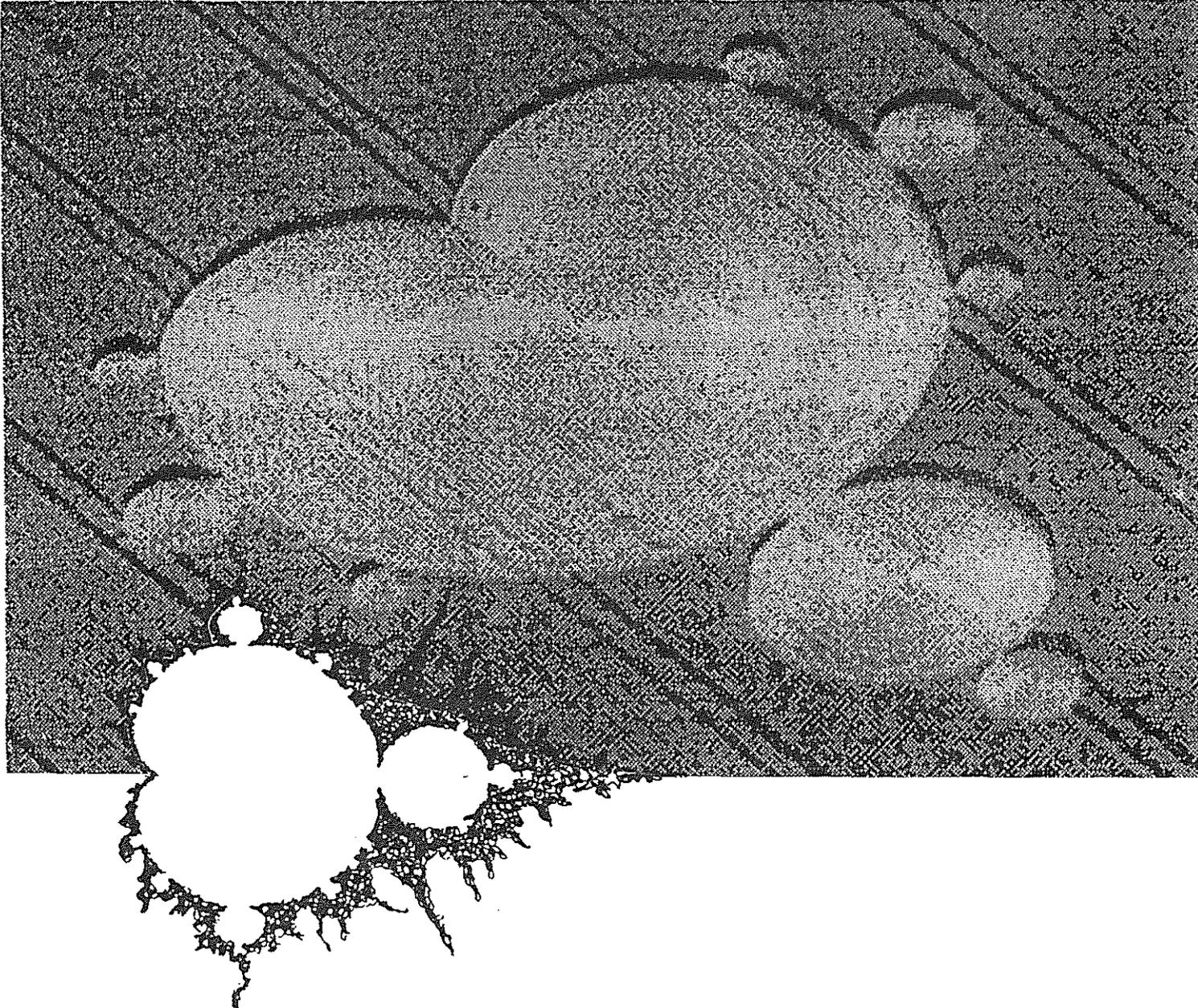


UFO Reporter

Quarterly Publication of UFO Research (New South Wales)

Volume 1, Number 1

March 1992



Seminar Report – The UFO Mystery

**Crop Circles – Leonie Starr and
Colin Andrews**

UFO Reporter

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ISSN 1038-1015

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Published quarterly.

Editorial Committee:
Bryan Dickeson,
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Coralee Vickery.

The views expressed in
this publication are
those of the individual
authors, and do not
necessarily reflect the
views of the editors of
UFO Research (NSW).

Subscriptions:

This publication is avail-
able free to members of
UFO Research (NSW)
and for \$20 per year (4
issues) by subscription
(make cheques payable
to UFO Research
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Front cover: Crop formation in the shape of a Mandelbrot set, discovered in Cambridgeshire, mid-August 1991.

We're here because we're here ...

Bryan Dickeson

Welcome to the first issue of *UFO Reporter*. This newsletter will be produced four times a year to provide UFOR (NSW) members with a record of activities and a means of documenting and publicising developments in the field locally and overseas.

Particular emphasis will be given to local material, to local investigations and studies, and to keeping you up to date with whatever projects UFOR (NSW) is undertaking — and how the organisation is developing.

There will always be some delay in providing information in printed form. For the most up-to-date information UFOR (NSW) provides a series of

two-monthly general meetings for members, on particular topics.

From time to time extra general meetings may be organised at fairly short notice to coincide with overseas visitors to NSW.

Letters to the Editors are always welcome, as are other articles, news clippings, sighting reports, and so on. Send your contributions to the editorial committee.

The purpose of *UFO Reporter* is essentially to provide a forum to discuss ideas. At the moment certain topics, such as crop circles, are exciting considerable interest, so a large portion of this issue is given over to them.

For the first few issues you will be hearing mostly from the editors. Future issues will contain a wider range of contributions. Until then you may have to make do with a fairly limited range of material.

This issue is unusually large because there is so much material available from crop circle researchers (see pages 38–49) and from the UFO Seminar *The UFO Mystery* held at the Sebel Town House in Sydney in October 1991 (see pages 5–37). Normally, *UFO Reporter* will be about 20 pages long, depending on the amount of material available. □

Contributions to UFO Reporter (NSW)

We need articles, photographs and cartoons for forthcoming editions of *UFO Reporter*.

If you think you can help or have something to offer, please contact The Editors, UFOR, PO Box Q95 Queen Victoria Building, Sydney 2000.

Inaugural Meeting of UFOR (NSW)

The inaugural meeting of UFOR (NSW) on 10 November 1991 attracted some 30 people.

The meeting was opened by Paul Sowiak-Rudej (a previous Director for the Australian Centre for UFO Studies – ACUFOS)

Paul stated that there was no real public organisation in New South Wales investigating the UFO phenomenon, and that this meeting had been called to see if there was sufficient local interest to form such a group.

The purpose of the proposed UFOR (NSW) was to investigate and discuss the subject of UFOs and to enable the cross-pollination of ideas.

Any UFO investigations the group undertook should be made readily available to other UFO investigators.

Much of the material produced by previous UFO investigation groups in NSW had now been lost from general circulation. Considerable effort would be required by the new group to re-establish a reference library and database from

the few sources of this material still available.

It was hoped that UFOR (NSW) would provide a forum for discussing ideas objectively, and that those members who wished to could be trained to become field investigators.

Leonie Starr from the Centre for Crop Circle Studies (CCCS) in the United Kingdom spoke on the crop circles phenomenon in that country (Leonie's talk is reported on page 38).

The meeting had been instigated by three of those present (Bryan Dickeson, Moira McGhee, Paul Sowiak-Rudej) following the UFO Mystery Seminar held on 7-8 September 1991 in Sydney – see pages 5-37 for a report.

It was noted that the year was already well advanced and there would be some difficulty maintaining momentum for the new group over the Christmas break and holidays coming up. It was decided to fast-track the group's development by forming an interim committee with around 10

volunteers from those present. This interim committee would discuss aims, objectives and priorities, establish a few ground rules for investigation, and start planning a program for the next year or so. The committee would routinely report its considerations to the two-monthly general meetings for wider discussion, and review all suggestions or policies in a year's time

Your interim committee members are:

- Don Basset
- Bryan Dickeson
- Rebecca Dostal
- Evelayn Hctor
- Anita McCutchen
- Betty McGhee
- Moira McGhee
- Frank Sinclair
- Paul Sowiak-Rudej
- Coralee Vickery
- Trevor Yardley

The committee will co-opt other members as required.

A review of the main considerations of the Interim Committee so far can be found on page 50.

Circular Logic

Jenny Randles from the UK spoke first on 'Circular Logic: The Mystery of the Crop Circles'. Jenny is the author of 14 UFO books on topics from crop circles to UFO abductions, and helped to formalise a UFO investigators' code of practice.

In recent years a significant number of strange circular depressions have been appearing overnight in crop fields in the south of England. It is now a popular local game to find an explanation for these crop circles; but some causes are less plausible than others. For example, Jenny's favourite cause is 'bovine flatulence'. Other people are suggesting the circles have been created from the contents of aircraft lavatories which freeze as they fall, or by hedgehogs mating.

Modern interest in the phenomenon can be traced back to a series of 20-metre circles in an oat field in Wiltshire near Westbury in August 1980.

Most of these circles appear within an area of England where there is a large number of important historical and archaeological sites, long regarded as mysterious places. This area includes the town of Warminster, where UFOs were a very popular phenomenon in the 1960s.

Crop circles are remarkable for the fine patterning and intricate designs created by interwoven plant stalks on the floor within the circle.

From 1980 to the mid-1980s a few circles were reported within the same area. By 1986 there were about 50 crop circles reappearing per year, within the same restricted area; often from one to three or even five would

appear in some formation. Investigators were then trying to find if this indicated some kind of intensification in the phenomenon, or whether it was something more mundane.

By 1987 investigators had a set of patterns which suggested the phenomenon was slowly progressing to something more complex. The circles appeared to be mostly restricted to an area in the south-west of England within a 50 kilometre radius. However, investigators were also looking to see if circles had been observed elsewhere in world, and at different times. Jenny showed a photo of an early crop circle from the 1960s, taken with the White Horse in the background.

The UFO Mystery

A weekend public seminar was held at the Sebel Town House, Sydney on Saturday 7 September and Sunday 8 September.

These reports are not a definitive account of the seminar. They are provided as an account 'for the record', and taken from notes made at the Sebel Town House (taping was discouraged). I have tried to avoid editorialising on speakers and topics as much as possible, because of the very wide range of material presented (and because I couldn't always agree with what the speakers were saying).

I have also tried to be as accurate as possible, but some names and dates may be incorrect.

— Bryan Dickeson

By 1987 the first major changes in the crop circles themselves were being recorded. Line patterns were being added to the original circle forms. These linear forms did not specifically follow the *tram lines* normally found in crops and providing a 'line of least resistance' for natural phenomena or hoaxers. (Tram lines are created by farmers as an aid for machine-spraying or fertilising their fields.)

By 1990 investigators were reporting complex key-shaped patterns,

Hoaxes became inevitable once the phenomenon started to attract a lot of publicity. What had previously been a local mystery, became a major mystery.

swirling patterns, and claw patterns which are very difficult to account for by natural means. The question that the

phenomenon might be the product of some form of intelligence then began to be raised seriously. However, there could be two types of 'intelligence' involved:

- human intelligence, in the form of hoaxing (crop circle researchers have to be able to distinguish these circle forms from natural or other causes), and
- alien intelligence (which is not as easy to investigate as human intelligence).

Jenny showed an example of a complex circle and a linear crop marking which was actually found to be a hoax.

Hoaxes are Inevitable

Hoaxes became inevitable once the phenomenon started to attract a lot of publicity. What had previously been a local mystery, became a major mystery.

One television program crew was able to produce for its viewers a crop circle not dissimilar to an existing genuine circle.

The first real hoax occurred in 1983 when one newspaper produced a set of five circles to show up the investigative deficiencies of a rival newspaper. The farmer on whose land the hoax was created was paid a lot of money, and the level of hoaxes increased subsequently.

For example, there were between 600 and 700 hoax cases last year, but only 150 this year. The number of hoaxes seems to be falling, although the number of genuine circles this season was 50-60 per cent higher. It is possible to tell a hoax fairly easily.

However, the incentive for hoaxing remains: there are now three separate reward offers of 10,000 pounds in the United Kingdom to find the reason for crop circles. Also, some farmers are charging tourists 10 pounds entry fee to see their circles, and offer circle tee shirts and key rings as mementos.

The role of the media has been influential and they can get it wrong for a number of reasons; Jenny showed a slide of a television team setting up a shot of 'alien beings' in silver suits within a genuine circle!

There are also a number of strange groups active in the area who want to keep the story alive for a range of reasons, for example:

- university colleges in the UK hoaxing one another (there have been 12 known cases this season)
- sociologists conducting experiments to test people's belief systems
- sceptics organisations which have become involved.

Some of the groups involved are very small, but must be taken into consideration.

Many of the circles reported are genuine, and show complex swirling patterns. Researchers are usually reluctant to publicise how they tell the difference between a hoax and a genuine example, for obvious reasons.

When the elaborate circle, arc and line markings started appearing last season (1990), researchers started referring to them as *pictograms*; they looked like picture-images similar to Egyptian hieroglyphics. While pictograms may be similar to one another, no two have been identical. Three or four pictograms were soon found to be fakes, but most are not, and have the same complex structuring of plants within the marking that is unique to genuine crop circles.

Most circles are reported over a three-month season each year, and within a very narrow geographical zone. In the wake of publicity, a series of ideas have been proposed by scientists to explain the phenomenon as natural, but these may also be suspect.

Crop Circle Database

A database totalling some 2200 circles has been built up since 1980, when the subject was last 're-invented'. In August 1990 a complex catherine wheel-like marking appeared in northern England; complex pictograms may occur close to one another yet not appear to be not interconnected. These formations appear to be intentional.

The distinction possible for a range of crop circle phenomena is similar to that made between IFOs and UFOs: people report them as a sudden or overnight phenomenon, and note particular affects in the

vegetation within a circle (for example, plants are layered or greener). This suggests something totally different to other types of natural circle phenomena. For example, if you have no sub-layer flattening of plant stalks, or there is excess water in the soil and external fungal growths, this may indicate fairy ring-like phenomena which can produce circles of brown or denuded grass.

Genuine circle effects are usually difficult to reproduce — Jenny showed a slide of a helicopter unsuccessfully attempting to reproduce a crop circle using the downdraft from its rotor blades! Researchers have to be able to recognise a range of circle phenomena and 'pseudo-circles'.

1800 Crop Circles in UK

There have been approximately 1800 crop circles reported in the UK over the last 11 years — 95 per cent of these have been single circles or ringed circles. Eighty per cent of reports have come from the UK, and only one in five from elsewhere (about 400), although there are probably many occurring elsewhere.

Hoaxing is also a possible source of some of these reports; incidents of hoaxing vary from the obvious (for example, messages stating 'Greetings Earthlings' and 'We are not alone') to more complex forms.

However, hoaxing is not a complete explanation for the phenomenon and we have to look closely at individual cases for possible causes. Researchers have to get into the mindset of hoaxers.

While pictograms may be similar to one another, no two have been identical. Three or four pictograms were soon found to be fakes, but most are not.

Jenny proposed four protocols for investigating circle phenomena:

- firstly, establish that there is a problem
- exhaust the established or known scientific theories
- extend established scientific explanations and theories
- only then suggest new or paranormal hypotheses for a phenomenon.

