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ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO BOX E170, ST. JAMES. 2000.

PRESIDENT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

We are living in a changing world, tremendous technical advances, great increase in knowledge - but also an upsurge of violence, defiance of the Law.

There is no need to stress that we live in a world of rapid changes. Some of these we judge to be good and some we regard as bad. The New Testament parable of wheat and weeds growing together certainly applies today. So, in this uncertainty and confusion, where can we look for some stability? The age old values which are borne home to us at Christmas time, are as valid as ever. "PEACE AND GOOD WILL". Look around you and you will find inspiration in the number of people you know and meet who are doing this work willingly and well, with cheerful toleration of others. I have recently been hospitalized and for me it was heart-warming to see the Hospital Staff doing this work with happy dedication. Recently hundreds of millions of people reached out together with their minds and their hearts to the Apollo 11 and 12 Astronauts in their great adventure. This wonderful exercise in Goodwill surely must around our Hope for Mankind. A Happy Christmas and Peace and Goodwill all the year round.

F. Phillips,
President, UFOIC. Sydney.

Now that the Apollo 12 mission has been brought to a successful conclusion, mankind has entered through the doorway to space exploration and the close of this century should see regular travel between Earth and Moon. There are tremendous problems still to be solved and may we hope that ALL nations will be invited to participate in this great adventure which will ultimately influence the lives of everyone on Earth.

Ed.

THE MOON

Dr. Don Herbison-Evans

Why is so much money being spent on going into space and to the moon? Is it just to obtain scientific knowledge about the nature, structure and history of the moon? I think at the moment this may be so, but as our knowledge increases from these first stumbling steps, science will work towards the attainment of two more important goals: firstly, the eventual expansion of mankind into the Universe at large, secondly, to satisfy a craving to understand our world and our solar system and galaxy came into being. The moon offers many puzzles. Did it originate separately or was it torn from the earth? Are its craters due to meteorite impacts or volcanic activity? Is there LIFE there? A preliminary chemical analysis of the moon rocks brought back on Apollo 11 has shown a number of differences from terrestrial rocks, but they are sufficiently similar to terrestrial rocks to still leave unanswered the question of whether the moon is a piece of the Earth or not. No organic matter has been found in and on the moon rocks. The radioactivity content of the rocks shows that they were last properly molten 3.1 eons ago (1 eon = 1000 million years). The surface of some of the rocks shows very thin glazing, as though a blow-torch had been wafted over them and this has been interpreted as due to a very large flare having occurred on the sun about 100,000 years ago; a flare large enough to reach out to our orbit. The analysis of the orbits of the various things we have sent around the moon shows that a number of dense heavy bodies lie near the lunar surface, under the maria (or seas as the old Italian astronomers named them). These have been called "Mascons" (massive concentration of material) which are interpreted as showing that the moon has never been completely molten, for if it had, these dense materials would have sunk to the centre of the moon. The popular saying is "and so science creeps dully on", never letting its imagination go beyond the possible answers to the next experiment. I think that this attitude of science is right. The answers to the fundamental questions,

towards which it is working, are too important to us to be based on ambiguous evidence. Every inch of the way must be examined for misinterpretation, for accidental observations just cannot give evidence of the quality required. Meticulous study of all aspects of the moon-shot assured its success and proved that "random guesswork" will never achieve a place in the scientific world.

