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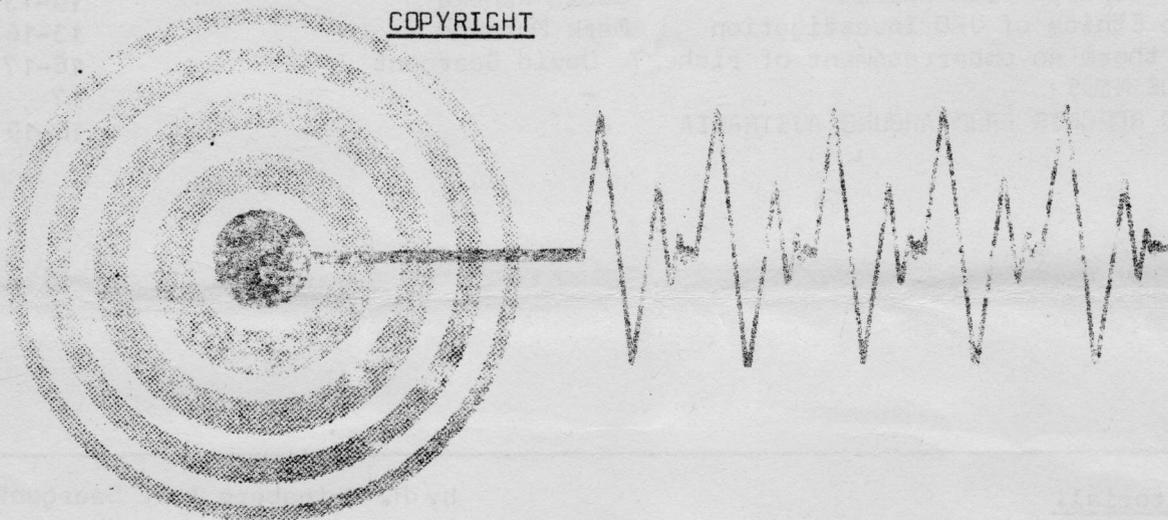
A.C.O.S.

BULLETIN

NUMBER SEVENTEEN - FEBRUARY 1979.

Registered as a Publication
Category - B

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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

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Editorial.

by H. Griesberg & D. Seargent.

"But that has nothing to do with UFOs!"

How many times, when pointing a UFO investigator of the "Old School" toward some (at least superficially) similar phenomenon, have you been faced with the above retort?

It is as if UFOs are a unique phenomenon, totally separated from, and unrelated to, anything else in the universe - NOTHING has anything to do with UFOs except UFOs themselves!

Perhaps this is one reason why the mystery has remained unsolved for so long - perhaps the answer to the UFO problem can only be found if careful attention is paid to other subjects which MAY be related (monster sightings, psychic phenomena, atmospheric freaks, biology, astronomical phenomena of a rare nature, to name just a few of the more obvious ones.)

Fortunately, progressives among the UFO investigators are turning to this more "ecological" view of the phenomenon. A UFO is sighted and a car engine burns out - a Bigfoot is seen and the same thing happens. Coincidence? Not likely. Do Bigfoots (Bigfeet?) come from UFOs? Doubtful, but possible. Are they two different manifestations of the same phenomenon, different sides of IT? A likely possibility, and one worth exploring.

Such a possibility is, we think, an exciting one as it means that many different investigation programs in superficially diverse fields may all be seeking one thing - IT. Perhaps, together, we can find the answer which has eluded us individually - the nature of IT?

Close Encounters: The Reality behind the Movie.by John Prytz.

Several years ago, Charles Schulz wrote the following PEANUTS cartoon which contained the following dialogue between Linus and his sister Lucy.

Linus: "Do you think there are other people in outer space?"

Lucy: "No! Absolutely not! If there were, they most certainly would have tried to contact me!"

Linus: "That settles that!"

Lucy's definite answer may have seemed that simple and clearcut to herself, but in more modern scientific thought, the concept of contact between human beings and extraterrestrial intelligence is anything but cut and dried. Scientists today, believe that alien life forms must exist throughout the universe. So firm is that belief, that starting in 1960/61 attempts have been made to listen in to radio signals originating from extraterrestrials. That first attempt the American Project Ozma, has since led to other searches using radio astronomical techniques in both the United States and the Soviet Union, thus far without success. Considering the possible number of target stars that can be tuned in as well as the number of possible frequencies, it is little wonder that conclusive intelligent signals haven't yet been received, even assuming we would recognise such signals for what they were. However, discovery is considered a matter of "when", not "if".

Other research work is going on with the idea in mind that contact is a question in the past tense. Such belief is based on what to some are two pseudo-scientific speculations. Both relate to the idea that mankind has already had some sort of face-to-face contact with alien life forms.

The first possibility relates to the von Daniken ancient god-astronauts that had great influence over early human physical, scientific and/or cultural evolution. Though few if any respectable scientists would endorse all of the supposed evidence, more than a handful entertain the belief that there may just be a small kernel of truth within a large field of chaff.

The other line of evidence centres around the not so modern phenomena of the unidentified flying object (UFO). It is this aspect which interests me. That I am not alone in this interest of relating UFOs with extraterrestrial contact between ufonaut and human beings is illustrated by the success of the Steven Spielberg movie CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND.

This motion picture is very unique among science fiction films in that almost all of the pictured events, though exaggerated for their visual/dramatic effect, were based on FACTUAL incidents. (The only other example I know of also deals with UFOs. The Columbia - 1956 - motion picture EARTH vs THE FLYING SAUCERS was very loosely, but acknowledged as being, based on Donald E. Keyhoe's UFO books. Keyhoe, a freelance writer on aviation, is a retired Major from the United States Marine Corps and an ex-pilot.) Some of the data as well as the film's title, were taken from THE UFO EXPERIENCE: A SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY, by Dr. J. Allen Hynek. No "mad scientist", Dr. Hynek is no stranger to UFO research. Heading the Astronomy Department at Northwestern University, Hynek also served as a scientific consultant for over twenty years to the United States Air Force's UFO investigation programme, Project Bluebook, which ended in 1969. In order to carry on serious scientific research on the UFO phenomena, Dr. Hynek has set up, and directs, the Center for UFO Studies, Evanston, Illinois. With this background, and having coined the phrase "close encounters", it is little wonder Dr. Hynek was asked to, and did, serve as technical advisor for CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND.

For those who know nothing about UFOs, I'll explain what the concept of "close encounters" involves. When a UFO (s) is sighted at such a close distance, often less than several dozens of feet as compared with tens of thousands of feet for most "lights-in-the-sky" aerial phenomena, that the possibility of misidentification with natural phenomena is all but impossible, then that's roughly what a "close encounter" is. Hynek has subdivided these close encounters into three classes.

Close Encounters of the first kind is just the visual sighting. Close encounters of the second adds some physical supporting evidence, for example, radar returns, still/motion pictures, landing marks, electro-magnetic effects, psychological and/or physiological reactions both human and/or animal, radioactive traces etc. Close encounters of the third kind are sightings of the UFO's occupants, the mildest form of alien-human contact. The "degree of strangeness" and the rarity increase as one goes from "lights-in-the-sky" through close encounters of the first, second then third kind. The movie CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND contains elements of each of those sightings increasing "degrees of strangeness", and as noted above, they were not taken from some science fiction novel or short story as for example was STAR WARS or 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY nor from the mystical ramblings of some spaced-out writer preaching some personal philosophy under a non-fictional label. Let me relate some of the events in the film with reality.

