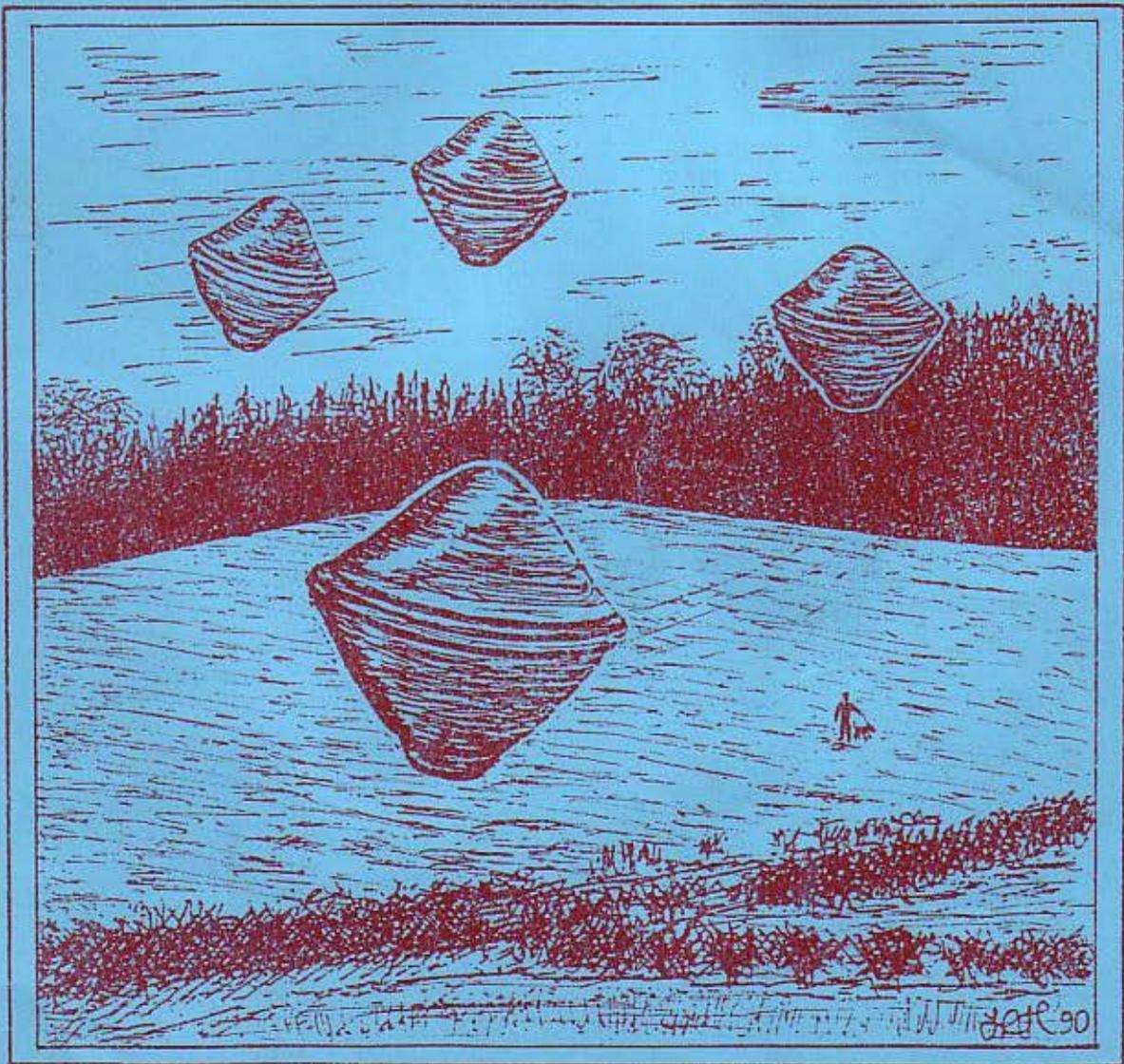


U F O

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THE JOURNAL OF THE INDEPENDENT UFO NETWORK

May 1991 No 48

"Damn fine ufology"

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UFO BRIGANTIA is published quarterly in January, May, August and November. 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. was formed by accident in a cold fusion experiment a few years ago. By the time we realised it wasn't possible it was too late and WYUFORG had vanished YUFOS rent asunder and BUFORA subverted. In a panic we tried to justify our existence by investigating a few UFO cases before realising the futility of attempting to convince the converted. Lured by the prospect of free books and magazines we then tried to put out a respectable UFO magazine and to pass ourselves off as a UFO organisation. Failing miserably on all counts we just mess about now to see what happens.

In a final attempt at fitting in the I.U.N. publish case reports, run UFO lectures and courses, investigate the odd case or two if we feel like it and commune with the Corn Circle Goddess. Mostly tho' we just get laid back and try to convince people we know what we are talking about. I now strongly suspect the real, absolute bottom line secret about UFOs is contained in the White Lodge, c/o the Wildwood, Twin Peaks, USA.

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Not much of an editorial this time. The conference seems to be the thing to talk about and space is limited this issue anyway. If you haven't already booked please do so NOW we can't guarantee places at the last minute. The Rutland Hotel which many of you used last year is now fully booked and we are now recommending the Sharrow View, nearby. Enclosed in this issue amongst all the usual bosh is an A4 poster. The IUN and BUFORA would appreciate it if you could get it displayed at your local library, tourist information office, give it to your local newspaper or do

something with it to help the conference. So who exactly is coming? Well, I think the highlights are going to be Budd Hopkins for his sheer commitment to the subject whether or not he is onto the real thing, and folklorist Eddie Bullard, who is one of the few US UFO writers who can talk intelligently about the subject from a non-ETHG perspective. The others, such as Charles Hickson, the abductee and the Betty Cash & Vicki Landrum should be equally rivetting depending on your ideas of what actually happened to them. Nonetheless the full line up is the best UFO conference the UK has ever seen and will be remembered for a long time to come. Be there or be an equal sided geometric design.

I wish we could talk about something other than American ufology, but as it shapes what comes over here eventually we have to. Jerome Clark, editor of International UFO Reporter has been at it again. In the February issue of Fate magazine he chunters on about how ufology has changed recently, triangular shaped UFOs in the states and Belgium and so on. He even comes up with the 'theory' that these might have been some kind of secret test aircraft. Great so far Jerome baby. But then he blows it by mentioning, half seriously at that, that these objects and others may be terrestrial technology which is based on captured alien UFOs. Yup, that's right, he said that. Get another shipment of Occams Razor sent over immediately. In the March edition, Jerome Clark tells us how ufology is (yet again!) reaching the point where massive revelations (this time about Roswell) are due any second now and that the various media sources will check the story and validate the ufologists findings (ie that it was an extraterrestrial craft). As a student of the subject surely Clark should know that this is exactly what the UFO proponents were saying in the 1950s, and nothing happened then either - just as nothing will happen now. Brinkmanship is all when you are trying to sell books and magazines about a tedious subject I suppose. Still, as usual, we look forward to the revelations, the subsequent US government announcement and to taking our place in the Cosmic Brotherhood or whatever it is they have planned for us.

Lastly, and this has nothing whatsoever to do with ufology, I would like to urge you all to send some money to any of the Kurdish relief funds which have been set up. Basically the West set the Kurds up and whatever Bush says about ongoing civil wars etc, they weren't hiding up in the mountains, dying in thousands and too scared to go back to their villages for fear of torture, being fed live to wolves or worse, before we encouraged them to do away with Saddam Hussein. It's our problem. Go on, give the poor sods some money, send it to CONCERN WORLDWIDE, 51 Gun St, Freepost BE 1098/1, London E1 6BR. NOW

Convinced that most ufologists have a kangaroo loose in the upper paddock? Certain that some of your favourite UFO writers and investigators have static in the attic? You are? Well I agree totally and so does John Keel in an article we pinched from America's Caveat Emptor magazine. A damned fine magazine it is too and I encourage you all to write for a sub. (\$19 to the UK) to Caveat Emptor, Dept.22, 8 Gate House Lane, Edison, NJ 08820 USA. Take them away John.....

The Sorry State of UFO Research

John A. Keel

Way, way back in that prehistoric year 1965, an obscure college professor named H. Taylor Buckner read a paper to the equally obscure American Sociological Association in Chicago. Titled "The Flying Saucerians: An Open Door Cult" it was poorly conceived, badly researched and based primarily on Prof. Buckner's random visits to a group of elderly people who occasionally invited a UFO speaker into their midst. It was hardly typical of the UFO clubs that flourished later and were comprised largely of enthusiastic teenagers and misinformed young adults in their twenties. Nevertheless, Buckner attained considerable celebrity in academic circles and his paper was widely quoted for many years afterwards in some of the most boring journals and books ever published. He became recognised as the leading authority on Ufology, admittedly a questionable honour, and was gleefully embraced by Marcello Truzzi and the other founders of the odiferous skeptics movement of the 1970s.