NASA RELEASES REPORT ON MOON

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1968 released a very comprehensive report entitled "Chronological Catalog of Reported Lunar Events" (NASA Technical Report NASA TR R227) containing 579 cases in which strange occurrences were noted to have taken place on the moon. Compiled by world renowned astronomers from America and Northern Ireland, it may be ordered from Clearinghouse for Federal Scientific and Technical Information, 5285 Port Royal Road, Springfield, VA 2215, at the cost of \$3 (US). A brief extract from the report gives multiple sightings of light flashes, coloured glows and spots, extreme silvery "flows" and in some cases obscuration of the moon's landscape in Mare Crisium, Shroeter's Valley, Cassendi, Alphonsus and Tycho to mention just a few. Information from other sources (Challenge Sept. 69) discloses that on October 29, 1963, two clusters of bright red lights were observed north of the crater Herodotus, but by November 27, they had disappeared from there and were re-assembled in an oval formation along the southern rim of the crater Aristarchus. Also in June, 1965 an astronomer alerted observatories in California and Arizona to a very bright beam of light streaming out of Aristarchus, which was well over the dark part of the moon and by July and August was still being observed. From the year 1930 to 1960, over 200 domes had been seen on the lunar surface. The crew of Apollo 10 on their return from orbit, reported red glimmers of light in the mountains of Plato, Archimedes, Eratosthenes and several other craters. Dr. G. Kuipers, attached to the offices of NASA, shares their hypothesis of volcanic activity especially in the sub-soil. With the success of Apollo 11 and 12 missions in bringing back lunar rock samples, intense interest will be centred on the analysis of materials and the clues they may provide as to the origin of our natural satellite. Perhaps the moon is not as "dead" as scientists would have us believe and maybe more than volcanic activity is taking place there!

COSMONAUTS, ASTRONAUTS AND BOGEYS

In July, 1960 - 12 satellites - 11 U.S. and 1 Russian checked by tracking gear. 13 showed! Who was the unknown one? January 10, 1961 - at a test firing of a Polaris Missile - while still climbing was joined by a larger object so close that the automatic radar tracking gear "locked on" to the object and it took 14 minutes to get the radar off the UFO and back onto the missile. February 17, 1961 - Blast off for Russian launch of man and woman into space. For seven days until February 24th, their conversations were recorded by tracking stations at Bochum, Uppsala, Turin and Mendon. Something went wrong and they were unable to return to earth. On February 24th each announced their physical condition to be good, but lights had failed, air supply almost gone. The woman's voice cut in "I'll take it and hold it tight with my right hand. Look out of the peephole! I have it!" A second or two later the man said "There is something! If we do not get out the world will never know about this." That was the last heard from the doomed pair. April 30, 1962 - Major Joe Walker was testing the high altitude X15 in excess of 2000 mph and on his return to base the film taken with the rear view camera was developed. It revealed that the plane was followed by 5 disc-cylinder objects in echelon formation. Official government announcement "ice flakes"! July 17, 1962 - Major White was paced off the left wing tip by what he described as "like a grey-white sheet of paper" at 2000 mph. May, 1963 - On his final orbit Major Gordon Cooper radioed to Muchia in Australia, "I am being approached by a greenish object moving east to west. This was contrary to the orbit of man-made satellites. It was seen and recorded also by tracking gear at Perth, Australia and also by hundreds of technicians and newsmen. April 8, 1964 - On the first launching of a Gemini spacecraft carrying performance devices, it was joined on its first orbit by 4 UFOs - 2 up front and 2 behind. One orbit and they then vanished. 1967 - Gemini 7 - Frank Borman and James Lovell on second orbit reported seeing a bogey (space term for UFO). November 14, 1969 - Charles Conrad, Apollo 12 spotted a bright UFO from the centre hatch window. On Sunday 16th the object was still with them 170,000 miles deep in space. Houston controllers theorized that it was a spent stage of Saturn V rocket (SB4) which they had discarded after launch. However, the charts showed that the object was approaching a different star to one the discarded rocket would be approaching and that the SB4 should have been about 2,500 nautical miles from Apollo 12 at that stage.

WORLD SCENE

TUNISIA. UFO BIG BANG!

