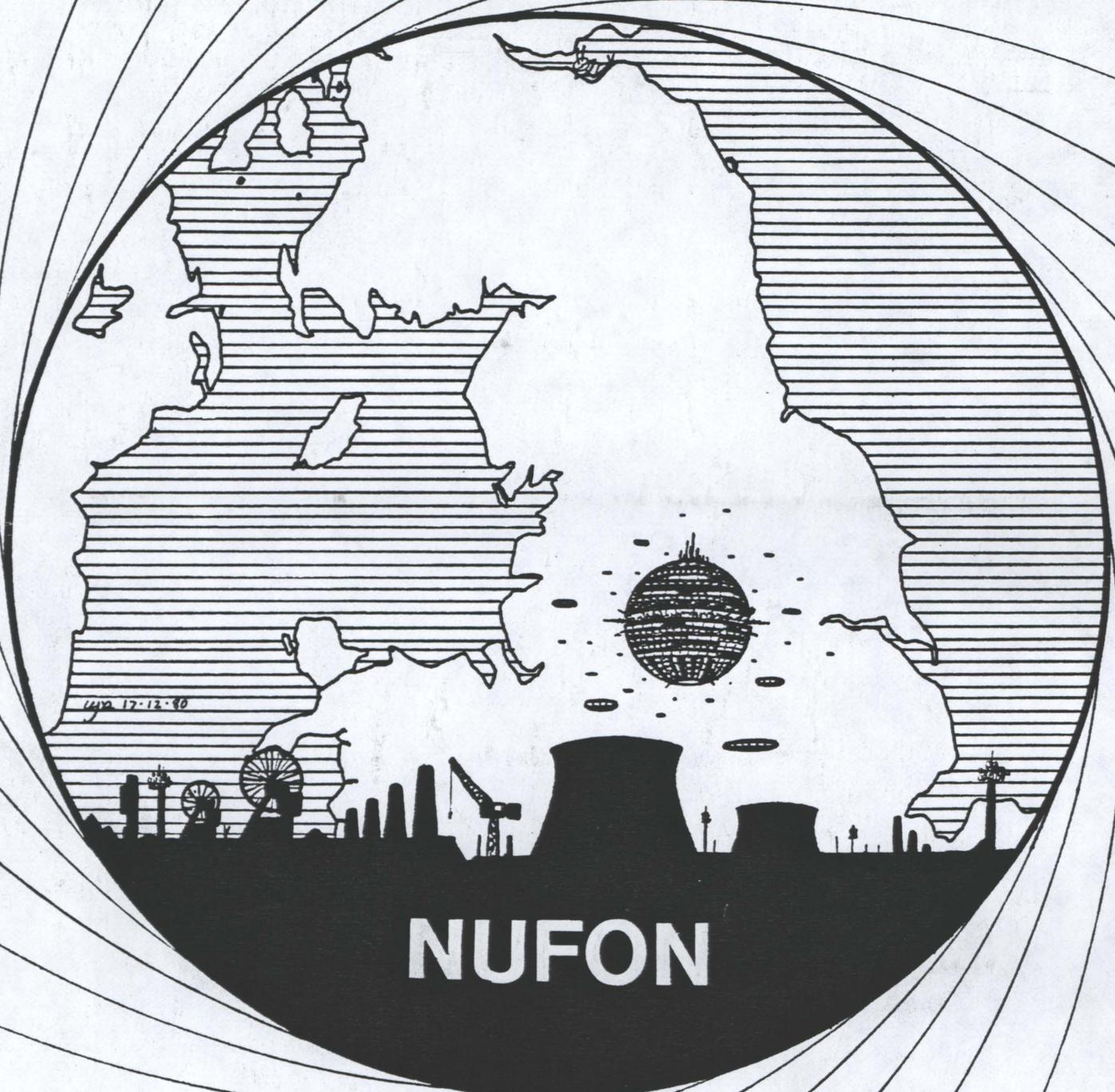


# NORTHERN UFO NEWS



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ISSUE 85

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Editorial: "Only when you laugh"

Often enough I have spoken against the ufological thirst for publicity. Recently I was taken to task by one group for what a newspaper claimed I had said. In my new book (UFO STUDY) I spell out the warnings yet again. So it might seem much like double standards that in late May I found myself engaged in one of the biggest single-handed publicity drives imaginable for a ufologist. I can offer no excuses. It would be reasonable to complain.