A marking in Cheshire from July 1990 suggested that human feet were responsible rather than the swirling force indicated by genuine circles. There was also a small, deep brown hole in the centre of circle as if a spike and string had been used to get an exact circle. The hoaxers had come in along tramlines in the crop to reduce chances of detection.

There are probably some 50 to 100 real circles occurring per year worldwide.

Researchers need to explain geomorphological and meteorological effects such as:

- the catherine-wheel effect in crop circle floor patterns
- any atmospheric effects, such as a hurricane effect. The circles share a similarity with weather elements and imply rotating air forces are involved
- any rotating air vortices involved, such as plant stems sucked up or entrained by the air
- any effects from vortices rotating around each other, such as twinned tornadoes, which affect a central area with a ring around it similar to some ringed circles reported
- the relationship between crop circles and hill slopes. Fewer

circles are found further away from hill slopes, suggesting some involvement with rotating atmospheric forces

- any causal link to atmospheric systems in the local area
- closeness to the sea — circles form within 30 km of the sea

Early Crop Circles

Crop circles may go back some way. We saw a slide of a 1960 newspaper photograph with a double-ringed system, some 20 years before modern crop circle phenomenon and 100 kilometres further north of the usual area. The earliest anecdotal report so far comes from 1509.

These historical accounts and other crop circle reports from Eastern Europe suggest the phenomenon may be both global and long-term in nature.

At present, no existing atmospheric theory seems to fit the phenomenon. Essentially, researchers have to resolve the problem by eliminating the most obvious causes first, before adopting more exotic suggestions.

Recent work has expanded scientific theories about 'plasma vortices', where rotating bodies of energised air might be creating the crop circles. The atmospheric forces these generate are different to those associated with tornadoes or whirlwinds. The electrostatic charges within the rotating air vortex make the ionised air molecules act in a concerted fashion like little magnets.

In Japan, experiments to emulate the vortex fields being proposed have already reproduced some of the effects associated with crop circles. The effect of projecting a plasma onto a metal plate has produced a few simple crop circle patterns.

Eyewitness Accounts

Although eyewitness accounts are rare, there are approximately 30 such accounts which describe circles being formed at close quarters. These indicate that we have to seriously consider rotating air vortices and electrostatic effects.

For example, a couple walking a dog in a field reported a sudden burst of air which struck downwards around them and broke up in different directions. This occurred over a very short time (approximately 10 seconds or less) in an area which produced 40 layered circles over a 23-day period.

Another witness reported something like a tornado which twisted and turned to form a crop circle before disappearing on itself and going out.

Plasma vortices can also glow, and this phenomenon may explain some UFO reports where similar effects have been described.

There is some photographic evidence available. In 1977 during a small wave of crop circles in Cumbria,

a UFO was seen near a circle and filmed.

Two questions researchers need to ask themselves are:

- do vortices come from natural processes?
- why are crop circles now more frequent?

We need to know why this is happening now, and what is making it happen more frequently.

Other more speculative causes being explored attribute the phenomenon to atmospheric pollution and depletion of the ozone layer. Some researchers believe that crop circles arise from natural forces that have always been there, and which are now being channelled in some way.

Finally, crop circles may be a form of communication from extraterrestrials. However, before this can be investigated, there are a number of possibilities nearer to home that we must look at first.

CROP CIRCLES LECTURE

by author and researcher Colin Andrews

Colin Andrews has spent 10 years researching the phenomenon of crop circles and other increasingly complex patterns which have been appearing in the grain fields of southern England.

Sydney, 15 April 7.30pm (\$20 at the door or book to ensure your seat)

Venue: Macquarie Theatre, Macquarie University, Waterloo Road, North Ryde.

Bookings: New Awareness Bookshop, Lindfield (02) 416 3938

For further information contact the Sydney co-ordinator: Dr Patti Barton (02) 449 3946

UFO Reality

Bill Chalker spoke on 'UFO Reality: Ground Marks and other Physical Evidence'. Bill is probably Australia's best-known UFO investigator and a contributing editor to the International UFO Reporter. He is an industrial chemist and the only UFO investigator to have been given access to the Royal Australian Air Force's files on UFOs.

Bill Chalker has been interested in the physical aspects of UFOs since 1971, and especially in UFO landings.

Most UFO reports are sighting accounts only. The majority are mundane, but some are spectacular.

For example, in 1959 the Reverend Gill and a group of Mission workers in Papua-New Guinea reported an aerial object, complete with crew. Generally, there are very few cases which include conclusive

Here in Australia, the RAAF's files on UFOs indicate a similar official lack of interest.

photographic evidence, and photographic hoaxes are quite frequent. Some

hoaxes can be quite elaborate, and a number have been well documented.

Conversely, formal government enquiries have usually been just as inconclusive, or uninterested. The best known example of this is the Condon Report of 1968, initiated by the United States Government — the official view mostly ignored the substantial information contained in the report itself.

Here in Australia, the RAAF's files on UFOs indicate a similar official lack of interest. For example, in one case three RAAF personnel reported seeing an object out to sea

off the NSW coast near Eden while watching an eclipse. This account lacks detail and shows there was little follow-up.

Similarly, potentially good cases involving ground sightings included verbal evidence only, and no searches were carried out to confirm evidence of physical interactions with the environment.

These physical investigations are important if UFO researchers are to discount a large range of natural phenomena which are also possible — after all, most cases reported are IFOs (identified flying objects). Natural phenomena that may be involved with physical trace reports can include fairy rings (caused by fungus), slime mould, and lightning strikes, as well as truly unusual effects.

Reports of natural phenomena may become unusually inflated. We saw slides of an aerial view of a large fairy ring in Victoria, and of a slime mould circle on a back lawn which looked like an oil stain.

Other physical trace cases have become highly controversial, such as the Zamora UFO (Socorro, New Mexico 1964), and the Delphos ring (Kansas, 1971). In the latter case, the soil beneath a hovering object continued to glow after the UFO had left

and was still unable to absorb water months after the event.

The Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) in the USA is producing a summary of the Delphos case and the surface effects noted at the site.

In Canada in 1974, a farmer cultivating a rape crop saw several spinning UFOs lift out of a nearby field and fly away. Ground markings were found where the objects had first been seen. The objects appeared to be solid, not plasmas.

The French UFO research organisation, GEPAN, investigated a physical trace case from January 1981. A botanist investigating plant trauma (damage) at the site found some unusual properties. After two years of research he reported that:

- the chlorophyll content of the plants had been reduced 30–50 percent
- young plant leaves showed defects normally found only in old leaves, and seemed to have aged rapidly
- the trauma effects could not be duplicated by natural causes
- there was an imbalance in some minerals (such as phosphates) within the area affected.

GEPAN implied these signs indicated an unusual event had occurred. During a 1987 conversation with GEPAN personnel in the USA some years ago, Bill was told the affects found were compared with exposure to intense gamma rays. Exposure of similar material to 10 million rads had produced similar effects. This did not necessarily suggest a cause due to nuclear ('hard') radiation, but possibly an 'electromagnetic effect'. GEPAN thought this was the most satisfactory answer at present, al-

though these results are still controversial.

Physical trace cases have also been reported in Australia:

- Bankstown (NSW, 1966) a saucer 'nest' similar to that at Tully Queensland
- Woolgoolga (NSW North Coast, 1965) — a beach landing site found after a car driver reported seeing a spotlight up in the sky. The witness came forward some years later but investigators still found some anomalies at the site.

In Tasmania, the local UFO investigation group had investigated a landing site where vegetation had shown unusual regrowth. Thermal luminescence techniques could not detect any unusual heat or radiation effects.

Car Headlights Bent

In 1967 a driver reported that his car headlights had bent towards an object on the right hand side of the road at Burkes Flat. Several days after this report, a car col-

lided with a tree at exactly the same spot, killing the driver. Re-

searchers investigated some impressions in the paddock and a headlight recovered from the wreck. There were no signs of anything unusual, such as high magnetic fields.

The Tully case (Queensland 1966) is now being reviewed. The original report described a solid object seen moving off from above the Horseshoe Lagoon at Tully in the early morning. Conditions were clear and the lagoon site showed a circle of water slowly rotating clockwise. Swordgrass within the circle had floated to the surface.

In 1967 a driver reported that his car headlights had bent towards an object on the right hand side of the road at Burkes Flat.

The UFO Mystery

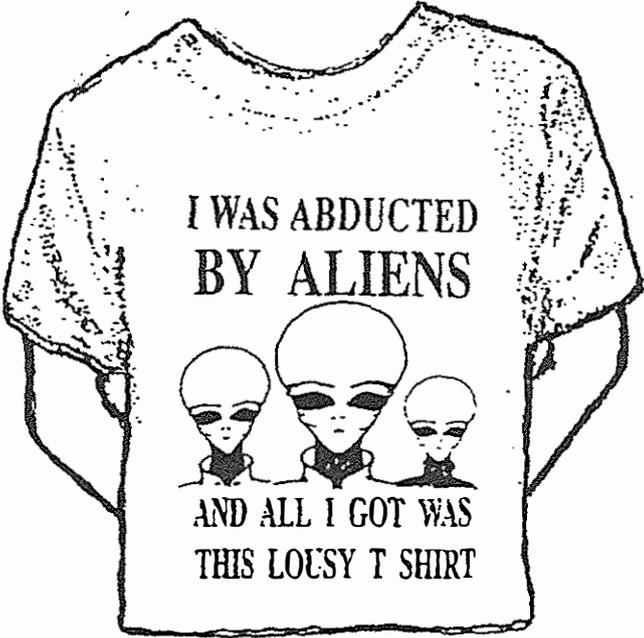
Bill said that the Tully 'nest' was nothing like the crop circles now being reported from the United Kingdom.

Near Rosedale, Victoria, an object was seen hovering above a 1000 gallon water tank with a cone of light resting on the tank. The farmer found that all 1000 gallons of water in the tank had

disappeared although the ground in the immediate vicinity was perfectly dry. On closer inspection, the water tank showed superficial cracks. A ring of affected grass was found about one quarter of a mile from the tank itself. A year later a ring of bare soil was still visible on the ground. □

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Exploring Inner and Outer Space: the New Frontiers

Brian O'Leary is a physicist and astronaut, and author of the book *Exploring Inner and Outer Space*.

Brian O'Leary said that 12 years ago he was a typical physicist at Princeton University. Then he became interested in the Human Potential Movement and started spending weekends at workshops on human development. For several years he lived 'transcendentally', by having two completely separate lifestyles as a physicist and as a workshop junkie.

While back at Princeton teaching science graduates, Brian was impressed by some of the new developments going on in physics at the time. Physicists were demonstrating some profoundly anomalous phenomena.

The traditional deterministic system of western science relies on classifying events into boxes bounded by causes and effects — into inner and outer spaces. Science is knowledge reduced to a system, and what is outside the system of boxes is seen as irrelevant. Brian's new experiences were not part of this scientific culture, but part of a broader inner and outer space, some broader reality.

Scientists need to apply scientific methods to transcendental theory to create a new science which embraces this expanded reality, and which can address other important problems.

The deterministic or Newtonian view of the universe can be likened to the balls on a billiard table, which can bounce off each other in a series of

collisions. Determinism implies that we can always go back to some first cause. For physicists this is the 'big bang' which created our universe. Everything is seen as being an effect of that cause, many millions of years ago.

Scientists are often seen as the gatekeepers between some reality and unreality. However, the events going on outside the box are very real, so perhaps we need to build an even bigger box. Some physicists are already looking at expanding their approaches to the universe around them in a way not seen since the early 20th century.

Atoms are not solid entities, but packages of energy, and we may be able to demonstrate a mind-matter interaction in the laboratory. The 'big three' in the physicists' universe — length, time and mass — become distorted as you approach the speed of light. This point represents a transcendental limit to the known physical universe.

Brian has had one near-death experience after a car accident, where he felt himself moving towards a distant light. (Some eight million Americans

The traditional deterministic system of western science relies on classifying events into boxes bounded by causes and effects — into inner and outer spaces. Science is knowledge reduced to a system, and what is outside the system of boxes is seen as irrelevant.

reported having had similar experiences during a recent Gallup Poll.) Brian has also had one healing experience following a serious accident, where acupressure and visualisation procedures allowed him to walk after only a month in hospital. He is looking for some transcendental reality, beyond the mediocrity of most current science.

The main problem with the UFO

Special sites such as Stonehenge seem to indicate important energy centres, like the acupuncture points on the human body. The Earth appears to be interacting with its celestial environment, and responding to it.

phenomenon is that these same mediocre minds are providing the interpretation of the phenomenon, from their very limited, elitist

western perspective.

To the astronaut 'spacewalking' above the Earth everything seems much less elitist when looking back at the Earth, or *Gaia*. John Lovelock first proposed his 'Gaia Hypothesis' some decades ago when he found that the Earth fills all criteria usually applied to living organisms. Lovelock proposed that humanity is merely part of some larger living *superorganism*, like the fleas on an elephant.

An extension of this view suggests that not just Gaia, but the whole universe is alive. For example, you can experience something of this cosmic link at Stonehenge at sunset. During the 1970s a series of scientific measurements were made of the energies from these stone megaliths using ultrasonic, microwave, and infra-red detectors. Special energy correlations were found to exist between individual stones in the circle at specific times, such as equinoxes and full moons.

Earth's Acupuncture Points

Special sites such as Stonehenge seem to indicate important energy centres, like the acupuncture points on the human body. The Earth appears to be interacting with its celestial environment, and responding to it.

These ancient sites are mysterious, and scientists are uncertain how they arose. Newtonian devices such as pulleys or inclined planes are normally used to explain their construction, but we might also consider levitation.

For example, the stone monuments of Easter Island — how were these large stones moved about? Similarly, Incan monuments include carefully-shaped stones weighing up to 14 tonnes, placed precisely and without the use of mortar. All this implies a technology we do not give ancient peoples credit for.

The great pyramids of Egypt include up to two million stones weighing 2–5 tonnes each. In 1976 the Viking orbiter found similar complex structures on Mars. The Martian pyramids have gentler slopes than those on Earth, and one is a five-sided pyramid. Mars is one-third the size of Earth and has the highest mountain known in the Solar System — Olympus Mons, three times the height of Mount Everest. It also has gullies three miles deep, one as long as the distance from Sydney to Perth. These dried-up Martian riverbeds indicate water once flowed there at some time in its past.

The 'Face on Mars'

The 'Face on Mars' is a mesa approximately 1.5 kilometres across. When scientists saw the first pictures of it, they described it as a trick of the light and shade.

Nothing more was done about the Viking pictures for about a decade, until a few years ago when computer image processing techniques were used to enhance the Face and nearby pyramid structures. This careful processing showed that the Face is very face-like in every dimension.

Brian O'Leary submitted an article to *Icarus* about the Face. This was rejected, but eventually appeared in the *Journal of the British Interplanetary Society* four years later.

Brian also lobbied to have the 1991 Mars Observer Mission re-photograph the Face area; the resolution this time will be 50 times greater than the previous Viking photographs. At first NASA refused the request on the grounds that it was just a geological feature and not interesting. Finally, congressmen he approached were able to request the Face be included in the flight program.

