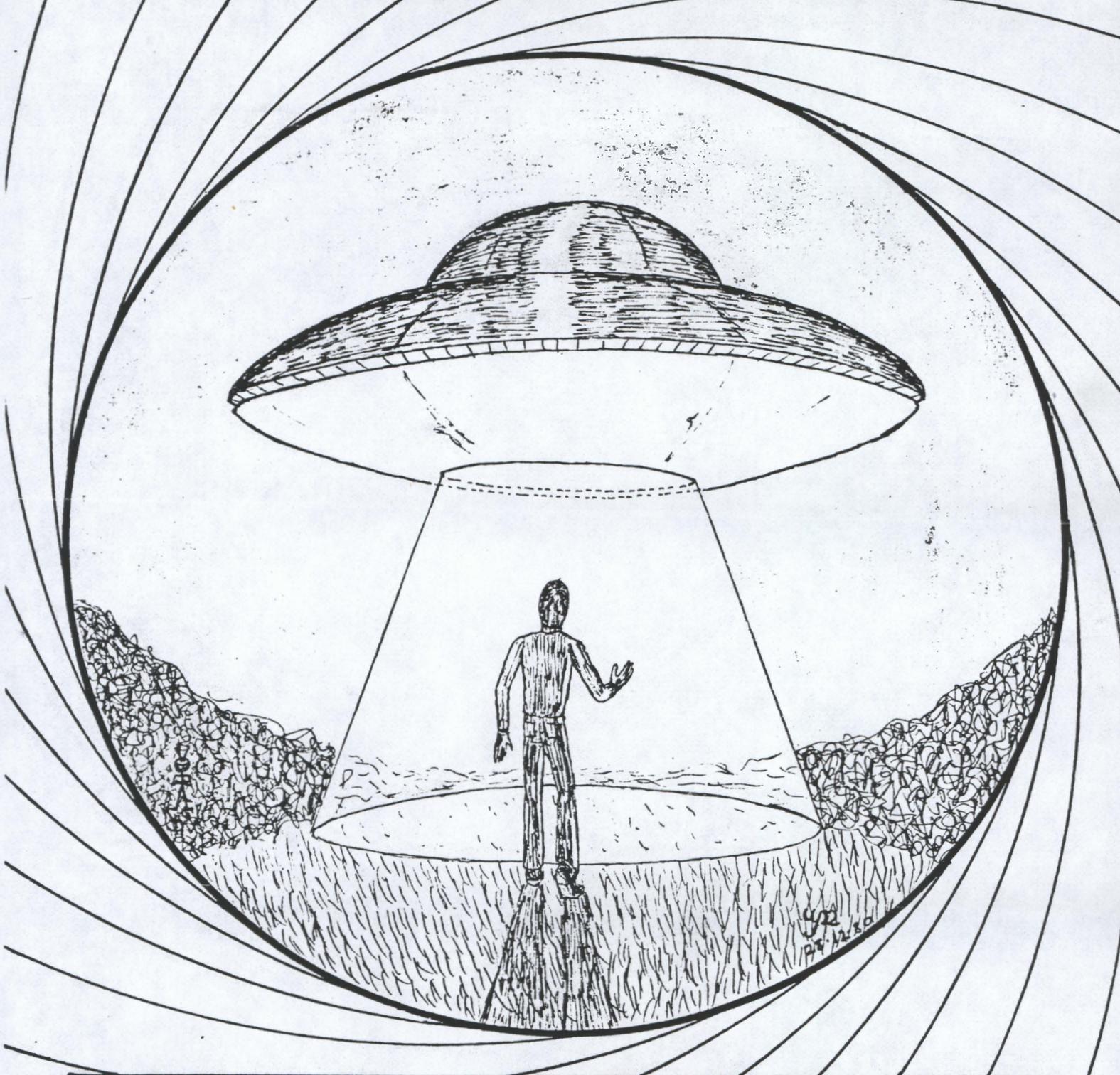


# NORTHERN UFOLOGY



**NORTHERN UFOLOGY: JANUARY 1981    UFOs EXIST BECAUSE?.....**  
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THE THEME FOR THE APRIL ISSUE WILL BE.... WINDOW AREAS... WHAT ARE THEY?  
Start sending in your articles now.  
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EDITORIAL: WHAT'S THIS?... EPIC UFOLOGY c/o THE BBC!

Many of you will no doubt not have seen the BBC-1 90 minute TV play "The Flip-  
side of Dominic Hide", screened on December 9. If so then you were most unfortunate  
After the dismal ITV play about UFO spotters and a little green alien called Nigel  
(shown earlier in 1980) this was nothing short of a breath of fresh air tinged  
with genius. If it is repeated, and critical acclaim was such that it might be, then  
do not miss it.

