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Skywatch



QUARTERLY OF "CONTACT" (S.A.)

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EDITORIAL

In our aim to make contact with beings of other planets in and outside our own galaxy, we need to consider many points.

First of all we must believe beyond all doubt that such contact is possible. Secondly, we must be well equipped for such a task, e.g. we need plenty of enthusiasm, perseverance and patience, and we must be willing to sacrifice time, for whether contact is made through an actual meeting here on earth or through the medium of telepathy, both ways require time. It is the persistent seeker who will find; the persistent enquirer who will get the answers. Therefore, enthusiasm is necessary, not the "flash-in-the-pan" kind, but one of the patient, persevering nature. We must work with the strong, undying Spirit, which we call "undaunted".

Another important factor for all U.F.O. enthusiasts is: to exercise **TOLERANCE**. I write this in capital letters, because it is necessary to learn to understand and tolerate other people's view-point. There are still masses of people who do not believe that life on other planets is possible, because Science has not (yet) been able to prove it. Be it so. We do not argue, but ever keep an open mind and our own council.

A few words on Telepathy, the "New Age" way of communication, not only between Earth and Outer Space but eventually between the peoples of the Earth themselves.

This study, apart from being interesting, will open new fields of endeavour. Both the Johannesburg and Durban branches

of Contact (S.A.) have started a little group to study and practice telepathy, and we hope that other groups will follow their example. The book used is "Telepathy and the Etheric Vehicle" by Alice A. Bailey.

Since a group of young ones has lately been showing a great interest in U.F.O. activities, it has been decided to open a corner in "Skywatch" for the "Under Twelves". Among the new generation, born in this Space Age, we are bound to find some enthusiastic and promising workers for the great cause: to link up with those of goodwill and greater knowledge and wisdom on other planets and planes of consciousness, in order to help and bring about Unity and Peace on Earth.

So, on with the good work.

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" C O N T A C T "

Philip Human

Contact! This simple little word has become the magical goal of every space-minded person in every country scientists and saucerers alike.

The scientists hope to eventually contact other planets by rocket ship, but we saucer fans hope for a short-cut and a far more comfortable journey by Flying Saucer. We'll see who gets there first! We all have something in common, though, and that is a fervent belief that there is life "out there" or else we wouldn't bother. Maybe our respective interpretation of the type of life we shall find may vary, but one day, perhaps soon, we shall all know the truth.

Already there are scores of people who claim to have had a physical contact with space people, and some have even travelled in their craft. There are others who have had similar experiences, but for reasons of their own, have preferred to remain silent rather than to be silenced.

Unfortunately, some of these claims were later proved to be untrue, as was the case with some 'genuine' flying saucer pictures that turned out to be fakes. But this still leaves us with the true contactee, and the genuine saucer photographs which compel us to continue investigating, skywatching and consciously welcoming our visitors until contact is established.

It is therefore incumbent on all members of CONTACT S.A. to investigate all claims with an open mind - be they contacts, sightings, or 'messages' purportedly from outer space - and only to accept or reject as the case may be. This is not always easy.

I have recently seen quite a few reports where space people were supposed to have been noticed at large saucer conventions overseas. I wonder how they could be sure this was so, since these people never disclose their identity. And then I wonder, too, what our reaction would be should a spaceman pay us a visit at one of our regular "Contact" meetings. If they could do so in other countries, they would be charmed with Durban, and we promise them a warm welcome at our Centre!

How I wish the whole world would accept them as friends and bid them welcome. They have told us repeatedly that they "come in peace". But this is how two saucer pilots feel at present about our planet and its peoples:

"If only the peoples of your planet would accept our friendship, all the knowledge we have gained would be yours. Your planet would never regret taking us as their friends. Your nations would learn to live in peace. Conditions on your planet would change. There would be no more poverty and no wars. How I wish we could come freely to your planet, but this is impossible. We cannot land where we choose to. We'll have to get permission from our high superiors, and they will not give permission until your planet has fully accepted us. WE COME ONLY IN PEACE! We do not wish to invade your planet. We only wish to bring happiness and peace and to teach you better ways of living. There are many other planets that have accepted this. Why are the earth people so different?"

Another one said: "I was patrolling your Solar System, and whilst gazing down on your beautiful planet, I wondered to myself why the people of earth were so different.

When I once spent a period of time on your planet, I encountered many strange beliefs that you people have about people on other planets. The majority believe that the planet Earth is the only inhabited one in the heavens. But when the Almighty Creator created your planet, He also created other planets. He not only created life on all of His creations, but He also gave them intelligence.