Nevertheless, there are times when such an interface is necessary, for without it we would never get our message across. Also, if one is thrust into a confrontation with the media the best policy is boldness, truthfulness and honesty. That way, at least some of the reality might emerge through the filter of ridicule. To run away (if sure of one's footing) would serve no purpose, because Mr. Media Man would only find someone else too willing to talk (and probably far more silly than yourself). In addition, it must be remembered that I am a full-time writer. To live I must sell books. To sell books people must know they exist. So if my publishers arrange interviews I have to oblige. In this I am no different from anyone else. A shopkeeper advertises his produce, does he not?

But I do not seek publicity. Those at the BUFORA congress will perhaps know how avoiding the media was almost like avoiding people. They were everywhere, and most of us got caught by somebody. But I managed to deftly switch most of the TV, radio and newspaper men onto someone else, for by then I had done my duty to Robert Hale, and I was tired. Tired ufologists tend to say things they regret.

My pre-publication tour of promotion took in one TV spot, five major newspaper interviews and no less than seventeen national and local radio slots (all in the space of eight days!) By May 26 I was on my knees, but could look back at some good things I had achieved (and not just for me and my book I should add).

I made a concerted effort before I began to agree upon a "message" I would strive to put over. This concentrated on showing that ufologists knew 90% of the data was spurious. Trying to clear up some of the simple misidentification errors people make. Stressing we had no direct evidence that aliens exist (despite the assumptions), but that we did have evidence that a real, physical phenomenon exists (with various examples, according to the audience) This could stop car engines, or burn witnesses, or leave marks on the ground and may well be quite natural, once it is understood. Finally, that the contacts seemed different and basically subjective. But that whilst it would be easy to dismiss them as just hallucinations this simple answer was not probable because the witnesses involved were mainly sane, sensible folk without any history of psychological disturbance. Each time I went through my "message" which, I hope you will agree, does both justice and a service to serious ufology. In most cases, I believe, I was reasonably successful in putting some (or all) of it across.

The BBC TV slot was excellent. I was able to stress the above and give examples of the difficulty in analysing UFO photographs. A Radio One programme saw me explaining misidentifications to younger listeners, as well as the best way to report UFOs ("It's a case of sorting out your UFOs from your IFOs", Maggie Philbin perceptively announced) An LBC childrens phone-in brought some very intelligent questions and a chance to discuss UFOs and natural atmospheric phenomena. Very often I was asked in interviews why I was interested in UFOs since my attitude and my book made it clear I was politely sceptical. This was just what I wanted. It gave me chance to say, "Of course I am sceptical. That is the only sensible approach to take. There is a huge mystique which surrounds the UFO, often perpetuated by your lot (the media). UFOs and spaceships are regarded as one and the same. Whereas all I am certain of is that a mystery exists, which in some cases is without doubt physical and real. I am searching for the truth, and I believe the public have the right and the intelligence to hear that truth." It was worth all the effort, and the criticism, to say that a dozen or so times, and as many programmes were live it was not even cut!

Of course, there were silly spots. The LIVERPOOL ECHO reprinted a LONDON NEW STANDARD article which proclaimed "Where have all the UFOs gone?", but the mickey-take was mild and the underlying quotes from Lord Kings-Norton and myself direct and honest. The SUN had more fun with "Face to face with the little green

trouser-grabbers" This referred to an interview with Stuart Campbell about the Livingston case, but I suspect he regrets none of what he was quoted as saying, just as I was treated very fairly and mean it when I said, eg, "...It's almost certain that there is life out there in the universe. The trouble is that all the witnesses describe beings who match our conceptions and who are human-like. The whole thing touches deep emotions in all of us. We desperately want to believe in aliens." Heavy going for the SUN, but I think it sums up the contactee paradox, although it does not explain the mystery of course. The piece was typical mass-media ufology. I saw people staring in horror at it, as not so long ago I might have done, but the truth is apparant only when you laugh, as I did, because it really was quite good fun. Close encounters are funny (perhaps by design), and it must seem incredible to a poor SUN journalist that whilst he and his readers believe in aliens many ufologists take life more seriously and are not, as yet, convinced of this. I am sure more than a few will see below the surface of the SUNs silly froth and grasp the true message of the article. It is, like all the rest, a vindication of ufology. Despite all the efforts to turn it into a carnival, there is a great mystery here. One that stands firm and demands answers.