On the face of it you might not have thought it relevant to ufology and, of  
course, that was not the main purpose. It was a humorous and rather touching trans-  
temporal science-fiction saga with superb acting and fine special effects, but  
overall in possession of a simple (and far from unique) theme which was neverthe-  
less brilliant in its execution.

Set in both 1980 and 2130 it tells of Dominic, a precocious but likeable worker  
in the organisation which studies history for the future. They use "flying saucers"  
to travel into the past for first hand study but are only permitted to observe  
and never to land. "We must keep saucer sightings to a minimum", he is told. Little  
details like that about how these time travellers become today's ufonauts are  
woven into the story with pure incidentalism. There are funny, yet to us serious,  
moments when Dominic's saucer is seen in 1980. The BBC-1 much aired documentary  
"Out of this World" is even included, mid-play, and we see the time traveller  
gauging at the McMinnvikke photo and remembering all the stories he has been told  
about travellers who broke the rules and made contact... ("Remember Tom Cochran,"  
he is warned. "He landed in Ohio in 1955 and killed a dog by mistake. That dog was  
later to have barked and saved some people in a blazing building. Because it did  
not all those people later died and hundreds of their future descendants vanished  
off the face of the earth. When he knew what he had done Cochran went insane.")

On many levels the play contained a spark of brilliance and rare insight. Not  
least of importance was how the world of 2130 was made so utterly plausible. The  
characterisation was marvellous and one could easily become enraptured by the  
story-line. One could watch it as excellent science-fiction, or one could ignore the  
science and enjoy it as a moving love story. Again one could look deeper and see  
the subtle, but clever, presentation of the "time travel hypothesis" for UFO  
sightings. It was in fact, in parts, first rate ufology!

I must admit to being a little biased in the play's favour because the TTH  
has always held a peculiar fascination for me. It feels correct somehow. It explains  
why "aliens" look like us, why they behave like us, why they are so interested in  
the minor details of our life, why they are taking samples (souvenirs), why the  
sightings are dotted about throughout history and yet never alter much in their  
character. All in all it offers a great deal in the way of answers (although of  
course it does have the fundamental dependence upon whether such travel is  
scientifically feasible or just a dream) Then again it is said that what we can  
imagine we will one day do. There is a lot of future progress ahead of us and if  
time-travel is ever invented (even in One million AD!) then trips to here and now  
might occur. If they ever do then we would know about it (since we are in the here  
and now here and now!) By this circuitous argument one is almost forced to accept  
the TTH as the most probable answer to the UFO mystery!

This theory is strangely quiescent. Only a handful of theoretical articles have  
ever been produced on it. In view of its favourable points I do wonder why. Of  
course it has its problems too and that was what made "Flipside" such good ufology.  
It provided one with most of the paradoxes and problems as well as the successes  
of the theory. It certainly has made me think anew about this neglected concept.  
Although I doubt if the intention was in the mind of the playwright he has in fact  
performed a service to ufology. The BBC comes of age in a very strange way indeed.  
Perhaps we should send Hugh Burnett on drama lessons!

**NEWS:** :: DO NOT FORGET... FEB 7 1981 is a very important date. This will be the first ever joint meeting between all British UFO groups, when the northern network (YOU!) meet up with your southern counterparts in MAUFOG. The opportunities for significant advances are enormous. It is assured that MAUFOG will have a fine turn out with most of their dozen or so groups represented. Do not let NUFON down. EVERY associate group must make an effort to have at least one representative at this event. Why not contact your neighbouring groups, agree to travel together and share petrol costs? UFOFOSIS are organising the venture and it will start at 2.00pm (to allow good time for you all to travel). The venue is: The BIRMINGHAM MIDLAND INSTITUTE AND CONFERENCE CENTRE on Margaret Street in Birmingham (Room No 21). If you wish directions (by road or rail) contact UFOFOSIS at 731 Hagley Rd West, Quinton, Birmingham B32 1AJ or call 021- 422- 3949. REMEMBER THIS IS IMPORTANT.

:: There have still been no offers from any group to stage the 1981 NUFON conference, and so as yet nothing has been arranged. There have been several very good reviews of the October 11, Birmingham, event on CE 4 cases, and a number of requests to know when Andy Collins was organising another one! I think that the idea of basing a conference on a theme and inviting papers on that theme worked well and could be adopted with a different theme (UFOs - THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE.. perhaps?) at the next conference. Any takers? It appears that you have all agreed to the proposal that future conferences will be organised by a committee, and this will be pursued from the next venture onwards.

