

WIRE

SEPTEMBER 1986 \$2.50



SPECIAL REPORT
THE SOVIETS'
SPACE STATION

ARTHUR C. CLARKE:
BEYOND 2010

PLUS

MARVIN MITCHELSON, F. LEE BAILEY,
MELVIN BELLI, AND WILLIAM KUNSTLER ON
HIGH-TECH CRIME

DAVID STOCKMAN
FUTURE FINANCE, SPACE, AND THE
POLITICAL ROLE OF CORPORATIONS



UFOs emanate
from traumatic events, which
thrust us toward a
higher state of consciousness.

ANTI MATTER

Pundits have attributed UFO sightings to alien spacecraft, projections of the collective unconscious, or misinterpretation of satellites and stars. Now, from John F. Kennedy University (JFKU) in Orinda, California, comes another explanation. According to a recent study conducted under the auspices of the university's consciousness studies department, UFOs may be remnants of the same psychic flame that spirals into the brilliant, almost blinding light some people see before they die.

Lorraine Davis, who holds a master's degree, conducted the study. She started the project after attending a JFKU seminar on the near-death experience, or NDE. Led by University of Connecticut psychologist Kenneth Ring—one of the first academics to study the NDE—the meeting described, among other things, the altered state characterized by lights and long-dead relatives beckoning from beyond. Struck by the similarities among UFO contacts and near-death subjects, Davis decided to make her master's thesis a comparison of the two.

To carry out her study, Davis borrowed an NDE questionnaire developed by Ring and sent it to 261 people reporting UFOs or contact with extraterrestrials. She received 93 replies and proceeded to compare them to those answers given by Ring's NDE subjects.

As it turned out, Davis says, there were three changes in those who said they'd either hovered near death or seen a UFO: Their attitudes toward themselves and others became less egocentric; their attitudes toward religion shifted from



UFO UPDATE

atheism or narrow sectarianism to a more universal spirituality; and they reported an increase in psychic ability.

"UFO sightings and NDEs are both examples of altered states, of the human evolution toward higher levels of consciousness," Davis concludes. "The UFO participant was thrust into this psychic state by a precipitating event, just as the NDE subject was transformed by the nearness of death."

These conclusions, though, have caught some of Davis's subjects off guard. "Are you saying I imagined the whole thing?" replied at least one an-

gry participant. Davis says no. "If the UFO experience *does* take place in an altered state of consciousness," she says, "perhaps a nuts-and-bolts machine is materialized for a few minutes. Who knows? It's certainly possible to perceive and experience in other states of consciousness, sometimes with an even greater sense of reality than that which we experience on a day-to-day basis."

But NASA psychologist Richard F. Haines, author of *Observing UFOs*, says that Davis and others in the field should spend more time validating methodology. A major problem with this sort of transcendental analysis, he says, is that "you actually generate your own terminology as you go along. There is very poor agreement among people concerning even the most general concepts in this field."

Davis does have one avid supporter, though: the respectable Ring. He says, "As long as there's a sudden, traumatic, precipitating event—approaching death is an example—the transcendental experience can occur."—DENNIS STACY