The present period represents a change from the old to the new science. A friend who accompanied Brian on a visit to Whitley Streiber noted four different life forms in the room with them — and these were more than just physical aliens.

Similarly Brian has visited Ed Walters, who produced most of the Gulf Breeze UFO photographs. Over 300 people have confirmed many of the UFO sightings photographed by Walters. Although some investigators say the photos are hoaxes, photographic experts say that Walters would have to have vast resources to hoax them.

Most of the Gulf Breeze photos are very complex and show an object like a 'casserole' or 'chinese lantern'. Some have a blue beam of light from the underside of the object and almost

look alive. One photograph includes an UFO plus three humanoids.

Alan Hynek, of Project Bluebook fame, said that one in five UFO reports were credible and that the phenomenon transcended mundane explanations. UFO research is leading us towards a new psychology and a new science in the last decade of the 20th century.

We must combine objectivity and experience to get

a powerful new combination to highlight the new reality. During a

tour of the crop circles of England in 1990 and 1991 Brian was able to view some of the circle formations near Avebury and Stonehenge which are creating so much interest in the subject. The world as we know it is coming to an end. The apocalypse does not point to a fiery Armageddon, but to changes.

□

The present period represents a change from the old to the new science.

UFO (NSW) Meeting Dates for 1992

- 5 April Interviewing UFO Observers
- 7 June Alternative Technologies
- 2 August
- 4 October AGM
- 6 December

Video Evenings (6.30 – 9.00 pm)

- 3 May
 - 5 July
 - 6 September
- (Adults \$5; Accompanied children under 12, Free)

UFOs and World Grid Patterns

Antony Drew says he is a theorist, not a field investigator. His main interests are:

- the psychological and historical aspects of UFO abductions
- the reported disappearance of planes, ships and people
- the location of special, (possibly linked) geophysical areas

There are reports from throughout history on disappearances of aeroplanes, people, and animals, and reports of unusual entities such as Yeti, Bigfoot, and devils.

The creation of these stories tells us a lot about ourselves, such as our concerns as children, our motives and fears. Our curiosity in the unknown goes deeper than mere mythology, folklore, reports of abductions, and so on. There have always been reports of demons, for example.

Folktales and their like are complex and built on the experience of individuals, or linked to sacred sites, and occur across all cultures.

UFOs are sometimes seen as part of the mythology of the mid to late 20th century, but were well established before the turn of this century.

UFOs are sometimes seen as part of the mythology of the mid to late 20th century, but were well established before the turn of this century. The first major UFO or 'airship' waves go back to 1909, and came from Wales, New Zealand, Australia, and England. These reports were numerous and widespread. In 1913 there were more sightings, but people's emphasis had changed — after all, war was impending. The objects in these reports looked more like aeroplanes but were much more

manoeuvrable. In Scandinavia after the 1914–18 war UFOs were reported as rocket- or cigar-shaped craft, and became known as the 'ghost rockets of Sweden'.

In 1947 Kenneth Arnold reported the first flying disks or *Flying Saucers*, although reports of strange cigars and blimps still continued.

Such changes in what is perceived suggest that individuals who see something will modify their belief structures to turn their experience into a phenomenon they find more acceptable.

Folklore accounts are often linked and may relate specific kinds of phenomena to specific geophysical locations.

These specific locations are often near geological areas associated with continental plates and volcanic hotspots. For example, some areas are linked with mysterious disappearances: the Bermuda Triangle is co-extensive with the Caribbean plate and the Devils Sea (near Japan) to another tectonic plate. In similar areas you may get UFO-related phenomena.

Similarly, many mythologies concern the Earth's *ley lines*. These lines form an ancient power grid linking the Earth's acupuncture points through which natural energy, given such names as *chi* or *prana*, flows.

There have been many grid theories proposed over the years. One of the earliest was the Unified Vector Grid (UVG) system which links the Devils Triangle and Amazon Basin to geological hotspots in Egypt and the Andes. Others are Sanderson's grid (USA), the Icosahedral pattern (USSR), and Bruce Cathie's Harmonic Grid (New Zealand).

For example, the UVG grid is composed of five simple Platonic shapes, based on the cube. A series of triangles is drawn to form the UVG polyhedron, with 120 triangles and 62 major grid points. There are 16 lines in each triangle forming 4862 major and minor grid points.

Australian Grid Patterns

When you show how this grid pattern applies to a map of Australia, you get important intersections on the Nullarbor Plain (Mundrabilla UFO 1988) and other major UFO sites. Others occur near Alice Springs and Pine Gap (an important min-min light area and Aboriginal site), at Port Hedland (a West Coast hotspot), and on the coast of Bass Strait (the site of the Valentich disappearance).

Using these grid systems, Paul Deveraux looked at local historic sites in the UK as part of his 'Dragon Project'. One of the sites known as 'Long Meg and Her Daughters' is an ancient set of megaliths built in an area consisting mainly of granite. The site comprises 67 great sandstone blocks each weighing up to 28 tonnes. The stones on the northwest side of the circle show extremely high levels of radiation, 50-60 times the background rate.

Similarly, the Rollright Stones, also in the UK, occur on another grid point. These form a circle of lime-

stone megaliths 31 metres in diameter. The Whispering Knights stone formation dates from approximately 5000 BC and produces strong ultrasound readings at dawn,

earth lights (or 'pillars of light'), mists, electric shocks, and infra-red light emissions from various stones. The Earth's magnetic field is lower within this circle than outside, and the natural radiation levels are higher.

Brainwaves Enhanced

Inside these circles, the theta and delta brainwave activity in experimental subjects is enhanced.

Another site in the UK, Chun Quoit, is a prehistoric chamber capped with a granite slab. It has high radiation levels and periodic bursts of light from the slab have been reported. No traces of burial artefacts have been found in this structure, which suggests it was built for some living purpose.

These sites suggest that our forefathers knew the importance of the geolocation of these areas very early on.

Unusual effects reported from these sites include radio interference, magnetic fluctuations, ultrasound, unusual natural radiation, smells, wavy lights, ball lightning, and green, red, yellow, or white mists.

The crystalline structure of the Earth can store up potential energy and release it at certain points of the Earth, due in part to the piezoelectric effect.

Unusual light effects and time distortion have also been reported. For

These sites suggest that our forefathers knew the importance of the geolocation of these areas very early on.

Ancient megaliths may be designed to alter our perceptions in some way, or to enhance mystical experiences.

example, at the Rollright Stones, unusual disappearances of automobiles and dogs have been attributed to time dilation or time shift effects. A strange infra-red cloud has also been photographed over this area at different times.

The question remains as to whether these were mental or physical events. From psychological studies we know the temporal lobe of the brain is

sensitive to electromagnetic and geomagnetic changes. This area in the brain is also close to the human memory centres so we may be looking at some phenomenon similar to out-of-body experiences.

Ancient megaliths may be designed to alter our perceptions in some way, or to enhance mystical experiences. People there may not actually see a physical manifestation, but experience some peripheral or mind expanding sensory process close to their reality. □

CATHIE & DEYO

Bruce Cathie — Author of Harmonic 33, Harmonic 695 (the UFO and Anti-gravity), Harmonic 288 (the Pulse of the Universe), and Harmonic 371244 (the Bridge to Infinity).

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Officialdom and UFOs: the Hidden History

Jerome (Jerry) Clark is the editor of *International UFO Reporter*, published by the J. Alan Hynek Center in the United States.

This account is not just one story but many stories in one. It may be the greatest story of all time, or a story that is not all true and which is being 'leaked' to us. Or, we may have the anatomy of a modern legend in the making, where even the liars are interesting.

It may be the ultimate secret — a deep and human enigma, or an indication of extra-terrestrial intelligence. What we do have is a brief glance at something, the lie inside the lie, which is of interest to all of us here today.

In the late 1940s the first reports of UFOs began to accumulate. At the same time two separate, yet related, sets of rumours and stories began to circulate.

These stories implied that UFOs had crashed in the United States and that bodies had been found. Reports that this material was being held at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base were started and circulated early in 1950.

Frank Scully mentions crashed UFOs in his book *Behind the Flying Saucers*.

These stories continued to circulate in various forms and there were attempts in late 1980s to revive the Scully story. At first the accounts suggested jokes rather than a hoax; a newspaper picture from Columbia showed a '300 pound little man' which

was later attributed to a community gag from Belgium.

During 1952 Coraland Jim Lorenzon of APRO (Aerial Phenomenon Research Organisation) were told by an airman that he had been sent to the American mid-west in 1948 to a UFO crash site. A disc-shaped aircraft had crashed, and the site investigated in the utmost secrecy.

A report from 27 April 1953 includes an anecdote which implies three crashed spacecraft had been investigated. One had been badly damaged, the other two were almost intact.

Another unverifiable account from the same period described how a US government employee had seen a reclaimed UFO at the Columbia Supply Depot. It had been 9 metres in diameter, was unoccupied, and showed minimal damage. The employee had entered the craft. While at the depot, there had been a defense alert for a UFO attack on the base which never actually eventuated. From Columbia, the UFO had been taken to Wright Patterson Air Force Base.

Reports that this material was being held at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base were started and circulated early in 1950.

Norma Gardner's Confession

In 1959, Norma Gardner made a deathbed confession that during 1955 she had worked at Wright Patterson Air Force Base cataloguing all their UFO material. This included material from crashed UFOs and dead alien autopsy reports. Their bodies were

All of these UFO artefact stories are anecdotal, fairly sensational, and fall severely short of the hard proof required to confirm their reliability or otherwise.

generally smaller than humans, and had been preserved; they had large heads and slanted eyes. She had also seen

two retrieved discs in a hangar. UFO investigators shrugged this incident off as being too outlandish.

Rumours which alleged that UFO artefacts were being held at Wright Patterson persisted into the 1960s. During the mid-sixties Senator Barry Goldwater requested access to this UFO material from General Curtis LeMay. LeMay refused Goldwater permission; this incident was reported in the *New Yorker* of 28 April 1988.

UFOs and Jackie Gleason

The second wife of US comedian Jackie Gleason, Beverley McKittrick, provided a similar report. Gleason

The UFO materials found were light and tough, and that the beings who piloted them were also light to withstand high decelerations.

had arrived back at their Florida residence one evening in 1973, visibly shaken. The comedian had a long interest in UFOs, and

his friend President Nixon had arranged for him to visit Homestead Air Force Base near Miami where he had seen the embalmed bodies of four small aliens. UFO investigators sent a

Freedom of Information request to the US Air Force for records of the visit but were told such records did not exist. Although Gleason was approached to confirm these details, he took what information he had to the grave.

All of these UFO artefact stories are anecdotal, fairly sensational, and fall severely short of the hard proof required to confirm their reliability or otherwise. However, by the late 1970s, ufologists were starting to get interested in them, especially as more accounts were reported from (presumably) reliable witnesses. For example, a minister at the University of Chicago reported that he had discovered the preserved bodies of small humanoid beings, and had been forced to sign secrecy papers. However, there were also several instances, where such reports were found to be hoaxes.

Other leads included a memo from Wilbert Smith, the prominent Canadian scientist who worked on Project Magnet for the Canadian Department of Transport. Smith mentioned a 1950 meeting with US Defence Department representatives to discuss captured UFO material. This meeting was later confirmed by the US scientist, Dr Sarbacher, who said they had captured material but could not replicate the technology. (Sarbacher was definitely no 'nut' and had an impressive scientific reputation listed in *Who's Who in America*.) He stated the UFO materials found were light and tough, and that the beings who piloted them were also light to withstand high decelerations. Dr Vannevar Bush had been head of this top secret project. (Until he died in 1986, Sarbacher consistently maintained his story, although the detail

were vague and he would apologise for not having taken more interest.)

In September 1952 the Civilian Saucer Investigation published an article titled 'To the Man with the Pickle Jar' about UFO artifacts. Editor J. Sullivan referred to a top-level meeting between aliens and western scientists which had been held 'in the Australian bush'.

In his book *Other Tongues, Other Flesh*, from the mid-1950s, George Hunt Williamson implied contact had already been established with aliens. Flying Saucer investigators at Edwards Air Force Base had exchanged scientific information with aliens by radio telegraph, under 'Project NQ707'.

On 20 February 1954, President Eisenhower was on holiday at a friend's ranch, when he disappeared from public view for four hours. Early news reports implied he was sick or possibly dead before the President turned up once more.

Then an incredible story began to make the rounds — that the President had been taken to Edwards Air Force Base to view UFO artefacts and alien cadavers. In his book *Flying Saucers Uncensored*, Frank Edwards provided details of how the President saw five saucers which landed voluntarily. The President had talked to aliens who offered to display their craft to Air Force technicians. This account was not fully investigated until 1980 by William Moore. Frank Edwards's source had been a letter to Borderland Sciences Research Associates written by Gerald Light. Light had actually written his letter in 'an out-of-body state'. Once created, the story had evolved independently of Light's view of it and may have been used to cover up a real trip Eisenhower had made to the base.

The Straithe Letter

In 1956 George Adamski's book *Inside the Space Ships* was hugely successful and attracted an international following. During December 1957 Adamski received an official-looking letter from R.E. Straithe, apparently confirming official contacts with aliens. The letter was published by *Flying Saucer*

Review in March–April of 1958 and re-ported by *The Times* of London. The inci-

dent was further complicated when Edgar Sievers (a prominent South African UFO investigator) declared the letter to be authentic. Two decades later it was found that the 'Straithe Letter' had been written by Gray Barker and Jim Mosely (two US UFO investigators) one evening after a bit of imbibing. They had written seven 'naughty letters' that evening on some official letterhead paper they had obtained, but only Adamski went public.

Adamski also claimed as true an earlier rumour that P r e s i d e n t

Roosevelt had met extra-terrestrials, and that he (Adamski) had also boarded a flying saucer at a USAF base.

All of these accounts (except for the Sarbacher story) are most probably hoaxes or rumours.

These rumours faded for a decade or so, and then started to return in a new form, which had its roots in two events. This new form was even stranger than the earlier accounts ...

□

On 20 February 1954, President Eisenhower was on holiday at a friend's ranch, when he disappeared from public view for four hours.

All of these accounts (except for the Sarbacher story) are most probably hoaxes or rumours.

Extraterrestrial Entities and the US Government

On Day 2 of the Seminar, Sunday 8 September, Jerome Clark continued his talk on accounts from the 1970s and 1980s of one UFO crash, and of another UFO that almost crashed in 1964.

One event that almost surely did take place occurred at Socorro in New Mexico in April 1964. US patrolman Lonnie Zamora described in considerable detail an object which landed near him and took off again. He was even able to describe a symbol or 'glyph' that consisted of a sort of arrow and cross arrangement. USAF Project Blue Book could not explain this event away.

Incidentally, another UFO may have crashed on 30 April 1964, as

One event that almost surely did take place occurred at Socorro in New Mexico in April 1964.

reported in the *APRO Bulletin*.

This was similar to the craft seen at Socorro. Jim and Coral Lorenzon of

APRO quoted a 'reliable source' who reported an exchange between a USAF pilot and a control tower, plus two other 'entirely independent, uncontaminated sources'. Debris from the UFO was reported as being held in a hanger at Holloman Air Force Base.

In 1973 businessmen Robert Emenegger and Allan Sandler were approached by USAF officials to make a film on advanced research topics. Their Air Force contact, Paul Shartle, discussed several options, including a look at UFO cases.