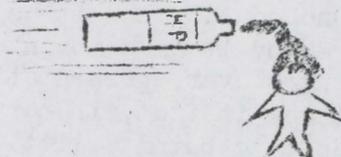
:: Also agreed was the constitution of a NUFON administrative panel consisting of myself and Peter Warrington (MUFORA), and Syd Henley and Les Hall (NUFOIS). There were no other proposed members and so this constitutes the current panel. This panel (along with representatives of whichever group agrees to stage the next conference) will have control over its organisation and planning.

:: Very few groups have responded to appeals for their latest details to go into a 1981 edition of the Northern Groups directory. (One of the three that has is not even in NUFON!) Please send an updated report on your group; address, equipment; policies, membership strength etc etc. The directory cannot be published until then.

:: Ted Horton, former UFOFOSIS investigations coordinator, has had to leave ufology for the time being due to personal problems. We wish him a very speedy recovery from the heartbreaking situation he has found himself in. Meantime all UFOFOSIS communication should go to the address above (see top news item on this page)

:: Readers are advised to watch out for a new film (being previewed in your cinemas now) Called HANGAR 18 it is a fictional thriller based loosely on the Len Stringfield articles (in FSR) about crashed saucers, cover-ups and alien bodies. What is the secret of Hangar 18? I think you can guess, but the film looks well dramatised. I'm not as convinced by the claim (in the trailer) that this film is TRUE! (or based on the truth). No doubt it won't harm box office receipts though!

:: The UNEXPLAINED carried a short series of articles by myself on UFO identification. A number of letters from prospective UFOlogists came my way. One, none-English, person requested information on where to get the FLYING SAUCE REVIEW... I can see it now.....



"Its not the sighting, I mind. It's these damn physical traces"

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 ELSEWHERE THIS MONTH..... MAGONIA 5 (or 54) (40p, 64 Alric Ave, New Malden, Surrey) Roger Sandell turns from MASTERMIND to Conspiracy theories, plus a new complex UFOIN CE4 case.... SKYWATCH 38 (35p, 92 Hillcrest Rd, Offerton, Stockport SK2 5SE) has an impressive article on psychological disturbance & seemingly "psychic" UFO reports, plus a review of the NUFON Oct 11 conference in depth.... MAGIC SAUCER 12 (25p, 8 Ely Close Habberley, Kidderminster, Worcs) is back with more childrens sightings, stories, cartoons etc.... NORTHERN EARTH MYSTERIES 10 (30p, 61 Clumber St Hull HU5 3RH) major pieces on Atlantis and earth energies, stone circles etc. PEBASUS, from SIGAP, Nov/Dec 1980 (50p, 149 Mytchett Rd, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey) has a report on an interesting CE3 at a childrens home..... PROBE 3 (60p, 16 Marigold Walk, Ashton, Bristol) is a nice glossy mag with pictures. There are pieces by Arthur Shuttlewood and myself (on the ethics of skywatching), cases, including a physical traces, CE4 and intriguing misidentification and other articles. Finally GUERNSEY UFO RESEARCH GROUP, Circular 8, (15p, Highcliffe, Avenue Beauvais, Ville Au Roi, St Peter Port, Guernsey) has arrived with latest news on activity in the little heard from Channel Islands.

