

DEFEND

No. 10



They Walk Through Walls *SpaceSpots*

Weird World

Citizens of a small port in Peru are up to their necks in garlic and crucifixes as they awaited a vampire. Residents of Pico panicked over a legend that an English woman buried there is a vampire who vowed to return to life and seek revenge on June 9, 1993. The newspaper 'Expresso' said the woman, sentenced to death for murder and witchcraft, was buried alive in a lead-lined coffin to prevent her escape. Before she was placed in the coffin she swore to avenge herself in 80 years.

A British transvestite lost his bid to wear a skirt at work when an industrial tribunal rejected his claim that his employer's dress code was discriminatory. "I feel oppressed, I feel denied the liberties to which I am entitled to in this country," Paul Cara, a London social work official, told British radio. Cara, who is married, was able to wear leggings, tights and blouses to work, but his bosses drew the line when he turned up in a skirt.

In Sopron, Hungary, a 17-year-old girl has become the center of a new religious cult after she miraculously appeared in three places at the same time during her high school graduation. Witnesses say Magda Puskas was simultaneously seated in the audience, standing on the stage and speaking at the podium while scores of people watched. She could not explain how it happened.

Mayor Andras Gazso said, "People say this girl has special powers and they're coming from all over to see her." (Source: WWN)

A 13-year-old boy was crushed to death when an enormous snowman he was building collapsed. Copenhagen, Denmark police said the boy died after being pinned under "a huge amount of snow." (AP)

In Colombia, RCN Radio reported on Feb. 1, 1995, that a Holstein cow had stepped on the trigger of a loaded rifle left in a field by a farm worker, firing a bullet straight into the head of another animal grazing nearby. The injured cow was taken to veterinary surgeons in the town of Velez about 149 miles north of Bogota, who reported her condition as critical. (Reuter)

At the start of 1995, traffic in downtown Tokyo ground to a halt when squid races attracted large crowds of office workers who fancied a flutter. The winner took home the speediest squid.

A Baptist man was bitten and killed by a rattlesnake he brought to the New River Holiness Church in Enigma, Ga., because the Bible says believers "shall take up serpents." Dewey Hale, 40, was bitten during Sunday services. His death was ruled accidental. He brought the snake in a box and was bitten on the hand when he took it out.

Cockroaches like canned dog food, says the Orlando Sentinel, "but aren't crazy about dry dog food. They detest cucumbers and tomatoes and scrupulously avoid vegetables of any kind. They dislike salty crackers or pretzels. But perhaps the most stunning news is that a growing number of roaches are turning up their antennae at peanut butter and sweets."

A set of false teeth lost in the North Sea have been returned to their Dutch owner after being found in the belly of a cod. "It's unbelievable, but true," tackle owner Hugo Slammat said, after returning the teeth to a man who lost his bottom plate when he became seasick during a day trip. Slammat recovered it when he took some anglers out to his usual fishing haunts. He was gutting an 8.5 kg cod when, he said, "I saw this thing in the cod's stomach and turned it over with the tip of my knife and then I saw the teeth." (Source: Reuter)

About 100 farmers drove six ox carts full of home grown dung to the Parliament buildings in New Delhi, India, after being outraged by the Indian government's plans to import 2.7 million tons of high-grade manure from the Netherlands. They sought to gain public support with the chant..."Indian dung is better than Dutch dung, and pesticide-free too!"

In Chesapeake, Va., Gloria Torres couldn't pay her monthly rent of \$55 so the proprietors of a storage business auctioned off the contents of her locker. There were Torre's wedding dress, photo albums and the cremated remains of her mother stored in a black lacquered box. Someone bought the box for \$170.

A hapless Dutchman spent more than \$1,000 on a police-trained guard dog...only to have it stolen two days later.

BOOK REVIEWS

ICE FALLS AND ANGEL HAIR

By Allan J. Manak

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Publications OF INTEREST

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PROMISES & DISAPPOINTMENTS - UFO news and articles, plus UFO publication reviews. Four issues for \$18. Kevin McClure, 42 Victoria Rd., Mount Charles, Stl Austell, Cornwall PL25 4QD, England

CONTACT FORUM - A round table of universal communication on ETs. Six issues per year. US: \$18.50; Canada: \$23. Wild Flower Press. P.O. Box 726, Newberg, OR 97132

PHOENIX NEWSLETTER - Latest news on UFOs, ufologists, publications and varied topics that should be of interest to everyone. Quarterly. US: \$15. Other countries: \$20. Phil Reynolds, P.O. Box 209, Woodbridge, VA 22194-0209

EQUINOXE - Covers all aspects of the UFO subject and current news of a very informative nature. Monthly. \$15 per year. Jim Donohoe, P.O. Box 252, London, OH 43140

AURA-Z - A publication dedicated to UFOs, people phenomena and much more in Russia. 100 pages or more. Quarterly. Four issues: US\$ 16. Alexander Avshalumov, P.O. Box 224, Moscow 117463, Russia

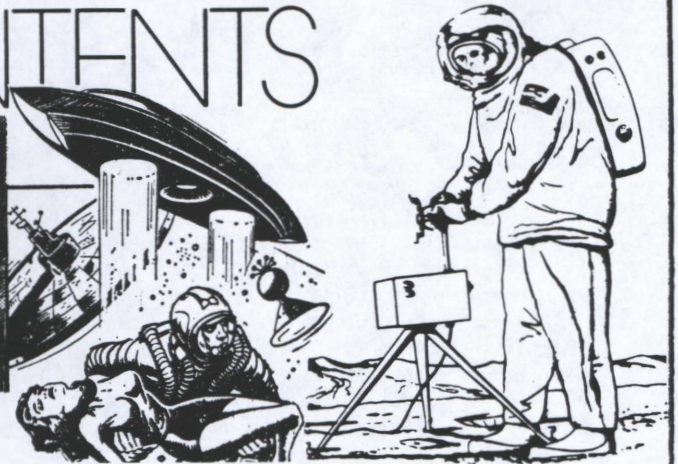
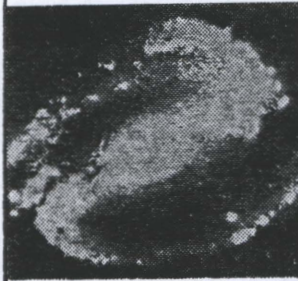
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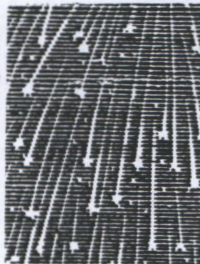
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COVER: A depiction of the great meteor storm of Nov. 13, 1833 in this period woodcut, as seen by New Englanders. We can only hope to see such a show at a future Pleiades meteor shower which occurs in mid-August every year.



The woodcut is even more illustrative of a meteorite storm over Ching-yang in China's Shanxi Province in 1490. Records in the official history of the Ming Dynasty reported that over 10,000 people were killed when the "stones fell like rain."

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Cave explorers going deeper into the Earth

"I gazed at these marvels in profound silence. Words were utterly wanting to indicate the sensations of wonder I experienced. To give body and existence to such new sensations would have required the coinage of new words." — Jules Verne, "A Journey to the Centre of the Earth," 1864

By Harry F. Rosenthal
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — One hundred thirty years later, words still fail the explorers who venture into the Earth.

"The whole thing is pure exploration," said Bill Stone. "If you haven't been there, you can't understand it."

For 44 days this spring, Stone and his teammates were underground in a natural abyss in southern Mexico, descending three-quarters of a mile vertically under the surface, then swimming through a half-mile long underwater tunnel to an air-filled cavern beyond.

They eventually got down to 4,839 feet — just short of a mile — the deepest humans have gone in a cave in the Western Hemisphere, the fifth deepest in the world. One member of the expedition died in the attempt.

Why did they do it? Because, as the cliché goes, it is there.

"It's unknown territory down there," Stone said. "It's basically the last bastion on this planet of truly manned geographical exploration. If you ask 'who has been doing exploration in the last 30 years?' you can pretty much say it's been 12 Apollo astronauts who set foot on the moon and the cave explorers of the world."

Not spelunkers. Not even cavers. Explorers.

"I think of myself as a modern

age explorer, that's what this is all about," Stone said. "It happens to be the frontier right now."

This particular frontier, Sistema Huautla, is a 35-mile-long complex of interconnected deep limestone caverns in the Mexican state of Oaxaca. Previous attempts at exploration of the cave were stopped by a passage flooded to the ceiling with water. No scuba diving equipment was adequate.

When he's not rappelling down a shaft or swimming through nearly opaque water underground, Stone, 41, is a research structural engineer at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Md., a place where inventors can stretch their minds at government expense.

With eight colleagues, he designed a life-support system that allows a swimmer to remain underwater for 6-8 hours — twice that, when two units are joined.

Their goal was a "sump" at the deepest known point in the Mexican cave where the water completely filled the sloping tunnel. The explorers were to don their backpacks and swim into the watery obstacle, seeking a way on to presumed air-filled passages on the other side.

"You cannot get to where we got this year with traditional scuba diver apparatus," he said. "It's just too inefficient, blowing away all that gas every time you breathe underwater."

His device is based on the space suit principle, but it's more complicated because built-in computers adjust a helium-oxygen mixture for the diver, while astronauts set and forget their pure oxygen flow. Exhaled gas is recirculated to remove carbon dioxide by a special process.

"Otherwise, you'd be wasting precious molecules," Stone said. "Every pound carried to that dive site is paid for in sweat and blood."

Stone weighed 210 pounds when he left home on Jan. 15 and 189 when the expedition ended in June. The weight-saving effort extends to food, too. The explorers grind freeze-dried food into dust, and compress it into gallon-sized plastic bottles to avoid carting aluminum foil wrapping in and out.

"We can get 15 man-days worth of food in a gallon," Stone boasts.

To reach the underwater passage, Stone's team — which numbered up to 20 at times — rigged more than 2 miles of rope down large, steeply descending tunnels, following a river most of the way. There were 60 sheer drops — the longest 360 feet — in inky blackness, lit only by the puny glow of their headlamps and backdropped by the hiss of falling water.

The cavers also needed to string ropes to cross 30 other places where the boiling underground river was too dangerous to wade or swim.

The air temperature was near 70 degrees — fresh and pure. But with 100 percent humidity the cavers sweated profusely inside their colorful nylon coveralls as they hauled 50-pound loads of gear across giant rockfalls in monstrous chambers with ceilings too high to be seen, across slippery surfaces scrubbed clean by millions of years of scouring water.

The first members of the team to make test dives into the deep sump were Noel Sloan, 40, of Indianapolis, and Steve Porter, 41, of McKinney, Texas, and Ian Rolland, 30, of St. Andrews, Scotland. They laid 800 feet of guideline at depths up to 80 feet underwater to find their way back out. Four days later Rolland and Kenny Broad, 28, of Miami, began diving in earnest.

