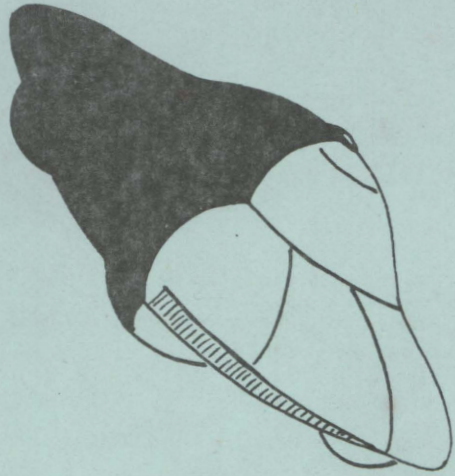


# IRISH UFO NEWS

No. 7



35p

**TOP SECRET!**

CLOSE ENCOUNTER • THE TWILIGHT SIDE OF UFOLOGY • WORLD NEWS • SPACE WATCH  
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# IRISH UFO RESEARCH



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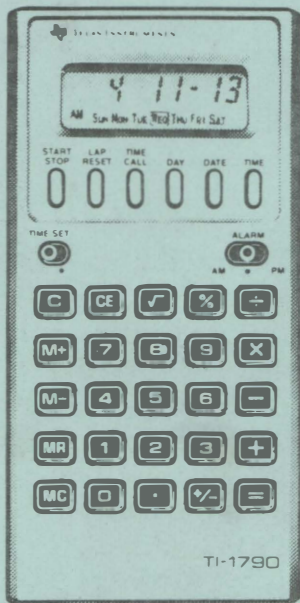
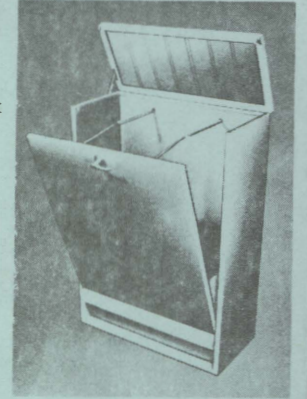
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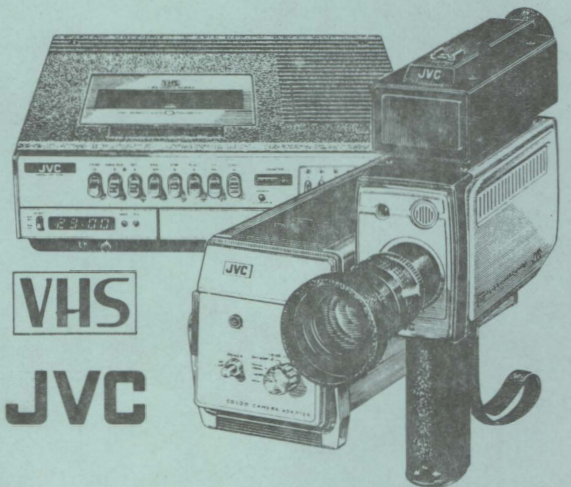
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It has been said that a little knowledge is dangerous. Surely this old adage meets with nods of approval never moreso than in the field of science or scientific research in general and in the field of ufology in particular. A geologist can pick up a piece of rock and if he is expert enough undoubtedly he will be able to tell right away if it be basalt or granite. He can go further by slicing up his rock into thin wafers and by inserting them in a microscope he can verify what constitutes the ancient artifact. But up until the time he begins to speculate, and remember scientists rarely enjoy this parody, he has something concrete (pun is unintentional) to examine. The object of his investigation can be picked up (provided it is small enough) and scutinised with the best optical aids man has been given - his eyes.

Not so in ufology unfortunately. The ufologist is a person who carries out painstaking detective work with little or no hope

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#### IN THIS ISSUE:

- 1 :EDITORIAL.
- 2 :TOP SECRET.
- 8 :SPACE WATCH.
- 13:PRESS RELEASE.
- 15:CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT NORTH WOOD-  
BURN RESERVOIR.
- 18:THE TWILIGHT SIDE OF UFOLOGY  
(PART ONE)
- 25:WORLD NEWS.
- 27:BOOK REVIEW.

of ensnaring a catch. He is required to document a subject of research always with the thought in mind that no matter how much evidence he can produce, the conclusive proof will continually avoid him and he will invoke criticism from just about every white-coated boffin who has the fortunate task of researching "material" things.

However, what has this got to do with the dangers of being only partially knowledgeable on a particular subject. In the 1950s and 1960s, the US government maintained an almost blanket silence on the circumstances surrounding unidentified flying objects - a decidedly unfortunate policy, not only for the US military and pseudo-military authorities but also for the public at large. It has been said and not unjustifiably so, that if the CIA were unable to hide the fiasco of Watergate, how could they have successfully hidden from public eyes any secrets on UFOs. That depends largely on the resolve of the investigators undertaking to "uncover" the cover-up. But it would appear that this is what happened, or alleged to have happened during those two decades, and for a few short years leading up to the period in question. The CIA were successful in domineering the issue and as is usual in



**EDITORIAL:**

situations similar to issues of top secret material - occasionally the secret surfaces. The CIA has had its hands in many pies unfortunately whilst the pie was still in the oven: result - the CIA has got its fingers burnt.

Watergate, Bolivia and now the UFO conspiracy which has allegedly come to the surface through the resolve of Ground Saucer Watch the Phoenix-based UFO research organisation. So a little knowledge was "leaked" during the 50s and 60s and instead of the public shrugging off the UFO phenomenon, they continued to ask questions and of course the extrovert in the midst of the truth seeking thousands rose to the occasion with just about every looney answer going - from Celestial Visitors to the "Hole in the Pole" visitations.

All good stuff needless to say, especially to those who were delighted to hear the messages about Armageddon and the hot celestial fires that would rain from the heavens.

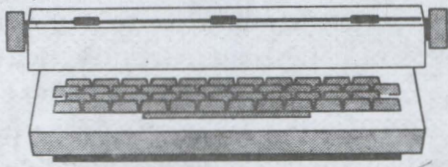
But nevertheless one has to admire GSW in its efforts, especially if the reports are true.

In this issue we have an article on the alleged cover-up; John Hind reviews a book about things that can go 'bump' in the night; we have our usual update on space technology; two reports of recent sightings in N.I.; the first instalment of Nigel Watson's very interesting article called "The Twilight side of Ufology" and lots more.

This issue was typed up on an IBM Executive with proportional spacing; supplied by Rainey Business Machine Services, Belfast.

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**TOP SECRET**

**DAVID PATTERSON** takes a look at cats in the bag, skeletons in the cupboard and reds under the bed



● Only recently an article in the world's press had UFOlogists everywhere rubbing their hands in glee and sitting patiently upright in their seats to await further news from the United States. Revelations that were to cause headlines in almost every paper in the world. The news that had such a profound effect was the reported court case brought by the Phoenix based UFO research group Ground Saucer Watch against the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) under the US Freedom of Information Act.

As a result of the court case, the CIA were ordered to hand over one thousand pages of documents on UFO investigations since 1949 and among the secret papers the GSW researchers came across a sworn statement made by two (now retired) US Air Force Colonels. In the document the two officers stated they had seen the dead bodies of alien creatures. The bodies, all humanoid and each approximately four feet tall had been removed from the wreckage of two crashed unidentified flying objects. They were described as having silvery skin and so hot had been the inferno after the crash, their suits had been literally welded to their bodies. No doubt this is the first of many such reports and now it seems certain that further action will be taken against the CIA.

But what exactly was the CIA involvement over the last three decades and what, if anything, did the Agency hope to gain from the now obvious wholesale cover-up and the deliberate misrepresentation and confiscation of thousands of UFO sighting reports. To find this out it is necessary to examine the overall involvement of the military intelligences with regard to UFO in-

vestigation in the United States of America.

Project Blue Book, the last USAF investigation project on the investigation of UFOs ended in the late sixties having concluded that there was no material evidence available to substantiate that unidentified flying objects were nothing more than atmospheric nuances, misinterpretation of conventional objects, mild forms of mass hysteria or the results of activities and protestations of pathological design. The nail in the project's coffin was the now famous Condon Report published by a non-military investigatory group based at a Colorado university.

Prior to Blue Book the USAF had initiated and closed down Project Sign (liberally interpreted as Project Saucer) and this was followed by Project Grudge which immediately preceded Blue Book.

Undoubtedly these projects were an embarrassment to the Military Authorities in general and the Intelligence agencies in particular. The conclusions reached by their investigations, arrived at with remarkable haste, had the unfortunate effect of suggesting that otherwise expert military personnel were nothing short of incompetent.

But why was this the case? Of the thousands of reports, hundreds had been received, supported and verified by army navy and air force personnel, commercial airline pilots and the nationwide radar network operations staff. Yet the conclusions made by the project committees placed the majority of these reports in the category of Venus, clouds and generally bad judgement. It is extremely difficult to believe that USAF pilots



**Top Secret-**

with so many hours of flying experience and on whom the country depended for its national security be declared incompetent observers. Likewise radar stations, equally important for safeguarding the airspace over the US were made out to be haphazardly run installations which were not in operation when they should have been and when in operation were manned by personnel who could not distinguish aircraft from clouds, atmospheric conditions and planetary bodies many millions of miles.

It all smacked of a conspiracy! But what delitescence lay behind it? What was its involvement?

The late Captain Edward J Ruppelt, who was involved to a large degree in all of the USAF projects into investigating UFOs, on his retirement from the air force often voiced the opinion that Sign, Grudge and Blue Book were cover-up projects - hiding the real investigation into unidentified flying objects. There



The now famous Trent photographs taken at McMinnville, Ore., May 1950. Two independent detailed photometric studies argue that these photographs are of a relatively distant object, and hence are not fakes.

is no doubt that this real investigation was powered by the CIA; the independent executive bureau established as a centre for all foreign intelligence which being answerable only to itself had been successful in blocking many official enquiries even up to White House level. Whether Ruppelt was aware of it or not, by the middle of 1947, only months after the famous Arnold sighting, the security hatches had been battened down on UFO investigations and the USAF had its hands well and truly tied.

Although there were many UFO sightings reported prior to the now famous Arnold sighting in June 1947, it was perhaps this incident which prompted the CIA to enter the scene, albeit remaining in the wings....

Kenneth Arnold, the man who first described UFOs as saucer-like (the actual term "flying saucers" is reported to have been coined by a journalist reporting the incident) suddenly found himself in the middle of a situation which was to end in one of the most sinister incidents of the new UFO era. After his sighting of June 24 in which he observed a formation of nine unknowns flying between Mount Rainier and Mount Baker in the Rocky Mountains at an estimated speed of 1400 miles per hour, he became involved with a man named Ray Palmer. Palmer was then the editor of the periodical AMAZING STORIES and he contacted Arnold on the premise that he was interested in his story. Arnold agreed to see Palmer and at a meeting arranged later, the editor informed the pilot that he had been told of yet another incident involving two harbour patrolmen who had in their possession pieces of UFO material which they had seen drop from an unknown object. Arnold agreed to look into the incident which was later called the Maury Island Mystery.

At or around this time, Arnold was visited by two USAF intelligence officers; Captain Wm. Davidson and Lt. Frank Brown. They it seemed were eager to hear his story of the Mount Rainier sighting. The two officers later left Arnold taking with them letters Arnold had received from others who had had similar sightings at the time of his sighting.