1980 was a tremendous year for UFO books in the UK, surpassing even the wave year of 1977-78. It was perhaps most remarkable for its development of fictional ufology as a force. FEB saw the paperback version of Ian Watson's MIRACLE VISITORS (Panther £1,256pp) (A terrific sci-fi story based on contacts, regression and the Vallee/Jung school of ufo theorising. Great stuff with an interesting new theory to boot) MAR saw the paperback of Brad Steiger's GODS OF AQUARIUS (also Panther £1) (A look at contactee messages and the new age which is overloaded and boring) plus Janet & Colin Bord's ALIEN ANIMALS (Granada h/b £6.90) (A well produced pot-pouri of alien animal encounters, with material relating them to UFOs and a review of the theories. The Bord's best book yet) In MAY Sphere (95p) churned out Bruce Cathie's long published New Zealand text HARMONIC 33 (and later HARMONIC 695) (Old hat and unconvincing stuff about a ufo-grid system that supposedly covers the world) Back to fiction in JUNE with a sci-fi book not obviously about UFOs. Richard Francis's BLACKPOOL VANISHES (Panther £1.25) (Satire, poetry and characterisation as the alien get bored with abducting people and abduct Blackpool, en bloc, instead!) AUG saw the second Peter Paget offering UFO-UK (NEL p/b) (An endless catalogue of familiar UK LITS, and some not so familiar but just as endless) SEP book of the year, without doubt, was the UK edition (unfortunately with no changes) of Allen Hendry's UFO HANDBOOK (Sphere p/b £5.95) (Very expensive, Americanised and not at all a handbook, but a superb analysis of UFO cases compared with UFOs. Vital reading) plus THE INTERRUPTED JOURNEY (Souvenir £6.95), a slightly updated version of John Fuller's recounting of the Betty & Barney Hill saga. If you have the American p/b edition from the sixties forget it (and Corgi are releasing a UK paperback in 81). OCT was the month. WA Harbinson's "pornographic" novel about Ufo investigators who murder their witnesses, conspiracies, the lot! GENESIS (Corgi £1.75); Star put out a paperback of Johann Von Buttlar's awful rip-off THE UFO PHENOMENON (not worth the bus fare to the corner shop); Frank Johnson's saga THE JANOS PEOPLE (Spearman, £5.25) was launched at the NUFON conference (an interesting story but no analysis or anything but superficial, naive appraisal); PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE UNKNOWN (NEL h/b) by Bob Rickard & Richard Kelly (Great stuff with page after page of Fortean photographs... exactly like the title tells it); finally THE UFO ENCYCLOPEDIA by Ron Story (with articles from many leading ufologists, pen portraits theories, position statements and the world's top cases summarised. Its big and bulky, full of pictures and costs no less than £12.95 from NEL, but it is a very valuable reference tool and will be used again and again by the active worker). Last, DEC saw Stuart Holroyd's ALIEN INTELLIGENCE in Abacus paperback (£2.50) (It deals with other forms of intelligent life on earth, including ufonauts, fairies and so forth)... 15 books is not bad going and 1981 is already turning them out, with works by Charles Berlitz, the Bords, Paul Deveraux and myself coming very soon.

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UFOs EXIST BECAUSE?.... (1)

BRIAN FISHWICK

Brian is coordinator of Merseyside group MIGAP, a UFOIN investigator and a fire officer by profession.

This is not an easy subject to write about. One of the main problems when trying to educate people on the subject of UFOs is that they cannot understand why "they" have not made contact with world governments. A lot of people thus go along with the attitude that they really do not exist, or that the sightings have a rational explanation. A number of people I have spoken to have asked me what evidence there is that would make them believe. This is hard to answer. I usually just ask if they believe in GOD. Most of them say they do. I then ask what proof they have that GOD exists. Nine out of ten say Jesus Christ, the son of God. Of course such an answer does not, objectively, support the existence of God. Homo Sapiens need something to hold on to. If they did not have a GOD who would save them? At the first sign of danger people begin to pray, asking the almighty for help. In most cases he never answers. There is more concrete proof of the existence of UFOs than there is of the existence of GOD.

In fact a reading of the Bible provides much proof of the existence of UFOs and superior beings. In Genesis it says, "And God made man in his own image" This sounds, to me, like generical engineering. On this evidence GOD must look like us. There is more. "The sons of GOD came down to earth and took them women of earth for their wives" According to the Bible God only had one son, Jesus. This I regard as my first piece of evidence for the existence of UFOs.

My second piece of evidence is the Socorro sighting of 24 April 1964. People tried to write it off as a hoax but no proper explanation of what this object was has ever been made. Philip Klass claims it was a tourist ploy to put the town on the map. What he never told was that at least 14 people (including officer Zamora) were witnesses to the events, and names, addresses and photos are all on file.

Three items of physical UFO evidence were obtained from this landing, quickly prompting the military to clam up. Zamora was told not to divulge the red insignia on the craft. The soil at the landing site was highly radioactive for a short while. The Air force confiscated most of the evidence. Within hours Zamora was obfuscating the fact that he had seen humanoids by the craft. An FBI agent had suggested it! Analysis of metal fragments said "The particles are comprised of a material that could not occur naturally, consisting of the two elements Zinc and Iron." No earth alloys have the same combined ratio. This finding strengthens the case that might be made for an extraterrestrial origin.

My final piece of evidence comes from my own experience. At the age of 13 I had what is now called a CEL. I had never heard of UFOs and I did not read sci-fi. So the sighting was not projected out of my head, as some would have us believe!

I was returning home after watching TV at a friend's house. I was walking along side the house to the back door. At the rear, about 100 yards away, is a cemetery lined with large trees, about 20-30 ft high. As I got to the back a bright light caught my attention. On looking over I saw a large metallic object like a child's spinning top. It was silver with an orange flashing light on top. Around the centre there were a number of coloured lights going on and off in an anti-clockwise direction. My parents were not in. I got out my neighbour and her daughter. I pointed out the object in the clear, starlit sky. All three of us stood there looking at it. It did not make a sound. After about 20 minutes it moved vertically. It got to about 100 ft and then shot straight up and was lost to sight in seconds. I reported the incident to the police who asked me what I had been watching on TV!