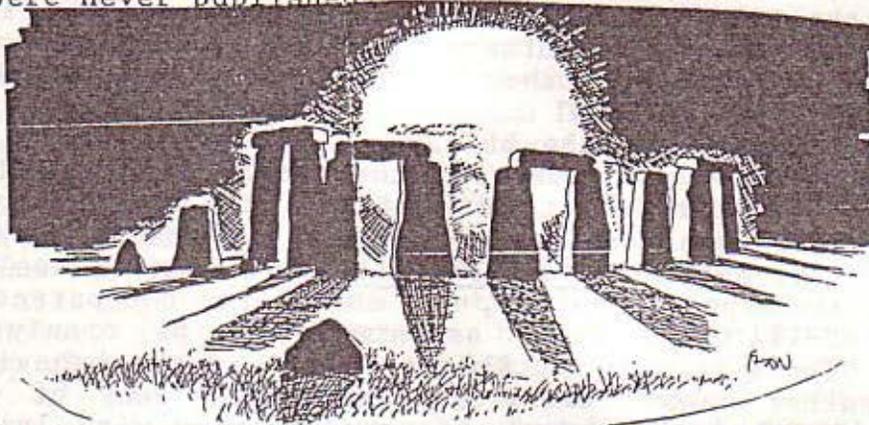
What Buckner really demonstrated was how easy it was to fill the vacuum that existed then, and still exists. Being the leader of Ufology is a rotten job to be sure, and most of the time nobody does it at all. It is somewhat like playing a game of "it" in a leper colony. There have been many pretenders to the throne such as George Adamski, Ray Palmer, Donald Keyhoe, Coral Lorenzon and J. Allen Hynek. But in all these forty years of controversy, sham and confusion no single person has appeared as the unquestioned towering Fuehrer of what Jerry Clarke calls "the UFO community". Ufology has always been ruled by the politics of unreason with misguided egos serving as a substitute for intellect and misinterpretation standing in for methodology. Obviously anyone who even wants to be recognised as the Great and Fearless Leader of this unruly, untutored mob of misfits must have a screw loose. This is amply demonstrated by those who actually assume they are the undisputed leader.

Except for Buckner, Truzzi and a scattering of their cronies, the academic community generally ignored the UFO "community" until recent years when Dr. Hynek seduced a few engineers and college teachers into the fold. They immediately began holding symposia, usually in exotic locales, and issuing guarded yet somehow grandiose statements to a UFO-jaded press. Hynek kept promising that there was "paydirt" in ufology, but he passed away before he could tap the mother lode. The academicians have found a momentum of their own, however, and the meetings and symposia continue. Yet not a single one of them has recognised the real "paydirt" under their very feet.

Since I am an extraordinarily generous fellow, I am now going to reveal how some greedy, ambitious psychiatrist or psychologist can attain almost immediate fame and glory with just a minimum of effort and a maximum of bullshit.

Forty years of nonsense has proven that ufology is a dead end, a trail to oblivion for all who have pursued it. Yet no one (aside from myself) has even attempted a study of the real problem - a problem

that can be taken into the laboratory, examined and analysed with today's technology. True, some of the psychologists on Dr. Condon's ill-fated UFO project made a feeble beginning attempt at it, but their findings were never published



What is desperately needed, and has been needed for these forty-plus years, is a thorough psychological study of the UFO advocates themselves! They have always been a problem to themselves and to ufology, yet no-one has ever prepared a psychological profile of who they are and how they got that way. The witnesses, on the other hand, have been overly examined and much maligned. They are the innocent victims of a situation that has been created by the hobbyists and their incredibly inept organisations. A careful, critical study of the advocates would be an incomparable contribution to the subject and bring academic stardom to whoever conducts it.

Before anyone can productively assault the vast mythology that has been generated by these advocates, one must understand their emotional structure, their intellectual shortcomings, and their curious inability to cope with facts. This is why two of my books dealt extensively with the pathological aspects of ufology. I know of other professional writers who simply abandoned UFO projects altogether when they realised the real problem was with the advocates and not with the phenomenon itself, just as religious fanaticism is the real problem with organised religion. Indeed, there is a close similarity between the two obsessions. Both create an artificial sense of importance - a sense of mission. Any psychiatrist or psychologist who intends to delve into ufology should begin there and acquaint himself with the religious studies first - even though the shock of recognition might discourage him from pursuing a UFO study further.

(More casual, less intellectual types might start by reading Eric Hoffer's 1951 best-seller The True Believer.)

In the 1950s and 60s, the UFO field was much larger than it is today. At one time there were many trained professionals involved - ranging from newspapermen and investigative reporters to true scientists who were well-known in their respective fields. And there were literally hundreds of thousands of ordinary people who did their best to investigate sightings and incidents in their locales. But by the mid-70s they had all dropped out and only a residue of die-hard fanatics persevered, as Eric Hoffer had foreseen. In the 1980s, ufology had diminished to fewer than 2,000 people, with less than 100 of these taking a really active part. Most were conspiracy oriented and the hobby of ufology had no well-defined parameters, no methodology and absolutely no leadership of any kind. It had become a total vacuum with no intellectual content, no purpose or goals and no essential links with reality itself. Even collectors of matchbook covers, Teddy bears and Wizard of Oz books are better organised, better led and more rationally motivated than ufologists.

In the past few years, the shabby underpinnings of ufology have collapsed altogether. A revoltingly amateurish TV special, now known as

"the strawberry ice-cream show" (Eds note: This was UFO Cover-Up Live, which featured a 'secret agent' commenting on what the live alien kept at Los Alamos likes to snack out on, and it's all true cos its was on TV, notably all the ETH fanciers who had been crowing about this pogs arrival quickly about faced and muttered darkly about how it could have been better, intereference at the highest level etc you know the score), made ufology as national laughing stock and turned the self-styled leaders into undredeemable buffoons. This was quickly followed by an incredible confession of hoaxing and betrayal by a self-styled "researcher" which shattered what was left of the credibility of the entire movement. This same hoaxer also revived the absurd Roswell Fugo balloon incident (see January UFO BRIGANTIA editorial for Keel's views on the Roswell misinterpretation-ed), and engineered the patently bogus and amateurish MJ-12 memo. Then, astonishingly, he openly peddled copies of his confession for \$10 a copy! Such behaviour is, unfortunately, rather common among UFO hobbyists, many of whom are pathological liars (thus their intense preoccupation with lying among witnesses and their paranoid fears), and a psychological study of their emotional problems would be a logical first step to understanding the whole UFO field.

Oldtimers will recall that in the 1960s there was actually a nationwide movement against Mental Health programs and many of the ufologists of that period were actively anti-Mental Health. But resistance might be less today and some of the psychologists already accepted by the ufological "community" might be able to begin studies of the remaining participants. certainly no other hobby group is so tolerant of aberrant behaviour. If, for example, a leading stamp collector should somehow fake a stamp or related document he would quickly be drummed out of the stamp collecting community. Over the years, many ufologists have engaged in all forms of fakery (remember Gray Barker, Jim Moseley, Todd Zechel, etc?). Always without serious retribution. The late Dr. Allen Hynek was also guilty of massive errors of judgement, to put it kindly. What kind of "community" do we have here? Is it a community of victims or a community of badly intentioned, malicious, vindictive egocentrics? We need a psychological study to find out. Such a study should take precedence over all other activities.

In a sense, American ufology must clear the decks and begin anew. It keeps lapsing back to 1948 while European ufology has been forging ahead since 1970 and has been addressing the many problems that exist far beyond the mere collecting of clippings. Ufology is not - and never will be - a science. It has developed instead into a pedantic theology complete with rituals and pilgrimages. The unholy 100 recite their dogma mindlessly, totally unaware of the fact that they have been hopelessly brainwashed by their scriptures - the newspaper clippings they collect and exchange as part of their ritual. Curiously they have revived the Bridey Murphy fad of the 1950s and, like the Spiritualist movements before them, they are wallowing in the mischievous games of the subconscious mind. The better-educated, better-read, more logical European ufologists are chuckling at the American antics with much shaking of their heads.

In 1989, American ufology went down the toilet and it will probably take many years for it to recover.

Since the amateurs and hobbyist publications are filled with nothing but rants and theological meanderings, hope can only come from the slowly growing population of academic types who are gravitating to the subject. Unfortunately, a number of them have already fallen under the spell of the old familiar "I'm gonna save the world" syndrome which has haunted the hobbyists for 40 years. They have tossed objectivity aside and even allowed themselves to be caught up in the childish feuds and personality conflicts of the UFO amateurs - often with devastating

results. We have seen it all before - with the collapse of the Condon committee at Colorado University in 1968, etc.

What is the cure? Or, to put it more aptly, is the patient worth curing at all? Can we save a field that believes blindly in such clear-cut hoaxes as Gulf Breeze, the Philadelphia Experiment, Roswell and MJ-12? Can we salvage anything of American ufology?

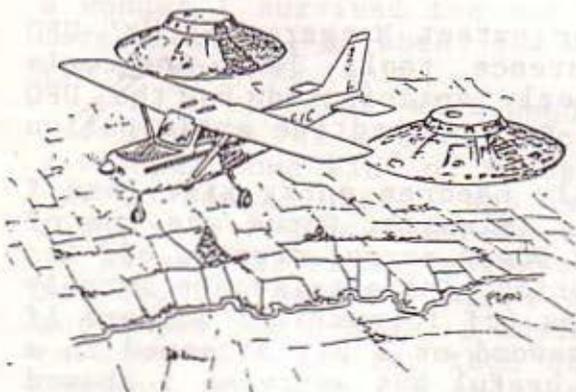
In recent years, one man has appeared on the Fringe Science scene who meets all the qualifications to be the UFO Pied Piper of the 1990s. he has already become a legend in many different academic circles. Softspoken, understated, a man of both girth and mirth, he has proven himself able to get along with the sceptics and advocates alike. An avid reader, he is familiar with all the UFO literature. But, unlike the UFO high honchos of the past, he is also well-read in science, all aspects of 20th century culture, occultism, psychiatry and psychology (he's a Jungian). he has been twice elected to the presidency of the National Psychotronic Association and is responsible for many of the positive changes that have taken place in that illustrious organisation. As the founder and director of a major museum devoted to the use of electricity in medicine he has travelled the world collecting rare books and artifacts. He is an active member in many professional organisations, has helped launch several and has served on the boards and controlling committees of others.