As a final anecdote I mention one journalist who approached me at the congress (having been sent by a certain local group, whom I shall not name) "I hear you are rather controversial, and believe that UFOs are psychic phenomena" "Oh, really?" I stared back. "I didn't know that" and I proceeded to tell him what I did think (the full blast of my "message") He gulped in some air and looked rather distressed. "Oh," he muttered. Then "Oh" again. "That's not very exciting." He shook his head and then added, poignantly, "I'm really looking for someone silly, you know what I mean?" I had to say 'Yes' and pointed vaguely in the direction of the exit, whilst wondering what this supposedly serious group had thought they were doing for ufology by unleashing me (as 'someone silly') onto this national newspaper. An hour later I saw him sat forlornly in a chair, recorder primed, looking lonely and disheartened. Ten minutes later he was gone. I don't think I regret a moment of my battle with the media, though I am not keen to go through it again as soon as I might have to. Despite the frivolity a lot of saneness did seep through. So criticise me if you must. I can take it. But I did what I thought was right, in the best interests of our subject.

NEWS \*\* No articles whatsoever have been received for the "Car Stop" theme of the JULY issue, so for the first time I am going to have to throw it open for you to submit articles on any topic. Please submit before JUNE 28.

\*\* Plans are afoot to bring you a better deal for 1982, with the merger of NORTHERN UFO NEWS with the highly respected UFO RESEARCH REVIEW. This will give you a better quality monthly product without loss of our news or report publication format (added to the REVIEWS excellent article content) It will also give freedom to offer (after a break of some years) regular "Detailed Case Studies" on selected high interest cases, issued as separate supplements. Your views on this move (still in discussion stages) would be appreciated.

\*\* Lynne & Tony Halsall have recently moved to the region and have already made their mark by planning a one day event which should interest you all. Entitled "Symposium of Extraterrestrial Experience" it will be a unique blend of UFOs, psychic contact and other art-form expressions, all on the theme of extraterrestrial life. Audience participation will be anticipated alongside a full programme. The event will be on SATURDAY, JUNE 27 (11am to 5pm) and is at: The BELGRAVE HOTEL City Road CHESTER. Entrance £1.50. Details from: 8 The Ridgeway Northop Hall Clwyd North Wales CH7 6JR (Dee 816116)

\*\* A new discussion group has formed on Merseyside called the MERSEY OPEN MIND FELLOWSHIP. It meets fortnightly on Sundays to discuss a vast range of topics from UFOs through mysticism to sci-fi. It is relaxed, informal, has video tapes, recordings, and organises visits to places of interest. Sounds fun. Contact: Alan Hyde 126 Gladstone Rd Edge Hill Liverpool L7 1QQ

\*\* Two new directories to record UFO NETWORK have their new directory of strange phenomena groups and magazines at £2 from 39 Birkbeck Rd London NW7. Meanwhile PICUR (the provisional International Committee formed at the 79 congress) has launched a useful directory of ufologists addresses. In here you will find 213 people from all over the world (including people like Hynek, Vallee, Keel and so on) Phone numbers sometimes too. It is well worth 50p + post from: Peter Hill 47A Easter Bankton Murieston Livingston Scotland EH54 9BD

