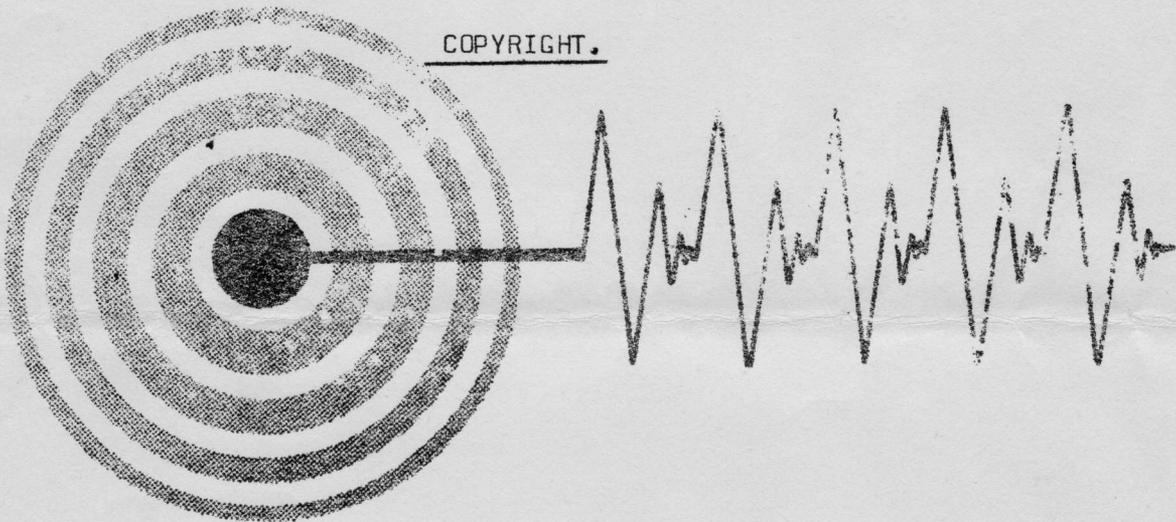


A.C.O.S. BULLETIN

NUMBER THIRTEEN - MARCH 1978.

Registered as a Publication
Category - B.

COPYRIGHT.



journal of
AUSTRALIAN CO-ORDINATION SECTION,
CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

P.O. BOX 546, GOSFORD NSW., 2250

AUSTRALIA

DEFINITION

We define the UFO as the reported perception of an object or light, seen in the sky or upon the land, the appearance, trajectory, and general dynamic and luminescent behaviour of which do not suggest a logical, conventional explanation and which is not only mystifying to the original percipients but remains unidentified after close scrutiny of all available evidence by persons who are technically capable of making a common sense identification if one is possible.

Dr. J. Allen Hynek

No part of this publication may be reproduced without prior written consent of A.C.O.S., except for ACOS member organisations. Credit must be given.

I N D E X

<u>Item.</u>	<u>Author.</u>	<u>Pages.</u>
Editorial	H. Griesberg & D. Seargent	1.
Editorial	Dr. J. Allen Hynek	2.
Welcome Chiron	D. Seargent	2-3.
Extraterrestrials on earth	Dr. D. Herbison-Evans	3-4.
Where are these photographs?	K. Basterfield	5.
Lead on, Lead on UFO.	D. Seargent.	6-7.
Contact - The Dolphin.	H. Griesberg & D. Michels.	7-
"UFOs: A Scientific Enigma" (book review)	W. Chalker	8-9
A.C.O.S. NEWS	-	10
U.F.O. Reports from around Australia	-	11-12

Editorial.by H. Griesberg & D. Seargent.

UFO activity within Australia has reached an all time low over the past few months, with only isolated reports being received. But while things are fairly quiet in Australia, Europe seems to be swamped with reports at present. Probably one of the most unusual reports from England, concerned Mr. Ken Rogers, chairman of the British UFO Society. The article was carried by the AUSTRALIAN on 6th February this year. It states:

"The night was cold as Ken Rogers drove through the Cornish countryside in June last year. A soft south-easterly breeze blew and the night sky was clear. The whole countryside had an eerie look about it that sent a slight chill up Rogers' back. He had been driving for a little over an hour along a road that wove its way along narrow country lanes and through tiny 17th century villages. What Rogers, then chairman of the British UFO Society, did not know was that during the next hour he would witness something which has changed his life completely - an encounter with what he claims were beings from another world. Driving to the crest of a hill, he noticed a bright ball of light over to his left. He brought his car to a sudden, screeching halt and got out for a better look at the strange glowing object. He always carried a pair of binoculars in the glove box of his car and, as he reached for them, the object moved across the night sky and descended to a field about half a mile to his right. Gingerly he jumped the old stone fence that ran along the side of the road and made his way across the field to where the object was now stationary. What happened? All Rogers will say is: "I met beings from another world, you either believe me or you don't". The effect of his encounter was enough to land him in hospital with a nervous breakdown. After being released from hospital Rogers resigned as chairman of the UFO Society and burnt all his files - "a lifetime of work, it all went up in flames" - he said at his North London home. "I had to do it. I can't tell you why". "None of the people involved in the big UFO investigations in Britain during the early 1960s are around today. That frankly scares the hell out of me". Will he elaborate? NO.