His name is Dennis Stillings and he runs the Archaeus Project out of St. Paul, Minnesota. There he holds well-attended monthly meetings that would stun old Prof. Buckner. His speakers have been some of the finest minds in the country, enlisted from science and philosophy but he has also thrown in an occasional ringer from la-la land such as Moselev, Clark and Budd Hopkins.

In 1989, he formally tossed his befeathered bonnet into the kook ring when he published a book with the unwieldy title: Cyberbiological Studies of the Imaginal Component of the UFO Contact Experience. It is a collection of articles by an almost-distinguished group of academic thinkers ranging from the senseless to the sensible.

In a way, Stillings has thrown down the gauntlet with this publication, telling us that it is possible to produce a book of well-thought out objective analysis on the subject of UFOs. Something none of the hobbyist publications have ever tried to deal with. Furthermore it is obvious that the academic writers will soon flock to Stillings when they realise that he is well-funded and capable of publishing their papers in a respectable, refined manner. It is a monumental breakthrough.

We can expect that many of Vallee's 'Invisible College' of UFO-oriented academics will soon be swarming around St. Paul. There will be two ufologies in America. The cranks and crackpots will continue in their dark little world of conspiracies, abductions and blood-sucking monsters, of course, while the better trained, nearly-sane members of academia will join the Archaeus Project. Already members of the UFO hardcore are saying nasty things about Stillings - and that means he has arrived. As usual, they confuse objectivity with negativity. They don't want to hear what Stillings has to say to them, such as: "The tragedy as most leading proponents of the ETH is that, if the landing (on the White House lawn) were to occur, the first person to make that contact (who would assuredly not be a ufologist) would know more that



is real and certain about UFOs and their occupants in five minutes than is contained in all the ufological writings put together. The ETH ufologist might then get a brief nod of recognition (maybe, but I doubt it), government and official science would take over, ufology would be redefined, and traditional ufology and ufologists relegated to one lower corner of the dustbin of history..."

When a psychological study of UFO advocates and hobbyists is finally launched, you can be sure that Dennis Stillings will be a major contributor. As his faction grows, the hardcore ETH obsessive-compulsive UFO advocates population will continue to diminish. Their publications will grow wilder and more frantic, filled with even more embarrassing chain of consciousness diatribes, until finally they will all fade away like poor Richard Shaver who started it all.

Copies of Cyberbiological Studies can be obtained for \$10 (make that \$20 from the UK-ed.) from: Archaeus Project, 2042 University Ave. St. Paul, MN 55114, U.S.A.

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Reviews

THE UFO ENCYCLOPEDIA by John Spencer. Published by Headline Books on April 11th.

Since Ronald Story's and to a far lesser extent Margaret Sachs' UFO Encyclopedias are essential as a reference tool, John Spencer's venture into encyclopedia land was eagerly anticipated by the UFO scholars at Brigantia Towers. We needn't have wasted the anticipation let alone the eagerness. It's crap.

In this day and age does anyone really need an entry like (and I open the book at random children) 'Cerus (Planet). Cerus was one of the home worlds of the.....' zzzzzzzzzzzz Ooops sorry, dropped off for a minute. It's just that bun numbingly boring. The entries are largely obvious (in which case, why?) or pointless (cf 'Cerus'). I suppose if you were stuck when compiling a UFO crossword or a bit strapped in a game of UFO trivia this tome might seem useful but everyone I showed my copy to thought the same. If it were a Christian it would be lion time. Any UFO encyclopedia these days should concentrate on the theories held by the many proponents and the basic principles behind the subject - this one doesn't and, for instance, neither misperception nor perception get so much as a one line entry - but that well-known ufologist Dennis Healey, whose house happened to be near a crop circle, does. I don't even think this book will serve the purpose of getting people interested in the subject, which is a favourite BUFORA hobby horse, in fact it triggered off an adverse reaction with this reviewer and I got a headache trying to fathom the mysteries of its very existence. Cerus.....I ask you, is this what ufology has come to? Apparently, according to the publicity blurb which attends this monster, John "used his unparalleled research database to compile this" and I suppose it will make the legions of trainspotter-ufologists happy. Come to think of it, even the publicity blurb is crap - for instance it says hoaxes are 'all too easily explained'? What!!!! There are hoaxes running to this day which are fooling people not a million miles away from this page. If you are going to write a book, be honest, make your publishers be honest or don't do it. The chemicals are wearing off now thank god, but you need them to read it. It made me cry. Don't buy it. *Reviewed by Andy Roberts*

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Abduction - USA

An everyday story of an American abductee, continued from the last issue of UFO BRIGANTIA

PART TWO

BY

RICK A. HALE, WASHINGTON, US.

HYPNOSIS AND ABDUCTION AFTERMATH

The days that followed after the contact left me feeling like I was on the verge of insanity. With a lot of good feelings, like how important my discovery was, and the negative feelings of other people not believing me, especially my parents. Because I knew they were not very open-minded about E.S.P. and life on other worlds.

Now I kind of find myself in a kind of dilemma. Because of the fact that I want to tell you the whole truth, I feel that I must tell you that in 1975, sometime during March, I wound up in a hospital for about a month. It was a very embarrassing to have to happen to me and it's hard for me to write about because it involves the use of drugs, ESP powers, the feelings of committing suicide to search higher plains in life, and feelings of being the reincarnation of Christ. It's just a wonder I survived the ordeal. But if you are interested in hearing more about it, go ahead and ask any questions you want and I will give you a truthful reply.

I do believe what happened in 1975 helped in making contact possible in 1976 and I do not believe that in 1975 that I had developed some kind of mental disease. It's just that I did not know how to handle what I was experiencing, and I had nobody to talk to about it who understood what I was going through.

Anyway, after the encounter I got a job planting trees, I did that for about 9 months. Then I got a job selling vacuum cleaners, then I got a job for U-Haul, a moving truck and trailer company. I worked up to assistant manager then quit and went to work for Forgersen Steel Company, where my dad and brother work. I started to work there in May of 1978 and have been working there ever since. There were 2 lay-offs but they hired me back each time. I am a machinist, operating large engine lathes and boring lathes, making shafting for our navy and drill collars for oil drilling companies. I got married in 1980 to my wife Loraine. She has 2 boys from a previous marriage and bore me a daughter who I named Thea, she is now 10 years old. I no longer take drugs and seldom drink. I still have a hard time trying to quit smoking tobacco.

Now in 1988, there was a huge influx of interest in the new age movement and there was a lot of media coverage in the news and on TV. That's when I got the telephone number of Bob Gribble. At that time, he was a board member of UFOCCI and they were trying to get people who have seen UFOs, to give them a call. So I finally was able to reach Bob and told him quickly what happened to me in 1976 and I asked him if he had records of any UFOs during that time frame and location. He said no but he said he knew of some people who would be interested in hearing my story. He gave me the phone number of Aileen Edwards, who is the founder of UFOCCI. So I called her up and we started talking. Then she offered me some free hypnosis sessions, because she was convinced of the possibility that I had been abducted.

At the time, sure I was interested in UFOs, but I never did much reading or research on the subject, but all that changed after meeting Aileen. She offered me a seat on the board, I went to closed contact

meetings, public meetings, UFO campouts, and went through a number of hypnosis sessions. I also started writing a daily diary of anything UFO connected. After a year or so it all became too much for me and I dropped out of sight because it started interfering with my family life and my job. And having to flash back and relive those days is very stressful for me. Although I would like to get it all written down in a book-style format, which would greatly relieve some of the pressure on my end of the stick, and get it all typed up, down to the last detail, not really in the hopes of making any money on it, but basically to relieve the burden of having to think too much about it.

What I really wanted to talk to John Avis (Eds note: Rick is referring here to John Avis of the Day abduction) about was, what were his feelings about what was revealed under hypnosis. To me the hypnosis was like a floodgate opening up a lake of forgotten memories pouring forth, not all at once mind you, but over a period of 6 months or so. It was like I was still in a trance after I was brought out of hypnosis and remembering things that had happened even when I was at home. I remembered dreams which I remember waking up in a bed, and I remember things which are familiar, that really happen but I can't remember if they were dreams or not. That really bothers me. Where did these memories come from? I know they are real and I did not make them up under hypnosis. I guess that's the million dollar question most of us abductees have.

While under hypnosis I became very emotional when Aileen took me back to the first meeting of the 3 aliens. I would always break out crying. It's hard for me to tell you why, but it would just happen every time. That's one reason why I quit my hypnosis sessions, and the fact it would leave me feeling very spaced out. Even my family was complaining about the way I acted when I would come home after a session. It was like I'd just seen the aliens. My only defence from spacing out was to try and forget about the encounter and do something to keep my mind off the subject.

