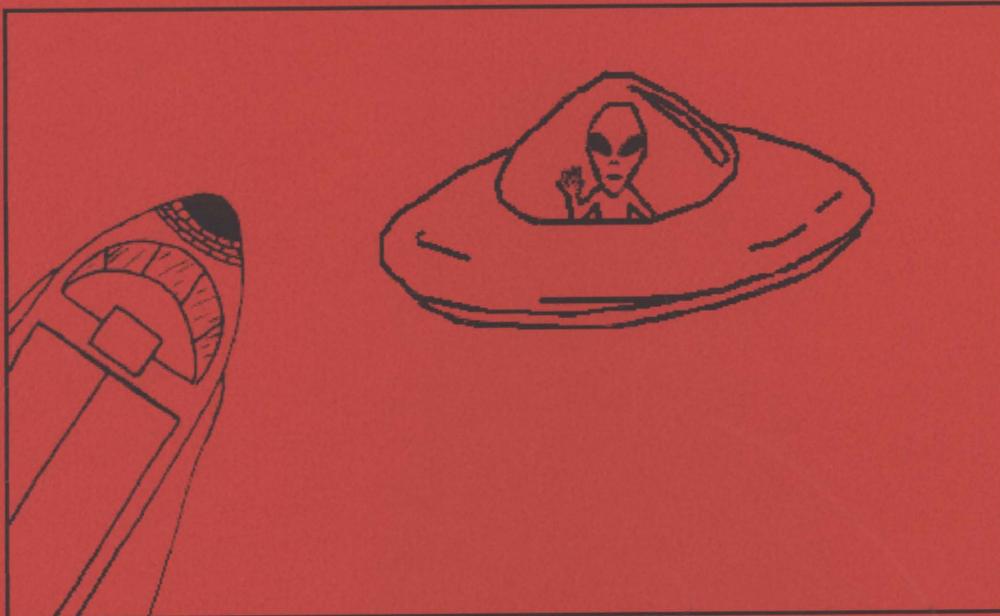


YUFOS

YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY

PROJECT RED BOOK

(Vol 3 #9 March 2000)



I can see them getting confussed between a Shuttle, Bird, and a Plane. But us ? I don't think so. We would also like to say a big hello to our friends on the foreign part of your planet.....
Hey up me old cocks r thy allreet?

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£1:50



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Album of the Month: "Homegrown" by Marc Park

To re-print articles in this magazine please enquire at the above address- that means me, Dave. I'm sure to say "yes", but it is nice to ask first, y'know?

The articles and views expressed in this magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, YUFOS members, or

"This is not a good day to be a bad-guy..."

AN INTERVIEW WITH BILL CHALKER (pt.3)

Born in Grafton, New South Wales (NSW), Australia, Bill Chalker is his country's premier ufologist. He was educated at the University of New England, and graduated with an Honours Science Degree (B.Sc.Hons.) with majors in Chemistry and Mathematics. Since 1975 he has worked in the food industry as an industrial chemist, laboratory manager and quality manager. He is the author of "The Oz Files - the Australian UFO Story" published in 1996, and is a contributing editor of the acclaimed International UFO Reporter (IUR), the journal of the Centre for UFO Studies Bill also co-ordinates the NSW UFO INVESTIGATION CENTRE (UFOIC). He was the Australian representative for the Aerial Phenomena Research Organisation (APRO) from 1978 to 1986, and NSW state representative for the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) from 1976 to 1993. His articles on UFOs have appeared in IUR, Flying Saucer Review, The Australiasian Ufologist and he contributed "Physical traces" to BUFORA's "UFOs: 1947 - 1987 - the 40-year search for an explanation."

Dave Baker: The Peter Khoury case (*Project Red Book Vol 3 # 6*) is certainly fascinating and has truly phenomenal implications if it is *literally* true...Has it changed your opinion of the Alien Abduction phenomenon?