I never found out what I had seen that night. I shall never forget it and, at least, I now know that UFOs exist. I've seen one of them close up.

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YES, THEY PROBABLY EXIST BECAUSE.... (2) Hilary Evans

Hilary is UFO coordinator of the Society for Psychical Research, UFOIN advisor on psychic matters and author of a coffee-time book UFOs and a forthcoming history of the Society for Psychical Research, which has its centenary in the next year.

Ultimately, none of us is likely to derive a total conviction of the reality of UFOs from anything less than a personal experience, and then only if it is very satisfactory and solidly confirmed. Failing that, all we can entertain is the intellectual proposition: is it more probable that UFOs possess objective reality than that they do not? And this proposition is meaningful only if we accept that, whether or not UFOs exist, thousands of seemingly competent persons are reporting, in seeming good faith, seeing objects which not only look as if they are artifacts but which behave as if they are real.

But things are not always what they seem. Each of the four facts, requiring acceptance which "seem" to be, so offers a loophole. If we reject either of the first two there is no case to answer. If witnesses are not of at least average competence, or are deliberately deceiving us, then the whole question of UFO reality is meaningless. Personally, however, I am prepared to believe that the majority of UFO witnesses are both competent and honest.

Next we have to consider whether the witnesses are right when they say that what they have seen is an artifact. Could they be misperceiving natural phenomena, and investing them with the attributes of artifacts - seeing them, for some reason, as "alien spacecraft"? There is no doubt that this process does take place on some occasions: we have to decide whether it has happened in every case.

As good a test as any is to take a sample of cases as reported month by month (eg in FSR), and try to match them with 'natural' explanations offered by Klass, Hendry, et al. If we can accept that every one is a misperceived aircraft, helicopter or whatever, then we must agree that all UFOs are likely to be simple natural objects, described so inadequately as to evade their true explanation. Personally, though I welcome the salutary efforts of the debunkers, I do not find their explanations even remotely probable for more than a small fraction of the cases.

So we come to the fourth "seem", and the question of physical reality. We have now to ask ourselves if perhaps witnesses, though acting in good faith, did not in fact see what they thought they saw, but only had the illusion of seeing it. ?

Perhaps their sighting was a mental construct, an appearance of objective reality created in the mind (individual or group) for reasons related either to psychology or collective cultural belief-systems. If so, then the UFO may be no more substantial than that other phenomenon which has for so long defied scientific explanation - the ghost.

Once again, whether we accept such a possibility must be a matter for individual decision. We have to consider whether the apparant leaving of physical traces, and the frequency of multiple witnesses, could all be attributable to a psychological process. Personally, though I accept that such processes occur and are the cause of many anomalous phenomena I do not find it adequate for more than a few UFO cases. Though some UFO cases share some similarities with some ghost reports the differences between them seem to me at least as significant. So, while I believe that study of paranormal anomalies may contribute to understanding the UFO I would not expect such study to give us a total explanation. Here are three examples of the sort of case which has led me to this conclusion:

1) THE FARLOW CASE, Hampshire, England, 6 NOV 1967 ..... Truckdriver, Farlow, driving a diesel truck at night has his electrics fail and pulls up. He sees an egg-shaped object 25m long, hovering over the road ahead. It moves away then vanishes. There is a hum like a fridge and a smell like a drill boring through wood. He sees another vehicle stopped. Both the engine and electrics of a vet's Jaguar car have malfunctioned. The drivers consult, call the police, and investigation reveals substantial traces. Neither police nor MOD issue a statement. A week later the road is resurfaced... See BUFORA Vehicle Interference Report, 1979, p 44

2) THE PARTINGTON CASE, Gtr Manchester 14 NOV 1977 ..... Four passengers get off a bus at 17.45. They start to walk towards their homes when all become aware of curious lights, gradually seen to relate to a massive dark object seemingly at first stationary but which moves towards them and passes overhead at about 35m. It appears to be 1 km long, but moves silently and is unnoticed by anyone else or by any establishment... See FSR Vol 24 No 4, 1978, p 22

3) THE VOLVIC CASE, France 6 JUNE 1975 ..... At 10.00 on a clear day, virtually everyone in a school - headmaster, staff & pupils see a luminous object like a flattened hat, darting about the sky, vanishing & reappearing periodically. It is 3 times the size of the moon. A passing aircraft performs no similar act of appearing/disappearing. The object returns twice in the day. A group of pupils go to where the object appears to be, about 1 km away, but they cannot see it whereas their comrades back at the school have it in plain view... See LDLN 150, Dec 1975

These cases impress me by their "either-or" nature. Quite simply, either the witnesses were lying or deceived or they did see something sufficiently real to be seen by others, and in some cases to leave physical traces. No explanation in terms of known natural phenomena nor hallucination is possible for any of them, except by hypothesising a psychological process for which no other evidence exists. So, always with the proviso that the report is a factual account of what the witnesses claim to have experienced, these cases give, for me at any rate, sufficient grounds for believing that UFOs do possess some kind of objective existence.