The exchange of letters between President Carter's science advisor Dr. Frank Press and Dr. Robert Frosch, NASA's Administrator, relative to the request that NASA (a) handle UFO correspondence received by the White House (and there appears to be a fair amount of this) and (b) examine the flow of UFO reports over the past ten years since the Condon Report to see whether there have been any significant developments, and (c) to make recommendations to the President's office for possible in-depth study, has given rise to a wave of speculation. What will NASA's answer be? ...WILL they try to sidestep the official request?... Can they disregard such an official request?

I spoke with David Williamson of NASA, who was widely quoted in the press recently about NASA's controversy, who spoke of the problems involved should NASA undertake an excursion into UFO matters. First of all, he pointed out, the NASA budget for fiscal '79 is already in, and there is no provision for a UFO investigation of any kind. Apart from that, Mr. Williamson and his associates at NASA recognize that the UFO problem transcends strictly scientific matters, involving as it does many sociological, psychological, political, and public relations problems as well. Williamson pointed out that NASA's responsibilities are quite narrowly defined and it is not clear to him that NASA is equipped to involve itself in these many other aspects. As he put it, should the taxpayer's money be used by NASA "in the absence of a disciplinary framework" for the UFO problem? That is, if one had a part of a "nuts and bolts" UFO, then NASA has the laboratory facilities to test it to the hilt, but in what NASA laboratory does one test anecdotal accounts of UFO experiences?

I pointed out to him that while it is impossible, for instance, to bring a tornado into the laboratory, it was quite possible to study the effects of tornadoes. Similarly, one can study the physical traces reportedly associated with UFOs. NASA and others are not aware of the work, for instance, of Ted Phillips and others in collecting evidence on such cases. NASA might well have a team ready to plunge into action the very next time a UFO trace case is reported. Certainly that is well within NASA's capabilities and responsibilities. But should NASA become involved with reported "abduction" cases, psychological tests of witnesses, and with hypnotic regressions? Might this not better be left to the private sector but perhaps with NASA's guidance and blessing?

NASA might take a cue from university administrators. Often when a sticky problem arises with which no particular department of the University wishes to tangle (arguing that the problem overlaps several departments etc.) a special group is appointed that is made directly responsible and answerable to the university president's office alone. Might not this be a good way to handle this problem? Let scientists and others who already have a solid acquaintance with UFO's be brought together and assigned the problem with special funds appropriated by Congress? Should it fail in its mission, the responsibility would not rest with NASA but if it succeeded, NASA, as the guiding agency, would reap the credits and benefits.

Welcome Chiron.

by D. Seargent.

November 1st, 1977 is likely to be remembered in astronomical circles as the date when one of the strangest objects ever found within the solar system was first recognized on the sky photographs of well-known astronomer Charles Kowal.

Now known as Chiron, the faint slow moving object initially became recognizable as a trail on long exposure photographs guided in such a way that stars remain points, but Solar System objects trail into streaks of different lengths (depending upon their relative velocity).

Chiron showed up as a remarkably short trail. In fact, it appeared to be moving little faster than Uranus and must have been, therefore, out in the distant suburbs of the Solar System, far beyond the zone of asteroids. Further observation (including some previously unrecognized images on photographs taken years - even decades - ago) have confirmed the remoteness of this strange object.

Initially, a rough orbital calculation gave Chiron a planetary orbit just inside that of Uranus, and some unguarded statements even claimed Chiron as the "tenth planet", however, further calculations (based, especially, on pre-discovery images found on old plates) showed the orbit to be much more eccentric than any planet - even than all but a few (a VERY few) asteroids!

Furthermore, calculations based upon the object's brightness show that Chiron's diameter lies within the range 100-400 miles (100 if it is a good reflector, 400 if it is composed of dark material like our own moon or some of the asteroids.) - much too small for a planet, although also somewhat larger than all but a few of the biggest asteroids.

What then is Chiron?

All we know at the moment is that it is a body of the order of 100 miles in diameter, orbiting the sun in an eccentric, low inclination orbit with aphelion (the furthest point from the sun) near the orbit of Uranus, and perihelion (the closest point to the sun) within the orbit of Saturn. At present it is near aphelion being due at perihelion in 1996. It takes 50.7 years to make one journey around its orbit.

One intriguing suggestion is that Chiron is not some remote kind of asteroid, but really a gigantic comet, so far from the sun that it cannot produce the characteristic head and tail. If this is correct, perhaps some activity may be expected as the 1990's draw closer and Chiron approaches the sun. I guess the astronomers will be seeing a lot of Chiron in the years ahead.