Emenegger and Sandler were later shown a movie they were told had been taken in May 1971 at Holloman Air Force Base. Three craft had landed there at 6 am; one had remained and the other two had taken off again. Three grey aliens had left the landed craft and been met officially. (The filmmakers were not given this film for their documentary, although the USAF contact had promised them 30,000 feet.)

The aliens appeared to be trained professionals and had large cat-like eyes and slit-like mouths. For various reasons, the documentary originally proposed was never made. This series of incidents is described fully in Emenegger's 1974 book *UFOs Past, Present & Future*. It now appears that the meeting between the USAF and the aliens recorded on film may have occurred in April 1964.

The strange relationship between the businessman and Shartle continued haphazardly for years; in the late 1980s Emenegger and Sandler were to interview an alien, but this never happened.

In 1978 UFO investigators Stanton Friedman and William Moore were reviewing accounts of a UFO crash incident reported from July 1947 at Roswell, New Mexico. The military had first declared that a disc

had been recovered, then changed their story to describe the debris as coming from a crashed weather balloon — the balloon debris had been shown to the news media (with great fanfare) at Fort Worth. Moore openly challenged the balloon claim as a convenient fiction.

Three books have been written on the Roswell incident, and a fourth is on the way. No-one now supports the view that the debris recovered at Socorro came from a balloon. The Fort Worth photos set up for the press are generally acknowledged to be a military cover-up.

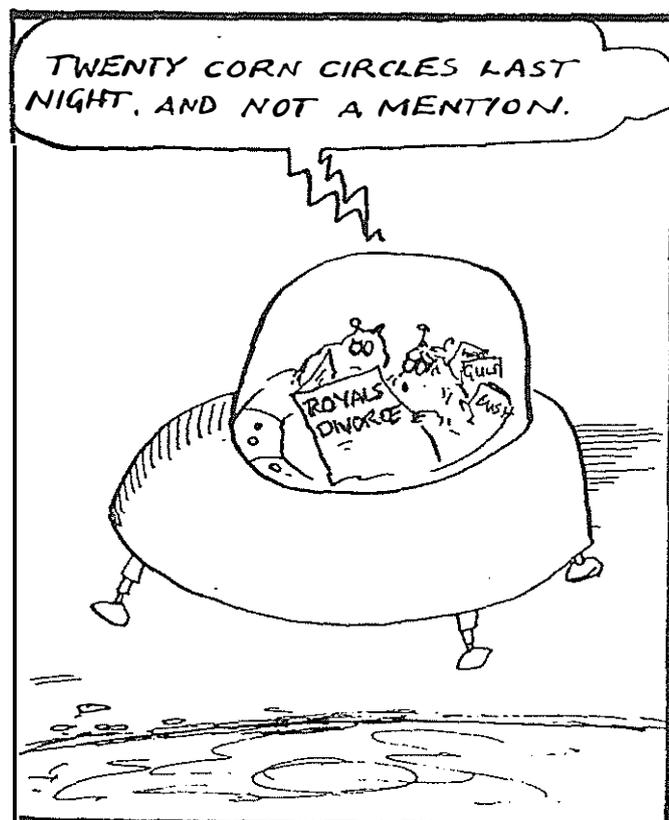
The Roswell account resurfaced in September 1980, when Moore began conducting a series of interviews with eyewitnesses. During this time, Moore received a phone call from a USAF contact, Richard Doty, an Air Force Sargeant long associated with US Intelligence. This liaison resulted in a cat-and-mouse chase across the United States in pursuit of some 30 to 40 USAF informers. These informers became known collectively as 'the Birds', because they adopted names such as 'Falcon', 'Condor', and 'Sparrow'.

The story these informers provided confirmed that there *had* been a UFO crash at Roswell in 1947, and described how a live humanoid had been recovered and kept alive at Los Alamos. Contact had then been established with a group of aliens through a series of guest 'EBEs' (extraterrestrial biological entities). The program was managed under the code name of 'MJ-12' (variously as *Majestic 12* or *Majority 12*) which had been set up on 24 September 1947 as a body to formulate Government policy for the entire project. There were also various subsidiary programs, such as

'Project Aquarius' (for ET life-form studies), 'Project Sigma' (for ET communications, started on 30 April 1964, just after Roswell). These projects used a reference book, referred to as 'the Bible', which was a compilation of all information about the aliens from every project.

'The Birds' reported that there were apparently nine different ET races visiting Earth. The 'greys' they had contacted directly were from the third planet of Eta Reticulae, and had been here for 30,000 years, tinkering with our evolution.

At around this time, another UFO investigator, Paul Bennewitz, a physicist, had been decoding alien signals from UFOs he had photographed around the Manzano nuclear test site. A variation of the Birds' story was



being fed to Bennewitz to discredit him and his work: the US Government and ETs were in communication through the USAF security agency, UFOASL. This group gave Bennewitz the 'full story' — a horrible concoction that one in 40 US people had actually been implanted with mind control devices. Bennewitz became so obsessed, so frantic (as CIA agents rearranged his home, and used a series of

These reports were used to create a web of disinformation.

dirty tricks), that he was finally hospitalised with chronic paranoia.

Moore had become partly involved in this situation too — he was meeting Bennewitz and inadvertently reporting his decline to 'the Birds'.

UFOs and Cattle Mutilations

In March 1983 Linda Howe produced a TV documentary which implicated UFOs as a factor in a series of bizarre cattle mutilations in the American mid-west. In January 1983, Howe was approached by a USAF representative, a Sergeant Doty. She was told that the ETs came from a planet 50 light-years from Earth, and all about Project Aquarius. In exchange for allowing the cattle mutilations to continue, the USA was being provided with UFO technology. After a bit of cloak-and-dagger activity, Sergeant Doty allowed Howe to view a series of official documents on 25 April 1984, exactly 12 years after the Socorro incident. The documents described how the bodies of ETs had been recovered and preserved, how UFOs had landed for a body-swap (recorded on five sets of ground cameras), and included a briefing paper on UFOs prepared for the President of the United States. Her

story has many of the features of the Bennewitz account; for example, all the dates are the same.

USAF Disinformation

The overall implication from a number of separate sources is that the USAF deliberately propagated a series of reports of humanoids, which was probably a mixture of fact and fiction. These reports were used to create a web of disinformation to fix Bennewitz and others who were creating problems for the USAF.

In 1987 an MJ-12 briefing paper was leaked anonymously to the press. 'Briefing Paper Number 8' was (apparently) intended for President Eisenhower, and had been prepared by Dr Vannevar Bush. The document created all sorts of controversy, but is unlikely to be authentic.

However, the most sophisticated application of this particular myth occurred in 1987 and 1988 with the production of the *UFO Cover Up* — *Live* television special, broadcast worldwide. Viewers were given the same basic, partly true 'Bird' stories as already described, with a few extra embellishments, such as the fact that the aliens liked strawberry ice-cream.

Other, more bizarre variations have recently been found: in 1980 John Lear (whose beliefs fall far right of centre) was told by USAF sources that one in 10 Americans were now being implanted to control their behaviour, that the aliens ate human flesh, and that they used some human body parts for regeneration. The cattle mutilations of the mid-west, they said, were a false alarm — the real plot was to so scare the US that it would soon accept martial law. One of Lear's colleagues, Cope, has produced a right-wing conspiracy theory where

the Jews are behind the whole process and trying to take over the world, as the agents of a secret government.

In another twist, Robert Scott Lazar has made a public declaration, saying that he used to work as a scientist in 'Area 51', a corner of the Nevada Test Site. This area was in fact used by the US military to develop the U2 aircraft, its 'Stealth' aircraft, and SDI ('Star Wars') technology. The region is very isolated, and odd lights are often reported manoeuvring over the area. Lazar says that the craft being developed in Area 51 are not altogether earthly, and use technology powered by antigravity engines from crashed UFOs. Lazar's comments have created a lot of excitement, but his background is dubious and cannot be verified at present.

These UFO accounts are persistent and some are from reputable sources.

Large triangular craft are also being reported from near Edwards Air Force Base and have been seen by moonlight and during the day. Articles in *Aviation Week* and *Space Technology* report that the projects being developed at the Utah sites represent a quantum leap from present Stealth technology and have recently been flown to Morocco.

Triangular UFOs have been reported regularly from Belgium since 1989; these sightings are well documented. Triangles have long been a part of the UFO phenomenon. Most are reported from California rather than from Europe, and usually during early morning hours.

To summarise then, the first set of rumours about crashed UFOs includes some known hoaxes. The original Roswell reports are not like these, but include much evidence that

is still unproved. If the incident did occur, it is likely we will know for certain soon.

As for the second set of stories, about US authorities having been contacted by ETs, at best the evidence is still circumstantial. There is no supporting evidence that ETs have set up such formal contacts. UFO investigators would do well to remember that in 1963 the CIA declared that the inappropriate manipulation of UFO data could create security problems. From 1963 till 1969, the CIA may well have been involved in bizarre psychological experiments. These psychological experiments seem to involve some conditioning process, whereby disinformation (facts, odd facts and lies) are being used to create a series of modern myths. □

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Next issue (June 1992)**

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- Video Reviews
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- Cigar Shaped Objects

The New Science and Mind over Matter

Brian O'Leary

One of the new scientific discoveries Brian mentioned yesterday has been that the human mind can affect matter.

To demonstrate this to himself, Brian had used a simple random number generator. This 'black box' included a small inlet at the top for pinball machine balls which fall down over a series of pins. Traditional science predicts that the balls will pile up into a 'normal' or bell-shaped heap (known as a 'Poisson distribution'), centred below the hole. By willing the balls to fall to one side, Brian and his son had been able to displace or 'skew'

By willing the balls to fall to one side, Brian and his son were able to displace or 'skew' the results.

the results. The probability of this skewing under normal conditions was about 1 in 1,000,000.

Similarly, you can use the human mind to bend simple objects such as a spoon. During the workshops he now runs, Brian can get around 90 per cent of participants to do this using simple concentration exercises similar to those used by martial artists. After about two hours of workshops most participants can 'fuse' with a spoon to get it to bend.

A similar technique is required with dowsing rods to detect the energy fields or aura of the human body from around 0.75 metre away. The human

energy field becomes twice as big when you think positively.

Brian believed that one day these concentration techniques would be taught in schools.

A polygraph attached to a plant indicated similar energy fields were present, and could be used to monitor the continuing emotions of a person many miles distant using just a test tube containing a few of their white blood cells.

These and similar experiments suggest biological energies interact with the physical environment. A series of experiments by Vogel, a chemist, used crystals to restructure water. By placing a helical coil around a crystal and pouring water through it for about a second Vogel found that thinking at the crystal produced some alchemical change, some restructuring.

Using this apparatus to restructure apple juice, Vogel found it became mouldy less quickly. The same process could be used to prevent wine from spoiling, or for purifying water, and so on.

One psychic Brian had met in Brazil could materialise perfume in quantities, as well as bend forks.

Brian believed that there was some higher organising force or effect which provided a higher mirror of reality. The UFO phenomenon was more than another alien civilisation; it

was part of this higher order, like Gaia, the Earth mother.

This new science needed to understand how we are all interconnected, and to create a new paradigm for that interconnectedness, or holism.

Tom Beardon had suggested a unified field theory of consciousness which used Maxwell's equations of motion. As currently applied, these indicated a scalar motion — a magnitude, not a direction. Beardon's theory was more directed.

It is possible for us to use the free energy that exists in the vacuum to transform the Earth, but at present we are still trying to develop a language to indicate what is going on.

Scientists have been reluctant to accept new ideas, even from Galileo's time. At first the French Academy refused to accept the existence of meteors. In more recent times during an astronomers' convention, delegates were told there was a UFO visible outside — no-one went to check.

As we move towards the 21st century, we move to a new renaissance, with new dreams of spirituality and identity. □

This new science needed to understand how we are all interconnected, and to create a new paradigm for that interconnectedness, or holism.

Close Encounters of an Australian Kind

Keith Basterfield, author of *UFOs: the Image Hypothesis*, investigated the *Mundrabilla* incident, and has recently provided an Australian perspective on UFO abductions.

J. Alan Hynek's list of the terms used by UFO investigators includes 'nocturnal lights', 'daylight disks', and 'close encounter' classifications of various types: CE1, CE2, and CE3. These classifications originally implied that there was no interaction between the objects seen and the people who reported them. However, some accounts involve physical time losses and face-to-face contact with UFO occupants, so a new classification was

later added: the CE4. This classification mostly corresponds to cases where observers claim abduction by aliens.

But firstly, are there any early accounts of UFO phenomena from Australia, which has been occupied for 40,000 to 50,000 years? The evidence is slight. So far, the only possible early encounters may be inferred from the legends of northwestern Aboriginals which mention sky beings

who live in the clouds. A probable landing site in the Kimberley Ranges is particularly revered by local tribes. One of the Kimberley tribes has a ceremony where initiates are taken to physical trace sites and told of small human figures with long necks from the sky.

More recently, in 1960 a much-publicised Tasmanian UFO sighting

The RAAF reports we know about suggest that there is a vast difference between what the RAAF sees and what reasonable people report.

reported how a dark grey cigar shape some 30 metres long and five smaller objects had been seen moving in

and out of a rain squall. The RAAF report of the episode concluded that the objects were 'astronomical'.

Also from the RAAF files: an early-morning disc eight metres across was reported in 1963 when it descended to about 25 metres from the ground and then headed off, accelerating to high speed. The RAAF concluded this had been a 'weak' tornado, which produced no damage in its path.

The RAAF reports we know about suggest that there is a vast difference

The more spectacular UFO incidents involve abductions by aliens, and Australia has its fair share of these.

between what the RAAF sees and what reasonable people report.

From another report at Rosedale (Vic) in 1980, a UFO was seen over a water tank by a farmer on a motorbike. Ground markings were found nearby as a circle of dead grass. Twelve months later regrowing vegetation within the marking still showed clear differences from surrounding plants.

There are plenty of other examples from Australia. Once again

from Tasmania during July 1982 in Hampshire Forest, an object 'like an army helicopter' was seen some six metres above the ground and 20 to 30 metres off. From the RAAF files the same object was observed 10 kilometres above by a Mirage pilot sent to intercept it after a radar observation. The RAAF reported the object as being a high-altitude balloon.

The Mundrabilla incident of a few years ago received much media publicity. The Victorian UFO Research Society (VUFORS) interviewed the Knowles family shortly afterwards.

The Knowles described how the UFO shot over their car and lifted it off the road. Their voices changed in pitch, the family dog in the car went crazy, and the car started shaking. The news media described the incident as a 'UFO attack' and reported that the car was covered by strange dust. Police scientists took samples of the dust, but only found salt crystals and fine soil particles covering the vehicle. A spectacular media event was found to have simple, mundane answers.

The more unusual UFO incidents involve abductions by aliens, and Australia has its fair share of these.

Hynek's early 'close encounter' classifications did not allow for UFO abductions. In an abduction, people are removed from their environment and taken on board a craft, and may be physically examined. Accounts from the US describe aliens conducting genetic experiments, or planting devices into bodies to monitor people. Similar kinds of accounts started being reported in Australia, particularly after the publicity given to the Valentich case.