Flight 19 (film): The aircraft, and later the crew, of a 1945 American naval training flight, were returned, after having vanished without trace off the Florida coast, by a UFO.

Flight 19 (reality): Five American Navy TBM Avenger torpedo bombers left on a training mission from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on a course that would take them out over the Atlantic Ocean. The date was 5 December 1945. All 5 aircraft vanished without any trace ever being found of them. A Martin Mariner flying boat patrol plane was sent on a rescue mission. It too vanished into thin air. The UFO link is only speculation. The mystery has never been solved.

Combination visual/radar sighting (reality): Though one of many, the most famous case was the July 19/20 and 26/27 1952 Washington D.C. series of radar/visual sightings involving CAA airline and U.S. Air Force pilots. Radar returns were picked up on three local civilian and military scopes.

Combination visual/radar sighting (movie): A brief sequence shows a UFO being tracked by radar at the same time the object is sighted by 2 commercial aircraft.

Abduction and Return (movie): The small boy Barry Guiler is kidnapped, later released by the UFO's occupants.

Abduction and Return (reality): Under medical time-regression hypnosis, a psychiatrist uncovered the incredible story of Betty and Barney Hill. Driving home from a Canadian vacation on the night of 19 September 1961, the couple were abducted aboard a UFO, subjected to a "medical exam" then released. The story was detailed in John G. Fuller's book THE INTERRUPTED JOURNEY. The incident is not considered atypical.

Power Failures (movie): The Indiana countryside is blacked out in and around the Muncie township when UFOs enter the area.

Power Failures (reality): There is little doubt that UFOs have been sighted around high tension power lines and over electric power stations fairly frequently. There exists on record several dozen UFO reports made in and around key areas just prior to the mammoth American Northeast blackout of 9/10 November 1965. The connection between the UFO presence and the blackout is a matter of conjecture. However, the link between UFO sightings and power failures is not limited to this one case.

Electro-Magnetic Effects (movie): Several scenes noted electrical equipment and toys going haywire in the presence of a UFO. Roy Neary's truck, radio, flashlight etc. all became inoperative when a UFO hovered overhead.

Electro-Magnetic Effects (reality): One very typical case out of hundreds reported occurred on 22 October 1959 near Cumberland, Maryland. A car motor, headlights and radio failed as a UFO hovered low over the road ahead.

Physiological Effects (movie): A Mexican peasant, Roy Neary and Jillian Guiler all get "sunburned" after being exposed to radiation from a UFO.

Physiological Effects (reality): During the evening of 3/4 November 1957 at the military base Itaipu Fort, Sao Vicente, Brazil, the electrical system failed and sentries received burns as a UFO approached and hovered overhead.

Personal Trauma (movie): Roy Neary gets fired and his wife and family leave him after his UFO experience.

Personal Trauma (reality): Deputy Sheriff Dale F. Spaur of the Portage County, Ohio sheriff's office, gave chase to a reported UFO in his police car on 16 April 1966. The ridicule that followed that event and the subsequent Air Force investigation wrecked his home life, estranged him from his wife and ruined his career and his health according to Dr. Hynek.

Police and UFOs (movie): Three police chase four UFOs into Ohio from Indiana.

Police and UFOs (reality): In addition to the tragic case of Dale Spaur (above) a classic close encounter case that involved a policeman took place near Socorro, New Mexico. Policeman Lonnie Zamora on the afternoon of 24 April 1964 witnessed an egg-shaped craft with unusual markings land. In addition to physical traces (landing marks) being present, Zamora also observed two of the craft's "occupants."

UFO Shapes (movie): Several shapes, from small red globes, discus shaped objects, cones etc. through the giant mothership "city-in-the-sky" were displayed.

UFO Shapes (reality): Over 13,000 UFO cases reported to the United States Air Force alone from 1947 to 1969 mirror the variety of UFO shapes as seen in CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND.

Animal Reactions (movie): One scene has dogs barking just prior to the appearance of UFOs.

Animal Reactions (reality): Animals appear to be far more sensitive to the presence of a UFO than human beings, if observations by humans are correct. For example, Patrolman Herbert Schirmer of Ashland, Nebraska, was alerted to the presence of a UFO in the wee hours of 3 December 1967 by local dogs howling and cattle acting in atypical restless manner.

Extraterrestrial Radio Signals (movie): Mysterious artificial radio signals are detected from the aliens close to the earth by the Goldstone space tracking station.

Extraterrestrial Radio Signals (reality): There have been claims from time to time that suggest that unexplained and non-natural radio signals have been received on earth. Any connection with aliens in general and UFOs in particular is pure guesswork at this stage. However, serious scientists have suggested that the near earth environment be monitored for possible artificial alien radio signals issuing from unmanned space probes that have gone into orbit around our sun.

Contact (movie): The climax to the film shows the friendly face-to-face meeting between human being and extraterrestrial.

Contact (reality): For over three hours during 26th June 1959, the Reverend Bruce Gill, an Anglican priest and a graduate of Brisbane University, along with over 25 other witnesses, witnessed from a mission in Boainai, Papua New Guinea a UFO hovering in the sky with what appeared to be a figure on the bridge of the object. Several of the humans waved, first one arm, then two. The humanoid responded, first one arm, then two.

These then are some of the points in common between the movie CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND and reality. There is one more however I'd like to pass on. Both the movie and reality reflect the statement made at a press conference after the Washington D.C. visual/radar sighting July 1952. The statement was made by United States Air Force Major General John A. Samford when he noted that a good percentage of UFO reports "have come from credible observers of relatively incredible things!"

Comet Clusters and UFO Flaps.by David Seargent.

Last issue of the ACOS Bulletin contained a news flash about my discovery of a new comet in October. What this "flash" did not mention was that the comet was actually one of an unusually large number discovered between September 1 and October 10. In fact, at the time of writing (Oct. 17) there have been 5 new bright comets (i.e. ones visible in small or moderate telescopes) and one very faint one (only visible in very large telescopes) in that period.

This is unusual enough in itself, but its full significance is seen if the history of the discoveries of bright comets (in the above sense) is traced since early 1975.

We had a discovery in the early part of that year, another in the middle of the year, and 5 during the spring-summer months of 1975. This was followed by two more in early 1976 but then there was an extended period without a single bright discovery (although there were two bright PREDICTED returning comets, in August 1976 and April 1977) which lasted until September 1977 - an unusually long time to be without bright new comets.

Come 1978 and activity once more began to increase, with three bright new objects in the first half of the year and then the September-October cluster of 5 bright discoveries.

This period 1975-1978 has been little more extreme than usual, but the cluster phenomenon is not at all unusual - in fact it is quite common. The only problem is, there is not the slightest reason for it!

This spring, for instance, there is no similarity between the orbits of the 5 new comets, and no reason why they should all have appeared virtually simultaneously. In other words, the whole phenomenon seems to be a TRICK OF MERE CO-INCIDENCE!

The reason I have pointed this out in a UFO Bulletin is not hard to see. UFO flaps appear similar to these comet clusters, and may be equally spurious! If this speculation is correct, all hope of finding "laws" behind UFO statistics is vain - simply because there ARE no laws behind UFO statistics. This is a position I have personally tended toward for quite a while, and the latest cluster of comets (appearing together without reason) has deepened my conviction in this respect.

(By the way, I am speaking only of large-scale waves of UFOs, not of local flaps, which do appear to have some specific cause.)

A Short summary of Australasian Entity Reports for 1978.by Keith Basterfield.