, ELSEWHERE THIS MONTH: MAGONIA 6 has appeared (still at the fantastic value of a £1.75 sub for 4 issues) Amongst other things it features a fascinating re-appraisal of Lawson's "imaginary abductee" work, seemingly destroying his conclusions, and a HOAX MIB event from the North West that is illuminating! BUFORA JOURNAL 10-2 usual sightings, reviews, a lot of correspondence on the COSMOS 1068 affair and a UFO crossword that is fun... UFO RESEARCH REVIEW 6-3 has a lengthy piece reviewing UFO STUDY in terms of "mysticism"... LINCOLNSHIRE DRAGON (May) Dragon legends, Lincolnshire leys and levitation... NORTHERN EARTH MYSTERIES (May) has leys, meditation/OOBE brain states, EVP (electronic voices) and more, announcing too a new address (15 Convent Court Hull HU5 2UJ) UFO INSIGHT 2-2 is interesting, with a detailed run down on FUFORs methods of investigation, a scathing review of THE JANOS PEOPLE by Stuart Campbell, Hilary Evans on French "model" making and an exposee of the UFO conspiracy myths... PROBE Report 2-1 in its nice glossy format, as ever, has an interesting photo ID case and a report on an investigation into a sighting by yours truly last September (Paul and I fully endorse the conclusions PROBE reach on this) Finally, a most interesting newcomer UFO INTERNATIONAL. It is the work of PICUR (pronounced, as Paul put it, like medicine for some of my cooking!)(Get it?) This is in fact the first international UFO journal, with names like Hynek on the editorial board (representing seven countries in all) The first issue is modest with just 8 pages of international news, but in future expansion is planned and Bertil Kuhlemann will edit. Issue 1 costs 50 p (£2.80 for 4 issue sub) from: Peter Hill 47a Easter Bankton Murieston Scotland EH54 9BD

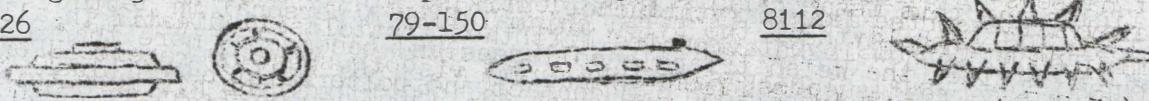
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Seeking Common Ground..... The first issue of an exciting new magazine concept was launched in May. Entitled COMMON GROUND ("Studies at the fringe of human experience") it is not out to reach the public or make a profit. But it is in a well produced, tightly packed, small type, 28pp litho format with a great deal of "meat". The concept brings together many of the top names in paranormal research in the UK; ufologists, psychic researchers, fortran experts and so on. The active participants is a veritable Whos Who. One of its regular features is (and will be) abstracts of current journals in a diverse set of fields and this issue carries some intriguing articles viz: Hilary Evans blowing open the myth of the Dyfed enigma after a personal in depth study of it on site (the Welsh triangle collapses and becomes no more than a dot), JR on comparisons between some UFO contact and poltergeist cases plus hints that it may all be sociological after all, Sue Blackmore (full-time doctor and parapsychology researcher at Bristol University) on hallucination and illusion and their links with OOBEs, and Alan Cleaver critically analysing the electronic voice phenomenon. Its meant to show what we can teach each other by combining our skills and it certainly does that. 36 crammed pages promised next time, and its well edited by Kevin McClure. Well worth £1 (£4 for one year) :- 14 Northfold Road Knighton Leicester.

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BUFORA's SECOND INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS .... Although expensive (at £15 for the two days, just to get in) this event was the highlight of most ufologist's calendars (although many well known faces were not there). Like the 1979 event it was an exhausting, but enjoyable, experience, very well put together by the new BUFORA chairman Les Bayer, and introduced with a fine exemplary talk by Lord Kings Norton (who is the new BUFORA President). His call for open-minded scepticism was reflected by most of the papers. There were few "big names" this time, but if anything the quality of presentation improved for this. Highlight for me was an excellent paper from Bertil Kuhlemann on the link between science and the UFO (with some positive ideas for what we should do about it). The send up of this in NEW SCIENTIST was horrendous, unjust and at times close to libellous. Would that more ufologists had the approach Bertil displayed. Stuart Campbell gave an excellent illustration of case investigation with his in-depth study of the Livingston CE2. Despite media presentation he is not "sold" on the ball-lightning hypothesis, and whilst he suggested this as a plausible solution his talk centred on all that is good in the new breed of British case investigator. Bruce Maccabee from the USA talked for two hours on the New Zealand movie films, showing them in their entirety and playing the "as it happens" recordings from the witnesses. Joaquim Fernandes from Portugal has reinvestigated the famous Fatima incident (and a book of his on the topic is coming soon) It now looks even more like the first classic CE4. All in all the event was a great success, certainly in my view the best of recent BUFORA conferences. The next is scheduled for March 13 1982 in Edinburgh. I hope this time BUFORA find a way of cutting costs so fewer will be put off by huge fees.