On 21 October 1978 Valentich, a civilian pilot, was to fly from Moorab-

bin in Victoria to King Island in Bass Strait and back again. His plane was filled with five hours of fuel for the 69-minute trip, as is normal. Valentich disappeared over Bass Strait and a Department of Transport search was immediately mounted. He was subsequently declared lost without trace. News media suggested he had been abducted by a UFO as records of the communication between pilot and aviation control mentioned a strange lit object over the plane, just before it disappeared.

The earliest Australian abduction claim comes from some years previously. In 1972 Maureen Puddy of Victoria claimed she had been abducted by a UFO on several occasions. Under hypnosis she recalled how on the first occasion there had been a blue light on the ground around her car and an object hovering above. The object was four or five times larger than the car and soon moved away. Some three weeks later while travelling the same stretch of road the same events occurred. "The car took control of itself"; there was no sound, but she heard a voice. Later, Mrs Puddy revisited the area in broad daylight with two members from VUFORS. These 'witnesses' described how Mrs Puddy suddenly said she could see a male entity before her and lapsed into unconsciousness. She became alarmed and started to cry, although the UFO investigators with her could see no visible cause for her distress.

This kind of incident suggests that there may be another type of UFO encounter, one where vivid hallucinations attend a particular state of subconsciousness.

There are two similar incidents from South Australia. In one a woman

in her early 30s started to cry unreasonably after watching an episode of the US TV series *Unsolved Mysteries*. She sketched an 'alien' face and recounted a range of abduction accounts since the age of nine. The second woman, known as Susan, aged 30, described a series of abductions since the age of 10, involving small humanoids. These included an account of how she had been placed on a table for a physical examination. Susan had also experienced poltergeist activity, and said that as a result of one of her abductions she had had a child which had been taken away. She had also had a device implanted in her head, so dental X-rays were taken. One dental X-ray showed two objects in the upper mouth area as two long black streaks and two small rectangles.

Full-face X-rays were then made which showed nothing unusual, so a third set of front-face X-rays were

obtained. These were also clear, and the dentist concluded that the initial 'objects' X-rayed had been an anomaly or photographic artefact.

In overseas abductions studies, such 'non-physical' accounts of aliens have been attributed to a number of other possible sources. These include fantasy-prone personalities (a diagnosis very popular about 10 years ago and similar to reports of phantom pregnancies). Or they may indicate a particular personality type; that is, the causes are psychological.

At present UFO investigators face a major challenge to find out exactly what is involved. □

She became alarmed and started to cry, although the UFO investigators with her could see no visible cause for her distress.

Extraterrestrial Evidence in Our Solar System

Brian Crowley from the Gold Coast has written about 20 books, one of the latest being Return to Mars.

Brian's particular interest is the visual evidence of unusual phenomena reported from Mars and the Moon, and the implications this has for extraterrestrial intelligence. He used the analogy that any aliens trying to contact us would have the same difficulty we would have if we were to try communicating with a starfish in a rock pool. Do you just stick your head into the water and say 'Hello'?

Brian also acknowledged NASA for providing the detailed planetary

Any aliens trying to contact us would have the same difficulty we would have if we were to try communicating with a starfish in a rock pool. Do you just stick your head into the water and say 'Hello'?

images he used extensively in his talk.

Some years ago a Galileo probe was sent around the Earth to test its equipment. It reported that our planet shows no signs of

intelligent life and completely missed such structures as the Great Wall of China, and the power line networks of Canada.

Similarly, the 1976 Viking Mars Mission investigated areas which were chosen as a tranquil site for a landing. Requests to select areas which were more interesting for better results were seen as superfluous to the task of getting there. The site chosen was the local equivalent of Earth's Sahara

Desert, which is not noted for its abundant life forms.

The planet Mars has always been associated with conflict by all Earth cultures, most notably as Mars or Sylvanus (a god of fertility) to the Romans. The 50,000 pictures of Mars taken by the Viking probe 15 years ago show it as a barren, cold and windswept planet.

Features noted include Valus Maximus, the Grand Canyon of Mars, which is 400 kilometres wide and as long as the distance from Sydney to Perth. Olympus Mons is a great volcano and the largest known mountain in the Solar System, some 650 kilometres around the base. There are also channels which indicate that at some time in the past quantities of water flowed on the planet's surface; these features include teardrop-shaped islands and shorelines.

There are many mythological links to Mars. For example, Zulu legends tell how the pre-Zulu race, the Inguni, were descended from a mythical race of star children who inhabited the seventh world. During a war with the sixth planet their women were tossed from Mars to the Earth and caught by flamingos. The women used magical three-legged basins of gold as vehicles.

Old Cornish legends tell how Mars was evacuated and the inhabitants

projected to Earth in sky machines, and there are equivalent Jewish legends.

We now know that Mars was once a watered planet and had an atmosphere like the Earth's. In 1977 Mariner also produced pictures of other features. For example, one feature has been called the 'Inca City' because its box-like shapes reminded scientists of an aerial photo of a ruined Incan city. Some linear features resemble collapsed tunnels, and another area looks like a space port. One pyramid shape on the edge of a crater is geologically impossible and a tetrahedral formation in the Elysian sector is over 800 metres high.

Pyramids on Mars

Seventeen years ago James Hetch pointed out large pyramid shapes on Mars, similar to those known on Earth. (Brian pointed out that Giza is not the largest pyramid on earth. The largest pyramid is an earth construction at Shensi in China and is twice as big. The earthen pyramids of China are situated near nuclear test sites and are not as well publicised — some may be even bigger. However, the Shensi pyramid is only half as big as the largest known Martian pyramid.)

In Cydonia an unusual formation has been termed the 'Face on Mars' and is only 11 kilometres from other pyramid formations. One of these has been called 'the Fort' and looks like a damaged structure, not a true pyramid.

Initially NASA attributed the Face feature to condensation on the camera lens, and said unusual structures would often appear on Mars. Sometimes called the 'Sphinx face of Cydonia', the structure is 2.5 kilometres long, 2 kilometres wide

and 500–800 metres high. It includes a headress feature, and after computer enhancement shows eyes in the eye sockets, and teeth in the mouth. This suggests the formation is more than just a wind-blasted mountain. Face features have been compared to those of a statue in Chichen Itza in Central America which bears a similar headress.

In the Utopia region of Mars there may be a second face formation with a hairline, but this feature is not as well preserved as the Cydonia face.

A ramp runs up the right-hand side of the Cydonia face, and it has been described as having 'negroid' features, 'simian' or 'monkey' features, or even as being 'Christ-like'. One researcher sees it as a warning beacon for space travellers, that on the next planet in you will find *mankind*.

All of Brian Crowley's photos come from NASA. However, there are now difficulties ordering some of this material. Recent requests to NASA for material, which must be ordered by negative number, have been unsuccessful. NASA usually responds now that the more contentious material is 'blank'.

There is a possibility that we are not alone, and that there is life on Mars. If so, we will have to rewrite the history books, to look again at ancient mythologies, and to review our religious systems.

In 1988 two Russian probes were sent to Mars. The first one was lost but produced some good pictures. Before crashing, the Phobos probe sent seven

In Cydonia an unusual formation has been termed the 'Face on Mars' and is only 11 kilometres from other pyramid formations.

images to Earth containing some remarkable features.

The second-to-last Phobos picture shows an object orbiting Mars that should not be there.

The second-to-last Phobos picture shows an object orbiting Mars that should not be there.

These kinds of UFOs have been reported before. For example, during the Apollo 11 mission, the crew reported a spindle or cigar shape near the Moon which floated up into space. Apollo 12 reported an odd object near the Moon, for which there was no satisfactory explanation. Apollo 13 also reported a glowing object in the sky.

Strange craters and 'clouds' have often been reported on the surface of the Moon. These could be natural or mechanical. In the 40 kilometre-wide crater Aristarchus two strange shapes were noted by Lunar Orbiter 5 in August 1967. These were 23 metres across and 350 metres long, like the tracks made by small objects. NASA explained them as 'rolling rocks'.

A blow-up of an Orbiter 5 picture of Crater Potter shows unusual cloud formations. Crater Seikovsky, on the far side of the Moon, showed what appeared to be a lake and an island, so there may be a civilisation. The French magazine *Paris*

Match has since speculated that there are reservoirs on the Moon.

Similarly, some of the planet-sized moons of the larger solar system planets show interesting features. For example, Titan, the largest satellite of Saturn, has an atmosphere of nitrogen and hydrocarbons. The moons of Jupiter are also complex: Europa has liquid water under a mantle of ice and Triton is pinkish-white. Uranus has a large moon, Miranda.

We need researchers to investigate the new material coming to hand and to examine the mythological or folkloric links. For example, one South Australian Aboriginal tribe call themselves 'a gift of the Lord' and tell how two fiery flying serpents created an Aboriginal Adam and Eve. These people also show linguistic links to African tribes and the Zuni Indians of North America. UFOs have been a part of these two cultures for centuries. □

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Taken for a Ride: the UFO Abduction Phenomenon

Jenny Randles' talk on UFO abductions closed the Seminar.

There is now a database with about 200 cases where people claim to have been kidnapped by UFOs. These 'abduction' cases have not always been investigated by ufologists. They were quite unknown during the 1950s.

However, there are many accounts from this early period of people who claim to have contacted ufonauts, and who received messages (from a Martian or some other extraterrestrial) to pass on to our Earthly leaders. These *contactee* accounts are more likely to be a confabulation, and are quite different to abduction reports. They usually involve benign aliens who hold nice conversations. The contactee consciously remembers conversing with their contact later, and usually in great detail.

Conversely, the abductees are not usually conscious, are not voluntary, and do not 'meet' friendly aliens. Abductions also appear to be on the increase 10 years after they began; from their start in the USA they now appears to be spreading over the world.

UFO kidnap histories can be traced back to the 'Betty and Barney Hill case' — this is generally agreed by UFO investigators to be the first case reported.

In the autumn of 1961, Betty and Barney Hill were driving home from a vacation in Canada when they experienced a period of 'lost time' — the

journey appeared to take longer than expected and their memory of part of the journey appeared to be missing. Over the next few years both had strange dreams and approached a psychiatrist for help.

The doctor used hypnosis to regress them back to that journey, presuming some deep-seated psychological problem was at fault. He found that both clients shared a convoluted and stressful story of what occurred during that lost time. Both claimed they had been abducted by aliens in a UFO and subjected to medical examination.

The account created a sensation around the world when John Fuller's account of the incident appeared in the book *The Interrupted Journey*. This case became the watershed for the abduction phenomenon.

Spielberg's 1977 movie *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* provided a visual presentation of this and similar abduction experiences. The aliens used as models in the movie were similar to the 'greys' Jerry Clark has previously alluded to as 'guests' at Holloman USAF Base, and seem to be the type that predominate in abduction cases.

There are other important differences between the contactees and abductees: for example, contactees describe their entry into the UFO at

great detail before being carted off for a trip into space. In abductions, the abductee is usually in a trance-like state and has no memory of being taken aboard the craft. This phenomenon is known as 'doorway amnesia'; the UFO arrives and the abductee is then inside it.

In an experiment where 20 non-abductee subjects were hypnotised and asked to imagine themselves being kidnapped by a UFO, 60 per cent came up with a clear picture of themselves entering the UFO. This disparity with the reported phenomenon suggests it is more than just an imaginary effect.

However, doorway amnesia is now becoming a part of modern culture too. For example, a pop group recently entered the Eurovision Song Quest with a song 'Only the Light' about an abduction case which involved doorway amnesia. (It came 13th out of 19 entries which suggests aliens are bad at song writing.) Similarly, an Australian television actor from *Home and Away* has made a claim that

In abductions, the abductee is usually in a trance-like state and has no memory of being taken aboard the

craft.

he has been abducted.

Britain's first reported abduction account dates to January 1978. Four

youths, all regarded as good witnesses, were poaching in an area of marshland in Frogsham, Cheshire. They saw what they thought was a Russian satellite crashing nearby. From the strange craft emerged small, non-European humanoids that had what looked like miners' lamps on their heads. One had a cage-like instrument in its hands which it used to 'measure' immobilised cows in the field nearby. The

measurements were taken by moving the bars on the cage.

The youths were hiding behind some bushes. When they decided 'to make a run for it', they were noticed by the humanoids and felt a pulling sensation 'on their nether regions' before forgetting what happened next.

The area where this case happened has provided dozens of significant case reports over the years. For example, events recorded include three cases of time lapses, three cases of vehicles being interfered with by aerial lights, and a classic poltergeist case.

In the early 1950s the only known British contactee case (with beings from the planet of 'Zond') occurred nearby, and the first modern crop circle was found here. The area is known in local folklore as the 'Devil's Garden', which suggests it is an area of importance for unusual phenomena.

Early British Abductions

The earliest British abduction investigated dates back to October 1974 and involves five people, two adults, and three children. It occurred at Aveley in Essex after the family noticed a blue light above the car, which they thought was a UFO. They rounded a corner in the road and saw a green bank of mist. The car radio was crackling and the group remembers feeling a slight bump before they reached the other side of the bank of mist.

When the family got home they turned on the TV to watch a particular program, but were too late. Somehow they had lost one and a half hours between entering the green mist and exiting it.

Over the next few weeks and months all family members experienced strange events and dreams, which they discussed among each other. In particular, the same 'horrible face' featured in their nightmares. Their lives changed; all became ecologically aware, two of the family became vegetarians, and others developed specific interests. Both adults were investigated under regression hypnosis; the children were not hypnotised for medical and ethical reasons.

The family members were completely sincere and not hoaxers. The car journey was reconstructed. The car stopped at the side of road, next to the UFO seen earlier. The adults remembered seeing the still bodies of other family members in the car. Then the adults and children were separated and medically examined inside the UFO. They had been shown the powerhouse of the craft and told by the aliens they were part of an experiment. They were also shown scenes of an alien world which had been ecologically devastated. The aliens were about two metres tall and wore all-over silver suits. Their faces were the same as those seen in the nightmare, and semi-animalish or possibly robotic — the classical entity type reported from northern Europe (entity types reported vary according to geography, short 'greys' for North America, 'dwarves' in South America, and so on).

The next abduction case reported really hit the British press, with headlines about 'Alien terror'. Police Constable Godfrey was never the same again after his experience, although the publicity did not affect the investigation of this case.

PC Godfrey was stationed in Yorkshire. One evening he was sent to look for some cows reported as missing and which had been seen in a local housing estate. He did not find the cows, but when turning a corner of the road he saw what he thought was a bus lying across the road ahead. It was in fact a UFO hovering just above the road. It was rotating quickly, and he braked to avoid swerving into trees at the side of the road.

Later, under hypnosis, PC Godfrey sketched the object on a pad. Then there seemed to be a blink in reality; suddenly the UFO was no longer in front of him and he was further down the road in his car. There was 10–15 minutes of time he could not account for.