Extraterrestrials on earth.

by Dr. Don Herbison-Evans.

The presence or absence of extraterrestrials is a subject on which there is considerable empirical evidence. This evidence may not be considered decisive but it certainly exists. It is a body of about 100,000 reports of UFOs. While most of these have low reliability and low strangeness, the author believes that enough reports have come from people with sufficient training and credibility to warrant further investigation. Three important reports are summarized. The problems associated with further investigations are discussed.

Douglas (1), Hart (2) and others have discussed the question of whether earth has been visited by extraterrestrials (intelligent beings from outer space) as though there were no observational evidence on the matter. However, during the past 30 years, over the whole world, there have been about 100,000 reports of UFO sightings. Many initial reports may be filtered out as being hoaxes or misidentifications of known phenomena. In Australian experience, (3) approximately 20 percent remain and are truly unidentified flying objects. Of these true UFOs, approximately 65 percent have more than one witness (15 percent have 5 or more witnesses), and about 10 % come from experienced people of high integrity such as Police Officers and Meteorological Officers. Moser(4) lists 68 sightings reported by astronomers. Bearing in mind that it will only require one authentic report of an extraterrestrial visitation to refute the negative assumption of Hart, it is only necessary to consider those sightings which have high credibility and high strangeness(5). Thus it may be worthwhile to outline here the three sightings which the author considers, after an extensive survey of the literature, to be most significant.

(1) 1957. Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico (6,7)

(2) 1959. Papua sighting by the Rev. B. Gill and companions (5,8)

(3) 1961. Betty and Barney Hill, map (9)

At Kirtland U.S. Air Force Base, two air-traffic controllers claim to have seen an object three meters wide and six meters tall fly into the base and hover for tens of seconds at a height of a few meters. It then flew across the base and climbed into the clouds at a speed of about Mach 1. The object apparently was tracked on radar by other personnel during the

visual sighting, and after visual contact was lost, was followed by radar when it performed more curious manoeuvres. Details of the radar observations are difficult to verify as they were not recorded at the time.

In Papua, the head of the Anglican Mission at Boainai, the Reverend Bruce Gill, with various mission staff and natives, watched several illuminated discs for several hours on several evenings. The clouds and surrounding hills set limits on distances of the discs, and Venus was noted separately. The discs were seen very clearly, and Gill and his companions claim that the discs appeared to have on board some figures that moved about.

The Betty and Barney Hill case is extremely interesting astronomically. In 1964, Betty Hill drew post-hypnotically a map which she claimed was a rough copy of a map inside a spaceship on which she and her husband were abducted, and which purported to show 12 trade route stars and 20 background stars. Subsequently, Marjorie Fish found a projection of the three-dimensional positions of our 12 nearest single dwarf stars in the spectral range F6 - K1 which fits the Hill trade route stars remarkably well. Furthermore, on the same projection, other stars appear which correspond to some of Hill's background stars, whose accurate positions were not published until 1969 in Gliese's CATALOG OF NEARBY STARS. The statistical likelihood of the coincidence of the Fish and Hill maps by chance is not clear.

Thus there is evidence that we are being visited, but the evidence is poor. The main problem with UFOs is, that like quarks and total solar eclipses before they were understood, they are difficult to make into reproducible observations.

The size of the problem can be seen from the statistics of sightings reported. Taking the U.S. Air Force project Bluebook as an example: there, 10,000 reports were received from 10^7 km² in 20 years, with a mean sighting duration of ten minutes. If we assume that 10% of all sightings were reported to the USAF and that only 10% of all sightings were non-trivial misidentifications and hoaxes, this gives us a density of true UFOs of 1 per 2×10^4 km² years. Consider then the problem of recording one of these sightings, say with an array of 2×10^3 cameras, each photographing an area of 10 km² once every ten minutes for a year. On the above figures, a UFO would appear on only one out of the 10^8 pictures produced. Searching these pictures would be a formidable problem.

It seems therefore that we are left with having to continue to investigate current and past reports. This requires the gathering of extra evidence and sifting out the irrelevant hoaxes and misidentifications. This is a demanding occupation requiring cross-disciplinary expertise with a strong grounding in astronomy. It is unfortunate that, on such a fundamental subject, work is currently left mainly to enthusiastic but untrained amateurs.