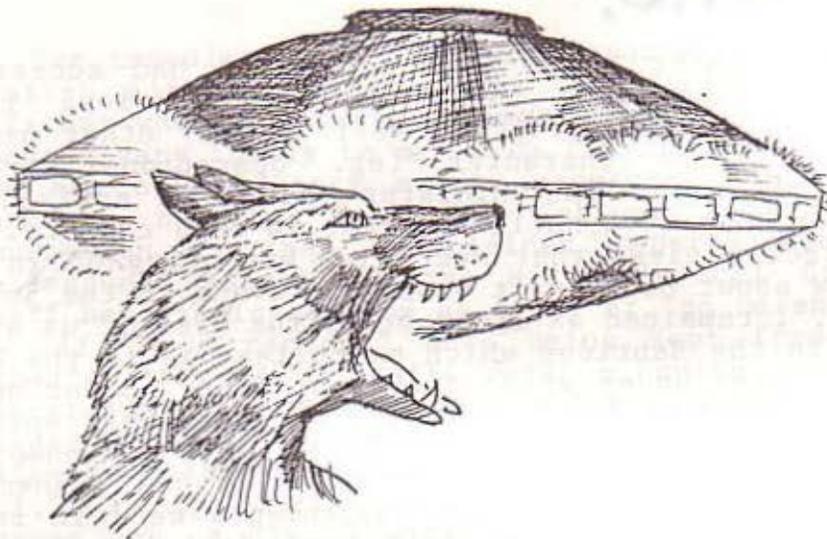
Now I'll try to get through the hypnotic recall part. I'm going to tell you in story form. Here I go.

When I turned my car around after seeing the 3 aliens, I started down the road, then my car stalled and the 3 beings were standing just outside my door. I reach down inside myself somehow found the courage to open the car door and face my visitors as bravely as I could. Knowing that they could read my mind, I was at their mercy. The feeling of death was at hand. The only thing I could think of saying, hoping to get the first word in to show them I was not scared and to try and change their, what I thought, were deadly intentions was "I might be the reincarnation of Christ". There was a short silence, and then one of them spoke, in a godly deep calm male voice "o.k., follow me." That little conversation calmed the tension in the air. So I followed the beings through a grassy field, up and over a ditch and barb wire fence into the pine trees. We stopped out of sight of the road and there was what looked like a small craft, open at the top, with sides about 3 feet tall and open in back, so you could walk into without stepping over the side, and a single large headlight in front and it was whitish in colour. Then the same voice spoke again, he said "if you were Christ, you would be more afraid than you are now." I took that as a compliment to my courage and said nothing in return, trying to leave them guessing.

Now you must understand my fear and state of mind. I did not want to get a good look at these beings, fearing the fact that they might not let me go if I did get a good look at them. Something I learned from watching TV I'm sure. So during this whole abduction I tried to keep my eyes to myself and did only what they asked.

I kind of turned into a big coward, here was my big chance to greet aliens from outer space and all I could think of was my life. Then I

remember walking onto the small craft and I just stared at my feet. Then we were in the air, transporting me to a bigger craft nearby. This craft was in an open spot among the trees. The craft transporting me flew slowly over the larger craft below. The bigger craft reminded me of a giant grasshopper with its hindlegs pulled off. Kind of a oblong triangular shaped object that was dark olive-green in colour. The smaller craft landed about 50 feet in front of the larger one. I got out of the small craft and started walking towards the big one. I walked up a dark coloured ramp which seemed very smooth like highly polished marble. Once inside it seemed like I was alone. I remember seeing a large round translucent aqua-blue table to my left. It was about 4-5 inches thick, maybe 4 feet off the ground, 5 feet across, with a single thick stem supporting the table in the middle, made out of same material. The walls were a light coloured gray, with white square panels in the ceiling for light. This entrance room seemed kind of circular in design, with a long slightly curving hallway, with a row of windows being shielded by some kind of black visors.



The windows were about 4 feet off the floor, with the dimensions of 4 feet by 4 feet. One of the visors was open and I could look down into a large room below where I saw 3 white bald-headed beings dressed in white overcoats, standing around an empty table of some sort. These beings looked small, about 4 feet tall, kind of like the gray's. By the way, I was too far away to describe them in any better detail.

Then I experienced some kind of block, because I remember being on a table and I don't know how I got there. I saw a human male dressed in doctors attire. He had short black hair with a van-dyke style beard. I am sure he told me his name was Karl. This room was almost pitch black with some kind of light behind me shining on me. The wall in front of me was illuminated and there was a hairy being standing there. Karl had moved behind me somewhere because I never saw him again. I stared at this hairy being because I could not make out any facial features. Apparently the being was looking up at the ceiling at something because then it looked down at me and smiled. I guess it was a smile. You know how a dog looks when it opens its mouth and it looks like they are smiling. Well, that's what this being did. It had teeth of a wolf! Its claws were over an inch long and looked very sharp and dangerous. He closed his mouth and removed the blanket that was covering me, I was completely naked. The wolf being was at the end of the table, in front of me, it was not wearing any clothes that I could see. I could only see the wolf being from the waist up. I believe it was examining a skin condition, kind of a rash that I had developed when I was about 13 years old. The wolf being grabbed my knees and I became very scared of its claws. Then I heard that same voice say "Don't be scared, he won't hurt you". That calmed me down and the wolf being finished his examination of my body and left. Then again a voice told me it was o.k. to get up and get dressed.

More from Rick Hale next issue

Ralph Noyes Speaks

Editors note: When Dave Clarke & myself were putting together Phantoms of the Sky in 1989 we asked Ralph Noyes to answer sundry questions which we thought were germane to the topic of UFOs, the government & the Rendlesham case. Our publishers cut out about 90% of the material Ralph kindly supplied us with so we are printing it in full here. Although Ralph has made great contributions to the UK UFO community over the years there is still a great deal of suspicion about him because of his previously held position. I have had several ufologists, some of them well-known and published, who have seriously confided in me that they think Ralph is a government 'mole' working to subvert ufology! "Above Top Secret" or "Just Doing His Job"? This is what Ralph has to say. Make your own mind up.

Who?

I reached a fairly senior grade in the MOD and had access to whatever documents were necessary to my responsibilities. These included TOP SECRET material generally, as well as many other papers of a still more restricted character (eg. operational orders specifying how and when the Prime Minister would be advised to consider the British response to a nuclear threat to this country.)

But I'm also perfectly clear that much else was going on in the MOD which I didn't know about because it wasn't relevant to the jobs I was doing: for example, I remained as ignorant as the rest of us about that "anthrax island" in the Hebrides which my colleagues in the Navy Department successfully kept under wraps for about four decades until 1988! (I simply didn't "need to know" about that unpalatable episode for the sake of my own work in the Air Force Department; and nobody - quite rightly - ever told me.) If somebody above me had wished to conceal from me that the British or other governments were in touch with extraterrestrials, they could certainly have done so. But I'm pretty sure that I would have got some intimation of this, even if concern for my career prospects might have persuaded me not to enquire further! But I never had the faintest whiff of any such thing.

More important than my own testimony, however, is the fact that Admiral of the Fleet the Lord Hill-Norton, who was the Chief of the Defence Staff from 1971 to 1973, never had the smallest indication of ET contact. He was the Defence 'supremo'; nothing of Defence significance would have been kept from him; I'm clear from several discussions with him that he knew nothing of any extraterrestrial approach up to the date of his retirement in the mid-1970s. Those who still wish to disbelieve me or Lord Hill-Norton (on the grounds that we are either deceitful or ignorant - or perhaps merely incompetent!) will have to consider how the supposed "ET faithfuls" in Whitehall have managed (for four decades?) to secure government funds, Whitehall office space, telephones, secretaries, waste-paper baskets and total secrecy without so much as a word to the rest of us or any difficulty with the Comptroller and Auditor General, who keeps Whitehall accountable for every penny spent.

Intrusions?

In the several capacities which brought me into touch with UFO reports during my 28 years in the MOD I encountered several reports, particularly those from military establishments, which indicated "high strangeness". I, and military colleagues, had little doubt that

something had taken place for which we had no explanation. The classic instance is Bentwaters/Lakenheath in 1956 (and other cases are entering the public domain as files are released under the 30 years' rule). Not once, however, was there the faintest suggestion that extraterrestrials might be in question. We suspected the Russians...We suspected faulty radar...We wondered whether RAF personnel might be succumbing to hallucinogens...We found no evidence of any such things...In the end (and fairly swiftly) we simply forgot these uncomfortable 'intrusions' as rapidly as fire brigades forget apparent cases of SHC and local Councils forget the complaints of their tenants about poltergeist occurrences.

We never had the smallest evidence that Brothers from Space were responsible for our transient unease - and I do believe that we would have picked up anything of that kind, given our highly effective radar cover and the incessant watch kept on radio communications by GCHQ and NSA.

Cover - Up ?

The immediate recipients of reports of any disturbing phenomena in British airspace were always the Air Staff - the Royal Air Force officers who lived on the same MOD corridor as myself. They would have shouted very loudly to me - as the civilian colleague able to get them the ear of Ministers and/or necessary funds - if they had detected anything needing funds or Cabinet backing. They never did. My impression is that unexplained reports were passed to scientific colleagues (especially the Meteorological Office) when the the Air Staff had dismissed them as being of "no Defence interest".

If "good reports" were being kept from me (however you define "good"), the Air Staff were - quite unwontedly - missing the opportunity which only I and my Division could offer them of grabbing a bigger slice of the Defence Budget for the RAF (eg. for research and/or defensive measures against Space Invaders). If Defence Intelligence - D.I.55 is the currently fashionable name - are doing some cloak and dagger job on ETs, I wish them well; but it doesn't yet seem to have been reflected in hardware budgets for any of the Services.

Misinformation?

I can't imagine that any government department, however ill-intentioned, would be so silly as to conduct a propaganda campaign about "UFOs", however covert.

