

Celebration '84

On January 25, 1984, Winnipeg got a large dose of ufology when the Faculty of Science at the University of Manitoba featured two UFO lecturers for its participation in Celebration '84. The main attraction was Stanton Friedman, making his first appearance in Manitoba, with me as a supplement for local interest. As usual, however, UMSU screwed up the promotional advertising, and as a result, little had been announced a week previous to Stan's arrival. But Deanne Troasky, Science Students' Association VP, came to the rescue and singlehandedly launched a media campaign that resulted in a deluge of media interest. With the push, Stan's evening lecture drew an overflow crowd in the largest lecture hall in the Faculty.

There's no question that the public's interest in the subject still rides high, despite the lack of sightings over the past few years. The audience that night was an odd mixture of students and middle-aged individuals from the lay community. I recognized only a few professors, and these were among the more open-minded on campus. No one from the Manitoba Planetarium, nor from any astronomy department, came to listen to Stan's three-hour oratorial. Too bad; he was a sheer delight.

Stan is basically a pure nuts-and-bolts ufologist, clearly emphasizing his belief that "Flying Saucers Are Real!". His talk centered on his evidence that various governments are withholding information about UFOs, and deliberately misleading the public. He discussed Blue Book Special Report 14, in which statistics were selectively ignored to avoid the conclusion that UFOs are a real, characteristically different phenomenon than the conventional phenomena used to explain them. But his most puzzling presentation was on the infamous Roswell Incident, in which a flying saucer reportedly crashed in New Mexico, and the US Government has kept it secret since then. Stanton has over seventy-five signed affidavits by witnesses involved in the case, all giving testament to its reality.

Personally, I've never been comfortable with the conspiracy theory, mostly because of its unprovable nature. At some point, the theory evolves into a religious argument, based entirely on faith since the object of belief is not observable. (I recognize that black holes fall into this same category, but you know what I mean.) Even if the arguments that derive logically from one another suggest the story is true, the fact that the proverbial "little green men in pickle jars" are not forthcoming is a major stumbling block in the path of acceptance of the theory. In its support, however, is evidence which suggests that the various governments have indeed been withholding information on its investigations of the phenomenon. This is the "saucergate" that Stan comments on in his presentations.

I had the opportunity to talk with Stan at length while he was in town, and we discussed a wide range of topics, often including UFOs. He had also attended the talk I had given and he was able to give me some constructive criticism. I had changed my Manitoba-only talk to one with a broader coverage of the UFO phenomenon, and it was most unsatisfactory. The next talk I gave was my original, and it of course went much better. I had not adhered to the first law of adjustment: If it works, don't fix it! C'est la vie.

Stan has had many years of experience doing the lecture circuit, and knows how to play the audiences. He said I had a distinctly Hynek-like lecture style, and I had to agree. There's no question that my several meetings with Dr. Hynek have had a certain effect on my approach to

ufology. There is a definite contrast between the Hynek and the Friedman UFO lectures: the former discusses IPOs in some depth, injects humor with cartoons and discusses a multitude of ufological topics; the latter ignores IPOs and concentrates solely on the point of presentation about the evidence he has gathered. One is an overview and the other is a specific approach, in two distinct styles. Both are real crowd pleasers, but for different reasons.

Stan and I swapped a few stories over dinner at Cathay House (and we both say that the food is every bit as good as they say it is). We talked of all the aspects of ufodrom, from MIB to classic cases and the individuals involved. In particular, we spoke about the state of ufology today.

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The Status of UFO Research



By now, most of the regular SGJ readers will have recognized my somewhat cynical attitude towards most things. Call it a character flaw, if you wish. This cynicism, when applied to ufology brings out the very serious nature and consequences of the subject.