References:

- (1) Douglas, Lord, of Barloch, 1977. Q. Jl R. astr. Soc., 18, 157-158.
- (2) Hart, M.H., 1975. Q. Jl R. astr. Soc., 16, 128-135.
- (3) Griesberg, H. & Seargent D. 1977. Australian UFO Statistics 1976, Center for UFO Studies (Australian Co-Ordination Section).
- (4) Moser, W.E., 1972. Astronomers and UFOs, UFOIC Newsletter (P.O. Box 6 Lane Cove, NSW 2066 Australia), Nos. 37, 38 and 39.
- (5) Hynek, J.A. 1972. The UFO Experience, Abelard-Schuman.
- (6) Condon, E.U. & Gillmor, D.S. 1969. Scientific study of unidentified flying objects, Vision Press.
- (7) McDonald, J.E. 1972. Science in default, UFOs: a scientific debate, pp.115-122, eds C. Sagan & T. Page, Cornell University Press.
- (8) Klass, P.J. 1974. UFOs explained, Random House.
- (9) Webb, W.N. 1974. An analysis of the Fish Model, The Apro Bulletin, 23 (2,3).

Dr. Herbison-Evans would like to hear from any reader of this article what you think are scientifically, the 3 least disreputable sightings. Address c/o ACOS,

Where are these photographs?

by K. Basterfield.

Through the years, Australia has seen some interesting UFO photographs. Balwyn, Hallam, Alberton and Deven Park would all be familiar names to anyone who has studied Australian photographic cases.

However whilst recently compiling a catalogue of Australian UFO photos (to be published shortly by UFO Research (sa) Inc.) I came across several cases in which I would ask the question, what happened to the photographs? If anyone can throw any light on the following examples, I'd be pleased to hear from them.

For example, what happened to the 1954 New Zealand movie films showing mysterious pin points of light, or the May 1965 Bouganville Reef photos taken by an Ansett airline pilot? A movie film taken at Tully in March 1969 disappeared in mysterious circumstances, and another movie film was supposedly taken of a UFO pacing a plane near Cairns in 1968 although few people seem to have heard of it.

In the early 1950s, it was the RAAF which was blamed for two incidents where films were allegedly confiscated. The first was in 1953 at Wilcannia NSW where a John Gregory and a Kevin Power reported seeing a metallic "saucer" shaped object which they photographed(1). Power wrote to the RAAF who allegedly confiscated the film from him.

The following year, 1954 brought a similar story from three young men travelling by car from Perth to Adelaide. They claimed that near Eucla they were followed by a saucer shaped object for 50 miles. They took 92 exposures using five cameras. After reporting the incident to local police they were subsequently interviewed by the RAAF who took away their cameras. Later cameras minus film were returned (2).

To the best of my knowledge neither of these incidents is well documented and should be treated with caution because of this.

The next incident that came to life was in May 1965 and the government again was the agency to receive the blame. For 10-15 minutes on the 28 May 1965 an Ansett ANA pilot was reportedly paced by an ablate object and the pilot was able to take some photographs of it. Later the pilot according to investigation (3) was instructed not to talk about it and the whereabouts of the photos are a mystery.

A movie film taken at Tully in March 1969 has been widely suspected to have been removed by the government and its story is widely enough known not to bear repeating here.

My final example is one found on the pages of "UFOs over the Southern Hemisphere" (4) which states "North Queensland radio station 4K2 announced that an airliner flying from Cairns to Iron Range has been paced by a UFO. It was photographed by means of a movie camera". This is all that is known at the moment, as I have not heard of it from any other source.

It would make interesting detective work if persons in the nearest UFO organisation to the locality involved could attempt to track down more about these accounts. How about it?

References:

- (1) Australian FSR Vol 5, July 1966.
- (2) ASR Vol 5 No. 3 1959 p 13.
- (3) Australian FSR Vol 3 No. 5 December 1972 pages 3 & 7.
- (4) "UFOs over the Southern Hemisphere, Michael Hervey p 121.

For any details you can find on the above accounts, please advise ACOS as soon as possible.

Of all the hypotheses attempting to explain the UFO phenomenon, none is more peculiar, more radical, and in many ways more frightening than the suggestion that these objects are part of a global control system systematically leading the world's people into a certain belief context (or, to put it more brutally, they are a form of global brain-washing under the direction of a power or powers beyond the individual human mind).

Vallee is perhaps the best known supporter of this hypothesis, although he does not give any clear idea of who (or what) is behind the control system or why (it, they or whoever) are going to all this trouble to lead humanity down the purple path of ufomania.

Recently, however, Professor Persinger has made a suggestion which marries the control system hypothesis with that of the geopsyche hypothesis given by several people as a possible explanation for the UFOs (this hypothesis is suggested in a rather rudimentary form, in my own book "UFOs: A Scientific Enigma".)

For Persinger, the geopsyche is a TRANSIENT phenomenon, primarily electromagnetic in nature and arising from atmospheric, geophysical or cosmic fields, however its main effect is to induce similar psychological reactions in the minds of large numbers of the populace. (For instance, a population suffering from the tension of an impending war may have visions of phantom armies induced in their minds in such a way that all would see essentially the same thing.)

Personally I would like to take matters somewhat further than this and speculate about the possibility of such a disturbance triggering off psychokinetic effects in the people affected - the creation of a mass poltergeist after the manner of (but on a much larger scale than) "Phillip", the consciously induced poltergeist dreamed up by the Canadian Society for Psychic Research.

