

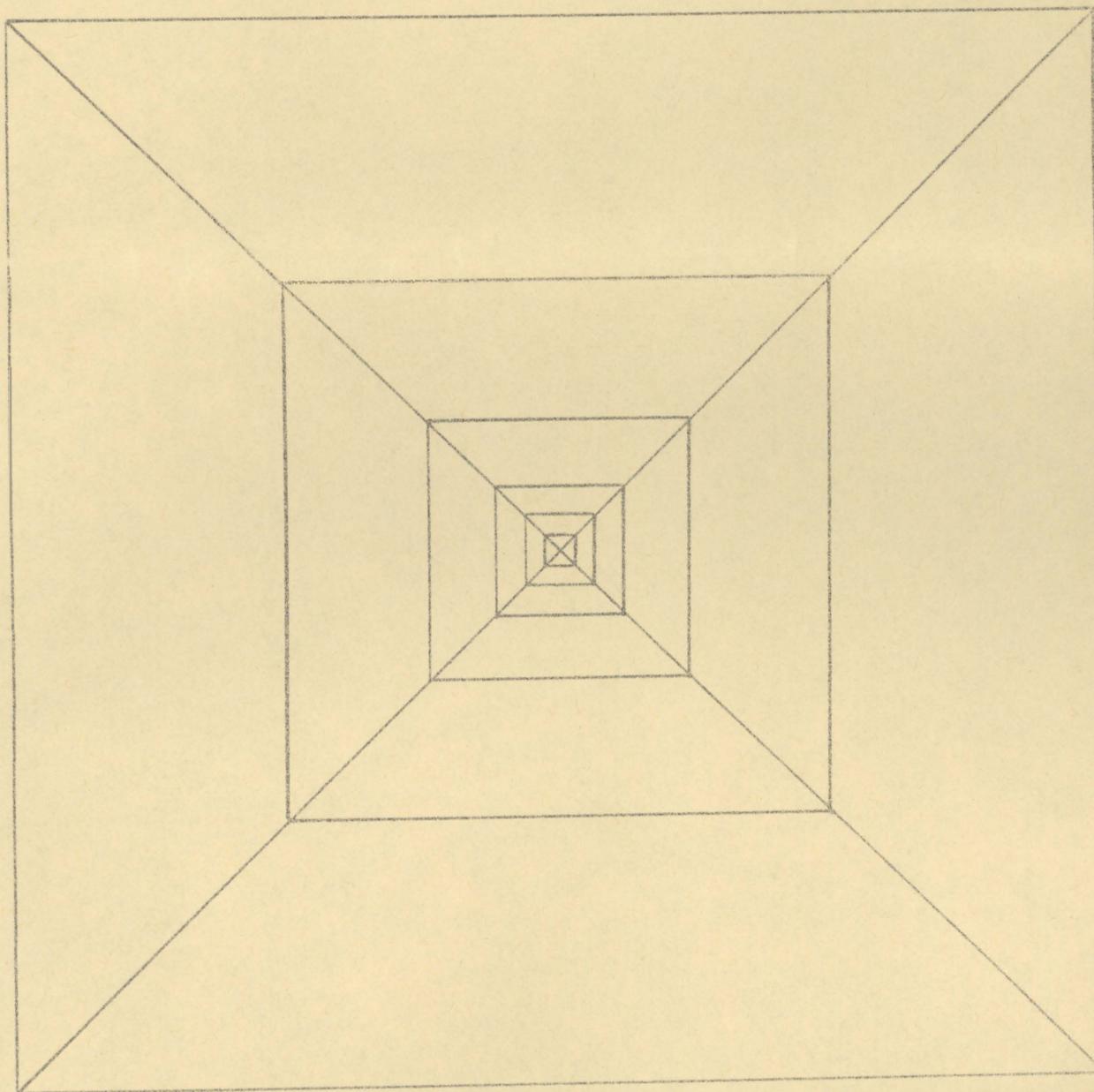
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THE JOURNAL OF THE AUSTRALIAN CENTRE FOR UFO STUDIES

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Editorial

by Harry Griesberg & Keith Basterfield.

THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT & AUSTRALIAN UFOLOGY: The Australian Government Freedom of Information Act (FOI Act) 1982 was assented to on 9 March 82 and will come into operation later this year on a date to be proclaimed. It is expected at the moment that this could be in July.

Readers will no doubt be aware that in the United States their FOI legislation has been utilised by UFO groups to obtain documents (many old) relating to UFO events and special interest groups such as CAUS (Citizens against UFO secrecy) have been waging court battles against US government agencies. Results have been mixed. Some Government documents from the FBI, USAF, and FAA relating to ufo reports have been gained whilst there have been some knockbacks by other agencies, e.g. NSA.

The Australian FOI Act is the final part of a re-organisation within Australian Government administration to provide more "open government". The FOI Act legislation is to:

- give access to the public to information about the rules and operations of Government departments,
- give access to the public to Government documents

Requests for access to information may be denied in two ways:-

- that the documents (or parts of) are exempt,
- the extraction of the documents would be too much for the agency's resources to cope with.