First of all, UFO reports have not altogether stopped coming in, although they are at a trickle. I just received the latest from Lou Parish's clipping service, and it contains pages and pages of reports. I think we can still be allowed to ask why reports are being made after 37 years of the "modern UFO era". This is the easiest question, and its answer is obvious from reflection upon the data at hand. There have always been and always will be UFO reports; the human system is remarkably fallible, and it will always from time to time encounter unknown stimuli. I would suggest that the present trickle of reports is the background level above which UFO flaps must rise. This is not too unexpected, as intense research by Vallee, Flammonde, Keel and others has uncovered (at the very least) a continuous trickle of reports dating back into the 19th century and earlier into historical records. Even without proper reporting mechanisms, the reports have been recorded. The meaning of this is also quite clear. Since we know that most UFO reports are IPOs, the continuous stream of reports does not mean a continuous record of extraterrestrial visitation. It most likely means that there will always be misidentifications. Now, this is not quite Sheffer's "where there's smoke, there's smoke" attitude, because we know that statistically, a small fraction of reports are true unknowns (although I think that even this point needs examination). Sheffer ignores these by implying that the unknowns are just a statistical variation within the background noise, and that the unknowns can never be totally eliminated due to the nature of the reporting mechanism. He assumes this mechanism is flawed, but does not recognize that the mechanism also produces high-quality observations of aircraft, satellites and meteors. In fact, the exact same mechanism enables astronomers to track bolides and pinpoint meteorite falls. Of course, bolides are photographed by all-sky cameras whereas UFOs are not. (Or are they? All-sky photographic surveys are designed to ignore anything except meteors. Even satellite tracking stations admit they detect unknown targets, but if the targets have anything less than a conventional trajectory, they ignore it.)

The next major question concerns the value of the UFO reports themselves. For example, how useful are UFO report catalogues? The importance of this came to light recently when I wrote an article criticizing Persinger's statistical studies on earthquakes and UFOs (see previous issues of SGJ). The studies used UFOCAT and a list of reports published in Fate magazine for their data sources. Hendry made a comment in his UFO Handbook that UFOCAT cannot be used for statistical studies because of flaws in its makeup. If true, then UFOCAT, a primary data source for UFO reports, is essentially worthless, as are all other such files.

I have often struggled over this problem, considering its implications. UFOCAT is composed of several kinds of data: a) reports from investigators; b) newspaper clippings; c) articles in journals (including Fate); and d) other UFO report catalogues. Although there is some standardization, the quality of the reports varies considerably, since they are only as good as the investigator who files them. Hence, in this way, Hendry is right; UFOCAT does possess flaws which might reduce its usefulness as a data source. Statisticians sometimes forget that bad data gives equally good distributions and correlations as good data, so that analyses of data tell us nothing about the data itself. In computerese: GIGO (Garbage In, Garbage Out).

The trouble with UFO data is that the information usually available is not necessarily the most useful. It is commonplace to have dates, times and locations of UFO events, as well as reported characteristics such as colors, shapes and types of objects seen. But because the UFO is observed by a human system, "feelings" and attitudes are important, and not always included in a report. As a matter of fact, there are so many variables involved, deciding what is important and what is not is not an easy task. But accepting everything as data is not the best choice to make either. (One example that comes to mind is Project URD's huge, coded UFO report form that leaves nothing out. A computerized data bank with that amount of data per case would be huge as well, perhaps needing 100 times the storage space of UFOCAT. Another example is the narrative file, in effect a listing of UFO cases in text form, much like a book. The advantage of such a file is that the coding of UFO reports is not needed, since actual words are used: John Smith saw a red nocturnal light on May 3, 1983, etc. If John Smith said that it looked like a burning aircraft, the file would have that on record. The serious disadvantage of this type of file is that it would be enormous, and perhaps would need 1000 times the present UFOCAT storage space.)

But all this does not mean that UFO data has no merit. We have lots of data on what time people report UFOs, where and how many. UFO data files are therefore catalogues of sociological information. Is this useful in itself? Well, it is, depending on what you use the data to show. Persinger uses UFO data for geophysical studies, assuming that the data is important and accurate. I personally feel that sociologists are missing out on a ripe field for study. The belief system for entire countries is up for grabs in UFO investigators' files.

Vallee used this information to support his ultraterrestrial hypotheses. The "manipulators" in his scenarios are therefore directly influencing our sociological structure. UFOs could thus be merely a global reaction mechanism to the new space age (even though they existed before the space age!). Or is the UFO phenomenon a response to the nuclear age instead?

Finally, let me get around to mentioning the prime source for UFOs in many theories, namely, the extraterrestrial hypothesis. I do not hold the ETH untenable in any respect. In fact, the recent opportunities I have had to examine some government documents concerning UFOs have tended to pull me in the ETH direction slightly, despite my misgivings about it as a theory. But I'm not fully convinced. Yet.

