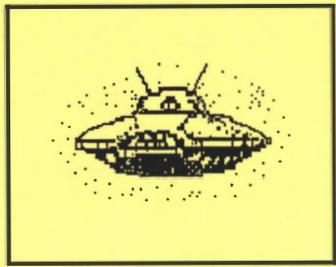
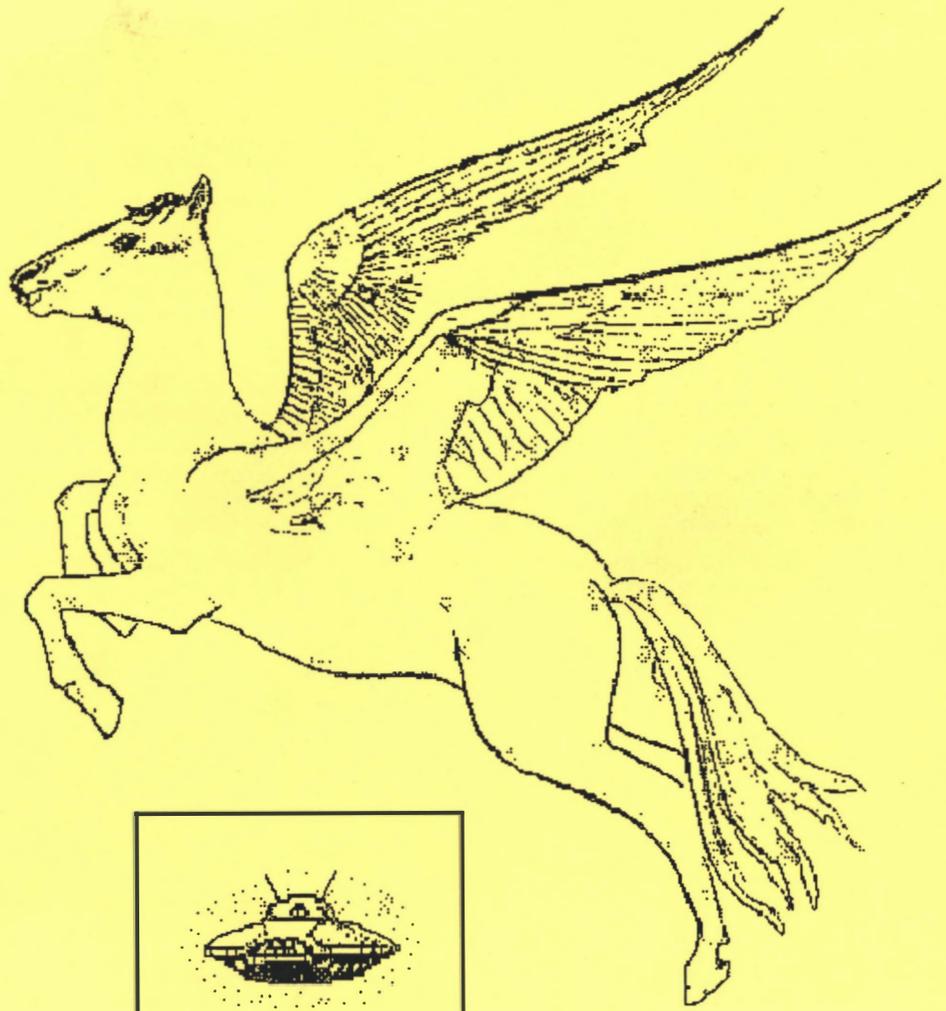


18/2

PEGASUS



Surrey Investigation Group into Aerial Phenomena

PEGASUS

Volume 18, #2

President: GORDON MILLINGTON - president@sigap.org
 Chairman: IAN WHEATLEY - chairman@sigap.org
 Vice-Chairmen: PAUL WHITEHEAD - vchairman@sigap.org
 SONYA PORTER - vchair2@sigap.org

Belmont, Markenfield Road, GUILDFORD, Surrey, UK. GU1 4PF

TEL: 01483 578419 Web-site: www.sigap.org

UNIDENTIFIED

A UFO was seen at Finchampstead near Sandhurst and the Aldershot military area. Not a particularly interesting statement, one might think, but its significance in this case lies in the fact that it was seen by an experienced and competent observer *who would have identified it if it had been an identifiable object.*

When you read Brendan McCartney's account elsewhere in this issue, you will find that this observer did all the correct things that everyday originators of UFO reports in my experience never do. He proved conclusively that that the object couldn't be a conventional aircraft, a star, a planet or a balloon. So, if it was none of these, what was it?

Of course he has to admit that he doesn't know, but he is open to speculation because of his past experiences. As an air traffic controller he is, of course, familiar with all the usual objects in the sky and can recall several previous events in which UFOs created serious alarm, two of them at Heathrow. Were they reported in the newspapers or featured on the TV or radio? Of course not, and you know why.

Now, however, we have the long promised Freedom of Information Act, and the media will surely have to carry accurate and detailed reports of UFO sightings, but not, I fear, until IPOs (Identified Porcine Objects) are also to be seen in our skies.

G.M.

MEDIA PLAY

Steven Greer, M.D., Director, The Disclosure Project / CSETI

Conventional Wisdom has it that we live in a free and open society with a free press, which plays the role of a key check and balance on government secrecy and abuse. This and other fantasies, foisted on a gullible public, have enabled runaway illegal secret projects to get away with murder, and they are now on the verge of planeticide - the killing of an entire planet.

The truth is that we have free media - so long as it is inconsequential. That is, freedom of the press exists so long as it is exercised within a certain sphere of influence that does not reach a critical mass of significance. Sure, you can say and write anything - so long as it does not get placed in front of the masses in an honest way. The quaint notion of a free press, serving as the Fourth Estate and watching vigilantly over the interests of The People, is one of the great lies perpetrated by the government, and by the corporate media itself. Every insider knows this is a lie.

Big Media must be distinguished from the media in general, insofar as the former is utterly corrupted and the latter is sequestered into spheres of limited influence and significance. Mass retail media - the nightly news, CNN, The NY Times, The Washington Post, Newsweek, Time and the like are less free on anything of real significance than the media of many third world countries - or even of communist China.

We know, because we have beta-tested the system. (More on this later.)

The implications of this corruption cannot be overestimated. In the world today, the corrupt, dumbed-down and controlled Big Media is the central reason for significant investigations being killed, illegal secrecy persisting and major scientific breakthroughs being suppressed.

Without the cooperation, compliance and corruption of Big Media, the shadowy programs that keep the world burning could in no way prevail. In fact, when recently asked by a member of Congress how these illegal operations persist and flourish, I had to tell him it was the primarily due to the fact that Big Media give them a free pass.