Arnold was eager to talk to the harbour patrolmen (their names were Harold Dahl and Fred Crisman) and eventually he met with Dahl. The patrolman had a peculiar story to tell Arnold...

The day after Dahl and Crisman had seen the UFO hovering over the Maury beach and discarding the metallic object, Dahl had been visited by an unknown man dressed completely in black. This stranger, who at no time disclosed his identity, informed Dahl that he had seen and witnessed something which was very secret and if he were to discuss



**Top Secret-**

the matter with anyone the patrolman and his family would be placed in jeopardy. There is no telling what thoughts may have entered Arnold's head then, but he was still enthusiastic to see the metal and Dahl produced it for examination.

Arnold then tried to contact Brown but for some strange reason the intelligence agent would not accept the call at his base; instead he called Arnold up using a payphone. Arnold then suggested that the two officers look into the whole business as he was baffled by the strange sequence of events.

When Davidson and Brown eventually arrived to examine the pieces from the UFO which Dahl had furnished as evidence, they immediately decided to remove them to Hamilton AFB for examination. They packed away the material and informed Arnold that a converted B-25 bomber was waiting to take them and the now carefully packaged metal to the examination point.

The B-25 was never to reach its destination; some twenty minutes after taking off it exploded in mid-air. Of the four on the plane, only two survived and they were the crew members who parachuted to safety. An interesting point to note is that the two crewmen later testified that both Davidson and Brown had ample time to extricate themselves from the stricken plane but had seemingly refused to do so. The wreckage of the B-25 was immediately cordoned off and a net of secrecy closed over the affair but it was rumoured at the time that the plane had been shot down.

There is no doubt that both Davidson and Brown were acting under orders to remove the UFO material to Hamilton AFB at all costs. Whatever it was that they were carrying was terribly important; so important it cost the two air force men their lives in their futile attempts to bring the crippled aircraft with its precious cargo to safety. Under whose orders? The CIA? And who was the mysterious man in black whose identity was never uncovered?

All this, and of course much more, happened between June and August 1947. By September of that year a statement from the USAF preliminary study group

pronounced that the UFO phenomena was a reality and Project Sign was established. In fact the starting up of the project was not officially announced until February of the following year - one month after Captain Thomas Mantell was killed whilst pursuing a UFO over Kentucky. Mantell, an experienced pilot and a wing leader, broke away from his group to chase an unknown which he reported looked metallic and was of tremendous size. At approximately twenty thousand feet, when he further reported he was closing in on the UFO, his aircraft disintegrated. To this day no one knows what happened as Mantell's plane hurtled to the fateful rendezvous but the explanation given by the "Intelligent" authority at the time was that Mantell, the experienced USAF pilot was killed whilst chasing "Venus" Once again the USAF was being branded with total incompetency!

In December, 1948, the Sign Project was closed down and was immediately superseded by the Grudge Project under the control of Captain Ruppelt. He made the decision to resurrect the Mantell affair presumably as a face-saver exercise after the almost laughable 'Venus' decision published earlier. As a result of the exercise he was to discover certain areas of negligence and misrepresentation of data on the part of the original investigating committee (controlled by the CIA?)

Ruppelt's investigations led him to believe that what Mantell had observed and subsequently chased to twenty thousand feet was in fact a weather balloon. However, although he was to publish this as the cause of the incident, it was later discovered that at the time of the incident in question, no weather balloons had been released in the skies over Kentucky. Here again there appears to be some measure of "hiding the facts". Was Ruppelt under pressure to contrive evidence? If so, who was applying the pressure? The CIA? Ruppelt was later to discover that certain evidence had been rendered useless through carelessness - but was it deliberate?

Exactly one year later, in December 1949, Project Grudge was terminated with the publication of what now was a standard official statement: unidentified flying objects were nothing more than atmospheric nuances, misinterpretations of conventional objects....



During the period December 1949, until the USAF investigating project was resurrected under the name Project Blue Book, the air force intelligence network examined hundreds of sighting reports including many reported by expert military personnel and a few which were supported by filmed evidence. Ruppelt by this time was heading the ATIC (Air Technical Intelligence Cntr). One of the reports forwarded to ATIC was the famous Lubbock Lights case in which hundreds of residents from the town and surrounding suburbs of Lubbock Texas reported seeing formations of greenish lights manoeuvring and traversing the sky from north to south. Among those who reported in were four top business men who were so sure of their facts they maintained a surveillance for several days after the incident. However, although the reports which flooded into the ATIC base were shrugged off as natural atmospheric phenomena.

Of the many UFO reports which included either filmed or photographed evidence there are several for which no reasonable conclusion was provided by the Blue Book project team. Granted the group were inundated with photos which were hoaxes or fakes and many were later admitted as such but not all submissions were found to be within this category.

THE TRENT-MCMINNEVILLE  
PHOTOGRAPH (1950)

The Trents were a farming family from McMinneville in Oregon; a down to earth couple who witnessed an object in the skies near their homestead.

Two photos were taken and sent to the air force for examination. The photos, representing differing aspects of the object in flight with foreground showed the object as being disc-shaped, solid and large. These photos were later examined by the Condon Committee whose photoanalyst concluded that after investigating all factors the object was real, silvery, metallic and tens of metres in diameter. The air force was to deny it had any information on the McMinneville sighting and commented on the alleged validity of the photos by saying that all photographs they had ever received on UFOs had been misinterpretations of natural or conventional

objects.



THE NEWHOUSE FILM (1952)

At the time of his sighting Delbert Newhouse was a senior photographer with the US Navy with over one thousand hours of aerial photographic experience. He was driving through Utah with his family when he saw a group of unusual objects in the sky. As he pulled into the side of the road he realised that what he was observing was more than aircraft or balloons. There were at least a dozen disc-shaped craft flying in dog-fight fashion. He immediately reached for his 16 mm movie camera and proceeded to film the objects taking approximately 1000 frames over a period of seventy-five seconds, then the objects disappeared into the horizon. The film was analysed meticulously and extensively by the US Navy photographic laboratory and was subjected to strict secret scrutiny by Blue Book. The conclusion arrived at by the Blue Book project...Officer Newhouse the experienced naval aerial photographer had filmed seagulls or balloons! The Condon Committee was later to confirm the "seagull" hypothesis.

By the middle of 1952 Project Blue Book was well established under the directorship of Ruppelt, now a long-serving (campaigner!) in the USAF UFO investigation scene. His colleagues on the Blue Book Project were Major D J Fournet, Colonel Welden Smith and Colonel W A Adams. The four project leaders were soon to be thrown into a foray which would cause a stir over the entire continent of North America.

The date was July 19 and the "Washington Invasion" was about to begin. By midnight the skies over the capital were filled with unknowns.



**Top Secret-**

They were monitored on AFB radar and immediately dozens of fighter planes were scrambled to intercept the mysterious interlopers. Some of the objects were recorded at 200 - 300 mph, while others were recorded at the colossal speed of 9000 mph and over. At one point a Canadian AF F-94 was reported to have joined the foray and the chase between it and an unknown was watched closely on the radar screens that cordoned Washington. As the two blips converged they were seen to disappear; both the Canadian fighter and the UFO had disappeared. In yet another incident a USAF pilot radioed that he was closing in on an unknown. The solitary object was immediately joined by several others and as a group they encircled the fighter plane. For a full fifteen seconds the USAF jet was surrounded and then the group of UFOs broke away and rapidly disappeared.

One week later the same thing was to happen again with the residents of Washington being treated to a display of speeding unknowns and USAF fighter planes hurtling in pursuit.

Needless the official statement released after the sightings put the objects down to natural phenomena but what was even more sinister was the hiding away from public eyes of thousands of sighting reports made by residents and visitors to the country's capital city.

Again the "invisible Intelligence" was tightening the chains of secrecy.

In January 1950, the CIA moved into the UFO scene proper. Not content to continue rendering useless, or hiding away information covertly, it now stepped officially onto the stage.

At a hearing, during which many reports and much evidence was examined (the hearing was held in secret), the influential "Intelligence" obtained from the members present the decisions which would strengthen the CIA's hold on what it declared "classified information". In addition to many other policy-making decisions made at this meeting perhaps the most sinister was the one which advocated a monitoring of all non-government UFO investigating bodies. In effect, they were to be "spied upon".

Perhaps one of the best examples of the power wielded by the CIA can be measured by the influence it had on scientific and numerous administration departments, even within the enclaves of the Senate.

In October, 1966, the air force announced that the University of Colorado would be requested to undertake an impartial study into the whole aspect of unidentified flying objects. This investigation group was to be headed by Dr. Edward Condon. No doubt this move was prompted by the CIA in an effort to remove the responsibility for UFO investigation from the USAF who had suffered painfully over the years as a result of ill-advised and misguided information from otherwise unknown sources.

It was to be shown that the Condon Committee, as the investigating group was to be known, was totally impartial and completely outside the jurisdiction of any of the military intelligence agencies; including the CIA. However, one of the members of the Committee was alleged to have written a memorandum to another member which is supposed to have stated that the project should be carefully managed to appear to be objective in its study. This highly publicised, emotive and damning document resulted not surprisingly in the resignation of some of the Committee members and at its discovery must have shaken the CIA to its foundations.

Nevertheless, the University project went ahead and in January 1969, the Condon Report was published. The decision was then taken to close down Project Blue Book based on the findings of the Committee; unidentified flying objects were nothing more than....

Just what secrets are still locked away in the CIA vaults in the Pentagon only time will tell, and of those, what evidence has been obliterated in the name of "state security" will probably never be known. Many wonder why there was ever the need for what amounted to a blatant cover-up; continual distortion of facts and the unwillingness to be other than sinisterly secretive.

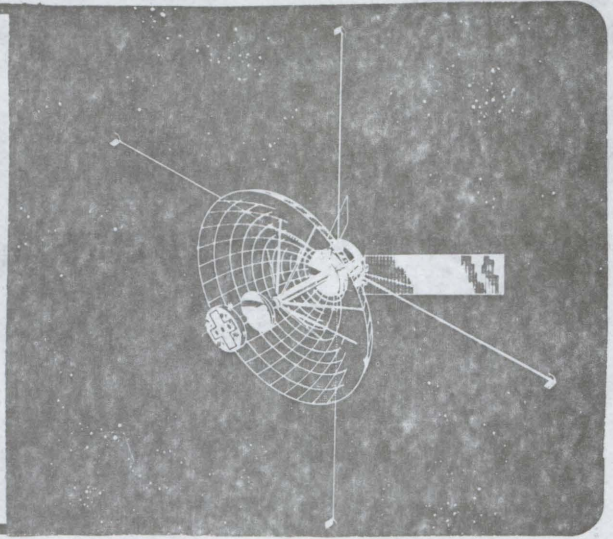
What was there to be afraid of and why should so much effort be channeled

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11.