On 7th July, 1969 the Shields Gazette published a news item referring to the appearance of two UFOs over Tunisia on the night of the 6th. At 8.54 p.m. on that date the first UFO appeared in the clear sky as a blue spherical ring about the size of the moon and heading north, two or three minutes west of the Pole star. It disappeared about ten minutes later. Then at 8.55 p.m. over Nth. Tunisia another object appeared with the brightness and magnitude of the morning star at 10 degrees east of the Pole star. Suddenly it exploded, illuminating the whole sky and having all the characteristics of an atomic explosion. Tunis radio went straight to air with a full report of the incident and official investigation is being sought. (Ref. Bridgeport News 11.7.69)

ENGLAND. SHIPPING ALERTED IN NORTH SEA

The Yorkshire Post on 10th May, 1969, carried a report of UFOs flying along the Kent Coast. A lorry driver told police that he was about two miles from Herne Bay when he saw four oval shaped objects - one large and orange in colour and the other three smaller. Searchlights from the smaller ones were shining on the large one as they moved towards Dover. Earlier in the evening, North Seas shipping had been alerted after reports that an aircraft may be on fire somewhere in the area. But the brilliant lights seen were said by official sources, "believed to have come from a satellite which burned itself out over the sea."

BRAZIL. MAN PARALYSED.

On 12th March, 1969 at 4.45 p.m. Angelo Randi, businessman of Vila Castelo Branco claimed while driving on Hortolandia Road in the area where many sightings have been made in past months, he observed a strange object. It was vivid yellow, then went through rapid colour changes to green, blue, lilac and finally to green again. He was not afraid and slowed his car as the light came towards him. Drawing nearer, it became dull and his eyesight was affected. At this point he decided to speed up but the engine of his car continued to slow until it stopped altogether. After that he felt paralysed, but aware of everything around him until the object left.

(Ref: APRO June, 1969)

U.S.A. ILLINOIS

Dr. J. Allen Hynek is investigating a UFO sighting by two 18 year old boys and three other witnesses on May 12th, 1969 in the Palatine-Lake Zurich areas. At 10.25 p.m. the boys, Greg Lucht and Alan Prouty were driving north on Highway 53 when they first sighted the object. "It looked like a light on top of a radio tower and we thought the flash that was emitted came from a bird being electrocuted on the wires", Greg reported. But, on driving past a clump of trees, the UFO came into full view as saucer-shaped (like a World War 1 English helmet) with a concave indentation in the centre of the underside with a large light in it. The light went on and off a number of times emitting a brilliant beam, while smaller red and white lights, which were located three quarters of the way around the rim of the UFO, blinked on and off. The object disappeared when the boys were about two blocks away from the home of one of them, but it came into view about ten minutes later. They went onto the house roof for a better view, then ducked to lie flat as the object went directly overhead. By this time, the parents and two other people were watching the "thing" and reported that it made an unusual humming noise that would rise and fall in pitch in a regular pattern. A neighbour's dog barked frantically when the UFO appeared over the home. The unusual, bright lights on the object also attracted the attention of Mr. Morton Konlon near Lake Zurich. He first saw the object between 9 and 10 p.m. with two other men. They watched it as it flew around emitting flashes of brilliant light at about 8 seconds interval. The light came straight down and flashed brightly like a giant flash bulb going on and off and it lit up a large area on the ground. Mr. Konlon who flies a small aircraft himself said, "they were not landing lights from an aircraft and I can't tell you the shape of the object because when the lights went off I couldn't see a thing."

(Ref: Skylark Mo.US)

UFO SYMPOSIUM IN THE ARGENTINE June 21st and 22nd, 1969.

Some weeks ago various UFO organisations in the Sth. American Republic of Argentina held a Symposium in the Auditorium of National Radio Station LRA5, Rosario. The organiser, Senor Cuillermo Aldunati of the leading UFO organisation AOA is wellknown to UFOIC through correspondence over a number of years and is recognised as a very keen and serious researcher. More than a dozen societies participated and representatives from practically every one of them gave a talk during the two day sitting. Significant subjects discussed among others were sightings in Bolivia and Peru, Saucer Nests, Life in Outer Space and Inhabited Worlds, also UFOs in Biblical times. Dissection of various sightings such as the cases of Villa Constitution, Trancas Sighting, Pereyra Sighting and others of importance engrossed an attentive audience. At the conclusion of the conference, the following resolutions were adopted:

