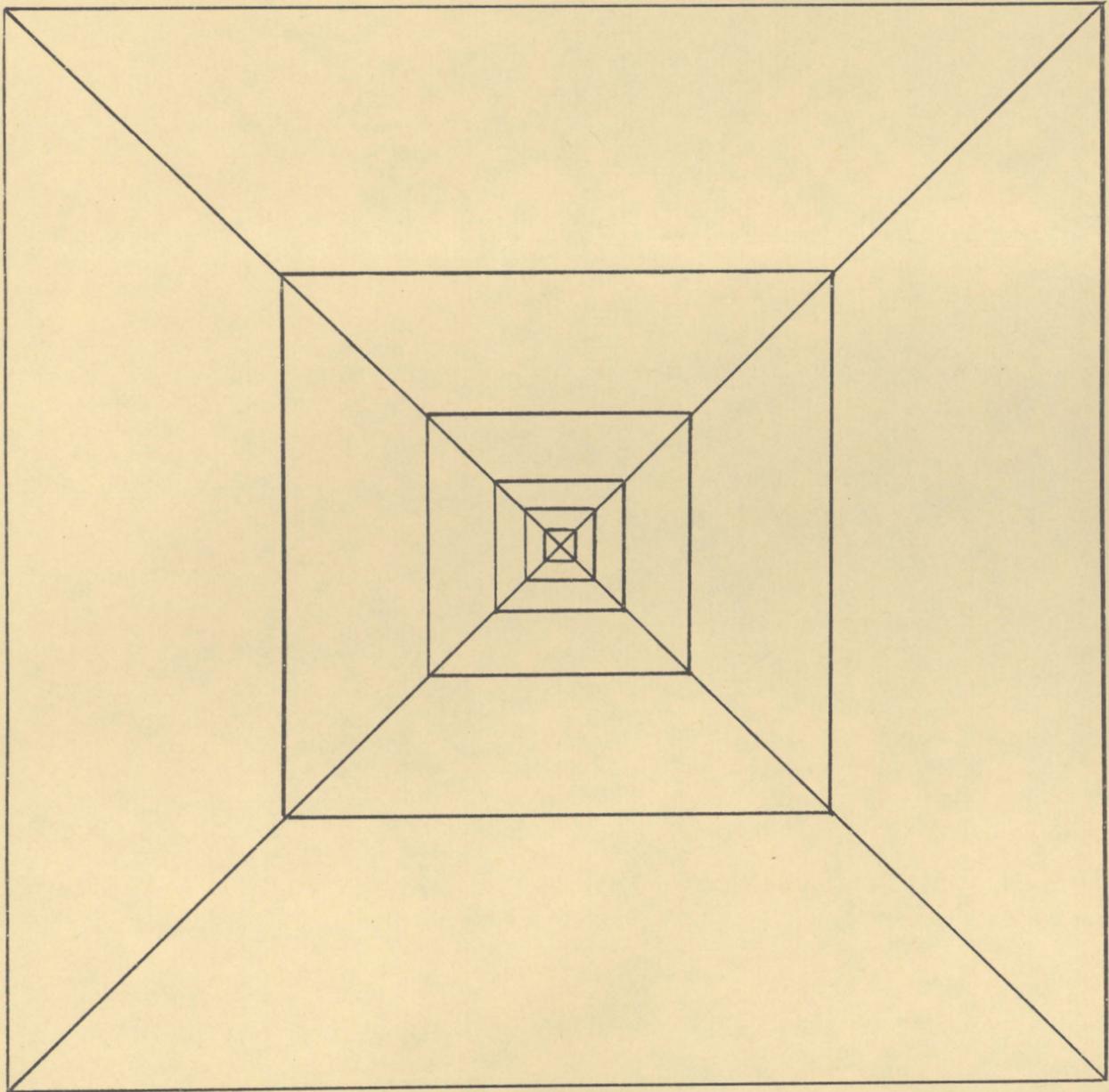


# THE JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

Published by:

The Australian Centre for UFO Studies  
P.O. Box 546 Gosford, N S W 2250 Australia

Registered for posting as a Publication - Category B



May/June 1981.

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I N D E X

| <u>Item.</u>                                       | <u>Author.</u>                | <u>Pages.</u> |
|--|-------------------------------|---------------|
| Editorial  | H. Griesberg & K. Basterfield | 1-2           |
| Survey of UFO Researchers                          | Mark Moravec                  | 2-5           |
| The Significance of CE 3.                          | John Prytz                    | 6-11          |
| Historical Reports in Australia<br>(Part 3.)       | Bill Chalker                  | 11-13         |
| PSIUFO PHENOMENA: A listing of<br>Australian Cases | Mark Moravec                  | 13-15         |
| ACUFOS SPECIAL PUBLICATION-ACOS<br>BULLETIN INDEX. | - - -                         | 15            |
| "Astronomical" and/or Ufological???                | - - -                         | 15            |
| ACUFOS Bibliography Service: UFO & ETI             | John Prytz                    | 16-18         |

Editorial

by H. Griesberg & K. Basterfield

Firstly we would like to say that we are glad to see the re-emergence of the "UFO Research-Australia-Newsletter" after a period of several months of inactivity. We extend our best wishes to the editor, Mr. Vladimir Godic and associate editors Holly I Goriss and Pony M Barenson, and wish them well in their continuing venture of supplying us all with a national newsletter of world standard.

The Newsletter and the ACUFOS Journal have been specifically designed to compliment each other. The Journal aims to publish research articles and news, whilst the Newsletter appeals to the more popular reader. Both however have an aim of bringing respectability to the study of the UFO phenomena. No-one who has extensively researched the subject can deny that there remains a mystery of some sorts there.

We don't think that this mystery is going to be solved by armchair theorists, or professional scientists, but by us. It is going to be solved by field work, patient research and much thought and discussion. By field work we mean that investigators must get out and about actively unearthing facts; cold, hard facts. Following this comes the slow sifting of these items of information, the weighing of evidence, rejection of the questionable, then arriving at a residue. Time to completion? Time to when we will have the answer? Well, who knows? We may already have the answer. The answers? Perhaps we will never know the answers, or the answer may be beyond our capability to comprehend.

Many of us have been in the field for a dozen, two dozen years now and we may be getting stale. We all have our personal thoughts on the phenomena but no-one will deny that we don't have a commonly accepted answer which we can all say, "that's it, let's go home, we've solved it."