# SPACE WATCH

by Miles Johnston



## Space Shuttle

### Test Problems

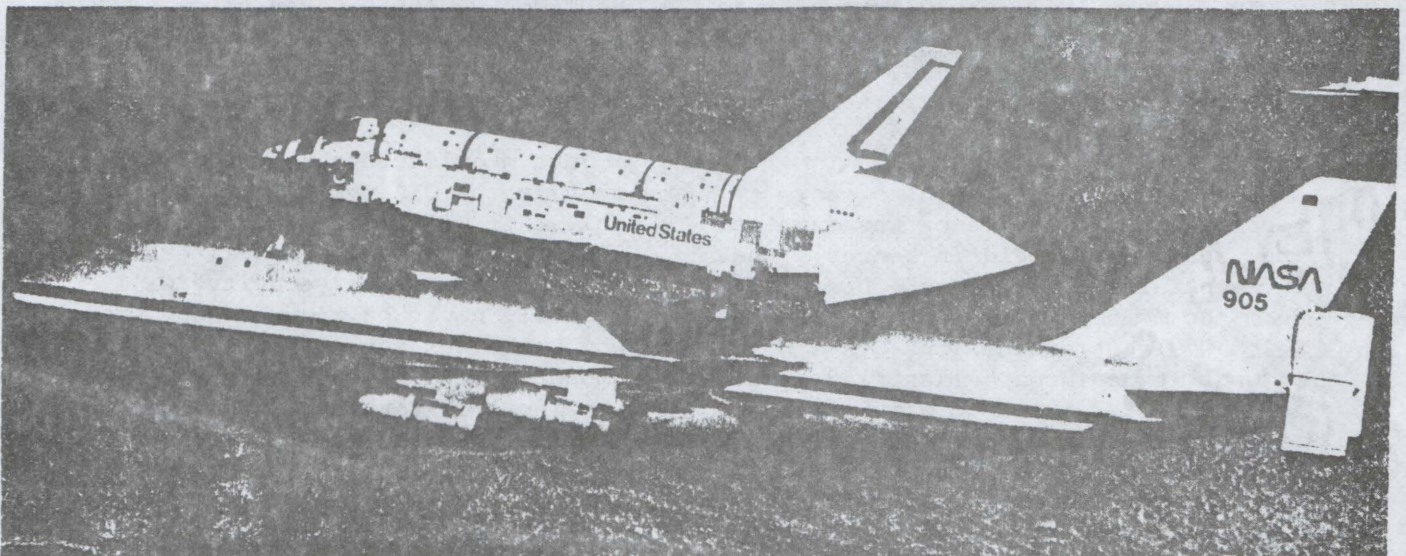
The 1979 launch date for Shuttle orbiter 002 (Columbia) is not likely to be achieved. NASA, accused of cutting corners, will have to postpone until 1980. This is primarily due to the endless problems encountered with the shuttle engines; culminating in the destructive failure and fire during a static test in Dec. of last year. Although damage to the engine and the test is repairable it is time consuming.

The results of the February tests of the main engines again resulted in more delays due to a number of factors: cracks in the turbine blades; fuel injector problems to mention but a few. Some of these problems are due directly to shutdown and ignition cycles but a recent National Research Council Assembly report criticises the Administration for contravening methods of convention-

al practice in not maintaining a program for the prevention of cracks in blade platforms. An additional headache for the Administration is the certification of the engine test bed, problems arising out of differences between the ground test configuration and the planned orbiter test configuration. As if to add to the dogmas which have haunted the Shuttle, numerous tiles mainly on the leading edges of the wings and on the tail stabilisers broke away during a 250 knot flight test. In total 7,000 of the 34,000 tiles used as covering on the shuttle will have to be replaced during final closeout assembly and systems test.

### Large Space Structures

The space experiments carrier is to be the first space structures demonstration flown from the shuttle. A composite materials deployable structure measuring 35'x30' can be pulled from the payload bay and by attach-



Mated 747 and orbiter made a 17-min. evaluation flight north of Edwards AFB, Calif., Mar. 9, reaching a maximum speed of 250 kt., to determine the adhesiveness of the temporary thermal tiles. Loss and damage of a number of temporary and permanent tiles resulted in a postponement of the two-day ferry flight to Kennedy Space Center.



ing further experimental pallets even larger structures can be constructed. Much more ambitious constructions are planned for the late 80's and who knows we might even have a fully operational space station in orbit by the year 2001!

### Soviet News

A Progress Five tanker/transport was successfully docked on March 12th after a launch on board the Soviet S1-4 booster; this allowed the Soviets to break their own space flight record on Salyut 6. Using the Progress Five, the cosmonauts refuelled and refurbished the station, then boosted into a higher orbit on March 30 and April 2. The Salyut crew can now claim another first: as space horticulturists; growing plants in a new centrifuge which had also been brought up by the unmanned tanker. Space processing experiments were also conducted early in April using French samples.

On the unmanned front, Cosmos 1090 was launched on March 31. This "reconnaissance mission" was placed in a 354 x 212 km orbit at 72.9°.

### Voyager One

In the past months there has been a lot of exciting information pouring from the skies; both from Venus and Jupiter. Perhaps the most exciting is the data NASA received via Voyager One as it sped past the great Jovian system on its way to Saturn.

This miniature solar system makes Earth and its companion moon fade into insignificance and among the members of the sun's family, Jupiter and its family of moons are truly magnificent.

On March 5, Voyager One made the closest passage to the giant planet at a mere 350,000 Km before reaching out to encounter Saturn in Nov. 1980. There were a number of exciting discoveries and affirmations: Jupiter does have a ring; small and very thin. It was discovered by accident during a run in on Amalthea; the moon closest to Jupiter. An 11.2 minute exposure taken with the Voyager narrow-angle camera resulted in the edge on image of the 30Km thick and 8000Km wide ring of debris.

The little moon, Amalthea may soon become another ring; so distorted is it by Jupiter's

gravity that it is half as wide as it is long. (140Km wide). It has a low albedo and is featured with craters.

Jupiter's atmosphere has changed dramatically since the Pioneer encounter of 1974/75 and time-lapse motion pictures from Voyager (which a select few were privileged to see at Armagh planetarium in March) show the extra turbulence of the planet's atmosphere. According to Andrew Ingersoll (a scientist on the Voyager imagery team): "What we can say at this time is that the different textures will tell us something about the atmosphere processes that are going on."

Surrounding the planet was found a considerable amount of aurora, even during the Jovian day. This highly energetic atmosphere and magnetosphere was observed early in the mission; on Feb. 27 from a distance exceeding six million kilometres. As the Voyager left, enormous brightening plumes or auroral arcs some 30,000 kilometres long were seen; brighter than anything seen on earth.

Intense lightning storms were also observed, indicating that the atmosphere would be charged with even more energy. This creates the situation in which the development of fairly complex molecules can result, but whether these will develop into "living" complexes is a matter of pure speculation.

Large puffy clouds were also present some appearing in diagonal striated bands; features which appear to be characteristically Jovian according to Ingersoll: "a kind of convection with lateral shear." There are a large number of areas of this nature scattered throughout the atmosphere. Again, at this point in time, generalisations are only possible as Ingersoll pointed out: "We see morphologies such as circulation and S-shaped features in many of these isolated Jovian spots including the great red spot, most of which are anti-cyclonic." That is, they are very like grandiose hurricanes - at least in their spiral nature.

Detailed visual analysis of the time lapsed films show the considerable flow disruption of these spots; a possible cause being 'wake turbulence' created as flows move around the spot. Alternatively the spots could cause a blocking effect which disrupts other atmospheric flows. This is very interesting, especially when compared to the blocking effect of high pressure areas on earth. This could thus help explain changes in our own weather - a point the 'stop the space program'



## SPACE WATCH-

campaigners could digest a little. Voyager also detected seasonal changes by way of temperature variations in both polar regions; the north pole being warmer due to the inclination of Jupiter towards the sun.

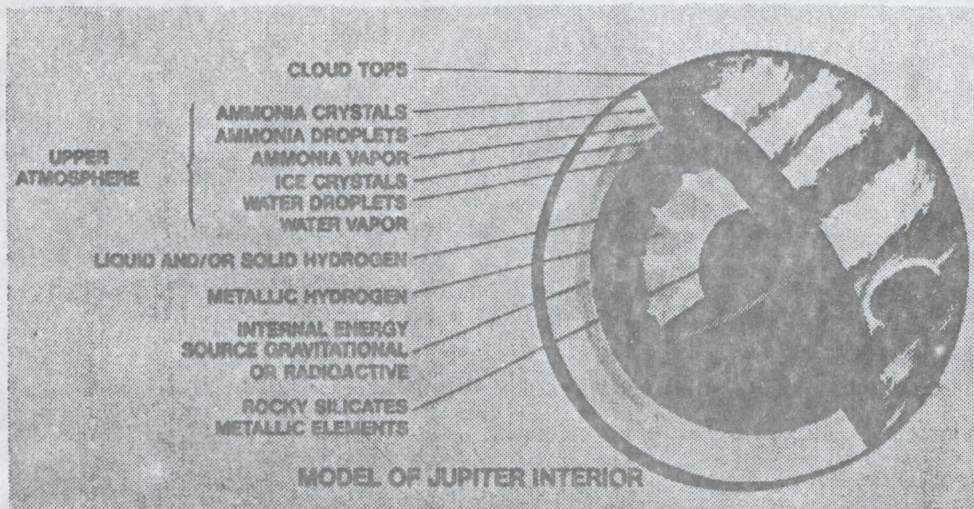
### The Flux Tube

This is an interesting area of interaction between the moon Io, (the conductor) and the "lines of force" of Jupiter. The result is a massive current, estimated to be in the region of ten million amperes, flowing between Io and Jupiter.

The Flux Tube is generated by Io's ionised outer atmosphere which provides an electrically conductive medium. Io is also moving in a huge magnetic field causing electrical currents which move along one

100 volcanoes with an average size of 25Km. The Interferometer, Spectrometer and Radiometer instruments (IRIS) found three types of volcanic activity on Io (about the same size as the Moon) namely 1. A process of explosive volcanism that involves a gas (charged out flow) or geyser type. 2. The standard slow moving, lava outflow type similar to Hawaiian or Icelandic types. 3. Volcanic vents or holes which throw out volatile material.

It is precisely this activity which has resulted in a huge torus (a doughnut-shaped but very thin) gaseous cloud of ionised sodium which surrounds the whole of Jupiter. However, due to a loss of transmission lasting some 3-4 hours, caused by extremely bad magnetic and electrical storms over Canberra, Australia, some data on this volcanic activity was lost. Yet another deficiency of ground-based deep-space tracking.



Jovian field line to Io and back along another.

However, did the spacecraft pass through this? George C. Stone: "The current flow in the flux tube itself induces a magnetic field, this causes a displacement, or twisting of the tube."

Thus, with this distortion of the tube, very precise measurements will have to determine if it did or not.

### The Satellites: Io

Io, the primary subject of this mission, can best be described as one great extra-terrestrial pizza - which should enthral the proponents of the ETM theory - what better space food; and the size of a planet as well! The surprise of this moon is that it has over

The virtual absence of impact craters explained by the continual reshaping of the surface by volcanic activity was very much in evidence, with actual eruptions being photographed under long exposure showing material being spewed some 200Km into space.

Io, therefore, has a yellow-brown surface of broad plains of volcanic salts, crossed by cliffs, channels, fault lines highlands and depressions. Surface temperature varies from  $100^{\circ}\text{K}$  ( $-173^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) to  $400^{\circ}\text{K}$  ( $+127^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) on lava flows with other cooler areas at a comfortable  $300^{\circ}\text{K}$  ( $270^{\circ}\text{C}$ ).

### Europa

Europa; the next moon out from Jupiter. This was observed by Voyager 750000Km out from Jupiter. It is expected that this moon, slightly smaller than the earth moon, will



**SPACE WATCH-**

yield less volcanic activity due to a lesser effect of the continued gravity of the large Galilean moons pulling in opposition of the mother planet: the reason for Io's turbulent and molten core.