Years ago, while at a gathering in New York City with Laurence Rockefeller and a few other influential people in the city, Bob Schwartz, a noted journalist who had been on the Board of Time Life (before it was Time Warner, or AOL Time Warner etc, etc), flatly told me that the Big Media "...had become scribes taking dictation from the right hand of the king..." rather than really functioning as a free press and the Fourth Estate. He proceeded to tell me how he had given his friend Mike Wallace of CBS's 60 Minutes a number of government documents on UFOs, and that Mr. Wallace

wanted to pursue the story, but ultimately dropped it due to pressure from 'somewhere'.

Now, Big Media will tell you that the UFO matter is closed, that the Air Force looked into UFOs and ended Project Blue Book with a report from the Condon Committee that essentially said there was nothing to study. This is one of the Big Lies and can be proven to be so. But every Big Media outlet in the US holds to this line, notwithstanding overwhelming evidence to the contrary - and the fact that we can now prove that Dr. Condon himself corrupted the study and was on the payroll of the shadowy projects keeping the matter secret!

Essentially, America has no free press of any significance when it comes to real investigative reporting, government secrecy or serious technology breakthroughs dealing with energy and propulsion systems that could replace Big Oil. The Big Media is vertically and horizontally integrated into a large corporate and quasi-governmental matrix of shadowy interests and corrupting influences. In no way is the major media in America free, nor has it been for decades.

In the late 1990s I met with a senior reporter for the Washington Post, whose beat included government, military and national security issues, who told me that he was sitting on rather explosive files on a number of issues (hint: we were talking about secret underground facilities and certain genetic experiments that are ongoing). When I asked him when they would run that story he winked and said, "Oh Dr. Greer, you know that nothing important is ever printed in the Washington Post. We will never print that kind of story and, if anything, we will work to debunk it if it appears anywhere else..." When I asked him, "Well what about the Fourth Estate - our free media being a check and balance on government and extreme secrecy that is out of control?" he said, "You know that doesn't exist anymore..." We had a drink and went on our way.

Senior government officials, members of Congress and top Pentagon officials with whom I have met have cited media infiltration, corruption and ridicule as the main reason they steer clear of certain areas. Why look into super-secret UFO related projects if you will only be shellacked by the Big Media as Senator Moon Beam?

Of course, many people in the media never look into these issues since they have blindly accepted the party line and bought into the ridicule and disinformation surrounding the subject. A lack of independent investigation, and a prevailing prejudice, prevents most journalists from even giving a cursory look into these controversies. A senior editor for the Boston Globe once told me that they would never run a story on UFOs "...even if you put a dead ET on my desk..." since such topics were the stuff of the low-end tabloids. (I guess 24/7 coverage of titillating details of sexual escapades and lurid murders are ok, however.) Persistent ridicule and a glib dismissal of

'conspiracy' theorists and 'UFO believers' are about as far as most journalists get. The facts are seldom investigated, and on the rare occasion when they are, the story is blocked.

It is also an open secret that the intelligence community has infiltrated and used the media for decades. What is not acknowledged is the extent to which the Big Media are controlled by corrupt interests that are the antithesis of freedom. It is a pervasive problem that is subtly managed very quietly, but anyone who has gotten close to the truth on a really Big Story that these interests want kept secret know what happens.

Such journalists walk into the mother of all buzz saws, and learn very quickly how un-free the Big Media really is. Into The Buzz Saw, with a forward by Gore Vidal, is a book that recounts the experiences of a number of journalists who came across a story that 'they' did not want out -and who found out how ruthless media suppression really is.

The crown jewel of secrecy is the collection of projects that deal with advanced technologies, energy systems, propulsion systems - and UFO matters - that, once disclosed, would end the need for oil, gas, coal or nuclear power. The corruption and secrecy surrounding this issue is like none other - it is in a class of its own. The media can only cover the subject either in a cavalier or dismissive way - or through direct disinformation and ridicule. No honest investigative report has ever appeared, over time, on this subject in any Big Media outlet - not in over 50 years of secrecy. Why?

Because they are not allowed to do it. And if they did, it would mark the end of their career and possibly their lives. It is not an overstatement to say that I have spoken to mainstream journalists who evince palpable fear when the matter is brought up.

Of course, because of sensational cases of 'investigative reporting' like Watergate, Monica-gate and the like, the public believe the media is this fierce watchdog guarding the interests of the people and courageously ferreting out the truth. If only.

Sure, Big Media can have 24/7 coverage of trivial matters like a President's private sex life (NEWS FLASH: Powerful men are known to have affairs and may even - gasp - lie about it!). Or a bungled and clumsy break-in at the Watergate. But the really big stories are never printed, the research is not allowed, and the truth is only whispered about privately, and carefully.

Shills in the Big Media are the central reason why the truth about many matters of great importance will never be told. Sure they will tell you about a titillating scandal, or about a tax cut, or a bombing. But get close to stories related to real power, and these Big Media hacks run the other way.

The proof?

In May 2001, The Disclosure Project (www.DisclosureProject.org) held a major international press conference at the National Press Club in Washington DC. Hosted by legendary White House reporter Sarah

McClendon, the event featured over 20 top-secret government, military, intelligence and corporate witnesses to UFO events and projects. No flakes amongst these: The witness testimony presented ranged from a Brig. General to Colonels to a top FAA official. The National Press Club ballroom was packed with media from around the world and the event was - briefly - reported on CNN, BBC, Fox and many other outlets.

This two-hour event was the most-watched live press event on the Internet and eventually over 1 million people saw the event on the net. We called for a full investigation into illegal covert programs dealing with UFOs and covert energy and propulsion projects. Congressional hearings were requested and the media were asked to fully investigate the matter. Tens of thousands of people wrote to members of Congress and the US President asking for full, open, honest hearings at which some of the over-400 military and government-connected witnesses identified by The Disclosure Project could testify. (The reader may read the testimony of over 5 dozen of these witnesses in the book *Disclosure* or view their testimony at www.DisclosureProject.org).

Interestingly, the first hour of the event was externally electronically jammed by "someone outside the Press Club", according to Internet hosting company Connect Live. (Sources later confirmed that this was an electronic warfare jamming of the broadcast.)

Senior producers at two Big Media networks, who had been briefed in advance and were planning major exposes in their newsmagazine programs, later told me that they were not allowed to go forward with their investigations or broadcast the programs. When I asked why, they simply said, "They just won't let us do it." And when I asked who are 'they', I was told, "Dr. Greer, you know who they are..."

Indeed.

Here, smoking-gun evidence, official government documents and dozens of credible, corroborated, top-secret witnesses were presented to the world's major media - and Big Media did virtually nothing. On major stories, involving controversial matters, I am told the New York Times requires three points of corroboration. Here, dozens were presented, from men and women with impeccable credentials and high national security clearances - and they were not anonymous sources, but presented with name, rank and serial number! But the coverage was brief (just enough to allow for 'plausible freedom of the press', I am told by insiders) and then quickly taken down. And no Big Media entity was allowed to do serious follow-up investigations. And none have occurred up to this date.

Such 'editorial discretion' has been abused hundreds of times to keep big stories out of the major media. People do not realize it, but we already live in an extremely controlled and closed society that is micro-managed by an elite few - all the while looking populist, democratic and open. As I write this

a few miles from Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, I can feel him spinning in his grave...