Whilst on the subject of being stale we would like to take this opportunity to remind member organisations that the Centre has been receiving few reports incoming this year although it is already May. Things might be quite, but we

would request you to ensure that you have input copies of unidentifieds and also computer sheets for both identifieds and unidentifieds. Andy Cole who maintains the ACUFOS Computer records for us all, has been doing a tremendous job for us, but still wants to see more data on the system.

Summing it up, if you want to get information and data out of YOUR Centre, in the way of Journal articles, ACUFOS Bulletins, and documents, please remember to put material in.

### Survey of UFO Researchers.

by Mark Moravec.

In November 1980, I initiated a survey of UFO researchers attending UFOCON 5 in Canberra. The aim of the survey was to find out the attitudes to UFOs and UFO research held by active Australian researchers. The survey was conducted in the form of a one-page questionnaire (see Appendix) which was deliberately kept simple and brief to ensure maximum participation. The questionnaire was also distributed to ACUFOS-affiliated UFO groups unable to attend UFOCON 5 so as to achieve a nation-wide coverage. 15 questionnaires were completed at UFOCON (with a virtually 100% participation rate) and 5 questionnaires were returned by representatives of non-attendee groups - giving a total of 20 respondents. All in all, researchers from UFOR (FNQ), UFOR (QLD), UFOR (NSW), UFOR (SA), UFOR (WA), TUFOIC, plus several independent researchers participated in the survey. My grateful thanks go to all those who participated.

I will now look at the results of the survey, taking each question in turn. (The numbers in brackets refer to the number of people who responded to a question in a specified way.)

#### FIRST INTEREST IN UFOs.

The most common ways that Australian researchers first became interested in UFOs was through reading UFO literature (8) or through a personally-experienced UFO sighting (6). Other paths to an interest in UFOs was through an extension of interest in astronomy; association with people interested in UFOs; meeting UFO witnesses; seeing a TV documentary; doing a school essay topic; and "always curious". A couple of researchers couldn't remember how they first became interested.

#### AVERAGE NUMBER OF HOURS DEVOTED TO UFO ACTIVITIES.

| <u>hours per week</u> | <u>no. of respondents.</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| 0 - 1                 | 2                          |
| 2 - 4                 | 5                          |
| 5 - 9                 | 5                          |
| 10 -14                | 6                          |
| 15+                   | 2                          |

As can be seen above, there was a wide range in the amount of time devoted to UFO-related activities, averaging out to 5-9 hours per week. Scientific consultants tended to devote the least amount of time, unless they also took an active role in a UFO group (i.e. were also field investigators).

#### PERSONAL UFO SIGHTINGS.

Exactly half of the sample (10) claimed to have personally experienced a UFO sighting. Going by those who went into further detail, these sightings appeared to be mainly of the nocturnal light variety. As pointed out earlier, these personal sightings were often the reason for the researcher first becoming interested in the UFO subject.

#### THE BEST UFO BOOKS.

The answers to this question ranged widely. In fact almost 30 UFO books were nominated. However, the majority nominated the following titles as the best UFO books:

- "The UFO Experience" by J. Allen Hynek (8)
- "The UFO Handbook" by Allan Hendry (7)
- "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects" by E.U. Condon (5)
- "Anatomy of a Phenomenon" by Jacques Vallee (3)
- "Challenge to Science" by Jacques and Janine Vallee (3)

A couple of researchers commented that the best UFO book was yet to be written. In terms of authors, Hynek, Hendry and Vallee were most often nominated. These findings confirm that Hynek's "UFO Experience" has maintained its high reputation as one of the best UFO books to be published. Of the more recent books, Hendry's "UFO Handbook" has obviously made a large impression on Australian researchers. As will be seen later, many share Hendry's view that thorough investigation of UFO reports are high priorities.

#### WHEN WILL THE UFO MYSTERY BE SOLVED?

This was perhaps the most provocative question in the survey. So perhaps it is no surprise that 40% of the respondents (8) declined to give an estimate. However, the following estimates resulted from those willing to take a stab at answering the question:

| <u>No. of years estimated</u> | <u>No. of respondents.</u> |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 5                             | 1                          |
| 10                            | 2                          |
| 15                            | 2                          |
| 20                            | 3                          |
| 30                            | 1                          |
| 200                           | 1                          |

One researcher gave "soon" as his estimate. Another stated "gradually over many years". What consensus that there is, suggests that UFO researchers will still be trying to solve the UFO mystery over the next 10-20 years.

#### THE MASS MEDIA:

The balance of opinion was that the mass media do more "harm" (10) than "good" (6) to ufology. However, this view was by no means unanimously supported. Many respondents conveyed that this was not an "either/or" situation; the answer depending on such factors as reliability of the media source and the degree of cooperation between investigators and local media. Some criticism of the mass media handling of the UFO issue were that they mis-reported, took a sensational angle, and played on people's prejudices. Some researchers commented that we should try to use the media to form positive public attitudes to the UFO subject.

One researcher thought the mass media had little effect on ufology.

#### THE MOST LIKELY EXPLANATION OF UFOs.

A wide range of explanations were supported, most notably the extraterrestrial inter-dimensional and psychological/misperception hypotheses.

| <u>explanation</u>           | <u>No. of respondents*</u> |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Extraterrestrial             | 8                          |
| None given/don't know        | 5                          |
| Inter-dimensional            | 3                          |
| Misperceptions/psychological | 3                          |
| Psychic/paranormal           | 2                          |
| Many different               | 2                          |
| Secret Military weapons      | 1                          |
| Time machines                | 1                          |
| Natural phenomena            | 1                          |

(\* Note: some researchers nominated more than one hypothesis)

Five researchers were non-committal, stating either they didn't know or that they preferred to keep an open mind.

#### INFLUENCE ON PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE:

Australian researchers were evenly divided on whether or not their study of UFOs had influenced their philosophy of life (11 said "yes": 9 said "no").

Of those who answered in the affirmative, the predominant themes to emerge were a recognition of the limits to human perception, and an increased awareness of the universe in relation to man. Here is a selection of researchers' comments:

- It has made me aware that some people hold very strong views on things they know little about...I have learned to take the middle road.
- A wider view of the universe, a realisation of how small we are in the scale of things.
- Makes me realise how much more development we may face in scientific endeavours i.e. possibly a complete revision of known and accepted physical laws and properties."
- Made me suspicious of ability to observe and of perception.
- It has taught me to question things and to view mysteries and life in general from...much broader criteria.

Become more fascinated with nature and the meaning of life...