**Ganymede**

Ganymede; the largest, with a diameter of 5270 Km and even bigger than Mercury is

**Callisto**

Callisto; the outermost of the Galilean moon system, is similar to Ganymede both in size and density. Orbiting Jupiter just under two million Km, the moon has a huge bullseye several thousand Km across, with rings surrounding (similar to the circular ripples in a pond). Callisto has the largest number of craters than any other known planetary body in the solar system.



Shape of the volcanic plume is seen clearly in view of Io's limb. This cloud reached an altitude of more than 60 mi. above the surface. The speed of ash and particulates ejected from the volcano was estimated to be in excess of 2,000 mph.

riddled with craters. There is one large crater extending some 1000 Km with huge shock waves preserved in the moon's thick ice crust. In Ganymede, we have a large moon with a density less than half that of Io, or Europa; and covered with ridges and grooves - caused by the tectonic forces (similar to the type producing the Earth's massive tectonic plates) - with a rocky core and crusted with ice.

It is hoped that Jupiter's atmosphere will have changed sufficiently for scientists to conduct a sample analysis in July, when the largest planet in our system will have yet another visitor.....VOYAGER 2.



**TOP SECRET (ctd)**

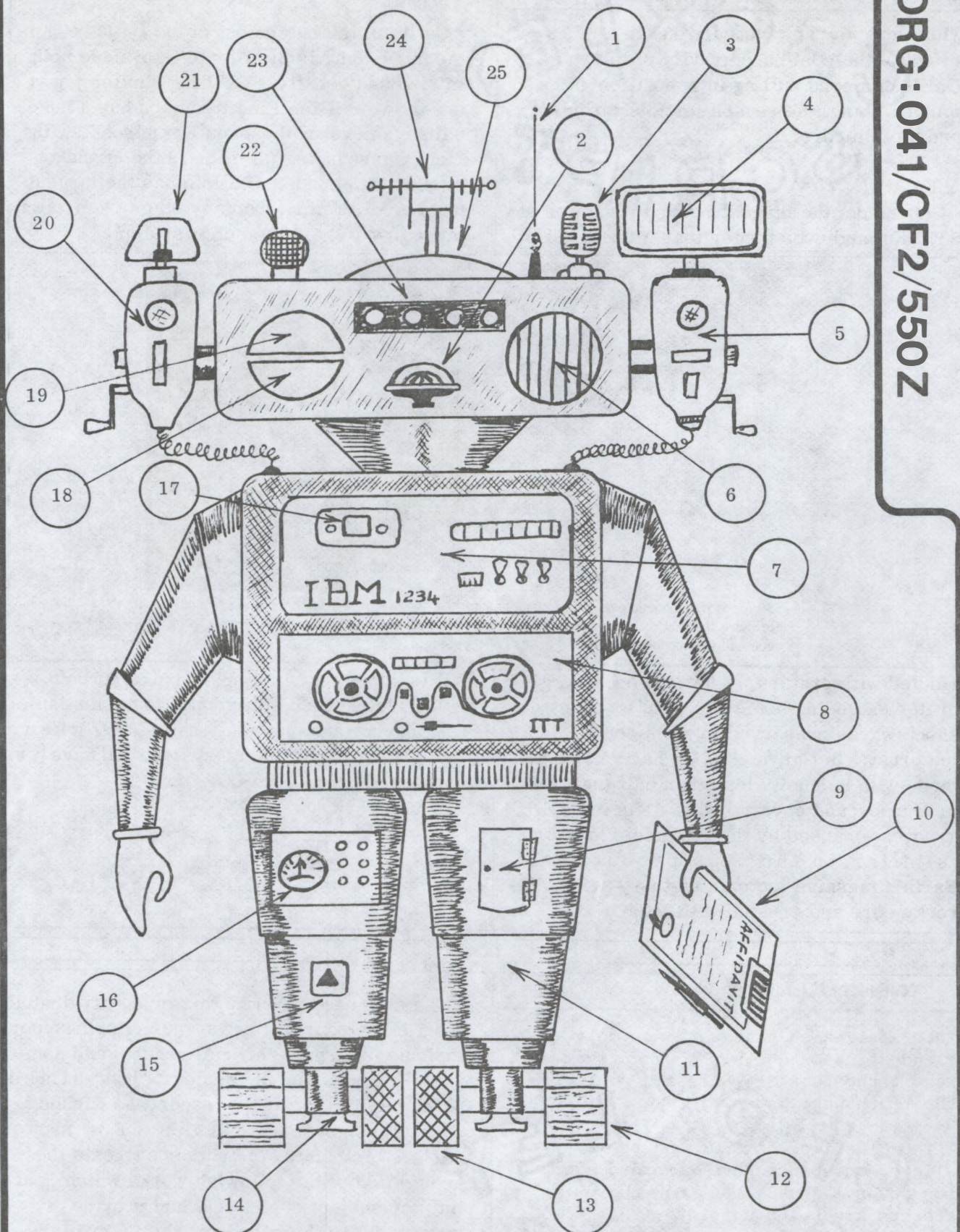
into activities that were not only clandestine but highly provocative? Was it the fear of wholesale panic if the truth were known?

The CIA files on UFOs and their alleged occupants have remained secret for several decades but now those secrets are being unfolded; thanks to the US Freedom of Information Act.

The data used to write this piece originated from many sources: newspaper clippings, periodicals, journals, official reports and some excellent books on the subject. It is aimed primarily to the casual reader who wished only an insight into the matter. For more serious ufologists, the author suggests the acquisition of the following works which go into the subject objectively and provide a greater in depth analysis of the US military involvement in UFO investigation.

- Hynek, Dr J Allen: The Hynek UFO Report: Sphere 1978
- Flammonde, Paris: UFO Exist!: Ballentine Books, 1976.





**FAEO**

*Stewart*



# IUFORA

IRISH UFO  
RESEARCH  
ASSOCIATION

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

IUFORA: Robotics Division  
Mechanised UFO Witness Project.

Page 1 of 2

REF: Drg:041/CF2/550Z

Irish UFO Research Association engineers, mindful of the imperfections of human UFO witnesses have, for the past year, been involved in designing FRED as a replacement. The following is a rundown of FRED supported hardware facilities. Consideration was given, in the early stages of design to the possible inclusion of a microelectronic, battery-powered soul to improve subjectivity. This option was discarded for reasons of energy economy.

1. RADIO ANTENNA...electrically powered 4-piece aluminium telescopic aerial used for either transmission or reception.
2. COMPASS...miniaturised magnetic compass showing true north. Isolated in a special protective bubble and suspended in alcohol bath. Specially constructed sensory matrix records accurate position of UFO and its flight path.
3. MICROPHONE...cleverly adapted SHURE microphone used to receive audio responses. Can detect even a whisper at ranges of up to one kilometre and is self adjusting to accept loud (200 decibels and upwards) high pitched screams as UFO takes off.
4. ARC-LAMP...giving 85watts of high intensity white light, this halogen lamp is used to illuminate the area in which UFO has landed. Diffused lens with automatic correctors provide wide beam at close range or narrow beam at long range.
5. CAMERA (1)...16mm movie. Contains 100' coloured film which is converted to micro code for security purposes. The cassette chamber is protected by an anti-thief device for additional security. The camera is normally powered, but can be converted to manual. Specifically used to record evidence of UFO activity for presentation as evidence in law suits against the CIA.
6. LOUDSPEAKER...incorporates a modulator with reverberation unit and special high resonance tweeter. Used for either conversing with entities; producing a variational humming noise to attract entities, or alternatively; excruciatingly painful high-pitched screams to ward off would-be attacking entities.
7. MICRO-COMPUTER...extremely complicated on-board computer with incredibly powerful microprocessor. Storage capacity of 500 million characters for long-winded and terribly boring Adamski-type entities to record expositions on the fate of the earth. Computer incorporates a multi-lingual word processor especially programmed by Von Daniken, terrestrial field and atmospheric analysis packages, photometric conversion to binary packages, human voice reproduction units and other facilities which are still top secret. The security files are guaranteed CIA-proof. An additional feature inside the computer is the incorporation of a specially designed 'floppy-disc' normally used to contain data files but which in emergencies can be catapulted into the air so giving extra-terrestrials the impression that the unit is a "flying saucer" manufacturing device.
8. TAPE RECORDER...multi-track recording device for recording interviews with either entities or other witnesses to the event. The magnetic tape used is specially coated so as to prevent "accidental" erasure by USAF or MOD experts.

MORE/



9. FIELD SAMPLING UNIT... (not illustrated) used for gathering mineralogical samples from UFO landing sites.
- 10 SWORN AFFIDAVIT... specially laminated affidavit written, produced and personally signed by Dr. J Allen Hynek (voluntary) and Dr. E Condon (involuntary) signifying the integrity and credibility of the witness.
- 11 TELESCOPIC LEGS... constructed from the same laser-proof material as the rest of the witness. Hydraulically operated they enable the witness to face entities of all sizes eye to eye.
- 12 TRACKS... US army bazooka-proof tracks used for propelling witness over rough, wooded terrain or desert regions usually frequented by UFOs.
- 13 TYRES... used in addition to tracks to pursue Spielberg-type UFOs along US highways.
- 14 STABELISERS... used to anchor witness to the ground when necessary.
- 15 CHARGING SOCKET... used to recharge the dry cells which power the witness and its peripherals. Nuclear powered models were withdrawn when it was learned that US and UK agents were interested in small nuclear reactors similar to those found in certain S. American countries.
- 16 GEIGER COUNTER... used for monitoring radio-activity in areas of known UFO activity. The unit consists of a scale reader and six sensors which register in the on-board computer. The sensors show readings ranging from mildly annoying to positively deadly.
- 17 CASSETTE TRANSPORT... Japanese made (naturally!) cassette recorder with automatic rewind facility. Contained in a hermetically sealed module the cassette will record for forty-five minutes, or alternately play a prerecorded message of famous people making "welcome to Earth messages". Occasionally the unit has been known to malfunction making Brinsley le Peur Trench sound like Mickey Mouse and Eric Von Daniken sound like Donald Duck in a 'frazzle'.
- 18 MIB DETECTOR... classified
- 19 BACK-UP MIB DETECTOR... extremely classified.
- 20 CAMERA(2)... a CCTV which by making illegal use of the US and UK telecommunications satellite networks can relay live coverage of UFO incidents to specially setup recording studios at GSW, CUFOS and other UFO investigation centres on a worldwide basis. A top secret Network Over-ride Module (NORM) has been incorporated which enables broadcasts to be linked in with NASA and Pentagon videos (to give the government operatives ulcers).
- 21 INFRA-RED PRISMATIC LENS... used primarily when weather conditions make use of the arc lamps impracticable.
- 22 ATMOSPHERIC ANALYSER ANTENNA... monitors and records changes in pressure in atmosphere and is most useful for indicating the presence USAF officials who blow off so much hot air.
- 23 MULTI-SENSORY PANEL... consisting of two warning sensors (1) detecting presence of UFOs within a range of fifty miles; (2) detecting the presence of entities or extra-terrestrials among large crowds. The two outer sensors are used for hypnotising entities to quell their fears so that they will not make their typical mad dash back to their spacecraft.
- 24 MULTI-PURPOSE ANTENNA... broadcasts to all radio and TV networks. Additional feature is the capability of "jamming" police messages.
- 25 SOLAR CELL... specially adapted solar cell pinched from a NASA lunar module.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO READERS. Unfortunately only one model of FRED was made and quite mysteriously the blueprints which were used in his manufacture disappeared. Fred alas no longer exists having completely destroyed himself after listening to the recorded playback of the House of Lords debate on UFOs which took place last January. He is not likely to be replaced - ever!