1977 saw 5 reported observations of UFO entities within Australia and New Zealand, which was an increase on previous years. The 5 accounts came from Tasmania, Queensland, West Australia (one each) and New Zealand (two). New Zealand was experiencing somewhat of a flap around December 1977 and this seems to have continued into early 1978 for our first two entity reports for that year came from this country.

During January a young couple of Warworth had seen a number of coloured lights moving around on several occasions. One time the husband stood at their back door and flashed his torch at one of the lights. The light apparently descended and landed 50 meters away in a paddock. It was round and saucer shaped, silver in colour and glowing. A door opened up and a tall figure stood there, apparently 2 to 2.3 meters in height. The man waved at the figure, who waved back. The door then closed and the object rose to 15 meters above the ground, then departed. (1)

Two months later on the 2nd April a Ms Lee Robinson of East Coast Bays was travelling along a road on a motorcycle at 8.30 p.m. when she saw lights flashing in the distance. She stopped the bike as the lights came closer. "I thought a star had exploded, but the lights seemed to revolve, like a lighthouse".

As the lights came closer she saw a wedge-shaped object, broad at the front and narrow at the back. There were also two red lights and a green one. The object stopped about 200 meters away, and there were two figures clearly visible peering down at her. These figures were visible from the waist up, and seemed to be wearing dark robes. Ms Robinson said she stared petrified for several minutes, then a car appeared from the opposite direction and the object moved away. (2)

Next it was the turn of Queensland to produce a report of two unusual figures, although no UFO was associated with them. On the 7th April, at about 5.30 p.m. a hunter who wishes to be known only as Mr. K. was travelling along a lonely stretch of road near Dayborough, when his car became bogged in mud. Upon getting out of the car to inspect the situation he saw what he took to be two figures walking in a paddock some 100 meters away on his left. The figures were wearing what appeared to be white jumpsuits, were human in appearance and some 120 cm tall. Somewhat shaken, Mr. K. took a look through his rifle scope. He then jumped back in his car and tried to start it, with no success. Getting out of the car, he found the figures staring at him, so he ran up the road to find help (3).

Another incident which involved a short duration appearance of an unusual man but no UFO occurred at 10.40 p.m. on the 25 June at Fairview Park, a northern suburb of the city of Adelaide, South Australia. A man and his wife were driving home in a car, when upon navigating a roundabout in the road, the man who was driving thought he saw, or did see, a figure next to the car for a few seconds. He swerved to avoid what he believed to be a person standing in front of the car to avoid a collision, but upon looking back, there was no-one there. The figure, about 140 to 150 cm tall, had a dark complexion. A suggestion has been made that this could have been a misperception. (4)

It was almost the end of the year before our last two reports occurred and both came from Tasmania. Firstly on the 9th November at Risdon Vale, at 3.15 a.m. a man on the night shift driving a taxi was returning from dropping off a fare when an incident happened. He saw a green shape with a green glow around the outside move off the side of the road to the centre and stop there. There was a high pitched squeal, static on his radio and the shape disappeared. The shape was described as 1½ meters tall, slightly tapering at the base and about ½ meter off the ground. Duration 5-10 seconds. The police checked the area but found nothing unusual (5).

The last recorded entity event of the year came from a caravan park in Tasmania (location kept confidential at reporter's request) at 2 a.m. on the 28 November. A woman resident woke up for no apparent reason as there had been cases of petrol pinching she went outside to check the car. It was still clear night and seemed light as if there were a moon although she doesn't recall seeing it. She turned to go inside when she caught sight of two short figures alongside a boat 15 meters away. She went inside and got her dressing gown and returned outside, the figures were still there. After 2-3 minutes she became uneasy and went to bed.

The figures were described as 75 cm tall, human body. The front figures had on the upper half a light coloured T shirt effect, rounded at the neck. No hands or feet were visible. There was no movement except for the arms which seemed to wave or ripple alongside the body. The rear figure was really just seen as a dark shape. (5)

SO ENDED 1978.

Sources:

Material supplied by members of the Australian Entity Study Group, Paul Jackson of Hobart, Bill Chalker of Sydney and myself of Adelaide from the following sources:-

- (1) "Rodney and Waitemata Times" 1.2.78 "Spaceview" No. 76. VUFORS Bulletin. Aug 78.
- (2) "Auckland Star" 3.4.78. "Xenolog" No. 115. VUFORS Bulletin Aug 78.
- (3) UFO Research (QLD) Newsletter April-May 78.
- (4) UFO Research (SA) Inc. Investigation by John Burford.
- (5) Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre.

Just Whistling in the Dark: Explanations of the recent New Zealand UFO Encounters.

by John Prytz.

In late December 1978 and early January 1979, the small country of New Zealand found itself the centre of not only a UFO flap, but the world's attention because of it. The crux of the flap was the filming of UFOs in flight, from an aircraft that was attempting to recreate an earlier UFO incident!

The world (scientific and otherwise) has had a field day trying to explain away the now already classic UFO encounters over New Zealand and accompanying films. Never in my long association with ufology have so many tried to explain so little with so many numerous and often contradictory theories. It is obvious (to me anyway) in looking over these "explanations" that not only haven't the cases been scientifically investigated (with a few exceptions) with those that should know better and set proper examples uttering the most unscientific statements, (see in particular Table A, number 11), but that when all is said and done, the explainers, both scientists (pro and amateur) and laymen, are just whistling in the dark! Consider that this one case (the 1st New Zealand UFO film) has been "solved" as being: Venus; Jupiter; meteors; a hoax; Japanese fishing boat lights; mutton birds; light reflecting cabbages; ball lightning; helicopters; aircraft; secret american weapons and god only knows what else! (See Table A for who said what and proper documentation). (For a tongue-in-cheek explanation, see Table C).

Now I don't know exactly what "it" was (or "they" were), but one report states:

"A US Navy physicist who has examined the film said yesterday that he was convinced it was genuine and was 'almost certain' the UFO was not a planet or star. But the physicist, Dr. Bruce Maccabee, said there was little prospect of proving what it actually was." (The Sydney Morning Herald 20-1-79 p.21).

That stands in contrast to other "off-the-top-of-the-head" solutions as outlined in Table A.

Though no doubt the sequence of events regarding the New Zealand UFO encounters is well known to the reader, and is probably covered in depth elsewhere in these pages, a brief summary is vital.

Just prior christmas 1978, Captain Vern Powell of Safeair airlines, and his crew reported that a single UFO shadowed his plane for 19 km on his approach to Christchurch Airport.

The UFO, which was tracked on radar in Wellington (which had an additional four other UFOs on the scope by the way), was to starboard and 833 metres above the airliner. This was one of 5 UFO incidents reported in New Zealand on the 21st of December 1978. (A complete report of the Powell sighting was written up by Barrie Watts in the DAYLY TELEGRAPH, 3-1-79 p.6).

Mr. Quentin Fogarty, a journalist for the Australian O-10 network, and his cameraman, Mr. Dave Crockett, were instructed by Channel 0 in Melbourne to try to film and document a reconstruction of that first sighting by Captain Powell. They flew the identical route with Captain Bill Startup and co-pilot Bob Guard early in the morning on New Year's Eve. They took off from Wellington and headed for Christchurch. Though expecting to do no better than describe the events as witnessed by Capt. Powell, they soon found themselves in the midst of UFOs, much to their surprise and delight, though they admitted at the time to being frightened! One UFO was bold enough to come fairly close to the aircraft, and was captured on motion picture film. Simultaneously, Wellington radar confirmed the existence of not only that object, but several objects ahead and behind the aircraft. The aircraft's radar also confirmed the visual sightings. All the way to Christchurch the aircraft was buzzed by the objects. After a brief stopover in Christchurch, the crew along with Fogarty and Crockett took off again and were within minutes followed again by a UFO! Altogether up to 25-50 objects were sighted during the duration of the flight. The object captured on the film was guesstimated to be about 30 meters in diameter by Fogarty, a judgment "tentatively confirmed by Dr. Mike Deakin, senior lecturer in mathematics at Monash University, who studied the film" (THE AUSTRALIAN, 2-1-1979, p.1.)