Meanwhile, it is up to us to get the truth out, notwithstanding the overwhelming force and corruption of the Big Media. It is almost too late - but not quite. With a Herculean effort, we might yet get the facts out before the public before the control freaks run the entire biosphere into the ground and we end up, Mad Max-like, fighting over the last barrel of oil in endless oil wars.

Perhaps someone in Big Media will step up to the plate and do the matter justice. But more likely, we need to identify a financial sponsor to start what I am calling "The Disclosure Network" via satellite. With adequate funding, we could begin real investigative reporting on issues that really matter - and renew the promise of a free press.

Until then, spread the word and get the truth out. Ultimately, if the people will lead the leaders will follow. Time is getting short for the corrupt corporate Big Media to regain its role as the Fourth Estate. And the earth cannot take another 50 years of ecological abuse, geopolitical instability born out of the injustice of poverty, and more oil wars. It is up to us to change course and create the sustainable civilization necessary for peace. For without peace there can be no future - and peace is impossible without truth, an open society and justice. There is time to act, but we must act now.

Steven M. Greer MD
 Director, Disclosure Project
<http://www.DisclosureProject.org>
 29 April 2004
 Albemarle County, Virginia



"I suppose you call this 'sleep paralysis'."

UFO EXPERIENCES OF AN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER

In response to requests following a posting on PPrune [A web-based forum – 'The Professional Pilots' RUmour NEtwork] I have decided to provide details of my UFO experiences during my 35+ years as a professional Air Traffic Control Officer. I have included a number of "incidents" in which I was involved, but only nos. 1 and 2 really caused me alarm - they are among my most frightening experiences. The facts here are mainly of a brief nature... and to those pilots who operate out of Heathrow and who emailed me for info I can only apologise that the facts are NOT exciting! No green men running round the Tower (although, come to think of it, one of my Watch Supervisors did have almond eyes!)... no launching of military jets, no closure of airspace, etc. The incidents occurred quickly and were soon over and there was no effect on Heathrow operations.

My interest started at a very young age. I was about 5 when my mother took me to a children's library. Looking beyond the children's section I found a book about UFOs. A few pictures and what I could read of some of the text frightened me to death! Several years later, when I was able to join the library in my own right, I read a number of similar books and my fascination was stimulated. I remain fascinated by the subject and, whilst I know that "UFOs" exist, I do not necessarily believe that they carry small green men. However, at least two of the incidents detailed below suggest some form of intelligent control.

Just a little professional background. I started my ATC career as a "trainee controller" at Blackbushe Airport in the mid-60s before joining IAL. After training I was posted to North Africa, where I worked as a Tower/ Approach/ Area/ FIS controller at an international airport. On my return to the UK I worked for a year at Oxford Airport before joining the Board of Trade (or whatever it was called at the time) and was posted to Heathrow in January, 1972. I spent 21 years working as a Tower/Approach/ Approach Radar controller in the Heathrow Control Tower building. In 1993 I moved with the Approach Control facility to West Drayton, where I finished my career in 2002, having continued working solely as a Heathrow Director since moving from Heathrow. Many of my ATC colleagues, both civil and military, are interested in UFOs. but none has any explanation as to their origin.

Readers will appreciate that I am an experienced "sky-watcher" and I spent much of my career as a radar controller at a busy airport so I am fairly familiar with "things aloft". Unfortunately, I never made notes about my UFO experiences so most dates are approximate. However, the basic facts are here and I offer them in all honesty for consumption by any and everyone. I make no attempt to explain what I saw, or was involved in. Constructive suggestions would be much appreciated because several of them remain for me frightening experiences which I shall never forget.

In most cases names and precise locations have been omitted as I have no idea if I am restrained by any legislation. Nor would I wish to cause embarrassment to any former colleagues or employers.

North Africa. Late 1960s.

I was employed as an Air Traffic Controller at an international airport, located some distance inland from the nearest city. There was no radar equipment at the airport but a large military air base located nearby had extensive radar facilities where my colleagues worked under contract to the military. One of their tasks was the provision of Area Radar Control for which my unit was the parent Area Control facility responsible for the TMA. [*Terminal Area - A large portion of airspace, normally surrounding several airports*]

Basic ATC procedures called for us to telephone the radar unit and provide them with flight plans for all traffic and estimates which we received from the parent ATCC [*Air Traffic Control Centre*]. In this way the radar unit was aware of all aircraft movements and had them readily to hand should we telephone for radar assistance. (In those days the procedural [*Non-Radar*] controller ran the show and the radar controller was there to provide assistance when required). The radar unit had IFF facilities (an early form of SSR). [*Secondary Surveillance Radar -- a supplement to basic or primary radar which provides, among other things, height information*]

The boundary of the TMA stretched for approximately 100 miles around the airfield and all aircraft movements were "known", i.e. nothing moved without our knowledge. There was a mixture of civil commercial traffic operating into the airfield where I worked, military transports and fighters for the military base and a mix of overflying traffic. The only other aviation activity was one or two helicopters and a few light aircraft operated by a local flying club.

Incident 1 It was during a night shift, when the only aviation activity was overflying traffic operating between Europe and various African destinations. As usual, the ATCC [*Air traffic Control centre*] routinely provided us with estimates on all traffic passing through our area and we, in turn, passed these routinely to the radar unit. During the early hours the telephone line from the radar unit rang – an extremely unusual occurrence as we rarely needed radar assistance for overflying traffic, and the controllers were able to rest before the morning rush. The military ATC assistant had been idly watching the radar and had seen an aircraft approaching from the northwest and rang us to obtain details. We had no details of any traffic in that sector so we contacted the ATCC. They too had no information but requested information from the ATC authority for the country over which the object was flying. This proved negative. The object was not displaying an IFF label.

The radar unit ATC assistant continued to monitor the situation and soon alerted his controller. At this stage the object was moving fairly fast but could have been a conventional jet aircraft. A short while later the military GCA [*Ground Controlled Approach – a form of talk-down*] facility telephoned to say they were also watching the object, which was by then heading directly for the airbase. The military began to get nervous and went into an alert phase prior to declaring a full evacuation – a major event by any standards. However, things speeded up and GCA facility soon reported that they had the object on the PAR [*Precision Approach Radar*] element and it was very low, apparently making an approach to the base. The object – a bright light – overflew the air base in full view of the tower controllers but without there being any noise. It then turned south and flew off towards the desert, accelerating to the sort of speed which no conventional aircraft could attain at that time (I recall a figure of 1300 knots being mentioned). All the controllers involved were seriously shaken by the incident.

We discussed the matter for a long time after the event but no explanation was ever forthcoming. The radar controllers (Area and GCA) were all experienced with fast jet traffic; the area controllers had all worked with RAF V-bombers using bombing ranges in the nearby desert and were far busier with military jets than they were with civilian flights. The event remains a very disturbing mystery.