They poked into numerous deadends before Broad succeeded in finding a way through the sump — a final distance of 1,400 feet underwater where visibility

"It's unknown territory down there. It's basically the last bastion on this planet of truly manned geographical exploration."

Bill Stone
Underground explorer

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Tens of thousands of seemingly ordinary people have a very strange tale to tell involving spaceships and odd-looking creatures. Are they getting ...

CARRIED AWAY?

SKYE Ambrose — yes, that was her name before all this started — says it happened 3½ years ago on a remote, moonlit stretch of Colorado highway. Enticed by circular flashing lights in the sky, she and a friend pulled off Interstate 70, cut the headlights, and then watched in disbelief as ethereal black waves began to envelop the car. “Oh, my God. What are those?” Skye said to her friend, who had noticed something else.

“Look! A falling star.” The words were barely out of her mouth before the star turned into a glowing ball of white light. It stopped above a field, hovering no more than 100 feet from the car. As the women watched in speechless amazement, two beams of light, brilliant with pinks, purples and blues, dropped from the ball to form a shimmering “V.”

“You know those people who say they’ve been kidnapped by a UFO?” Ambrose said weakly to her friend. “Well, that’s not going to happen to us. We’re not getting out of this car!”

Suddenly, the lights vanished. All at once, the women felt exhausted and irritable, their nerves frayed. A short drive brought them to Goodland, Kan., where they found a motel and, inside, unpleasant surprises in the bathroom mirror.

Ambrose’s friend stared in shock at the deep flush tainting her normally pale complexion. And Ambrose was equally affected — colorless and drawn, with her ordinarily curly hair plastered flat against her head.

But the worst shock came in the morning, when Ambrose looked at a map and realized that it had taken three hours to drive the 72-mile leg of the trip on which they had seen the UFO. Even with the stop for the encounter, that left nearly two hours unaccounted for. Where had they gone?

BY any rational measure, the idea is absurd: aliens kidnapping people to take them aboard flying saucers for bizarre experiments. Space creatures used to be the stuff of tabloid headlines, and still are: A recent *Weekly World News* ran the story “Hillary Clinton adopts alien baby” — with a photo. But these days you can spot aliens, or at least serious discussions of them, everywhere from the office of a Harvard psychiatrist to high-rated network miniseries. They are the subject of talk shows, best-selling books and schol-

arly debate at symposiums — and sometimes they’re as close as the neighbor down the street, people like 45-year-old Skye Ambrose. She is to speak July 17-18 at the Seattle UFO Research Conference. Sample topics: “Multiple Participant Abductions” and “Analysis: NASA UFOs on Videos.”

The few mental-health professionals who take the subject seriously have found themselves overwhelmed by patients like Ambrose, ordinary people who claim no initial interest or belief in UFOs but who suddenly seem beset by symptoms that closely resemble post-traumatic stress disorder.

Even skeptics acknowledge that a growing number of people around the globe are convinced that they have had a close encounter of the fourth kind (abduction). Indeed, a recent survey by the Roper Organization — commissioned by UFO believers — suggests that one in 50 adult Americans, a total of 3.7 million people, has had a series of “unusual personal experiences” that could point to an abduction.

“That number’s in the ballpark,” insists John Mack, a Harvard Medical School psychiatrist currently treating some 60 professed abductees. “I was shocked when I saw it. But the more I get into this, the less I can account for it with any conventional psychiatric explanation.”

Most abductees, say sympathetic psychiatrists like Mack, show no signs of mental illness. What typically brings them to a therapist is an anxiety they’re desperate to identify and overcome. Usually with the aid of hypnosis, they’re led back through a missing-time experience or what they had thought was a dream to discover memories of a scenario in which they’re taken aboard an alien craft and poked and prodded by inscrutable, bug-eyed creatures.

THAT is how Skye Ambrose’s tale emerged — under hypnosis by John Carpenter, a psychiatric social worker in Springfield, Mo. “After my first hypnotic regression,” she says, “I could still say to myself that I was crazy. But after my friend had her session and came up with the same story, separate from me, with so many matching details, I couldn’t dismiss it as a hallucination.”

Under hypnosis, Ambrose says, she learned that the beams from the ball of light contained two beings, perhaps 5½ feet tall, thin, white and virtually featureless except for two huge, dark eyes. They floated the women to an enormous craft in the sky, then took them to a small, circular room in which Ambrose’s friend underwent surgery. What resembled a small computer chip with tiny hooks or feelers was implanted deep within her nose. Alarmed at first, Ambrose found herself being calmed, she says, by two aliens who rubbed and stroked her head, and a third with glittering eyes that held her entranced. Both women then were taken before the tallest of the beings, who telepathically assured them that the aliens meant no harm.

“He communicated that they’re the guardians of Earth and have been for millions of years,” says Ambrose. “They’re working with people who have chosen to do this work with them.” Then, the women say, they were returned to their car, with no memory of their abduction. The friend says she later suffered nosebleeds as a result of the implant but has never had a medical examination to detect it.

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OTHER than an alien invasion, what might account for the abduction phenomenon? Skeptics note that these stories are contemporary variations on age-old themes and scenarios. "Abduction delusions [abound] in folklore," says Robert Baker, a University of Kentucky professor emeritus. "Since the Middle Ages, people have been abducted by dragons, ogres, leprechauns, fairies and so on. They're not crazy; they're victims of what are commonly known as 'waking dreams,' delusions you have when you're in a hypnopompic [waking up] or hypnogogic [falling asleep] state."

Most abduction stories begin in bed, with the victim being awakened by beings who magically slip into the bedroom, transport their paralyzed victim through solid walls and seldom leave any signs of their visit. This bears a striking resemblance to the phenomenon of sleep paralysis, a well-documented but poorly understood state in which one is awake but still paralyzed by the neurological mechanism that inhibits muscle tone during sleep. "Almost 90 percent of the time, sleep paralysis is accompanied by a certainty that there is something threatening in the room with you," says David Hufford, the author of the book *The Terror That Comes in the Night*.

And there are other caveats. Some researchers say that scenarios of being held against one's will and physically violated suggest masked memories of childhood abuse. Nor does the fact that two people report similar experiences stand as corroboration, according to critics. "It's very easy for two people to have the same kind of hallucinatory experience at the same time, then reinforce each other," says the University of Kentucky's Baker. What's more, "it's been demonstrated that you can hypnotize people who don't claim to have been abducted, tell them they have had an abduction experience, and they'll report the same thing that so-called real abductees report."

Yet even doubters are fascinated. "I, myself, don't

Skye Ambrose of St. Charles, Mo., says the space aliens who abducted her are here to bring about an evolutionary change — and make sure we humans don't destroy the planet in the meantime.'

'I was working with a guy who told me, "I'd hoped you were going to tell me I was crazy." People would rather believe they're crazy than have these unexplained experiences befall them.'

— John Mack,
a Harvard Medical
School psychiatrist

believe" in abductions by aliens, says Laurence Goldstein, author of *The Flying Machine and Modern Literature*. "But to say something is imaginary is not to say it's unreal: The imagination is a real faculty that can penetrate to truth. Flying saucers are ... authentic manifestations of anxieties. Therefore, we don't want to just dismiss the whole controversy as ridiculous. We want to ask why these things are going on."

The first rash of UFO sightings in this country happened nearly a century ago, and some observers see a similar case of millennial fever in today's outbreak of abduction reports, "that sense of some apocalyptic cycle in history impending and the fear of being taken over by some powerful alien force," Goldstein says. "Back then, it culminated in H.G. Wells' *War of the Worlds*. We have abductions, and films like *Aliens*."

Goldstein sees the "alien invasion" as a reflection of everything from an us-vs.-them fear of illegal immigrants (aliens) to the loss of privacy in the 1990s (the invasion of personal space). But the biggest theme, he says, is the end of one era — the Cold War — coinciding with the start of a millennium. "That sense of some new cycle about to begin is symbolized by a terror of the alien taking over. ... Americans are ambivalent about the future, and that shows up in UFOs."

Skye Ambrose, for one, insists that her experience is no metaphor. In contrast to the many abductees who feel trapped and frightened by their encounters, she embraced and explored hers. The results have been dramatic, she says. "It's like going through reincarnation, and within that I'm not quite 4 years old."

Ambrose left her career in real estate sales and marketing and is now a massage therapist. She says she has replaced the fear, insecurity and tension in her life with spiritual growth. She's writing a book about her abduction experiences, and learning more about the aliens' grand designs for evolutionary midwifery. "I know now that I chose to go through this. I'm cooperating with a universal purpose." ☐

USA WEEKEND • June 25-27, 1993

WorldWatch

The World Wildlife Fund estimates that 90% of the Mexican fir forest providing a haven for migrating monarch butterflies has disappeared. Scientists warn that if the trend continues, the age-old phenomenon of migration could be over in 15 years. (San Antonio Express-News)



NASA cancelled plans to send astronauts to the moon and Mars until the nation is able to afford it. But McDonnell Douglas is developing a cheap rocket — The Delta Clipper — designed to put people into orbit for a fraction of the cost of a shuttle flight. It may take eight or nine years to get it ready. (Toronto Globe & Mail, Apr. 16/93.)

GENETIC MONSTER WARNING

An expert in genetics warns that half-human, half-animal monsters could be bred by scientists working on unregulated experiments. Global controls on the fast-evolving science are urgently needed, says Simone Bilderbeek, a delegate at a UN conference in Montreal, Canada.

"If I were the director of horror movies at this moment I could make the most beautiful science fiction stories about genetically modified organisms. I mean, they are already creating mixtures of animals and human beings," she said.

Bilderbeek said scientists have already introduced a human gene into cows to increase the cows' resistance to some diseases.

"In fact, you're creating a mixture of a human being and an animal. What kind of human rights does an animal have, for example?"

The days are getting longer, British astronomers say. Studying ancient Babylonian and Chinese data and found the Earth's spin has been gradually slowing down for the last 2,700 years. Days are gaining 1.7 milliseconds every 100 years. Sixty million years ago the day would have been a quarter of an hour shorter than presently.



Africanized honeybees, aggressive insects with a misleading reputation, are expected to reach west Texas and southern New Mexico sometime this year. The so-called "killer" bees are advancing along the Pecos and Rio Grande valleys.

GRAVITY \approx By John R. Frick \approx THE SOURCE

GRAVITY, Natural - A process created by the "core" of all planets, major or minor which perpetually produces the "lighter-than-air" subatomic particles, compressing or infusing said particles with a specific weight by their kind. This completed atomic element fills a planet's "inner-cavern" spilling out the northern "axis vent" and surrounding a planet's surface to a static distance commensurate to that planet's diameter.

This is the result of "centrifugal force" created by the rotating "core" of each planet, major or minor. As the gravity-laden "atmosphere" reaches the natural "heat barrier" the atomic particles become dislodged and the "weight of gravity" separates leaving a pure energy source.

The attrition of "gravity" is rather rapid as it moves toward the confines of a "planetary envelope," and the "zero gravity barrier." At a given distance beyond the "heat" source, "centrifugal force" reduces disappearing, leaving in its wake nothing but a solar wind.