This, and related subjects, have increased my open-mindedness and curiosity.

#### REASONS FOR STUDYING UFOs.

Once again there was a diverse range of responses to this question. However, the overriding reason given for studying UFOs was a curiosity for determining the nature of the phenomena. Other reasons given included: to fill a gap in scientific knowledge; to study the apparent development of a modern folklore; to provide information about how people behave; to determine the political effect they may have on world governments; and simply "because they are there".

#### AUSTRALIAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO UFO RESEARCH:

Most researchers thought that Australians have made important contributions to UFO research (10 said "yes"; 5 said "no"; and the remainder said both "yes and no"). The areas favourably mentioned included: documentations of reports; sighting report system for the public; cooperative organisations; effective methodology; setting standards in investigation; the work of ACUFOS; and the establishment of specialised study groups. However, the fact that a sizable minority thought that no important contributions have been made suggests there is still room for progress.

#### THE MOST IMPORTANT TASKS FOR UFOLOGISTS:

This was perhaps the most important question as far as finding out where we, as researchers, are at, and where we are going. A large number of suggestions were advanced, with the overall emphasis being on better investigation, documentation and research. A selection of researchers' comments follows:

- The biggest one is educating the public. After all they are the people who see UFOs and without them all our abilities would be useless. Also, a more educated witness, the better the quality of the UFO report, the more data we can glean from it.
- We must continue to document and research all sightings so that the info will be of use. Also we should remember that the UFO phenomena is always changing so to stop investigating now could make us blind to future trends.
- Investigate to best ability, record, report and publish cooperative, convince science there is data they may like to see...
- Prove that a phenomenon exists (and) determination of what it is
- Predictability of UFO sightings (and flaps); understanding how observations are interpreted by the witness(es).
- I begin to wonder if the scientific approach is leading or going to lead us anywhere. I am thus uncertain what tasks are important to ufologists.
- Instrumented research; detailed documentation of the best reports...
- Continued scientific research with an open mind, i.e. we must continue to study and analyse without preconceptions.
- Isolating the real 'UFO' data via quality control. Establishing phenomena characteristics to adequately define the stimuli. Determine repeatability.
- There is only one - to work themselves out of a job by identifying all that is currently unidentifiable.
- Catch one!

#### PERSONAL BACKGROUND OF RESEARCHERS:

The survey did not go into much detail about the personal background of researchers. However, a couple of findings can be briefly outlined. Male researchers outnumbered female researchers by 9:1. Does this reflect a failure of women's liberation? Or a lack of attraction to a topic which has, until recently, had its main emphasis on technical/physical aspects traditionally in the male domain? The ages of researchers ranged from 21 to 55, with the average age being 31.7. Although not specifically asked in the questionnaire, it is known that at least 40% (8) of the polled researchers have tertiary educational qualifications.

#### COMPARISON WITH OTHER SURVEYS:

A number of overseas surveys have been carried out on the topic of UFOs. Gallup polls, sampling general public opinion were conducted in the USA in 1966 and 1973. A poll of 2,611 members of the American Astronomical Society was conducted by Dr. Peter Sturrock (1977) in 1975. 1,356 replied, giving a 52% response rate. Greenawald (1978) conducted a survey of 43 members of the Mutual UFO Network by

means of a posted questionnaire. However, there was only a 29% response rate (43 out of 150 members; and the sample was loosely defined as a "somewhat" random sample of "mostly" MUFON members. Henry McKay conducted a poll of 52 researchers who attended the 1976 conference of the Centre for UFO Studies, USA, (cited by Greenwald, 1978).

A comparison of the various surveys produces the following findings:

- UFO researchers are more likely to have had a UFO experience than the general public (Moravec survey: 50%; Greenwald: 58%; 1973 Gallup Poll: 11%; Sturrock: 5%). This is most likely due to the fact that a personal sighting often triggers a researcher's initial interest in UFOs.
- A similar range of reasons were given for researchers' initial interest in UFOs. The Moravec survey emphasised reading of UFO literature and personal UFO sightings; Greenwald emphasised personal sightings, curiosity, media coverage, and sightings of others.
- The extraterrestrial hypothesis is favoured as the most likely explanation of UFOs, by both Australian and American researchers. The ETH was nominated by 40% of Australian researchers - though sometimes in conjunction with other hypothesis. In Greenwald's survey, the ETH was nominated by 88% of MUFON members. However, this was on a forced choice basis of "extraterrestrial" vs "interdimensional" vs "paraphysical" vs "no opinion". In contrast, the Sturrock survey of astronomers found that UFOs were deemed to be most likely "a familiar phenomenon or device" (22%); "an unfamiliar natural phenomenon" (23%); or "an unfamiliar terrestrial device" (21%).
- There is a consistently low rate of participation by women in UFO research. The proportion of female researchers were - Moravec: 10%; McKay: 6%; and Greenwald: 7%.
- On the average, Australian researchers are 10 years younger than their American counterparts. Average ages were - Moravec: 31.7 years; Greenwald: 41.9 years. In the McKay survey, most researchers fell into the 41-50 age group.

#### CONCLUSION:

A survey of Australian researchers was conducted to find out their attitudes to UFOs and UFO research. Whilst some trends became apparent and have been outlined, a diversity of opinion was expressed on most issues. But as one conference participant put it, wouldn't it be boring (and unprogressive) if we all held the same ideas about UFOs. Once again I thank all those who participated in the survey, and hope you find the results as interesting as I did.

#### REFERENCES:

- Greenwald, W. The nominal UFO researcher. The MUFON UFO Journal no. 125 April 1978, pp13-15.
- Sturrock, P.A. Report On a Survey of the Membership of the American Astronomical Society Concerning the UFO Problem Stanford: Institute for Plasma Research 1977.

#### Appendix: (condensed-Ed.)

##### SURVEY OF UFO RESEARCHERS.

This is a survey of your attitudes to UFOs and UFO research. Please answer all the questions. You may give answers in as much detail as you wish. If you run out of space, please use the other side of this sheet. Thank you for your time and co-operation

1. How did you first become interested in UFOs? 2. On the average, how many hours do you devote to UFO related activities? ---hours per week/month/year (delete)
3. Have you ever seen a UFO? YES/NO. 4. What do you think are the 3 best UFO books? (a): (b): (c):
5. When do you think the UFO mystery will be solved? ---years. 6. Do you think the mass media do more good or harm to ufology? 7. What do you think is the most likely explanation of UFOs? 8. Has your study of UFOs influenced your philosophy of life in any way? YES/NO. If yes, in what ways? 9. Why do you study UFOs?
10. Do you think Australians have made important contributions to UFO research? YES/NO. If yes, please give details. 11. What do you think are the most important tasks for ufologists today and in the future? 12. (optional) Your age:--
13. (Optional) Your name:--- 14. Any further comments you would like to add.