Who ya gonna call?

Have any ghosts lately?

Who ya gonna call?

Well, you can start with the Manitoba Mysteries Research Association at 299-2420, says spokesman Chris Rutkowski.

The newly formed group with the jaw-breaking name has been set up specifically to coordinate the reporting and study of unusual phenomena such as UFOs, Sasquatch, lake monsters, psychic phenomena, and natural marvels like meteors and bolides.

"In Canada it's the first organization of this type," said Rutkowski.

a professional astronomer. "It's an ambitious effort. We're bringing several kinds of researchers together. We'll be sharing costs and drawing on each other's resources."

The MMRA will be officially introduced Oct. 9 at 7 p.m. in Room 234, University Centre, University of Manitoba.

Rutkowski said the association is an umbrella group composed of UFOFORUM (Ufology Research of Manitoba), Manitoba Sasquatch Research Centre, and Manitoba Paranormal

cont'd

wpg Sun
5 Oct. 84

We are all aware of the opinion of Dr. Carl Sagan regarding UFOs. Although he is a firm believer in ETI, and frequently lobbies for the continued funding for SETI research, he is firmly opposed to the theory that some UFOs are extraterrestrial. Recently, a thought experiment led me to the conclusion that Sagan may lose his argument with Tipler, the scientist who believes that terrestrial life is unique in the galaxy (if not the entire universe). The reasoning is as follows: There are somewhere around 100 billion stars in our galaxy, which has an age of about 15 billion years. We also know that a typical star remains on the main sequence (i.e. capable of supporting life) for about 10 billion years and that life on Earth has taken about half that to develop to where it is today (if you call this developed). This leaves us able to survive on Earth for 5 billion years more, harring some natural or man-made catastrophe. Now, since some stars will have begun the main sequence earlier than our Sun, it is logical that any evolutionary mechanism will have begun sooner as well. If we assume (and this is an admittedly major assumption) that life will evolve in most stellar systems, then it is also logical that life around a star older than our Sun will be more advanced than we are. Life sufficiently advanced might also have developed interstellar travel, and may be presently exploring the galaxy (this assumes that interstellar travel is possible). If so, there is a significant probability that we will be visited by extraterrestrial voyagers at some point in our history. And, since there is a greater probability that this will occur outside the present, then we could have been visited already, and Arthur C. Clarke's black monolith might in fact be waiting for us after all.

But this brings up a rather interesting point in turn. SETI research assumes that life exists, but cannot cross the vast distances of space. Yet there are indications that this is not so. Mankind is already exploring the solar system, and there is no reason to think that interstellar travel will not be attempted in the future. If so, then why have we not already been contacted by advanced civilizations? In effect, some UFOs must be extraterrestrial in order to support the hypothesis that extraterrestrial life exists at all in any evolutionary stage! Therefore, if UFOs do not exist, as Sagan claims, then mankind is unique and Sagan's SETI research is all for naught! Either we are unique, or we are presently under observation by an extraterrestrial race.

Sorry for that digression. I was in the middle of a discussion about my theories of ufology and got hung up there for a bit. I am beginning to favor a more "unified theory of ufology". Really. I believe that only a theory which allows for all the various aspects of ufology can come close to accurately modelling the phenomenon. This means that the ETH must be combined with ultraterrestrialism, and seasoned with liberal doses of geophysics, cover-ups, spiritualism and whatnot, all to compensate for each theory's separate drawbacks. Now, I don't for a moment suggest I have such a theory already formulated. This is my "gut" feeling, one that I have acquired after having my feet wet for several years. And it's not a cop-out, either. I'm saying that there is a solution, with definite parameters that can be eventually determined.

Maybe.

Newspaper Articles

Bird, Bradley. "Mystery Hovers Over Rash of UFO Sightings". Winnipeg Free Press, July 25, 1984, p.32. A rather sensationalized commentary coming as a result of a lengthy conversation about all aspects of Manitoba mysteries, but for some reason dealing only with a slight increase in UFO reports.

Miller, David. "Are We Being Watched by UFOs?". Toronto (Sunday) Star, July 8, 1984, p.A8. A full-page of interviews with Hynek, Friedman, McNamara and Rutkowski, giving a fairly objective overview.