UFOs ARE REAL (3)

Patricia Austin

Patricia is a reader of this magazine who lives in Walsall, West Midlands.

It was terrifying. It was frightening. He came in and I could see something was wrong. I was paralysed. I could not move. I have never seen anything like it in my life. When he came in he was green with fear.

UFOs really do exist because so many people see them, experience them and have their lives radically altered by that experience. These vivid phrases just quoted are typical of the way people describe these experiences, or describe their first contact with someone who has just had an encounter with the totally unknown.

Such a steady flow of reports from all over the world cannot be ignored, and some scientists are now thinking that it is time some objective research was done into the subject. It is early days yet for science to take an interest, since the phenomenon is not biddable and refuses to come into the laboratory. Scientific respectability without this repeatability or very much concrete evidence comes very slowly, but it can be gained, as is shown by the story of that other doubtful phenomenon - ball lightning. There had been a steady drizzle of reports from eye witnesses through all time, and several recent dossiers had been built up. On one occasion it was recorded that a ball fell into a barrel of rain water and boiled it all away yet science did not admit that it existed.

Many explanations were forthcoming (it was lightning seen end-on or retinal images after a flash etc etc), but gradually the resistance of science to an apparantly impossible phenomenon was broken down and people began to experiment and search for an explanatory model. It still has not been found, although there have been significant advances of late. In the same way I believe the flow of UFO experiences will wear down the objections and gain acceptance for the UFO.

It is often said that the UFO transcends so many laws of nature, as we know them, that it must be a product of the subconscious mind, or dreams, or a phantasm. Well, so it may be, but there is one significant observation which makes me believe that even if UFOs are brought into existence by the human mind, as a catalyst, then there must be an external stimulus which triggers that action.

Jacques Vallee first found that the UFO experience is found in inverse proportion to population density; it is far more likely to occur in remote areas than in cities. A Swedish research group tested this statistically and found it correct, at least for Sweden. Therefore, I feel, it cannot be altogether a natural function of the human brain or it would concentrate where there are more people, like suicides, murders and traffic offences.

It has also been observed that UFOs and occupants display skills, use equipment and get up to antics which, although like magic and incomprehensible at the time, are later seen to be on the foremost fringe of human advance. The airship waves at the turn of the century displayed this well. And this trend continues today.

I recall reading about some French peasant children in the early fifties who came upon a UFO in a field. Some occupants were floating, doing somersaults and one took a dive headfirst into the craft, quite unaffected by gravity. It was not until over ten years later that the population generally were made aware of what one is capable of beyond the effects of gravity, thanks to the astronauts.

UFO occupants have been reported transmitting messages telepathically into a witness's brain while pressing buttons on a control box. According to a recent work (1) research in Leningrad is being done on electrical impulses representing accoustical signals which the brain translates into messages. Simple messages can now be placed directly into the brain by means of electrodes. The ufonauts were again displaying techniques, unknown at the time, but a distinct scientific possibility. Professor Eric Laithwaite is researching the exciting way gravity is lost by a rapidly spinning disc. UFOs have been demonstrating this for years!

So, if UFOs have no reality beyond the human subconscious, then that subconscious must be a universal one, able to extract ideas from the most advanced scientific thinking of our time, inserting them into the conscious mind of a French peasant child, or a Bolivian gaucho, or a Belgian businessman driving home from work.

Finally, I think UFOs do exist because they must! Given the number of suns in our galaxy older than ours, and according to Peter Warrington's elephant effect (3) or Aime Michel's famous cat-flap (4) only one civilisation is needed to spread its influence beyond its own solar system, for a whole galaxy to be permeated by that influence, in a very short time.

I believe that the UFO close encounter may be a side-effect of such an influence which may be more pervasive than we realise. But the UFO experience must be a real one and UFOs must really exist.

(1) THE NEW SOVIET PSYCHIC DISCOVERIES, Gris & Dick; (2) WE ARE NOT ALONE, Sullivan; (3) NUN Sep 1980 No 76 (4) FSR Vol 25 No 5, 1980

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 PROOF OR DELUSION?