In the Canadian experiment, "Phillip" took on a quasi-reality of his own and even played tricks upon the members of the group (to the extent of levitating a chair and chasing one of the women members of the group with it.) Moreover, as Persinger points out, such an organizing force as the geopsyche tends to control the individual units which compose it in such a way that it persists as an intact unit. This is always for the advantage of the total organizing force - but not necessarily for the good of the individual units themselves. In the Canadian experiment, we may surmise that "Phillip" tends to perpetuate himself by bringing the members of the group into closer telepathic contact and thereby drawing more power from them.

Another interesting property of a compound psyche is that it is greater than the sum of the parts which compose it. For instance, in the "Phillip" group, none of the members is psychokinetic to an extent beyond normality, yet "Phillip" is able to bend metal, cause pipes in the roof to "ping", rap on the table, lift heavy objects into the air and cause equally heavy objects to move around the room. There is even some suggestion that "Phillip's" "voice" has been recorded on tape - implying that the force-field generated by the group is able to cause sound waves in the air in imitation of the human voice.

On the larger scale of the geopsyche, once a geomagnetic disturbance (say) brings it into being, it could grow to enormous power, especially on a sub-conscious level where individual human differences are slight. In other words, it would tend to manifest itself, not as a consciously induced "Phillip", but as the symbolic creatures of the subconscious mind; the elves and fairies which haunt all folklore and which bear such strong resemblance to the "ufonauts" of today.

Moreover, just as we imagined "Phillip" to perpetuate himself, so the geopsyche may also perpetuate itself by adapting its symbolism to the general mood of its basic units i.e. conforming itself to the beliefs of the people who brought it to life - fairies in an age which believed in fairies, spacemen in an age which believes in spacemen.

Here, however, comes the crunch. IT is doing this for ITS own good. It is "controlling" our beliefs to bring our conscious and subconscious ideas closer together in order to enhance telepathic rapport between us and make us

ever easier to control.

Or, put it in another way, (since "it" is really "us" when taken as a group) WE are leading ourselves a merry dance right back to the most irrational aspects of our own collective subconscious mind.

Such thoughts, as very briefly sketched here, have inclined the present writer to the belief that the UFO phenomenon is a very dangerous and destructive one; that (in the terms of the 1950s) The UFOs are hostile, not in the sense that they represent an invasion by warlike aliens, but that they are the outward manifestation of a creeping "psychic pollution" which threatens to return mankind to a new dark age of superstition.

Let us think about this. If it is correct, may it not be necessary to consciously create a new control system, to exorcise (once and for all) the goblins of our minds and reach out for a more realistic approach to the universe around us; an approach which has no need for "benevolent aliens" and no fear of things that go bump in the night?

Contact - The Dolphin.

by D. Michels & H. Griesberg

The decade of the 1980s will reveal new perspectives on the history and evolution of human life. New interfaces with nature will be as profound as the first turbines which, even today, quietly translate Niagara Falls' energy into electricity. The discovery of new knowledge will inevitably affect the belief structure within which human cultures coexist. Visionaries and pioneers throughout history have taken it upon themselves to probe new realities on behalf of the world community. Discoveries through the effort of dedicated explorers and scientists will ensure harmonious change in global attitude.

In the future, the human race will be establishing colonies in space; giant orbiting stations inhabited by scientific envoys from earth. Systematic probes into new realities will break the mould of flat earth thinking and create the new attitudes, technologies and spiritual insights which the human race needs to ensure continued evolution on this planet. The perspectives gained by the inhabitants of space colonies will thrust human thinking closer to nature through collective awareness of three dimensional totality. Only then will we begin to understand the great mysteries of time and space extraterrestrial intelligence and alien communications.

In parallel development with the space colony program, the Dolphin Embassy will continue to explore cetacean communication and intelligence, phenomena of which scientists have become aware only during the last 20 years. The presence of a mammal on earth with intelligence equal to man is a reality which modifies every notion in our current belief structure. The mutual interspecies curiosity and interest shared to date between Dolphins and Humans must be developed into inter-species communications. This aquaterrestrial civilisation can reveal vast areas of knowledge about our planet and future co-evolution.

The meeting of two civilisations is a process demanding measures of supreme diplomacy. As a joint Australian-American project, the Dolphin Embassy's communications expedition aboard OCEANIA is a manifestation of this trans-species diplomacy.

The OCEANIA, the Dolphin Embassy's vessel is currently being built in Sydney, and will leave Sydney with a full scientific crew early next year, to head off for the Barrier Reef off the coast of Queensland for an extended expedition in the field of Human-Dolphin communication. Attendents of UFOCON 3 will remember Expedition leader Doug Michels who was at the conference, and who will probably also attend UFOCON 4 to inform us of the expedition. ACOS and the Dolphin Embassy will be working together as far as inter-species communication are concerned. For further details regarding subscription to the Embassy's journal CONTACT, please write to P.O. Box 59 Potts Point NSW 2011.