The film was, of course released around the world, and the rest is history! Though a complete history of these and other UFO reports in and around the skies of New Zealand during the fortnight following the sightings on 21 December 1978 would fill a book, one followup sighting that captured UFOs on film deserves a brief mention.

On the 3rd of January 1979, a UFO was filmed by a New Zealand TV One film crew, from the ground, in the early hours of the morning from Clarence River, New Zealand, for 3½ hours. However, there was no radar confirmation. (THE AUSTRALIAN, 4th January 1979 p.1)

Anyway, presented here are the "solutions" to the mystery, who made them, and the source(s). The source(s) given are not necessarily the only one(s) available. Unless otherwise stated, they refer to the sightings and film made by Fogarty, Crockett, Capt. Startup and co-pilot Guard.

TABLE A - What "they" Were (suggested explanations)

- 1) Unknowns - Quentin Fogarty (Senior Journalist for ATV Channel 0 Melbourne) who was present during the filmed encounter - The Bulletin 23 January 1979.
- 2) Unknowns - Captain Bill Startup (pilot of the Safeair aircraft from which the first film was shot) - Adelaide Advertiser 2 January 1979.
- 3) Top secret U.S. military remote control drone vehicle - Former R.A.F. research specialist, unnamed because of the Secrecy Act - The Weekend Australian 6/7 January 1979.
- 4) Incandescent plasma (ball lightning) - Duncan Lunan (British aeronautical writer) - Sydney Morning Herald 1 January 1979.
- 5) Atmospheric plasma (ball lightning) - Erik Tandberg (Norwegian aerospace expert) Sydney Sun 4 January 1979 & Daily Telegraph 5 January 1979.
- 6) Mutton birds reflecting Japanese squid boat lights - New Zealand ornithologist J. Harrow - Daily Telegraph 5 January 1979.
- 7) Cabbages reflecting moonlight - Mrs. Eru Pilcher of Kaikoura, New Zealand - Daily Telegraph 5 January 1979.
- 8) Natural phenomena being interpreted in supernatural terms - Queensland University sociology tutor Mrs. Eena Job - Brisbane Courier-Mail 3 January 1979 and Canberra Times 3 January 1979.
- 9) Reflection, a balloon or unscheduled aircraft - Patrick Moore (British amateur astronomer) - Brisbane Courier-Mail 3 January 1979 et.al.
- 10) Reflection in the pre-dawn sky and false radar echoes - Dr. David Cole (Sydney physicist) - Brisbane Courier-Mail 3 January 1979.
- 11) A Hoax - Sir Martin Ryle (Britain's Astronomer Royal and radio astronomer) - The Australian 3 January 1979.
- 12) Squid lights (reflections caused by a Japanese squid fishing fleet off the New Zealand coast) - Crew of R.N.Z.A.F. Orion - Adelaide Advertiser 4 January 1979, The Bulletin 16 January 1979.
- 13) Jupiter, magnified and distorted by atmospheric refraction called an atmospheric lens effect - Mr. Robert Lanigan-O'Keeffe (Sydney amateur astronomer) - Sydney Morning Herald 5 January 1979, Sydney Morning Herald 8 January 1979, Sydney Morning Herald 12 January 1979.
- 14) Meteorites failing to burn up in the atmosphere - Sir Bernard Lovell (British radio astronomer) - Brisbane Courier-Mail 3 January 1979 et.al.
- 15) Meteorites whose speed was failed to be appreciated by the crew of the Safeair aircraft - Mr. Adrian Berry (science correspondent of The Daily Telegraph) The Adelaide Advertiser 3 January 1979.
- 16) Planets (Venus & Jupiter) magnified by atmospheric shimmer - Mt. Stromlo scientists - The Bulletin 16 January 1979.

- 17) Helicopter(s) operating illegally at night - Unnamed professional airmen - The Australian 10 January 1979.
- 18) Unusual shower of meteorites - Professor Ronald Brown (Monash University, Melbourne) - The Weekend Australian 6/7 January 1979.
- 19) Natural phenomena - Mr. F.J. Kendall (Director, Science Museum of Victoria) - The Weekend Australian 6/7 January 1979.
- 20) Venus - (Venus, ah Venus. Where would we be without Her? The Goddess of Love, and boy-oh-boy do people love to use her when it comes to explaining UFOs) - Norman Oliver (British UFO journalist) - Melbourne Herald 2 January 1979.
- 21) Venus - David Mabin (head of New Zealand's Mt. John Observatory) - Melbourne Herald 2 January 1979 et.al.
- 22) Venus (reflections of) and weather turbulence for the radar echoes - Squadron Leader R. Charran (R.N.Z.A.F.) - Adelaide Advertiser 4 January 1979.
- 23) Star or planet or other bright light greatly distorted by atmospheric refraction (regarding the 2nd UFO filming) - panel of New Zealand Government scientists - Sydney Morning Herald 5 January 1979.

TABLE B - What "They" Were Not

- 1) A fake - Quentin Fogarty (senior journalist for ATV Channel 0 Melbourne) who was present during the filmed encounter - The Bulletin 23 January 1979.
- 2) Venus - Captain Bill Startup (pilot of the Safeair aircraft from which the first film was made) - The Adelaide Advertiser 3 January 1979, The Australian 3 January 1979.
- 3) Venus - Mr. David Crockett (the photographer aboard the aircraft) - The Sydney Sun 3 January 1979.
- 4) Venus - First Officer Bob Guard (of the Safeair aircraft) - The Sydney Sun 3 January 1979.
- 5) Venus - Jack Hutchings (Senior Lecturer in Meteorology, Victoria University of Wellington) - The Sydney Sun 3 January 1979.
- 6) A Comet or meteorite - Captain Vern Powell (Safeair Bristol Freighter) pilot during the original New Zealand UFO sighting - The Weekend Australian 23/24 December 1978.
- 7) Turbulence or Japanese fishing boats - Captain Bill Startup (pilot of the Safeair aircraft from which the first UFO film was shot) - The Sydney Sun 4 January 1979.
- 8) Squid lights or Venus - Air Traffic Controller (Wellington) Geoff Cauver - The Sydney Sun 4 January 1979.

TABLE C - My Explanation, Good As Any Other?

- 1) Superman (after all why not? Everything else has been suggested and I'd hate to be unoriginal!)

Why do They Rotate?

by D. Seargent

Of all the hypotheses put forward as the explanation of the UFO, one of the most potentially controversial was surely that of Mr. Stan Deyo of Western Australia.

Mr. Deyo claims that the UFO is a highly secret form of anti-gravity craft - terrestrial, not from outer space - and he even claims that he could build one himself given the time and equipment.

Now, I am not going to enter into the pros and cons of this, except to say that at least some UFOs are almost certainly not craft of any kind (e.g., those seen in the past, before technology reached the required standard, and those seen today which are said to appear and vanish in front of witnesses or appear to be composed of something other than solid matter).