Bill Chalker: Not really, at this stage. I would feel more comfortable with the rather amazing things coming out via this case if they were supported by many other cases. The case has confirmed to me that if abduction cases really occur then evidence like this should be procurable in large amounts. So more that anything it is a challenge for the reality of abduction cases. It is perhaps instructive to witness my slow evolution in the area of abductions.

In my own research into Australian "abduction" events, from my earliest work in the seventies to more recent events, it has been difficult not to hold the position that most abduction cases have perhaps told me more about the human condition than they have about UFOs. I'm sure there are many who might argue the point but I can only speak my mind here as it has been directed by the evidence uncovered in almost 2 decades of exposure to abduction stories in Australia. During that period there have been cases of an abduction nature I have looked into that have stood out, but they have been in the minority. The majority of these type of cases have been conspicuously devoid of compelling physical evidence.

The 1993 Narre Warren incident is one of the few compelling exceptions and this is because we are dealing with an event that appears to involve physical evidence and 3 groups of apparently independent witnesses that may confirm a disquieting reality. A woman, Kelly Cahill, contacted me back on October

4th, 1993, seeking assistance in understanding a bizarre experience she had near the outer Melbourne suburban housing estate of Narre Warren North, in the foothills of the Dandenongs, Victoria, between Belgrave and Fountain Gate, during the early hours of August 8th, 1993.

This incident has been now extensively documented. My own account of the complex episode appeared in the *"International UFO Reporter"*, September/October, 1994, in *"An Extraordinary Encounter in the Dandenong Foothills"*. See also Kelly Cahill *"Encounter"* (1996), Bill Chalker *"The Oz Files - the Australian UFO story"* (1996) pgs. 9-16, Keith Basterfield *"UFOs - a report on Australian encounters"* (1997) pgs. 123-128.

It appears to involve independent confirmation of a close encounter of the third kind (CE3) and "missing time" milieu, in that at least two, possibly 3, independent groups of people unknown to each other have witnessed the same UFO encounter, entities and also experienced missing time, and 2 of the groups have been available to investigators and researchers. Perhaps for the first time independent witnesses have been able to provide information that enabled cross checking and correlations to reveal a striking degree of similar information, therefore offering a compelling case for the reality of the strange events described. The ontological status of the events is further strengthened by a range of apparently related physical traces, including ground traces, a low-level magnetic anomaly apparently consistent with the locality of the UFO encounter and effects on some of the witnesses.

I referred Kelly Cahill, who proved to be central to the unravelling of an independently witnessed CE3 event with apparent

"abduction" dimensions, to John Auchettl and his group Phenomena Research Australia (PRA). They had 2 different laboratories confirm a number of unusual anomalies and magnetic problems at the apparent site of the UFO landing. There appeared to be some interesting changes in soil chemistry - an above average sulphur content, the presence of pyrene (which occurs in coal tar and is also obtained by the destructive hydrogenation of hard coal) and tannic acid - in a crescent shaped indentation. There was a triangle formation of dead grass on the ground, spaced out in the site. The apparent physical effects at the site of this UFO event seem to have had a destructive effect on the grass.

The physical dimensions of the events in the Dandenongs on August 8th, 1993, may represent compelling evidence for a reality behind abduction events. Although after 5 years we still have not seen the PRA evidence in detail, the case is a striking example of the importance of focusing on the physical evidence for extraordinary UFO events. Such a strategy will provide a compelling pivot point of insightful research into the nature and purpose of UFO activity.

However, cases like Narre Warren (1993) are generally rare. Typically most abduction events have little or no direct evidence. The little physical evidence for alien abductions that we know of is at best ambiguous. "Implants", "missing foetuses", "scars" and other abduction related anomalies have still to explicitly substantiate the reality of abductions.

As a scientist myself, I have seen time and time gain how rarely high quality science in a sustained fashion has been brought to bear on "the UFO problem". There seems too often to be a knee-jerk rejecting of even the possibility that there might be something to UFOs - the true enquiring spirit and the disciplines of science have not often entered the UFO debate. The subject, and human knowledge, is all the poorer for that. Popular culture has often filled the void left by the inattention of science. Dr. Allen Hynek devoted a chapter of *"The UFO Experience - A Scientific Inquiry"* (1972) to the problem, namely *"Science Is Not Always What Scientists Do"*.