## Close Encounter at North Woodburn Reservoir

John Hind  
Danny Wilson

From time to time IUFON will present vary detailed reports on UFO sightings investigations. It is hoped that these will give an insight into investigation methods and problems as well as presenting original, interesting narratives on high strangeness UFO events. These articles will be abridged versions of IUFORA investigation reports (see elsewhere in this issue) and will include an honest appraisal of the case by investigators. Witnesses' names given in the published articles will be pseudonyms.

On Sunday 12 November 1978 an article appeared in the 'Sunday News', a local Sunday paper based in Belfast, which mentioned the Irish UFO Research Association's hotline telephone number. During the following week nearly twenty calls reporting UFOs were received, all of which were initially dealt with by sending out report forms. The sighting which is outlined in this report is the only high strangeness event in this batch. Although the report form was filled in and returned promptly, and it was immediately decided to subject the case to a UFOIN standard investigation, it was early January before the investigators, John Hind UFOIN and Danny Wilson IUFORA were able to arrange an interview with the prime witness. After the interview, the investigators visited the scene of the sighting with the witness and his younger brother. Wilson has also had some subsequent contact with the witness's mother.

For clarity, this report is presented in an event-oriented rather than an investigation-oriented format though where there is a conflict between sources, we have identified at which stage of the investigation a particular piece of data was obtained.

Steven Harbinson, the only witness to the main event in this report is a shy, rather introverted eighteen-year old. He is employed locally as a storekeeper and packer and lists his interests as "fishing, Fly-tying, Decorating, Gardening and Art". While the investigators found him poor at expressing himself verbally and in writing, Steven seemed capable of using his limited artistic ability as an effective communication

channel. It may also be relevant to note that Steven seemed unusually mother-dependent for a young man of his age. Although the investigators tried to work directly through Steven himself, the relationship seemed always to be channeled through the mother who made arrangements for the interview, wrote replies to letters addressed to Steven differed to during the interview.

Steven and his brother Gary live with their mother, Mrs Colville, in a small modern house in the Monkstown Housing Executive estate in Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim. Newtownabbey is a suburb of Belfast on the narrow strip of land between the North coast of Belfast Lough and the South Antrim mountain range.

Gary Harbinson, who was co-participant in the two supplementary events is sixteen years old and a schoolboy.

### STEVEN HARBINSON'S ACCOUNT OF THE SIGHTING ON NOVEMBER 9th.

In the early evening of Thurs. 9 November 1978, Steven cycled from his home to North Woodburn reservoir to do some fishing.

North Woodburn reservoir is a feeder reservoir (about 300 square metres) with an earth bank dam. It is the smallest in a complex of reservoirs in the Woodburn Forest, three kilometres to the North-east of Carrickfergus (Grid J37192). Although the witness claimed expansively that the reservoir is "hundreds of feet deep", examination of the local contours indicates that it is unlikely to be more than 10 metres at its deepest point.

Steven had been fly fishing at the reservoir



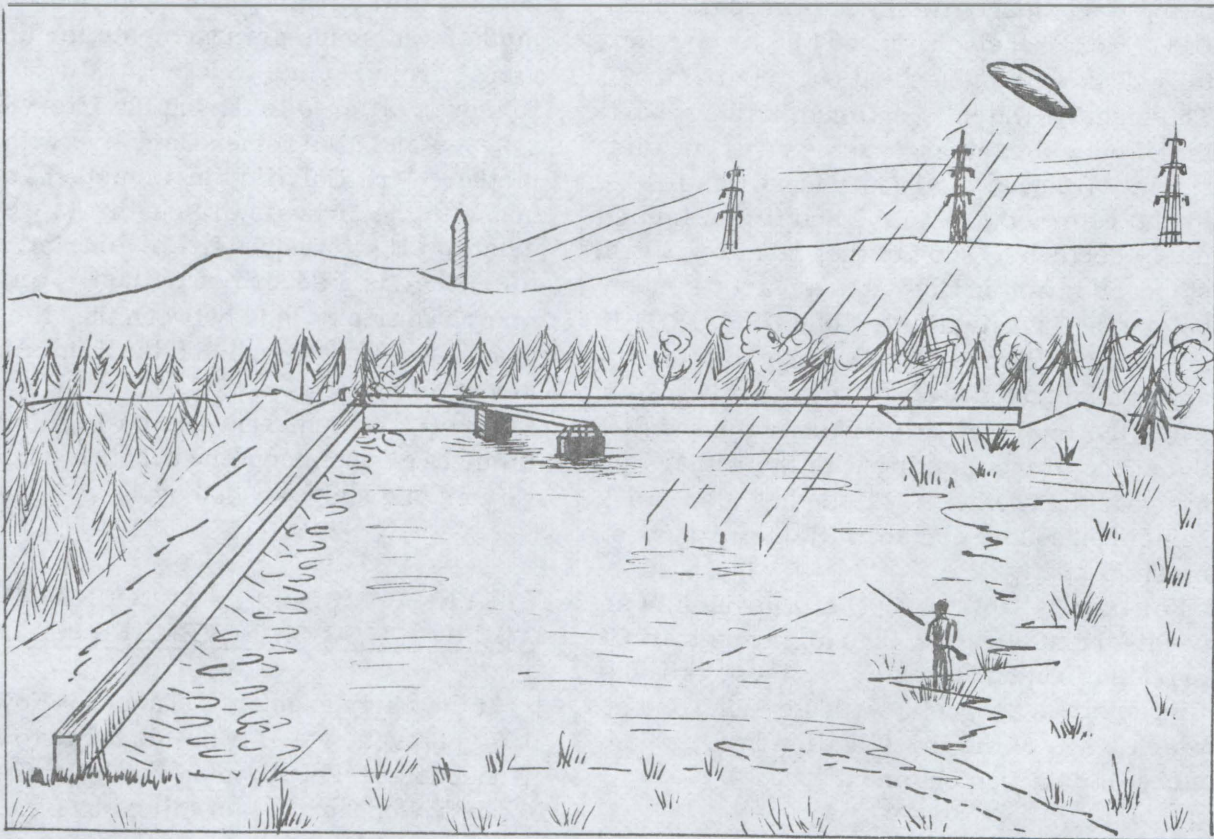
## WOODBURN RESERVOIR-

for about half an hour (interview: "just started"; report form)\*\*, when he noticed some trout jumping from the water. It was a peaceful night; cold, clear sky, dry with a light breeze. Although Steven at various points estimated the time at seven o'clock and ten o'clock, he also said that it was during twilight which, for the date given, of which he is sure, would place the time at between four-thirty and six o'clock. Steven noticed the moon reflecting on the surface of the reservoir when what he describes as a "strange vessel" came out of the water. He first noticed the object as a white glow under the surface which became brighter as the object eventually emerged. It was 'Mexican hat' shaped, silvery-white and metallic, but seamless. The object broke water about twenty metres from Steven's position and was, he estimates, between

The object rose slowly out of the water leaving a concentric wave; briefly halted, turned on its side and shot off at high speed; near vertical in a NE direction. When the object tilted, Steven could see a pink glow in the concave underside of the object.

During the approximate three min. period when the object was visible, Steven "felt as if touched by electric current, tingly feeling mostly on my eyes and face". However during the interview he said that it was "nothing special" and that he was "just a bit scared". He describes it as making a "clicking and purring" sound on the report form and a "whistling" sound during the interview.

As soon as the object was out of sight Steven packed up his fishing gear and cycled home. His mother describes his arriving home and excitedly telling the story. She did not take him seriously at first, joking that "maybe it was the Loch Ness Monster



six and ten metres in diameter. These estimates fit in with indications Steven gave when we reconstructed the event on site.

The details noticed on the object were a sequence of crystal or diamond-like windows (Report Form: Indentations; Interview) on the lower portion, and a row of pinkish lights at the base of the dome.

with wings on", but later she came to take his story seriously.

### THE STRANGE CLOUD, THE WALL OF FORCE AND THE WHITE BIRD

'Several years ago' Steven and Gary were cycling back from fishing in the same res-

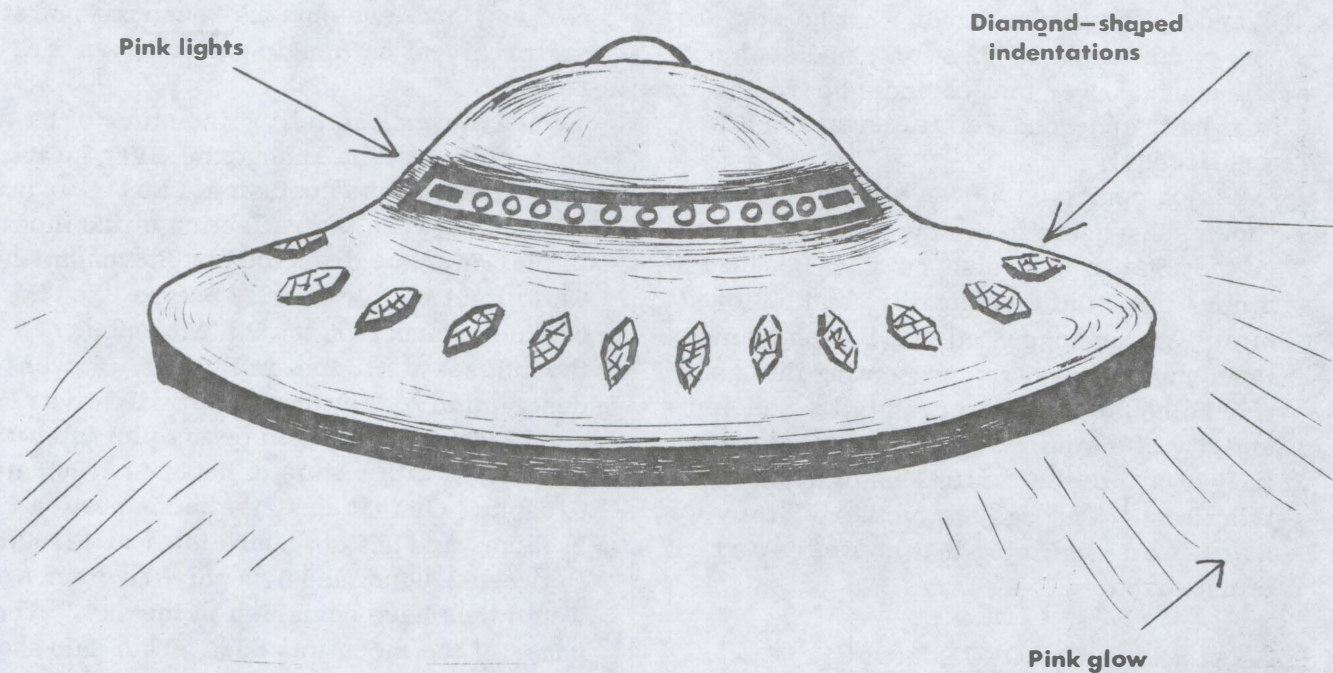
\*\* Text preceding ( is the version given in the source indicated first within the ( ).  
A conflicting version with its source appears after the : within the ( ).