Let's suppose that the MOD and the Pentagon really do have evidence of extraterrestrial visitation, perhaps even to the point of hiding saucers and little space-folk at some military establishment. Let's suppose that they're desperately worried about all those anonymous chaps who keep ringing Len Stringfield and/or appearing on TV with funny voices. Let's suppose that they want to keep the rest of us in ignorance. Would they really take the risk of putting "disinformation" into the public domain? Would they succeed if they tried? Things may have changed since my own days in Whitehall; but when I or my colleagues (with Ministerial approval) felt it necessary to conceal something, we simply clammed up and stone-walled. We would never have been so stupid as to engage in active lying. Quite apart from questions of morality (which certainly operated in my own time), no competent official would have taken the risk of being detected! It was simpler and safer to keep quiet.

Rendlesham

There is no doubt at all that the MOD played a thoroughly dishonest game over the Rendlesham affair. I have already put some of my reasons on record in the afterword to my SF novel A SECRET PROPERTY, and in a paper, UFO LANDS IN SUFFOLK.., printed in Timothy Good's UFO ANNUAL 1990 (Sidgwick & Jackson, 1989). We know - the responsible Minister even admitted as much in the British House of Commons after more than two years prevarication - that the MOD received an astonishing report in 1981 from a responsible USAF officer (Lt. Col., now Brigadier General, Charles I. Halt) of very weird phenomena which (as he believed, and seemed in part to have witnessed) had taken place in the vicinity of a major military establishment in the U.K. in December 1980. The MOD had flatly denied the existence of this report in response to enquiries put to them in 1981 and 1982. We would probably still be faced with this bland denial but for the action taken by American citizens under the US Freedom of Information Act in 1983. In response to enquiries made to the USAF by CAUS (Citizens Against UFO Secrecy) the USAF obtained a copy of Halt's report from the MOD and released it into the public domain in mid-1983.

The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing red light on top and a bank(s) of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate.

Section from the Lt. Col. Charles Halt memo dated 13/1/81

The case itself is complex. I have given my own views about it in the papers mentioned above - essentially that halt and several others came face to face with a striking manifestation of the "UFO phenomenon" (whatever that may be) in the December of 1980. Other commentators may disagree; alternative theories abound. My only immediate point is that the MOD have resisted all attempts to obtain a sensible statement, even under sustained pressure to the Defence Secretary from Lord Hill-Norton. Why...? Simply, I think, because it embarrasses them. Either they must admit that a senior USAF officer at a highly sensitive base in the U.K. went out of his mind in december 1980 (with unthinkable potential consequences in defence terms) or they must acknowledge publicly that weird things occur for which no explanation is at present possible. Can we be surprised that they stalled and cheated? I would have done the same had I had the ill luck to be in post at the relevant time! (Let others among you who are without sin cast the first stone).

The Rendlesham incidents remain open to debate. I will merely add that they could not possibly have been a mere military misfortune - eg. the loss or crash in Rendlesham Forest of a bit of troublesome hardware. I have given my reasons more fully in the papers mentioned above. Perhaps I may be forgiven if, in this paper, I merely summarise my conclusion by the assertion (based on hard MOD experience) that major military mishaps can't be concealed, anyway in this country, and

that not even the stupidest of officials would attempt concealment by seeking to over-excite local ufologists.

There was never, in my day, a deliberate policy of concealment or a deliberate plan of obfuscation. We received hundreds of reports from the public of unidentified sightings - just as I receive, today, from a cuttings service to which I subscribe, hundreds of similarly vague reports of things seen in the sky (if I may parody) worthy citizens who have seen something on the outskirts of Wigan while walking the dog. I and my staff dealt as courteously as we could with these well-intentioned communications - and we invariably considered (often with a sigh) whether they just possibly reflected some Russian breach of the "rules of the game". They never did...Only very occasionally (and usually from Defence establishments) did we receive anything definite eg. from Bentwaters/Lakenheath in 1956 and from RAF West Freugh in 1957. And they also, alas, never provided solid evidence which Defence scientists could get to grips with. They never happened twice at the same place; they never did us perceptible damage; we never had the faintest idea of what had occurred; we were very glad that the public never got to hear of them; we would have stone-walled like crazy if Parliamentary Questions had ever been asked.

What Next?

It is only since I left the MOD (in 1977) that I have seriously tried to consider what may possibly lie behind the "UFO phenomenon". It was impossible to discuss it seriously within the Department: I would merely have "rubbished" my working relationship with the RAF and scientific colleagues if I had disclosed the interest I felt in the better reports which reached us. What I retain from my MOD experience - greatly reinforced by much that I have since read - is that the "phenomenon" is veridical and important, and that the expert methodology developed over the past century by scholarly people in the field of the so-called "paranormal" may possibly be relevant. I wouldn't put it higher than that at present. I can't even define "paranormal" to my own satisfaction! All I can be quite sure of is that we, in ufology, are dealing with transient and somewhat insubstantial events of a bizarre character, and that we are not alone in doing so. I think they matter. I also think that we and the "parapsychologists" might have some useful exchanges.

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UFO Landing in Belgium ?

This article was kindly sent to us by Patrick Vidal of the European UFO Network in Belgium. The translation was done by Ken Phillips of BUFORA.

The facts emerging from this case which occurred on the evening of Friday, 4th May 1990, in the small village of Stockay [Liege Province] are as follows:-

The witness, aged 72, who, at the time of the events, was an archaeologist who devoted a large part of his career to the archaeological survey of the region. He has notably made some very important discoveries and his name is well known among the archaeological and historical circles. At his home can be found remains of bones and ornate items from archaeological digs. In the near future a museum in the region intends to display his collections.

The witness is, therefore, a very learned and rational man. For him, up to the day of encounter, UFOs were merely some unknown electromagnetic phenomenon.

On the evening of the encounter the weather was warm and, as was his custom, MD went outside his home in order to close the door of the greenhouse in his garden. The instant he closed the door his large cat came up to him and nestled between his legs. At the same time there was an outbreak of barking in the locality. Numerous dogs were set off howling in such a way the witness and his wife had never heard the likes of previously. As MD returned to the house he noticed with astonishment a luminous mass with a well-defined outline which seemed to be located in a meadow less than 200m from him.

He was very surprised by the phenomenon so he ran to his neighbours house to alert them and watch the spectacle but he received no reply when he called them. Therefore he returned to his house where his wife was watching TV.

"Have you noticed any interference on the TV?" he said.

"No, why?" she replied.

"There's a ball of light in the meadow. Come and see!"

The couple went to look with caution because the woman had recently had remedial surgery and could not move easily. There, in the front of their home, they both observed the phenomenon which appeared to them in the shape of a cone of which the top part was formed in the shape of a mushroom. The two witnesses were expecting Saint Vierge to appear (at least that's what they thought).

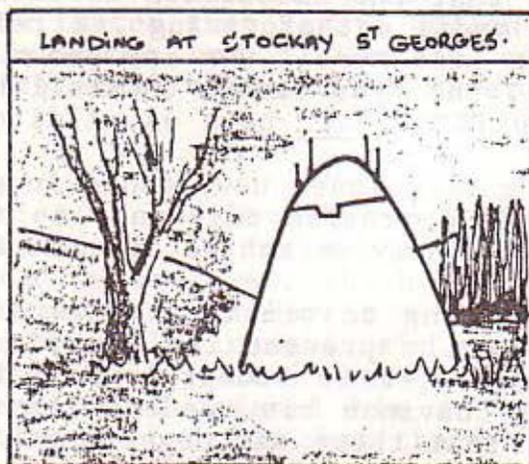
After five minutes had elapsed his wife decided to return to the house and her husband went back with her and there decided to get a cane and to go to the spot where the phenomenon was.

He walked alongside his field and came up to the area where his cattle were penned. He spoke to the animals for some moments to reassure them; the dogs continued howling and the phenomenon remained motionless and silent throughout, At that point MD found himself about 100-150m from the object which was, according to his wife, very solid.

The underneath of the object presented the shape of a highly luminous, but opaque, cone, the centre of which was very white and the edges rather yellowish. MD had never seen so much light. As he remarked: "In archaeological surveys I have seen others and I would like to know more." It is just as well he continued his account...!

He eventually reached the proximity of a house of a primary school teacher. He called her but obtained no response. Her gate was open so the witness went through. He was now only 40-50m from the cone, (the

object was about 8-10m in diameter at the base and the height of the cone was estimated to be 4-5m). At this instant MD ascertained with some trepidation that the upper part of the object (the mushroom) had risen up and changed from the white colour to an intense orange. MD felt as if he was marked out, "intercepted" was what he told us. He then became aware of the unreal character of the situation and the strange dimension of it in the very nature of the situation: here he was alone, in old slippers and, if he had to flee, it wouldn't be easy. Despite this he retreated back about a dozen paces. A little after his retreat the cupola of the object descended again and its colour returned to its initial white colour.



MD did not persist with his observations and returned to his house where, on the landing, he rejoined his wife who, in the meantime, having become disturbed by what was going on, went outside again. There the two of them watched the spectacle for a few minutes more and then went back inside.

Their son who owns a video camera was not at home at the time.

During the days which followed the witness, usually a very relaxed person, was very nervous. He was unable to sleep and his pulse had accelerated. The day following the UFO experience his son went to the spot where the object was

seen and filmed four circular ground traces set out in the shape of a rectangle, 8m by 10m. Located in the centre of each circle (which were about a metre in diameter), the grass was twisted and depressed and there was a fine yellowish powder visible on the blades of the grass.

The flowers at the periphery of the traces did not suffer from the effects of the turbulence and they remained intact. Some days later the traces vanished. In the proximity of the site there is an abandoned mine shaft and less than 300m away there is a geological fault as well as a small stream.