A new book on the UFO subject is always of interest, but here we have one which is even more so - a new UFO book written by an Australian investigator. David Seargent, Co-Ordinator of the Australian Co-Ordination Section (ACOS) for the Centre for UFO Studies, has written a work entitled "UFOs: A Scientific Enigma". It will be published in Australia by May 1978 as a Sphere paperback.

Most of the book is in fact a fairly readable exercise in attempting to present the UFO phenomenon, as a scientific problem. The problem is at first presented in a general context - "strange apparitions in the sky" - and the relevance of the UFO phenomena, and the manner in which it is amenable to scientific method is detailed:

"Professor Hynek himself answers that it was the regularity in the UFO report which basically led to his change of mind, and, I dare say, most other scientists would make a similar answer. Regularities do indeed occur, as we have seen and will see again later, and regularities are the stuff of science. I mean by this that the existence of a regularity is tantamount to the existence of a law - laws are only regularities which have been established and to which formal expression has been given - and the aim and object of science is the description and analysis of reality by means of the discovery of laws. Such findings of regularities, then, means that the study of UFOs ought to be a subject of science - the UFO problem is a scientific topic; a scientific enigma."

In a chapter entitled "Can they be classified?" Seargent categorises the phenomenon along the lines of Hynek's classifications in "The UFO Experience". My only criticism here is that I don't feel that the connection between CE3 reports and the strange world of contacteeism has been drawn well enough. Although such a connection might be obvious with researchers familiar with the literature, I feel David should have spent more time in this area to make the "bridge" more obvious. I would think also that some investigators would dispute whether CE3 cases and contact cases are in fact related.

In two quite interesting chapters, David Seargent pursues the idea as to whether there are patterns in time and space, in the appearances of UFOs. With fairly succinct reasoning, he leaves us feeling any real patterns may eternally allude us. Seargent confirms Vallee's conclusion that at this stage the UFO phenomenon fails to exhibit any discernable patterns that are predictable and repeatable enough to be treated as laws. He delivers a long overdue blow to the theories of Bruce Cathie, showing them for what they really are. "Even a little thought on the matter reveals the unsteady nature of Cathie's foundations. Unfortunately, the building he puts on these foundations is even shakier." While I doubt whether such criticism will ever daunt Cathie, one can only live in hope. I have recently examined Cathie's 3rd contribution to the "UFO grid genre". Even though I have a degree with a major in Pure Mathematics one does not require much of a basis in Maths, to come away from Cathie's latest, shaking ones head.

While finding that the UFO phenomenon at large may not (at the moment) be amenable to defining confirmable patterns, David Seargent does find cause to modify these opinions with respect to UFO flap areas. I am certainly pleased to find this area being treated. If cyclical patterns of flap areas can be determined, Mr. Seargent indicates that consequent activity predictions (if successful) "would bring ufology into the mainstream of scientific research, taking the evidence for and study of the phenomenon away from the investigation of reports by random witnesses, and into the field of direct experimentation, at least as controlled as that of the sciences of natural history and astronomy". Further on in the book, David Seargent finds cause to return to this theme:

"In fact, if the reality of flap areas could be established beyond doubt and the periodicity of their flaps determined, a potentially powerful weapon in UFO research would be placed in the hands of investigators. No longer would

they need to rely on the often breathless accounts of random witnesses, no longer would their sole source of information be sporadic appearances of UFOs. They would become the hunters, able to go out and meet the UFOs on their own ground as it were. What information could then be gained can only be guessed at now, but it is possible that this day may not be very distant, and then, perhaps, the riddle of the UFO will be solved or brought nearer to solution."

I personally feel quite strongly that the main thrust of UFO research should be in this area and certainly am glad to see Mr. Seargent touching on it.

In a chapter devoted to theories - "What could they be", David Seargent covers most of the main theories - Extraterrestrial Intelligence Hypothesis (ETI), Time Travel (TT), Natural Phenomena (NP), Human Artefact (HA) and Paraphysical Hypothesis (PP) and while he is logical in his treatment, he will certainly be criticised for some of his points. Because in his opinion the PP theory fits the data better at this stage and thereby adheres to Occam's Razor, he gives it more attention perhaps more than it deserves in a book, entitled "UFOs - A Scientific Enigma" (because in essence the paraphysical hypothesis attempts to explain one unknown with another).

David Seargent elaborates the PP hypothesis even further in his chapter "Contacteeism - the Religion of the Flying Saucer" justifying this attention by indicating that "PP is the only hypothesis which readily explains one of the darkest and most controversial aspects of the entire UFO phenomenon; contacteeism - the mysticism or religion which has grown up around the UFO experience".