What can Australian ufology gain from our FOI Act? Are we going to be able to uncover vast amounts of Government documents relating to UFOs? We believe the answer is most likely No. Let us outline our reasons for saying this.

Firstly, what Government agencies hold documents of interest to ufologists? Perhaps our list would read, (1) RAAF, (2) ASIO, (3) other intelligence organisations, (4) Dept. of Transport.

Schedule 2 part 1 of the FOI Act lists agencies which are exempt under the Act. Two of these are ASIO (Australian Security Intelligence Organisation) and ASIS (Australian Secret Intelligence Service). One can immediately rule out

obtaining documents from these sources.

Next, the RAAF. The Centre, through the endeavours of Bill Chalker of Sydney has obtained access to the records of the RAAF in relation to UFOs, and the RAAF have been most co-operative in this matter. It is hoped to receive a full report from Bill Chalker in the near future. At the moment there is certainly no need for ufologists here to lobby the RAAF with FOI Act requests, and we would urge restraint from anyone who may be so tempted. Bill will be publishing articles shortly from research conducted at RAAF HQ in Canberra, for all to read.

That leaves us with the Department of Transport. Although the DOT and the former DCA have been accused of being un co-operative in the past, the Centre has found in most recent approaches to them that we have received prompt and co-operative service. Two events of interest where further documentation (if it exists) would be helpful would be the Bouganville Reef air observation, and the 1978 Valentich disappearance.

The FOI Act definition of a "document" would appear to include the tape recording of the ATC/pilot radio conversation which the DOT have to date refused to release.

So, perhaps there may be some documentation which we would like to obtain. Can we do so? The FOI Act deals a blow unlike its US Counterpart. Documents in existence before the Act commences are exempt, except for those containing personal information, and those which are needed to enable a 'proper understanding' of a document to which access is available. This will probably reduce the number of documents to which we can have access, to those in the future.

The Centre would like to hear from anyone who may have ideas where a FOI Act request could be made, to whom, and the contents, and would like to try and co-ordinate our requests, in order to maximise their value and ensure distribution of results to all interested researchers.

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A Preliminary Catalogue of Australian Vehicle Interference Cases.

by K. Basterfield & P. Jackson.

One of the more interesting aspects of the UFO phenomena as far as physical evidence goes is that of the reported interference with electrical systems of motor vehicles.

A variety of authors have speculated on the reasons for reported failures of engines/lights of vehicles, but other effects such as loss of steering or braking are said to have occurred, accompanied by observations of unidentified flying objects. McCampbell (1977) has explored the failure of car headlights, spotlights and internal combustion engines, and even offered a suggested mechanism for the occurrences.

In 1979 BUFORA in the United Kingdom published a report which inter alia contained summaries of 420 global cases.

Rodeghier (1979) presented a study of 363 ufo events where land vehicles experienced electromagnetic interference and argued that doubt existed that a natural physical phenomena could explain the reported events.

Here in Australia an ACUFOS research project was launched in April 81 on the subject. It was hoped firstly to collect as many Australian cases as possible, publish a catalogue, and then move on to a more in-depth analysis of the available data.

Step 1 has been completed, and step 2, the publication of a catalogue has just come to fruition. "A preliminary catalogue of Australian vehicle interference ufo events" by the authors has just been published by ACUFOS. Fifty-eight cases have been unearthed after a review of books, magazines and the files of ACUFOS member organisations. Dissapointingly some of the events have little recorded details, e.g. Casino NSW 13.1.58, where we simply know that a car radio experienced problems as an object followed a vehicle. However, others, e.g. Wingen NSW 17.9.76 ably investigated by David Reneke of Sydney contains a wealth of data.

Australian events range from the classic car stop type, perhaps best illustrated by the event of 8.8.71 at Kadina SA, to the mysterious, apparently instantaneous stopping of a car travelling at speed in the case of Boyup Brook WA (13.10.67).

Our initial comments are that we do have some excellent cases of the kind which are reported all over the world, but that there are certainly quite a few in our collection where the vehicle interference/ufo link may be suspect. It is our intention now to move on to review these cases in more detail, where we have the data.

We would be only too pleased to have views, comments etc pf other researchers once they have perused the catalogue.

References:

- Basterfield, K. "UFO reports-vehicle effects" ACOS Bulletin 11, Sep 77 pp11-12.
Basterfield, K. "Vehicle effects-some further observations" ACOS Bulletin 15, Sep 78 pp5-7.
McC Campbell, JM " Further evidence of ufo radiation" MUFON Symposium Proceedings, 1977, pp25-32.
Rodeghier, MJ "A statistical analysis of ufo electromagnetic interference events", Pursuit, Winter 1979, pp2-9.

NOTE: The catalogue is now available from ACUFOS, P.O. Box 546 Gosford NSW 2250, Australia at Aust \$4, which includes surface postage.

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Publications Available from the Centre.