Weird Shit

....I'm presently working on the theory that UFOs have actually been trying to contact us via the medium of magically charged household artefacts. Oooooo yes, you may scoff but WHY ELSE DO YOU THINK THAT HUBCAPS AND SAUCEPAN LIDS ARE THE SHAPE THEY ARE??? The logic is inescapable - due to early traumatic episodes with UFOs saucer, plate and hubcap designers were influenced by their subconscious to create UFO-like designs, which then 'resonate' in sympathy with the aliens! Throw out your saucers now! Only use non-magnetic paper plates! Steal and bury as many car wheel as you can before it's TOO LATE.....

From A Man In London Who Sends Me Strange Things - and let's face, can you argue with his logic? If so prove it now Ethers - consider also in this vein why people seem compelled to use hubcaps in pathetic attempts to fake UFO photos. Why do they do that? Answer: Simple, it's the aliens making them do it, and flying hub caps are in fact a screen memory which can appear on film (because remember (and chant this is in a monk-like tone for best effect) The Aliens Can Do Anything) to hide the awful truth about ufology yet again. And what's more the government know all about it! They bloody well do you know.

On Scientific Answers To Enigmas & How The Crop-Searcher

Could Come A Cropper.

By Manfred Cassirer

The beauty of the Randles-Fuller solution in UFO BRIGANTIA 47 is that it seems to explain not only 'circles' (round, oval, triangular, rectangular) but other mysteries, including associated or secondary effects like car stalling. This unified theory gives the birdie to speculation on occult and mystical lines, and is acceptably scientific. It is therefore unfortunate that the discussion is marred from the start by itself perpetuating 'media mythologising'. I refer to the baseless superstition that people like myself who are known to have visited pubs "start seeing things". The Crop Circle Cocktail has now apparently re-emerged as "a case in PINT" (sic para 4). (Editors note: sorry it was just a (sic) joak!).

Where can one watch (and I speak as a bird lover now) those fungi-infested "glowing owls", and what is their precise relevance to the subject? (The distinguished authors jump from one subject to another like jumping beans.)

Enigmas can often be solved by referring to standard works like Corliss, but even this does not necessarily prevent the occasional ship-wreck. A fair example of such a disaster is Podmore's "naughty little girl" theory.¹ Podmore tried to convince his readers (having become disillusioned with Spiritualism) that there was never anything about the Poltergeist. In doing so he perpetuated the myth that young females are always fraudulently involved. Modern research with the aid of technical equipment and careful observation has proved him fundamentally wrong.²

More recently, the late Guy Lambert attempted to account for the phenomenology by - surprise, surprise! - geophysical data.³ A simple control experiment proved that it was not explicable on his theory.⁴

Such errors of judgement, both by outstanding scholars, show the possibility that both sides in the corn circle dispute could be mistaken, and that the majority of these configurations are neither fakes nor "natural" and due to vortices.

On final point. "Key-sites" are not always involved. When we were investigating at West Kennett last year, the "circle" was so well concealed from the road, that, in spite of having given instructions, the car just sailed past it at our first attempt at finding the site. This said, it is true that some people have been a little hasty in embracing other "completely speculative solutions". There are ad hoc, circular arguments bandied about in plenty, and one can only conclude that the last word has not yet been spoken on this intriguing subject, let alone on the UFO.

References

1. In his Studies in Psychical Research, Frank Podmore concludes "That the alleged phenomena (sic!) are due in the first instance to trickery, magnified by malobservation and errors of memory."
2. See, e.g., ARG Owen's Can we Explain the Poltergeist?, Gauld & Cornell's Poltergeist, and Michael Goss's Annotated Bibliography.
3. Guy Lambert, an SPR President, contributed a number of articles in the SPR Journal, starting in 1955. The theme was taken up by Dingwall & Hall in Four Modern Ghosts (Duckworth 1958).
4. See Cornell's article in JSPR Vol.41 (1961), where he describes how he unsuccessfully tried to replicate movements of objects in "haunted" houses with a "house-shaking apparatus".

Sorry!

Two things in the gossip column of the November issue seemed to upset various people and were in fact based on dodgy information. As you the reader knows, UFO BRIGANTIA likes to get its facts right and so we offer the following to the various individuals concerned.

Apologies

In the November issue of UFO BRIGANTIA, in the gossip column, I intimated that Regina Cullen had been abducted. This statement was made in error and I wish to apologise to Ms Cullen and to convey her statement that she has never made any claim to have been abducted.

Harry Harris

Also in the November gossip column we stated "...that the Harry Harris conducted interview with....." We were in error there as Harris was not the interviewer, which was Norman Collinson, and was in fact only the cameraman. Mr Harris a solicitor from Manchester, who recently had an absolutely tremendously amazing series of his case files published in the Daily Star, was also under the impression that part of the statement defamed him in some way. We are pleased to state for Mr Harris' benefit that there was no such intention and that if Mr Harris perceived himself as being defamed in any way whatsoever, we can only apologise profusely and abundantly immediately and assure him as strongly as possible, publically, for all to see, that there was no such intention.

We would at this stage also like to publically apologise to all contributors to UFO BRIGANTIA, past, present and future for printing anything which or our readers might construe as anything they might not be too keen on. If anyone has any particular complaints please contact me and we will feature them, with an apology in the next issue. Sorry.

.....

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Last issues editorial, in which I mentioned the John Keel theory that the Roswell crash was a Japanese 'Balloon Bomb', had the magical effect of making someone several thousand miles away waste time and effort when he could have been doing something far more interesting, in replying to an obscure UK UFO journal. But as he's taken the trouble write we'll print his article. Note how he sets the tone by calling Keel 'a researcher of paranormal phenomena' - clever. In Ronald Story's UFO Encyclopedia Randle, in his position statement, says; "...but until something comes along to convince me, I must say that I don't think UFOs are spaceships." Roswell obviously for Kevin, like so many other American UFO investigators, is that 'something'.

Roswell Revisited

By

Donald R. Scmitt & Kevin Randle

John Keel, a researcher of paranormal phenomena, said he believed he had come up with an explanation for Roswell events twenty years ago and recently published an article (FATE, April 1990, about that). In his attempt to explain Roswell with the mundane he didn't even review the current state of the investigation except to quote from MAJESTIC, a work of fiction.

Keel's theory is that Mac Brazel came across a rice paper Japanese Balloon Bomb some two years after the war has ended. He concluded that the object lay hidden on a remote part of the ranch until freakish winds during a thunderstorm uncovered it, and that government embarrassment about the Japanese project kept the officers of the 509th Bomb Group from revealing the real nature of Brazel's find. Keel suggests that Army Air Force officers at Eight Air Force HQ in Fort Worth then substituted a weather balloon for the balloon bomb to keep the myth of American invulnerability alive.

To make his theory work, he has to accept the idea that in post-war America there was a reason to keep this a secret. he quotes from Japans World War II Balloon Bomb Attacks on North America by Robert C. Mikesh, published by the Smithsonian Institute in 1973. It was part of their multi-volume Annals of Flight series. That quote said, "On January 4, 1945, the Office of Censorship asked newspaper editors and radio broadcasters to give no publicity whatsoever to the balloon incidents. This voluntary censorship was adhered to from coast to coast, a remarkable self-restraint in a free-press-conscious country..."

That same publication also points out the reason for the request. The government feared that spies for the Japanese would read the stories and report to their HQ that the balloon bombs were reaching the United States. Documents secured after the war told of Japanese plans to use biological warfare against the U.S. if the bombing was successful. But the Japanese abandoned the plan when they could confirm no reports of any of their balloons reaching the North

American continent. They assumed, falsely, that all the balloon bombs had fallen harmlessly into the ocean.

The plan of censorship was abandoned in the summer of 1945 when six (not four as Keel writes) picknickers (not campers as Keel claimed) were killed by a balloon bomb in Oregon (not Montana as Keel suggested). According to the Rev. Archie Mitchell, he was on the picnic with his wife and several children. While he was parking the car his wife and the kids found the balloon in the woods. Tugging on it, they triggered one of the bombs causing an explosion that killed Elsie Mitchell, Jay Gifford (12), Eddie Engen (13), Sherman Shoemaker (12), Joan Patzke (11) and Dick Patze (13).

These six deaths were the only casualties recorded in the continental United States resulting from enemy action during World War II. In 1949 a Senate committee approved a House Bill to pay \$20000 to the families of those killed.

The deaths caused one other action. The War Department began a 'whispering campaign' to alert the general public about the dangers from the balloon bombs. Programs were presented in schools, in public halls, and through various civilian agencies so that the public would be aware of the danger. They felt that a well planned, well coordinated, low key program could inform the public without letting the Japanese know the balloons were reaching the U.S.

And when the war ended, the secrecy was lifted. Grace Maurer of Laurens, Iowa, remembered the balloon bombs. She had written an article for a local newspaper telling of the discovery of a balloon bomb on Feb. 2, 1945. Other balloons fell near Holstein and Pocahontas, Iowa, and Civil Defense Director George Buckwalter carried the debris away.

Those finds are relatively unimportant except that Maurer was visited by the FBI in February, 1945, who asked that she file her story. They explained the situation and Maurer complied, waiting until Aug. 16, 1945, after the end of the war to publish her article, a full account of the Japanese bombing of Iowa.

Maurer's story wasn't the only one published in that time frame. The New York Herald-Tribune on Jan. 2, 1945 printed "Balloon Bomb in Alaska". On Aug. 16, 1945, the New York Times reported "Bomb Laden Balloons fizzle." The Washington Post on Jan. 16, 1946 carried a report that "Nine Thousand Balloon Bombs were used against the United States." The New York Times of Feb. 9 1946 reported "Raids by Japanese Balloons."

