyptic themes and are sprinkled liberally with scenes of people suffering mental disintegration. Communion echoes not only this complementary juxtaposition of themes but even has details harking back to these fictional scenes of mental rape. Notable is Strieber's remarking on the filthiness of the setting of the alien horror just as the glittering Night Church-like wand is to be placed to his head; this being a clear recycling of a scene in Black Magic wherein torturers are drilling a hole in a lady's head in preparation for inserting an electrical needle. She remarks on the filthiness of the room in desperation to make them stop and find a sterile place. Strieber's awareness of the danger of the needle poses - "You'll ruin a beautiful mind" - is accompanied by and uncertainty over whether the beings told him of this danger 34.

In the nightmare, the bang and the flash connote an operation to his head. In the later hypnosis session, the scene is transformed into an image of the world blowing up with a bang and a flash and horns of smoke streaming outwards 35.

= In a UFO-creature encounter, Stephen Pulaski meets a Grim Reaper entity who reveals the whole world would burn in 1976. Pulaski felt someone was putting a puzzle in his head. He collapses. Berthold Schwarz diagnosed the incident as an acute fugue with furor and regarded the end of the world prophecy as an evident projection of Pulaski's emotional state at the time of the encounter 36.

= Brian Scott, recycling a scene from the movie Killers from Space, describes his heart leaving his body 37. It's not beating. He also experiences something pulling at his head and he feels his mind going 38. Later in the experience he sees explosions and the complete annihilation of the western hemisphere. He predicts this will happen in 2011. Scott's behaviour around the time of the hypnotic sessions was described as extremely erratic.

= Cecil Michael fears he has died and come back when aliens force an electric magnetic 'third eye' plate through his hair roots into his head. He has a vision later of a man whose head disappears and whose body structure undergoes a complete breakdown. This followed by a visions of the immediate future when a glistening white city that is peace on earth is vaporised in a great blinding flash, plunging the earth into semi-darkness 39.

= After Antonio Nelso Tasca is sucked into a UFO he fears he has died. He has sensations of constriction and oppression, then uncontrollable terror. He feels himself go numb. Tasca is warned a nuclear war could drive the Earth out of its 'celestial orbit' and thereby threaten life on neighbouring worlds and in other dimensions 40.

= Betty Andreasson reveals the aliens are here because the world is destroying itself. During her encounter they stick a long silver needle up her nose and into her head causing pain, terror, then dizziness and desolateness. Later she predicts the Second Coming 41.

= PLW describes himself as distraught and, once, as paranoid. He can't tell how much of a certain feeling is himself. He is hit by a light where his head and spinal cord meet. Later he experiences a moon-type landscape, then on that is volcanic, then one like the Red Desert. He foresees a world-wide system of disasters circa 1993 involving fires, quakes, and California falling into the sea 42.

= John Day is put inside a black beam, a circular field of immense blackness, feels himself fainting and panics from this fear of passing out. His aliens come from Janos, a world that is dying because a rock fell from the sky onto a nuclear reactor. This caused a chain reaction in the planet's network of reactors causing all of them to explode. This poisoned the planet and led to the death of most of its inhabitants⁴³.

= Lucille Foreman felt a pronounced eerie presence and began to exhibit, by her account, unusual behaviour. She sensed the aliens were from a dying society that desperately needed to survive⁴⁵.

Thomas Bullard observes that neurological examinations, brains being removed physically, or thoughts being extracted are a common motif of abductions⁴⁶. Regarded as symbolic expressions of ego dissolution these scenes reflect the weak sense of identity that Elizabeth Slater found was a common trait of abductees. The presence of somatic distress in motifs like dismemberment, painful attacks on the eyes, joints, reproductive organs, the navel, and the like can also be laid to this weak sense of identity. Somatic delusions often accompany depersonalisation, derealisation, and nihilistic delusions⁴⁷.

Slater's findings of mild paranoia in abductees is equally relevant here. As Freud and Frosch point out, hypochondria is a significant feature of paranoid psychoses⁴⁸. The common appearance of either prophecies of cataclysm or images of barren, lifeless, or of grey dismal worlds is also remarked upon by Bullard. The link between these motifs and paranoia is, by this point, rather difficult to dispute. The conclusion that abductions and allied UFO experiences have identifiable psychodynamic facts may not bother ufologists - psychology is after all rather fuzzy and what's a few disputed cases amid hundreds anyways - but perhaps it should.