This solar wind moving to the left and right, propels the pure energy subatomic particles following the curve of the planetary envelope, toward the southern axis vent of the planet, where the magnetic attraction of the "electro-magnet core" draws this energy source into position, and again this perpetual process is repeated.

Suffice to say, that "natural gravity" controls all atomic elements within a "planetary envelope," -- this being the nature of GRAVITY! All planets are so constructed to accomplish "natural gravity" during their formative creation, the "heavier-than-air" atomic particles occupying the "core" and the "double crust" and the "lighter-than-air" atomic particles constituting "atmosphere."

During sustained meteoric bombardments the "heat factor" increases destroying the static continuity of "gravity," and the surface "saltwater" upon a planet finds its way into the resulting cracks, draining into huge empty caverns below said surface.

In Earth's solar system the major planets Mercury, Venus, and Mars, all suffer from "cracked surfaces." All minor planets which are devoid of surface "saltwater" are likewise impaired. All planets major or minor are so constructed with "double crusts" which increases their vulnerability concerning impact. These planets are very much "alive," for they maintain their orbital positions by virtue of the "counter-force-of-magnetics" which completes a torque between the "core" and the "inner crust" of each planet, this due to an opposing rotation between "core" and said "inner crust."

For the purpose of this writing it has been determined that the "core" of each planet major and minor, is so constructed as an "electromagnet." The "core" of each planet is estimated to be approximately one-third the diameter of said planet, occupying a position upon the "axis line" within the planets "inner-cavern." The speed of rotation is commensurate with the physical size of each planet.

In spite of the conditions which have been cited, each planet maintains a static "gravity/atmosphere" which is in evidence as proven upon the lunar surface, for a planet's "core" perpetually produces the "lighter-than-air" subatomic particles which maintains said atmosphere, having been fortified by a specific "weight of gravity" by their kind, in a process which is to be described.

The "double crust" discovery becomes a proven fact, for the equatorial positioning of the double crust which is originally reflected by virtue of a perpendicular axis, gives visible proof as to the volcanic patterns away from the equatorial latitudes, diminishing as they spread toward both poles.

Continued from preceding page

The "heat" factor at the equatorial latitudes is now considered as a result of the rotational friction between the double crusts. The liquid magma does therefore supply the volcanoes situated away from these latitudes, of which the "core" has no function.

Some years ago it was noticed that the western desert areas in Africa were creeping toward the north. Since our axis has been shifted $23\frac{1}{2}$ degrees, the rotational aspect shows the same shift, the equatorial heat is now the same degrees closer to the north pole ice and snow. A rapid "melt-down" is in the offing.

Scientific data of concern, does $1/6$ gravity exist upon the lunar surface? Hardly, for NASA found "natural gravity," static to four and seven tenths miles upon its surface. Does "gravity" exist beyond a planet's "zero gravity barrier?". Absolutely not, for a planet's "planetary envelope" precludes this possibility. Does "centrifugal force" exist beyond this same "zero gravity barrier?". Likewise, no. Does "gravity" control the orbital paths/plane of the major planets orbiting our central sun? Gravity has no function concerning this, it is all controlled by "magnetics."

Does "gravity" control the orbital planes of a minor planet around the major planet? No, this likewise is controlled by "magnetics." Is "gravity" responsible for the tidal forces between two planets? No, for once again "magnetics" becomes the answer. It is therefore concluded that the fundamental nature of "gravity" concerns planetary control, and that "gravity" does not escape the "planetary envelope" except as a comet, meteorite, or meteor, which are self-contained in so far as "gravity" is concerned.

It should have been evident many hundreds of years ago that Earth's planetary solar system was a perfect pattern of magnetics. The smaller major planets in the inner range, and the larger planets situated in the outer range. Which further proves that PLUTO is not a major planet, for it does not independently orbit our central sun. On the other hand, Pluto and Charon in a binary orbit, disappearing for nine months of the year are in orbit of the largest planet in Earth's solar system. This planet yet to be discovered is a huge giant with a diameter three times that of Jupiter! If they will elevate the Hubble Telescope as Neptune and Uranus make the curve in the southeastern quadrant, toward the southwest, they will discover this huge giant trailing Uranus at a distance of three to four trillion miles.

I have named this planet BRUTUS, and the yapping dog Pluto patrols the outside perimeters awaiting discovery! This means that Earth's solar system is complete with ten major planets, one which exploded between Mars and Jupiter creating the havoc as noted. The remainder is now history which needs scientific attention.

(Comments on the above article should be made to: John R. Frick, P.O. Box 0705, Melbourne, FL 32902, U.S.A.)

CAVE EXPLORERS Continued from page 4

often was less than 5 feet. On a follow-trip, Rolland was continuing in an air-filled chamber beyond the sump, when he apparently had a hypoglycemic blackout caused by diabetes. He had the treatment in his pocket, two power bars.

"The insidious thing about hypoglycemia is that it impairs your judgment first," said Stone, who labored for six days with others to bring the body out. "Had he eaten those two candy bars, he

would still be here."

Stone and Barbara am Ende, 34, a student at the University of North Carolina, made the final dives that got them through yet another sump and on into huge air-filled tunnels. They found more than a mile of tunnels — sometimes more than 150 feet wide — and six more sumps that they were able to bypass. But they finally were stopped by another massive underwater tunnel, named Sump 9, that they

couldn't get around.

Alone, and far from any help, they decided they had explored far enough. Whatever lies beyond Sump 9 will have to await future expeditions.

"People have been brainwashed into thinking they're crazy if they say they've seen UFOs. But it's presumptuous to think that in the whole universe there are no other living beings except here on Earth. It's only our insecurity that makes us want to think we're the only living creatures."

Ellen Crystall, author of "Silent Invasion: The Shocking Discoveries of a UFO Researcher"

Searchers seek largest underground cavern

Associated Press

MOUNT KONOCTI, Calif. — In hard hats and coveralls layered with dirt, a trio of diggers huddles 67 feet under the ground, burrowing into the earth of Mount Konocti.

For most mortals, the confinement of the craggy cave, the weighty boulders hanging from above and the musty smell of dirt and rock would be too much.

But these men are on a mission.

They're looking for the world's largest underground cavern and a lake inside the mountain. They seek signs and artifacts of an ancient people said to have lived in the mountain before the Modern Age. They're out to solve a mystery.

It's a job that was supposed to take about three hours. They've been at it for nearly four years.

"I keep thinking we're going to see something that hasn't been seen for thousands of years," said self-professed "cave nut" Bob Pace.

Fellow cave-digger Patrick Ostrander said, "We might be crazy. It might not be there, but we think it is. It's addicting."

Mount Konocti, Lake County's ancient and mysterious mountain, has intrigued generations as it rises 4,300 feet above sea level, thousands of feet above the southern shores of Clear Lake.

"Little people" were said to live in the mountain during the "cold time" before modern man. Some Indian tribes regard it as a sacred, revered for its healing powers. There are stories of underground lakes inhabited by blind fish, tunnels leading from Clear Lake into the base of the mountain, and a gate into the "Upper World," guarded by a large spider.

Early residents reported visits

to a bottomless shaft inside the mountain, where objects could be dropped into a hole and found weeks later in the waters of Clear Lake.

It is this volcanic vent, a secret passageway to what may be a large cavern, an underground lake and a network of tunnels, that the Konocti Project crew has sought for four years.

"We've got an agreement that the first guy to fall in down there has got to scream all the way down so we know how deep it is," said Bob Zalusky, a retired 747 pilot and adventurer.

Zalusky, 73, started the project after decades of fascinated research into the mountain towering above his home on Clear Lake's Fraser Point.

Years ago, an elderly curator at the old Lake County museum told him of going as a young woman to the top of the mountain and entering a cave with a hole in the floor. She went with the Howard boys, brothers from the prominent family which owned the peak until 1942. The boys threw rocks in the hole, and lowered a weighted string more than 1,100 feet without hitting bottom.

Zalusky and Homestake Mine geologist Norm Lehrman tracked down old-timers and documented numerous stories detailing visits to the cave as far back as the early 1900s.

Among the stories is one concerning Campfire Girls in the 1950s who dropped painted cans down a hole and later found them floating in Horseshoe Bend below the mountain.

Another Lake County resident went to a cave with some friends who carved names on a 5-inch log that turned up in the lake about three weeks later. A third told of dropping a flaming bundle down

a shaft and watching it disappear.

Most said they entered the mountain through an opening in the side of the hill that led to a diagonal tunnel and finally, the vertical shaft.

But the cave's entryway had become hidden by dense brush and trees and Zalusky could find no one who knew or remembered where it was.

Then in 1990, two hikers took Zalusky to a cave they'd found. Inside the entry, names were carved in the wall, including one of the Howards, signed "Euvelle Howard 1934."

But the cave had collapsed about 25 feet from the entrance and Zalusky's team has been working in near secrecy ever since to dig through the obstruction and somehow intercept the vertical shaft.

Once inside, they hope to find a lake with blind fish, a network of tunnels to other caverns, and archaeological evidence of people living in the mountain more than 10,000 years ago.

"It's almost an obsession," Zalusky said. "We know it's there."

Volcanic geology supports the vents and cavern structures the crew expects to find inside the mountain, Lehrman concluded. More importantly, a magnetic survey he conducted in 1990 identified a large gap in the magnetic field that could only be explained by a deep shaft.

The team is working on the theory that molten lava drained from the base of the mountain millions of years ago and left an internal cavern 2,000 feet wide and up to 3,000 feet high.

Zalusky and a handful of volunteers wind their way up the mountain each Wednesday and Saturday, pass through a locked gate and hike to the work site.

Las Vegas Review-Journal/Sun/Saturday, September 10, 1994

Headliners

In December, 1994, the William Hill bookmakers put the odds that Elvis Presley will be found alive in 1995 at 500 to 1. They also take bets on whether the Loch Ness monster's existence will be proven this year. The biggest odds are 14-million to 1 on Elvis crash-landing his UFO into Loch Ness and hitting the monster.