- D1 & D2 - No longer available.
D3 - AN INDEPTH REVIEW OF AUSTRALASIAN UFO RELATED ENTITY REPORTS. 110 pages. Summaries and analysis of entity cases \$14.
D4 - A REFERENCE CATALOGUE OF INTERESTING CASES REPORTED TO THE CENTRE IN 1979- and analysis 25p. \$4.
D5 - THE UFO-ANTHROPOID CATALOGUE - cases linking UFOs and giant anthropoid creatures. Summaries and analysis. 40p. \$5.
D6 - ABSTRACTS OF PAPERS PRESENTED AT UFO CONFERENCE 5 - held in Canberra, 1980. 14p. \$3.
D7 - IN SEARCH OF A SUBJECT: AN AUSTRALIAN SEARCH FOR EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL INTELLIGENCE. 145p. \$13.50.
D8 - INFORMATION STORAGE AND RETRIEVAL FOR UFOLOGISTS - how to set up your own information retrieval system. 52p. \$6.
D9 - ACUFOS YEARLY SUMMARY - 1980 - statistics and summaries of cases 17p. \$3.
D10 - PROCEEDINGS OF ACUFOS UFOCON 6 - held in Adelaide 1981 - variety of interesting research papers. 150 p. \$15.
D11 - A CATALOGUE OF THE MORE INTERESTING AUSTRALIAN CLOSE ENCOUNTERS - summaries of the "best" 110 cases. 29p. \$4.
D12 - A PRELIMINARY CATALOGUE OF AUSTRALIAN VEHICLE INTERFERENCE CASES - summaries and sources. 22p. \$4.
D13 - WHO'S WHO IN AUSTRALIAN UFOLOGY - a 32p review of Australian ufologists. Provides biographical details, position statements and contact addresses. \$4.
D14 - PSIUFOLOGICAL PHENOMENA - 136 pages. A study of cases which straddle the borderline between UFOs and psychic phenomena. Australian catalogue included \$15.

NOTES:

1. All documents are UBIX copied mainly from carbon ribbon masters. D3,7,10 & 14 have semi hard covers and are spiral bound.
2. ALL PRICES ARE IN AUSTRALIAN DOLLARS. Overseas orders should be placed by way of an international money order made payable to "The Australian Centre for UFO Studies". Orders are despatched by surface mail.

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AND YOU THOUGHT UFO RESEARCH WAS TOUGH!

An interesting article was forwarded to the Centre by Mark Moravec, titled "The Ark on Ararat", which we thought would be of interest to our readers.

The search, apparently quite fruitless to date, for the miraculously preserved remains of Noah's Ark, is an established and delightful part of the canon of anomalous facts in which most of us find so much pleasure. I recently had the good fortune to come across a paperback book, entitled, 'The Ark on Ararat', by Tim Lallaye and John Marshall (Lakeland; Marshall, Morgan & Scott, 1979) which, though written from what is a very clear and very strong evangelical/fundamentalist basis, includes some fascinating material. I can only quote briefly here but, for anyone who has ever felt discouraged by the length, the complexity, or the sheer impossibility of an investigation, I would like to recount the adventures of John Libi, a man who makes Robert the Bruce look like a quitter.....

Consider the case of John Libi from San Francisco. Extremely capable, an experienced mountain climber, fluent in Turkish and several other languages, knowledgeable leader and dedicated adventurer, Libi tried eight times in fifteen years to find the Ark. Although he nearly lost his life several times on the mountain, and faced countless other dangers, he combed the mountain more thoroughly than many succeeding groups but never achieved his objective.

1954 - Thinking the Ark was near the summit of the mountain, Libi engineered two ascents. One of the ascents, Libi was attacked and chased by two huge bears up near the ice cap. The additional exertion required to outrun them, coupled with rarefied air and the cold, caused Libi to develop a serious illness and fever, from which it took a month to recuperate. On the second climb, late in the summer, the weather turned bad even though it had been quite favourable, and further explorations were impractical.

1955 - Libi returned with his team of explorers, but due to unexpected political turmoil, permission to climb the mountain was rescinded.

1958 - This time, leading a group of 40 men, Libi, sixty-two years old, fell 30 feet to a rock ledge, and had to be carried off the mountain and hospitalised in a nearby town.

1960 - The weather on Ararat won another battle, for again Libi required hospitalisation, this time in Ankara, the capital of Turkey, for Pneumonia.

1962 - On May 9th while boarding a train in Italy en route to Ararat, Libi was robbed of all the expedition's finances.

1965 - A horrible July thunderstorm and blizzard separated the team of ten into three groups. One group finally returned to camp suffering from advanced stages of fatigue and exposure after wandering on the mountain slopes in search of safety for three days. The storm washed away the entire food supply, and the dejected group returned to the States.

1967 - In Libi's estimation, the worst weather he had ever seen on Mount Ararat virtually attacked them. Great quantities of snow and extreme cold forced them off the mountain. The weather claimed the life of a Belgian climber who had joined Libi's party on the mountain. The freshly fallen snow and a recent earthquake had loosened the footing, and the youth slipped over the edge of a huge cliff to his death.