However, it is possible that the mechanism Mr. Deyo employs to fly his UFOs could also account in a quite straightforward manner for one and possibly two features often reported in UFO sightings (in addition, that is, to the glow of ionized air which has been explained many times).

Mr. Deyo believes that an energy source within the UFO causes ions to pass over the outside of the craft in such a way that positive ions accumulate on the underside and negative ones on the top. Now, if a current could pass between the bottom and the top, a magnetic field would be created around the UFO in such a way that a north-seeking magnetic pole would revolve in a counter-clockwise direction (just as many UFOs are said to rotate).

Also, as the bottom of the object has an opposite charge to the ground and the top an opposite charge to the ionosphere, could the craft balance itself in such a way as to follow an equal potential gradient and, therefore, follow the contours of the ground?

UFO Reports from Russia

Compiled by: David Reneke

QUOTES: A Russian scientist, Dr. Mitrovan Zverev Saldi, who works at the Cerro Calan Observatory, said: "Something unknown to our understanding is going on around the earth."

Professor Claudio Anguita, Director of the Cerro Calan Observatory, agreed that "We are not alone in the Universe."

Dr. Felix Ziegel of the Moscow Institute of Aviation, who along with other prominent Soviet scientists, has established a permanent UFO investigating section in the prestigious All-Union Cosmonautics Committee, said at a conference in 1967: "We have well documented sightings from every corner of the USSR. It's hard to believe all are optical illusions. Illusions don't register clearly on photographic plates and radar!"

FACTS: There are no magazines about UFOs in Russia. The editors of Russian daily newspapers do not make a practise of reporting UFO observations although PRAVDA does sometimes sporadically give a brief account "from official sources" about the U.S.A. Condon committee and the investigations of other official organisations.

In 1967-8 Izvestia, Komsomolskaia Pravda, and several local papers like Sovetskaia Latvia reported UFO sightings.

In the December 1967 edition of SPUTNIK magazine and in an interview with him in the New York Times of the same year, Dr. Felix Ziegel, a famous Soviet scientist and UFO researcher, stated that UFOs are in fact reported even in Russia and that importance is attached to them "officially."

On the 10th of November, 1967, the president of the Cosmonaut Committee, Major General Porfiri A. Stoljarov, and the vice-president, Dr. Felix Ziegel, were introduced to the public on Russian T.V. Dr. Ziegel showed sketches of a UFO sighted in the Caucasus in 1967 and photos of unknown flying objects.

The Russian UFO period begins in 1946 - the "modern" one.

Russian UFOs have the same features as anywhere else on the Earth.

Although UFO sightings are not announced through the mass media, feed-back to the public and the observers appears to be the same as it is in the West.

Russian science circles approach the UFO problem with the same revulsion (or avoid it just as eagerly) as elsewhere.

In May, 1946, the first accounts were heard of strange, saucer shaped flying objects sighted by pilots in the air and ordinary citizens such as farmers watching them from the ground. Both types of observer mentioned the enormous velocities and accelerations of these objects.

The Soviet Air Force compiles dossiers on the UFO phenomenon when reported by pilots - but not otherwise! There is a well known file on UFOs seen over the Baltic regions of Murmansk, Harkov and Gorki by senior pilot Akkusatov, who has specialised in polar flights and repeatedly observed them.

Reliable sources indicate that there was a 'wave' in Russia in 1950 which rivaled the wave of 1949.

At the end of the 1950's reports from Reuters and Tass, both news sources, indicated that numerous UFO landings had taken place in Kazakstan and Uzbekistan. Reports also mentioned occupants were observed.

There was definitely a second 'UFO wave' in Russia in 1966, the year that America also experienced increased UFO activity.

In the beginning of 1968 the SOVIET WEEKLY published an article that in the previous year in South Russia alone there had been more than 200 reliable reports of UFO observations.

In the March 1968 edition of AURORA, the Russian information bulletin in Rumania, there was an account by Vasili Kuprevici, president of the Byelo-Russian Academy for Sciences, in which he stated that in his native province the number of UFO reports were steadily increasing; not only of objects seen with the naked eye but also of those detected with the aid of radar, photographic equipment and telescopes. Various case studies in recent years have supported this statement.

In April, 1967, Dr. Ziegel revealed in the edition of SMENA that those UFO observations made by Russian pilots were identical with those familiar with him from the West; he also announced that Gorilek, who acted on behalf of the central Soviet aerological laboratory, had perceived UFOs by means of radar-scopes!

In an interview with a journalist on the Barcelona newspaper, EL CORREO CATALAN, of November 18, 1967, Ziegel explains that in Russia too, fragments of UFOs are preserved and studied, he mentions "certain metal fragments of an unknown composition... refer: Karelia crater.

As in America, the number of reported cases of contact between people and UFO occupants is increasing in recent years in Russia; or seems to be by the reports coming to light.

Foreign delegates to a conference at the Astronomical Society of the Soviet Union in 1948, at Byurakan, noticed to their astonishment that Russia carries on permanent research in the field of extraterrestrial intelligence. A 17metre radio telescope is systematically studying the 50 stars which are (comparatively) nearby. In addition there are four other radio observatories attempting to find evidence of extraterrestrial civilizations in the intensive electromagnetic impulses emitted by other bodies.

UFO SIGHTINGS: Spring 1959: SVERDLOVSK. The headquarters of the Russian rocket base was visited for a period of 24 hours by "saucer-shaped UFOs" which often remained stationary over the launching pads. They were picked up on radar and a certain amount of panic was supposed to have been caused. Refer.. FSR. May 1967.

JUNE 18, 1963. Astronaut Valeri Bykovsky thought he saw at some distance from his capsule an object like that seen by Valentina Terechkova, the first woman in space, and he said later that it was oval in shape. For quite a long time it followed Bykovsky's capsule and then suddenly changed it's direction. Refer.. Clypeus magazine.

OCTOBER 12, 1964. The three crew members of Voskhod 1 saw an unidentified cylindrical object similar to the one sighted by America's Astronaut James McDivitt on June 3, 1964. The capsule was returned to earth prematurely after only 24hrs in space. A German newspaper quoted their correspondent, S.R. Ollinger, as saying his Moscow sources claimed the capsule was repeatedly overtaken by "extremely fast flying discs which shook the craft."

MARCH 18, 1965. The crew of Voskhod 11 sighted a cylindrical object about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile from the spacecraft at 5:12am. The cosmonauts admitted they were unable to identify the object and it appeared shortly before their entire navigation system failed (automatic) causing them to return to earth under manual control. During an interview at the Moscow University a western journalist asked Komarov, one of the cosmonauts in the capsule, about the possibility of meeting unexpected objects in space; Komarov walked out without further commentary. Refer.. UFOs behind the Iron Curtain. P42.

Dozens of nervous candidates for Soviet civilian flying licenses have complained about UFOs swooping at them and even following their planes back to the airfields. Refer.. Flying Saucers are Hostile. Steiger/Whritenour. P81.

A number of large, cigar shaped "mother ships" have been sighted in Russian skies, and their lengths have been estimated from eight hundred metres to one kilometre. At night, these huge vehicles have been giving off an intense bluish-white colour. In daylight and when they are stationary, they have been described as being greyish in colour. Refer.. Flying Saucers are Hostile P81.

In 1961, near Irkutsk, a woman doctor photographed a UFO on the ground and she also was reported to have taken a photograph of 2 occupants which had emerged from the spacecraft. Refer.. Flying Saucers are Hostile. P81.