In Sao Paulo, Brazil, a venomous, hairy species of caterpillar whose sting causes burns and internal bleeding and can kill humans has claimed its fifth victim. The hairs act like hypodermic syringes and the venom injected interferes with the coagulation of blood according to Dr. Joao Torres. (Source: Reuter)

Archaeologists dug up a Danish potato field after children uncovered seven 3,600-year-old bronze swords. Museum inspector Niels Axel Boas said, "This is the find of the century." (Source: Reuter)

Environment Canada officials believed they recorded the world's tallest wave on Dec. 10, 1993, at the northern tip of Vancouver Island. The monster wave...121 feet, was recorded before midnight by a weather buoy tethered 62 miles west of Cape Scott during hurricane-force winds. (Source: CP)

A pair of amateur fossil-hunters have discovered fossilized footprints left by reptiles on a Nova Scotia beach 200 million years ago. The prints, made by four-footed reptiles were there long before the earliest dinosaurs. Experts figure the prints, belong either to seymouria, a creature that shared some reptile and amphibian characteristics, or to edaphosaurs, a reptile with a sail-shaped fin on its back. (Source: CP)

Scientists announced they have discovered the most complete remains yet of the world's oldest known human ancestors. The discovery of 95 bone pieces believed to be 4.4 million years old was made during an excavation in November, 1994, in the north-eastern Afar region, about 213 miles northeast of Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. (Source: AP)

A mystery disease that usually begins with a partial loss of eyesight has struck more than 10,000 Cubans recently. Speculation is that dietary deficiencies is to blame. (Source: AP)

A 5-foot yellow rat snake tried to cosy up to Julie Black's leg in Edmonton, Alberta, while she was standing in her kitchen pouring a cup of coffee. After capturing it in a pillow case, she and her husband located the animal's owner, another tenant in the apartment building. The snake had escaped two weeks earlier, but the owner hadn't posted a notice, because he didn't want to frighten the neighbors. (Source: CP)

On Dec. 14, 1994, more than 1 million homes and businesses in California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Idaho, Wyoming, Montana and B.C. had lost electricity for 2 hours after a major power distribution system failed just before 3:30 a.m. EST. (Source: Reuter)

In the spring of 1994, a British teenager allegedly hacked into sensitive U.S. government computers and was able to monitor secret communications over the North Korean nuclear crisis. The 16-year-old then put it on the Internet accessible to 35 million users. He was caught by U.S. investigators.

Egyptian archaeologists have found eight rare tombs from the little-known Hyksos period, including the earliest intact skeleton of a horse. introduced to Egypt by Hyksos invaders about 1750 B.C. The tombs were buried in sand in the desert near Tell al-Kebir, about 50 miles northeast of Cairo and discovered in the past year.

A small marsupial thought extinct for 125 years has been found on Western Australia's southern coast. Researchers found the animal, Gilbert's potoroo, in a nature reserve east of Albany, about 240 miles south of Perth. (Source: AP)

Scientists at the University of Western Australia in Perth, have used synthetic sapphires to develop what they say is the world's most accurate clock. The clock is accurate to almost one millionth of one billionth of a second. That said to be 10 times more precise than present atomic clocks and 100 times more accurate than a quartz clock. (Source: Toronto Sun)

IT'S IN THE GENES

Stephen Hawking, the British physicist and scholar on the origins of the universe, told an audience at a Boston computer show that computer viruses should be considered a "real life form."

He said a computer virus fits the definition of a living system even though it has no metabolism of its own. Instead it uses the metabolism of a host computer and is parasitic.

He said humans may in the future use genetic engineering to extend life by designing human beings who are healthier, smarter and will live longer. (Source: Reuter)

An elusive Chinese lake monster that creates two-metre waves and reportedly looms as high as a bull's head was captured on video while swimming in Heavenly Lake. It has been seen since the turn of the century by local residents.

An expert in genetics, Simone Bilderbeek, warns that half-human, half animal monsters could be bred by scientists working on unregulated experiments. They are already creating mixtures of animals and human beings, she said. Bilderbeek said scientists have introduced a human gene into cows to increase the cows' resistance to some diseases. (Source: CP)

Scientists from Canada, the U.S. and Singapore said they had produced a monster salmon up to 37 times bigger than usual in a genetic engineering experiment. They did not say if the enhanced growth affected the taste of the salmon. (Source: Reuter)

Research on a small, headless water creature is casting light on the cloudy origins of human beings, says the science journal, Nature. Research was on the fish-like Amphioxus, the closest invertebrate relative of the vertebrates. Scientists studying the creature, which strains algae through a built-in filter, said they were able to match its cluster of so-called hox genes with the four hox gene clusters found in mammals, including human beings.

An alteration in a single gene makes worms live more than twice as long as normal. Cynthia Kenyon, an associate professor of biochemistry at the Univ. of Calif., San Francisco, said it's not clear yet whether the answer would have any implications for humans but many biological processes seen in the worm are duplicated in people. Follow up studies could give leads in developing medications for a healthier old age.

The alien presence seems to have finally penetrated the consciousness of humans. With TV shows rife with aliens such as Star Trek's Deep Space Nine, The Next Generation and now Voyager, along with Babylon 5, The X Files, Earth 2, Encounters: The Hidden Truth and the Star Wars movies, humans are being conditioned to the idea there may be others out there or among us.

Take as examples the following:

Stuart Bowyer of the Univ. of California at Berkeley says, "At this point, we have no concrete evidence for signals from intelligent aliens." But scientists are trying to find out if any of 164 mysterious radio signals came from natural causes or ET.

The UC-Berkeley search, which uses a 300-metre-wide radio telescope antenna dish in Puerto Rico, is more sensitive than any other.

Other searches for signals from alien societies have detected radio signals that couldn't immediately be explained, but they were never heard again or came from natural sources.

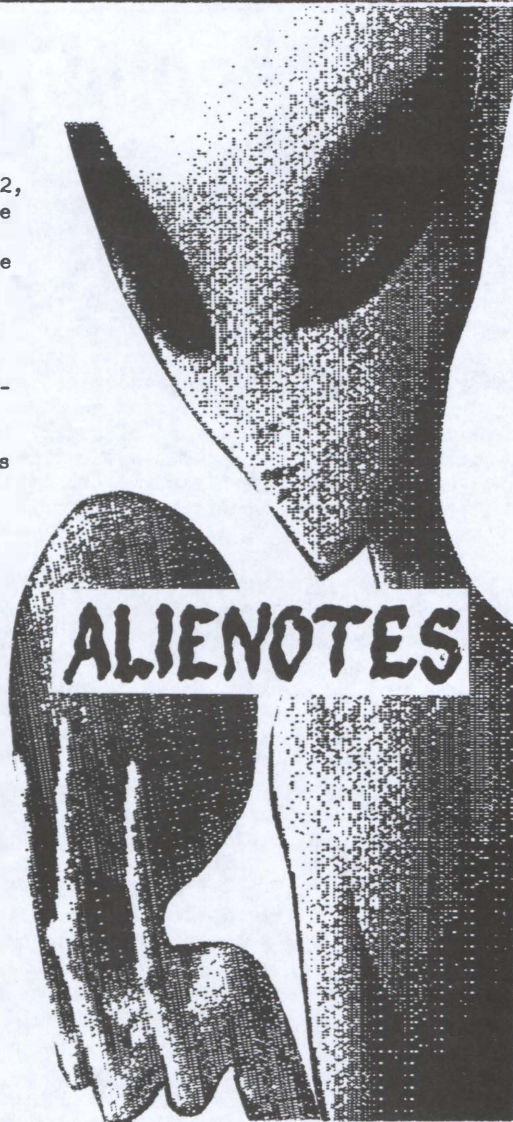
Gary Dunford gets the aliens into his column in a recent issue of The Toronto Sun when he quotes from the Weekly World News -- Rush Limbaugh Meets With Aliens! -- "sure enough, here's a picture of little pointy-eared people shaking hands with Rush, urging him to run for president." "We have a vital interest in what happens to Planet Earth," the aliens thunder. Well, of course they do, Dunford replies, "This explains every weird and fluke thing that's been happening. Except perhaps, the Motts (A CFRB radio talk show) What Planet are they from?"

David Suzuki, a science writer, commenting on our environment in a Toronto Star column in Jan. 1995, takes as an example an extraterrestrial scientist who arrived on Earth and decided to study human beings by watching what they would soon conclude the species is either suicidal or insane.

Bruce Kirkland, a movie critic at the Toronto Sun, phoned Abel Ferrara who is directing the third version of "Invasion of the Body Snatchers." First of all, he's a Martian. "Ha, ha, ha!" Ferrara roars, "I was snatched at birth. They got to me quick. Whew!"

Ferrara says you can look at the movie 82,000 ways. "That's what makes it a powerful piece of imagination. It's about aliens arriving on Earth, which is not a metaphor. I think people are trying to diminish that possibility."

"Because it scares them?" Kirkland asks. "No. If you've got problems, wait 'til you find out your wife's a Martian!"



ALIENOTES

Many thought Frank Zappa's music was from another planet. Now one's been picked out for him. Astronomers, besieged by letters and E-mail, in Cambridge, Mass., has named an asteroid that orbits between Mars and Jupiter, "Zappafrank."

"I don't recall a lobby quite as extensive as this one," said Brian Marsden, director of the International Astronomical Union's Minor Planets Centre.

You've probably all heard by now about the marriage of Lisa Marie Presley to Michael Jackson. It is alleged she said, "And I am the victim of an elaborate brainwashing experiment engineered by the CIA, the Freemasons and the Church of Scientology to see if humans can successfully mate with extraterrestrials." (Toronto Sun)

Toronto's Jim Mackin, editor of a tabloid for the homeless, called "The Outsider," talked about future plans for the tab says he wants to include a column featuring the earthy insights of an alien.

Toronto Sun columnist Dick Smythe ponders why arcane graffiti which has erupted in Toronto look identical to those of 10 years ago in New York and London? He says it's almost like a secret language. Signposts for hidden aliens?

When Doug Gilmour of the Toronto Maple Leafs hockey team had a very sore ankle and had to have up to 4 shots in it to dull the pain so he could play, the answer by an executive was--"He must be from another planet."

In a past issue of Weekly World News and the story about 12 U.S. senators being space aliens, Perrin Beatty, writing in The Toronto Sun had this to say -- (with tongue in cheek) -- the tab ran pictures of the otherworldly dozen, most of whom look remarkably human.

What's more, it even quotes one of the aliens, Sen. Paul Gramm of Texas as saying, "It's all true. We are space aliens. And I'm amazed it's taken you so long to find out."

While we're on the subject of manure...the WWN reports that Nomads in Northern Iraq have been visited by dozens of space aliens over the past several months -- and the extraterrestrials are offering a fortune for manure. The aliens communicate through mental telepathy and pay for goods with precious stones and gold, the nomads say, but they never explain what they do with the manure.

Shall we end this column on two notes of levity? Peter MacDonald in his "Court Jesters" column in The Sunday Star, let his readers in on these two dillies...

Attention, Star Trek fans! -- Regina lawyer John Epp has a story that's positively out of this world.

One morning in the early 1980s a young man pleaded guilty in a Regi-

Continued on next page

Some aliens make mighty good eating

Who knows how many aliens Ontarians have shot or caught this year? This refers, of course, to fish, birds and mammals that were not originally native to North America, but have been...

They Walk Through Walls

Raymond Fowler, author of THE ANDREASSON AFFAIR and THE WATCHERS, who has dealt with the nuts and bolts side of the UFO subject is now drifting into the direction of the paranormal. In an interview in CONTACT FORUM, Nov/Dec. 1994 issue, Fowler thinks we have a phenomenon that can exhibit itself physically, that can land and leave physical marks that indicate that many tons have sat there, and, at the same time can take off and just disappear or appear a couple of miles away -- whatever it wants to do. It can physically take people through walls.