In fact, the N.Y.T. ran a series of articles about the bombs in 1947, including "Piccard Flies Japanese Paper Balloon" on Feb. 17, 1947 and "Balloons...But Japan Never Knew The Outcome," on May 29, 1947.

These, plus other stories carried in local newspapers told the public about the balloon bombs. The secrecy imposed was only for the time of war and did not extend beyond the signing of the Japanese surrender in 1945. In fact, it wasn't even effective during the war as shown by the Alaska article. After the war was won, there was no reason for secrecy, no reason to deny that the bombs had been launched and had reached the U.S., and more importantly, no evidence that the topic was still classified. Again, Weidner's report for the army demonstrates that.

Keel claimed that Mac Brazel found a pile of rice paper in his field which was in keeping with his balloon bomb theory and that "the myth goes marching on". But Keel never bothers with descriptions of the material or the crash site. He dismisses the testimony of more than a dozen witnesses who were there and who witnessed it.

According to Major Jesse A. Marcel, intelligence officer of the 509th Bomb Group, the debris was spread over an area three-quarters of a mile long and two to three hundred feet wide. That was too much debris for one of the Japanese Balloon Bombs, which were about thirty-three feet in diameter. In fact, in the very beginning of Mikesh's

Japanese Balloon Bomb report there is a picture of about a dozen military and government officials inspecting one of the balloons. It did not come apart, it did not scatter debris over a large area, and it is easily identifiable as a balloon.

Marcel did mention the parchment that Keel seized on, but then Keel ignores the other descriptions. Marcel talked of metal that was thin as newsprint, as light as a feather and that was nearly indestructible. He described small I-beams made of metal that seemed light as balsa and that would flex slightly and that were incredibly strong.

Marcel said in many recorded interviews that they had tried to burn some of the material found on the ranch but could not. Rice paper would have burned easily. They tried to dent some of the larger pieces with a sixteen pound sledge hammer and could not. Rice paper would have torn and if the material was of some rubberised stuff used on a few of the balloons, it certainly would have shown the effects of the hammer. (Keel seems to think that Marcel wouldn't have attempted to burn the material if it had been parts of a flying disc. Of course, if Marcel's description of the debris field is correct, there were, literally, tons of it scattered over the field. One small piece, more or less, wasn't that important.

Marcel had no idea what the material was and loaded as much as he could into the back of his Buick. A counter-intelligence agent with him filled the jeep carry-all and they drove the wreckage to the Roswell Army Air Field.

Bill Brazel later reported that he had found some additional pieces that the military had failed to pick up. He described a slender strand of wire that he called monofilament fishing line but that sounded suspiciously like fibre optics. Brazel said that he could shine a light in one end and it would come out of the other.

Brazel also described a small piece of metal that he tried to whittle with his Buck Knife (which he had used in the past to cut barbed wire) but that it would not cut. It was a short piece of tan coloured material, light as balsa, but stronger than anything he'd ever seen.

And finally, Brazel described the lead foil-like material that when wadded into a ball would unfold itself with no sign of a crease.

These were what Bill Brazel found in the two years that followed the crash. His father, when he saw them, told Bill that "it looks like some of that contraption I found." Nowhere in his descriptions, did Bill Brazel ever mention rice paper, parchment, or the flower-like pictographs that Keel harps on about.

Bill Brazel also told us that the field where the thing crashed had been grooved. There was a shallow trench about five hundred feet long and ten feet wide at its widest. It was a straight trench that looked as if something had hit at a low angle and skipped. The pasture is not soft earth like that of a farm, but solid with little top soil and a rocky substrata. Whatever hit had been travelling fast and at a low trajectory.

Jesse Marcel, Jr., the son of the intelligence officer, also saw the material. His father was so excited by the material and find that he stopped at the house on the way back to the base. Although it was after midnight, he wanted his wife and son to see the wreckage. Remember, nothing had been classified so Major Marcel was not violating any regulations.

Jesse Jr. told us that he noticed some writing on one of the I-beams. He described it as purple and that it resembled Egyptian hieroglyphics but without the animal shapes. Later, he said that a better description was of geometric symbols.

Captain O.W. Henderson said that he had flown some of the wreckage from Roswell to Wright Field (in Dayton, Ohio). He described it as

something he had never seen before. Dull coloured metal that was very thin and very lightweight. Henderson was sure that it was metal and certainly not the remains of a paper and rubber balloon launched by the Japanese during the war.

Robert Smith, a sergeant with the 509th Bomb Group, reported that he, and a number of his friends, loaded three C-54s with crates that contained some of the debris found on the Brazel ranch. The only piece of it that Smith saw was a small chunk of metal. He said that it look like a heavy gauge tin but was stronger than anything of its size he'd ever seen.

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But investigation is a search for the truth, whatever that truth might be. Even though Keel's contention that the balloons was wrong, that there were no remote sections of the ranch for the balloon to have remained hidden on for two years, and that he ignores the descriptions of the material and crash site that don't agree with his theory, we decided to check it out more closely.

Art McQuiddy was the editor of the Roswell Morning Despatch in July 1947. He remembers Walter Haut bringing him the press release that said the 509th Bomb Group had

recovered a flying saucer. But, since his was a morning paper, there was nothing he could do about it until the next day. By then, according to McQuiddy, the weather balloon answer had been issued and then story was dead.

We asked McQuiddy if he'd ever heard the rumour, story, or explanation that Brazel had found a balloon bomb. "Never, ever, ever," he said. "It's not even a theory. If anyone would have suggested it, I would have heard of it."

Jud Roberts was the minority owner of radio station KGFL in Roswell in July 1947. When asked if the find could have been a balloon bomb, he said, "No. This is the first time I've ever heard it."

In July 1947 George Walsh worked at radio station KSWs, the other station in Roswell. According to Walsh, he'd heard rumours about the flying saucers but said of the balloon bomb, "That's one that missed me."

Johnny McBoyle worked with Walsh in the summer of 1947. When we asked him if he'd ever heard the theory, rumour or explanation that Brazel had found a ballon bomb, he said, "I don't remember it. I never heard it."

Al Stubbs worked for both the daily newspapers in Roswell at one time or another. It was in 1949 that he left the Morning Dispatch to go to work at the Daily Record. When asked if he'd ever heard the theory, rumour or explanation that it had been a balloon bomb, he said, "No. I never heard that."

Because Roswell was a military town and because there was a good relation between the base and the town, it was possible that the military had been able to hide the truth from the representatives of the loacl media. It wouldn't have been the first time that reporters had missed a good story.

In July, 1947, Phyllis McGuire's father, George Wilcox, was the sheriff of Chaves County. Brazel, when he went to Roswell, took the material to the sherriff's office. Because it was the Fourth of July weekend, McGuire was at home. She was there as the military swarmed over the office. She knew of the special meetings, the search for more

debris and the reaction of both the local law enforcement agencies and the military to the find.

We asked McGuire if there was a possibility that what was found was a Japanese Ballon Bomb. McGuire said, "No, I never heard that. I don't think he (Keel) knows what a ballon bomb is. It's not logical."

Most of the deputies who worked for the sheriff in July, 1947, have long since died. But one of them still lives and his reaction to the theory it was a balloon bomb was, "I never heard a thing like that. Nothing at all."

Of course, if Keel's theory was right, even the local sheriff might have been cut out of the loop. He, or in this case, his daughter and his deputy, might not have been told what Brazel found. Members of Colonel William Blanchard's staff (Blanchard was the commanding officer of the 509th Bomb Group) would have known. They were the men charged with cleaning up the debris.

In July, 1947, Joe Briley was a lieutenant colonel and assigned as the Operations Officer. When asked about the balloon bomb, he said, "I never heard that mentioned. There were no rumours about it. It certainly was not talked about at the base and if it had ever been suggested, I would have heard of it."

In July, 1947, Patrick Saunders was a major and assigned as the Base Adjutant. His job would have required him to accomplish the paperwork surrounding the assigning of troops to clean up the debris. When we asked if he'd ever heard about the recovery of a balloon bomb, he said, "I don't remember it. If it had been one, I would have remembered that."

Blanchard's Provost Marshal, the military equivalent of the local police chief, was Major Edwin Easley. His job would have been to cordon the area with troops and to protect the crash site until the material had been recovered. When asked if he'd heard that the debris was a balloon bomb, he said, "No. Never heard anything like that and I would have if it had been. It's an idiotic story."

There was always the possibility, however remote, that all these people had been kept in the dark. It is possible that the military officers were sworn to secrecy and were lying. But that doesn't explain why the reporters would say they'd never heard it. It doesn't explain why no one in Roswell heard that it might have been a balloon bomb. It is possible that the cover-up was so well constructed that even after forty years, we couldn't break it talking to the people who were there. Not very likely, but barely possible.

We took the investigation farther. The Smithsonian Annals of Flight reference contained a listing of nearly three hundred balloon bomb related incidents. It gave the location where the bombs had been recovered. The farthest east was Michigan, the farthest north was Alaska and Canada and the farthest south was Mexico City. There were no listed recoveries in New Mexico.

Thinking that Mikesh might have missed something in his research, we contacted the Museum of New Mexico in Santa Fe and asked if there were any documents, records, or stories of any balloon bomb recoveries in New Mexico. Charles Bennett said that he knew of "no records or any indications of any balloon bomb attacks." In fact, Bennett told us that he looked for that sort of thing and that he'd never seen anything like it.