HOOTS MON! HERE COMES SUFON.... The Scottish UFO Network (now just SUFON since the Southern UK system is called MAUFOG) is off the ground at last. It has a firm constitution, a dozen members and has launched its first magazine in a 12pp litho format (similar to MAGONIA or COMMON GROUND). SCOTTISH UFO BULLETIN will now be published bi-monthly to act as a combined Northern UFO News/Northern UFOlogy for the country. SUFON itself is similar to NUFON in principle, but will work to UFOIN guidelines, using the agreed format for case reports. Since there are almost no Scottish UFO groups it was decided this was the best policy and, thus, SUFON will have individual membership. It will purely be concerned with investigation, coordinating all efforts in this large part of the UK. Membership is £5 (and outsiders can subscribe to six issues of the Bulletin for the same figure). At present, pending the formation of a Scottish HQ (the equivalent of Nottingham) all reports will be filed with NUFON for addition to the files at Meadow Lane. The venture is most welcome and certainly deserves your support. So if you know any investigators in Scotland put them in touch with SUFON (which will henceforth be responsible for all NUFON/UFOIN case investigation north of the border). Or, if you just want to keep in touch with what goes on up there then the Bulletin (with its professional format and very smart cover logo) is well worth seeing. SUFON is contactable via:  
 7b Prestwick Court Ardler Dundee DD2 3SH.

Now that we have MAUFOG, coordinating southern groups, NUFON, in the north, and SUFON in Scotland (all very closely linked), plus the Irish UFO Research Centre doing a similar job in that country, the British local group scene is looking healthy beyond the wildest dreams. With plans for a joint conference in the autumn (it is expected in Worcester), and with the BUFORA "National" event in Edinburgh next March, we could in under a year have the basis of a close-knit British UFO system, something we have all hoped for for a long time. (MAUFOG (No publication) can be contacted: 92 Beatrice St Swindon SN2 1BE) (IURC (published Irish UFO News) " " " : 19 Cairnshill Ave Belfast BT8 4NR)

MEDIUM DEFINITION INVESTIGATIONS

Ref	Date	Time	Location	Group	Level
6726	Summer	??	Portpatrick, Scotland	SUFON (Gibbons)	B
Coastguard saw silver object like catherine wheel approach from over sea v, fast from west. Estimated 250' long by 30' deep passing over at 500' approx. Moved off NE after being in view 10 mins. A very clear side view of the disc was had and from below it looked like a circular object with spokes from a central wheel to an outer rim (see below) No identification has been made.					
79-150	Jan 24	19.45	Stranraer, Scotland	SUFON (Gibbons)	B
Woman putting clothes away in bedroom saw large cigar with pointed ends "floating by". Grey, about 30' long, 6-10' deep, with orange square portholes in side. Moved slowly (10 MPH) over rooftops and away inside several minutes. Window opened but no sound. A female friend and her two young boys were called and saw it. RAF denied any aircraft were in the area. Witness was so excited by sighting she did not sleep for two nights! Insufficient data.					
6726			79-150	8112	
					
8067	Apr 2	21.30	Kircolm, Scotland	SUFON (Gibbons)	B
25 yr old carpet fitter letting dog into garden (dog not affected). Saw large red oval surrounded by six small orange lights flashing. Pulsating glow came from object and lit up Loch over which it hovered. It then moved and hovered by tree close to witness. No sound. Called wife and she saw it too before after 7 minutes it shot away. Two men nearby (Newton Stewart) saw 6 lights that same night, and an associated orange ball. Police treated it as a joke. Insuff data.					
8068	Nov 25	06.40	North Sea	(Thanks to Bob Rickard, editor of Fortean Times, for this report)	
An entry in the log of the NORTHERN (an off-shore oil rig) (60N 54' 21.83; 1E 25' 16.46) in the Ninian field, North Sea. A large orange ball of fire was seen to move and hover over the rig. It was large enough to be seen by another					