1. Existence of UFOs is certain.
2. We are not alone in the Universe, intelligent life exists in our galaxy and others throughout the Universe.
3. On various occasions astronauts saw, filmed and photographed UFOs during their flights.
4. Other civilisations are more advanced than our own in technical, social and spiritual ways.
5. Some of those civilisations wish to stop a destruction of our civilisation by us, as one can consider their aims to be peaceful.
6. It seems that towards the middle of each year there are more sightings noticeable than at other times in South America.
7. It seems very unfortunate that the recent Condon Report and investigation did not bring the solution of UFO-Problem any closer. Various scientists in many countries did, in their own way, much more in this respect.
8. Any person observing UFOs should adhere in his or her observations and reports to a standard procedure, the outline of same to be made widely known. Any information to this effect will be willingly given by the various societies and their members, to anyone interested. It seems quite certain that this convention was an unqualified success and Senor Aldunati is to be congratulated for arranging such an interesting and worthwhile gathering. Perhaps Australia and other countries throughout the world could convene similar meetings in the near future to the mutual advantage of all participants.

(Information translated from the Spanish original by W. E. Moser, J.P. Gen. Sec. UFOIC Syd)

AUSTRALIAN SCENE

A Gallup Poll reports that believers and disbelievers in UFOs are equally divided at 39% each while 29% are undecided. This compares with 35% believers against 42% disbelievers and 23% undecided in 1966. (Credit Melbourne Herald 7th October.)

RAAF CHASE UFO OVER DARLING DOWNS

An RAAF Canberra bomber chased but failed to catch a mystery flying object over Northern N.S.W. today. The bomber was sent from Amberley Air Force Base when hundreds of people in Kyogle and along the Darling Downs reported sighting the object. Shaped like an aluminium zeppelin, it hovered low over townships and farms. Some residents observed it for more than three hours. The bomber crew sighted the object and began to chase it but failed to get near enough to it as it accelerated away and vanished. (Ind. Perth 31/8/69)

WHAT IS THE PATTERN SUGGESTED BY THE FOLLOWING?

19/2/69 Omeah Road, near Kyogle - scorched circle on Mr. Bryant's property - 20ft in diameter scorched ring 1ft wide. Made Wednesday night found on 20th. 19/2/69 West of Nimben on Goolmanah Creek, nest discovered by children. 20/2/69 Afterlee - Mr. J. O'Neill's property - elliptical flattening of swamp reeds 30' x 12'. Four flattened tracks led out with small half moon depressions at end. Found 22/2/69. 20/2/69 Tuckarimba - Mr. & Mrs. H. G. McCaughey's property - 16' diameter ring completely charred. 8/4/69 Bungawalabyn - Mr. Keith Reid's property - saucer shaped ring. 18/4/69 Bungawalabyn - Mr. T. J. Heffernan's property. Two circular depressions 6ft apart. All shoots of saccaline crop flattened were lying on ground in a north-south direction. 12/5/69 Casino - Park View Road - Mr. & Mrs. Hinitt's neighbour's property. Mystery circular shaped, intensely brilliant object hovering above ground, with pulsating streaks or shadows making highly random movement. Raining very heavily at time but inspection next morning showed no burnt patches. 21/5/69 Corndale - Mr. & Mrs. Hunter's property - oval shaped depression 20' long 15' wide, deeper around its perimeter. Grass neatly flattened with no evidence of burning. If members would care to obtain a map of this particular area and mark in the places, an interesting pattern develops. Are the "saucers" planting markers deep into the earth for navigational purposes? Are they following a planned grid around the earth? What are the chief products of these areas? These are just some of the "down-to-earth" questions which must be delved into to try and find part of the solution to the UFO phenomena.