(4)

Jenny Randles

This has been an interesting exercise for a number of reasons. For one thing leading ufologists had to be coaxed, cojoked and almost bullied into responding (and even then most of our regulars did not contribute) There seemed a strange reluctance to meet this most important of questions head-on. After all if we have no real evidence that our phenomenon exists then what on earth are we still around for? Fun? Social meetings? Preservation of mustique? All these ideas have been proposed recently by the newbreed of ufologist - the sceptical believer - who is making his presence dramatically felt. Allen Greenfield was first to be frank in a superb, and crucial, article conveniently swept under the carpet by most ufologists (just as they accuse science of sweeping UFOs into that same cubby-hole) (1) He has been echoed by others, including myself, Peter Warrington, Bob Morrell and Allan Hendry, in his extremely important book (2). Whether this is a social trend, manipulation from elsewhere or a genuine mistrust of our own footing is hard to say.

So let me ponder my own reasons for believing UFOs real, fully recognising that this is a vastly different thing to believing that there is a genuine phenomenon.

That much is undeniable, regardless of the stimuli, because it is global and extensive in extent and durable in the face of scientific scepticism. An important and intriguing mystery exists even if all UFO reports can be put down to mis-identifications.

There is no one thing which persuades me that there is a physical enigma (the question we truly pose). However, if I were to put up three logical arguments to a hypothetical super-sceptic they would be these three:

- 1) The reports are consistent in basic essence. Some types of UFO (not all) manifest the same in Russia, Africa, Bognor Regis and so on, despite vast differences in social status. Of course there are divergencies and the final report is never pure UFO sighting, it is always diluted by natural (and individually varying) psychological and sociological trends. However, there seems very little evidence to suggest that the whole phenomenon is psychological because of this consistency (although in some aspects, eg the CE4, the evidence here is far more persuasive). The most logical explanation for the same basic type of report originating from so many divergent sources is that all percipients are responding to the same basic stimulus. If we get reports of "a fire god in the skies of Africa which strikes down trees with mighty spears" and "a strange zig-zag streak of energy in the clouds of a developed but ignorant nation", objective comparison of the reports would suggest one stimulus (that being what we call lightning). By this process it seems sensible to conclude that we have one (or several) physical stimuli behind the TRUE UFO reports. The fact that we do not call it "Glog" or "Zlik" is because as yet we do not understand it, so we do not name it, but other phenomena existed before we understood them (probably as UFOs) and it is stupid and naive to believe that we know all there is to know about our environment or universe.
- 2) The phenomenon generates consistent psychological and physiological responses. A close encounter invariably generates responses x, y and z (or at least one of these). We are far from understanding why, or how, or why some responses are more marked than others, but we do have an objective fact here. It is objective, and not entirely conditioned by what we read or are conditioned to believe. Cats, dogs, horses and the like do not make a habit of reading FSR (apart from Aime Michel's Grisonne it seems!) Yet animals exhibit the same type of psychological and physiological responses. It is clearly logical to assume that they (and thus the humans on other similar occasions) are reacting to a real stimulus.
- 3) Finally we have the question of evidential "proof". In truth we have no proof. How can I prove to you lightning exists? We photograph it, study its effects on trees and dead people, etc, but this proves nothing. We have the same kind of proof regarding UFOs! Look at what science says about that. Yet science did accept lightning before it could duplicate it in the lab, but not before it understood how it might one day be duplicated. The UFO photographic evidence is on a par with that for lightning a few years back. We have some, but not as much as ufologists might think. And the best of it is of the most poorly defined UFOs. Even so with cases like the Peter Day movie film (3) I am willing to argue that we do have some evidence for something unknown.

In conclusion we have an interesting result. Yes, we undoubtedly have evidence highly suggestive of the physical reality of some kind of phenomenon. People have gone to jail on far more circumstantial evidence than this. Yet none of this evidence proves an alien device, or indeed any of our exotic theories. This leap of conjecture is taken blindly by ufologist and public alike, converting hypothesis into fact and theory into belief. I fear it is this that is making the scientific community look the other way. The evidence would be compelling if only we could stop overstressing what we think it means. All that we know is that there is a real, physical enigma and if you are not prepared to keep your theories in check and push this simple fact then you are doing us all a very big disservice.

(1) Confessions of a Ufologist, MUFOB Summer 1979 (2) THE UFO HANDBOOK Sphere 1980 (3) UFOs: A BRITISH VIEWPOINT pp 94-98

UFOs EXIST BECAUSE? (5) What the experts have to say.