Incident 2 Following the closure of the civil airport for some days, I was the first controller to return to duty – for a night shift, primarily to oversee the departure of a VIP flight around midnight.

Basic facts are: The aircraft was cleared for take off on a north facing runway. As it started to roll, an extremely bright ball of light appeared to the east of the airfield, apparently just above ground level. To me it appeared stationary. However, as it was such an extraordinary event I alerted the crew as they rolled down the runway and they acknowledged that they had the object in sight. Soon after the aircraft took off the light vanished and the aircraft continued on its journey.

A week later I met the (British) pilot of the jet and he immediately spoke about the object. As they lifted off it had been apparent that the bright light was moving at some considerable speed towards them and had seriously frightened the crew. However, as they climbed away it remained beneath them and disappeared.

At the time of the event I made as many enquiries as I could with the limited resources available to me - local police, military, etc., with no success. The area from which the object had come was largely “desert” with virtually no habitation apart from odd shanty villages. There was no military activity there and no other aircraft flying at the time.

Incident 3 Not quite as exciting, but more curious – particularly in view of Incident 8 below. Afternoon shifts were always quiet for the first couple of hours with just a few scheduled commercial jets and maybe one or two smaller aircraft flying about. It was a bright, sunny day and I wandered out on to the tower balcony. I saw a bright shining object in the sky, not much bigger than a pinhead, and alerted my Watch Supervisor (an ex-RAF Canberra pilot). One look through the binoculars and he announced: “It’s just a met [*meteorological*] balloon”, and walked inside to ring the met office, which was just one floor down. The met people had no information and were unaware of any ascent in the area. We made enquiries to the nearby military air base and everywhere else we could think of (not many out there!) but drew a blank. Air traffic started so we logged the event and got on with our work.

Incident 4 A week or two later as we were driving in for another afternoon shift my Supervisor joked: “Be funny if that UFO was there again!” Incredibly it, or something very similar, WAS there! We

passed the information to our colleagues on other watches so that they could watch out but there were no other reports of the stationery shining ball.

Oxford Airport 1971

Incident 5 Upon return to the UK I was employed at Oxford Airport and was there at the time the "UFO" was recorded by a TV crew. I can't recall too much – just a very fast moving trail in the sky. It's probably documented elsewhere.

Heathrow

Incidents 6 and 7 Both occurred during my time at Heathrow. Unfortunately, without access to the ATC logs I cannot provide too many details. The incidents were logged and investigated at the time and, so far as I know, no explanations were forthcoming.

6. UK registered passenger jet in, or close to, the Ockham holding area [*One of the four Heathrow holding stacks approx. 7 miles NE of Guildford*]. The crew reported seeing an orange disk shaped object pass close to their aircraft. Nothing was seen on radar. When the aircraft landed the somewhat shaken Captain contacted ATC and said he thought the best way to get the matter properly investigated was to file it as an airmiss rather than as a UFO report. We checked with other ATC units but none had seen anything unusual nor received any reports from aircraft. I cannot recall fully the result of the investigation but I believe it to have been inconclusive.

7. Foreign-registered passenger jet near Lambourne [*Another Heathrow holding stack to the NE of the London conurbation*] reported a black "missile-shaped" object passing close by. So far as I recall, nothing was seen on radar and I do not know how far any subsequent investigation went. Several people suggested it could well have been a real missile which had "gone astray" from one of the ranges out to the east [*Military training areas over the North Sea*].

Finchampstead 2004

Incident 8. On the afternoon of 6th September, whilst my wife and I were taking afternoon tea in our garden around 2pm and watching the aircraft heading for Heathrow (Runway 09L for landing), my attention

was drawn to something glinting in the sky directly above us which I assumed to be a high-flying aircraft, but it was hardly moving. Prolonged examination through powerful binoculars revealed what appeared to be a shiny metallic "ball" and the focus adjustment of the binoculars suggested that it was somewhat higher than the high over-flying aircraft which could be seen passing nearby. The "ball" would fade and almost vanish from sight and then, seconds later, become so bright that it was clearly visible to the naked eye and too bright to look at through the binoculars. I contacted our son – a keen amateur astronomer living near Portsmouth – to ask if any "stars" could be viewed in daylight, for that is exactly what it appeared to be to the naked eye. He assured me that it wasn't a star (and it wasn't twinkling either). Venus and Jupiter – the only objects which I would imagine to be bright enough – were both above our horizon, but not close to the position of the object. (I checked the location of the planets using my Starry Night computer programme). It certainly was not a satellite either – these are not, to my knowledge, visible in bright sunlight and they usually move fairly rapidly across the sky.

I had no idea who else to contact -- being so slow moving, it would not have painted on ATC radars. I wondered if it might be a meteorological or other type of balloon... but its movement was against the wind, which ruled out that possibility.

We watched the object over our garden on and off for over 45 minutes – occasional passage of clouds obscuring our view -- but we could not locate in it in the night sky later that evening due to the many stars which were visible. It was not seen on subsequent days.

Although the upper level wind was blowing from the east, albeit at low speed, the object drifted towards the east, traversing maybe 5 degrees of sky in the 45 minutes or so during which we watched it. When we first saw it, it was slightly northeast of overhead and moved almost imperceptibly eastward during the period of observation.

See Incidents 3 and 4 above. The object over Finchampstead bore remarkable resemblance to those seen in north Africa, which I had completely forgotten until 6th September.

And that's it - no Aliens, no Greys, no Green Men, no flying saucers but definitely a few Unidentified Flying Objects.

Anyone who wishes to contact me please email me at:
heathrowdirector@aol.com

DENIAL, BELIEF AND SEMANTICS, AND UFOS

Hal McKenzie

'Do you believe in UFOs?' This annoying question, asked of me more times than I would like to count, is, in my opinion, the most oppressive sentence in the English language. In particular, the words 'believe' and 'UFOs' form a semantic straitjacket which makes up a large part of that frustrating wall of confusion and denial that confronts almost everyone involved in serious UFO research. I believe there is a way, however, to break out of that straitjacket and bring down that wall. The answer lies in semantics and politics: semantics, because the terms popularly used to frame the UFO controversy tend to euphemize and confuse the issue; and politics, because it was political leaders making political decisions whose cowardice threw the entire issue of extraterrestrial contact into its present intellectual limbo. To clear up the fog and solve the UFO mystery itself, we must first explain plainly what we mean, and second, throw the entire issue into the political arena.

Consider the word 'believe'. The whole point of Unidentified Flying Objects is that they are seen, which puts them in the category of facts, not belief. It is in one's reaction to the facts that belief plays a role. One can either deal with the facts rationally, drawing the most direct and logical conclusions from them without fear or favour; or one can allow personal conceits, myths and/or social conventions to intervene.

Here emerges a gross abuse of language and a semantic fraud of major proportions: UFO researchers, as well as ordinary people whose lives have been turned upside down by close encounters of whatever kind, are labelled UFO 'believers' when, in fact, they are only drawing the most logical conclusions from the data, or reacting with normal human emotions to bizarre or terrifying sense-experiences.