While on a regular, scheduled flight across the central plains of Russia in 1961, a mail plane with 4 people on board was allegedly snatched from the skies by a UFO. The machine was found intact 2 days later near Tobelak, Siberia; everything on board was in perfect order.. the four passengers had vanished without a trace! At a distance of one hundred metres from the plane searchers found a huge, clearly defined circle, thirty metres wide, on which the grass was all scorched and the earth depressed.. Refer.. Flying Saucers are Hostile P81.

In the summer of 1961, a mammoth cigar shaped object lowered itself to a height of only two thousand metres over the city of Veronezh. Refer.. Flying Saucers are Hostile. P82.

According to a report by Italian science writer, Alberto Fenoglio, a huge "mother ship" and a number of smaller saucers appeared overhead during the construction of new rocket emplacements being set up as part of Moscow's defence system. When a battery commander gave the order to fire a salvo at the "mother ship", all the missiles exploded well short of their designated targets. A second salvo was fired with the same results. The third salvo was never launched because the entire electrical apparatus of the missile base was mysteriously 'stalled'! When the small discoidal UFOs had withdrawn and joined the larger craft, the electrical apparatus was again found to be in working order. Refer.. Beyond Earth R. & J. Blum. P189.

In 1961 a number of "flying cigars" and "saucers" were observed hovering over a factory making heavy tanks - (source would not reveal the place and exact date for security reasons). Suddenly, after a warning siren had apparently sounded by itself, there was a great explosion which totally destroyed a section of the factory where an atomic cannon was being made. After the explosion, a UFO was seen in a stationary position overhead for some minutes, as though surveying the area. At the approach of fighters, it took off. Refer.. Flying Saucers are Hostile. P83.

In August, 1959, the radar system at the Vnukovo-Moscow civil airport recorded three saucer shaped objects near the town at about 800M. The Air Force sent up planes after them but they were unable to make contact. Refer.. UFOs behind the Iron Curtain. P284.

A UFO photograph taken in Northern Russia in 1961 attracted a great deal of attention. Refer.. Pravda, Jan.8, 1961.

On the 24th of September, 1962, both pilots and passengers of a TU-104 which landed at Moscow from central Asia said they had seen disc-like objects circling round their plane and then disappearing at great speed, much faster than the plane. Refer.. UFOs Behind the Iron Curtain. P285.

In 1965, in the Caucasus, Dr. Ludmila Tsehanovich, geodetical astronomer, saw a glittering disc with a dome in the form of a cabin. Refer.. Psychic discoveries Behind the Iron Curtain.

On September 29, 1967, the aircraft I.L. 14 on the Zaporozje-Volgograd route was flying over the Ukraine when suddenly an unidentified object was seen overhead. The plane's engines cut out and it began to glide downwards. 800metres from the ground the object disappeared and the aircraft's engines started up again... the rest of the journey was quite uneventful. Account reported in Sovietskaia Latvia, December 1967 and Veac Nou, 28/11/68. Refer.. UFOs Behind the Iron Curtain. P289.

The Ethics of UFO Investigation

by Mark Moravec

An important area of ufology which has been little discussed is the ethics of UFO investigation. No doubt many investigators operate according to their own implicit assumptions of what is and what isn't ethical. And no doubt individual investigators differ in their ethical assumptions. It is because of such differences that the ethics of any discipline is usually a controversial issue and requires wide debate. In this article, I will look at why ethical guidelines for UFO investigations are desirable, and present some suggestions on the areas such guidelines should cover.

Why do we need to consider ethical issues? In any scientific enquiry involving people there is usually the potential for harming those people. In UFO investigations we are primarily dealing with people (not crashed UFOs, because there aren't any). People are the source of our reports and their experiences constitute the core of our mystery. As investigators, it is our moral obligation to have proper regard for the individual rights and well-being of UFO witnesses. The nature of the UFO experience itself affects the ethical picture. A substantial number of witnesses, particularly those who have experienced a close encounter, become anxious or more seriously disturbed after having gone through a terrifying and bizarre experience. As John Musgrave (1977) has pointed out, an investigator's lack of attention to the well-being of the person who has experienced the phenomenon may heighten rather than lessen the stress and anxiety associated with a UFO event. In training new investigators, we need to teach the ethics, as well as the basic data-gathering procedures, of UFO investigation.

In my opinion, the order of priorities in UFO investigation are:

1. Regard for the rights and well-being of the witness;
2. Regard for the rights and well-being of the investigator; and
3. The gain of potentially useful information about the UFO phenomenon.

In developing any proposed set of ethical guidelines, I think that these priorities should be kept in mind. Guidelines can then be developed which are applicable to all cases in general with additional guidelines for specific situations. The more complex a case, the more involved will be the investigator with the witness in obtaining information about the sighting, and the more crucial and more specific are the ethical issues likely to become. What follows are suggested ethical guidelines for general and specific cases.

GENERAL CASES: In the case of the witness contacting the investigator/investigative group, there is obviously a desire on the part of the witness to participate in an investigation (how far he will participate is another matter). If the investigator initiates contact, the first thing that must be done is to seek the permission of the witness for an investigation. In both cases, the investigator should state what is involved (ie: interview, reconstruction of sighting at site, etc.). To promote co-operation, the investigator might stress the sensible, scientific approach of his investigation and inform the witness of the ACOS setup. If the witness requests anonymity in publishing the details of his sighting, then this request should be respected. The witness might be asked if he wishes to know the results of investigation and these results should be communicated to him when a conclusion is reached. If the witness refuses to co-operate despite rational pleas, the investigator should realise the witness is a person with rights to his own privacy, and should drop the case. Witnesses often ask the investigator what he thinks UFOs are and where do they come from. Many investigators have preconceived ideas on what they think are the correct answers to these questions. I think that it is acceptable for the investigator to discuss his "pet theory" with the witness when asked to, but that he must stress that there are other hypotheses, perhaps equally valid, and that at this stage of UFO research, no one really knows the answers. In my view, for an investigator to convince a witness that he definitely saw a spaceship, or a psychic manifestation, or whatever, is an unethical ideological indoctrination of the witness. In photographic cases, a receipt should be issued for any photographs/negatives borrowed for analysis, and the witness should be assured that these items will be returned. Similar conditions should apply to "artifact" cases.

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: Ethical issues of privacy and psychological health become more prominent when dealing with witnesses who have had close encounter UFO experiences. The more bizarre the experience, the more likely it is that the case will receive sensational media coverage together with the personal harassment of the witness if his name is publicised. In this connection, Musgrave (1977) states that is part of the UFO investigator's obligation to protect percipients from publicity and harassment by not making public the witness's name without careful thought. Additionally, the investigator should not alarm the witness of an anxiety-producing close encounter by making irresponsible, alarmist statements such as the witness definitely saw a spaceship, occupants sometimes abduct people, and UFOs often return to the same spot.

Rather, the investigator may be able to lessen the witness's anxiety by showing that someone is concerned enough to listen to and investigate the witness's story, and by making the witness realise he isn't the only person who has gone through such a bizarre and terrifying experience (assuming the witness experienced it that way).

CHILD WITNESSES: In some UFO cases, a child witness or his parents may not be willing to co-operate with the investigator. The investigator should emphasise to the parents and to the child (in terms the child can understand) the investigator's primary regard for the well-being of the child and the sensible, scientific approach of his investigation. If necessary, he should agree to keep the child's name confidential and not communicate details of the case to the mass media. The child's right to privacy is probably more critical than that of adults.