Classic Crop Circle Found

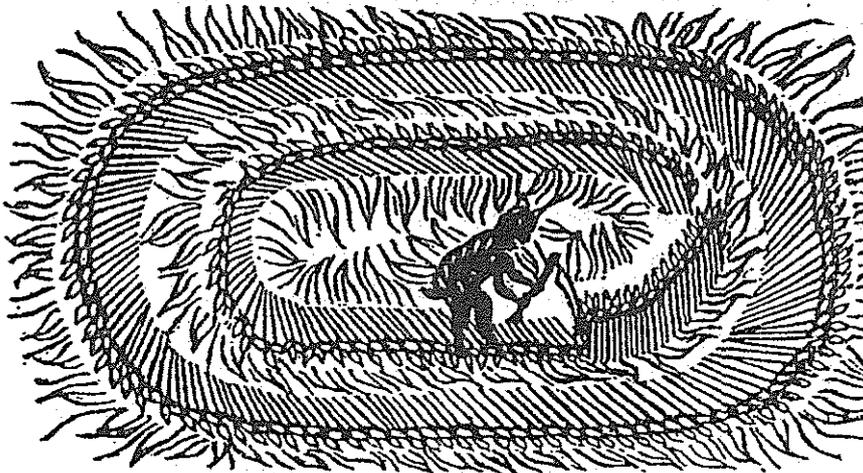
A classic crop circle pattern was found very near to the turn in the road. Other physical evidence included a split in one of his police boots. Godfrey was examined by doctors and a psychiatrist but stuck to his story. He was very sincere and held to his story even after he lost his job.

Under hypnosis he recalled how he had been struck by a beam of light; he then remembered being inside a tiny room where he was examined by small robot-like 'retrieval devices'. Other entities, more human-like, were also present. One in a long white robe was called 'Yoseph'.

It is important for UFO investigators to ask what role hypnosis plays in their investigations. Is it the only route for re-experiencing and recognising an event? Does it provide a real

It is important for UFO investigators to ask what role hypnosis plays in their investigations.

16th century explanation: Harvesting devils mowing the corn.



Fortean Picture Library

recollection, or express something from the subject's subconscious?

Abductions may be something imagined or an effect of the hypnosis procedure. In PC Godfrey's case, the object may have been physical and the memory might have developed some time later. It might have been a fantasy he invented until he could no longer be sure of its origins.

Apart from the Avelagh example, abductions involve mostly single witnesses. In multiple abduction cases

UFO witnesses are not psychologically unstable or strange. This is a consistent feature of the phenomenon in Britain, and appears to be consistent throughout the world.

variation usually occurs between participants, depending on their particular experiences. The doorway amnesia phenomenon suggests

that abductions are not a part of some folkloric tradition.

There are no records from England of conscious abductions.

Because investigators rely on hypnotic testimony, they must consider the possibility of some hypnotic 'relic' created by their investigations. There are occasions when people may lose a period of time after experiencing an

altered state of mind, due to stress or something similar. This is referred to as the 'Oz factor' (from the children's book *The Wizard of Oz*). However, in abduction cases none of these altered states of mind are evident – only one period is missing. In the Avelagh case, the states of mind of the family remained the

same, although some attitudes did seem to change. There is no suggestion that the parents exaggerated under hypnosis.

The possibility of such hypnotic relics only seems to arise when sociologists start to adopt a psychological approach to the subject.

UFO witnesses are not psychologically unstable or strange. This is a consistent feature of the phenomenon in Britain, and appears to be consistent throughout the world. Abduction accounts are not like the usual physical evidence ufologists investigate.

Therefore we may ask, do we have any physical evidence of aliens?

There is very little evidence. For example, good photos of alien visitors are very rare. One possible photo from 1964 shows a picture of a little girl with a spaceman in the background.

Looking at all the evidence available, we find that hoaxes comprise about 2 per cent of all cases, identified flying objects (IFOs) comprise 90 per cent of all reports. Unidentified atmospheric phenomena (UAPs) constitute some 5 per cent of cases, and

2-3 per cent are close encounters and abductions.

Although abductions are tantalisingly real, they provide no substantial evidence. Rather, they indicate a kind of pseudo-reality or pseudo-objectivity. Jenny had observed a hypnotised person recounting an abduction experience. They appeared to be in an extremely deep sleep and had to be 'zapped' out of it later by being tapped on the elbow.

Alien Reports Vary

Reports involving alien entities show considerable variety. For example, the hairy dwarves of South America are usually nasty and aggressive. There may in fact be nine or more different types of aliens, but these may be a part of the sociology of a nation so it will depend on where the information comes from. It may also be possible that any aliens are so different to us that observers cannot relate to them at all and must dredge up something from the back of their minds to visualise something that fits.

The case to case, place to place, and culture to culture differences need not be so surprising. Why are we so amazed that the aliens have to be human? Conversely, there are other intelligent alien life forms on Earth, such as the dolphin, which are not.

Many UFO witnesses are creatively active, with good visualisation skills. Witnesses often have a track record of similar events, often bizarre. The most common co-experiences are out-of-body and poltergeistic.

The abduction phenomenon appears to part of a very real, very long and very structured pattern. The strangest case Jenny knew of occurred in December 1987 when a policeman photographed a figure on the Moors.

He heard a noise from behind a rock and chased the figure which entered a classic UFO that shot off upwards. He did manage to get one photo, which, when processed, showed a grainy image (the film had a high ASA rating) with an image of the figure. The policemen also reported a couple of hours of lost time. Peter Hough

investigated the case and the photograph. The policeman was very 'laid-back' and Hough thought it might

have been some sociological experiment. The photograph itself shows no sign of trickery and shows a figure from 1.5 to 2 metres tall.

Under hypnotic regression the policeman described a classical abduction scenario, but without the medical examination. He had been taken and shown pictures of the Earth and space (the pictures had floated at him), and he had the notion that he would be contacted at some future time. The policeman was very rational, and, although unusual, the story held together.

At best, only one in 10 cases are reported. Although Jenny has been extremely critical of the extra-terrestrial hypothesis in the past, strong evidence is growing to support this view. Many people in her audience would be aware how difficult it was for her to adopt this stance after some of her past public statements. However, with cases such as the policeman's photograph from the moors, the Roswell incident, and the frequency with which crop circles are currently appearing in England, it was becoming difficult to ignore the ET hypothesis.

□

Although Jenny has been extremely critical of the extra-terrestrial hypothesis in the past, strong evidence is growing to support this view.

Crop Circles

Leonie Starr, from the Centre for Crop Circle Studies (CCCS), talked to UFOR (NSW) members on 10 November 1991. Leonie is a professional astrologer and had just completed a three-week tour of the United States with Ralph Noyes of the CCCS, talking about crop circles to a wide range of organisations.

Leonie showed a five-minute video extract from a TV program which had been aired in the UK earlier in 1991.

Leonie chairs the CCCS group set up to look at non-conventional hypotheses for crop circles.

This showed interviews with British crop circle researchers, set against a back-

ground of crop circle photographs. While one of the circle examples used was in fact a hoax, these pictures gave some idea of the variety of phenomena involved. She indicated that examples from the season just concluded were even more spectacular in complexity and execution.

Leonie chairs the CCCS group set up to look at non-conventional hypotheses for crop circles. Part of her brief includes talking to a wide variety of people about crop circles, and especially to groups interested in related subjects such as UFOs. This role has changed a little recently, because of the vast media publicity given to circle-hoaxers 'Doug and Dave' who had claimed they had made all the circles.

People outside the United Kingdom may have been diverted by this publicity and it had become important for circle researchers to advise the public that the phenomenon was real.

There are now about three thousand examples or reports on record, possibly dating from the 16th century. Some of the formations were over 100 metres across. More than 90 per cent of the known examples have been recorded over the last decade; most happened over a five-month period each year around summer, from May to September, which has become known as the *Circle Season*.

A Link to Historical Sites?

Of particular interest to circle researchers is some possible link between the phenomenon and important historical sites in the part of England where the circles typically occur. As an example, we were shown a slide of crop circles on Silbury Hill. This archaeological site dates from around 2000 BC and is part of a complex of ancient and sacred monuments, including Avebury and Stonehenge.

The area has long been known to dowsers to include important patterns of ley lines which criss-cross the ancient sites. Perhaps monuments such as Avebury and Stonehenge had been built to indicate previous ancient crop circle events.

The crop circles themselves vary considerably, but show important similarities. For example, in the

variety of patterning of flattened plant stems which makes up the floor of the circles. This complex patterning lets researchers distinguish between hoaxes and real phenomena.

Incidentally, in real circles the crops are not damaged: the plants continue growing. In hoax circles, the crop is damaged. The circle season typically occurs before harvesting and most are destroyed during harvesting for sale by the farmer.

Public interest in the phenomenon has been intense, and thoughtless people have caused problems for farmers. For the 1990 Milton Barnes formation, the farmer charged members of the public a one-pound admission fee, and put someone on the gate to conduct tours. This control meant that people did not damage the crops as much, could be better supervised, and the farmer did not lose out.

Many crop circles often seem to evolve from simple shapes to more complex shapes: for example, from a cluster of 28 small circles, or *grapeshot* to 38 grapeshot over a period of days. Some formations are fairly inaccessible to the public.

Most pictures of crop circles show *tram lines*, the lines or gaps in the crop cover used by spraying machines and deliberately constructed by farmers. The circles do not usually line up with these tram lines.

As already mentioned, some circles coincide with sacred sites, such as other rings of stone monuments. For example, at Avebury an entire village is sited within a large circle of ancient stone monuments.

The crop circles have been becoming more complex in recent years. These complex circles may have rings around them, or include additional

markings which create dumbbell shapes, or have extra rectangles or boxes as part of the pattern.

Investigators have produced some of their most spectacular pictures using cameras and videos on the top of 9 metre poles, and of course there have been some spectacular and costly accidents with this equipment.

The centre of a circle is often dug out and sou-

venired by members of the public before even the investigators arrive at the site.

Those that have been recorded by investigators often show a plaited 'birdcage' of intricately interwoven stems. During the height of the season, there is often a race by investigators to record the complex layering and swirling of stems before they are trampled by members of the public.

The Alton Barnes 1991 formation provided a second generation of dots as a development or evolution in the formation. Investigators recorded a sequence of small circles and rings which eventually became a complex *key* configuration.

A good number of these key formations have now been recorded.

Some astrological symbols seem to be apparent in many of the circles the symbols for *conjunction*, *opposition*, *trine*, *aspect*, *square*, *sextiles*, the Sun, Moon, stars, Mercury, Venus, Mars, Uranus, and Pluto.

The recent Barbury Castle formation represents some development beyond the usual circles. It shows circles around a bomb-burst figure, and then rays out to ratchet shapes of different types (see illustration).

In real circles the crops are not damaged: the plants continue growing. In hoax circles, the crop is damaged.

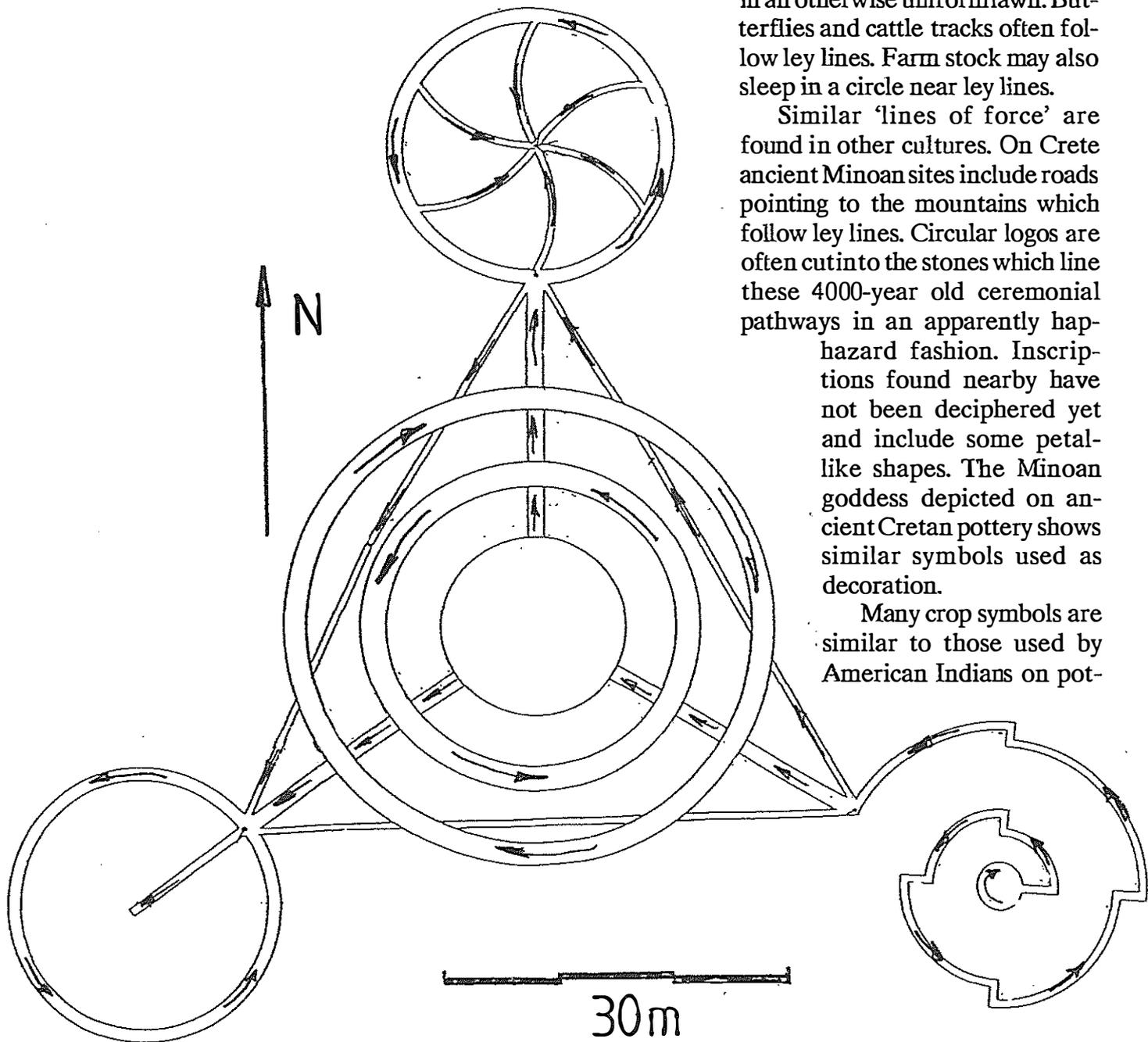
Late one evening at approximately 1 am, Leonie and another investigator had been checking a field near a formation when they noticed a car slowly driving past on a nearby road. The next morning they returned to exactly the same location to find a six-sided star or petal formation arranged inside a parallel set of circles. The driver

of the car they had seen the previous evening also turned up at the new formation in a very excited state. He had seen a dome of light and beams of light descending into the area where they had been. Leonie and her assistant had seen nothing.

The local network of ley lines can express themselves in a variety of ways, such as a line of flowering plants in an otherwise uniform lawn. Butterflies and cattle tracks often follow ley lines. Farm stock may also sleep in a circle near ley lines.

Similar 'lines of force' are found in other cultures. On Crete ancient Minoan sites include roads pointing to the mountains which follow ley lines. Circular logos are often cut into the stones which line these 4000-year old ceremonial pathways in an apparently haphazard fashion. Inscriptions found nearby have not been deciphered yet and include some petal-like shapes. The Minoan goddess depicted on ancient Cretan pottery shows similar symbols used as decoration.

Many crop symbols are similar to those used by American Indians on pot-



Crop formations at Barbury Castle (after J. F. Langrish) 17 July 1991.

tery and artefacts, or used by Australian Aborigines. They have some similarities to Egyptian hieroglyphics and to Old Norse scripts.