Sixteen years before Kenneth Arnold's sighting of 9 unidentified aerial sightings sparked off the modern UFO debate, Charles Fort in his book Lo! predicted:

"I accept that, if explorers from somewhere else should visit this earth, and if their vessels, or the lights of their vessels, should be seen by millions of the inhabitants of this earth, the data would soon be conventionalized." (Fort, Charles - The Books of Charles Fort - Holt - 1941 - p.629.)

Since that Arnold sighting on 24 June 1947, the public has become ever increasingly aware of the possibility of those vessels and their lights existing in terrestrial skies. And, the data has been conventionalized as any possibility but. The planet Venus, meteors, hoaxes, balloons et al have been far and away the offered explanations for Flying Saucers, to use the extraterrestrial connoted term for UFOs. However, 31 years and many debunking studies later, the phenomena, long predicted to fade away, is as mysterious and as present as it was at any time since 24 June 1947. In fact the cumulated phenomena has given rise to another industry of late, the film industry.

One of the big box office hits of 1978, if not of all time, will undoubtedly be the Steven Spielberg thriller CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND. As readers probably well know by this time, the movie is a composite of documented factual incidents that have been exaggerated for their visual/dramatic effect. Only the climax is still in the realm of science fiction, and that only by matter of degree. The movie was NOT based on some science fiction short story or novel as was 2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY or STAR WARS. It wasn't for nothing that Dr. J. Allen Hynek was employed as a technical consultant to CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND. Not some scientist who dabbles in science fiction like Isaac Asimov or Fred Hoyle, Dr. Hynek, Professor of Astronomy at Northwestern University, was employed for over twenty years by the United States Air Force's Project Bluebook as an astronomical consultant. Project Bluebook was the USAF's UFO investigation programme which ended in 1969. Recently, Dr. Hynek has set up, and directs the (American) Center for UFO Studies, Evanston Illinois. It was Dr. Hynek in his book THE UFO EXPERIENCE: A SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY who coined the phrase "close encounters of the third kind" which for sake of brevity I abbreviate to CE 3. Dr. Hynek also made a very brief cameo appearance in the movie, the title of which he inspired.

The significance of CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND is two fold. To some, it is the money it brings into Hollywood. To many others, it suggests acceptance, in spite of astronomical odds, of an idea whose time has come of age. What is the significance of that "idea": the events the movie was based on? What exactly are "close encounters of the third kind" (CE3) or for that matter of the first (CE 1) or second (CE 2) kind? It all has to do with UFO sightings; not the wispy lights-in-the-sky type where the object(s) could be practically anything (and often are), but real close encounters at distances of less than dozens of feet, not tens of thousands. Thus, the chances that close encounters sightings are mistakes for conventional phenomena, even under unusual conditions are practically nil. That is one significance of close encounters - misidentifications are minimized, leaving behind the real solid residue that testifies of a respectable scientific mystery: the kind that serious investigators can sink their teeth into and bite off scientific paydirt.

Dr. Hynek has broken down close encounters into three types. CE 1 are visual close encounters where the only evidence is the testimony of the witness(es). CE 2 adds to CE 1 some sort(s) of physical evidence, like photographs, radar returns, landing marks, radioactivity, electromagnetic effects, physiological and psychological reactions etc. CE 3 is the most significant of all, for to most, the reality of CE3 implies no less than at least proof that such beings as extraterrestrials exist, and at best, first contact between mankind and intelligence with life forms from beyond the Earth, with all the associated implications that has for religion, philosophy, social structure, defence, science and technology etc. That is to say, CE 3 is a sighting not only of a UFO, which may or may not be an alien spacecraft, but of associated occupants, which most people would take as evidence for the alien origin of the UFO, though some alternative suggestions

have been put forth, most notable being time travelers from our own future or parapsychological manifestations with no more substance, existence or reality than ghosts or fairies. However, the non-extraterrestrial possibilities are still a point of view held by the minority for those who accept CE3 at face value. To them, CE3 answers the often asked scientific question of "when I look up into the night sky, who, or what, is looking back at me?"

It is not possible here to list case history after case history of CE3s. There is ample literature of a serious "down to earth" nature that does that job from a first hand nature. I could only make the evidence second hand, so kindly see the "for further reading" listing at the end of this paper which lists some of the relevant literature. However, before proceeding to get into my real intention, which is to look at the CE3 phenomena from a theoretical point of view, presenting what I consider to be observations of its significance, I want to note that CE3s are not a present day phenomena, or even post-1947. Consider the following report culled by Charles Fort in Lo! from the London Daily Mail, 20 May 1909, and that is way before the modern buzz words of close encounters, UFOs or Flying Saucers were ever heard of.

"...that a man, named Lithbridge, of 4 Roland Street, Cardiff, Wales, had, in the office of the Cardiff Evening Express, told a marvelous story. This story was that, upon the 18th of May, about 11 p.m., while walking along a road, near the Caerphilly Mountains, Wales, he had seen, on the grass, at the side of the road, a large tube-shaped construction. In it were two men, in heavy fur-overcoats. When they saw Mr. Lithbridge, they spoke excitedly to each other, in a foreign language, and sailed away. Newspaper men visited the place, and found the grass trampled, and found a scattering of torn newspapers and other debris." (Fort, Charles - The Books of Charles Fort - Holt - 1941 - p.631.)

Modern students of UFO and close encounter lore will see many parallels with today's sightings that are contained in this 1909 report. The isolated conditions, the trampled grass, the sudden, when discovered, flight of the craft's occupants, the foreign language and the fur coat, which today is akin to the frequent reports of UFO occupants being hairy as well as often short.

Well, what to make of the above CE3 in particular, and CE3s in general? Obviously, a sighting of a meteor, the planet Venus, balloon, sundog, rainbow etc. is not on. The early date rules pretty well out an aircraft explanation, and the shape and trampled grass doesn't lend itself towards a manned balloon, in particular one flown all the way to Wales from the continent and at night too - not in 1909. It's a pity we don't have more information.