SWINGING SAUCER OVER MELBOURNE

On Sunday night, 17th August, 1969 at 9.30 p.m. Julie McDonald was standing outside her front gate saying good-bye to her boyfriend when her attention was caught by a light in the North-west sky. She immediately ran inside to get her brother Carl and they both watched an oval shaped, orange coloured object slowly rotating on its axis, first clockwise and one full 360 degrees swing, then anti-clockwise. This swinging movement was accompanied by flashing and then flickering red lights which seemed to emanate from large portholes around the object's mid-structure. It disappeared into the north three minutes later.

LIGHT BEAMS SWEEP CANE FARM

A cane farmer and two of his neighbours at Silky Oak Creek, on the Bruce Highway, 3 miles south of Tully in Queensland saw a light hovering over the cane fields not far from one of their houses. It was 2.30 in the morning of July 17, 1969 and raining heavily at the time. Mr. Tony Guifre reports that after about 10 minutes a bright beam like a powerful searchlight shone out across the heavily clouded sky, the brilliance varying at times. Then another set of lights appeared about half a mile south of the first light, directed a beam across the clouds where it interlocked with the first beam then both disappeared. One later reappeared. Mr. Guifre and his neighbour, Mr. Anthony Bonnaccorso went to investigate the area leaving Mrs. Bonnaccorso in the house. When they returned she told them that a cigar-shaped object about 30' long and 12' high had passed by the house and cane field in the direction of the swamp. It had 12 portholes in the side and was slowly rotating. (Ref: Cairns Post. K. Basterfield.)

UFO ANSWERS LIGHT SIGNAL

Mr. John Blattman a member of UFOIC and his Train Recorder, Mr. Shane Brown were standing on the box landing at 8.20 p.m. on 23rd April, 1969, when they saw a brilliant star-like object approaching from the South East. They estimated it to pass above the box at 300 ft. altitude. Its shape was not very well defined, but there was a black rim surrounding the whole metallic, dull grey object which now had pulsating red lights strung in an even line. Mr. Blattman held his cigarette lighter in the air and flicked it on and off a few times. The object answered by turning on a white light which was extinguished when it passed well over the box and disappeared into the distance in the North west. The two witnesses had been on the alert for UFOs since they sighted one in August of 1968. Mr. Blattman, a former member of the RAAF is quite sure it was not a misinterpretation of natural phenomena.

NEWS AND FORTHCOMING EVENTS

7th November Fifty members were entertained at Mrs. Lindtner's residence where Dr. Harley Wood was Guest Speaker. His lecture on Comets proved most interesting and he illustrated his talk with slides and drawings. Many thanks to our hostess who provided warm hospitality.

15th November - Junior members held their meeting at Mrs. Biggs' residence in Strathfield. Mr. K. Lane, Investigating Officer of the Society, gave a talk in connection with UFOs and ESP (extra-sensory perception). Mr. Moser spoke of sightings overseas and the meeting ended with a lively question time. Next meeting will be held on Saturday, 20th February, 1970 at Mrs. Lane's residence in Fairlight at 3 p.m. A swim is planned, weather permitting. If you will be in attendance, please ring Mrs. Lane at 949 3579.

APPEAL

Anyone who can provide storage space for various property of UFOIC, please contact Secretary at the earliest opportunity so that arrangements may be made to have it moved to a new location.

DR. D. HERBISON-EVANS - has formed a group in the Society to experiment in filming UFOs and would like more members to participate. The idea is to take time exposures of the night sky so that any illuminated UFO will leave a trail on the picture. By leaving cameras out in various locations he hopes to get several shots of the same UFO from different angles, and hence triangulate it and find its course and height. All that is needed is a camera loaded with a high speed black and white film (eg Kodak Tri-X-Pan or Ilford HP3). This is left on time exposure in your own garden for a few hours every night (weather permitting). It is necessary to keep a notebook with details of the dates and times of all the photographs taken. Anyone willing to join in these experiments will be most welcome. Please contact the Secretary at 55 3833 or Membership Secretary 533 3647 and they will give you details.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS - DECEMBER 2nd ADYAR HALL

The Annual General Meeting will be held on the above date in Adyar Hall to elect office bearers for 1970. Films will be shown through the evening.