I have been working with a group of "invisible college" specialists, in attempting to bring hard science to the controversial area of abductions.

Peter's case provided an excellent opportunity for a different strategy - one that had not been

tried before - the biological approach in which powerful DNA techniques are being utilised to examine possible physical evidence from apparent alien abduction episodes. Indeed if these bizarre abduction episodes occur in some way at a physical level (at least as we understand it) then from the DNA perspective there should be potential physical evidence available. In this case we have a controversial hair sample - "alien hair"? We have undertaken a mitochondrial DNA sequence analysis using the polymerase chain reaction (PCR) technique - of a shed hair from this apparent alien abduction case. This approach has allowed us to provide a measure of reality to an experience that would otherwise be deemed just too bizarre. Without this level of unusual scientific validation, the incident involved would be no less unbelievable than most other abduction related episodes. The case now has the benefit of an unlikely level of scientific evidence which lends it credibility and hints at unusual and hitherto unsuspected connections.

Without this evidence, the case involved would be like any other alien abduction account - a bizarre story without any evidence to support its reality. The evidence we have uncovered suggests possible connections which may require us to consider new and novel possibilities in terms of the possible biological nature of at least some of the alleged beings implicated in alien abduction experiences, and to also consider what is ultimately going on here. Unlike many investigators and researchers in this area I will not be rushing to judgement with regard to what all this means. I remind you that this is the first such study of its nature. If we had a hundred like it we would be certainly a great deal more confident in getting an answer to this fascinating area of enquiry.

Do you have any doubts about Peter's story?

After becoming aware of the 1992 episode, I discussed it informally with Peter on a number of occasions. When it became clear that biochemical examination of the hair sample was producing some interesting results, I sat down with Peter and undertook a more extended and recorded interview on February 8th, 1999. Nothing that emerged from that interview contradicted or exaggerated the previous recollections he had described to me intermittently over a 3-year period. I have talked to a number of people who heard aspects of the experience from Peter soon after

it had occurred. Some of them have mentioned a few minor details that vary slightly, but there is no evidence to suggest that his recollections described below inaccurately convey the substantial detail of the episode. Beside it is first hand from the witness himself and not a recollection of individuals who heard fragments of the story. I will note that since getting to know Peter Khoury since 1993 I have found him to be a friendly and reliable person. He has at times become passionate and volatile about his cause and does not suffer those he feels do an injustice or dishonour the integrity of those who genuinely feel they experience alien abductions. He remains open to the eventual nature of these experiences but calls for serious and ethical research and support of abductees. Over the course of the last 6 years Peter and I have become friends.

Are there any updates on the forensic work? I know that much funding is needed to progress further...

Work has continued on the samples utilising the root of the hair. The initial results have apparently been confirmed but further striking findings have been made. I'm right in the middle of trying to make sense of all of the new findings. Work is still continuing and we have had some offers of substantial funding. If these are realised then further work will be possible. We hope to be able to release further updates in a few months time, but I want to subject all of the further work and results to detailed critical evaluation and peer review.

You would imagine that scientific groups would be falling over themselves to work on the case. Why do you think that the opposite is true?

My PCR biochemical colleague addresses this best:

"Great progress could be made if both UFO and alien abduction studies were accepted within the scientific community as viable research, so as to deserve open discussion and funding of a high priority. Scientists of all kinds could then work with competent anomaly investigators as we have done here, to obtain samples for research; while the primary providers of such evidence need not be scorned, but could be treated as favourably as say Schliemann who found Troy, or some archaeologist who finds a novel human skeleton. Why should any science be "forbidden"?"

I have been fortunate to have been able to work with other scientists over the years in a variation of "the invisible college". It has been an informal network of scientists who all view the UFO phenomenon as worthy of serious attention. Many of these "college" colleagues prefer to contribute in a confidential way because "the UFO problem" is seen as a "forbidden science". The frustrating thing is not that many scientists should be sceptical about UFOs, but that they should ignore what is often compelling evidence. However the impact of the "court of science" and the "politics of science" is powerful. "Forbidden science" does not as yet win the support of mainstream science.