There are of course those people who will say (normally without so much as looking at one scrap of evidence or reading one first hand account in the literature) that all CE3 cases, regardless of date, must be hoaxes, psychological illusions or delusions or parapsychological manifestations (a theory now in vogue). No doubt some cases are those things and a lot more besides, but the evidence makes that generalization very prone to "foot in the mouth disease".

Many people just shake their heads and walk away from it all! They neither believe nor disbelieve. They don't want to know!

Some believe on faith alone, another often fatal disease!

A few rare birds investigate scientifically!

More than just a few people who otherwise are willing to accept or at least entertain the notion that UFOs in general and CE 1s and CE2s in particular are evidence for the existence of alien technology in the form of spaceships cruising around in our atmosphere nevertheless reject on principle CE3s as being too "way out". I personally find it no more preposterous to accept sightings of alien beings if you accept sightings of alien spaceships.

CE3s answer in part the often asked question of UFO skeptics such that "why if after at least 30 years duration of observing earth, haven't 'they' (if 'they' really exist) contacted us?" Of course by that they mean land in front of the White House, Parliament House, and/or the Kremlin with a traditional "take me to your leader".

CE3 cases suggest that indeed in some cases aliens have been making a form of contact, but to single witnesses or very small groups and to unimportant people, not world statesmen. Perhaps to alien psychology this is a logical thing to do! Not all CE3 cases result in contact though. Often, as in the 1909 Fort case above, the occupants quickly fly away without so much as a "goodbye".

One must be careful in CE3 cases to distinguish between contacts and contactees. Unfortunately, the scientific respectability of UFOs in general and CE3s in particular have been tarnished by the mystical ramblings of the contactees. Those are the people who claim not only to have seen an alien being, but who make personal contact (or are contacted) at least once, often repeatedly, taking rides in the alien's spaceship voluntarily, eating their food, drinking their wine, sizing up their women (or being sized up in return), then relaying to the rest of mankind alien preachings and messages of cosmic brotherhood, ban-the-bomb, peace and goodwill, don't eat meat, practice yoga, love all creatures big and small etc. While it is possible that the contactees might really believe honestly and truly their outrageous tales, those bold enough to make forecasts based on such contacts have fallen flat on their faces. The aliens have predicted great earthquakes and even the end of the world so often that "wolf" has been cried once too often to be credible. I have a book written by a contactee from the 1950s who claimed to have been taken in a UFO on a trip to the far side of the Moon, which was clothed in an atmosphere, with lakes and streams, thick forests etc. Needless to say the Lunar Orbiters and Apollo missions quashed that vision pretty quick smart. The only person to have been taken for a ride was me, for buying the book!

The ramblings of the contactees are NOT to be confused with CE3s. The former seek publicity, often making a pretty penny from book sales and lecture tours. The persons involved in real life CE3s are often not only nervous about telling what to them was an unplanned and unwanted incredible experience, but almost in a state of panic. When reading the literature, time and time again the names have been omitted or changed as a condition for allowing their experiences to be brought to public attention. They of course don't write books and don't give lectures, just desperately try to pick up the pieces of their shattered lives, and some have been shattered. In addition to physical and psychological trauma resulting from their confrontation with the unknown, jobs have been lost; families have broken up; lives have been shortened.

Since witnesses reporting CE3 cases have very little to gain and a great deal to lose, I take my basic premise to be that those witnesses are telling the truth as they believe it. Testimony given by those same people under more mundane yet on a personal level still extraordinary in terms of everyday experience (e.g.: witness to a bank robbery or murder) would or could easily send a person to prison and/or death row. Yet, when the testimony is presented as a CE3 experience, the stability, honesty, reliability is questioned. It makes little sense except in one case the experience is a "known" and in the other an "unknown". It doesn't make it right though. CE3 case testimony is as valid as if the witness were relating the Sunday afternoon footy match on telly. That is adopting the basic rule in law: innocent until proven guilty; a true experience until proven otherwise.

As one who accepts the CE3 stories as reality of one kind or another, I further go along with the particular reality that describes the experiences as physically real as well as psychologically real. Try convincing someone who has had a CE3 experience that it wasn't real in a physical sense and see how far you get! By physically real I imply the probability of CE3s being highly suggestive of proof that "we are not alone". Of course it is at this point that I go beyond the data and into theory. Never-the-less, in accepting the tales as encounters with alien beings, what are we to make of it? Can any conclusions be drawn?

Upon becoming familiar with the various hundreds of case histories of CE3s, one facet quickly stands out: there is little in the way of a lowest common denominator to the case histories. The Ufonauts run the gamut of bug-eyed monsters, often huge and smelly; carbon copies of earthlings; and humanoids, often short and hairy. Some are clothed, some with helmets and spacesuits, some "naked", some with claws, some walk, some shuffle, some float, some have a greenish tinge though the other colours of the spectrum are more common but none universal. What are we to make of this variety?

Either all the variations and stories are false, a philosophy already rejected earlier, or else all are true which at first glance is a bit difficult to swallow. Of course some could be true and some false (either downright fiction or exaggerations). If only some are true, is this to mean that only one or two of the various types represent reality or are a few from each category true and a few untrue? There is as yet no way of telling. However, on deeper examination of the

reported extraterrestrials, the variety is fairly superficial. That is, the basic pattern of one head (on top), two eyes (above a "nose and mouth"), torso, two arms and leg holds. The cyclops, with antenna, elephant-like trunks, four arms, twenty three fingers, etc., or protoplasmic blob of jelly; plant creatures; giant ant-like monsters; pyramid shaped critters as well as all the other thousand-and-one other wild variations that science fiction authors and readers delight in, haven't been reported, but could have or should have if imagination were the better part of reality in CE3 cases. In fact, the reported variety of aliens isn't greatly different than that say in dogs. If you didn't know better, would you suspect that a Bulldog, Great Dane, St. Bernard, Chihuahua, French Poodle, Dachshund and Dalmation were all of the same species? Or humans either. Depending on the exact time and place, an extraterrestrial could report such a variety in humans such that its report back "home" would be taken for the ravings of a loony. Consider the range from dwarf to giants over 7 feet tall, long hair or no hair, male and female, tiny babies to wrinkled and elderly, thin to obese, black, white, red, yellow, brown and albino colouration, plus the various additions or lack of various physical and cultural habits such as jewelery, glasses, all manner of coloured costumes (from black tie and tails to grass skirts, spacesuits, birthday suits, business suits, baseball suits, to bathing suits), plus physical defects like false teeth, amputated arms or legs, cleft palate etc., up through and including the mistake made by the ancient American indians who upon seeing Spanish troops mounted on horses thought that horse and rider were one animal! The only logical conclusion to be drawn at this point in time is that the variety reported in CE3 cases are not suggestive of a non-physical process at work. Rather, the lack of imagination when considering the variety that could have been reported and wasn't is suggestive that the phenomena is at least consistant in broad detail. An extraterrestrial explanation is not incompatible with that observation.