UFO KITS

Are still available through UFOIC at 55¢ posted in Australia and 60¢ overseas. Developed by our committee member, Dr. D. Herbison-Evans, it is proving popular as a scientific tool for UFO evaluation, and fits conveniently into wallet, handbag or pocket.

LIBRARY

Are you a member making full use of the library? UFOIC have a wide range of modern books on UFOs which will be posted to you on application to Mr. M. Duggan our Librarian.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY WHICH WAS TO BE HELD AT THE RESIDENCE OF MRS. L. LINDTNER ON 20th DECEMBER HAS BEEN CANCELLED.

AUSTRALIAN SCENE

Queensland FSR Bureau very alert.

A recent close encounter with an UFO was reported to Vince Mele of Queensland FSR Bureau by a 35-year old Tully district farmer, Louis Maule. At 8 p.m. on October 1, 1969, the witness was headed north, driving home from South Johnstone when he saw a black, circular-shaped object about 60 ft in diameter and ringed with red lights, descending from the sky. "I got a shock" Maule said. "It was gigantic and looked to be slowing up". The headlights of a passing car momentarily obscured the witness's vision and he slowed to a stop. "When I looked again it was travelling towards South Johnstone at maybe 100 mph and at a height of about 500 ft, then it banked and proceeded towards the clouds at very high speed. On that same evening, but three miles to the north and earlier to this sighting, Mr. Vince Mele of Queensland FSR Bureau had set up his mobile detector on a hill site overlooking the surrounding area. Promptly at 8 p.m his detector alarm sounded and it was two minutes before the alarm re-set itself automatically - then it was quiet for the rest of the evening. Even though Vince Mele did not see any lights or objects himself, the incident seems to provide the first good evidence of independent visual sighting correlated with triggering of the detector by an UFO.

UFOs Run Rings Around New Zealand

The finding of a mysterious circle of bleached manuka scrub at Ngatea in the Waikato in September of this year launched a nation-wide discussion on UFOs, involving the Department of Industrial Research, Professors, Horticulturists and leading UFO organisations. The 42ft circle was found by Mr. B. G. O'Neil on his 50 acre farm and it contained three V-shaped grooves in the ground, forming a perfect triangle. The manuka was bleached dry but showed no visible signs of burning. A horticultural consultant Mr. John Stuart-Menzies of Te Puna subjected manuka from the circle to a geiger counter test and found it to be radioactive. Every ounce of moisture in the plants had been instantaneously vaporised and they were bone dry and brittle. "This is most unusual in manuka which normally takes a long time to dry out. Some kind of short wave, high frequency radiation had cooked the material from the inside outwards," Mr. Stuart-Menzies said. "The effects appear to have been instantaneous. The energy received has reduced the pith to black carbon, without the outside showing any signs of burning." The President of the Tauranga Science Space Research Group, Mr. H. Cooke went to Ngatea to plot the incident and at the request of Mr. Stuart-Menzies he ran a geiger counter over the dead manuka. There were signs of increased radiation