Moving on, you have done much work investigating the role of the Australian Military and Government in UFO reports. How deeply involved are they, and have you found similar evidence of a 'cover-up', much favoured by U.S. and British conspiracy theorists?

Two polarised positions had emerged. The RAAF was covering up its high level involvement in an international "cover-up" of UFO facts, perhaps in concert with the US Air Force. Or, the RAAF was bureaucratically locked into a responsibility it had long since decided was a waste of time, but continued as a service to the general public.

From the RAAF's point of view, they have been, as Australia's "official governmental examiner" of UFO reports, locked into a bureaucratically orchestrated responsibility, which for a long time they have seen as a waste of their time. They may have allayed possible fear and alarm by the general public and satisfied the government that there is no apparent defence implication. However the RAAF appear to be as confused and uncertain, as many civilian groups, on what to do about provocative UFO sightings. The RAAF largely solved that dilemma by ignoring the implications of their "unknown" cases and providing, what many saw as unlikely explanations for intractable reports.

In contrast, from 1955 and particularly in the wake of the striking Gill testimony, the RAAF began a retreat from their original open minded position. By then the growing number of sightings had turned into "the UFO problem" - a problem with uncertain and controversial public relation, military and political dimensions. To them the situation was embodied in the determination that they were

dealing with "the UFO problem" - a problem with uncertain and controversial public relations and political dimensions. Controversy about possible unknown interlopers in our airspace could not be tolerated, and officialdom was moving towards effectively managing "the problem". The scientific ethic never really got off the ground. It had been effectively scuttled and was in retreat. The scientific approach had been pushed aside with the rejection of nuclear physicist Harry Turner's secret study of the Directorate of Air Force Intelligence (DAFI) UFO files. The military and political ethic had begun its long march of dominating the official approach to the UFO controversy. The decades to follow would prove to be controversial and exciting as the Australian UFO controversy continued its evolution.

Given the rich history of political and military machinations that quite often effectively prevented opportunities for real science, the policy statement alluding to "the scientific record" is particularly perplexing. As a scientist who has examined in detail the RAAF "record" I can state with some certainty that their record was not particularly scientific and was largely defined by two criteria - national security and political expediency.

Given the intriguing but apocryphal nature of many "military" stories, there can be no doubt about why many researchers have wanted to penetrate the military restrictions on examining the government UFO files. I have done that and gone somewhat further, tracking down key players in the government secret involvement in the UFO controversy. The official story I have been able to put together is based on direct access to their files and numerous discussions with participants in the official and confirmable story. One thing should be stated. With regard to the RAAF Directorate of Air Force Intelligence files I am satisfied that I have had access to a generally unbroken record of files reaching back to the 1950s. I have accessed the old Department of Aviation files. Other files remain to be examined that have bigger obstacles. These include the JIB/JIO (now Defence Intelligence organisation) files and ASIO files. Attempts have been made to examine any holdings they may have without success. As far as I am aware the RAAF files are the most detailed holdings of official files, but without access to possible holdings with JIO and ASIO it is impossible to be certain if this is the case.

Talking of conspiracies, Australia has its "own Area 51", in the infamous Pine Gap. Does the place deserve its sinister reputation? Does it have UFO connections?

Pine Gap (code named 'Merino') located near Alice Springs and described as a "Joint Defence Space Research Facility", has long been a subject of concern and attracted some mystique, principally because of its clandestine role in intelligence gathering. Much is known about its sensitive role as a ground station for the US defence satellite programme and its part in the NSA and CIA presence in Australia. With this sort of shadowy activity, it should not be surprising that Pine Gap has become a focus of a number of apocryphal UFO related stories.

The now defunct "Nation Review" reported on Pine Gap's role in "scifi research" in its "Spying Around" column, in 1974. William H. Martin stated:

"The Pine Gap research facility near Alice Springs has managed to keep secret, until now, one of the most unbelievable research projects in the world.