1969 - Libi, defying his seventy-three years, and in spite of the fact that in 1967 he swore that he would not return, reached the summit and the spot where he believed the Ark to be. He found a layer of water-borne fossils, but no Ark"

Though Libi's two companions on this trip tore off three pieces of material from the bottom of a crevasse, they turned out to be fragmented lava, and it would seem that Libi never returned to Ararat.

When Alien Discovers Alien.

by John Prytz.

Over the past 35 years, the UFO phenomena has helped fuel speculation about the questions of life in the universe; are we alone; and if not, what of contact between man and alien. That there could be, or will be, resolution to those sorts of questions through further research into the UFO mystery, cannot be decided yet one way or another. Still, the questions remain.

Philosophical speculation in general, and science fictional speculations and scenarios in particular about extraterrestrial intelligence (ETI) and their potential relationship with man, predate the UFO era by hundreds of years, and continue strong to this date. More recently, speculation has been supplemented by research and experiments, resulting in our first searches for alien life forms in general (the Viking Probes to Mars) and ETI in particular, the latter through searches for extraterrestrial artificial radio transmissions. Though to date no definite evidence of any kind of alien life has been uncovered, it would be the most incredible of scientific luck if success had been to hand during the infancy stages of such research programs.

To argue that ETI exists, or does not exist, is not the purpose of this paper. Their existence will be taken as given, and hundreds of scientific journal articles and books can be consulted which back up this premise. What is of personal interest is the transition from speculation and research, to discovery, leading up to the question of first contact between two alien civilisations, of which we are one. And, does the UFO phenomena represent in any sort of logical way what one might expect as part of that transition?

This discovery, whether mutual or unidirectional depending on who does the discovery of whom, I will assume for purposes of this paper to be either at-a-distance through remote sensing, or in-person, on-site, even face-to-face. It's with respect to the latter that the UFO phenomena has potential significance, and one of the major themes of this paper will show that science fictional speculations and scenarios about discovery are most probably wrong, in fact illogically plotted. Further, that the UFO mirrors in fact what we should expect the preliminaries to an actual first contact to be; they the discoverer; we the discovered, but not quite knowing that yet. In other words, UFOs will result in first contact; their behaviour to date exactly what one would expect leading up to this quantum leap in our relationship with the universe and the other-worldly inhabitants in it.

However, we will first consider discovery at-a-distance. One might logically assume that UFO beings would have discovered us first via remote sensing hence followed up with on-site inspection. I doubt this. Contrary to what one might expect, it will be the less advanced, relatively speaking, discovering the more advanced, when considering just detection at-a-distance.

Detectable signals, information, carrying outwards away from a civilisation has a maximum attainable velocity, the speed of light; an ultimate limiting factor. Whether such signals are sent out on purpose, and/or as the natural result of a civilisation's day-in, day-out, activities, is neither here nor there. The older a civilisation is, hence the more technologically advanced it would probably be, would have "broadcasted" further out into the cosmos than a newer, younger, hence less advanced civilisation. A 100,000 year old technological civilisation would have "announced" itself, whether on purpose or otherwise, throughout the galaxy, detectable by all with the proper equipment looking in the right direction, at the right time, and at the right frequency. A 100 year old technological civilisation, like ourselves, would be detectable only within a radius of 100 light years. Scientists have calculated that on average, civilisations will be roughly 1,000 light years apart. Thus, our own detectability has only reached some 10% towards our nearest neighbour, who will not, cannot, know anything about us for another 900 years, no matter how advanced our nearest 1,000 light year away neighbour is. Thus, if we assume that that civilisation is 100,000 years old in the technological sense, and that is not a far out assumption given the age of our galaxy and the stars in it, we, the less advanced, could detect them, they, the more advanced, couldn't yet know about us! Further, the broadcasts of an advanced civilisation would probably be more powerful, hence easier to pick up, than the relatively weak emission of infant technological civilisations, such as ourselves.

Since 1960, American, hence Russian, then Canadian scientists have run small scale searches for (in particular) radio emissions from super technological civilisations, though to date without spotting the alien's smoking gun- which is not surprising given the problems of location, time and frequency mentioned above. The at-a-distance search for ETI is very much akin to a needle-in-the-haystack problem, only 10,000 times over. But, the longer the search goes on, and in particular the more other countries join in the search, the better the odds become. And it is sad to relate that here Australia is not pulling her weight in helping to resolve this most important of all scientific and philosophical questions, where an answer would extend into and influence segments of human society far removed from just science and philosophy. Australia has the proper equipment, several scientists interested in such research, a virgin sky (the Southern Hemisphere) to search in, and a world-wide respected reputation as a leader in radio astronomical research to uphold. However, the Federal Government, in Australia's scientific administrators and management, have other priorities, some of which I find questionable relative to SETI (Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligence) research, but then I'm biased.

Anyway, UFOs, if ETI generated, did not first discover us at-a-distance. Further, it would be of academic interest only if they, or any alien civilisation had - it does nothing to answer our quest.

Of far greater interest of course is on-site, in-person, discovery, hence perhaps contact, in particular the latter as contact and communication at-a-distance is very slow and unrewarding due to the vast distances involved the limiting velocity of radio waves (the speed of light), and our own fairly short life span.