One further observation could have the greatest significance. On more than just a handful of occasions, but by no means all, encounters with aliens, have resulted in the earthling(s) ending up as a guinea pig, that is, subjected by the aliens to various experiments, often medicals. The victims needless to say did not volunteer; they just had no say in the matter. On rare occasions, this alien research has resulted in reported forcing of sexual relations with a Ufonaut(s). The more sensational tabloids have often barred headlines akin to "I gave birth to an alien baby" or some such. Those stories were written for the purpose of entertainment and to SELL NEWSPAPERS. The stories should be read with that purpose well towards the front of the brain! However, not all sexual CE3s can be credited to a reporter's imagination working overtime on a dull rainy day looking for filler. What special implications can be drawn if sexual CE3s are as valid as the less erotic CE3s?

Sexual close encounters with extraterrestrials, if physical and not psychological, can have only one suggested possible significance. Kinship between alien and human, an old time popular science fiction situation, in particular explaining human evolution, is currently a popular von Danikenism et al theory, without even bring in sexual CE3s. Ufonauts might be human-like (humanoid), but if independent of earth and earth's environment, never human. Consider how the common earthly environment has led to the diversity of terrestrial life forms. Can humans have successful sex with a koala or even great ape? Can a cat mate with a lobster? A sponge with a frog? A bacteria with a fern? Yet these organisms would be closer to each other than any alien with a human in terms of the fine detail that must be for mating to transpire. The extra differences imposed by an alien environment and evolution make it so, such that WITHOUT PRIOR COMMON ANCESTRY, sex between man and alien is as unlikely as drawing hundreds of thousands of royal flushes in a row in a poker game, or as a snowball surviving in hell! Assuming that any alien would realize this, why sexual encounters? If they were interested in the human sex act, then surely it would be better to observe two humans do their thing, by force if need be. Since to the best of my knowledge that hasn't transpired I gather that therefore human-alien sexual encounters if true must suggest that planet earth or perhaps just the human bit is a direct offshoot, colony or what have you of the aliens, the same ones



For Further Reading:

Legend: (A) American edition; (B) British/Australian edition; (F) Fiction; (H) Hardback; (P) Paperback.

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\*First volume to use/coin the phrase "close encounters of the third kind".

\*\* American title: The Mothman Prophecies - Dutton - 1975.

### Historical Reports in Australia - Part 3.

by Bill Chalker.

Several interesting reports have not been accurately dated, but are worthy of mention. The only known landing report of this period, occurred at Port Molyneux. The "airship" was alleged to have landed, and occupants of "Japanese" appearance emerged and engaged an onlooker in conversation. This account appeared in the long defunct "Clutha Free Press". In about early August, a Marlborough Sounds man claimed that an "airship" had swooped over his launch and its occupants apparently threw missiles at him. These missiles made a "fizzing" sound when they hit the water. For a short time New Zealand experienced a wave of "airship" reports, which paralleled the 1896-97 wave in the United States. (14)

By early August, it seemed that the "airships" had all but bade goodbye to the shores of the green-valed dominion. But Australians were by then experiencing a severe bout of "aerialists". Reports of the "nocturnal mystery of the air" began to flood in from all over Australia. A writer for the Sydney paper, the "Daily Telegraph" made the following comments in the August 18th edition of 1909: "The tanihua of the ancient Maori and the tiger of Tantanoola, whose alleged fearsome and phantom like forms are said to have flashed before human vision from time to time are in the shadow just now. The talk is of "those mysterious lights" reported first from New Zealand and later from points of the country in this state." At the time, the conjunction of Jupiter and Venus was occurring and was particularly prominent in the west-north-west sky during the early evening hours. No doubt many of the reports of this period were in fact misinterpretations of the planetary conjunction. However some of the reports cannot be so easily dismissed.

The first Australian reports (which also seem to be among the more probative) appear to have emanated from Goulburn NSW. On Thursday, August 5th, 3 or 4 residents of North Goulburn, reported seeing a bright moving blue light in the northern sky. It moved to Governor's Hill, swerved and passed over the range

to the east. The reports persisted for several nights, with the light being described as big as "a motor car lamp". On August 7th, at about 10.30 p.m., four young men, at the brick kilns near the North Goulburn Railway station, saw the light. The papers of the day, described the event:

"It was pale blue in colour. The brightness of the light attracted the youth's attention. Only the light was seen, there being nothing to show the presence of a supporting body." "The light was extremely brilliant. It came from behind the eastern ranges, and after ascending a considerable height, circled round in the direction from which it had come." At about eleven o'clock at night on August 13, "several responsible residents (of Glen Innes, NSW) described an object like a balloon moving in a northerly direction. A night glass was obtained and the object was found to be shaped like an inverted top. The lower portion was lighted, and as the body revolved a light like a small flashlight kept turning on the land beneath. The upper portion was in darkness and the object continued drifting in a northerly direction." (15)

Australia has a rich tradition of "ghost lights", the most prominent of these being the Min-Min Light of Western Queensland. By 1912, the light was already legend. Every drover and passerby on the Diamantina had either seen or heard about the light - a luminous oval, like a fluorescent football - floating a foot or two above the ground, and always, it seems, about half a mile away. Ernestine Hill recounted an old bushman's legend which alludes to the supposed origin of the light. "Min Min now is nothing but the light. History tells that it was once a roaring shanty notorious for 'lambing down' the shearers on sunset rum, with a 'dead house' and a grave yard nearby. So many were its crimes and murders of kerosine and brimstone, that in righteous anger they burnt it to the ground. The place was stones and desolation - but the dead men would not be forgotten on their stony plain. Just as a rider was passing by, out of that graveyard came the biggest Jack-O'-Lantern in Australia!" The old Min Min 'pub' and 'main-change' station, used to stand at the boundary of 2 big stations in the Boulia district.