Then there are people who believe that inhabitants from other planets are deformed and hideous creatures who wish only to bring harm to your planet. Believe me, we have all been created in the same image and likeness. We all see, hear, speak and look the same. But the strangest belief of all is that space people are supposed to be spirits who do not exist in the flesh. They can walk through doors and walls, and cannot die. We all have a body of flesh and blood. We can die like anyone else! We feel sorrow and pain. We also feel happiness and joy. All the solar systems that my ancestors have visited, and all the solar systems that I have travelled to, all those people have flesh and blood. They all resemble our likeness. They do not exist in spirit form. They are all made the same - flesh and blood.

If your people would accept us as their friends, our craft would come to your planet, division after division. Your skies would ring with the noise of our magnetic motors. Our knowledge would be yours, and all that we have gained over the many centuries would be given to you **FREELY**.

Forgive me if I was preaching, but I have often wondered about your peoples and your planet. Let us hope that some day your planet will accept us as your friends and brothers!

Let us therefore not deviate from the course we have set ourselves: spread the news that flying saucers are real; that man on planet Earth is not a unique creature, that we have mighty friends, loving friends, who are willing to share their all if only we would accept their friendship instead of begrudging them an abode in our Father's house of "many mansions".

Onward Contact soldiers, marching on to Peace, with goodwill to all men - everywhere!

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ESSENTIALS OF ASTRONOMY

by GREGORY ROBERTS.

Before venturing out of the Solar System and into the depths of space, it might be of interest to discuss optical equipment that can be used by the amateur observer. The most obvious start is observing with the unaided or naked eye. Under good conditions, out in the country, away from city lights and with a dark sky, it is possible for the normal eye to see 3,000 to 4,000 stars at any one time. The careful observer will be able to follow the movement of the brighter planets among the stars, observe meteors, an occasional bright comet, eclipses of the sun and moon, bright artificial earth satellites and other interesting phenomena.

A good camera is a most useful accessory. With very little practice it is possible to make your own star atlas which can prove both useful and educational. Simply mount the camera in a rigid tripod and with as fast as speed film as possible, open the camera aperture to maximum, focus on infinity and expose on the bulb for as long as you wish. With Kodak Tri X film and a 35 mm f/2.8 camera, an exposure of 10 sec will show all the stars visible to the naked eye as a series of dots. Longer exposures will cause the stars to "Trail" as a result of the rotation of the earth on its own axis. An elaborate mount can be constructed that will enable the stars to be photographed as dots no matter how long the exposure is, but this is beyond the scope of the present series.

After the camera, binoculars are most useful. These enable stars down to about magnitude 8 to 9 to be viewed and add enormously to the number seen by the naked eye. The writer favours a pair of 7 x 50 binoculars which have a field of 7 degrees. The first digit refers to the magnification - in this case 7, whilst the second refers to the aperture in millimetres -

in this case 50 mm or about 2 inches. Binoculars with a magnification of ten times more really need to be mounted on a tripod as they are difficult to hold steady for lengthy periods at a time. A popular pair of binoculars are the 8 x 30. Whilst these are useful, they are inferior to the 7 x 50 as the latter has a brighter image and fainter stars can thus be seen. In addition, the larger the aperture, the better the binoculars. If you can afford a pair of 10 x 70 or so, this is even better.

Telescopes can be classed basically into two types - that using a lens for an objective - termed a refractor and that using a mirror as the main lens and accordingly is classed as a reflector. The refractor is readily available in small sizes but those generally available at the local chemist or photographic shop are either too small or of inferior quality. For a good telescope one must expect to pay a good price. A good 3 inch telescope - having an objective lens diameter of 3 inches will cost at least R200 if mounted on a good mount - perhaps a little too much for the casual observer. Second hand ones can be occasionally picked up for as little as R50. The price increases astronomically as the aperture increases and a typical 6 inch refractor will easily cost as much as R2,000. Anything large is well outside the pocket of any normal working man, no matter how keen he may be. How is it then that many amateurs possess telescopes having apertures of 6, 8, 10 or even 12 inches?.

The answer is simple - these are almost without exception reflectors and are homemade. There is nothing difficult about this and requires little more than patience and spare time. The subject of telescope making is adequately written up in several good books, so will not be considered now. The writer's first telescope that he constructed was a 6 inch telescope and took him about a month of work and cost about R20. The largest that is recommended for a first attempt is a 6 or 8 inch aperture telescope. Anything larger is asking for trouble and possibly disappointment. After making two or three 6 inch telescopes, the amateur can then progress to a 10 or 12 inch telescope. This is about the upper limit size, as a machine had to be used for anything larger as the glass discs become too heavy and cumbersome for hand work.

Unfortunately making the telescope is the least of the difficulties confronting the amateur telescope making, unless he is a good handyman, or can afford to have a proper mount made by an engineering firm, the mount for the telescope can prove a stumbling block. The only real advice is to keep it simple and rigid.