8112 Apr 14 00.00 Stafford, Staffs BUFORA (A Larkin) C  
An elderly couple in bed, talking, saw a disc shape which moved very slowly & rotated travel E to W without making any sound. It poured out light and was surrounded by "spikes" of various colours (red, green, yellow, white & blue). Apparent size was estimated as "tennis ball" and it was in view for about 10 minutes. Insufficient data. (Via Transient Phenomena Log)

8113 Apr 26 00.30 Stretton, Cheshire MUFORA (J Randles) B  
Woman and husband saw "brilliant star" hovering over houses. Wound down car window & saw triangular shape, hovering or moving slowly, in SE. Made sound like distant engine. Suddenly shot off E and was lost. M/Cr airport is 6 miles SE and had several flights in area at time, including a jumbo. MUFORA believe this was an a/c seen turning to land after flying roughly away from witness.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER WITH A PEEPING TOM Inv: Norman Collinson (MUFORA)  
You might think that CE3 cases are either/or situations. Misidentifications are rather implausible, but think again. Case 8111 refers to a sighting made on April 2 at Newchurch, Lancs. Two teenage boys say that they saw a W LITS in the sky streak to earth and sink into it. 20 mins later in a nearby lane an entity with a bulging head sprang out at them and they fled! Norman, as a police officer, checked the case, and found (despite what it might seem) the boys were quite serious BUT. The area has had a high incident rate of UFO sightings and media mentions are frequent. One local ufologist insists there have been hundreds of TRUE UFOs seen there recently (a fact MUFORA seriously doubt after lengthy investigation of the phenomenon described recently in UFO INSIGHT). Norman found that the lane in question is a haunt for a peeping tom who has frequently plagued girls who use the lane on Thursday nights returning from badminton sessions. April 2 was a Thursday and this case can readily be explained as first a meteor, then excitability, plus the general UFO climate in the area, followed by the tom, mistaking them for girls, leaping out in his hooded anarak. Since the lane is dark this is quite plausible, but at least one local ufologist is not going to agree with that! But it does show how difficult evaluation can be. A superficial check (which a none police-trained investigator might have conducted) would not have uncovered this key information which solved the case.

THE CALL OF THE UFO (PART TWO) Inv: Jenny Randles (MUFORA) 77/330 B Insuff  
In the last issue a Scottish case was mentioned where a man woke and walked to his landing to observe three balls of light, observing them under a kind of hypnotic spell. They shot off and he "snapped out" to find his mother and father there too, having had the same experience. A remarkably similar case was found "coincidentally" by JR whilst being interviewed by Mr T (a journalist with a Lancashire newspaper). "I'm going to tell you something I've only ever told my wife" he said. In October 1977, at about 6.00pm he was driving onto the M6 at Upholland, near Wigan, returning home, when to the W he saw 3 white balls of light in a line over open land towards Skelmersdale. They hovered for 1½ mins as he slowed and watched, then lined into a loose triangle and shot off at an incredible speed (cf previous case). Two days later, whilst on the newsroom and discovering some other UK sightings in the 77 wave, he suddenly "remembered" something (he has no idea how or why he completely forgot this during and immediately after the sighting). He had known he was going to see the UFOs, and up to the sighting his drive had been full of expectation, but then he saw them and forgot this clear "precognition". "I cannot explain it," he said. "It sounds crazy but it happened". I told him of the Scottish case and other examples of witnesses 'knowing' a sighting would occur and he was amazed.