There have also been cases where a child witness to a close encounter has forgotten much of his traumatic experience. The central ethical issue becomes whether or not the investigator should interview the child and risk renewing his trauma. For example, in the Averley abduction (Collins, 1978), Kevin, age 10, was apparently involved in a bizarre "abduction" together with his parents. The boy did not remember much about the encounter apart from ascending in a mist and the entities giving him a "lot of things to do when I grow up, but I've forgotten them all." Kevin's father decided not to tell Kevin what apparently happened to him and makes a point of never discussing the UFO encounter with his children. In an American case (Musgrave, 1977) another boy aged 10 witnessed a landed object with portholes and legs and subsequently had a recurrent

nightmare in which he was taken aboard the object by "spacepeople" from Saturn. Several weeks later he no longer experienced the nightmare and had forgotten most details of his UFO encounter. The investigator decided not to rush in and investigate the sighting.

In these tricky situations involving child witnesses, I would say that if in doubt about possible psychological harm to the child, the investigation should not proceed.

"MALADJUSTED" WITNESSES: Occasionally the investigator may come across a person claiming bizarre UFO experiences and who appears to be "mentally unstable". In such a situation the investigator needs to proceed with considerable caution. If possible, he should call in a qualified psychologist or psychiatrist to try and determine whether the witness merely has an exotic personality, is suffering from a temporary "post-UFO trauma" or, in the extreme case, is psychotic. Otherwise all the investigator can really do is to note down the claims of the witness with a minimum of stress and provocation.

HYPNOTIC REGRESSION: Some close encounter UFO experiences involve a "time-lapse" phenomenon where the witness is unable to consciously recall the events which occurred during a certain period of time. In such cases, hypnotic regression techniques have been used on the witness in an attempt to account for the period of lost time. Frequently, while under hypnosis, the witness recounts a bizarre tale of "abduction" by UFO entities.

James Harder (1977) suggests the use of the "pendulum technique" (using pendulum motions to represent "yes" and "no" responses) to gain information from the unconscious mind in preliminary investigations. (This technique is described in detail by Sprinkle, 1967). If the pendulum technique gives promising results a qualified hypnotherapist should do a hypnotic regression.

The advantages of using hypnosis include the release of repressed subconscious information from UFO observers about apparent "time-lapse" experiences; and assisting UFO observers to relax and to reduce anxiety which may be associated with their UFO experiences (Sprinkle, 1976).

Since a person under hypnosis is in a more compliant state than normally, and is somewhat dependent on the hypnotist, it is especially important for the investigator to obtain the witness's full, written permission before a hypnotic regression is attempted. The pros and cons of hypnosis should be thoroughly discussed with the witness beforehand. The actual hypnotic regression must be carried out only by a fully-qualified hypnotherapist experienced in the use of the technique. Under no circumstances should a regression be attempted by an unqualified person who has merely "dabbled" with hypnosis.

It must be remembered that, in terms of trauma, just because a person is under hypnosis doesn't mean the experience is any less frightening (when relived). When regressing a subject to an experience which may be frightening, the standard procedure is to get the permission of the subject to relive that experience by asking him questions such as "Are you willing to go to that incident at this point? Are you willing to remember it at this point?" (Hastings, cited in Hynek and Vallee, 1975).

CONCLUSION: Important ethical issues are tied in with UFO investigations. The "limits of investigation" are set by the extent to which the witness is willing to co-operate, and by the extent to which an investigator can probe a case before adversely affecting the well-being of the witness. To promote adequate regard for the individual rights and well-being of witnesses, the establishment of a set of ethical guidelines has been suggested.

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Is There an Embarrassment of Riches?

by D. Seargent

(A Comment on Mr. Prytz's Paper)

Let there be a large fish-tank with a tiny window at one side and the rest totally opaque. I watch at the window and a fish swims by. A moment later, another fish swims by and before the end of one hour I count 1,000 fish. Now, the question arises, did I count 1,000 separate fish or only one fish 1,000 times? If the former, there are too many fish in the tank, but if the latter, all is well. Now, how is one to tell which is the correct situation, when the only view one has is through a tiny window? Surely, only by seeing if the fish looks the same all the time. If it does, then the chances are fairly high that the same fish is being observed as it swims round and round the tank, but if each fish looks different, then this conclusion is immediately invalidated.

Now, it appears to me that the diversity of the UFO phenomenon is the real embarrassment, not merely the large number of sightings per se. If the UFO looked the same over the years (like the single fish in its tank) Mr. Prytz's arguments would indeed be valid and the riches problem might well cease to exist.

But, alas, there is more to the issue than that. The UFO sightings themselves have changed over the years. Even if we neglect (as we are probably not entitled to neglect) such early sightings as the airships of the 1890's or the fairy boats of the Middle Ages, we must still note the change in sightings since the late 1940's and early '50's. For instance, the flying triangles noted in Victoria in the early '50's seem to be gone now. Also the great cloud cigars spewing saucers from their ends seen so often in the 1950's are rare now. And think how many variations there has been on the common "saucer" shape! We have reports of Saturn-like objects, discs with domes, discs without domes, flying pencils, flying chamber pots (an English description, of course!), flying box-cars, objects with wings and so on... the list runs into hundreds- thousands - of different types.

So many different types of fish swimming past our window makes for a pretty crowded tank, but even worse is to come!

Consider, for instance, the great variety of CE3 cases. Now, we may wish to overlook such cases, but it is an unpleasant fact of life that the evidence for them is just as strong as evidence for all other forms of UFO experience and if we are to be at all consistent, we must include them. But once we do include them, the embarrassment of riches problem becomes overwhelming, as the different types of extraterrestrials visiting this planet (on the ETI assumption) is huge. There are giants (presumably from small worlds with weak gravity) and dwarfs (presumably from massive worlds with strong gravity), there are robots and strange reptile-like monsters. Yet others appear to be telepathic and not a few very human in form (from earth-like planets, we might suppose). Yet all these "aliens" from all these different planets (as we must suppose) are all landing here at the same time, at the same stage of their development, and they are all behaving in the same stand-offish way towards us. Moreover, none of them appear to be getting down to very serious business, preferring instead to hang around lover's lanes and scare people in the middle of the night.

Another rather disturbing feature of UFOs associated with "flaps" is the tendency for the one "type" of UFO to concentrate in one particular flap area (a feature noted by Mr. Paul Jackson during his investigation of Tasmanian flap areas). Thus, large numbers of one type may be seen for a period in one area and

then vanish, to be replaced by UFOs of a different appearance in a neighbouring area. The fish not only differ, but they swim by in different groups!

Lastly, we find the tendency for some people to be UFO-prone. According to Dr. D. Herbison-Evans, one person should see one UFO once every 10,000 years, yet we find time and again the same people have two or three UFO experiences in a lifetime. In fact, as D. Scott-Rogo notes, if a person sees one UFO, chances are high that he will see another one (and not necessarily in the same place, which means that the person himself, not the area of his sighting, is the UFO-prone factor). Neither will the UFOs necessarily be of the same "type" (not "the same one") and it is also note-worthy that the witness will also (frequently) experience other strange phenomena not obviously related to UFOs at all (apparitions etc.).

Thus, we conclude that a very complex phenomenon confronts us and we further conclude that the complexity is not restricted to the mere frequency of sightings per se, and I must place myself with those who believe that the ETI is simply not able to explain so rich a phenomenon.

A.C.O.S. NEWS

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We are always looking for a way to better the ACOS Bulletin. We feel that over the past few years, the contributions received for the Bulletin have exceeded what we initially expected. We'd like to reproduce here, a letter which we received from one of UFO Research (NSW) Investigators:

Dear Editor.