The Dying World of Ufology

Perhaps more interestingly than the presence of cataclysmic imagery in UFO experiences, is the many apocalyptic fears expressed by ufologists over the years. Since, as I have pointed out elsewhere, the history of ufology behaves in the manner of a developing paranoid psychosis, this observation is to be expected⁴⁹. What follows will be a history of these fears. They will be treated collectively rather than individually in the manner of C.R. Badcock's axiom that "from the point of view of latent content, there is no way of distinguishing between individual psychopathology and its collective equivalents"⁵⁰. One expects these fears to be most dominant in the early years of ufology particularly as it reaches the hypochondriac stage with its accompanying fears of death followed by a diminution after reintegration of the self, a process that can be said to have begun around 1974 in the UFO movement⁵¹.

All three of the first round of saucer authors from 1950 expressed cataclysmic fears. Gerald Heard, famed friend of Aldous Huxley and the mystically bent author of scientific romances, penned a speculative work on the "wildlier than we will ever grasp" Riddle of the Flying Saucers, which expressed fears Earth might A-bomb itself to dust or accidentally stimulate the Sun into becoming a nova⁵². Frank Scully believed visitors from other worlds were capable of disintegrating our whole planet by means of "magnetic fission". He thought it would be a good idea if we learned to be polite⁵³. In The Flying Saucers Are Real, Donald Keyhoe expressed fantastic concerns that a super-atomic bomb or several such bombs set off at once could knock the earth out of its orbit. He pointed to Velikovsky's Worlds in Collision as a portrait of the ensuing chaos that could be wrought. It might even be such suspicions that led other 'solar-planet races' to our world. Keyhoe also feared H-bombs might knock a huge chunk out of the earth with unpredictable results⁵⁴.

In his next book Flying Saucers from Outer Space, Keyhoe repeated many of these same concerns and added a fear that the Russians would

stage a mass A-bomb attack in 1954. In this book he also presented W.C. Odell's theory that saucers came from a dying planet⁵⁵. Later books by Keyhoe would continue to present Odell's theory in a favourable light while his other cataclysmic scenarios became downplayed⁵⁶.

In 1955 Harold T. Wilkins came forward with a collection of signs and portents titled Flying Saucers Uncensored. He concluded saucers were patrolling Earth because man had begun unleashing "cosmoplastic powers" which were crystallizing the Earth's outer crust as evidenced in great earthquakes. Earth's gravest hour now approached as Satanic Lithium bombs threatened to turn Earth into a flaming nova which, in turn, would upset the etheric "fourth-dimensional worlds in space"⁵⁷.

In 1958 Aime Michel meditated over the patterns made by UFO sightings on maps and fretted that UFO contact would be "the greatest catastrophe in human history." Superior beings might exterminate us because of our inferior ethics. At minimum there would be chaos in religion and a stunting of our intellectual development. Understandably he expressed his concern in the moving sentiment "Why does this sword of Damocles hang over our heads, year after year, without falling"⁵⁸.

Before suiciding in 1959, Morris K. Jessup predicted either a pole shift, a cosmic storm, or atomic holocaust would befall the earth between 1950 and 1980⁵⁹.

The sixties were an especially manic time for ufology. Coral Lorenzon believed UFOs embodied an urgency that defied expression, but likened it to Pearl Harbour and expressed the opinion things would climax by the end of 1968⁶⁰. In a book published in 1969 written by the Lorenzons is a teaser reading "Is the Earth facing a crisis? Science bears frightening witness to the possibility of impending cataclysmic change in the earth's surface." This refers to comments in the text which refer to the works of Velikovsky and the possibility that



there may "soon" be violent changes in the earth's crust. They speculate UFOs may be here to observe this event. They also point out that some people, not themselves, believed UFOs were causing seismic activity⁶¹. James McDonald, a leading figure of the period, also believed the UFO issue would soon "blow wide open"⁶². In 1971 McDonald spoke before Congress about concerns he had that water vapour from the exhausts of SSTs could harm the ozone layer. The notion alarmed environmental groups, but it was soundly refuted during a two-day scientific conference on the subject in March 1971. It was later completely disproven as present day ozone crisis researchers are quick to point out⁶³. McDonald suicided in June.