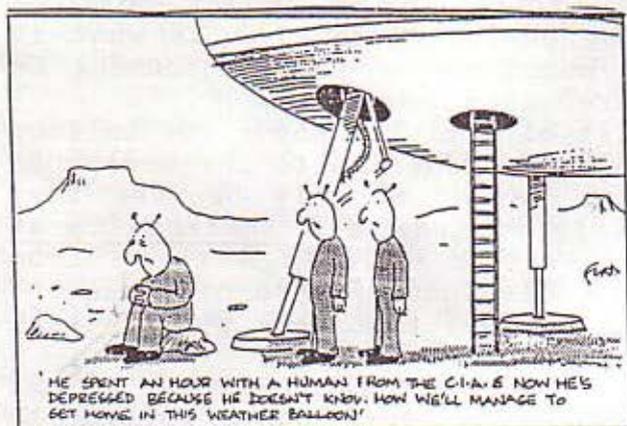
Bennett did say, however, that he might have missed something and suggested that we contact Robert Torres, also with the Museum. Torres said, "I've never seen anything like that. No indication that any did (reach New Mexico)." Torres said that he'd check the various indices, records and charts to see if anything had been found. If he learned that one of more had been reported in New Mexico, he would call with the information, If not, he wouldn't bother to call. He didn't.

But the Museum of New Mexico in Santa Fe, with all its state

records, files and documents, might have missed a single story of a balloon bomb in Chaves or Lincoln Counties, New Mexico. We called the Chaves County Historical Museum. David Orr told us that he'd never heard anything like it. "Not that I know of," he said. "maybe it's too wide open here so noone found anything. I have heard of them on the west coast.

Keel might claim that all these people were kept from knowing the truth, though there is no evidence that such is the case. It might be said that after all these years, the people at the Museum of New Mexico and the Chaves County Historical Society just weren't aware of the balloon bombs. It could be that the people seeing a balloon might not have recognised it as such.

In September, 1847, Lewis S. Rickett, a master sergeant with the Army's Counter Intelligence Corps was ordered to escort Doctor Lincoln LaPaz around central New Mexico as they tried to determine the speed and trajectory of the device that crashed on the Brazel ranch.



According to Rickett, who was cleared for top secrets, LaPaz formed the opinion that whatever hit the Brazel ranch was a probe from another planet. At no time did LaPaz tell Rickett that he thought the material was a balloon bomb. There would have been no reason for LaPaz to tell Rickett it was extraterrestrial if it was a Japanese Balloon Bomb. According to Rickett, there was never any discussion of the Japanese Balloon Bombs.

And LaPaz's opinion was important for one other reason. LaPaz, during

the Second World War, had investigated the balloon bombs. He worked with officers at Second Air Force HQ near Colorado Springs as the first of the balloons arrived. He investigated a number of reported finds, and was there when the first intact balloon bomb was captured in January, 1945. LaPaz would have easily recognised the material as a balloon if it had been one.

In January 1953, LaPaz wrote an article about the balloon bombs. LaPaz related the story of a number of finds, of Japanese plans to use biological warfare, and the capture of the first of the balloon bombs. Nowhere in that article is there a mention of anything found in Roswell.

Rickett, in fact, was fully aware of LaPaz's research into the balloon bombs. When we asked Rickett, based on his own knowledge and his association with LaPaz if it could have been one, Rickett replied, "No way. These people (Keel) don't know anything about this country (New Mexico), the mountains, or the winds.

LaPaz was the director of the Institute of Meteoritics at the University of New Mexico. According to them, most of LaPaz's records from his government days had been destroyed. There was no indication that LaPaz had anything to do with balloon bomb research after the war, however.

The last place to check seemed to be Project Bluebook. Lieutenant Col. Robert Friend was the head of that organisation in the late 1950s. When we asked if Roswell might have been a balloon bomb, he said, "I've heard that theory. I suppose it's possible, but this was some time after the war. It would have been easily identifiable. I think that it's a very, very, very remote possibility."

Of all the people we contacted about that, Friend was the only one to say that he'd heard the theory, and even he didn't like it. He was the one to point out that it was so long after the war had ended and he was

the one who said that the officers at Roswell should have been able to identify it. Friend did say that he remembered reading a file about Roswell and in it there was nothing about a balloon bomb.

Keel in his response to our article in FATE (Jan. 1991) claims that he talked to a local historian (in Roswell) who told him that it was a balloon bomb. We are to accept this pronouncement, even though everyone we contacted said they hadn't heard such a story. We are asked to believe this though Keel admits that he can't supply a name.

In fact, the majority of Keel's story hinges on our faith in his research. He belittles our witnesses, claiming they were contaminated, that he could find hordes of witnesses claiming to have been in Roswell, but he provides use with no facts. Just his stories.

And Keel offers no documentation for his claims. He ignores the Unit History prepared by the 509th Bomb Group. These were detailed accounts of the unit's activities in 1947. While flying saucers are mentioned, the recovery of Keel's balllon bomb is not. Since the documents were originally classified, there is no reason for the recovery of the balloon bomb not to be mentioned if that is what it was. In fact, in our search, we have not found a single document to support the theory that Brazel discovered a balloon bomb.

It is interesting that in Keel's list of articles about the balloon bombs there is nothing earlier than 1953. In addition to the newspaper and journal articles mentioned earlier (selected only because they pre-dated the July 1947 find by Brazel), there is a Readers Digest article from August, 1950, and Dr. Lincoln LaPaz's article from Collier's on January 17, 1953. There are also unpublished histories of several military units from 1945, 1946 and 1947 that make reference to the balloon bombs.

Keel claims that in 1947, the Army covered up the recovery of the balloon bomb because the military and the government wanted to maintain the myth of American invulnerability. He offers no proof that this was the case.

We can prove, through documentation, that the balloon bombs were not a secret in 1947. There were dozens of articles published about them. Keel himself admits that in the January 1991 issue of FATE where he writes, "Actually there were hundreds of articles published between 1946-1970, particularly in regional journals and local newspapers." That's our point exactly. By 1947, there was no secrecy surrounding the balloon bombs.

Keel reports on rice paper and strings and ignores all the descriptions of the metal found at Roswell. He rejects the testimony of the witnesses, dismissing it with the ridiculous sentence, "I suppose by 1989 there will be thousands of Roswell witnesses from that long-gone era."

Keel ignores what he can't explain, belittles what he can't ignore, and offers us nothing to prove what he says. Our witnesses are unimportant, according to him, because he could find a like number. But the question becomes, how many crimes would go unsolved if there are more than 250 witnesses to them?

In return, Keel offers no documents, no names of witnesses, no proof at all. Just innuendo suggesting that we have been duped by all the charlatans operating. He accuses us of religious-type pilgrimages to the crash site when it is simply good investigative technique. Do we expect to find any metal after more than forty years? Of course not. But it is necessary to look. And, having been to the site, we know there are no remote parts of the ranch for the balloon bomb to have remained undiscovered for more than twp years. There are fence lines that would have prevented the winds from blowing the debris to the field where Brazel found it. And there are cattle that would have eaten the rice paper long before it blew onto the field.

Keel's theory breaks down under objective research. If it had been

Contactee Corner

When I was five I had a dream..a dream so real I remember it as if it happened yesterday. I was in a bright white room lying on a table. I recall two beings examining me with a device resembling a large microscope aimed at my forehead. The tip was illuminated and it also emitted a high pitched tone. I really thought nothing of my experience until I reached the end of my teens. I started to dwell on that experience as I began to question the reasoning behind it. I thought I was crazy.

While in my early twenties I felt compelled to read all material related to UFOs and abduction cases. I wasn't satisfied with the information I had gathered, there were still pieces of the puzzle missing and a lot of unanswered questions. After several years I decided to take it one step further and placed a classified as in various public newspapers.

The response was tremendous, but I really didn't find what I was looking for...not until I received one specific letter.. and that that's where this whole scenario started to gradually unfold.

This letter was from a person who seemed to be on the same "wavelength" as I was...I knew that I had found what I was looking for. He left his phone number, so I immediately contacted him. I was struck as to how much knowledge he possessed. I contacted him once every month for about a year and a half. He gradually told me what was going on. The pieces of the puzzle slipped into place.

You may be asking yourself "Who is this informant?" Through conversations with him, he has revealed to me that there are several types of 'alien races' currently visiting and residing on earth. He belongs to the race which recreate themselves as humans in order to study and assist mankind..Sound too far fetched? Read on...

During the first few conversations with him, I was naturally very sceptical. He just said that I should accept the fact I was chosen. Those people are selected because of certain personality traits they possess. I began to question whether this person was putting me on or not..this is when I began to realise that this was no joke. He told me to go outside at 12 midnight on December 23rd 1988 and that I should look directly above my house...I was astonished as what I saw. I noticed a bluish-white light approaching from the eastern part of the night sky. It wasn't a star and it definitely wasn't a 'plane. It approached and hovered over my house at about 500 feet. Then within a couple of seconds, it shot upwards and disappeared. This was all the reassurance I needed...this person was "definitely" for real.

The reason for many abduction cases is that these people are basically "implanting" individuals who are systematically chosen by them for a "definite" purpose in the near future. This implant is basically a storehouse of knowledge containing a vast array of information, for example; formulas for food processing and growing, medicine, space travel etc. What I have mentioned is only the tip of the iceberg...there is much, much more. The main purpose is for the implantees to educate the people by gradually spreading this knowledge. It is like comparing it to a locked drawer. Once the drawer is unlocked, the knowledge will become like second nature. All implantees will have a sudden interest in an area they never had previously. The event that will release the information contained in the implants is called the "formation"..it will occur within the next two years. It is the key that will unlock the drawer.

It is not important that you believe this now. In a year, perhaps two, when the truth finally becomes known, you will look back on this and realise that it was indeed "actual fact".

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