which grew stronger in the thicker parts of the timber. Mr. Cooke thinks the marks were caused by a heavy object making a soft landing. "I am perfectly satisfied that the marks were caused by a physical object and everything fits in with overseas reports of landings by extra-terrestrial craft" he said. His theory was backed by another member of the group Mr. P. Spantlebury who also visited the scene to make detailed sketches of the area and said that he was satisfied that it wasn't a hoax. "Anyone who would try to create a deception would not have gone to such lengths as making complicated mathematical calculations which would have been necessary to pull the deception through. The craft had come in to land vertically and taken off at a 45° angle. This would account for the way the manuka was burnt" he explained. The DSIR took samples of the manuka and the report handed to the Minister for Science, Mr. Taiboys, who announced that "the DSIR believe the manuka had been killed by the saprophytic fungus which was living in the dead tissue. The manuka surrounding the area is "stag headed" - quite typical of plants attacked by fungi. The area was drained about 20 years ago and the manuka is undoubtedly effected by a root rot complex of organisms and blight. The minister did not make any attempt to explain the three symmetric marks on the ground in the area of the dead manuka. Prof. N. F. Barber of Victoria University (Theoretical Physics) and Dr. D. R. McQueen, senior lecturer in botany visited the site and removed soil samples, plants and pieces of manuka. The university zoological expert Mr. R. G. Bagnell said the manuka had died suddenly. "This is evidenced by the arrested growth of its flower buds" he said. However, after completing their investigations, Mr. Bagnell said the grooves were made by old logs; the soil piled around the grooves were thrown there by pigs rooting. A duck shooter had the area sprayed to improve his shooting prospects. Mr. O'Neil disagreed - his comments "There have never been any logs anywhere near the mysterious circles and I know pig rooting when I see it. There are only a few pigs in the area and they were responsible for throwing up the soil near the grooves". Other circles were found later at Whitford; Kaharoa, near Rotorua (Mr. C. T. Johnson, Te Waerenga Rd.) Puketutu south of Te Kuiti (Mr. Charles Blackmoore) Dargaville (Mr. S. E. Wills) Takapuna - near North Shore Obstetric Hospital.

FROM HERE AND THERE ...

In the last 15 years there has been a significant revival of scientific interest in the study of known botanical drugs and the discovery of new ones. Considerable research is being devoted to the ancient folk remedies, old wives' nostrums, tribal secrets, witchdoctor's compounds and native medicines which used to be scoffed at by the cocksure physicians of the '40s and '50s. Perhaps the ancients were not the crackpots modern science had made them out to be. For 3000 years Hindus have used a plant called snakeroot to cure bites from cobras, soothe crying infants and assist in the meditation of sages and holy men. In 1952 under its scientific name of Rauwolfia Serpentina, was it discovered by western scientists to have remarkable effects in cases of headache, insomnia, high blood pressure and even insanity. An extract of snakeroot called Reserpine was the first of the modern tranquilisers. Cleopatra and other ancient Egyptians used a succulent plant called Aloe Vera. TO-DAY it is the most effective treatment known for radiation burns. In 200BC Roman statesman Cato wrote "if you wish to drink much at a banquet, before dinner dip cabbage in vinegar and eat as much as you will". TO-DAY an amino acid found in cabbage juice is being used to treat alcoholism. The early Egyptians also ate cabbage seeds to prevent intoxication. In the treatment of mental disturbances to-day, they use the ancient plant substances of - Teonanacatl the "magic mushrooms" from Mexico, Pavote a cactus which the Aztecs called "divine intoxicant"; the ergot fungus, blamed for medieval epidemics of insanity; Ayahuasca, the "soul vine of the Amazon"; Iboga, an ordeal poison of the Congo; Cohoba, narcotic snuff of the Carribean; Ololiuqui, the legendary "devil's morning glory".

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Enzymes in the new laundry powder could be dangerous a United Nations expert says. Prof. David Dyrssen of Sweden's Cothenburg University says the "blood and gravy gobbling organisms" should be watched carefully. "We are training bacteria like thoroughbreds to produce enzymes that stand heat better. They give us whiter shirts, but this is a very active bio-chemical substance and it would be wise to go carefully."

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A 64-year old addict has been admitted to a Manchester (England) hospital paralysed and seriously ill. Not drugs, not drink, not even cigarettes --- he's HOOKED on licorice! He is passionately fond of Licorice, devouring large quantities every day. A doctor at the hospital said "this is the first time we have heard of a case like this. It is quite remarkable, and to our knowledge the first in history. Licorice is absolutely harmless if you DON'T EAT IT ALL DAY, but in vast quantities has an effect on the liver. This man could have died had he carried on in this way".

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Electronic computers are helping the experts in the study of the ancient Mayan civilization to decipher inscriptions on stone in the remains of Mayan cities of Mexico's Yucatan region. It is stated that the computers will take only three years to decipher the stone inscriptions - a task which might have taken 30 years by conventional methods.