The real believers, in fact, are those who keep insisting that what is happening can't be happening; who deny, ignore or cover up the facts because the facts would upset their cherished belief systems.

THE DENIAL SYNDROME

Psychologists have a word for this kind of stubborn, irrational belief that flies in the face of facts: denial. The denial syndrome is all too common in human life and history, where we can find innumerable examples, and not just in the area of UFOs:

Consider, for example, the tragic and all-too-common case of a little girl who reports to her mother that her father often comes into her room at night and sexually abuses her. The mother angrily rebukes the child and tells her to stop telling 'lies'. The truth is so painful to the mother that her mind rebels against it or blocks it out: she is in a state of denial.

The child, facing this wall of rejection and with no one to turn to, goes into a denial of her own to survive; she blocks out the painful experiences, suppressing the memories of them deeply in her subconscious. Yet the memories cannot be suppressed forever, and when the child reaches adulthood they force themselves to the surface, causing psychoses.

Today, an understanding therapist would help such a patient come to terms with the fact of her victimhood as a step towards healing. There was a time, however, when incest victims faced a wall of denial, even from so-called psychoanalysts. The late great Sigmund Freud often dealt with women who revealed under analysis that they were raped by their fathers. The good Dr Freud just couldn't believe it - the societal taboo against even discussing incest was too strong. So he denied the truth of his patient's testimony and concocted a nifty theory to explain it: the famous Oedipus complex. Freud theorized that these women as little girls, driven by their infantile libidos, fantasized that they had sex with their fathers! Nowadays, incest is no longer kept 'in the closet' but is openly discussed on television programmes. No longer do victims of incest have to suffer as in the past. The age of denial has ended and truth and understanding have dawned; at least as far as incest victims are concerned.

The same is not yet true of those claiming abduction by aliens, whose stories are recounted, for example, in Budd Hopkins's books, 'Missing Time and Intruders', and in Whitley Strieber's best-selling *Communion* and the movie based on it.

Most big-media reviews of the above-mentioned works express the fervent belief that Strieber and hundreds of others all independently fantasized the same thing. So learned men keep coming up with half-baked theories to explain this mass 'fantasy', while its victims continue to suffer from their terrifying experiences under a cloud of official rejection.

In other words, our society, in particular the intelligentsia, is locked in a state of denial when it comes to evidence of 'off-world' contact. It is not

that there aren't enough facts to prove the case, it is that the facts themselves are being ignored, suppressed and ridiculed because they point to a conclusion too threatening for many to contemplate.

TERMINOLOGY

Getting back to semantics, ask yourself the question: How do you end the state of denial of, say, an alcoholic? The answer is, you get the person to say 'I am an alcoholic' - not a tippler, not a social drinker, but an alcoholic. Once the person accepts that key word, he or she is on the road to recovery.

Ending the fog of denial regarding extraterrestrial issues may also involve nothing more than a change in terminology. 'UFO' is an acronym originally coined by that boundless fount of obfuscatory language, the US Government, for the very purpose of euphemizing the evidence of alien spaceships in our atmosphere. The word 'UFO' can mean different things to different people. To some it means off-world craft, but to others it might mean 'misidentified natural phenomena' or even 'hallucinations of crackpots seeking escape from their problems'. In other words, the word 'UFO' helps society evade the real issue of extraterrestrial contact, just like 'tippler' and 'social drinker' evades the reality of alcoholism.

I propose, therefore, that from now on researchers and activists phase out the word 'UFO'. I would use 'off-world craft' instead. Perhaps one day, when we see one, we will know enough to be able to say something like 'There goes a Reticulan laboratory ship' or 'That looks like a Pleiadean surveillance drone', but until then, let's just accept the fact that what we really mean when we say 'UFO' is some form of off-world craft. If we frame the issue in the clearest, most direct terms possible, then the truth will come out much faster.

GOVERNMENT DISINFORMATION

To reiterate, our task is not to gather enough evidence to prove off-world contact, but to end the denial of the evidence that is already readily available. Proof comes from evidence, and the evidence is all around us - truckloads, box-car loads and mountains of it. There is the UFO data collected since the late 1940s, including the unknown quantities known to exist in secret government files and warehouses; the historical and archaeological records dating back to prehistoric times; the common experience of mankind recorded in ancient religious scriptures; and what science has taught us about life in

general, i.e. that life never develops in a vacuum. It is just a matter of putting two and two together. The problem is, as in George Orwell's 1984, that we are labouring under a manipulative government policy designed to make two plus two equal five!

In public reports like the Air Force's 'Blue Book' and the Condon Report, the US Government says UFOs are no big deal, they are no threat to national security -- just forget it. In secret, however, they are very concerned, as revealed by documents released under the Freedom of Information Act and recent books like New York Times investigative reporter Howard Blum's *Out There*. Blum exposes a covert 'UFO action group' in the Pentagon, and a cabal of Air Force intelligence spooks who recruited famed UFO writer William Moore to monitor the effects of hair-raising disinformation fed to a midwest UFO researcher [Paul Bennewitz] who was getting too close to secret doings at an air base. The bogus stories nearly drove the poor researcher mad.

Thus a great deal of the paranoia attributed to the UFO community can be traced to the government's policy of secrecy and deliberate disinformation. It is very much like the bad old days in the Soviet Union, where before Gorbachev's policy of glasnost the government kept information so tightly controlled that the average citizen had to make do with rumour, hearsay and speculation. In such an atmosphere of mistrust, when what the government says officially conflicts with what the people know to be true, a schism develops in the body politic itself, a kind of social schizophrenia that is harmful to the mental and social health of everyone.

The original failure of nerve that got the denial syndrome rolling can probably be traced back to 1947 or thereabouts, shortly after the 'Roswell saucer' crash, when US political and military leaders decided to keep the off-world debris and bodies under a tight lid of ultra-secrecy. Through the years, further webs of deceit and obfuscation were woven to protect the original policy, and like a cancer the denial syndrome metastasized to the media, to the scientific establishment, and to society in general.

Ironically, America's intelligence establishment, which has performed like Keystone Kops throughout the rest of the world, apparently succeeded all too well in this domestic disinformation scheme. One of its successes could well be the very disunity and factionalism that today plagues America's UFO community, rendering it incapable of

taking effective action in countering the government's policy. America's UFO research groups behave like prisoners in a mental gulag: they fight among themselves for scraps of information like prisoners fighting for scraps of food, while the real source of their problems is the totalitarian system that both restricts and doles out the information as it pleases.

POLITICAL ACTION

This is not a problem that can be solved by further collections of UFO sightings. The denial syndrome began with a political decision; only through politics can it be brought to an end. UFO investigators should become political activists, because only a good, old-fashioned political campaign will end the government's policy of UFO secrecy. They could, for example, form 'truth squads' to follow the President around and to ask such embarrassing questions as, 'What do you know about secret UFO files, Mr President?' and 'Why the cover-up?' That's the way to get on the evening news!