I just wanted to say two things. The first was to congratulate you and the staff on the increasing quality of the ACOS Bulletin. The "LGM" is really coming of age; it is becoming one of the must reads of Ufology. A theoretical forum for discussion among experts was essential

The second is to offer particular congratulations to John Prytz for his article on how the ETI theory could conform with Einstein's "laws". This is the kind of thinking that we need. We must scatter the dictums which have held us back for so long. Some like Hynek's too many spacecraft have burdened Ufology uselessly - and needlessly. Perhaps we should go back to basics and re-examine many other accepted statements, even those by Ufologists. Certainly some fundamental re-thinking has to be done. Too much waffling, wishful thinking and downright fantasy surrounds the subject.

For we have catalogued endlessly. We have begun to catalogue ourselves into an infinity of options and vague avenues of data. The myth that all the data should be in before we speculate is illusionary. The scientific method itself works on the concept of tried hypothesis, and making conclusions from testing it. Ufology must be the only science outside cataloguing which insists that the data only be assessed after the "big picture" is assembled.

One further point on Mr. Prytz's article. It is heartening to see speculation involving the ETI theory. Whatever others may argue, ETI is still the most likely answer and the one which should be much further explored before it is summarily dismissed. After all, thus far descriptions of a real, solid weighted object under seeming intelligent control form the bulk of the closer cases.

Robert H. Marx - Sydney N.S.W.

(We thank Mr. Marx for his kind comments, but remind everyone that without the contribution of the authors of the articles, the standard would not be possible.

UFO STICKER: UFO Research have produced a a gummed sticker measuring 4"x4". The sticker is in bright yellow with black design. It shows the map of Australia, under which is an abstract design of a dome-shaped UFO. Encircling this is a black circle with the words UFO RESEARCH AUSTRALIA. The stickers are available from UFO Research (QLD) P.O. Box 111 North Quay QLD. 4000 for 25 ¢.

REPORTS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA.

NA79031 7th January 1979 1845 Randwick D.D. UFOR(NSW)

At 1845, on the 7/1/79, a 20-year old man & his 21 year old fiancee, were walking home to their house, when the lady, who had been looking up at the clouds, noticed a roundish object, with a brilliant silver shine moving across the sky at an extremely fast speed towards the SW. She pointed the object out to her fiancee and they both observed it for 30 seconds, until it disappeared behind a block of home units on the corner of the street. By the time they reached the corner, a few seconds later, the object had totally disappeared.

NA 78090 29/9/78 1730 Seven Hills NSW UFOR(NSW)

A woman visiting her young son in hospital observed a huge, red disc shaped object hovering over a 4 lane road, 4 kms distant. It suddenly accelerated upwards in stages before disappearing from view within 1 second. It was glowing a dull red and covered the width of the main road as it hovered at approximately 100 feet. Three other people also saw the object depart and reports corroborated the testimony.

NA 78094 2/10/78 1330-1400 Unanderra NSW D.D. UFOR(NSW)

An apparent non-metallic object of probable discoidal shape and at least 6m in its longest dimension was seen by the witness between 1330-1400 on 2/10/78 from the back yard of his house in Unanderra, near Port Kembla. It travelled away from the witness at an altitude of least 70m, over industrial and suburban areas, on a heading of about 205T, then ascended at high speed over a mountain range to the west of Kiama, carried out a "zig-zag" manoeuvre, and was lost to sight after 45 to 60 seconds. Its average speed would have been in excess of 1100km/h.

NA 78107 28/9/78 1730 Lalor Park NSW CE1 UFOR(NSW)

Three young people observed a hovering, domed shape object for a few seconds before it accelerated away. It was apparently hovering near a large shopping centre and directly above a main arterial road with peak hour traffic travelling underneath. The object was described as a mass of bright lights on the underside and the upper section seemed to be shiny. The size was compared to a closed fist at arm's length and the object was at an elevation of 35° when first seen. It rose to an elevation of 45° and stopped momentarily before it darted away.

NA 78112 27/9/78 2130 Blacktown NSW CE1 UFOR(NSW)

A huge circular shaped object was sighted by two people at Blacktown drive-in. It was moving slowly overhead and had a row of easily visible windows along the side. An understructure was seen carrying an arrangement of red and green lights and at the rear was observed two large white lights on either side of the object. No noise was heard and the object was lost from view after about 10 minutes.

NA 78117 29/9/78 2000 Seven Hills NSW CE1 UFOR(NSW)

While feeding her dog in the backyard of her Seven Hills home a 40 year old housewife noticed a very large object with yellow "windows" and a row of flashing, red, yellow and green lights moving slowly from the South at about 30° to the horizon over an electrical pylon approximately 600 yards away. The object moved off in a NE direction until it was no longer visible.

TA 78112 17/9/78 2120 Maatsuyker Is. CE2 TUFOIC.

A large light is seen south west of lonely Maatsuyker Is. which is manned by lighthouse keepers. During the presence of the light power fails twice in one of the houses. The light is in the area for some considerable time before seemingly going out, or straight away from the witnesses.

TA 78133 20/9/78 2115 Currie CE1 TUFOIC.

A large yellow round light followed a man in his car for approx. 6 miles when suddenly it disappeared over a hill. Shortly thereafter it re-appeared in the distance and disappearing again. Light was described as approximately ten times larger than a star.

TA 78166 21/10/78 1400 Currie D.D. TUFOIC.

A 29 year old woman whilst sunbaking in her garden saw a round object white or silver travelling out of the clouds. The size was approximately twice that of a small aircraft. The object stopped then started moving back in the direction from which it had come. Duration of sighting approx. 10 minutes.

QB 78035 15/11/78 2325 Innisfail CE1 UFOR(FNQ)

A 24 year old man saw an object which was "brilliant green" with a tinge of orange with blurred edges. The object seemed to be longer or more elongated when it was closer to him and retracted into a disc or sphere as it moved away. (Elongation was only slight). He used the analogy of a stretched piece of elastic which retracts when one end is released. At closest he estimated the object to be about 100FT. distant and at furthest point 300FT. distant.

QB 78038 1969 Tirau N.Z. CE3 UFOR(FNQ)

The witness states: "Walking back from outside toilet to house I saw this glowing light over the hedge near house. It was a bright yellow colour and glowing brightly. I had the impression that part of it was behind the hedge growth and hidden from view. Against the yellow light were 5 black or dark shadows, they only moved slightly and one of the four on the left was higher than the others. I saw no legs or arms, the shadowed areas looked like head and shoulders only. After seeing this I went inside the house and closed all the windows and doors. Later my husband checked the spot where it was, or appeared to have been. He found no traces.

NA 78145 20/10/78 1730 Blacktown NSW D.D. UFOR(NSW)

A silver/grey cigar type object was observed for a total of approx. 6 minutes at Blacktown NSW by a young man on his way to work. The object was stationary and noiseless and had a clearly defined "black stripe along its side". Without warning it suddenly accelerated out of sight towards the East at a 45° angle, the same altitude it had maintained whilst hovering.

NA 78167 27/10/78 0200 Smithfield NSW CE1 UFOR(NDW)

At approximately 2a.m. a woman was attempting to sleep but a continuous barking from local dogs caused her to look out her window. She immediately saw a huge cigar shaped object at a fairly high altitude, glowing silvery white and facing four smaller cigars. A bluish/silver series of sparks emanated from the lower, and slightly smaller cigar as the large, single object appeared to "shudder". The witness called a relative who became frightened of the objects. After about 1 hour the reporting witness went back to bed and did not see the objects depart.