### WOODBURN RESERVOIR-

ervoir. The road to North Woodburn Dam is a narrow forest road with high conifers on both sides. On this occasion suddenly a giant white bird emerged from the trees on the right-hand side of the road. It flew very low in front of the boys and disappeared into the trees on the other side of the road. It

large cloud-like object moved across the skyline. The object was amorphous, cigar-shaped and glowed pearly-white in colour, (it was dark at the time) and drifted slowly in a NE direction. As the object was passing over the farm houses, it suddenly began to increase speed and moved out of sight behind raised ground. The object moved so



passed so close to Gary it almost caused him to crash his cycle. "We first thought it to be a monster bird, but on thinking later it was something really out of the ordinary with a 20 ft. wing span." Both boys were adamant that the animal was far too big to be a 'normal' bird even, for example, a swan.

On another occasion the two boys were cycling on the same stretch of road when Gary, cycling ahead, was "hit with great force - even I heard the bang, yet neither of us saw anything."

In March 1978, Gary and Steven were cycling home from a late-night fishing session. There is a section of road going up the slope of My Lord's Mountain to a small group of farm buildings (Grid J347878). The road is very straight over this section with an even incline of about 1 in 25. The top of the road, the farm buildings and some trees are silhouetted against the skyline. As the two boys were pushing their cycles up this incline a

fast the boys had difficulty following it.

### MRS. COLVILLE AND THE CRY FOR HELP

While Steven's mother was a patient in the Royal Maternity hospital in Belfast in Nov. or Dec. 1962 carrying her youngest son Gary, late one night she heard a high-pitched noise and then a human voice. The voice sounded distressed and was crying for help: "Help, help me; for God's sake, somebody come and help me". Mrs. Colville was so frightened that she awoke the woman in the next bed, who also heard the voice. She then told the nurse, who calmed her and told her to go back to sleep. Unable to sleep, Mrs. Colville lay in bed listening. Some time later, she heard the same high-pitched noise again and an object with red and green flashing lights rose up from behind some buildings several hundred yards away.



## WOODBURN RESERVOIR

Mrs. Colville said that she had not given thought to this experience for many years but Steven's sighting had brought it all back.

### FOLLOW-UP INVESTIGATIONS

The area around North Woodburn Reservoir is sparsely populated; the nearest dwelling being Commons Farm (Grid J366906). Danny Wilson checked with the occupant, who is also game warden for the area. The Warden did not remember what he was doing on 'the night in question', had seen nothing unusual over that period - heard of no one that had, and wondered if Steven had a fishing license!

Wilson contacted Steven's mother several times subsequent to the interview and learned that Steven was 'disappointed' because he did not think the investigators had believed him. Wilson suggested that Steven be questioned under hypnosis, presenting this as a way he could prove the credibility and authenticity of his story. (The investigators are fully aware of the limitations of hypnosis in this area). Through his mother, Steven declined, claiming that he was 'scared' of hypnosis.

### ANALYSIS AND CONCLUSIONS

As a witness observation of an exotic object, this case obviously has low credibility. There is only one witness to the main event, and not a particularly credible one at that. While there are no inconsistencies sufficiently large to prove that the story is not objectively true, the author believes that a credible scenario for this conclusion can be formed on the data available. The reader is free to interpret the facts of this case as he or she may see fit, but for the author, while the case is of considerable interest as a piece of modern folklore, it does not begin to be convincing as a report of an objective observation.

Repeater cases (cases where the same witness, or group of witnesses has repeated UFO or other paranormal experiences) always demand extra attention. However, in this case we have a double coincidence: not only does one pair of witnesses have repeated paranormal experiences, but they always happen in the same area. Why do Steven and Gary not have UFO experiences any-

where else but in Woodburn Forest? If we are dealing with different manifestations of a phenomenon which is centred on, restricted to, or visits frequently Woodburn Forest, why is it repeated only by Steven and Gary? One possible explanation is that Woodburn Forest has, for Steven and Gary, 'magical garden' associations. "Magic Garden" areas are common, usually in the psyche of younger children. They are areas where the usual rules of reality may be suspended to enable the projection of individual fantasies. For obvious, and less obvious reasons forests are archtypal as 'magic gardens' in folklore.

When Steven was telling the story of his encounter with the submarine UFO, the author (Hind) noticed the confusion that seemed present between the reflection of the moon in the water (as described by Steven) and the white light visible shortly before the UFO broke surface. On the 9th November 1978 the sun set at 4.34pm in Belfast. Steven's description of the time (late twilight for a good lunar reflection to be visible) is thus consistent with a time of between 5.00 and 6.00pm. On that day, the moon rose at 2.15pm. and set ten hours later at 12.00pm. Between 2.00pm and 5.00pm, the moon would thus have been high in the sky. The phase of the moon was 65%. This data shows that Steven's description of his being fishing at North Woodburn reservoir, and observing a bright reflection of the moon in the water is entirely consistent with the available facts. But the confusion that Steven shows between the UFO-light and this lunar reflection suggests that the UFO/lunar light forms the link, or bridge between the ordinary consensus reality of the fishing trip and the extraordinary, individual reality of Steven's fantasy about the UFO. In plainer language: Steven observed the reflection of the moon in the water, thought that it would be fun if it was a light on top of a UFO hiding in the water of the reservoir, and fantasised the rest of the story from there. How the story came to be told to the investigators may be a classic escalation process: since it was getting dark, Steven decided to cycle home. On arriving home he passed his fantasy off to his mother as a genuine experience. His mother, perhaps taking the story more seriously than

CONTINUED ON PAGE 24



# the twilight side of ufology

by Nigel Watson

Nigel Watson is one of Britain's most experienced, investigative ufologists. Working with the UFO Investigator's Network over the past few years, he has specialised in investigating high strangeness UFO reports. He can be reached at:

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Speculation on the extra-terrestrial origin of Unidentified Flying Objects at the very outset of our modern perception of the UFO phenomenon, has meant that we have been overwhelmed by the thought that UFOs are visiting spacecraft.

There are many reasons why the extra-terrestrial concept has been given this overwhelming importance: since we can visit the moon - albeit on a limited basis at present - it only needs one other step of reasoning to conclude that if we can do it, other beings on far off planets in our galaxy can do the same. The next step is to reason that there must be beings who have developed technologies that are so far in advance of our own and that they could easily send spacecraft to earth for exploration and reconnaissance in the same manner as our special expeditions.

So far no reasonable person can argue with our chain of logic; can deny that there are not hordes of intelligent beings far more advanced in the fields of technology and science than mankind; lurking out there in the depths of space. Indeed the chances are that there are possibly a few hundred civilisations

THE PRESUMPTION THAT UFOs ARE PHYSICAL, EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL SPACECRAFT, HAS MEANT THAT UFO INVESTIGATIONS HAVE CONCENTRATED ON THE ALLEGED PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES OF THE UFOs.

in advance of us in the galaxy, and an infinite number in the whole universe.

People are seeing unexplainable objects in the sky of this planet that have the appearance of vehicles of some unknown kind, the

conclusion is that they are spacecraft of an advanced civilisations of civilisations.

Traditionally, ufologists have recorded the reports of pretty lights in the sky, daylight discs and the whole range of encounter cases. The presumption that UFOs are physical, extra-terrestrial spacecraft, has meant that UFO investigations have concentrated on the alleged physical attributes of the UFOs.

If however, UFOs are spacecraft in the sense as we understand them ie; as physical robots or vehicles, why is it we have obtained no convincing evidence? If they are mechanical nuts and bolts craft, why is it that we have no really first class photographs? Why is it that we do not have any known UFO artifact which would constitute final proof?

Many ufologists have realised that after more than thirty years of study the physical evidence to support the extra-terrestrial hypothesis is painfully lacking. Only recently Donald A Johnson<sup>1</sup> claimed that: "Any attempted explanation of the (UFO) phenomenon based on the current supply of evidence would be deemed by most as wholly inadequate".

Even the great doyen of ufological studies, J Allen Hynek, has been quoted<sup>2</sup> as saying that he is: "very much afraid that UFOs are related to certain psychic phenomena. And if I say "I am very much afraid", this is because in our Centre at Evanston we are trying to study this problem from the angle of the physical sciences...".

The physical sciences do have their place in the study of the UFO phenomenon, but the tendency is for all the other aspects of the phenomenon to be ignored or excluded for the sake of "scientific respectability"



and " objectivity ".

Charles Bowen has related<sup>3</sup> the story of a well-known UFO investigator who had interviewed a contactee whose story had been so improbable that he listened to the person in an "ultra-sceptical vein". The same investigator several years later read the Aveley report<sup>4</sup> and was then "staggered" to find that the old case he had investigated and "cast

## IN THE PROCESS OF UFO INVESTIGATION CONSCIOUS CENSORING OF EVIDENCE IS NOT UNCOMMON.

aside for fear, presumably, that those details were romantic fabrications" was identical in many of these details. In the process of UFO investigations this kind of conscious censoring of evidence is not uncommon.

Unconscious censorship of the UFO evidence is carried out to a large extent by the UFO witnesses. Jacques Vallee has studied this problem and he asked the following question: "Assuming ten people have seen a strange object in the sky, how many of these reports will I be able to obtain?" Considering this aspect of UFO reportage, Vallee determined that: "This depends...on how willing each of the witnesses will be to tell anyone about his experience, and also it will depend on the person to whom he relates it."<sup>5</sup> This is apparent when we consider that: "Official investigators, such as US Air Force personnel or the police, tend to get all the reports of strange lights and aircraft-like objects. Amateur organisations and private researchers receive more landing and occupant reports than do the police."<sup>6</sup> From this premise, Vallee developed seven categories of strangeness, each category of sighting having a different probability of being reported, and a different organisation or person to whom the sighting might be reported to.

Censorship is not unique to ufological studies. John Beloff, in discussing the failure of parapsychological research to produce or discover the required results on demand relates how: "The full significance of this failure is partly disguised in the literature because only the successful experiments ordinarily get published. The Journal of Parapsychology (Rhine's own mouthpiece makes no secret of the fact that it will accept for publication only results that are significant

at the I percent level of confidence. But far more effective than any editorial selectivity is the self-censorship that operates. Most parapsychologists that I know are just too disheartened and abashed when they fail to get results to have the necessary determination to write up a report on their experiment and submit it for publication. I sometimes wonder how many young hopefuls are drawn each year to parapsychology by the exciting reports they read in the journals, oblivious of this huge silent majority of negative instances."<sup>7</sup>

Unfortunately, in the past, ufologists have carried out the task of looking for spacecraft in a thoughtless, single-minded and dogmatic manner. The search for visiting extra-terrestrial spacecraft through UFO research and investigation, is a legitimate area of study. It is only a pity that the majority of data found outside this frame of reference is often deemed irrelevant and not worthy of further examination.

Also, most ufologists would agree that the ultimate aim of ufology is to prove that the small percentage of "unexplainable" UFO sightings are extra-terrestrial spacecraft, an aim obviously contrary to the "unbiased" and "open-minded" investigatory activity which ufologists claim they are carrying out.

## (UFO INVESTIGATORS)...ARE PRONE TO ELABORATION AND SENSATIONALISATION OF WHAT WERE MEDIOCRE UFO SIGHTINGS

Not only are UFO investigators guilty of censoring out evidence which might be incompatible with their own pet theories, but they are also prone to elaboration and sensationalisation of what were mediocre UFO sightings. John Harney has made the following comments on this aspect of UFO research "One of the major occupational hazards for the psychiatrist is insanity. He risks becoming emotionally involved in the problems and fantasies of his patients, and eventually losing his reason. The UFO literature abounds with stories of ufologists who have suffered similarly. Enthralled by the tales of contactees, frustrated in their efforts to discover psychical evidence to back the extra-terrestrial hypothesis, they begin to go to pieces. They come to believe that there is a vast conspiracy designed to prevent them learning the truth about UFOs. Even some of the steadier persons on the UFO scene sometime reveal signs of this



## Twilight:

widespread paranoia, but it would be invidious and impolite to mention any names.