Abductees should do what other aggrieved groups have done with great success: form a lobbying group.

Imagine bus-loads of abductees descending on Capitol Hill to lobby for an investigation of the alien abduction syndrome and an end to UFO secrecy. The fact that they are a relatively small group of victims should not deter them. The highly successful 'Mothers Against Drunk Driving' (MADD) began with only one determined lady. If, as many UFO research groups say, their goal is to 'educate' the American people, then nothing is more educational than a political crusade, both for the public and the participants, as many people learned during the Vietnam War. With more media people per capita than any other city in the world, the place to begin such an educational process is Washington DC, and I have become involved with Operation Right to Know, an organization dedicated to ending UFO secrecy, whose first demonstration took place in Washington in March 1992 [see Editor's Note].

Furthermore, it is a matter of public record that Ronald Reagan, Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford and Barry Goldwater, to name but a few politicians, either saw UFOs or expressed an interest in the subject. However, most politicians would never gain the courage to buck longstanding policy unless they felt they had a constituency behind them.

If the government finally opens its secret data banks, then the off-world denial syndrome will quickly end and relative sanity will prevail - unless, of course, the truth is so horrible that it causes mass hysteria, which is one hypothetical explanation for the secrecy.

History shows, however, that mankind has never been harmed by the truth, despite fears of bureaucrats and potentates who tried to 'protect' the public from reality. Quite the contrary, in my opinion: the greatest obstacles to progress have come from official lies, myths and efforts to keep the people in the dark. For example, the ecclesiastical authorities of the Middle Ages were so afraid of Marco Polo's true accounts of the splendours of far Cathay that they threatened to burn him at the stake if he didn't keep quiet. They feared that if people found out that a 'pagan' civilization could in some ways outshine Christendom, there would be hell to pay. The same thing happened to those who tried to spread Copernicus' findings that the Earth revolves around the Sun, rather than vice versa. Dislodge mankind from the centre of the universe? Never!

An enormous revolution occurred in the Soviet Union because the truth of democracy and human rights, which the Communist party tried to keep from the people, finally could not be contained. In all these cases, the truth-deniers came to be recognized as reactionaries who tried to keep the people in the Dark Ages.

When new truth is given to mankind, it always brings about new and unforeseen advances in human progress. Even if the truth holds dangers, it is better to face the truth with our eyes open like the sentient, spiritual beings that we are.

The politician or statesman who finally succeeds in breaking the off-world denial syndrome will go down in history as a greater liberator than Boris Yeltsin or Mikhail Gorbachev. It is time for us to prepare the ground for such a figure to emerge.

[Hal McKenzie worked as an editorial writer, reporter and editor at the News World newspaper in New York City from 1976, and first became interested in UFOs in 1981, when he was made editor of a weekly supplement called 'UFOs and Cosmic Phenomena'. In 1983, after the paper changed its name to the New York City Tribune, he edited the Commentary and Science sections until it ceased publication in 1991. He is now Current Issues editor at the World & I magazine, a publication of the Washington Times Corporation, in Washington DC.]

ARGUMENTS AGAINST PSYCHOSIS EXPLAINING THE 'ALIEN ABDUCTION' SCENARIO

Brian P James

The subject of the 'Alien Abduction' experience, or what I prefer to term the 'Alien Encounter' experience, is now well-known in both UFO lore and ET lore. Indeed, the same sort of 'otherworldly' experience can be found throughout the legends and mythology of many cultures, so it is not just a 'recent' phenomenon of the UFO era. The number of explanations and theories for this experience are also many and varied, but the one I wish to concentrate on here is the 'explanation' offered by some doctors and psychologists (and indeed some researchers who seek to deny the phenomena!) -- that the experiencer is suffering nothing more than the hallucinatory or delusionary effects of some psychosis. Over a period of four years from 1999 to 2003 I unfortunately had the opportunity to study the effects of such psychoses first-hand, and from this I believe there is a very strong argument against this simply explaining the alien encounter experience/scenario. My observations and conclusions are based on the psychotic experiences of both myself and my late mother, Doris.

At the outset I should make it clear that I am a 'repeater' UFO witness, and indeed a 'repeater experiencer' of various paranormal phenomena, including the alien encounter. I will make it very plain here that, even when viewed against my acknowledged stress-induced psychoses, this does not preclude my ability to make objective observations and conclusions, having been a paranormal investigator/researcher for nearly as long as I have been an experiencer -- I have been both an experiencer and researcher of paranormal phenomena for well over 30 years. To give a further insight into the 'history' of my interest, and the basis for my conclusions here, neither of my parents, nor any of my grandparents, had any interest at all in anything related to sci-fi or any aspect of the paranormal -- at no time was I surrounded by the 'alien imagery' that surrounds children these days from all manner of media. It should be remembered that when I was a child -- in the late 1950s and early 1960s -- there was little sci-fi on the limited hours of television schedules then (the family didn't have a TV until 1962 anyway) or other media (and few existed then, other than comics) to be of any possible influence. After all, Dr Who was the first mainstream sci-fi in the UK, and this was first broadcast in November 1963. In many ways I have never quite grasped just where my keen interest in space, sci-fi and the paranormal was first 'generated'. Details of my experiences have been published in the magazines of various UFO research

groups, such as BUFORA, Contact (UK), SPI, SUFOG and my own group APRA -- the accounts and reports can be found on www.apra.org.uk.

I will now provide a chronological account of experiences by both my late mother and myself.

Over the course of two or three years prior to 1999 I had noticed that my mother had started to suffer a loss of 'will' and was starting to have trouble recalling 'recent' memories. As my mother was by then in her mid-70s, at the time I put it down to the effects of 'old age' that will come to us all. However, in 1999 I noted a significant decline in my mother's mental abilities, and a holiday in August of that year (ironically, to see the solar eclipse) caused an obvious and dramatic decline in her faculties and short-term memory. Unfortunately, when I raised my concerns over possible senile dementia with the family GP, I was told that my mother was normal, and that I was the one with problems -- it defies belief, I know!

In June 2000, during another family holiday, my mother lost all grip on reality -- looking back with hindsight, a common factor in her stages of decline was a change in environment. At this point in June 2000 my mother lost her ability to reason logically, and effectively I suddenly became a stranger (or was 'recognized' as her younger bother) while her 'conscious memory' suddenly regressed over 30 years into the past, to a time when my mother's parents were still alive. Even at this earliest stage in my mother's decline with dementia she was starting to suffer delusions and hallucinations -- such things as characters on the TV were part of the room and the immediate reality. More concerning was that my mother was suddenly hallucinating the presence of her late mother and father, and even her eldest sister, who had died in the early 1950s, and she was communicating with these hallucinations. On the return from what was a very stressful holiday, another GP from the practice had to deal with the immediate problems caused by this dramatic onset of dementia, and he immediately recognised a considerable problem, and immediately engaged the services of the welfare system (which in itself was a huge relief for me). A visit by the Community Practitioner Nurse (CPN) confirmed my mother's dementia, and likely Alzheimer's disease. Subsequent tests by the Optima project at the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford confirmed Alzheimer's disease. Scans confirmed both degeneration of brain tissue and vastly reduced blood supply in the temporal lobe area -- which is of course one area of the brain that psychologists insist is the cause of 'Alien Abduction' experiences when the alleged witness is suffering temporal lobe epilepsy.