Maria Ward is one of the latest to experience walking through solid material. She is 34 years old, from Kent, England, and had an abduction in November, 1990.

She woke up about 3:30 am to lots of lights.

Although her baby son was sleeping in the same bed with her, she couldn't wake him up. Something urged her to go downstairs and she picked up a milky-colored object.

Then she says, "After that I felt myself passing through our solid, wooden front door -- it wasn't a dream, I can still feel the physical experience of passing through wood, it felt like treacle."

As far-fetched as this may seem to most people, let's read the following article by Candace Segar that was printed in THE ISLANDER, a Pensacola Beach, Fla., newspaper on Nov. 3, 1993.

Candace writes: I had the pleasure of attending the UFO conference during the weekend of Oct. 22-24. I attended one workshop which centered around children.

I do not have any children, but I learned a lot during the two-hour talk. I will focus on just one aspect of this workshop for this article.

Children, as everyone knows, have fantastic imaginations and great creativity. And many times adults dismiss children's thoughts on subjects since children are into make believe worlds.

One of the points that was brought up repeatedly was that children tell how they are able to walk through the walls.

Well, being an engineer by education, I gave this some thought, and it occurred to me that although we do not have the ability to walk through walls, a particle can tunnel through a barrier in quantum physics.

At the end of the 19th century, most classical

physics involving laws of motion, gravitation, electricity, magnetism, thermodynamics, and kinetic theory explained a variety of phenomena. Then in 1900 Planck laid the groundwork for quantum physics followed by Einstein who in 1905 developed his brilliant theory of relativity. Quantum mechanics as it is sometimes referred to, is the new approach taken to explain the behavior of atoms, molecules and nuclei.

In order to explain the phenomena of tunneling I will use examples pertaining to both classical and then quantum physics.

In the classical case, if a particle is traveling and strikes a barrier of finite height and width, the particle will be reflected. This particle can neither penetrate nor cross, the barrier or the region next to it.

Through quantum mechanics, the particle is able to penetrate all regions and appears on the other side of the barrier.

This feat has been accomplished in labs.

Finding the particle on the other side of the barrier is called tunneling or barrier penetration.

It should be noted that when this experiment is performed the particle is never observed inside the barrier.

It is found in Region 3. The barrier also remains intact. I am sure you are asking yourself how can this happen? What tricks are they pulling in the lab?

The answer is quite simple.

A French physicist named Louis de Broglie discovered that under certain conditions matter such as electrons exhibit both wave and particle characteristics.

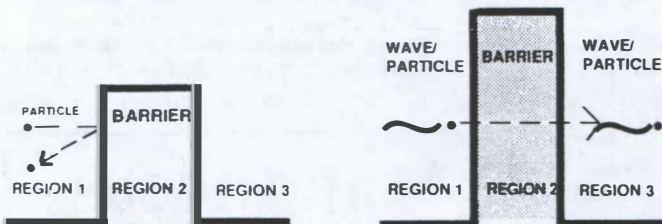
A wave/particle is therefore able to penetrate this barrier with no problem.

In 1923 when Louis de Broglie presented his doctoral thesis, stating the wave/particle behavior of matter (photons in particular), he had no experimental proof. Shortly thereafter, in 1929 he received the Nobel prize for his proven particle/wave property.

So, the 19th century brought us classical physics, and the 20th century brought us quantum physics, then what does the 21st century hold for us? Maybe we should listen more attentively to the children for they will grow up and maybe discover the technology needed for a human body to penetrate a barrier such as a wall.

(Candace Segar is an Electrical Engineer. Cr: UFONS)
Added note:

For a demonstration of the above, last Christmas season of 1994, a TV commercial for Canadian Tire featured Scrooge (Save like Scrooge campaign) where Scrooge took a person with him into a wall and disappeared as they walked through it as if the wall didn't exist. An excellent demonstration of this phenomenon through the magic of computerization!



Continued from previous page

na courtroom to a charge of possession of marijuana. Before passing sentence the judge delivered a lengthy sermon on the dangers of drugs, then asked the accused if he had anything to say.

Immediately, the fellow pulled his wallet from his back pocket, flipped it open, held it in front of his mouth and boomed: "Scotty, beam me up!"

Court reporter Gail McGilvray of London, Ont., has convincing proof that there are interplanetary motorists whizzing around above the wild blue yonder. She sent the following verbatim court transcript to MacDonald, and here it is...

Crown Counsel (on a bail application): The information we have from the accused is that he arrived here three months ago, on a lunar module, and he was working undercover as a secret agent. His family apparently lives in London and

he is allowed access to their home to eat but he is required to sleep in a chair in an aunt's backyard. There are a number of circumstances which require further investigation. I would ask for a three-day remand to show cause.

Duty Counsel (after conferring with the accused): Your Honor, I appear on behalf of the accused as legal aid duty counsel. He tells me that that statement by the crown is accurate, except it was five months ago he arrived, not three.

A plague of flying ants has devoured Peruvian pastures near the city of Puno. The Health Dept. said the ants have also attacked children and livestock, leaving them badly bitten. (January, 1995)

A Fijian fisherman choked to death when he tried to kill his catch in the traditional manner by biting its head off. Police said the head of the fish slipped and lodged in 50-year-old Samueal Taoba's throat during a spearfishing trip on Saturday, Jan. 14, 1995. (Source: Reuter)

There's an interspecies friendship between a wild beluga whale named Wilma and a pet Siberian husky named Rocky, in Chedabucto Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada. Jim Johnson, owner of a bed and breakfast operation, is responsible. Johnson, an underwater photographer, made friends with Wilma. When Rocky met Wilma for the first time, Rocky became excited and jumped right in the water and the two began communicating audibly and nuzzling. In video footage, the two appear to be exchanging greetings and smooching. The whale makes high-pitched noises and the dog makes his own, completely absorbed with each other. (Source: Toronto Sun, Jan. 16, 1995.)

Scientists in China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region have discovered the secret of "Devil Valley," a 60-mile-long stretch that locals dare not enter. While lush with lakes, marshes and vegetation, it also attracts freak lightning storms that can cause bunches of trees to burst into flame, along with any people or animals careless enough to wander in. Geologists discovered that the valley contains large quantities of strongly magnetized basalt resulting from volcanic eruptions during the Triassic period. Experts say the magnetic fields attract the electrical charges in clouds, but lightning rods could open the valley to human use. (Rocky Mtn. News, Mar. 22, 1993. Cr: Howard Kaufman)



Chinese scientists are studying a massive slime mould that weighs 77 pounds. It can move across the ground on its own. It was found in a river in Shaanxi province and gained about 20 pounds in 3 days. Biologists said it is related to fungus and it is still alive.

Forteana

In Merriam, Kan., a man who thought he saw a pentagram in the iris of his right eyeball popped it out of his head, used a knife to cut the connecting tendons and flushed it down the toilet. The pentagram, a five-pointed star commonly associated with the occult was seen in the mirror when he looked into it. (Source: AP. Jan. 6, 1995)

Vampire ants are attacking the 10,000 residents of Envira, a small town in the Amazon jungle in Brazil. The residents are fighting back with poison and boiling water, but the ants keep on coming. A doctor said the fire ants are of the genus 'Solenopsis.' The ants only appeared after the area was cleared of jungle growth, and this eliminated birds and spiders which were their natural enemies. The ants sucked blood from animals and adults and children. (Source: CFTO-TV, Toronto, newscast)



In June, 1994, about 300,000 acres in the Nevada areas of Winnemucca and Battle Mountain were infested with three-inch-long grasshoppers, which ate trees, shrubs, flowers and even paint. The insects are not attractive but they have nasty habits...they like to eat each other. They were dubbed Mormon crickets after an infestation in Utah years ago. It is interesting to note that Winnemucca was a test site for atom bombs when testing was first started.

A man in Warsaw, Poland who wanted some target practice was taken to hospital after his dog shot him. The unidentified man left his shotgun unattended in the yard of his summer house as he prepared a target, when his dog, sniffing around the gun, somehow pulled the trigger, the PAP news agency reported. Surgeons removed five dozen pellets from the man's body. His wounds were not life-threatening. (Source: Toronto Sun, July 5/94)

In Fritcham, England, Twins Lorraine and Levinia Christmas were in hospital on Dec. 26, 1994 after crashing headlong into each other as they headed to one another's homes to deliver Christmas presents. The 31-year-old sisters collided on a narrow, icy country lane, police said. (Source: Reuter)

An amateur paleontologist has unearthed the largest ice-age sloth claw ever documented. The claw of the *eremotherium*, a long-haired, bearlike creature that stood more than 15 feet tall measures 23 inches along its curve. The 1.4 million-year-old sloth skeleton was found in February, digging in a fossil-rich site that has yielded about 130 species from the Pleistocene era when glaciers covered much of North America.

More than 200 ducks and geese were electrocuted and fell from the sky when they were struck by lightning during a violent electrical storm in northern California. The scorched carcasses were found near Beale AFB, 40 miles north of Sacramento. "They were flying when they got caught in the storm," said the director of California's Wildlife Investigations Lab, Bill Clark. One good thing though...it put an end to a six-year drought in the state.

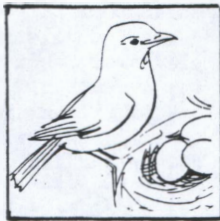
He's as big as Bigfoot, not so abominable as the Snowman and as elusive as Sasquatch. He's Alaska's Hairy Man. John Active, a Yupik Eskimo, of the small town of Bethel, is a storyteller and says he knows all about Hairy Man. "He's very tall, taller than a 9 or 10-foot-tall spruce tree. When he was standing his hands could touch the ground next to his feet. He grew hair to keep warm. (Toronto Star, March 27, 1993)

A colony of blind spiders, previously believed extinct, has been found in caves under the desert of the Australian outback, a biologist said. Found beneath Nullarbar Plain, a 105,000 sq. mile expanse of sand, the spiders are almost devoid of color. They may have lived on the desert for 3 billion years, according to Michael Gray of the Australian Museum in Sydney. Scientists believe the spiders, similar to trap-door spiders, were forced into caves millions of years ago as Australia's climate dried up, adapting to their surroundings and losing their sight. There are thousands of caves under the plain.

A live-in caretaker in Kisamee, Florida, failed to report an 82-year-old homeowner's death and kept his body frozen for two years. Police say she wanted to continue receiving the man's \$1,000 monthly railway pension cheque.

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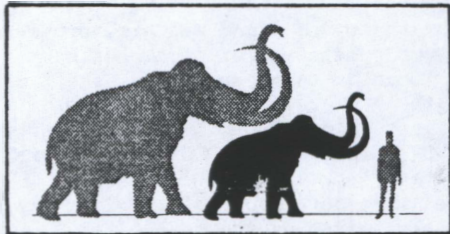
Some European bird populations are now going to England in the winter instead of flying to the Mediterranean.