Whereas with respect to the less advanced being the discoverer of the more advanced in detection at-a-distance, the reverse must be true for the most part when it comes to on-site, in-person discovery. In-person discovery of, hence contact between, two civilisations widely separated in distance by hundreds to thousands of light years, means that one of the two parties must be advanced enough to have extensive and efficient ways and means of interstellar exploration and interstellar space flight. The one having that ability, the more technologically advanced, will be the discoverer. Further, the more advanced, the older, civilisation, the further out into the vast reaches of the galaxy they would have explored, to discover less advanced, younger, civilisations (and lesser life forms too).

Objections to interstellar space travel won't hold water. The galaxy is accomodating in terms of its age when looked at from the point of view of time available; the laws of physics are no barrier in planning a trip from star A to star B, at least if you don't mind travelling at less than the speed of light; and numerous positive reasons for doing it have, are, and will be advanced, as the time grows ripe for the human race to leave the cradle of its home planet, the earth.

Although the less advanced civilisation could also have space travel, discovery in interstellar space between two separate civilisations would be very rare relative to one party detecting the other on the latter's home world, as the latter would be both far larger and relatively fixed in space, over long periods of time. For two independent spaceships to meet, by accident, in space would be akin to two Australian ants, one heading roughly east from Perth, the other roughly west from Sydney, and meeting on the way! Possible, but unlikely.

The usual science fiction scenarios that involve two or more independent civilisations as being about equal in technological abilities, such as in Star Trek where you have the Federation, the Klingons, and the Romulans, just isn't on. There would rarely, if ever, be discovery, contact, and intercourse between equals. The age of the universe, random origins of life and evolution toward a state of intelligence, and the very short time frames of technological advances (taking ourselves as average) relative to the age of the universe, suggest that the civilisation nearest to us in technological ability (not distance away) would still be plus or minus 1,000 years ahead of or behind ourselves. 1,000 years is an immense period of time in terms of technological change, such that even the closest of civilisations in a technological sense could hardly be called equals.

Only if there is an upper limit to technological ability, engineering, etc. could two or more civilisations be on an equal plane. We don't know if there is such a limit - we certainly haven't come close to it yet.

We don't yet rate as an on-site, in-person discovering civilisation. But we could have been an on-site, in-person discovered civilisation by another alien civilisation (or even more than one on several independent occasions) 1,000, 1,000,000, even a billion more years in advance of ours. In fact, the odds of that happening at least once is nearly unity, given the vast age of the universe and our galaxy and other life forms in it, relative to our youth. Every nook and cranny of our galaxy must have been explored and visited many times over - there is no place for us to hide. Anyway, given that possibility, then what would, should we expect? Are the science fictional scenarios of invasion and conquest, "take me to your leader", or "come join the inter-galactic community" logical?

Can we look to our own terrestrial history of what happens when a more advanced civilisation discovers a lesser advanced one?

No, I don't believe so in either of the preceding two questions as the circumstances are really quite different.

Consider the motives that could result in space travel, hence on-site, in-person, discovery. They boil down to two, of which one is exploration; the other exploitation. Taking the latter first...

Despite the fears expressed by some scientists such as Sir Martin Ryle, the noted British radio astronomer, and others, against advertising our presence and location to the hordes of bug-eyed alien monsters who are eagerly awaiting something different in the way of hors-d'oeuvres, advertising we do all the time through leakage of our radio and TV waves and radar, and which we also have done on purpose, I don't feel we are in any great danger. Our radio waves have many a year to travel before there is any likelihood of at-a-distance detection, and a return in-person journey only adds eons to the time before we had better arm ourselves for battle. Further, we are probably now, or have been, under on-site observation, so there is little point in drawing a shell over our heads now. Let's face it, ego deflating as it is, we as a less advanced civilisation could offer little or nothing of practical interest to an advanced race, at least when weighed against the time and effort and energy and costs that it would take to exploit us. Consider the following science fictional scenarios:

Aliens would use us for food and drink our blood! This is silly, for even if our biochemistry were compatible with their biochemistry (highly unlikely considering our separate origins), it would be far easier for an advanced civilisation to grow and produce their own food, even if they have to terraform uninhabited worlds and/or construct agricultural space colonies close to home base to do so. One doesn't go from Sydney to Paris just for a one-off evening meal when a take-away pizza bar is a mile down the road!

Aliens want our mineral and energy resources! But such resources are orders of magnitude more abundant in outer space itself than on high gravity, finite area, planetary surfaces, whether inhabited or not. Why pick on us when all the asteroid belt, the comets, and 99.99% of our sun's energy output could be had without affecting us one jot? I'd be happy to sell them Rhea, Amalthea, Mimas, and Iapetus, plus throw in Phobos and Deimos on the side. That should keep them happy for several tens of thousands of years!

Aliens want the earth for living space! Again, even if our environment was compatible with their environment, it would be far easier and cheaper to terraform uninhabited worlds and/or construct artificial space colonies with an ideal environment, closer to home base.