Sadly, my mother was never to regain any of her previous faculties, and from that point on needed the ever-increasing support of myself and professional

carers, to the point two years later that she had to be moved into a dedicated home for dementia sufferers.

From the time my mother slipped into this dramatic condition, she began to suffer ever-increasing hallucinations, caused by different 'stimuli':

The inability to recognise one's own image.

Since the conscious memory had receded back in time, my mother no longer recognized herself in a mirror. This inability very quickly led to what, to her, were very stressful situations, whereby "another woman" in "the next room" was constantly mimicking everything my mother tried to do. The only solution to alleviate this stress situation was to remove all mirrors in the home.

The inability to recognise people you know (Prosopagnosia).

Again, as the conscious memory has dramatically receded back in time, present family and friends suddenly become strangers. Indeed, this was one of the most stressful aspects of my mother's decline, as her entire memory and knowledge of me as her son was wiped out in a matter of days. My mother would occasionally partially recognize me as someone she knew, but she could only interpret my appearance as being her father – in reality my grandfather and myself had little in common in appearance, but this only shows how the affected brain can make so little sense of the data presented to it.

The inability to interpret everyday objects logically.

In common with the above, my mother had no faculty to interpret everyday objects logically – and this got progressively worse over time. Examples of this would be: a coat hanging on a hook being a person – my mother increasingly refused to go to the front door because of the "woman" standing by the door – this was a coat on a hook beside the door; or cushions etc on chairs becoming "children". Towards the end of my mother's time in her own home, this form of hallucination got so bad that almost every object in the house became misinterpreted as a 'person' of some description. Except for the 'woman' at the front door, my mother would frequently try to converse with all these imaginary people she perceived around the home, especially the 'children'. Frequently these 'children' would be referred to as her sisters and brother, as they would have been in their childhoods in the 1930s.

It should be clear from the above that my mother suffered at times constant and very stressful hallucinations, and we can only wonder at how awful it

must be for the sufferer when nothing about one's surroundings can be interpreted logically. It is also very clear that despite month after month of hallucinations, my mother never once described anything that she couldn't interpret as either a woman or a child – not once did she hint at anything 'non-human' -- which we can only imagine would have caused considerably more stress and anxiety, as a 'monster' or whatever. Some might argue that she may have misinterpreted a perceived 'alien' as a 'child', but I am convinced that this is clear evidence that temporal lobe degeneration, and its consequences, did not produce any hint of what we think of as an 'alien encounter'.

The second part of this 'study' is based on my own experiences, and how they changed considerably under both stress-induced psychoses and the dramatic effects of prescribed medication to combat this stress.

As I stated earlier, details of my experiences have been published elsewhere, and I will not list them all again here; but, to summarize, they have included:

- * Repeated UFO sightings, from my earliest memories onwards.
- * Repeated alien/ET experiences, again from my earliest memories onwards.
- * Night-time 'visitations' – whether these might be considered as 'alien' or other paranormal phenomena, such as ghosts, is irrelevant for this study.
- * Out-of-body experiences or astral travelling.
- * Repeated paranormal events occurring in and around the home(s).
- * An increase in all the above after my own near-death situation (although not an actual NDE) due to severe illness in January 1992.
- * It was from 1994 onwards that even 'new' phenomena started to occur, such as the 'shadow entities' that I have described elsewhere – and which are described ever-frequently by others.

As can be seen, and as I stated earlier, I have had over 40 years to log, evaluate and make sense of these experiences, and for around 15 years before becoming actively involved in any form of 'research' capacity, when I then began to investigate and evaluate further. I knew, and indeed know, that I am a perfectly sane person who is aware of the unusual going on around me. At no time have I made any outlandish claims of contact – although, arguably, anyone with these or similar experiences over so many years is perhaps closer to the old description of 'contactee' than the prominent claimed 'Contactees'

themselves. I am quite clear in my own mind (no pun intended, given the subject-matter considered here) that I was and am perfectly able to rationalize all such occurrences and events that I was experiencing – I could differentiate them quite easily from normal ‘dreams’ (and we could probably argue for years about what constitutes a dream!)

As noted, my own experiences did increase in frequency after my own serious illness – ulcerative colitis - that started in late 1990, and was ongoing until it finally had to be resolved by urgent corrective surgery in January 1992. After this time -- and this is a common thread – my own comprehension of my own self and spirit changed. Yes, I did change spiritually, and I became more aware of psychic events. However, while such occurrences and experiences increased in frequency, they could still be rationalized as being totally different and separate from ordinary dreams etc. Even during the recovery from surgery, I was able to study the effects of hallucinations, and the differing abilities of the left and right brain to evaluate these. While recovering from significant abdominal surgery (seven hours in theatre) in October 1992, I started to lapse into repeating/cyclical dream experiences where I was either:

- a) turning into a ‘cyborg’ – I had various tubes inserted in all parts of my anatomy as part of normal post-operative procedures, but I just started to hallucinate these tubes multiplying and sprouting from all over my body.
- b) melting – I could see and feel my entire body slowly melting into a pink sludge on the hospital bed!

The second situation above gave me a very clear insight into left and right brain comprehension. During one of my spells of ‘melting into a pink sludge’, one of the nurses – Meena – came round and asked “Are you all right, Brian?” Believe me, half of me was trying to scream “Do I (expletives) look all right – DO SOMETHING!”; but the logical half of me enabled me to know that this wasn’t reality, and I simply said “Yes, fine..”

The reasons for these hallucinations was quite simple, as the painkiller that was provided (for ‘self-administration’ when the pain became too much) was Pethidine – which is very closely related to heroin!

As I have commented above, the situation of being primary carer for my mother (while trying to keep a full-time job to pay the bills) was slowly taking its toll on both my mental and physical strength. This became more so when every effort I made as carer was being rebuffed – the repeated, and then continual, verbal abuse and eventual physical abuse is very hard to take as ‘thanks’ for one’s every effort...

Despite this stress, and its undoubted affects on me mentally, I was still aware and able to rationalize my ‘paranormal experiences’.