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Investigations, along with several private researchers.

The MMRA is intended to be a centre where people can report sightings of unusual phenomena to individuals seriously interested in the observations, he said.

Next Tuesday, members of the research group will give briefings on their studies and of recent sightings, like some unconfirmed sightings this summer of a sea monster at the mouth of Winnipeg River, said Rutkowski.

end.

By LINDA WILLIAMSON
Sun Staff Writer

The aliens are coming. But not to worry. We're just dumping animals to them, says a renowned UFO expert.
"They're not coming here to hurt us, or to help us. They just want to keep an eye on us, because we're the neighborhood barbarians," says nuclear physicist Stanton Friedman.
From an alien's point of view, ours is a very primitive society, says Friedman, whose lecture "Flying saucers are real" forms part of the University of Manitoba's Celebration '84 this week.
"Flying saucers are going to finish the job Copernicus started: they will take us out of the centre of the

then brainwashed to forget the incident. Hill later recalled the abduction under hypnosis and described the aliens.
"The aliens view us as something like dumb animals. They usually induce amnesia, which is a lot kinder than hitting someone over the head."
Friedman, a former classmate of popular scientist Carl Sagan, is well-armed with evidence to prove some UFOs really do carry ETs.
At the end of every lecture, he asks how many in the audience have seen a UFO. The hands go up slowly at first, then more, and

According to the Gallup poll, some 74 per cent of college-educated Americans believe in UFOs, Friedman says. But fear of ridicule and a government coverup he calls "cosmic Watergate" keep them from speaking up.
Governments have strategic reasons for keeping UFO research secret, he says.
"If you have a secret project, you can't tell your friends without telling your enemies. Friedman's years of working on top-secret government projects with nuclear-powered jets taught him that in-

interplanetary travel was close to a reality. "Astronauts know nothing about the engineering of space systems, Sracich says. Skeptic and you'll find someone who putting down what he isn't up on."
Friedman feels welcome in Manitoba, where there have been over 500 recorded UFO sightings.

Nosy space aliens keeping eye on us



Attack Blamed on Israel
NEW YORK—Following the destruction of 90% of civilization last week in a nuclear attack by flying saucers, the United Nations Security Council today passed a resolution claiming that "Israel's got to be to blame." United States Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick citing the "unparalleled support of our government for the State of Israel", cast an abstaining vote.
Meanwhile, the French government invited the commanders of the flying saucers to Paris to discuss the purchase of additional nuclear fuel and technology.

Just a balloon

Authorities were flooded with calls shortly after 9 p.m. yesterday from people who thought they spotted E.T.'s gleaming spaceship floating over the city.
The balloon was launched by the National Research Council in Gimli at 6 p.m.
"We've gotten 6,000 or so calls from people thinking they saw a UFO," Wright said.
Environment Canada, however, quelled people's excitement, saying it was only a common weather balloon en route to Lethbridge, Alta.
Spokesman Phil Wright said the sunlight reflected off the balloon equipped with scientific instruments to study the polar easterlies wind. It



How You Can Explore Higher Dimensions of Space and Time by T.R. Pawlicki. Prentice-Hall, N.J. 1984. 188 p. \$9.95
Reviewed by W. Ritchie Benedict.

The sub-title of this book is "An Introduction To The New Science of Hyperspace For Trekkies of All Ages", and it is by the same author who wrote "How To Build a Flying Saucer". Normally anything with equations and formulae tends to make my eyes glaze over. However, I am interested in anything dealing with science that relates to parapsychology, particularly anything that is coherent and readable. This book, like its predecessor, fits the bill admirably, even if the author in his preface does seem to take the attitude that everyone should be good at mathematics.

Surprisingly, I found myself understanding the meaning of this book, so I must be more of a mathematician than I thought. Else, it is the basic problem of semantics: before you understand the problem, you must understand the terms. Religion has been great for using the terms of soul, spirit and rebirth without generating any great understanding as to what they are in practical terms. No wonder people regard mystics and philosophers as woolly-minded.