Sightings of the light were not entirely the stuff of coloured legend, for even up until today's sightings continue. Various explanations have been bandied about, but none have succeeded in completely dispelling the procession of peculiar tales that have come out of the area. (16)

During 1925, a young English migrant, Thomas Green, was working on a farm, north of Perth, Western Australia, in the vicinity of Moora. One day, Green claims he was out riding with the son of the owner of the farm. They came upon an object resting in a paddock. It was like 2 saucers placed edge on edge. Around the outside were oval shaped windows. The object was resting on four legs splayed outwards. It was not of "any colour of the spectrum" and appeared to be shimmering as if seen through a heat haze. There was no sound in evidence and the object appeared to be deserted. The farmer's son declared that they should make a hasty retreat and not tell anyone of their find. Several days later, the two returned to the site, to find that the object was gone. Where it had rested, the earth had been scuffed about. (17)

That truly remarkable man, the late Sir Francis Chichester, encountered an inexplicable aerial phenomena, while making the first solo plane flight across the Tasman Sea, between New Zealand and Australia, in 1931. From his beautiful book, "The Lonely Sea and the Sky", we follow his encounter. At 3.00 p.m., on June 10th, just after seeing the S.S. Kurow battling its way through heavy seas below him, Chichester decided to fly north-west, to avoid facing a storm that lay in his path: "Round the storm we flew into calm air under a weak lazy sun. I took out the sextant and got two shots. It took me thirty minutes to work them out, for the engine kept back firing, and my attention wandered every time it did... Suddenly, ahead and thirty degrees to the left, there were bright flashes in several places, like the dazzle of a heliograph. I saw a dull grey-white airship coming towards me. It seemed impossible, but I could have sworn that it was an airship, nosing towards me like an oblong pearl. Except for a cloud or two, there was nothing else in the sky. I looked around, sometimes catching a flash or a glint, and turning again to look at the airship I found that it had disappeared. I screwed up my eyes, unable to believe them, and twisted the seaplane this way and that, thinking that the airship must be hidden by a blind spot. Dazzling flashes continued in four or five different places, but I still could not pick out

any planes. Then, out of some clouds to my right front, I saw another, or the same, airship advancing. I watched it intently, determined not to look away for a fraction of a second: I'd see what happened to this one, if I had to chase it. It drew steadily closer, until perhaps a mile away, when suddenly it vanished. Then it reappeared, close to where it had vanished: I watched with angry intentness. It drew closer, and I could see the dull gleam of light on its nose and back. It came on, but instead of increasing in size, it diminished as it approached. When quite near, it suddenly became its own ghost - one second I could see through it, and the next it had vanished. I decided that it could only be a diminutive cloud, perfectly shaped like an airship and then dissolving, but it was uncanny that it should exactly resume the same shape after it once vanished. I turned towards the flashes, but those too had vanished.

All this was many years before anyone spoke of flying saucers. Whatever it was I saw, it seems to have been very much like what people have since claimed to be flying saucers." (18)

A fifty year old man recounted in 1974, the story of his encounter with a mini-UFO back in 1932 or 1933, near the town of Nambour, in Northern Queensland. He was 8 or 9 at the time, and at about two one afternoon, in about late March or early April, he was playing with some local children. He strayed from them and went over to a nearby hillock, which was surrounded by a small body of water: "...I put both hands up in front of me and parted this tall grass to look through. I heard a low humming sound, and saw a round object directly in front of me, about four feet away. It looked the same shape as if two ordinary saucers were placed face to face and then turned on their sides...The colour of the object was the same shade of silver grey as a Canberra bomber looks on a dull, rainy, overcast day...The size of the object was 12 inches in diameter. It hovered 3 inches above the surface of the water. There was a slight almost imperceptible shiver of the water surface directly below the object as if it was directing a force directly downwards in order to stay in the air... The waves (of water) were going outward in concentric circles directly below the object... There was a very high speed shiver motion of the object as if a gyro-stabilizer of some kind were keeping it up right. As I bent forward to look more closely, the humming sound rose suddenly in pitch and volume, and at the same time a whitish mist begun to form between me and the object, but close to it... At the same time...I felt a tinght feeling in the head and as the noise increased, I let go of the tall grass and stepped back. I could not see it any more, and I felt stunned in the head, but I could still hear it humming behind the tall grass.... Soon afterwards, everyone decided to go up to the house, and on the way one girl said suddenly, "What was that?" Something flew up between those trees. "It was a magpie," someone said. "No it was not", said the first girl. I did not see anything, but I knew what it was; it was the object flying off. That night I noticed large white blisters on both of my hands and I felt out of sorts. Sometime during the night whilst I was asleep most of the blisters burst, and one or two remaining burst during the day and a clear fluid like water came out. I felt better after that..." (19)

(to be continued-final part next issue)

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PSIUFO PHENOMENA: A listing of Australian Cases

by Mark Moravec.

This is a preliminary listing of Australian PSIUFO phenomena, i.e. those cases where UFO and paranormal events apparently overlap. A catalogue and analysis of Australian cases is planned to be published as an ACUFOS document later in 1981. Further information is required on:

- (1) cases marked with an asterisk (\*)
- (2) cases not included in this listing.

I would appreciate any information readers may have. Please write to:  
M.L.Moravec, 26 Minnamurra Place, Pymble NSW 2073.

The cases are listed under six event categories:

M=Mental communications  
 P=Poltergeists  
 A=Aparitions  
 H=Healings  
 G=Ghostlights  
 T=Time lapses/abductions