"The United States has been carrying out continuous research into electromagnetic propulsion (EMP for short) at Pine Gap since it was established in 1966 ... I understand that last minute flaws in the design and operation of the EMP vehicles have probably put the completion date back by four years (to 1979).

"Research into electromagnetic propulsion began in the United States soon after world war two. After some successful results it became necessary to move the experimentation from populated areas to more remote spots...."

"Security aspects of the EMP project have included hypnotic and post hypnotic keys implanted in personnel prior to their acceptance into the project"

William H. Martin was apparently a pseudonym for a writer on intelligence matters and the name of a major NSA defector - perhaps the pseudonym was an inside joke. Nothing further appeared on that curious story, except for Stan Deyo's airing of the same story in his book "The Cosmic Conspiracy" in 1978. He was a proponent of top secret "flying saucer" research - or what he referred to as "electro-gravitic propulsion systems".

Retired NASA scientist and UFO researcher Dr. Richard Haines alludes to an undated newspaper story, describing how a Perth newspaper received two visitors claiming to be Pine Gap employees. They allegedly spoke of "*electromagnetic devices which manifested themselves as UFOs and even alien beings at Pine Gap.*" Professor John Frodsham of Western Australia was told of the experience of 3 roo shooters. They alleged that at about 4.30 am, one morning, from a ridge overlooking Pine Gap, they witnessed a camouflaged door open up within the facility. A circular metallic looking craft rose vertically and silently and then took off at high speed.

One of the most bizarre and unbelievable stories I have come across involves a man who claims not only alien contact and abduction, but to have been taken aboard a UFO and flown into a base beneath Pine Gap, where evidence of "alien liaison" between aliens and the military and government was occurring on a cosmic scale!

Greg, as I will call him, had a very strange story to tell me. The circumstances of its telling, were almost as strange as the details it contained. It is a story of *alienation* in the sense that we were dealing with an individual caught up in a complex milieu of his own making, with its basis either in fact or fiction. If true, albeit unlikely, we are dealing with an *alien nation* and *alien liaison*. This situation may have been more about the inner self of Greg than any alien reality, but I'll let you be the judge.

Greg claimed that what alarmed him about his "alien liaison" relationship was what he saw going on at the secret bases he claims he went to. He claims "abductions" were occurring. He described seeing people being subjected to cruel abduction procedures in the bases. He saw the beings involved as ultimately cruel and ruthless and began to fear for his own safety. His perception was that he was being evolved into a "men in black" type role. His descriptions of activities and places vary from the elaborate to the vague.

It would be easy for us to rationalise all of this as the product of story telling on the part of Greg. We were never absolutely certain of the ultimate status of the affair, except for the reality that there was not a shred of compelling evidence to back up the whole bizarre milieu.

Is it true that researchers into the STS-48 footage extrapolated that the 'beams' or

whatever they were seemed to be coming from that area of Australia?

This story emerged primarily from a local advocate of Cathie's UFO grid theory. I have not seen compelling evidence to substantiate Pine Gap as a source of the "beam weapon" idea. Some background on the Cathie grid idea will perhaps explain why I'm a little skeptical on this link. Fringe ufology has bred a bizarre theory about UFO navigation and technology. Cathie's theory are not taken seriously by mainstream researchers, but he enjoys a following in the fringe worlds of conspiracies, alternate technology and suppressed knowledge.

Airline pilot Bruce Cathie became New Zealand's most prolific and widely read author on UFO matters. He had had a number of sightings the most interesting being an underwater one in 1965. Following research into local sightings he developed a complex UFO power grid theory, that he extended to a global grid. This was his answer to the UFO mystery. Soon he was linking his grid to all manner of things including earthquakes, volcanoes, ancient monuments and atomic bomb explosions.