"The persecution fantasies of ufologists

(SOME UFOLOGISTS) HAVE COME TO BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A VAST CONSPIRACY DESIGNED TO PREVENT THEM LEARNING THE TRUTH ABOUT UFOs.

have been recorded in a number of books including works by Steiger and Whritenour,<sup>8</sup> Barker,<sup>9</sup> Bender<sup>10</sup> and others. Critical reading of such books reveals some of the reasons why such imaginings proliferate in the UFO world. It is seen that many ufologists lead rather dull lives and tend to be imaginative and suggestible. In some cases an interest in UFO reports, a craving for excitement and a taste for the macabre combines to produce truly weird results. Bender's Kafkaesque story of his persecution by three mysterious, black-clad entities is a notable example."<sup>11</sup>

"IF WE TAKE FULL ACCOUNT OF THE VARIOUS ROLES UNCONSCIOUSLY ADOPTED BY UFO RESEARCHERS AND WITNESSES...WE WILL BE BETTER EQUIPPED TO INVESTIGATE THE MORE PUZZLING ASPECTS OF THE UFO PHENOMENON."

John Harney concluded his notes by stating that:"if we take full account of the various roles unconsciously adopted by UFO researchers and witnesses and the distortion of perception caused by excitement and preconceptions as to the true nature of UFO events, we will be better equipped to investigate the more puzzling aspects of the UFO phenomenon. Also, a more detached attitude on the part of the investigators, reminding themselves not to make unwarranted assumptions about UFO reports, will help to win the interest of the scientific community when really baffling reports come to light."<sup>12</sup>

In order to examine some facets of ufological censorship, I intend to devote some space to a case which involves a family of UFO witnesses and their experiences of the paranormal. I am in no doubt that the vast majority of "open-minded" UFO investigators wouldn't give the full details of this case a second glance.

Since most of the details of the following incidents are based and quoted from the correspondence the witnesses sent to Carol Tonnesson, a UFOIN investigator, it is interesting to note that they supply only the information that they feel will be of interest to the UFO researcher. This is the trend in most correspondence from UFO witnesses to ufologists, and after further probing it usually becomes apparent that the U F O

(THE WITNESSES) SUPPLY ONLY THE INFORMATION THAT THEY FEEL WILL BE OF INTEREST TO THE UFO INVESTIGATOR.

witness has had more than the normally experienced amount of paranormal events occur to them.

In this instance the prime witnesses were Mrs. Trench<sup>12</sup> and her son Edward<sup>13</sup>. Mrs Trench's first UFO sightings were not particularly exceptional or spectacular.

Her first sighting was in the Spring of 1957. On a clear bright morning she was taking her six-month-old son, Edward to a day nursery before she went to work. The time was approximately 8.15am; and she was walking towards Queens Park, London, N.W.6., when she saw a silver, Saturn-shaped object, motionless in the sky. After a few seconds it glided behind a cloud and disappeared from view.

"I was scornful of UFOs," wrote Mrs Trench, "and I remained scornful until 1959 when a colleague assured me that the object I saw could not possibly have been man-made as our technology was not so far advanced. Even then I was doubtful."

Her second observation was at 1.30am, in November, 1959. Whilst in her home in London, she saw a blue-green flame, which was very brilliant and in shape resembled a U-shaped magnet. She noticed this when:"I was in my bed, my husband was asleep, and I was just admiring the bright stars, when the object came into view and quickly out of view. I thought: "it must be a sputnik crashing to earth" I expected to hear a crash by the time it passed from view, but there was no sound at all. I wondered how the middle section of the object remained without flame, and years later I had to concede it was a UFO."

In 1967, Mrs Trench finally accepted the fact that there are such things as UFOs, and as a consequence she bought and read a few books on the subject. At about the same



the family moved to Thetford, Norfolk. Here, Edward who when he was about 12-years old made a couple of UFO sightings.

"On one particular day, a friend and I were standing on top of a garage, plave spotting" wrote Edward, who explained that it had been a fairly light evening, as they watched some jet fighter aircraft. These aircraft followed the same flight path and so the boys; "knew exactly where to look . Also, as though to herald their passing, one could hear some booms (not sonic booms) just before a jet would fly over. The jets were flying over at regular intervals, and the booms were regular too.

" After several booms and jets we heard the next set of booms and waited for the next jet to come over. We waited longer than usual for the jet, and by this time we were scanning the whole sky. I turned my attention back to the route the planes were taking (almost overhead) and saw something coming. I quickly pointed it out to my friend . It took exactly the same route as the jets and was moving at the same speed but was utterly silent except for a kind of swishy noise. It was disc shaped (and at about the same altitude as the jets) and had coloured lights going round the lower circumference. It was definitely disc shaped because of the silhouette against the dusk sky. After, another set of booms was heard, and a normal jet passed. By this time my friend was scared witless and was struggling to get off to the garage to tell his father. I knew that there was no danger, since the object had passed. I think this sighting (although I was only 12-13 at the time) is very important, because of the way in which the disc fitted in with the jet manoeuvres, almost as if with the co-operation and/or control of the airforce bases.

" My second sighting was shortly after that. It was about 10.30 - 11.00 pm; I was lying in bed looking out at the sky (my curtains were open) and it was still lightish ( in summer it never got totally dark with a clear sky). A disc shaped object went past at a fair distance, but it was not the same as my first UFO sighting. This one, although disc shaped, had a large circular white light in its underside flashing on and off at regular intervals. ( It was tilted as though changing direction, so I could see the light). Its shape

was rather taller than the first.

"The second sighting only lasted a few seconds, but I got quite a clear view.

"In both sightings I took in a fair amount of detail - at that age of course, I was impressive, but I didn't exaggerate because I was interested in science and in the detail of these objects."

On several other occasions Edward saw zig-zagging lights in the sky, and once with several of his friends saw an enormous brown paper bag, "floating high up in the sky, twisting and turning but never coming down". In fact he claims to have had so many sightings of various kinds of lights in the sky, that now he has forgotten many of them.

During this period Edward maintained an interest in astronomy, and with his two telescopes he would study the constellations and simultaneously keep an eye out for any visiting UFOs. Mrs Trench became aware of the many UFO sightings in the district. She spoke to many UFO witnesses, and she discovered that on one night a young man had been walking home alone from a school dance when he saw a UFO. He told Mrs Trench how he had felt compelled to look upwards and on doing so he saw "something" (he did not use the term UFO) which had coloured lights around it, and was descending towards him. Alarmed at this sequence of events the young man ran home as fast as he could!

In the same locality there had been incidents of travelling lights following cars, and one night Mrs Trench with some friends saw UFOs like fireflies darting about the eastern sky. On another occasion Edward and I watched a small light trying to catch a large bright light".

At this juncture we might pause to review the present state of affairs. First of all it will be noticed that Mrs Trench's early sightings took place when there was a great deal of public interest in space exploration, due primarily to the launch of Sputnik 1 in the early hours of 4 October, 1957. More than ten years later Mrs Trench and her son saw UFOs when there was another period of intense public interest in space exploration, due that time to the American Apollo moon-landing missions.

Also we might note that Edward felt that his first UFO sighting was important because "the disc fitted in with the jet manoeuvres ; almost as if with the co-operation and / or



control of the airforce bases." This, he claimed in the same letter, led him to believe that some but not all UFOs have their origin on earth.

Edward therefore offers two questions which which need to be examined in more detail :

a) is there a secret government cover - up ?  
 b) are UFOs of Earthly origin?

The question of the existence of a govern-

**GOVERNMENT COVER-UPS.....CAN OFFER A CONVENIENT UFOLOGICAL SCAPEGOAT.**

ment cover-up is a fascinating one to ufologists, especially since it can offer a convenient ufological scapegoat. However little real proof the ufologist might have to convince anyone of the physical reality of UFOs he can always fling his arms skyward and exclaim: "oh well you don't know what information the government has locked away".

This attitude is taken by Desmond Leslie<sup>15</sup> who claims that:-

"There is plenty the government does not tell the people - sometimes they tell less than is strictly ethical.

" And if you were head of a slave state, and you learned one terrible day that there were greater gods in heaven than the ugly faces on your party posters, you would do anything to prevent the people finding out. For a big fish in a little pond can remain a big fish only as long as the little fishes know nothing of giant porpoises and ocean whales. The inopportune arrival of a mighty fish from the great water beyond would reduce you to your proper size. No longer frightened by your correct proportions, the slaves would laugh - at first. Later they might do something rather unpleasant. So by all means stick to the story that saucers are "a product of western war-psychosis"."

These lyrical pronouncements are all very well, and similar sentiments can be found in large portions of UFO literature, but they are usually so prejudiced and ill-founded that no one except the ardent UFO enthusiast can take them seriously.

Most of the wacky UFO fraternity regard the alleged or suspected government involvement in ufological matters as sinister, secret and clandestine, Leslie<sup>16</sup> comments: "this

sort of thing is disquieting, not only to those old ladies who nightly peer beneath their beds for burglars, but also to the general public, down whose communal spine a slightly chilling sensation is apt to pass."

**"WHICHEVER PARTY COMES TO POWER IT IS ALWAYS THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE SECURITY FORCES WHO RUNS THE COUNTRY!"**

David Sydeserff conducted a mini-survey of the political parties in Scotland, with regard to their awareness and interest in the UFO phenomenon.<sup>17</sup>

A typical response to his queries was the following made by the late John P Mackintosh of the Labour Party: "I do not think this is an issue for party political involvement but it is naturally of great interest to a small number of people. As far as UFOs are concerned, these are reported from time to time by observers but I myself feel that the very extensive use nowadays of satellite and other high frequency detectors would be able to report on any significant existence of such bodies. I think it is right at the moment to leave this observance by individuals and no direct intervention by the government is necessary."

However, David wasn't too worried by that kind of reply, as he philosophically commented: "whichever party comes to power, it is always the Director-General of the Security Services (D15) who runs the country!"<sup>18</sup>

In England the Ministry of Defence (Air) claim that they investigate UFO sightings with a view to national air defence, and with the fact in mind that all UFO sightings can be explained, given time and sufficient information. No doubt also that the Ministry of Defence (Air) department, for UFO investigations, is a mere pawn in D15's sinister role as governing agency of the UK.

Steven Spielberg, in his spectacular science fiction film, "Close Encounters of the Third Kind" effectively portrayed the methods used by the USAF<sup>19</sup> to dismiss the UFO evidence, and with due artistic license he contrasted this with a secret military and government cover-up, carried out in order to prevent public disquiet and panic.

Another reason why some ufologists consider that there is some kind of cover-up is due to the fact that: "If truth came forth... "private" interests such as religion, trade-powers or politics could not exist in the



present clothing. The truth making up the picture of our visitors would change so much in our present world, that the mentioned groups should expect a radical re-organisation.

"The best way of protection against an unwanted reaction from the masses, is to make fools out of people".<sup>20</sup>

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE HISTORICAL AND GLOBAL NATURE OF THE UFO PHENOMENON IT APPEARS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT ANY GOVERNMENT HAS THE ULTIMATE SECRET OF THE UFOs BURIED AWAY IN SOME CHROMIUM SECURITY COMPUTER.