Any attempt to understand the paranormal before the 20th century was doomed to failure, simply because we did not have the necessary information. Pawlicki discusses how the universe resembles a giant hologram. Only the invention of the laser about 1960 made 3-D holograms possible. He points out that the co-existence of many realities within a single area of space is quite an alien concept to the average person as well. At least it was until the advent of radio and TV. The only 19th century personality who might have had some hope of understanding the nature of reality was Lewis Carroll (1832-1898), who was, after all, a mathematician. Into the rabbit hole fell Alice - sort of a symbolic or intuitive representation of light being sucked into a black hole, if one wishes to view it from that perspective. Certainly, the concepts of the new physics, as contained in this book, are as fantastic in their implications as Alice in Wonderland.

Mankind may always have had a knowledge of the workings of the universe even if it could not always express it in precise terms. Many of the fundamental concepts have surfaced in an intuitive manner, such as the idea everything is organized in a hierarchical system with various levels and intelligences. One of the more fascinating chapters in this book deals with the operation of the pineal gland, long known by occultists as "The Third Eye". Pawlicki claims this is linked with the awareness of the creativity of the right brain. He says that people who have this ability have been largely suppressed by the crazy society we have on this planet. His athletic abilities have led him to conclude that the mastery of these skills are because the person who is able to reach "the point of stillness" within himself becomes a superconductor of cosmic energy. I have noticed something similar in writing: if you can just get into the right "mode", it becomes easy instead of a constant effort.

This book is a step further out - beyond "How to Build a Flying Saucer" and a cousin to "The Tao of Physics", "Stalking the Wild Pendulum" and "The Excalibur Briefing". I can't say that I agree with all of the conclusions reached, but Pawlicki is never dull. The science is impeccable, and you will know a lot more about gravity, wave theory and enlightenment by the time you are finished. Yes, even dreams, fairies and ghosts have a place here, as does the nature of God and Salvation. How does Star Trek get into the act? In the final chapter, we are taken aboard the Enterprise and then through a Black Hole - a charming illustration of what to expect when we pass the Event Horizon.

This book covers a lot of ground in just 188 pages, and deserves to be reread several times. A clear, informative explanation, of what makes the supernatural "super".

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Ufology Today

Recently, three doctoral dissertations were ordered for the UPOROM library, all involving some aspect of ufology. They are: Strentz, H.J. "Survey of Press Coverage...", NWU, 1970; Schutz, M.K. "Organizational Goals of Ufology...", NWU, 1973; and Bullard, T.E. "Mysteries in the Eye of the Beholder...", Indiana U., 1982. At about \$25 each, these things are not cheap, but are invaluable for serious research. For anyone who wishes to use them, they will be in the UPOROM library by about Christmas, 1984.

Wally Nilsson has given me his report on the Time-Out Floatation Centre, at 835 Ellice Avenue. Once inside, you are led to a tank 8 feet long, 4 feet high and 4 feet wide, with liquid inside at a level of about a foot. You float in a 30% solution of epsom salts and water at 93.5 degrees F, for about an hour. You can lay in the dark in silence, or listen to prerecorded cassettes with titles like "Lemurian Sunrise", "Tonal Alchemy" and "Rainbow Butterfly". All this for only \$20.00. Peyote is extra (just kidding; I saw that movie too).

Dr. R. Altemeyer, who teaches first year psychology at the University of Manitoba, has assigned Volume 6, Number 2, of the Skeptical Inquirer as one of the required textbooks. Sigh.

The second annual Keycon will be held May 17-19, 1985 at the Marlborough Inn in Winnipeg. For further information, contact the Manfields at Pendragon Games.

"Dear Mr. Rutkowski, I have been graced with a broad new insight, conceptualization and understanding of the solar system..." Thus begins a letter I received forwarded to me at work. You don't want to know the rest.

The word from the AAAS meeting in New York is rather dull news. USA Today (May 30, 1984) ran a short column on the meeting, with a third of it on UFOs. James Oberg said "most UFO sightings have been explained". Allen Hynek said that reported properties of UFOs are not consistent with "those of everyday objects". The consensus: "There is no proof that a spaceship from another planet has visited Earth."

By now, most of you will have heard that the Soviet Union has set up a UFO probe commission in its Academy of Sciences. The news came on May 29th in the Russian newspaper Trud.