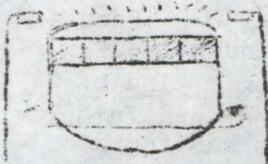
POSSIBLE TV INTERFERENCE CAUSED BY UFO 78/271 C Level C  
Saturday in July 1978 18 yr old gardner at Mansfield, Notts was talking to mother in bedroom. Time 9.30 on warm, very clear evening. He suddenly saw an orange ball of light over rooftops opposite in the SE. It was the apparent size of a football and moving very slowly across the sky, at an angle of about 45 degrees heading in the direction of NW. He attracted his mothers attention and opened the window but there was no sound. His father heard the commotion as they excitedly discussed what the object could not be. He came upstairs, saying the TV set had been flickering with bad interference. He looked through the boys bedroom but saw nothing then came into the room with them and saw the orange sphere slowly rising. He said it was heading towards three tiny pin pricks of light, but the boy could only see one. It is however quite reasonable to suppose these were stars as the sky was by now

growing quite dark. After being in view about 30/40 minutes the object vanished suddenly. The possibility of this being a balloon reflecting sunlight seems quite feasible and in the absence of other evidence acceptable. Insuff data.

ALL IN THE LINE OF DUTY A new British CE4 Inv: Norman Collinson & Harry Harris A full report on this case will be featured in FSR shortly. It concerns Alan D a 33 yr old West Yorkshire police officer. Two separate incidents are involved, which may or may not have any connection.

On June 11 1980 a body was found in Todmorden. It was on a tall pile of coal and had not been there long (as the tip was inspected in the morning and there was a busy rail line yards away from which the body could easily have been seen). Yet the man had died 8-10 hrs previous (the inquest revealed), of a heart attack (which it was concluded may well have been caused by severe fright). He had a burn on his head and neck from a corrosive liquid but this did not cause death and was 2 days old. There was no indication of how his body had been put on the tip (extremely difficult) or why (hardly the best way of disposing of a body as it was found in broad daylight at 3.45 pm). The inquest and police investigations revealed the man was a 56 yr old miner who lived 30 miles away in Wakefield. He had vanished 5 days earlier after saying he was just going out to the shops. Harry Harris, MUFORA member and solicitor, investigated the case for us (and the mans widow) but no reason for disappearance or motive for murder was found. The case is quite inexplicable. It was seriously suggested at the inquest that the only obvious way the body could have got where it got was from the air! The man's name was Zygmund Jan ADAMSKI!

Alan D was involved in the above case and very puzzled by it. He of course saw no possible UFO correlation in it, having no interest in the subject. The story (suprisingly) only aroused the attention of the local media. On November 28 1980 (just 7 days after the Kendal CE4) Alan D was called to an estate in the town to investigate a herd of cows said to be roaming about. He searched between 1 and 3 am but found nothing. At 5.15 he was heading back there again on the A 646 when suddenly he saw a well lighted object ahead of him. He thought it was a bus or lorry. He drove up to it and was confronted by a very strange phen-



omenon. It was oval with a more rounded base than top. Had fluorescent white light pouring from above and several dark "windows" in a line below this. The lower half rotated (clock wise as seen from above) In size it was 20' across and about 12' deep. We know this accurately as it spanned the road between two sodium streetlights, was about 5' above the

surface and reached to within 2' of the top of the lamps. Also the officer came within 100' of it and had the presence of mind to prop his clipboard and pad against the windscreen and sketch the thing whilst it hovered. He noticed that his car headlamp beams reflected off it. That trees adjacent trembled (although there was no noticable breeze). That the ground underneath was dry and blotchy (although elsewhere heavy rain soaked the road). He tried to radio base but both UHF and VHF channels were totally silent. But he does point out there are radio black spots in the area and this could be quite explicable.

There is now a dramatic continuity break. He found himself further down the road past where the object itself had been, looking back to find the object gone. He has no idea how he got there or where the object went. His engine had been running all the time. He then heard a distinct voice say to him... "You should not be seeing this. It is not for your eyes D.. (surname). You will forget it." He drove back, but as he is not sure of the exact times involved the length of time lapse is unknown but was no more than minutes.

Clearly this is a "classic" and investigation is still proceeding. We envisage conducting a regression hypnosis experiment to see what might emerge, but of course any such memory would be of a different order to his conscioys memory which is why the objective story is presented at this stage for consideration.

We would like to hear your views on this case and possible suggestions for further work (D.. is a pseudonym as he wishes anonymity). I will just point out the close parallels between this case and the Herb Schrimmer event in the USA. Again a lone police officer, in a car, who had incredibly been investigating cows misbehaving, met a "truck" on the road and lost time. Regression here revealed an apparant CE3 memory. Alan D claims not to know of this case.