The popular UFO author Frank Edwards insisted, in 1966, ultimate contact was imminent⁶². Joan Whritenour with Brad Steiger asked "Must We Prepare For a War of the Worlds?" and quoted a Flying Saucer Review editorial 'Danger from the Stars?' about every government of the world being brought down when the public panics from the truth about saucers⁶⁵. George Fawcett thought the UFO problem had become explosive, out of control, and portended "a real disaster beyond all imagination"⁶⁶.

Alarmed by the 1966 Flap, John Keel claimed UFOs might be engaged in a massive final stage of operations⁶⁷. After breaking with the ETH,

Keel still maintained we were in the final stages of something of cosmic proportions. He predicted the 70s would be filled with violence as a final generation of children restructured society. He fantasised how puzzled aliens in the far future would be when they finally arrived and saw our burnt-out cinder of a planet⁶⁸.

Brinsley le Poer Trench, an ex-editor of Flying Saucer Review, opined in his '71 book Mysterious Visitors there were signs the saucer saga was near a denouement. He discussed a variety of doomsday prophecies and concerns like degenerating morals, overpopulation, famines, earthquakes, Armageddon and world-wide catastrophes. He did hedge enough to grant we might instead experience a Tremendous Tomorrow among the stars⁶⁹. He offered a rather gloomier assessment in Secret of the Ages by expecting a climatic final confrontation between Good and Evil involving denizens of the inner earth. Our planet would at least be cleansed in the process⁷⁰.

Peter Rogerson, in 1971, proclaimed the UFO a symbol of our burgeoning irrationality signifying the collapse of civilisation "because 300 years of scholarship was incapable of overcoming the darkness of primaevial night, when it came to the crunch."⁷¹ Jerome Clark and Loren Coleman in the '75 classic The Unidentified similarly saw civilisation plunging deeper into the abyss and the "imminent collapse of all our familiar institutions"⁷².

Otto Binder, in 1974, predicted the wholesale annihilation of the human race by rampaging natural forces in the all too near future⁷³.

Since the mid-seventies these fears have nearly ceased. The only figure of any prominence to emerge with similar concerns was Jenny Randles. She has had frequent nightmares of Armageddon set in the 1990s⁷⁴. She also once speculated in 1981 that close encounters derive from psychic energy rippling back through time from a nuclear Armageddon⁷⁵.

One could also cite the Judgement Day fears of the famed, yet somehow little known, George Andrews if one isn't too choosy⁷⁶.

If we take as our definition of psychosis a habitually faulty ability to discern reality, this history of error constitutes an indictment for ufology being a pathological science in a more literal sense than Irving Langmuir could ever have meant when he coined the phrase⁷⁷. It is a record of passionate errors which should not be forgotten even if the era of apoclyptophilia is now gone. Ours is now an era of conspiracies which are rooted in the same system of psychological defences that brought us these irrational fears. These deep scars will not go away with the marshalling of arguments or evidence. They fulfil a deep personal need for cosmic meaning and self-expression. With time the conspiracies will be supplanted by delusions of grandeur, high mission, and fantasies of world reconstruction⁷⁸. Indeed, some world reconstruction fantasies have already appeared⁷⁹. The years to come will be worth watching as society confronts these new claims on its attention.

Questioning the UFO mythos in this manner raises uncomfortable ethical dilemmas. When one successfully eliminates the psychological defences erected in paranoia, you open some people up to suffer depression and loss of meaning⁸⁰. This is not an abstract concern. When the hero of Middle ufology, Allen H. Greenfield, abandoned UFO belief he found himself floating around in a depression for a long time⁸¹. Stripped of the vision of the UFO mythos others might cloak themselves in more harmful, more political delusions. Should one follow the Hippocratic dictum to do no harm or should one choose to fight self-deception and damn the consequences?

If truth is not the higher aspiration, I have then misjudged my imperatives in presenting these observations. Perhaps it would be proper to make a gesture to appease those who I feel I should have taken the other course and kept my mouth shut. Let me tack on a health

warning to ufologists and warn them, urge them, insist they should reject the conclusion of this paper. Watch your step.

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