Version 1 (Dec. 83) of the Archives for UFO Research UFOCODE classification system has been out for a while now, although I don't know how it is being generally received. Considerably more detailed than UFOCAT, it is a coding system for UFO literature, including UFO reports. I personally do like it, and it may be a viable alternative to text narratives as its hard-copy retention and reduction in storage space in computer memory is reduced as well.

The Manitoba Planetarium is still presenting its summer show: The Search For Extraterrestrials. A moderate effort, it discusses Von Neuman machines and radio astronomy.

The Edmonton Space Sciences Centre (which, incidentally, looks like the mother ship from Close Encounters), is now open, and I'm told it's really magnificent. I had the opportunity to tour the place before its completion, and it still was impressive at that time. It includes an IMAX projector/screen theatre, a planetarium with superbly comfy seats, a large hands-on exhibit hall, a state-of-the-art production centre and a bookstore (note!).

The Natural History Museum in Banff, Alberta, has a "stuffed Bigfoot" on display. Cute.

"Your Co-Worker Could be a Space Alien, Say Experts" proclaimed the National Enquirer on June 24th, 1984. Out of the 10 signs to watch out for, according to Brad Steiger, my favorites include: eating French fries with a spoon, and using correction fluid to paint fingernails. And I thought nobody noticed.

Gene Duplantier's latest 1985 book catalogue just came to me (September). New features: issue #1 of Delve, Gene's latest fortnightly, and a whole slough of new book titles. Included in these are gems titled: "Flying Saucers from Khabarrah Koom", "Secrets of the Popes" and "The Martian Alphabet".

It is with great sadness that I report the recent death of A. Bertram Chandler, a science fiction writer who is regarded by many as the best hard-science writer around. He frequently would inject his stories with brilliant humor, especially through his characters' problems in dealing with the opposite sex. His main character, Commodore Grimes, survived many an adventure in Chandler's universe, including many bizarre scenarios set on the now-famous Kinsolving's Planet, where time and space went awry. I well recall reading Grimes' encounters with malevolent bicycles, religious zealots and dirigible dogfights. Grimes met a varied ensemble in his adventures, including the beelike Shaara, kangaroo women and had somewhat strange meetings with Sherlock Holmes, Zeus and, of course, A. Bertram Chandler! Grimes' history in print lasted several decades, first appearing as a character in the 1950's. Chandler's voluminous publishing record began back in the 1930's, although he never gained the popularity of other writers who have been around as long, since the "golden age". We salute you, Captain Chandler, in that great steamer in the sky. May Mathilda waltz with you forever. The Commodore is dead! Long live the Commodore!

In the mail: a poster from CPDV (Centro Para Peaquiass de Discos Voadorea) in Brazil, advertizing their 5th annual Simposio Brasileiro de Ufologia, held on June 16-17 of this year. White on black, with impressive graphics of a saucer against a starry background. The top caption in one-and-a-half-inch letters: DISCOS VOADORES, and underneath: e se eles existirem? How's your Portuguese?

Also in the mail from APU, its Bestlandsliata 1983 Library Catalogue. This is the most thorough listing of UFO books I have seen. It is a multilingual listing, with over 1100 entries, all giving author, title and bibliographic information. There are many illustrations of covers as well. Extraneous text is, of course, in Swedish.

It seems that the RCMP does have a policy on UFOs, after all, separate from fireball sightings. According to their operations manual, Section I.3.E.10.B.1, they must notify the NRC Meteor Centre by a priority unclassified message, including the Date, Time, Place, Duration, Description, Condition of Sky and the Identity of Observers. Also included must be "Comments on the Reliability of the Witnesses". It is not known whether officers receive instruction or guidelines for criteria to judge this reliability.

Metron Canada is a book service in Lethbridge, Alberta, that caters to Velikovskian catastrophists. Its recent book list includes volumes by a Professor Alfred de Grazia, describing reversing currents, the burning of Troy, a "fully electric" theory of astronomy and a psychiatric analysis of Moses. Prices range between \$20 and \$30 per volume.

LoCs: Henry McKay, John Musgrave, Bonnie Wheeler, Broux Marc, A.J. Gevaerd, Bert Schwarz, Keafman Cogdell, Stanton Friedman, Ritchie Benedict, Michael Anteski, Michael Persinger, Gary Lanham, Tommy Blann, Edith Powke.