Aliens want to rape our women! How often have you seen on the covers of the old science fiction pulp magazines the bug-eyed monster carry off the beautiful earthwoman for purposes better left to the lurid imagination? However, unless one speculates that there is biological kinship between mankind and alienkind (and some have), extraterrestrial species would be incompatible, whether on the anatomical level or the biochemical level. Just because a terrestrial male finds desirable a terrestrial female is no reason to think that a little green "man" will find that same terrestrial female desirable.

Aliens desire conquest of earth and want to make us their slaves! This is also ridiculous, for upon reflection, given our own advances in industrial robotics, the computer sciences, and artificial intelligence,

The employment of flesh and blood labour is slowly but surely becoming a thing of the past. For the cost of a slave-gathering expedition across the galaxy to earth, an advanced civilisation could construct hundreds of thousands of custom-made artificial slaves.

Aliens desire conquest of earth just for the hell of it! While this is always possible, it just doesn't quite ring true to suggest in all seriousness that an advanced alien civilisation, would undertake a long term, high cost, journey throughout interstellar space, just for the pleasure of forging an empire which would be difficult to administer and police given the vast separating distances and the corresponding time delays in communications vital to such administration and control; risking coming across another civilisation even more advanced than they and losing the works. Further, one would hope that hand-in-hand with technological advancement, goes social and moral advancement.

Aliens desire conquest of earth out of missionary zeal! This of course is possible, but impossible to evaluate as to likelihood.

Aliens desire conquest of earth because we pose a threat to their survival! We, as the less advanced technical civilisation, pose no threat to any civilisation which would be a minimum of a 1,000 years our technological senior, in particular if left alone.

Aliens desire the knowledge of the earth and earthlings! Any knowledge we could impart to advanced extraterrestrials would most likely be of academic not practical, interest. Further, this removes us from the realm of exploitation the other motive for interstellar space travel leading to discovery.

Any advanced civilisation which discovers us, must have some form of technology. And if they have a technology, they must have a basic understanding of, and appreciation for science - they must possess a curiosity, and curiosity is a very powerful and logical motive for the undertaking of interstellar exploration.

But, if we have been discovered this way, via some alien scientific exploration survey party, why not contact? If UFOs are piloted by ETI scientists surely lack of contact must argue against that theory, for contact, even though not exploitation, is what we should expect - or are we just inflating our egos again?

Exploration, discovery of and interest in other life forms, even "intelligent" ones, does not of necessity imply that face-to-face contact must follow. Scientists travel to the furthest ends of the earth to seek out and study new species of insects, etc, but because of the vast differences between the studiers and the studied; the former do not attempt communication. We could easily be viewed in the same vein to an advanced alien civilisation - scientifically interesting but hardly an intellectual equal.

So UFOs, if ETI generated, have behaved in a rational way towards us. We haven't been exploited as we have nothing to offer. We have been explored, studied, and sampled going by hundreds of witness reports to UFO events. We have not been formally contacted because we, to date, don't rate. Any such science fictional scenario plotted around the above, would make dull reading or viewing, which is why such attempts have been few and far between!

The fact that UFOs act in this reasonable and logical way, and not as we would expect them to act given our conditioning through the science fictional media with flashing ray guns or a "take me to your leader", strengthen the argument in my opinion for the ETI origin of the UFO phenomena.

We of course can only hope that we will rate in their eyes one day and can experience the thrill of knowing for sure that not only aren't we alone in the universe, but that we have advanced enough to take place within the galactic community at large.

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The Australian Entity Study Group.

Although not active for a while now due to the lack of reported Australian entity reports, the AESG still continues to receive inquiries both from within this country and overseas. In order to provide details of documents/cases published by the AESG the following list is published:-

Case Documents(1)

<u>No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pages</u>
CD1	Ten Mile Hill TASMANIA	2.8.76	3
CD2	Ivy Tanks SOUTH AUSTRALIA	9.73	4
CD3	Plympton SOUTH AUSTRALIA	29.2.64	8(+)
CD4	Wodonga VICTORIA	24.3.67	13(+)
CD5	Kimba SOUTH AUSTRALIA	4.2.73	9(+)
CD6	Salisbury SOUTH AUSTRALIA	23.10.62	6(+)
CD7	Risdon Vale TASMANIA	9.11.78	6(+)
CD8	Hobart TASMANIA	28.11.78	4
CD9	Greenacre N.S.W.	25.4.59	13

(+) = Includes Tape Transcripts.

Study (2)

ACUFOS D3 "An indepth review of Australasian ufo related entity reports" 110 pages. Summaries and analysis of local entity reports - diagrams, sketches etc.

(1) Photocopies of case documents are available from the AESG c/o 3 Park Lake Drive, Wynn Vale SOUTH AUSTRALIA 5127. Price on application.

(2) Available from ACUFOS P.O. Box 546 Gosford N.S.W. 2250 Cost Aust \$14 which includes package and surface postage.

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Percipient Studies Group.

by Mark Moravec.