This has happened only in the last 30 years which is evidence of a genetic basis for a change. Forty birds were caught in England and were taken back to S.W. Germany. The birds produced 41 young which were hand raised. It was found the young birds, like their parents, showed a tendency to migrate slightly to the north of due west, toward Britain. That shows the migration direction was inherited genetically.

Archaeologists say the most easterly part of the Great Wall of China does not end at Shanhaiguan where it goes into the East China Sea. They said it's the Yalu River, along the border with North Korea. This adds 646 miles to what Chinese tourist literature says is the only manmade structure visible from the moon. The Wall was believed to be 1,988 miles long.

Belgian scientists are baffled by an enormous trench which reportedly appeared overnight in the middle of a potato field at Letterhorn, south of Ghent. The mysterious trench is 164 feet long, 19.7 feet wide and 26.3 feet deep. (Toronto Star, Feb. 3, 1993)



A population of woolly mammoths survived some 6,000 years after the beasts were thought to be extinct, roaming an island north-west of Alaska even as the Sphinx was being built in Egypt, a new study says. Twenty-nine teeth and tooth fragments from mammoths on Russia's Wrangel Island in the Arctic Ocean were found to be as young as about 4,000 years, Russian researchers said in the journal NATURE.

A Spanish tourist had a wallet returned years later after losing it in Scotland's Loch Ness. It was found by an expedition looking for the Loch Ness monster.

A strange dust-borne disease endemic to the American southwest has blown rampant about 60 miles north of Los Angeles, infecting more than 4,000 people and killing about three dozen. Valley fever has risen tenfold since 1991 and shows no sign of letting up. It has spread to Ventura, Santa Barbara, Tulare, Los Angeles and San Luis Obispo counties. It has also been found in the arid soils of Central and Southern California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas. Most of those affected suffer flu-like symptoms while others have it spread to their lungs which can lead to a deadly form of meningitis.

French marine scientists have found a deadly weed proliferating off the Riviera in the Mediterranean Sea. It could threaten humans if edible species of fish begin to eat it. Mice died 24 hours after being injected with the algae's extract. No one knows how it got into the Mediterranean.

An army of ravenous ants in Colesberg, South Africa, swarmed into refrigerators at a retirement home forcing residents to flee. Millions of the tiny black Argentine ants chewed their way through refrigerators and swarmed over chairs, beds and tables. Severe drought was blamed for the invasion.

A Russian businessman who died recently of mysterious causes was apparently killed by his chair, which was found after his death to be highly radioactive, Russian newspapers reported. Investigators discovered that the deadly office chair was the source of 1.5 million times more radioactive than normal background levels. It was not known how the chair became radioactive. (Source: UPI)

In Edmonton, Alberta, a computerized security window system at an Edmonton college has been shut after it locked a woman's head in a grip, killing her. She was trapped between the window and a screen at Grant MacEwan Community College. It took a crew two hours to free her body.

Thousands of pilgrims converged on a town north of Manila in the Philippines this March to await an apparition of the Virgin Mary. The mayor of Agoo, Pablo Olarte, said the town has been inundated by pilgrims following reports that an image of Mary owned by a family began shedding tears of blood. (Saturday Sun, March 6, 1993)

Hundreds of teenage girls experienced mysterious fainting spells that forced officials to close 10 schools north of Cairo, Egypt. Blood and urine tests found no evidence of poisoning or disease. Nor did an analysis of air and water in the schools find anything wrong. Health Minister Ragheb Dewidar blamed mass hysteria. The victims woke up after several hours feeling well. (Toronto Sun, April 6, 1993)

A Japanese scientist said he has raised a white magnolia from a seed found in a 2,000-year-old tomb. Hiroshi Utsunomiya of Yamaguchi University said the magnolia seed was among hundreds of seed found more than six feet under in an underground food storage chamber in a tomb in Yamaguchi. He put the seed in water shortly after the discovery in November, 1982. Three months later, one seed swelled and he put it in a flower pot. The seed grew into an eight-petal magnolia plant more than seven feet tall. (Toronto Sun, April 6, 1993)



Scores of Asian men in their 30s have been victim to mysterious deadly nightmares during the last 10 years. All the men were perfectly healthy when they went to sleep. They had no known vices or ailments. The sleeping men utter an agonizing groan and begin to writhe and gasp, they convulse as if having a terrible dream and within minutes they are dead. Some researchers say the men have literally been scared to death. Singapore revealed over 200 men have succumbed so far.

Coveralls worn by three firefighters who became ill after flying through a sweet-smelling blue-tinged cloud have been sent to an Environment Ministry lab for analysis. Scientists will try to find out why the three men vomited and suffered severe headaches and numbness in their arms and legs after flying through the mysterious cloud in July, 1992. The cloud hovered over almost a square kilometre of forest in northwestern Ontario. It vanished overnight.

In Australia, a Siamese cat built up a large telephone bill by knocking the receiver off its cradle and stepping on the redial button.

HIGH PARK GHOST RIDES WHITE NAG

It Rises From Grenadier Pond in
the Form of a Huge
Widow's Veil.

The High Park ghost still baunts newspapers today. This early appearance was April 22, 1903.

There is a midnight marauder out in Parkdale that the police haven't been able to get at yet. Like the dashing Lochinvar of poetic fame, he comes "out of the west, and he rides all unarmed and alone." The police haven't a ghost of a chance to catch him, for he is a spirit and the kind of spirits that the license commissioners can't handle.

He is alleged to have attacked several people already. Those who came to Mr. Riley's grocery store, 1,476 Queen Street west, to-day and yesterday — and they are many — had various stories to tell of the spectre horseman.

The story of the ghost as gleaned from the stories of many is a weird one. At night, when the great world is enveloped in grey, and the grey gradually darkens into a somber black, a mist like a widow's veil, arises over Grenadier Pond in High Park. The mist thickens until at last it begins to take on human proportions. Clearly, more clearly, the bodies of a man and a horse emerge from the water — there are sounds of groaning, and lo! in a trice the wraith is galloping with the speed of sunlight through the park — and woe betide the wayfarer who comes into contact with this courier of the dark. He spares neither young nor old, and is indefatigable in riding down the pedestrians of the night.

Children who claim to have seen him describe the rider as a giant, with a bleeding head and fiery eyes, augmented in horror by the steam-belching nostrils of the phantom steed. The apparition passes through buildings, and trespasses upon the grounds of the peaceful citizens of Parkdale as if there wasn't a policeman in the world. He respects not the police, for, in fact, according to rumor, he has ruthlessly attacked several blue-coated guardians of the peace already. The police are on the watch out for him, and his capture may be reported any evening.

(Toronto Star, Feb. 10, 1992)

Did you know that more snow falls in parts of Texas than it does at the South Pole.

PLASMAPHYSICS INCREASES CREDIBILITY OF UFO-WITNESSES

When we speak about the credibility of UFO-witnesses we mean the degree of likelihood that the witness is reporting what he or she really has seen. Many factors have influence upon the credibility. Here we shall mention only the factors related to plasmaphysics.

Balllightning and stable plasmaforms have been reported UFO's. Balllightning is partially ionized airmasses. Totally ionized airmasses are stable plasmaforms.

The credibility of the UFO-witness depends mostly upon the question whether or not the UFO-witness really has seen what is reported. When the sighting is classified an unidentified flying object, the credibility mostly depends upon correct details of the report (and not so much upon speculation of the cause). When the sighting is classified an identified object, the credibility of the witness is complete and total (and independent of cause).

When a UFO is identified a plasmaform, the witness can totally be trusted and given full credibility. The witness has seen what is reported. There is no way whatsoever that plasmaphysics can be used to reduce the credibility of UFO-witnesses. Plasmaphysics can only increase the credibility. To maintain the opposite is not only totally illogic, it is completely unscientific.

Plasmaphysics can now be used for energyproduction and propulsion. We have already made great advances. Civilizations in other stellar systems could easily use plasmaphysics for crossing the distance between the stellar systems in a relatively short time. Thus the increased possibility of visits from alien spacecrafts also increases the credibility of the UFO-witnesses having reported spacecraftlike objects.

Hans Lauritzen

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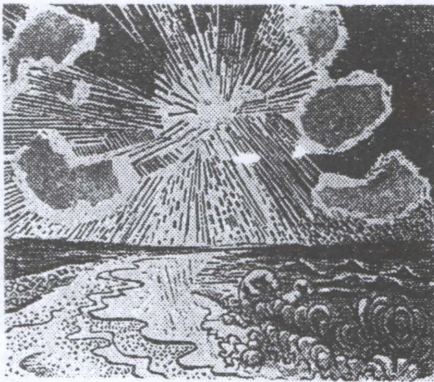
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David Schramm, an astrophysicist at the University of Chicago said that a mass extinction on Earth 225 million years ago may have been caused by an exploding star that zapped the planet with radiation and stripped away the protective ozone layer. An explosion of a supernova within 30 light years of Earth would bathe the planet's upper atmosphere with powerful gamma and cosmic ray radiation setting off a chemical reaction that would destroy the ozone layer, in turn allowing ultraviolet radiation to soak the unprotected Earth and kill plants, Schramm said. (Source: AP. Jan. 3, 1995)



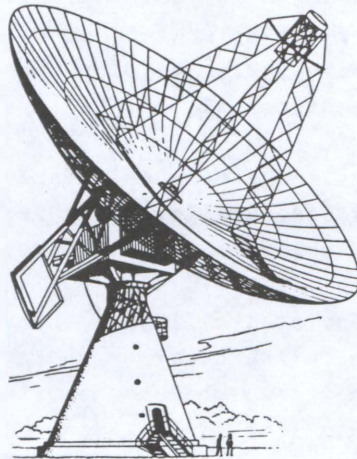
The asteroid collision with Earth that is believed to have wiped out the dinosaurs may have been deadly because it sprayed clouds of sulphuric acid high into the atmosphere, NASA scientists say. The asteroid would have vaporized sulphur in the rock and spewed more than 100 billion tonnes of it into the air, forming tiny droplets of sulphuric acid and creating a dense haze that could filter out enough sunlight to drop surface temperatures to near freezing for at least ten years. (Source: AP)

An object, about 120 miles in length, and is about a billion miles farther out than the planet Pluto, has been detected by astronomer David Jewitt of the University of Hawaii and Jan Luu, a researcher at U. of C. in Berkeley, Calif.

Another scientist said the discovery could shed light on how some comets are formed, the nature of Earth's solar system and whether other stars in the universe have solar systems like our own. Jewett and Luu hoped to find evidence for a theory that some comets come from a ring of icy material at the outer rim of the solar system called the Kuiper Belt.

Michael Persinger, co-author of "Space Time Transients and Unusual Events" warned that UFO investigators may be leaving themselves open to cancer or suicide. The danger comes from intense magnetic fields created by UFOs. Studies showed that electrical engineers and technicians and those living near overhead power lines indicate they are likely to suffer a higher risk of brain tumors and leukemia as well as depression. Since similar low-frequency fields are created by UFOs, those who study flying saucers are at risk.