By mid-2001 the stress was taking a worrying toll on me both physically and mentally, and I had my first minor breakdown, but there was no hope of respite in terms of resolution by the local authority funding a care-home place (this wasn’t to happen for a further year). I was by now consulting my GP on a regular basis; his view was that medication to counteract my stress and its effects should be sought. Since my GP is also an advocate and practitioner of herbal and indeed homeopathic remedies, initially herbal remedies such as Valerian and St John’s Wort were tried (without prescription). Sadly, these natural medications were unable to counteract the stress in themselves, so my GP reluctantly prescribed ‘modern’ pharmaceutical anti-stress and anti-depressant drugs – over the course of the next few months I was to ‘try’ such medications as Venlafaxine, Amitriptyline, and Clozaril. The effects of these drugs were dramatic, but for all the wrong reasons.

My mental state was hardly helped by any of these pharmaceutical drugs, and indeed they began to exert obvious intense psychoses of their own – a very common side-effect of all such drugs! The most common effect was for me to start experiencing clear hypnopompia and hypnogogia – these experiences were clearly different to what I had been used to while I was ‘normal’. These ‘gogic’ experiences were invariably very painful, such as experiencing being in an operating theatre, and having a maniac surgeon operate on me when I’d had no anaesthesia – can you imagine what it’s like to watch and feel a surgeon – using a scalpel the size of a bread-knife – slice open one’s entire abdomen from bottom to top? I woke up screaming the house down! One such experience (where I thought I was falling off a building), again with very realistic sounds and feelings of excruciating pain as I hit the ground, resulted in a physical shoulder injury that had to be finally corrected by surgery in August 2003. These injuries and pain were at levels I have never before experienced in a dream, or even during my other experiences. All too frequently I would wake up screaming in pain that I had just ‘suffered’ while transitioning the hypnopompic state.

I was finally able to come off all anti-stress and anti-depressant medications when my mother was finally found a care-home place in July 2002. These clearly identifiable ‘gogic’ dreams ended immediately.

So why do I claim/state that drug-related psychoses do not cause or explain the alien encounter scenario? Remember, I had been aware of such ‘alien’ experiences for decades before I started to experience the clear hypnopompia

and hypnogogia. Despite all the 'gogic' experiences, and the sometimes excruciating pain that I was experiencing within them, not once did any of these dreams within this twelve month period involve any sort of UFO or alien component. Again, consider the 'history' of my conscious mind and memories:

* I was a repeater UFO witness and experiencer for decades.

* I was a person who has either studied or researched the subjects of UFOs and aliens (as well as other paranormal subjects) for decades. From these interests alone my subconscious will have stored countless accounts and imagery from what I had accumulated.

It would not be unreasonable to assume that, at some stage in these twelve months of stress/depression/medication-induced psychoses, subconscious images and feelings of an 'alien' nature – whether they were in fact my 'own experience, or merely the recollection of someone else's accounts – would surface again in my 'altered state'; but no, they did not occur once. What are the probabilities that 40 years' worth of subconscious memory of such things would not resurface once in twelve months, under the very conditions that others would claim they should happen? Given all the 'data' that would have been in my subconscious, why did these subconscious thoughts/images never once creep into my mind while under the effects of the drug-induced psychosis?

Surely this is clear evidence that such experiences are not simply the result of psychoses?

References

Robert Jay Lifton - *The Protean Self: Human Resilience in an Age of Fragmentation* (Basic Books, New York, 1993)

Richard McNally and Susan Clancy, Ph.D - Harvard study into claims of alien abduction (see <http://www.news.harvard.edu/gazette/2003/02.20/01-alien.html>)

Martin Kottmeyer - Abductions: The Boundary Deficit Hypothesis (Skeptical?), *Magonia*, 32, March 1988

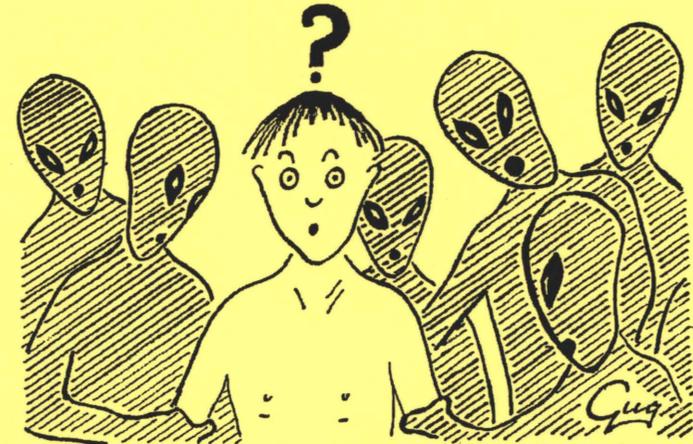
RIMA E. LAIBOW, M.D - Clinical Discrepancies Between Expected and Observed Data in Patients Reporting UFO Abductions: Implications For Treatment (<http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Rampart/2271/fs-abduclaibow.html>)

Stuart Appelle - *The Abduction Experience: A Critical Evaluation of Theory and Evidence*, in the *Journal of UFO Studies*, #6

Don Donderi, Ph.D - *The Scientific Context of the UFO/Abduction Phenomenon*, *International UFO Reporter*, Spring 1996, Volume 21, No. 1

John Mack - *Abduction: Human Encounters With Aliens* (1995); (Also see <http://centerchange.org/projects/project.asp?id=14>)

Budd Hopkins - *Sight Unseen: Science, UFO Invisibility and Transgenic Beings* (2003); *Witnessed* (1996); (also see <http://www.intrudersfoundation.org>)



"Please understand us – this abduction is purely psychological and only taking place in your mind..."



LETTERS

Members who wish to express any opinions, ideas or comments are invited to write to Pegasus at the address on page 2. We reserve the right to edit any submission. Ed.

NEWS IN BRIEF/ SIGHTINGS ROUNDUP

Mars - Rover Opportunity Washed With Water?

New Scientist magazine reports that something, or someone, is regularly cleaning layers of dust from the solar panels of the Mars Opportunity vehicle while it was closed down during the Martian night. The Rover Opportunity is getting washed each night and this has boosted its performance by cleaning its panels' power output close to their maximum 900 watt-hours per day. At one stage its power output dropped to 500 watt-hours because of the heavy Martian dirt. Heavy dust has dropped the Spirit Rover to 400 watt-hours a day on the other side of the planet. Rover team leader Jim Erickson says, "These exciting and unexplained cleaning events have kept Opportunity in really great shape!"

Scientists Fear Alien Attack on Earth

Scientists have warned that we may soon be under attack – from planet Mars. They are concerned that the Earth's defences are too weak and unprepared to withstand a determined alien invasion from the Red Planet. Sounds like science fiction? Well, it's a fact - space probes exploring Mars may contaminate Earth with deadly diseases on their return. Experts say humans could be at risk of infections for which there are no known cures and could wipe out life on our planet. The warning comes after scientists studied data from the Opportunity probe, which landed on Mars in January. Jeffrey Kargel, of the US Geological Survey, told The Sun: "Before proceeding with sample returns or human missions to Mars, we must review measures for planetary biological protection." Dr Kargel said it seemed increasingly likely that life had existed there.

#####

The views expressed in Pegasus are those of the articles' authors and are not necessarily those of the editor, or of SIGAP.

#####