Taking into account the historical and global nature of the UFO phenomenon it appears highly unlikely that any government has the ultimate secret of the UFOs buried away in some chromium security computer.

Is there an ultimate secret to the origin of the UFO? Are there revelations to be discovered by the sincere and hard working researcher? These are items of speculation we shall discuss later on.

TO BE CONTINUED....

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## WOODBURN RESERVOIR (ctd)

Steven had intended, reported it to us.

Steven then decided to pass the report off on us as a hoax.

The final sections of this scenario are obviously speculative; it is possible that Steven has convinced himself of the factuality of his day-dream; it is possible that both Steven and his mother knew it to be a fantasy and used it to hoax us.

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In our next issue, Nigel Watson gives more details of the Trench family sightings and examines the religious aspects of the UFO phenomenon

In conclusion then, it does not seem necessary to hypothesise any exotic phenomenon or processes to explain this sighting. The usefulness, if any, of the data contained in this report is expected to be in the study of hoaxes, and of the unique way that factual and fictitious elements can be combined to form a myth-structure so powerful that it is self-regenerating.





# WORLD NEWS

ufo reports from overseas

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## United States:

**There's more to this than meets the FBI**

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All kinds of ufological tit-bits have been falling out of government files in the United States and Canada ever since 'anti-secrecy' acts were passed in the two countries. However, it seems that a measure of *secrecy* still applies if a report in the usually reliable American magazine "International UFO Reporter" is to be believed.

A piece of bureaucratic fallout from the US air force Security Service files told an intriguing and detailed story of how conversations between a Cuban air controller and a squadron of Cuban interceptor aircraft had been overheard by US air force radio monitors. In March 1967, Cuban air defense radar controllers reported a UFO approaching the island from the north-east. When the UFO entered Cuban airspace two MIG-21 jets were scrambled to intercept. The pilots closed in and could resolve the object as a bright metallic sphere with no markings or appendages. The object was tracked at 660 mph and 33000 feet.

After an unresponsive radio challenge the lead pilot was ordered to open fire on the object. The pilot reported that his missiles were armed and locked onto the UFO. Minutes later the second pilot excitedly radioed that the lead pilot's jet had disintegrated without smoke or flame and had crashed. The Cuban radar operators watched the object climb to above 100000 feet and head south-southeast towards South America.

When Investigator Robert Todd filed requests for further information with the air

force, the CIA and the National Security Agency (NSA) he received an interesting reply. The air force and NSA did not respond, but the CIA suggested that he write to the Cuban government. Todd drafted a letter to the Cubans enclosing a copy of a UPI press release on the incident and sent copies to NSA and the air force requesting that they raise any objections to his sending the letter within 20 days. On July 28, according to Todd, two FBI agents visited his home.

They started by 'reading him his rights' and then threatened him with prosecution under the espionage laws and told him that these laws provided for life imprisonment or the death penalty. Under this pressure Todd eventually told the FBI agents the name of his source, a 'National Enquirer' reporter. When Todd asked the agents if information in the UPI document was classified, one replied: "some of the information is classified; most of it is bullshit". On later enquiries by IUR workers, the FBI maintained the position that they were not going to say if the information in the document was accurate, but "if it was accurate, it would be classified".

(If one can ascribe logic to FBI statements -- I am inclined to believe with Groucho Marx that "military intelligence is a contradiction in terms" - this must mean that it is accurate, since if it were not, it would not be classified and the FBI WOULD NOT BE TRYING - unsuccessfully to keep it secret.)

As IUR points out, trying to suppress a n



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**WORLD NEWS-**

already released UPI news release is a bit like trying to put the genie back into the

bottle. But, to borrow an old Humphrey Bogart line, maybe "there's more to this than meets the eye".

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## France:

### **GEPAN publish**

GEPAN, the French Government "Groupe d' Etudes Des Phenomenes A erosp atiaux Non-Identifiees, has published its first report.

GEPAN was set up in 1977 under Dr Claud Pohr and during 1978 it involved itself with investigating high credibility, high strangeness UFO reports in France. Eleven such cases were studied in great detail, only one of which proved to have a conventional explanation. Two of the cases involved humanoids. Analysis and investigation was carried out by a four-person team including a psychologist. According to IUR "The care with which distances, angles and psychological factors were evaluated makes the bulk of the Condon Report seem very poor by comparison. In many cases, the investigations were text-book models of how such investigations should be carried out."

The report concludes that: "In ten of the eleven cases, the conclusion was that the witness had witnessed a material phenomenon that could not be explained as a natural phenomenon or a human devices" and "behind the overall phenomenon there is a

flying machine... whose modes of sustenance and propulsion are beyond or knowledge."

Most serious ufologists would clearly love to lay their hands of ten textbook investigations of unidentified, high strangeness UFO reports, but IUR's curiosity seems somewhat muted. The article comments "The original report was limited to 140 copies and was secret. It is not available for general dissemination, and in any case is in French". (IUR is quoting an 'unauthorised summation' by an un-named 'American academician').

A minor language problem should not prevent the dissemination of such a potentially important report, though the French government's unwillingness to release it could be more serious.

This attitude seems unfathomable and can lead to the spreading of inflated and distorted rumours.

There is no logic in spending public money on scientific research and then locking the results up in a filing cabinet. But then... governments will be governments!

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## Australia:

### **Valentich, Valentich, will you be my Valentich?**

Towards the end of last year the disappearance of a lone Australian pilot named Fredrick Valentich created a minor sensation in the world's press. We reported the facts as given in an Australian newspaper in the last issue, but on the basis that fools (and the press) rush in we did not comment. More reliable information is now available in the form of an unpublished report by Messrs. Griesberg and Basterfield of the Centre for UFO Studies in New South Wales and also a letter from the Australian Department of Transportation published in the Danish magazine "UFO Nyt" (Well Irish UFO News probably sounds just as funny in Danish!) The only positive information available to anyone is the transcript of

Valentich's conversation with his Control. This is substantially as reported in the last issue, and there is nothing to substantiate the Perth Daily News' claim that the Dept. of Transportation is withholding a portion of the transcript in which Valentich describes the object in detail.

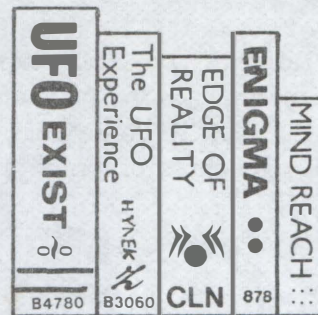
Additionally, although Valentich had told his family that he would be returning that evening, he had filed only a one-way flight plan. Also he had not arranged to have the landing lights at his destination turned on. This would have made landing at his destination impossible.

To date no trace of either Valentich or his aircraft has been found, although the Dept. of Transportation notes that this is not part-

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# BOOK REVIEW



"conjuring up philip" reviewed by john hind

• In his methodological essay "Exploring Mysticism",<sup>1</sup> Fritz Staal proposes a participating approach to the scientific study of mysticism: the investigator must achieve the states in which the mystic obtains his insight, but remain free to interpret his experience logically and critically.

The Philip Experiment, outlined by Iris Owen and Margaret Sparrow in their book "Conjuring up Philip: An adventure in Psychokinesis",<sup>2</sup> is a good example of the application of this methodology. The experiment was carried out in Canada, by members of the Toronto Society for Psychical Research, and was controlled by the veteran psychical researcher, Dr. George Owens. A group of eight people set out to 'create' a ghost, aiming eventually at producing a manifestation. They first 'invented' the personality and life history of their ghost 'Philip', a Royalist who lived in England at the time of the Civil War. Some aspects of Philip's environment were deliberately made non-historical to prevent the possible interpretation that the group had accidentally or paranormally hit on an actual historical character. Philip thus began as a total figment of the imagination of one member of the group. For a period approximating to a year, the group met once a week for group meditation sessions. This approach was unsuccessful and the group switched their attentions to a different method. Duplicating the conditions of the Victorian seance, they tried to create a carefree, interactive atmosphere incorporating, as far as possible Philip as a part of the group. The one major departure from Victorian practice was to use normal lighting throughout.

Almost immediately, the group reported, spectacular results were achieved initially in the form of communication raps on the table and eventually in the form of partial levitation and uncontrolled motion of the table. Having worked out a simple yes-no code, the group proceeded to communicate with their 'ghost', quickly building up an easy rapport with 'it'. They were able to establish that the character of 'Philip' was crucially dependant on the composition of the group and, since the phenomenon 'worked' with as little as half of the group present, the composition could be varied. On the physical side, the phenomenon was successfully produced on a wide variety of different tables, including an instrumented, heavy steel plate and acoustically analysed. The analysis showed qualitative differences between 'Philip' raps and raps produced by normal means. The authors claim that raps have been produced under conditions which preclude deliberate or unconscious fraud. The partial levitation phenomenon has been filmed on a live television show.

Unfortunately, in my opinion, the book did not do justice to the scope and originality of the experiment. Conjuring up Philip suffers from a fault which is widespread in the parapsychological literature in that it seems unsure of its target audience. In trying to be at once an adequate scientific report and a work of popular communication, it fails to be effective as either. The book is also rather poorly organised and a little tedious in style. On the lighter side, I cannot resist quoting one logical error which seems to have slipped in: "Most people now concede that not



**BOOK REVIEW-**

only is telepathy possible, but that it does in fact occur much more frequently than most people realise."<sup>3</sup> To be fair, much better scientific accounts of parts of the experiment



**P H I L I P**

As visualised by Margaret Sparrow.

do appear in the Toronto society's research journal,<sup>4</sup> but these accounts are very incomplete.

This failure on the part of the Toronto society to communicate effectively possibly accounts for the lack of attention; scientific and public outside Canada. The importance of the Philip experiment is due to three main factors: firstly for the light it throws on multi-participant psychic events, including some UFO experiences. Secondly, the group claim that the experiment can be repeated by any group of motivated investigators anywhere in the world. Repeatability is an important pre-requisite for the scientific acceptance of any new phenomenon. Thirdly, the experiment is important as a pioneering practical exploration of a comparatively original scientific methodology.

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**WORLD NEWS-**

icularly strange as the aircraft was over water at the time of the last transmission.

The 'metallic noise' which ended the final transmission, and which has been identified as 'similar to crash noises' is a strange aspect. According to the Australian CUFOS report, for this to be the noise of the crash, Valentich would have to have been holding the transmit button on the microphone during the crash. Because of this fact, the CUFOS team suggest that this was a bizarre suicide with the UFO report hoaxed. They suggest that Valentich was not, at the time, in the area he claimed; this would account for the lack of wreckage and for the fact that the aircraft (or the UFO) did not appear on the ATC radar.

It seems unlikely, at this stage, that the

Valentich mystery will ever be solved. Data on the case is so sparse that it is not possible to decide between the several possibilities, including the UFO explanation. However, if Valentich planned his suicide as a final defiant gesture of romantic mystery-creation, he can be congratulated (posthumously) on the success he has achieved.

WANT TO JOIN A UFO SOCIETY?

Well, don't just sit there, contact David Patterson on Comber 878403 or Owen McQuail on Dublin 343944.

If you prefer to write, the addresses of these two worthy gents are respectively : 4 Copeland Drive, Comber.  
and : 7 Glasmeen Road, Glasnevin, Dublin 11.