Looking at the idea that UFOs might fly in straight lines was not new. French ufologist, Aime Michel developed the hypothesis of orhoteny, in his 1958 book "*Flying Saucers and the straight line mystery*", but subsequent research revealed his alignments to be explainable by chance. Cathie's elaborate offerings were more complex and also riddled with errors, flaws of mathematics and woolly and wild thinking. Fundamental errors emerged from the very beginning. The first grid line established over New Zealand was in all probability a spectacular meteor. There was good reason to accept that the Eitanin "aerial" photo he uses as evidence for a main grid point of Cape Horn was a large marine plant rather than an alien artefact. Cathie used harmonic mathematical relationships and manipulations in such a way that they invalidate the real world applications he makes. It may have approximated pure mathematics, certainly not applied mathematics, but his works closest cousin seemed to be numerology. Such matters are not important to Cathie who pursues his theory with all the vigour and passion of the true believer. Criticism does not seem to be taken lightly by Cathies' widespread fans, and my comments will no doubt be viewed rather darkly.

Is your research limited to the UFO field, or do you investigate other paranormal and cryptozoological mysteries?

UFOs certainly dominate my time, but I have and do investigate more widely, particularly Fortean material, particularly the so-called paranormal and cryptozoological mysteries. I have privately shared my work in these areas with associates more fully involved in these fields. This loss networking arrangement has been operating for decades. I have also had a long-term interest in shamanism.

Have you ever found any connection between UFOs and other 'unusual' phenomena, such as Yowie sightings?

I have not seen any compelling evidence for a connection with Yowies. However my friend and associate Mark Moravec did publish a catalogue/study re UFO anthropoid cases. It is intriguing, but hardly compelling.

The evidence for a psychic connection is intriguing, but what is psychic? Someone's psychic event might be someone else's natural or advanced faculty or technology. Arthur Clark's adage, any sufficiently advanced technology might look like magic to others, might be relevant here.

Which is the single-most important case you have investigated, in your opinion?

Because of my background as a physical scientist my bias is naturally towards cases that involved physical evidence. It's hard to stick to one. Three stand out for me. 1980 Rosedale, 1993 Narre Warren & 1992 Sydney (Peter Khoury) has been especially important. I'll describe the first 2, as I have already referred to Peter's case.

The Gippsland region of Victoria took centre stage during the latter half of 1980 with a puzzling array of events that featured the disappearance of substantial bodies of water. By far the most interesting of these and certainly one of the most interesting physical trace cases to have occurred in Australia was the UFO landing that took place on September 30th, near Rosedale.

Awakened by stock disturbances, the caretaker of a property observed the passage of an extraordinary object - a domed object with a white top, moving at about 8 feet above the ground. Orange and blue lights could be made out on its surface. The UFO was apparently 28

feet in diameter and some 15 feet high. The object hovered for a short time over an open 10,000 gallon water tank. It then landed on the ground, some 50 feet from the tank. The caretaker approached the object on a motorbike to within 30 to 50 feet. A whistling noise had been heard up until the advent of "an awful scream". A black tube appeared around the base of the UFO. There was a tremendous bang, and the object lifted up and left the landing site. The witness was almost knocked off his bike with a blast of hot air. At about 30 feet out from the landing site and at an altitude of 8 to 10 feet, the object fell silent. At this point debris (largely stones, cape-weed and cow dung) fell away from the base of the object. The UFO was eventually lost to view in the east. The caretaker rode onto the landing site and confirmed a ring of "black" flattened grass, some 30 feet across. Disorientated, the witness eventually found his way back to his house.

With daylight, the caretaker returned to the landing site and found the ring stood out clearly in the blanket of yellow flowers then in the paddock. The ring was near black or brown in colour, consisting of grass flattened in an anticlockwise manner to a width of 18 inches. Inside the ring was only green grass. The yellow flowers had been removed. The total diameter of the site was 28 feet. Evenly spaced within the ring were 6 "spokes" of relatively undamaged grass. Debris led out from the site, consistent with the material seen falling from the UFO during the night. Other extraordinary effects were reported. 10,000 gallons of water that had been in the water tank had vanished. Muddy residue in the middle of the base of the tank was built up in a cone shape to a height of about 2 feet. If the tank had been emptied by prosaic means it would have shown signs of being emptied from the side of the tank.