In early 1982, the Percipient Studies Group (PSG) was formed with the aim of researching the human factors involved in anomalous experiences. The group will examine the psychological, sociological, physiological and alleged parapsychological aspects of UFO experiences and related phenomena. The aims are to increase our understanding of: (1) UFOs and other anomalous phenomena; and (2) human experience and behaviour in general. To achieve this, the Percipient Studies Group plans to involve behavioural scientists and other interested researchers in the in-depth study of individual percipients to anomalous experiences, the comparison of groups of percipients and non-percipients, and any other studies deemed relevant.

As an initial project, the PSG would like to set up an Australian capability for the in-depth psychological and physiological study of UFO percipients. It is hoped to establish a set of standardised psychological and medical testing procedures which will produce useful data of the least ambiguous nature. It is envisaged that the application of these techniques would be especially relevant to UFO cases involving pronounced psychological reactions, "repeater" percipients and PSI UFO phenomena. The involvement of psychologists, psychiatrists, hypnotherapists and medical personnel as field investigators or consultants would be desirable.

Specific issues which will be investigated include:

- (1) What are the most effective and objective interviewing techniques?
- (2) What kinds of psychological tests will give the most relevant and most valid information about the percipient?
- (3) What kinds of medical examination procedures would be useful in documenting physiological (or psychosomatic) reactions such as headaches, eye irritations, insomnia, rashes, "stigmata", etc?
- (4) What techniques would best distinguish between a physically-induced and a psychologically-induced physiological reaction?
- (5) What procedures (interviewing techniques, involvement of a neutral third party, etc) should be followed during the hypnotic age regression of a UFO percipient?
- (6) On what factors or variables could groups of percipients and non-percipients be compared? (e.g. recent stress, "psychic" background, personality characteristics.) How should such terms be defined? Is it possible to identify and question sufficiently large numbers of people to be able to make meaningful comparisons?

Over past decades, many people have researched UFOs from an exclusively technological, "nuts & bolts" approach. It is now time to consider the other half of the problem: the psychological and social aspects of UFO experiences for these aspects are just as, if not more, important to our understanding of both the phenomena and our world at large. Together with the other specialised study groups, the Percipient Studies Group intends to contribute its resources to researching important aspects of UFO experiences.

If any researchers have suggestions on potentially useful procedures which could be incorporated in in-depth percipient studies, we would be pleased to hear their ideas. We welcome input from both Australian and overseas researchers. If you can assist or would like to become involved with the Percipient Studies Group, please contact the coordinator: Mark Moravec, 26 Minnamurra Place, Pymble NSW 2073 Australia.

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Early 1950s Observations

by Keith Basterfield.

For several years now a few investigators here in Australia have possessed a copy of a five page listing of local reports between 1874--1959 compiled by TUFOIC dated 3 March 1959.

A covering letter from K H Hatt, treasurer was addressed to UFOIC president Dr. W.P.Clifford, Hon Sec Judith Croser and Mr.D. Whitehouse, AFSR Society, Townsville.

The listing contains references to contemporary newspapers, magazines and books. One such reference quoted is the "Australasian Post" of 31.12.53.

Whilst searching through a pile of material the other day it was a pleasant surprise to come across none other than the "Australasian Post" of 31.12.53! There are at least 15 reports mentioned in the two page article by Charles Hellier. However quite a few are undated, others contain but scanty details, and overall one doesn't quite know what to make of most of them. As an historical record then, the details of the reports quoted are presented below. Make of them what you will:-

A former flying instructor Mr Fred Bepps is reported to have seen a flying saucer over Geelong, Victoria. The story goes that his four year old son called to him at 3.30 p.m. that there was an aircraft in the sky. Mr. Bepps looked and saw a round disc, bronze on top and silver underneath, flying silently southwards at about 1600 k/hr, leaving a blue smoke trail behind. The date is given as June 1950.

Sometime between June and November 1950 a 23 year old pilot, Alex Holland described seeing seven shining discs flash across the sky at night above a farm at Avoca, Victoria. Initially a bright light was seen, then a shining disc rose from the southern horizon, flew overhead and disappeared over the eastern horizon. Six more followed in quick succession. They all went in the same direction except one which went back the way it had come. Each one looked like a disc, was bigger than a full moon and travelled swiftly.

Late in November 1950, at least 15 people, including two airline pilots saw unusual objects over New South Wales and Queensland.

December 1950 brought at least three reports. The first of which was on the 2nd when three people reported seeing a saucer "swoop" over a Melbourne suburb at about 8.p.m. It swept across the sky for seven seconds before disappearing behind thick cloud. All reports described the saucer as bluish-white with green objects on the side and a blue exhaust trail.

Five days later, a bright blue object travelled around Maryborough in Queensland. First noted at 8 p.m. travelling quickly northwards it returned at a low level, then left almost vertically to an estimated height of 8,000 feet. Mr. S. Bryant-Smith, president of the local RSL estimated its speed as 550-600 k/hr.

At Bentleigh, a Melbourne Suburb on 15 December several mothers said they saw an oval object some 6 by 7m, making a slight buzzing sound.