This tact, from my point of view tends to unbalance the book a little, and seems to make it deviate from the treatment it has given up until then i.e. logical and speculative, but based on scientific reasoning. But interestingly enough it is in this part of the book, that Seargent makes some of his most significant points. I find his treatment of the work of Wilson Van Dusen and his hierarchy of spirits idea in relation to madness and Swedenborg worth airing in book form and I hope researchers will give it some consideration. I did feel though that he could have presented Van Dusen's ideas in more detail. David Seargent has another manuscript at the publisher's, which develops these and other themes in much more detail, and from what I have seen of it, I look forward to seeing it in print.

In his conclusion, Seargent lists luminous entity reports as being best suited to TT and PP hypothesis, but this is an arguable point. Literature on survivors of lightning strikes, indicates that some have had the remarkable transient characteristic of achieving bodily luminescence. It seems that this is related to energising the major body electrolyte namely adenosine tri-phosphate (ATP). It could be hypothesised that UFO entities in the presence of an electromagnetic field could have body luminescence, either of a temporary or permanent nature, depending on the length and type of exposure. Thus a paranormal explanation may not be necessary.

One final criticism should be made. There is a paucity of references in the book, and certainly a reader unfamiliar with the UFO literature, would find some of the author's allusions to particular UFO events (not detailed) somewhat puzzling. But this and other criticisms are but minor points. Overall, I would recommend David Seargent's book as a readable distillation of UFO data and for the most part it adheres to the aspirations of the title namely "UFOs - A Scientific Enigma". By comparison to many of the titles now finding currency with the general reading populace, in the area of UFOs, this book is certainly more reliable and stimulating.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES.

In our last Bulletin, we asked if any of the groups had members who could translate articles from time to time which ACOS receives, written in foreign languages. If any of your members do speak a foreign language, could you please inform us.

ON THE CURRENT STATUS OF UFO RESEARCH.

UFO Research (SA) Inc. has just published a two page circular as per above title. The circular is on ACOS stationary and gives a rundown on the status of ufo research within Australia, what investigations do turn up, discusses photographs, physical trace cases, close encounters and a summary. It is a very good publication which can be sent to people enquiring about UFOs. These circulars are available direct from UFO Research (SA) Inc. 2A Castle Ave Prospect South Australia, at printing cost.

AUSTRALIAN ENTITY STUDY GROUP.

The AESG has recently printed and distributed copies of its "Case Documents" on Wodonga VIC, Kimba SA, and Salisbury SA entity cases. A CD on Salisbury SA will be forthcoming shortly. This will be bringing the number of such documents produced, to six. Additional copies are available from Keith Basterfield c/o UFOR (SA).

UFO REPORTS.

Please don't forget to get those reports in as soon as investigations are completed, so that they can be filed and coded into the computer. The sooner that reports are received, the sooner we can know what is going on UFOwise.

IDENTIFIED REPORTS.

After discussions with our computer expert Andy Cole, it is felt that identified reports should still be entered into the computer besides the unidentified. However, we will leave it at the discretion of each group as to which identified reports they want to be entered into the computer. If you wish a particular ID report entered, just fill in a Computer File Data Sheet and forward them, as usual, to ACOS.

WHAT INFORMATION DO WE HAVE?

In Keith Basterfield's paper presented at UFOCON 3, he suggested that ACOS prepare and publish a list of what material each group holds which could be of benefit to all investigators/researchers throughout Australia. If you could therefore notify us as to what material you do hold, we will then publish such a list and distribute it to everyone.

1977 UFO STATISTICS.

ACOS is currently awaiting a few more statistics from some of the groups and as soon as they are to hand, we shall begin to prepare last year's stats, and see how they match up with 1975 and 1976.

U.F.O. REPORTS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA.

So far this year, we have on file, the following reports:

UFOR (SA) Inc.	25 I.D.		
TUFOIC	14 I.D.	1 C.E.1	
UFOR (FNQ)	2 N.L.	3 C.E.1	
UFOR (WA)	2 I.D.	1 C.E. 1	

Reports:

TA 77090 2nd July 1977. 2300. CE2 Tasmanian UFO Invest. Centre.

A man and his twin sister were heading NW on Sandfly road in their 1971 Leyland Mini travelling about 50 kph. The man noticed a light in his outside rear vision mirror, it was a bright red and not quite as big as a headlight. It seemed to be about 1 to 3 mts. off the ground and maybe on the right side of the road. The witness was surprised by the lights appearance and kept watching it that long, he veered across the road. The light was maybe 200 mts. behind and in view for about a minute. The next thing was that the car's motor seemed to loose power for about 15-20 seconds. The witness did not turn the ignition off but the engine just died. He selected 1st gear and let the car coast along then clutch started. Looking behind the light had gone. He continued on to the Southern Outlet and turned east for home, some 10 kms to Kingston. The road falls then there is quite a steep climb, the witness was driving up the same when there was a repeat performance of the first stoppage. The car soon slowed down and the witness used the ignition to restart. Nothing strange was seen. The car, as at the end of July was still running well with no further problems.