For the purposes of this issue I spoke to Charles Bowen and Lord Clancarty and posed them the above question. CHARLES BOWEN cited two main arguments. Firstly he believed in "where there's smoke there's fire". There were too many reports from too wide a cross-section for there not to be a stimulus. Some of the witnesses were quite illiterate but still described the same kind of thing. He also was most impressed by radar/visual evidence, especially from trained military sources. They knew there was a problem, and he believed them! LORD CLANCARTY felt that the calibre of witnesses was often important. There were too many good, trained observers. All witnesses were not "men in the street". The coalescing of rumours reference UFOs, the government and a kind of "education process" (of which he

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believes 'CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE THIRD KIND' et al are an integral part) also points at a deep reality as does the definite conspiracy of world governments which keeps even its top men ignorant (Admiral Hill-Norton was not told when he ran the MOD, he says.) As Lord Clancarty puts it "the governments would not cover-up nothing".

LOW 6210 November 1962 Rochdale, Gtr M/Cr Level C MUFORA  
 (At 20.30 a young boy saw a star split in two, one remaining stationary, the other moving away a little. After a few minutes it rejoined. Probably this was an optical effect on the star in question) Eval: STAR

LOW 79-147 November 1979 Weaverham, Cheshire Level C MUFORA  
 (At 20.37 a young couple on a drive saw a pulsing white LITS which hurt their eyes to look at it. Stationary for several minutes. They drove away in fear leaving it still in the same position. No reason to exclude a bright star) Eval: STAR

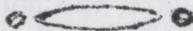
MED 78-267 June 1978 Birmingham, W Mid Level D (With UFOSIS)  
 (Security guard on duty at factory saw a yellow object like full moon at 03.15. Bobbed up and down and then moved across at fast speed and vanished behind roof. Behaviour is not unlike ball lightning?) Insuff data.

MED 79-145 January 4 1979 Llay, nr Wrexham, Clwyd Level C MUFORA  
 (Two men returning from nightshift in the village at 06.25. One man stopped car and asked other to look at bright light in sky. This turned out to be Venus, which was very bright that morning. About to laugh they then saw, just below Venus, some strange vibrating lights, green and orange. They pulsed but never went out. The whole thing descended slowly (in utter silence) until at tree top height, where it hovered. It then sped off south. Behind the lights was a dark round shape. The sighting lasted 6 minutes and was immediately reported to the police. This event occurred on the same date and time as the famous Jean Hingley CEI with "mince-pie" martians at Rowley Regis, West Midlands) Eval: UNKNOWN.

MED 79-146 October 1979 Lockerbie, Dumfries, Scotland Level D  
 (This witness, a 19 year old girl, sent a detailed report by letter but neither signed it nor gave an address as she was too scared. It is reported for pure anecdotal value. Whilst riding her horse she saw two oval objects in the sky. One remained stationary. The other moved part into a cloud and then came out again. It then approached girl and horse and followed them, edging closer. She stopped and it now appeared as a huge white oval just feet from her. Neither she nor horse felt any fear. Then it shot away "like a rocket", tilting and elongating before doing so. She was puzzled because despite its proximity she felt no breeze from its incredibly fast departure and heard no whoosh sound. That second a car turned the corner on the quiet lane, the first for some time. She is convinced the car frightened the UFO away. A potential CEI and unidentified?) Eval: Insuff data.

MED 8045 September 28 1980 Bebington, Wirral Level A MIGAP  
 (Man and wife saw W ball moving slowly N, without sound. Watched through binoculars and saw it as a strip light with two white balls at each end. In view 20 minutes. An outbound a/c from Liverpool was probably visible at the time (about 20.30) moving NW and it is feasible that this was a sighting of this slightly aberrated by the binoculars) Eval: Possible aircraft

MED 8047 November 27 1980 Barnard Castle, Durham Level C (With CHRYSIS)  
 (Same location as the classic car-stop case from 1977. Two women and a man in a car were followed for 12 miles from 20.50 by a dark dome surrounded by red LITS that swooped down on them and paced their path, making odd jerky movements. The man thought it was a helicopter. One woman saw it as hat shaped, on the ground and changing from orange to dark in pulsations) Eval: Insuff data.



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CEI PSYCHO October 31 1980 Crookham, Northumbria Level C SCUFON  
 (18 yr old man driving car saw lights in field. They paced car, passing along the River Till. He stopped and the lights approached. They were now seen to be a yellow and white LITS on the end of a yellow disc with indents on the edge. The UFO came close and hovered. He could see another over the field behind it. The area was then silenced. His engine was running but he could not hear it. In panic he drove off, with the UFO now bathing the road in a daylight-like glow. Time 19.00) Case 8046