The next item will deal with some possible types of mounts, choices of eyepieces and magnification, and various observing techniques.

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FLYING SAUCERS OR SPACE SHIPS FOR THE YOUNG SKYWATCHERS

What do we know about flying saucers - everybody is talking about them and usually it all ends up with the idea that those who believe in them are nuts anyway.

NOT SO: Those who really know will tell you some exciting stories, which happen to be quite true.

You want to know more about them? Well, first the name flying saucer is the invention of a newspaper reporter but the scientific name is a SPACE SHIP. Sometimes we hear them called crystal bells or flying discs or space craft (whoever heard of a saucer flying thousands of miles from one planet to another, stupid isn't it, no wonder people laugh at the idea.)

The Space Ships were seen in India hundreds of years ago and were called VIMANA'S. They were seen by the red men, the people who lived in the Americas before the white man arrived and were called whirling discs or thunder clouds. They were seen in England and Europe and all over the world. Now lately they have been seen in much greater numbers and even here in

South Africa; all up and down the coast and inland too, in the beautiful mountains called the Drakensberg.

If you would like to see one look up into the blue sky in the day or the starry sky at night. In the day time they may look silver and glisten, they can be any shape and size. So if you see one write down the shape and size and where you saw it, and what the time was.

At night they appear as moving lights - now you will also see other moving lights in the sky - not all you see that moves will be space ships.

Next time we will find out how we can tell the difference. Meanwhile keep looking into the sky and if you do see them send them a happy and welcome thought as they will have come from a long way off, and would like to have some friends among the people here.

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S I G H T I N G S

1st June, 1968,
6 a. m.
Durban.

Mr. and Mrs. van der Walt.
An U.F.O. sighted at approximately 1,500 ft. over centre of Durban and seen for seven minutes, circular in shape and pinkish red in colour. It gradually faded into the distance.

1st June, 1968,
10.30 a.m.
Durban North.

Dr. and Mrs. Duval.
When travelling north along Kensington Drive, the above saw a bright silvery object stationary and silent, in the sky, in the north. It appeared and disappeared three times in the same position and was seen for one minute each time. Its apparent size was that of the full moon and one third of its diameter.

14th June, 1968,
5.30 p.m. (approx.)
Park Renie, South
Coast, Natal.

Miss Margaret Blamey.
Object observed travelling fast in a southerly direction. It then stopped suddenly and hovered, giving off white rays. It then changed colours to red, blue and green. Soon it moved in the shape of a triangle and then a circle then darted off. This U.F.O. did this several times and was seen for approx. 45 minutes. It had lights at both ends which gave it an elongated look.

20th June, 1968,
9.00 - 11.00 a.m.
Krugersdorp,
Transvaal.

Mr. Gerri Naude. An U.F.O. was seen by Gerri in between these two hours. The U.F.O. went through several motions such as remaining stationary, accelerating rapidly from this position, moved up and down (like a ship on the sea) the light sometimes went out and the colour changed from dull red to very bright red. There was no sound at all. Gerri observed it for $\frac{3}{4}$ hour. Many people saw this object and one of these observers saw the object break up and explode into blue-violet light. The U.F.O. was in the area of the Hartebeeshoek Observation Centre.

5th July, 1968,
Friday afternoon
and evening.
Translated from
Die Volksblad.

Northern Cape, Orange Free State and Transvaal. An U.F.C. seen over many towns and by many people on this Friday afternoon and evening. Appeared to be yellowish-white to orange in colour with a dark patch in the centre and its approx. size was ten to thirteen feet in diameter. Some viewers saw this object travelling slowly and hovering. A South African Boeing air pilot saw the object in the vicinity of Jagersfontein. People in Bethlehem saw it hovering at a height of approx. 6000 feet and travelling slowly. Other viewers saw it travelling at great

speed. This sighting was given coverage by the S.A.B.C. on one newscast only, and complete silence was observed after this. As far as we know only the above newspaper and one weekly newspaper reported this as a worthy news item. Congratulations to them.

Please send in all sightings to the local branch of "Contact" or to Headquarters, P.O. Box 2320, Durban. We are very keen to have these reports. Thank you in advance!

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N O T I C E S

MEETINGS FOR THE NEXT FEW MONTHS.

DURBAN: September 28th (Saturday)
 October 31st (Thursday)
 November 30th (Saturday)
 December NO MEETING

Meeting Place: "The Centre", Prince of Wales Building,
3rd Floor, Smith Street, Durban,
at 7.30 p.m.

JOHANNESBURG: September 2nd (Monday)
 October 7th "
 November 4th "
 December 2nd "

Meeting Place: 17, Westmeath Road, Parkview,
Johannesburg, at 8.00 p.m.

If you are new, please phone Mrs. Neslie Schmutz
of this address and advise her of your interest.

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