The Mandelbrot formation discovered in mid-August 1991 in Cambridgeshire was considered by researchers to be genuine because it showed the complex and detailed floor patterning common to other circles considered to be genuine. (A picture of this crop formation features on the front cover of this issue of *UFO Reporter*).

There were also two known amateur films of unusual aerial phenomena associated with the circles. In one instance, a farm worker corroborated a report of a small flying disc which was being filmed. The farm worker was driving a tractor nearby and observed the object at close range. □

The Mandelbrot formation discovered recently in Cambridgeshire was considered by researchers to be genuine because it showed the complex and detailed floor patterning common to other circles considered to be genuine.

The Mandelbrot Set

The distinctive outline of the Mandelbrot set has become synonymous with the recent adoption of 'chaos' or fractal mathematics by science and technology.

Chaos or fractal mathematics give scientists a powerful tool for predicting what happens in very complex systems by using what is essentially a series of fairly simple mathematical equations.

Previously, these mathematical descriptions had been avoided by scientists as much as possible. They were extremely cumbersome to use because they required repeating the same trivial calculations many times over to produce a good result. For practical day-to-day purposes, scientists used mathematical approximations to the real thing. The more complicated be-

haviour in a simple system outside of these approximations was then described by scientists as being too complex to be useful. That is, its behaviour was said to be too 'chaotic'.

So what has changed all this?

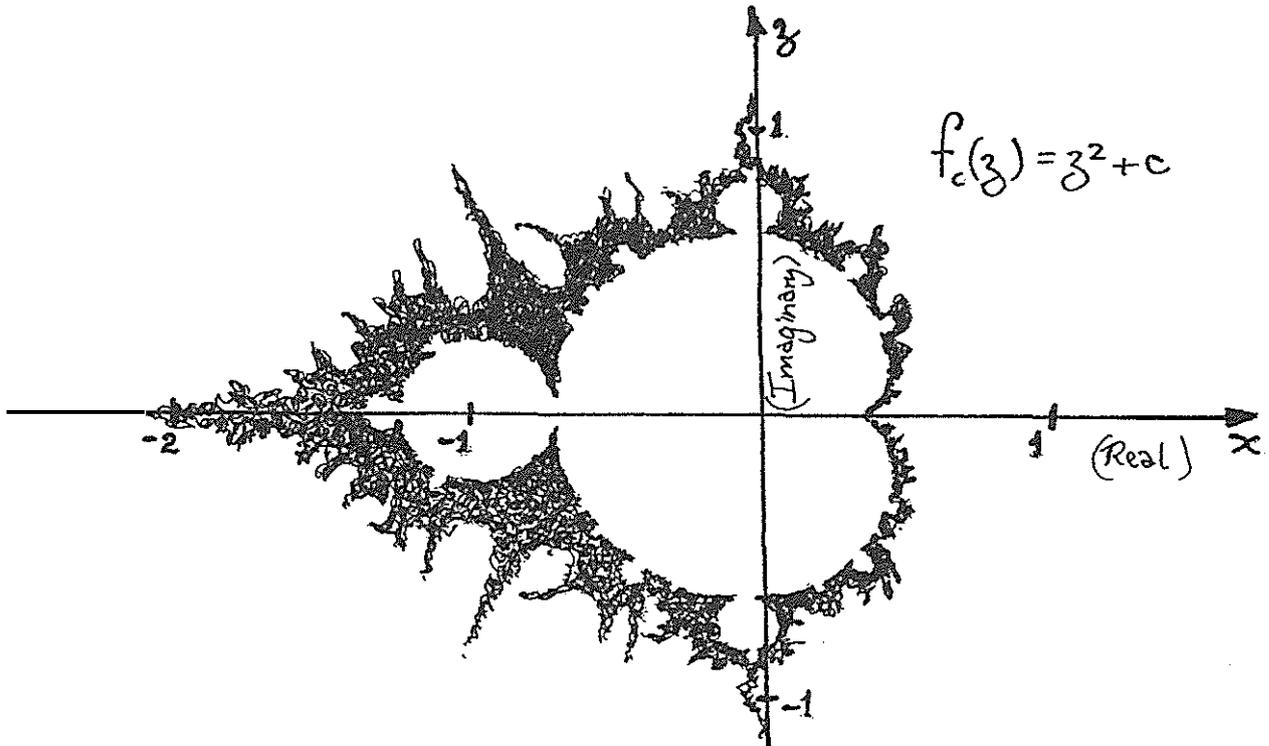
Chaos maths is now quite readily available, literally at the touch of a button. Now that high-power computers are common, these can be used to do the boring calculations needed to bring such chaotic systems under surveillance. Many of these newly applied equations have produced dramatic results.

When a coloured computer screen is used to emphasise small details in the equations pictorially, the resulting graphic displays can be very beautiful. The ease of recognition that this allows means that many new

patterns have been found and described mathematically within natural systems.

The Mandelbrot set (discovered by Benoit Mandelbrot of IBM) is one of these new mathematical tools. However, it is not a continuous function. That is, its distinctive outline is not really one continuous line, but a series of dots or points put so close to each other that they appear to join together.

The value for each point has to be calculated individually, hence the need to use a computer to do the hard work. Furthermore, the amount of detail you can show in the outline (that is, its scale) will depend on the number and closeness of the points you use to produce it. If you make enough calculations at any scale, the points will eventually appear to merge into one continuous



line, as in the figure illustrated.

If your computer program uses colour to indicate the relative distance between the different sets of points used to calculate the 'line', the screen picture becomes even more dramatic. The ability of fractals to create figures with immense visual impact has greatly helped popularise chaos mathematics.

The Mandelbrot set is infinitely detailed and infinitely complex. It is now the most complicated geometric form known to mathematicians — there is no end to it.

The crop circle Mandelbrot which appeared mid-August 1991 shows the basic but distinctive Mandelbrot outline, and none of

the finest details (this is physically impossible). However, the formation shows the structural details typical of other crop circles which are known to be real — that is, plant stems which are bent not broken, stems layered into complex patterns, a sharp edge between affected and unaffected plants, and so on.

The Mandelbrot figure is an icon unique to the latter part of this century; there does not appear to be anything comparable among the many symbols generated by previous civilisations.

Its appearance in the cornfields of southern England as a genuine crop circle is therefore both startling and appropriate. So far, no other formation has been found in nature which

mimics this particular design. The pattern and the precision with which it has been executed in the cropfield are well beyond the capabilities of Terence Meadon's vortices (a continuous and possibly natural phenomenon), or any other physical explanations that have been offered as causes for crop circles.

Interestingly enough, the Mandelbrot circle had been predicted.

Almost exactly one year earlier in a sceptical letter to *New Scientist* (11 August 1990), Martyn Hughes of Wiltshire wrote: 'The formations of corn circles are growing in complexity each summer. How long before we see a complete Mandelbrot set?' □

Circle Phenomenon Research

Just before Colin Andrews arrived in Sydney, the UFOR (NSW) Committee was asked if the members would be interested in having Colin talk to them about Crop Circles. The offer came at extremely short notice and not everyone could be contacted about the meeting. The following item is a combined account of Colin's UFOR (NSW) meeting on 17 November 1991 in Surry Hills, and of a public meeting held at the Crest Hotel, Kings Cross on Monday 18 November.

Colin Andrews has co-authored a book on UK crop circles with Pat Delgado, titled *Circular Evidence*. The book has reached number five on bestseller lists in the UK and has been very popular in Germany and the USA. Colin is an electrical engineer who has been investigating crop circles for more than 10 years.

The 'corn circles' or crop circles phenomenon in England goes back to at least the 17th century. In more recent times, anecdotal evidence indicates that some farmers in southern England were familiar with the phenomenon back in the 1940s and the 1970s.

In 1980 Colin saw his first set of five crop circles grouped into a large cross formation some 10–13 metres across. The four circles at each point of the cross were 4 metres across and arranged very precisely.

Colin saw this 'Celtic cross' arrangement near Winchester while travelling along the A272 highway towards Petersville. It was located within a large valley which forms a natural amphitheatre. On closer inspection he found that each circle had a complex spiralling floor pattern of plant stems and that there were no tracks in or out of the circles.

Two years later, Colin learnt of Doctor Meadon's interest in the phenomenon. (Dr Meadon has been a circle watcher for 30 years and founded the tornado and storm research organisation TORRO in 1974. Meadon has developed a Vortex Flow theory to describe the possible formation of simple circles by atmospheric effects.)

While Colin was investigating crop circles, he met Pat Delgado who had worked with NASA on Mariner and at Woomera Rocket Range in Australia. Colin and Pat Delgado wrote their book *Circular Evidence* and helped produce some programs on the phenomenon for Channel 9.

The subject of Crop Circles has been raised in the British Parliament five times during that period.

Colin had been a senior officer in a local government in the UK advising on electrical matters. His training includes Civil Defence and atomic warfare expertise. Just on two years ago Colin and Pat had been told they should keep their investigations to themselves or publicise the phenomenon and take the consequences, so they wrote their first book and went public. A few weeks ago Colin had resigned his government

position — a safe job, with a secure position — to pursue his interest.

Colin had spoken at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore and would be attending a meeting on crop circles in Chicago soon.

Royal Reading

Two years ago the Queen had included his book on her summer reading list which was quite a coup. The British Government had also had him prepare three Chief Scientific Advisor's reports on the subject for the Ministry of Environment and

Prime Minister Thatcher.

At present, the publicly-stated position of the British Government is

The development of appendages and other 'fringe' phenomena to the main formation has also become more pronounced

that crop circles are due to stationery whirlwinds in cereal crops. These hurricanes are prone to lodge where plants are over- or under-fertilised and cause the plants to collapse.

Colin was in Australia looking for some of the circles which are now being reported in increasing numbers from around the world as the phenomenon escalates.

Crop circle formations now come in many forms. From simple, single circles only 2 metres across, to formations up to 100 metres long. In the UK, these formations appear to be increasing in physical size and density.

In 1987 a crop circle found north of Winchester included an annular ring surrounding it which showed some of the centrifugal flows produced by the high energies creating the formation. Inside the circle plants were totally affected, flattened and conforming to the flows. Only 3 millimetres away plants at the edge of

the circle were completely unaffected. This showed the energies involved had been very efficiently contained. Colin said that normally only the third internode of the cereal plant was bent.

Double and treble rings have now become more common. The development of appendages and other 'fringe' phenomena to the main formation has also become more pronounced. In 1986 at Childrey near Wantage the first 'aisle' was reported on a circle with an annular ring. The circle had appeared overnight. The aisle tapered at the outside end to form an arrowhead with a depression at the point. This depression was a basin 0.35 metres across and 0.25 metres deep.

Colin took a stone from the bottom of the depression, plus a soil sample. He put both samples in the computer room back at his home and business.

That night at 4.15 am, the office intruder alarm was activated. The infra-red detection system in the office had recorded a heat source over seven independent zones within the immediate area. No basis for the alarm could be found and the door was still locked. (He had never had false alarms before.) The alarm was reset.

The following night the alarm rang at 4.15 am once more — this time the microwave detectors indicated something else was in the room. After one uneventful night, two solid weeks of activations followed, including a radar alarm. Even when the mains voltage time clocks or battery clocks were replaced in the alarm system, the result was the same every 4.15 am.

Colin contacted the British Psychical Research Society who compared this type of phenomenon to poltergeist activity. The day the soil sample was removed for analysis by

Surrey University, the alarms stopped.

Most circles appear in an area the media has dubbed the 'Wessex Triangle' which is defined by the towns of Wantage, Winchester, and Warminster. This one area has the greatest catchment for the phenomenon on the planet, and coincides with a number of important archaeological sites such as Stonehenge, Avebury, and Silbury Hill.

The 'Doug and Dave' Hoax

Recently, Colin had been present at the media interview when two elderly men 'Doug and Dave' claimed on television that they were responsible for creating all the circle formations that had been reported. They showed how they had used boards and ropes to flatten plants to produce the formations. As each example was mentioned, they said they had produced it.

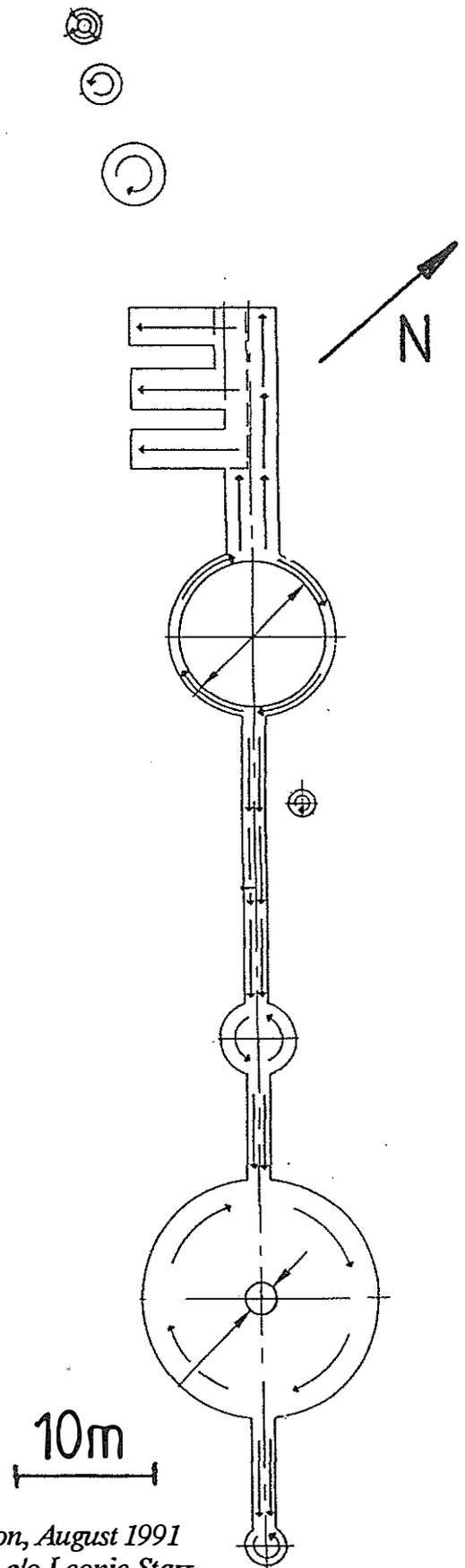
Andrew had an photograph of a circle formation with him. This showed an absolutely precise Celtic cross with a connecting concentric ring. The plants affected had been layered in sympathy with a complex set of energy flows (tangentially and sinusoidally) that was impossible to replicate by the 'Doug and Dave method'. When asked how they had constructed this formation, they replied that 'We didn't make that one'. However, this admission did not make the world news.

There are now over 100 different types of formation in Colin's database. Over 1000 circles were reported within ten weeks of last year, so Doug and Dave must have been very busy.

During the 1991 season Colin had been working with army and airborne police response teams to try to find a cause for the circles. Large numbers

of tourists were also visiting the area to see the formations and some kind of control was needed. These visitors could not be kept away, so Doug and Dave were probably used as the first shot to deactivate this international phenomenon.