The witness experienced an unusual recurring headache for 7 to 8 days. Vomiting and diarrhoea also persisted for the same period of time. For 3 days after the incident, the witness's watch refused to work when he tried to wear it. Before and after this period it worked without any problems.

Samples taken by the author were subjected to extensive analyses. Of particular interest was that in December, 1980, another series of traces (namely 10 altogether: 3 x 5 yards diameter, 1 x 4 yards, 1 x 3 yards, 4 x 2 feet, and 1 x 10 yards, all being "rings" as in the Rosedale case) were found at Bundalaguah,

near Montgomery Park, not far from Rosedale. The traces were again associated with losses of water in a nearby reservoir. As the annulus widths of the Montgomery Park rings were identical to those of Rosedale they were seen as a possible area of comparison. The variety of ring diameters reported at Montgomery Park also heightened the likelihood of prosaic causes (e.g. "fairy rings"). Although similarities and differences were found in the analyses, it was not possible to confirm any prosaic explanations.

Like so many high strangeness physical traces the Rosedale case would have benefited from a thorough, professional study. Our analyses were limited but not through lack of trying. The Rosedale case still stands as a compelling UFO landing event with inconclusive physical trace data, a situation that occurs with virtually all high strangeness traces cases world-wide.

Kelly Cahill contacted me back on October 4th, 1993, seeking assistance in understanding a bizarre experience she had near the outer Melbourne suburban housing estate of Narre Warren North, in the foothills of the Dandenongs, Victoria, between Belgrave and Fountain Gate, during the early hours of August 8th, 1993.

This incident has been now extensively documented. My own account of the complex episode appeared in the "International UFO Reporter", September/October, 1994, in "An Extraordinary Encounter in the Dandenong Foothills". It appears to involve independent confirmation of a CE3 and "missing time" milieu, in that two groups of people unknown to each other have witnessed the same UFO encounter, entities and also experienced missing time, and each group has been available to competent and serious investigators and researchers. Perhaps for the first time independent witnesses have been able to provide information that enabled cross checking and correlations to reveal a striking degree of similar information, therefore offering a compelling case for the reality of the strange events described. The ontological status of the events is further strengthened by a range of apparently related physical traces, including ground traces, a low level magnetic anomaly apparently consistent with the locality of the UFO encounter and effects on some of the witnesses.

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The physical dimensions of the events in the Dandenongs on August 8th, 1993, may represent compelling evidence for a reality behind abduction events. The case is a striking example of the importance of focusing on the physical evidence for extraordinary UFO events. Such a strategy will provide a compelling pivot point of insightful research into the nature and purpose of UFO activity.

As we have shown in this interview, Australia is no different from the USA or England when it comes to all aspects of the UFO phenomenon. Does this include the so-called 'animal mutilations?'

I have not seen any compelling evidence for a link in the Australian UFO experience. There are a few tantalising stories, such as some cases from the sixties in the northern New South Wales area, but these all fall short of strong evidence.

Which books in your own library would you consider the most important to any UFO researcher?

- *"The UFO Experience"* by J. Allen Hynek (1972)
- *"The UFO Enigma - a new review of the physical Evidence"* by Peter Sturrock (1999) (additionally in this area *"Confrontations"* by Jacques Vallee (1990) and *"UFO Reality"* by Jenny Randles (1983).
- *"The UFO Handbook"* by Allen Hendry (1980) (as handy supplements of, but not replacements of Hendry's work, in the same vein I would suggest *"UFO Study"* by Jenny Randles (1981), *"Observing UFOs - An investigative Handbook"* by Richard Haines (1980), *"Casebook of a UFO Investigator"* by Raymond Fowler

(1981). *"The UFO Investigator's Handbook"* by Craig Glenday (1999) & *"The UFO Investigator's Guide"* by David Coomer (1999) - all of these have some good "pearls" for the prospective UFO researcher and investigator - mostly in the area of anchoring them, some that they might be well balanced in evaluating more extraordinary data)