SpaceSpots



A set of telescopes strung out one-third of the way around the globe has given astronomers compelling evidence of the existence of the biggest black hole ever found, with a mass equal to 40 million of our suns.

The black hole is believed to be at the centre of a disk of material rotating at up to 1,040 kilometres per second in the heart of a galaxy 21 million light years from Earth. The discovery is the first major success of the Very Long Base Array radio telescope, a set of 10 radio telescope dishes from the Virgin Islands to Hawaii. (Source: AP., Jan. 12, 1995)

In 1970, Apollo 13 blasted off at 13:13 Pacific Standard time. Two-thirds of the way to the moon, an explosion occurred aboard the spacecraft that forced the astronauts to abort the trip -- on April 13.

A group of astronomers believe they have found the first example in our galaxy of what looks like the impossible: an object moving faster than light. It's just an illusion and the blob of matter is really poking along at only about 92% of the speed of light. The astronomers observed two blobs of matter blasting away in opposite directions from an object that appears to be a black hole or an ultra-dense neutron star. One of the blobs appeared to be moving 25% faster than the speed of light, which is 186,000 miles per second. But it's an illusion created by the blob's very high speed and its moving closer to Earth while angling well away from a direct path to Earth. (Source: Cleveland Plain Dealer, Sept. 1/94. Cr: Beth Robbins)

According to Dr. Stephen Maran at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Maryland, a cannibal galaxy is headed our way. Astronomers say the great spiral galaxy Andromeda is eating one galaxy now and appears to be eyeing the Milky Way for dessert. The process started about a thousand million years ago and "is still in the process of devouring," Dr. Maran says. Fortunately, Andromeda is 2.2 million light years away now and will take about 11,000 million years to reach Earth. The Milky Way itself is in the process of devouring its neighboring satellite galaxy, the Magellanic Cloud.

NASA researchers have found the first strong evidence of water on the surface of Jupiter's moon, Io. Ice from water is mixed with more abundant sulfur dioxide ice on the moon. It is believed Io's volcanoes emit water vapor along with sulfur dioxide gas.

Huge rivers of vapor, some carrying as much water as the Amazon, have been discovered in Earth's lower atmosphere. A half-dozen vapor rivers carry water from the equator toward the poles in relatively narrow streams. Reginald Newell of MIT said, when he analyzed satellite data. His findings were reported in Geophysical Research Letters published by the American Geophysical Union. Rivers of vapor were as long as 4,785 miles with a width of up to 420-480 miles. (Toronto Sun, Jan. 22, 1993)

Scientists have found evidence supporting the theory that ancient Earth was struck by comets and asteroids that fractured its crust, caused massive extinctions and blanketed parts of the globe with rocky debris. Verne Oberbeck of the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, Calif., observed that deposits known to be left by the impacts of asteroids closely resemble those thought to be left by glaciers. The conclusion is that many sedimentary deposits assumed to have been left by glaciation, may in fact have been caused by a rain of rock. (Rocky Mtn. News, Dec. 10, 1992. Cr. Howard Kaufman)

TWO INTRIGUING UFO EXPLANATIONS

By DAMIEN BRODERICK

IF TIME travel is ever shown to be a scientific possibility, our children's children will spare no effort to break down the door to the past. Consider the implications of that thought very carefully. Do you feel a chill run down your spine? For the consequence is plain: if our descendants master time, as we in the 20th century have mastered space, *they must be watching us at this very moment!*

There's no cause for paranoia, thankfully. If our remote offspring are studying us, we can feel sure that they are also observing every other era in history. Do they mock us for our curious, barbaric ways, as we sometimes mock our own ancestors? Well, too bad. The time to get worried is when they start recruiting us to fight their 30th century wars for them!

In a previous article in *Omega* (July/August issue), I outlined some of the reasons we have for taking time travel seriously. To everyone's surprise, the two major mathematical bombshells of the past 80 years — Relativity and quantum theory — both open cracks in spacetime which might just allow a traveller or a signal to escape the present and emerge in yesterday or tomorrow. This idea is still highly controversial, but though it is very far from established it is equally well armoured against "common sense" ridicule.

In a way, the question resembles the puzzle of life on other worlds in space. There is every reason to suppose that life will develop spontaneously on any world like the Earth, and calculations indicate that such worlds must exist in profusion. Once life appears, intelligence follows, and technology, and ultimately space travel. So where are the star aliens? Certainly they are not thronging the streets, so we know at once that either (a) life is rare in the universe, or (b) star ships are inordinately expensive, or (c) they looked us over, failed to be impressed, and went on their way.

Needless to say, there are some way-out possibilities neglected above. One is that the aliens *are* indeed wandering the streets, disguised as the man next door. Another is that they possess such superlative technology that they can observe us without our being even faintly aware of it. A third, which we shall come back to, reminds us of the multitudes of Unidentified Flying Objects which have been reported since the Second World War, and perhaps earlier.

None of these considerations dampen the hopes of those scientists who expect the

**More and more independent,
rational minds are turning
to the puzzling enigma of
UFOs and similar phenomena.
One intriguing solution
crosses frontiers of time.**

universe to be rich with alien minds and cultures, and who advise their governments to fund the search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence. Generally, they opt for explanation (b) above: travel through interstellar space will be fantastically draining, in terms of sheer resources and psychological stress both. Within, that is, the limits of current scientific knowledge. Maybe it's feasible to build a true, cheap stardrive with a pair of pliers and three bobbypins — but if so, we are back to the problem which started us off. Where are they?

Similarly, it does us no good to know that time travel is (or may be, with a lot more research) a scientific possibility. We need to ask ourselves: where are the time travellers?

After all, if it is a workable proposition, we'd expect our descendants to jaunt through history in search of knowledge, artistic stimulus, and diversion (not to mention strange new crimes). Temporal anthropologists would study at first hand, or via miniaturised telemetry equipment, the Paleolithic geniuses daubing their immortal bison and stags.

Alas, we can just as easily imagine the lurid advertisements of hucksters hustling package-tours of history's high spots: gladiator shows, the carnage of the Black Death, the collapse of the world ecology in 1998 . . .

There are far more bizarre scenarios. A neo-fascist revival might plunge back to the 1930s with the intention of teaching Adolph Hitler how to build nuclear weapons. Religious enthusiasts would certainly be tempted to question Gautama Buddha in 528BC as he sits beneath the bo tree awaiting illumination. Others might try to time-travel into the sealed tomb of the crucified Jesus, there to revive the dead body using advanced medical devices.

On the other hand, it's an enchanting thought that perhaps Mary and Joseph were forced into a stable on that first Christmas by the heavy press of temporal tourists in Bethlehem . . .

Well, we know that Hitler did *not* get the atom bomb. And we know that John Kennedy *did* get murdered, despite the love of many people whose descendants might be persuaded to travel back in time to Dallas and intercept the assassin. Can it be that our age is, after all, so loathesome that no one wants to visit?

Nonsense, says Arthur C. Clarke. "However unpleasant our age may appear to the future, surely one would expect scholars and students to visit us, if such a thing were possible at all. Though they might try to disguise themselves, accidents would be bound to happen — just as they would if we went back to Imperial Rome with cameras and tape-recorders concealed under our nylon togas. Time-travelling could never be kept secret for very long in fact . . ."

Really? But hold on — if you can put a loop in time, why not tie a knot or two in the loop? Say you drop your IBM mini-computer into Leonardo da Vinci's lap. Whoops. Too late. Wrong! Nothing is too late if you can loop back a second time and give yourself warning. Or is there a self-destruct paradox embedded in that "solution" . . .?

Perhaps we need to ask if we would recognise a time traveller if we saw one. How *would* a visitor from the future seem to us? It's impossible to say for sure. When the basic limiting factors are unknown, speculation becomes so fertile and uncontrolled that almost any answer has some degree of plausibility.

The best we can do is set reasonable constraints and push on from there. This is exactly what many science fiction writers have been doing ever since H. G. Wells first invented his "chronic argonaut" in 1888.

The hoariest chestnut runs this way: what happens if you build a time machine, travel back to a date prior to your conception in the womb . . . and kill your own grandfather? Does this hideous event obliterate you from history? If so, you have *never* existed. Hence, Grandpop did not die (since no-one can die at the hands of a non-existent killer). So you *were* born, and will kill him after all . . . It's an infinite vicious loop.

In short, the initial set of constraints we must establish concern *causality*: the principle which governs the sequence of cause and effect. Common experience assures us that causality cannot run backwards, and so paradoxes of the "grandfather" variety cannot occur. But common sense reckons without time machines. Is time machine causality a self-contradiction or not?

One way out in science fiction is to invent a regulatory authority, the Time Police. Poul Anderson did this to great effect in a classic series collected as *The Guardians of Time*. If a traveller interferes with some crucial pivot-point in history, throwing subsequent events onto a new

path, an alert squad rushes through time to the scene of the time-crime and nips it in the bud. The reason we never observe Time Changers, then, is that they're all in the pokey, apprehended *before* their crimes were committed. It raises some provocative jurisprudential issues.

Appealing though that solution is to writers of adventure stories, the logistics are insupportable. At the very least, it tends to multiply itself instantly into an infinite regress of wars between epochs, each striving to undo the history of its enemies and remake the world to its own taste. Such a war is explored amusingly, but hardly convincingly, in Fritz Leiber's famous *The Big Time*.

Strictly speaking, such stories cheat. The custodians would have to exist in a very peculiar relation to the causality of "real" time. Though their ancestors can be abolished retroactively in one fell swoop, the Patrollers — illogically — linger on.

Dr Isaac Asimov boldly confronted this difficulty in *The End of Eternity*. There, the manipulators dwell in a secondary time dimension. Outside their stable world of Eternity, reality is in ceaseless flux, shaped like putty by the few human beings who've escaped time's thrall. Yet, for all its cleverness, Asimov's solution seems finally glib, a trick of words.

A mind-wrenching exception to this dismissive analysis has recently emerged, however. Quantum theory can be interpreted as saying that at each moment the entire universe is splitting into every available alternative state. Shades of science fiction's "parallel worlds"! The postulate opens the way to a truly radical approach to time paradoxes. If a parricidal visitor alters his own past, perhaps this merely adds one more insignificant "split-off universe" to the endless myriads swarming into being from moment to moment.

Thus, the time traveller's own lifeline has *not* been obliterated, but merely paired with another where a mysterious "cross-time" assassin pointlessly slew his grandfather. (The idea, by the way, is ethically repulsive; it seems to cheapen the value of life. Sadly, that doesn't prove it false.)

Are time travellers forever unobservable, then? We must hope not, or our speculations are thwarted from the outset.

So what are we looking for? How can a time machine be distinguished from some other kind of unidentified phenomenon?

Consider: a temporal device might be capable of flipping from date to date without changing its spatial, geographical location. (That's assuming it can compensate for the orbital motion of the Earth, a tricky engineering hazard plaguing all time machine designers.)