TA 77095 5th April 1977 2330. N.L. Tasmanian UFO Investigation Cen.

Witness was watching T.V. about 2330, lights off, curtains open on fine clear night. Witness notices flashing lights low to NW, over tree tops. Sees dome-shaped area of light orange/white, about $\frac{1}{2}$ moon size, curved about base of dome are some $\frac{1}{2}$ dozen very bright lights flashing. Witness watches TV off and on until TV finished, then sees object move for 1st time, it angles down from NW more to the north and drops behind trees. After 10 minutes object becomes stationary, mainly visible as flashing lights through clearing in trees, seems to be bigger now. Witness watches for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour, calls exchange for TUFOIC number and wakes husband, but when looking again, object had gone.

TA 78007 31st January 1978 0410 C.E.1 TUFOIC

Waking up early at Pawleena, the witness went to the kitchen to make a cup of tea, the kitchen light was not on as she looked out the window. The time on the electric clock was 4.10 a.m. The witness was staying at her daughter's house to look after the children. Just above the distant south to SE hill line, she noticed a star like a white light. Over the period of a minute the light gradually approached directly towards the witness, growing in size all the time. Eventually it passed in front of a tall gum tree about 400/500 mtrs. distant. The witness now felt a little concerned that "it" was going to land in the paddock next to the farm yard. In fact the now well defined object performed a circular movement over the paddock coming within a metre or two from the ground. The object at the closest could have been around 200 meters, it circled away gaining some elevation and passing across the gum tree again. The original flight pass was then repeated as the object passed low over the paddock going from the witness's right to left. It then moved in front of the tree a third time. The object now departed increasing speed and elevation to disappear behind Weston Hill in a matter of 10 seconds. It had moved around over the paddock slowly taking 3 to 4 minutes. The object when nearby looked to be elliptical shaped with sharper ends. It had 2 very bright white lights in the centre, when pointing at the witness it was (cont)

hard to see anything else. When it turned away she could see a glowing silver shape.

QB 78004. 9th January 1978. 0030 C.E.1 UFO Research (FNQ)

Husband was asleep, but wife had difficulty sleeping and just lay there. Suddenly she noticed area about house and in bedroom being lit by exterior light source. First she thought of a car, but then realised light was coming from above. That moment she heard a very low humming sound and the light disappeared. She was facing a triangular shaped window at the back of the house and while still lying down, she saw a large black oblong shaped object pass the window. After the object had passed, the humming sound began to fade. She then climbed out of bed and went to the window to obtain better view, but saw nothing and went back to bed. Although not sure, she thinks the hum and light returned three minutes later, but saw no object. Husband slept through entire incident.

QB 78005 31st December 1970 2330 N.L. UFO Research (FNQ)

The witness stated: " Was in bed but not asleep, wife who had just put out light in lounge walked to east side of house, said she saw satellite After few seconds said she didn't think it was a satellite. I got up, looked through window saw shape as a fluorescent tube white, fuzzy oval. It was going away towards E. Strange thing was it appeared to be travelling from just above eye level and yet we had trees only about 30 feet away in same direction. Object then appeared to descend in a side to side motion like a flat stone in water until out of sight. Do not recall it getting smaller as it appeared to travel away. I had the time to move so that I was looking through fly wire screen only (windows part open) Found out from people next door to east past trees that they also saw it. No reports in local paper and no-one on night shift at Airport with my company saw anything." The witness is an Air engineer.

WA 78003 5th February 1978 0400 CE1. UFO Research (WA)

The witness stated: " While driving west approx. 20-30 miles east of Baladonia, I observed a large spot light coming towards me, coming from the W going E. I thought it was another vehicle so I put my high beam on and off several times, but the other light did not change brightness. Then I could see a large diamond shaped object coming towards me. It had red, blue, green and yellow lights, which were reflecting off the road beneath it. The white light nearly blinded me so i didn't know whether it went directly overhead or veered to one side of me. Then I stopped the truck and got out, but couldn't see anything. After a couple of minutes I started driving again. I started looking around when I noticed a round dull white light or object on my right hand side which was approximately 2-3 inches in diameter. Also travelling at the same speed as the truck. I then stopped and the object stopped. I started driving again and the object also started to move. Then it disappeared when I drove into Baladonia. About 5 minutes later it reappeared on my left side. I then stopped, and another truck coming from the west also stopped to see if I was allright. I asked if he had seen anything but the object had disappeared. I started driving again, and the object once more appeared on my left. I switched off the truck headlights. The object went from a round shape to an elongated shape which was approx. 17 inches by 8 inches high. It was dull white with black segments (windows?). About 1 minute later the object disappeared. About $\frac{1}{4}$ hour later it reappeared on my right in a round shape again. At about 4.30 a.m. the sky was getting light and the object disappeared for the last time.