Following this, but undated, five groups of people including two airline pilots reported bright lights between Mambour in Queensland and Kempsey in N.S.W.

A few weeks later five railway employees at Kalangadoo, South Australia, described seeing a saucer in broad daylight which was visible for six seconds as it travelled directly above them.

Then two TAA pilots, Capt. Gordon Savage and First Officer F.E. Hastilow whilst flying near Canberra reported an object to the east and above their plane. It was a very powerful white light which alternated every 15 seconds with a red light. They climbed to 5,000 feet to get a better look but the light drew away from them and was lost to view. A few minutes later, the light appeared again from the same quarter.

The Post article then jumps to May 1952 with a description of "invasion" of Australian skies.

Warragul, Victoria was the first location, when former RAF navigator Ron Dent saw two objects about 20,000 feet up in the sky. There was a bright disc chasing another. Then they both rose suddenly and seemed to merge into one disc and disappeared.

At Leeton NSW, a doctor related details of an object with a pinkish tinge and three spotlights.

A former RAAF pilot Arthur Fidler of Woollahara, Sydney saw an object which was "nothing if it was not an aircraft. It was not one of ours, it was one of theirs. It was not a comet or a meteor, both of which I have seen in different parts of the world."

Captain G. Ireland of Sydney saw an object which kept a steady course, and glowed like a fluorescent light against a clear sky until it disappeared in a dark cloud bank.

As one can see, there are very few really useful details being presented in this Post article. Two more to go.

Mr. William Anderson of Enfield Sydney saw a mysterious rocket like projectile and was interviewed by the RAAF in mid May 1952. Mr. Anderson and two workmates sighted it at 6.10 a.m. while they were in a PMG truck outside Enfield Post Office. It was watched for a full minute before it disappeared into clouds. It looked like an airship or a flying submarine three or four times bigger than a Skymaster airliner. Speed was about 800 k/hr.

The last report mentioned is a tantalising one but lacking in details. A railways watchman Albert Thomas saw something travelling at 55 k/hr so he stepped out of his front door to get a better look. Suddenly his arms started to tingle and an electric shock ran through his body! The thing looked like a hot coal with smoke around it, then like a hurricane lamp. He said he tingled and the revolver under his belt vibrated.

Also of interest from the article is the explanation forthcoming from two contemporary scientists. Firstly Prof. F.S. Cotton, Prof. of Physiology at Sydney University who said the discs were nothing but the effect of red corpuscles passing in front of the retina, and Dr. R. Woolnough of the Commonwealth Solar Observatory who dismissed the whole thing as mass hysteria.

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A Short Note on the use of a Press Clipping Agency

by Keith Basterfield.

Since August 1931 I have been subscribing to the Australian Press Cuttings Agency in Melbourne in order to obtain additional items for the monthly ACUFOS BULLETIN. Between August and December 1931, a five month period, a total of 82 clippings were received at a cost of \$24.60. A quick breakdown shows they originated as follows:

QUEENSLAND	7	TASMANIA	7
New South Wales	23	SOUTH AUSTRALIA	4
VICTORIA	41	West AUSTRALIA	4

Monthwise the distribution was:

AUGUST	27	NOVEMBER	19
SEPTEMBER	17	DECEMBER	11
OCTOBER	8		

What were they about?

Reports - local	59
o'seas	11
Books	1
Exhibitions	2
General	9

Looking at the above there are two obvious differences in the newspaper coverage state by state. There are enormously more items appearing in NSW and Victoria papers than elsewhere. Why?

Firstly NSW. 12 out of the 23 items were from the Pinkney column of the Pix-People and either general or overseas reports tended to originate from the Sydney Papers.

In Victoria there would appear to be two reasons. Firstly the press clipping agency's overall coverage is much better in Victoria country newspapers than country newspapers in other states. Secondly, the awareness level of the Victorian papers seems higher than elsewhere and if I was asked to pin a reason on this I would say it is due to the effect that VJFORS have on the country media, with their extremely high profile.

However, the vast majority of the Victorian reports concern extremely low weight nocturnal lights many of which are of decidedly mundane origin.

Was it worth it to spend \$24.60 over five months on clippings? Yes, it is the right answer. It allows a monitoring of the Australian wide picture, provides a few good cases which are relatively unknown generally e.g. Albany CE1 of August, Nowra CE2(?) of September and Tooperang SA, CE2(?) also of September, and in the event of a major case would allow a more complete newspaper collection of the event to be made.

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ACUFOS BIBLIOGRAPHY SERVICE :Panspermia by John Prytz.

Compiler's Note: Those who wish to associate UFOs with ETI must first demonstrate the likely prevalence of ETI. Among the weaker links in the chain leading to abundant ETI are problems central to the likelihood of life's origin. The accepted theory has life originating independently on planetary surfaces. An alternate theory, Panspermia, suggests that life need originate once only in space, hence seed suitable surface sites throughout the cosmos - of obvious significance for believers in ETI. This bibliographic offering documents some of the literature central to Panspermia. A companion piece in the next issue will concentrate on interstellar cosmic chemistry - the breeding ground needed for any Panspermia theory.

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