Just before the Doug and Dave incident, there had been one other 'disinformation' attempt, during Operation Blackbird. This project had been the largest surveillance operation ever organised by the British Army. Over one million pounds worth of equipment and a considerable number of British soldiers had been provided as support in a 10-day, 24-hours a day, operation. Colin had selected a



*East Kennet formation, August 1991
(drawn by Dave Kite) c/o Leonie Starr*

likely site (many formations are known to occur in the same location, year after year). The plan was to get TV-quality pictures of a circle being formed.

There were 32 television networks linked up, ready to beam out the results live. On the second day, the Army secondment was temporarily made unavaible. In fact a larger unit was brought into the area to construct a hoax formation at Westbury that night. Colin was woken the next morning and asked to announce that an event had been recorded. After doing this he was taken to the site by helicopter, where he realised immediately that it was an obvious hoax, and said so. The assembled media lost interest, packed up and left. Towards the end of the planned project there was a real event, but of course the media were no longer present.

Colin believes that some unknown airborne phenomenon exists which is producing these formations. It has been captured on film on at least two separate occasions. In one case a German team filmed small objects moving above the fields near a circle site. Similarly, while Stephen Alexander and his wife were visiting one site and filming a nearby agroglyph formation, they noticed an object and kept on filming. Their four minutes of film show a small disc, about 15 centimetres in diameter. This film has been computer enhanced in Japan and clearly shows a small highly reflective disc, probably metallic, moving purposefully near a set of ground markings.

Flying Balls Filmed

The German group filmed five balls, 15 centimetres in diameter, similar to those objects filmed during the British

Concorde's maiden flight by British Aerospace.

On 27 August 1989 a Canadian Broadcasting Commission TV documentary team filmed an object near a formation close to Silbury Hill. There were 10 other field formations around Silbury Hill at that time. At a quarter to one that same night a man walking nearby saw a golden star falling from the sky to the left of Silbury Hill. This became a ball of orange light which landed on the hill, bounced gently and flattened out. It began to pulsate and became very bright. After a short time the pulsating light 'switched off'.

Next morning, David Hughes telephoned Colin to say that a large new formation had been found in the field close to where the light had been seen. By carefully triangulating the object's position with the witness, they were able to confirm that the airborne object had landed at the new marking.

Eyewitness reports

There are a number of reports which implicate aerial phenomenon with crop circle formation, including some examples from around the world. However, these do not of themselves indicate some extraterrestrial source. About 17 eye-witness accounts are known in all. However, these describe a range of phenomena and so far are not conclusive.

Not just golden lights have been reported forming crop circles. At Yates Ardill near Avebury, Roy Lucas was mowing the edges of a field one Saturday, near the road. The day clouded over from the east and there was a slight wind blowing. Over to his right he saw white smoke billowing from a wheat field and thought that pranksters had lit a bonfire in the mid-

dle of the field. The 'smoke' then sank back down to approximately 3 metres above the crop. There was an explosion from the midst of the white smoke or steam (could it have been condensation?) and a gyrating cone of white smoke with a dense grey core formed. This soon dissipated. Roy saw two more of these smoke cones form in nearby fields over the next quarter hour. A Celtic cross formation appeared at the same location one year later.

Vertical Cylinders

Similarly, a mechanical engineer saw an object bobbing above hedgerows at Westbury. While he watched, the small vertical cylinder dropped down into the field and rotated about one end to sweep out a classic crop circle. While Colin had been at Chilbury helping to make a documentary on crop circles for Japan, he had seen a similar vertical cylinder rotating in the sky above.

In 1987 a ring appeared at Kimpton, 8 kilometres from where Colin lives. Colin had made the usual measurements, tests, soil samples, and so on, but returned to the site that evening to make one measurement that had been missed. (Normally at least two people *must* be present to ratify any details). Colin parked his car near a small cemetery, walked to the site, took the measurement and put his pen and pad down. Standing to face the half-set sun, he put his hands together and said in his mind's eye, 'God if you could, give me some clue'. Then he heard a noise coming from about 2.5 metres away — a low level crackle that increased in volume and moved about until he was close to panic. When it stopped after a few minutes, he left the site for home.

Some time later, during a BBC interview within a 32 metre circle at Bedham, Colin had found the atmosphere 'very heavy'. It was difficult to synchronise his brain and mouth and very hard to co-ordinate what he was doing. Then the same crackling noise was picked up by the headset of the sound engineer. The floodlights also dimmed and rose several times, and it became impossible to film within the circle and they had to move outside. (One TV camera worth 65,000 pounds was placed on a crane jib and was totally destroyed.) When analysed, the sound had a frequency of 5.2 kilohertz and was found to have a very complex structure.

The BBC reported the incident fully but did not mention the destroyed TV camera. Similar effects occurred back at the TV studio later that day. When the noise sequence went to air, the studio power supply was suddenly lost — this was recorded as a 'blip' on all tapes. There was a temporary mains failure which was re-established after a few seconds. After that, all the telephones out of the studio went dead.

When 'boxes' were reported as part of the phenomenon, the word 'pictogram' was coined. Some of these sharp-edged formations are spectacular and in one there is a complete reversal of the energy flow within 3 centimetres.

These pictograms seem to bear little similarity to the Nazca Plains markings in South America. Some have a series of symmetrical marks. The first pictogram was reported in May 1990 and was initially thought to be a hoax. Two circles were connected

One TV camera worth 65,000 pounds was placed on a crane jib and was totally destroyed.

by a spur which had parallel, coffin-shaped boxes. Others have included a dumbbell with three partial rings or arcs, and another in 1990 of three triangles. One was formed in an area struck by a white beam of light from a gold light in the sky and evolved over a period of days into a multiple agroglyph. The most dramatic forma-

The recent Barbury Castle formation (120 metres across) near the disused Wrought Airfield had been partially witnessed.

tions tend to occur towards the end of the circle season.

One laboratory in the UK is adequately equipped to investigate the crystalline structures found in many plant systems. Using their methodology, it has been found that very different crystalline patterns are found in plant material taken from a circle, when compared with normal plant material. These crystalline effects gradually return to normal as the crop continues growing. Two nuclear physicists are now checking to see how these molecular changes may have taken place.

Plasma Vortex Theory

This year seven circular marks have been reported in snow from Turkey, and about 70 crop circles from Japan — one circle had occurred in association with a water loss of 25,000 gallons of water from a rice paddy field. The Japanese are very involved and more committed than most western scientists. Japanese scientists investigating Meadon's Plasma Vortex theory have recreated a tiny circle pattern from a vortex generated in the laboratory using high electrical energies (similar to ball lightning), radio waves, and an alternating power source.

The recent Alton Barnes formation was approximately 250 metres long and formed overnight. At Alton Prior nearby, all the dogs started barking at 2.15 am that morning. Three other formations occurred within the next few days, creating a multiple agroglyph.

In one circle spanning two crop species, the wheat stalks had been bent but *kale* plants growing around the border of the wheat field were unaffected.

Operation Blue Hill and Operation Chameleon were projects set up by the UK military to continually monitor a meadow. In the early morning, fog had developed (as usual) in the area obscuring the camera's view. At 6.15 am the fog dispersed, except for one spot where the fog lingered till 6.30. When this patch of fog dispersed, a crop circle was found at that point of the field.

At one stage, farmers started becoming concerned about the effects of the circles on the crop itself and started harvesting around the formations as a precaution against this grain getting into the food chain. However, no adverse nutritional effects have been found and plants often appear healthier inside circles or grow larger than those outside. The grain produced is usually larger than normal.

A recent 'whale-like' formation included a central spindle shape and a series of dotted lines. Other patterns look like the decay patterns observed in atomic particle experiments. Another recent glyph has been described as depicting DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid, which is essential for living things), or a maze, or the brain.

The recent Barbury Castle formation (120 metres across) near the dis-

used Wrought Airfield had been partially witnessed. Bright flashes of light, golden balls of light, and explosions had been reported, all within a very few minutes. This complex formation includes concentric rings, spokes, triangles and a sprocket pattern. Its full complexity evolved over several days afterwards. Eventually, over 60 single circles were scattered elsewhere all over the same field, plus the two circles inside the original glyph.

Because of his Civil Defence involvement, Colin has long had a radio set at home. One day he heard a conversation between the Winchester police and an elderly couple who were very distressed. The elderly couple had seen 'a vertical ferris wheel with amber-coloured lights' hovering over Stockbridge Down. The next morning a Celtic cross was found at Easton just to the west of this position.

Another recent report from Tennessee described how a 300 metre long key formation in a maize field had first been recorded, then obliterated, by the US military. At present the most complex formations were being found in England, and only simpler (or earlier) forms elsewhere in the world. However, key formations were now being reported from the US, Europe, and Japan.

Colin's goal is still to capture the phenomenon on film. A large international effort has been mounted from Hampshire in the Wiltshire 'corridor'

to observe any events. Sometimes, Colin has found his camera produces unexpected results during filming. When filming a split triple ring at Longwood Estate, unusual marks appeared in the film later. These can be classified into types — as 'ribbons', 'staves', and 'fingers'

There appears to be a real correlation between UFO activities and crop circles. Colin pointed out that human aerial activity in the sky above this area is also very high. The region is not only under surveillance by crop watchers, but is close to a number of important British military bases.

During his Australian visit, Colin hoped to get Aborigines to look at photos of the formations to get their feedback. When these glyph photos had been shown to Hopi Indians in USA they had given a very emotional response.

Colin also hopes to get an opinion from the Dogon people of West Africa.

Colin says that the information currently available from the Hopi is that Mother Earth is in serious trouble from pollution and human mismanagement, and is in grave danger. The ozone hole is threatening the Earth's life support systems. Crop circle ground markings are a discharge pattern at the boundary between this dimension and another one, caused by the ecological stress of the Earth.

□

UFO Reporter

Interim Committee News

At its inaugural meeting on 10 November 1991, UFOR (NSW) formed an Interim Committee to speed developments. The purpose of this group was to establish some initial aims and objectives for UFOR (NSW), and to start planning some activities for the group over the next year to 18 months. The activities of this group would probably be reviewed after a year, and a committee formally established at the first AGM (probably in October 1992).

Material discussed at Committee meetings would be reported to the General meetings to give some idea of progress.

Aims

The aims for UFOR (NSW) were initially seen as being:

To promote a greater understanding of the UFO phenomenon. To investigate and research UFOs and related phenomena with a developed, logical, and structured approach. Individual specialist areas would be encouraged but not specifically promoted (such as: new age subjects, channelling, abductions, contactees, new science).

In practical terms the group would work to:

- design and develop a computer database
- train field investigators
- compile UFO sightings data for distribution
- establish its own periodical for members, to be published three or four times a year

Membership and Membership Costs

- There would be only one level of membership (all participants would be considered equal)
- Annual fees (due January each year)
 - Member fee — \$25.00
 - Junior Member fee — \$15.00 (under 17)
 - Concession fee (pensioner, invalid, unemployed) — \$15.00
 - Household fee (more than one member per household) — \$25.00

Other Matters

- A UFOR (NSW) Standard Sighting Report Form would be produced to deal with initial approaches from members of public (to be based on the ACUFOS form)

- Training Program for field investigators (still to be developed)
- Some introductory material (booklet, pamphlets) for members to be developed
- A UFOR (NSW) Investigators' Code of Conduct to be developed from Jenny Randles's suggestions and ACUFOS material (see page 51 of this issue)
- Audience feedback forms to be used for comments and topic suggestions from the general meetings
- As well as general meetings, several evening video meetings would be run during each winter month, (Sundays 6–9 pm) on 3 May, 5 July, 6 Sept — entry \$5 (accompanied children under 12 free)
- A 1992 Questionnaire to UFOR (NSW) Members to define their needs and capabilities has been done
- 'Official' investigator's ID card to be investigated
- UFOR (NSW) and the Media — the Committee still has to develop an official line to anticipate enquiries from the media.

Draft Code of Conduct for UFO Investigators (January 1992)

Responsibilities to Witnesses

The physical health and psychological well-being of a witness is the primary concern to an investigator at all times during an investigation.

- The identity of a witness is confidential. It must not be disclosed unless it is already generally known (for example, by previous publication in newspapers). Full permission must be obtained from the witness to authorise disclosure — an investigator should take reasonable steps to preserve their anonymity, without detracting from the facts of the account.
- As an investigator, you must warn witnesses of the consequences of disclosing their identity; however, you need not discourage them from doing so. When you consider a report to be genuine, you may take on responsibility for presenting the facts of the matter, as far as you have been able to ascertain them.
- Whenever practical, arrange personal interviews with a witness by prior appointment.
- You must honour any request by a witness to have someone of their choosing (a friend or relative) present at an interview. For children, a parent should always be present.
- Do not harass a witness if they do not want to provide an interview, give information, or co-operate in any way. If possible, get a witness to sign off your written account of their experience as 'a true and accurate account'.
- When interviewing a child witness, you should not proceed with an investigation where this is likely to re-initiate any trauma linked with the experience.
- When dealing with a witness who may be psychologically disturbed, you should have a qualified person (a psychologist or psychiatrist) assess their claims. If this is not possible, conduct the investigation so that you minimise stress and provocation. The name of such witnesses must not be publicly disclosed.
- Do not discuss your personal theories with a witness during an investigation. This may bias witness testimony. Do not make irresponsible or alarmist statements based on opinion rather than fact.
- If resorting to specialised procedures on a witness (such as hypnosis), you must use fully qualified practitioners and have the written consent of the witness. The pros and cons of such aids must be fully explained to the witness. Do not subject a witness to hypnosis or similar, just to test their veracity of an incident.
- Do not enter private property without the permission of the owner, occupier, or an authorised agent. Leave any property as you found it; do not remove samples without prior approval. Any damage to property you cause during an investigation, and for which you admit liability, must be made good or repaired at cost to yourself.
- Provide a receipt for any photographs, artefacts, or materials borrowed for analysis. Assure the witness these will be returned and return them, unless it is mutually agreed otherwise.
- Provide a witness with the final account of your investigations, if they request it.

Code of Conduct

You should offer this as a matter of course. Reports should be signed off by a witness wherever possible.

Public Responsibility

- Deal politely and co-operatively with police and other authorised bodies, as far as is practicable, provided this does not compromise a witness.
- If you encounter a situation which could endanger the general public or property, inform the police or other appropriate body, and take all reasonable steps to avert the danger.
- Do not release information you acquire during the course of an investigation to news media without the permission of the witness.

- Do not issue premature or unsupported statements to the media about a case you are investigating.

Responsibilities to Other Investigators

- Do not impede the free flow of information for personal gain or status. You have the right to limit what you publish from your investigations, but data should be made freely available for research by other bona fide investigators.
- Make due acknowledgement to the contributions of other investigators.
- Reports should indicate everyone present during an interview, or other activities and their relevance to the investigation. If pos-

sible, two investigators should interview a witness; this can improve the reliability and thoroughness of the information gained.

- If you witness something yourself, report this to another investigator. You may be too close to the subject to provide the most objective and useful account.
- Clearly indicate confidential information within a report. This data should be excluded from copies of the report that are publicised or viewed publicly.
- It may help to record an interview electronically (especially in cases of high strangeness), unless the witness (or their parent or guardian) objects.

UFO

RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

The work of UFORA (UFO Research in Australia and New Zealand), published for the first time in DIGITAL BOOK form, offers an exhaustive look at UFO activity in our region. This most comprehensive document includes material from aboriginal myths up to the present day and has been prepared by a number of authors.

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