| <u>Date</u>     | <u>Location</u>                            | <u>Events</u> |
|-----------------|--|---------------|
| c.1838          | Port Phillip District VIC                  | G             |
| 25/7/1868       | Parramatta NSW                             | MP            |
| c.1868          | Waratah NSW                                | G             |
| 1878            | Stewarts' Garden, Goulburn NSW             | G *           |
| 1890s-1900      | Orrorro & Moonta SA                        | G *           |
| 1911; also 1860 | Natte Yallock                              | G *           |
| 6 or 7/ 1912    | Boullia QLD                                | G             |
| c.24/12/1921    | Blaimore, Burnett QLD                      | G             |
| 1920s/1930s     | Rooty Hill NSW                             | G? *          |
| c.1930          | Hells Gate Region Cooktown QLD             | G             |
| c.1932 or 33    | Nambour QLD                                | G? *          |
| c.1935          | Malchi QLD                                 | M             |
| c.1940          | Stockyard Creek Gorge, Beaudesert QLD      | G             |
| 1944 or 45      | Christchurch NZ                            | M *           |
| c.1951          | Yatton, Burnett QLD                        | G             |
| 5/5/53          | Barkly Tablelands NT                       | G             |
| 10/1954         | North QLD                                  | MP (hoax)     |
| 1955            | Eucla SA                                   | A             |
| c.1957          | Warrandyte VIC                             | GA            |
| Early 1960s     | Chatnam Bore, betw. Tambo & Augethella QLD | G             |
| c.1960s         | " "  | G             |
| 1/1964          | One Tree Plain NSW                         | G             |
| 3/2/1964        | Gum Creek SA                               | AMP           |
| 19/1/1966       | Tully QLD                                  | M             |
| mid 1966        | Melbourne VIC                              | M             |
| 11/8/1966       | Melbourne VIC                              | M (hoax)      |
| 1966            | Hazelbrook NSW                             | AMP *         |
| 1967            | North West Cape WA                         | AM            |
| 1968            | Lowanna NSW                                | GA *          |
| 6/1969          | Orange NSW                                 | G             |
| 1969            | Penrith NSW                                | M             |
| late 1960s      | Yamba NSW                                  | A             |
| 1970            | Newcastle Ranges, Georgetown QLD           | G             |
| 2/4/1971        | Greenhill NSW                              | P             |
| 1/8/1971        | Gladstone QLD                              | TM            |
| 14/12/1971      | Waikerie SA                                | A             |
| 1971            | Large North SA                             | AMP           |
| 4/6/1972        | Bents Basin NSW                            | A             |
| 25/7/1972       | Frankston VIC                              | MA            |
| 15/9/1972       | Armidale NSW                               | A             |
| 17/9/1972       | Port Noarlunga SA                          | AM            |
| 16/12/1972      | Garah NSW                                  | G             |
| 2/1973          | Norah Head NSW                             | G             |
| 6/9/1973        | Ivy Tanks SA                               | M             |
| 3-8/1973        | Tyringham NSW                              | PAM           |
| c. 1973         | Springwood NSW                             | T             |
| 14/6/1974       | Grafton NSW                                | H *           |
| 1974            | Canberra ACT                               | MA            |
| 1974            | Launceston TAS                             | M             |
| 3/1975          | Central TAS                                | A             |
| 8/6/1975        | Norah Head NSW                             | G             |
| 1/11/1975       | Northmead NSW                              | MA *          |
| 1975            | Clermont QLD                               | G             |
| c.1975          | Melbourne VIC                              | MA            |

|            |                           |     |   |
|------------|---------------------------|-----|---|
| c.1975/76  | Sandringham Station QLD   | GAP |   |
| 2/1976     | Watrane TAS               | AG  |   |
| 12/4/1976  | Penrith NSW               | A   |   |
| 6/1976     | betw. Boulia & Winton QLD | G   |   |
| 7/1976     | Kempsey NSW               | M   |   |
| 2/8/1976   | Ten Mile Hill TAS         | A   |   |
| 10/8/76    | Panania NSW               | A   |   |
| 10/10/1976 | Bateau Bay NSW            | A   | * |
| c. 1976    | VIC                       | A   | * |
| 22/6/1977  | Bulloo River QLD          | M   |   |
| c.1977     | Hells Gate, Cooktown QLD  | G   |   |
| 3/1/1978   | Lower Portland NSW        | G   |   |
| 10/1/1978  | Armidale NSW              | T   |   |
| 5/2/1978   | Balladonia WA             | T   |   |
| 5/2/1979   | Lawitta TAS               | T   |   |
| 29/8/1979  | Mt. Cameron TAS           | MA  |   |
| 9/6/1980   | Manly NSW                 | M   |   |

Undated accounts:

|   |                              |   |   |
|---|------------------------------|---|---|
| ? | Daudaman Valley NSW          | G | * |
| ? | Landsbrough River QLD        | G | * |
| ? | Boulia QLD (various reports) | G | * |
| ? | Cape York QLD                | G | * |

ACUFOS SPECIAL PUBLICATION-ACOS BULLETIN INDEX.

Famous ACUFOS Bibliographer John Prytz has just compiled a title and author index to the "A.C.O.S. BULLETIN" (Title of publication before this current Journal) This master author and title index is presented to the entire series of the "ACOS BULLETIN", starting with No.1 (March 1975) through No. 22 (December 1979) for the benefit of Ufologists.

This index is available from ACUFOS P.O. Box 546 GOSFORD NSW 2250 for \$3 - Australia (includes surface postage) - Anyone requiring copies of any articles from these Bulletins will be charged a blanket cover charge of \$1 per article.

"Astronomical" and/or Ufological???

A very interesting article appeared in the 4 December 1980 issue of NEW SCIENTIST.

"The US Air Force is to build a world-wide network of space observatories to watch for unusual events in the skies - and the network could have considerable astronomical importance. The TRW Corporation has recently completed the prototype observatory at Newbury Park, near New York, and the US Air Force proposes five more in New Mexico, Hawaii, Korea, Spain and on an island in the Indian Ocean. Each observatory will have one 0.6 metre and two 1 metre telescopes, all mounted so that they can swing rapidly to scan the sky. They will watch for objects orbiting the Earth at a height above 5,000 kilometres, where radar monitoring is unreliable. The most significant orbits are at 35,000 kilometres where satellites orbit the earth in exactly 24 hours and so stay above the same spot on the ground ( a useful tactic for a spy satellite). The new network could identify a satellite only 30 centimetres across at this height. But the network will also give astronomers an instant way of discovering sudden events such as novas, supernovas, and other variable stars - as well as distant quasars that can alter suddenly and unexpectedly in brightness. Many of these unpredictable phenomena pass unnoticed because astronomers cannot be looking everywhere at once: the new network is built to do just that. It could gather important astronomical information - if results are declassified!"

(We wonder!)

Compiler's Note: It is humanly impossible to keep track of, hence list, all references to information of possible interest to ufologists in this bibliographic service. However, other bibliographies that relate material of relevance do exist, and these complement this particular service. Therefore, this issue's Bibliography Service presents a "bibliography of bibliographies" on two subjects of interest: unidentified flying objects and extraterrestrial life. Through referencing these, the range of printed material available to interested parties should be expanded by at least an order of magnitude over what the space and time and resources available to me could provide in this column.

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NOTE: At this time, we are unable to supply a summary of Australian cases, owing to the fact that to date, ACUFOS has only received 4 reports for 1981, being of a low-weight NL variety, from the Australian organisations.

It is hoped to continue this feature in the next issue of the ACUFOS Journal.