For ordinary time-bound observers, this might well look like a space vehicle "dematerialising" and "rematerialising" at different intervals. To the time travellers,

How could a time machine be distinguished from some other UFO? It could, for instance, flip from date to date in the same place. Some sightings support this idea.

the world outside their craft would lurch like a time-lapse film. To us, though, the sequence of visits would be interrupted by days or weeks.

More than two decades ago, the veteran French UFO researcher Aime Michel proposed a most haunting regularity in the UFO reports generated in a frenzy of sightings over his country in 1954. Plotted on a map, the sightings for a given day could be fitted predominantly on a series of straight lines. Could these be flight-paths? Sometimes several lines intersected at one spot, forming a pattern like an extended asterisk. There were other apparent lawful uniformities.

Eventually, Michel's approach was adopted by UFO researchers in other countries. Alignments of this kind have been found to date for reports from North Africa, the USA, Brazil, Argentina and Spain, and claims have been made that Australian sightings follow the same pattern.

If the alignments are not due to chance (as seems, alas, likely, in the light of computer simulations done by Dr Jacques Vallee), the most obvious conjecture is that they represent flight-paths of craft conducting a survey.

Yet it is obviously no ordinary survey, for the sightings along a given line are not arrayed in chronological order! If a line is indeed a flight-path, the path of an unknown craft, then the craft must shift to earlier and later moments of time.

I personally think that the Michel alignments *are* a product of pure chance, and demonstrate how easily a cluster of random events can fall into what looks like lawful, contrived regularity. The fact remains that the behaviour of the French UFOs, and others since, is more consistent with the notion that they are time machines than that they are the vehicles of aliens from space.

It is notable that throughout recorded history, in many dispersed societies, momentous events are said to have been attended by "comets", signs in the sky not always attributable to celestial or meteorological conditions. What's more, astute if superstitious soothsayers have claimed that many of these events are omens *preceding* the events, as well as accompanying them. It is as if someone interested in the crisis has known from the history books that it was due, and had flown in to check the circumstances leading up to it . . .

Briefly, for the sake of the argument, let

us beg the question of the reality of UFO vehicles. As even ardent believers agree, the vast majority of reports are readily explained as misidentification of known phenomena. What fascinates me is that the unexplained residue of truly baffling cases — the genuine UFOs — are usually taken by believers to be extraterrestrial craft. Until recently this has been the position of pro-UFO scientists such as Vallee and Dr J. Allen Hynek, though they now lean more to alternative hypotheses. Logic, as it happens, suggests that *if* UFOs are artificial craft, they *don't* come from space.

Philip Klass, an acerbic American sceptic, has emphasised sardonically the huge diversity of reported UFO designs and shapes. Unless each UFO is a customised model, this diversity implies the agog interest of thousands of different stellar civilisations, who all nip in from time to time to ogle the Earth. But if it is fairly unlikely that even a single interstellar society has visited us, it is *exceedingly* improbable that thousands do so as a matter of course.

As well, there are the "close encounter" reports which emphasise human-like occupants of UFO craft. It has been established that these reports are no less reliable and mutually-consistent than more pedestrian varieties. Yet it is totally implausible that worlds with distinct evolutionary histories should produce similar intelligent creatures (physically similar, that is; minds might resemble one another "under the skin").

If UFOs were craft from the future, these difficulties evaporate. In the endless eons which stretch ahead of humankind, there may be many distinct societies which build time machines. No doubt design will undergo modification, reflecting a multitude of tastes and technologies. A time craft from a million years hence is hardly likely to resemble the early prototypes, or even the Rolls Royce model of the 30th century.

Of course, the extraterrestrial explanation and the time machine hypothesis can be combined to mutual advantage. Dr Carl Sagan, an open-minded but hard-nosed sceptic when it comes to UFOs, estimates that Earth might expect a visit from the stars on average only once every thousand years. But if such interstellar craft possess temporal manoeuvrability to match their capacity for space flight (and the latter, providing access to black hole "time gates", might permit the former), we could expect observation from alien cultures which discover Earth not today . . . but in centuries to come.

Why, though, would future star-hoppers have such a morbid fascination for this century? One truly gruesome explanation for their interest in our benighted era cannot be discounted. In the billions of years which remain before Earth is consumed in the sun's terminal flame,

many thousands of alien spacecraft might stumble on a wrecked, desolate planet and wonder at the poignant ruin they behold.

Filled with curiosity and pity, they might pilot their spacetime craft back along the four-dimensional worldline to the bitter epoch when human civilisation at last destroyed itself and its world: the second half of the 20th century . . .

Often enough it has been suggested that our political leaders, or the covert intelligence agencies, do indeed know that UFOs are craft. Why, then, do they refuse to announce the news? Because, mutter the conspiratorial theorists, the truth would unhinge us all. I have never been convinced by this line of thought. Extraterrestrial beings don't unnerve me in the slightest. But alien, regretful time travellers from an utterly cataclysmic future might easily precipitate the very doom they describe . . .

Happily, I think this scenario is a very remote possibility. Apart from anything else, we have no evidence that UFO activity is more abundant now than in earlier eras. Perhaps the only way to be sure would be to ask the UFO occupants themselves (if they exist). And there is no shortage of evidence, assert the believers. Just look at the reports of close encounters of the third kind: contact, even abduction.

We enter a realm where the effort needed to sustain an open mind is almost insupportable. The most regular feature is the gibberish attributed to the aliens. After an extensive survey, Dr Vallee stated pointedly: "The entities' reported behaviour is as consistently absurd as the appearance of their craft is ludicrous." The hitch to sceptics is that many other parameters of these reports are impressively coherent.

Consider, then, the case of a young married couple which has been described by researcher Charles Bowen as "one of the most important yet to have appeared." Under hypnosis, an amnesic period which followed the sighting of a blue, pulsating aerial light was plumbed for blocked memories. Peter described communication with a UFO entity.

"Can they travel faster than the speed of light?" asked the doctor. "They travel by time," answered Peter, deep in trance. He amplified this: "Speed of light is too slow to cover billions of miles in seconds. If they want to go from point A to point B they have to come back in time to get to the Earth, so they send themselves back into time. They are time travellers, not space travellers."

At the same time, Peter provided other garbled and inconsistent details. They were from "outer galaxies"; later they were from the Milky Way (our home galaxy), and had infiltrated our planet. Hypnotic hallucination? Well, probably. But notice that time travel is said to be necessary to balance the vast distances travelled. This is

Might time-travellers stumble on our wrecked and desolate planet? Might they then travel back to view the epoch when we destroyed ourselves — the 20th century?

fully in accordance with the theory of tachyons, the hypothetical faster-than-light particles which could make time machines possible; it is also a consequence of shooting matter through higher dimensional Superspace, the domain of quantum theory. It is hard to see why a simple hoaxer would put in all this valid arcane detail and get the rest so childishy muddled.

If UFOs were spacecraft under alien control, it's also hard to see why their occupants would bother with such silliness. But if they are time machines from our future, it would be good psychology for their crews to study an era in disguise. And if they wished to intervene marginally in our affairs, what better tactic than to use the religious or technological trappings of the day. Hence, the story of choice these days speaks of aliens from space; in the middle ages, maybe they preferred to pass themselves off as fairies or demons . . .

John Keel, Vallee and others have pointed out that in the 1870s newspapers in various countries carried a rash of "mysterious airship" stories. Witnesses sometimes chatted to the occupants, who falsely claimed to be airship inventors. Is this all part of some Grand Deception? If the UFO occupants ever do tell their witnesses the truth, according to Vallee

and Keel, they make sure to stir in plenty of misleading gibberish as well.

So we're stuck at the end of a blind alley. Our original search for time machines slams into the enigma of UFO close encounters. But there's one amusing possibility we haven't looked at.

Time travellers would not tamper with the past, if they could help it. But suppose a prankish adolescent, or a demented religious fanatic, stole a time machine to perpetrate moronic jests on an earlier generation. It is remarkable that the most widely witnessed and best documented UFO sighting of all time took place in Fatima, Portugal on October 13, 1917, following a series of "visions of the Virgin".

On that day a silvery disc cavorted in the sky above 70,000 people for 10 minutes. The crowd had been advised two months in advance to expect a remarkable event at that precise hour. And the "apparition" associated with the UFO was a young girl, as at La Sallette in 1846 and Lourdes in 1858. Close study of the witness-reports reveal not a pious miracle but something closer to an adolescent's cruel, senseless joke.

It is difficult to imagine a wayward child stealing a spacecraft from the adults of an interstellar society and remaining at large during all the years needed to carry out that series of hoaxes. For a time traveller, though, the experienced duration could be quite brief. Perhaps some third millennium delinquent is having her bottom smacked and her pocket money suspended, after a hectic chase by the Time Patrol, while worried worldline technicians compute the longterm effects of her thoughtless escapade . . . ■

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He disengaged from Group Think,
turned a little more pink,
chased a Scorpio Betazoid slink
and took up vice, lust and drink.
Now, his Romulan Shrink says, "Get real!"

Gail Aggen

MOMMY, THE TEDDY BEAR HAD BIG BLACK EYES

And he took me away!
I was in my bed
and then...
there were lots more
of those Big Black Bears. Oh
Mommy, I flew
over the house
up to their space ship!
Mommy, they weren't like E.T.,
they were scary!
They put this thing
on my head
and it hurt.
They told me to be a good boy.
They told me a secret
but said it was a real big secret
and I wouldn't remember it
'til I was grown up.
It was pretty up there, Mommy!
Like on T.V.,
like the moon on T.V.
It was getting fun
but then they brought me back
and now I'm back here in bed.
Close the front door, Mommy!
I'm cold! Oh look! There's
that blue light over the garage,
again!

Gail Aggen

NIGHT SKY

I love to sit and watch the stars
and seek out planets such as Mars;
or see the Southern Cross point out
the way down South (if I'm in doubt!)
Orion's Belt is always clear,
his weapon not a sword of fear.
And Sirius, large and brilliant white,
outshines most stars which are in sight,
Canopus, Rigel, quite clearly seen,
and others with a lesser gleam.
Blinking, winking, sometimes prancing,
how I love their ballet dancing.
The sky at night's a wondrous scene,
Alone I sit and gently dream.

I DREAM OF AN ALIEN.....

Often I dream of meeting some creatures,
With one who is pleasant and kindly as well,
One who is tall, with good-looking features,
Who'll love me quite madly and yet never tell!
One who's a leader and, taking my hand,
Will lead me to riches never known before;
Will ask if there's something I want from his land,
And kneeling before me will say, "Je t'adore."
But trust to my luck I'll find someone dreary,
Who'll stick me with pins and put things up my nose,
With eyes on antennae, looking quite weary,
And smelling, of course, not at all like a rose.
He'll take all the samples he needs for his lab,
He'll toss me aside when his deeds are quite done,
And label me brusquely with a bright yellow tab,
Reading: 'This one's no good. She's not even fun.'
So I'm hoping perhaps, I'll retain my just worth,
Remaining quite happily right here on this Earth.