- *"At the Threshold"* by Charles Emmons (1997)
- *"UFOs 1947 1987"* edited by Hilary Evans & John Spencer (1987), *"Phenomenon"* edited by John Spencer & Hilary Evans (1987) and *"UFOs 1947- 1997"* edited by Hilary Evans & Dennis Stacy (1997)
- As reasonable overviews of the abduction issue, with strengths & weaknesses in each: *"Dark White"* by Jim Schnabel (1994), *"Close Encounters of the Fourth Kind"* by C.D.B. Bryan (1995) and *"The complete book of aliens & abductions"* by Jenny Randles (1999).
- For encyclopedic overviews: Jerome Clark's *"The UFO Encyclopedia"* (1980) and Ron Story's *"The Encyclopedia of UFOs"* (1998). John Spencer's *"The UFO Encyclopedia"* (1991) & Margaret Sach's *"The UFO Encyclopedia"* (1980) are also useful.

Does Australian UFO research differ from that of other countries in the world?

I see Australia as a potent microcosm of UFO experience, investigation and research. We seem to have manifestations of the broad spectrum of each. In many respects, because of our geographical isolation we have had the advantage of some insulation from the some of the extreme aspects seen abroad. However with the global village developing, physically and virtually, we are seeing substantial eroding of that insulatory isolation. We have the best and worst of all things represented overseas, however it seems to me we have less tolerance for the worst excesses and stupidity that sometimes bobs up in the world of ufology.

The Internet however, despite its obvious communication advantages is increasingly eroding the critical faculties of many ufologists - the dumbing down of the field has long been underway. I hope that slide can be arrested through a more critical ufo movement. We should concentrate on the best evidence, not the worst. We see often the worst evidence seemingly guiding speculation and research. We should concentrate, in particular on

physical evidence type cases, if we are ever going to try to emerge from the fringe areas that much of the subject habitates.

What has you the most excited in your work at the moment?

The DNA forensic work has led to some fascinating results and I aim to try to take that as far as it can go. Hopefully it will emerge as a good example of science being applied in the most controversial aspect of ufology - namely abductions.

Also, I am continuing my focus on historical research. The Sign Historical Group was recently formed. Its goals are consistent with mine and I am strongly advocating the need to better document our history - both its natural phenomenological aspects and its social dimensions. This concentration on history will I hope have some benefits in learning from the lessons of the past - as they say, if you do not learn from history, you will be condemned to relive it. I hope we will learn from the best and worst aspects of the past and use those lessons to optimise current advances and research strategies.

Thanks for a fascinating and mammoth interview Bill. Good luck in your future endeavours...

In the next issue of
PROJECT RED BOOK

An Interview With
DR. DAVID CLARKE,

on

*folklore, UFOs, the
paranormal, and of course,*

*THE HOWDEN MOOR
INCIDENT*

PROSAIC EXPLANATIONS: THE FAILURE OF UFO SKEPTICISM (Part 3)

by Bruce Maccabee

(brumac@compuserve.com)

c B. Maccabee, 1999

*"In over 30 years of UFO investigation I have not
studied a single sighting for which I could
not find a prosaic explanation."*

-Paraphrase of a statement

by Philip J. Klass

Recently some skeptics have proposed that Arnold saw a flight of geese or pelicans heading southward at high altitude (about 9,000 feet). These birds were proposed because they are large and can fly quite rapidly, perhaps up to fifty miles per hour. Of course they would have been quite close to Arnold for him to see them (an eighty foot long object at twenty miles has the same apparent [angular] size as a four foot long object at one mile). Of course, these birds would not cause bright mirror-like reflections of the Sun but, as skeptics often do, they tried to convince people that Arnold incorrectly reported the bright "flashing" of these objects (perhaps assuming that Arnold got it wrong or simply lied about it). They also overlooked the implications of Arnold's claim that he turned his plane and rolled down his window to look at the objects with no intervening glass. Since he was sitting on the left side of the plane it is logical to assume, although Arnold did not explicitly say so, that he turned the plane to the right and rolled down the left hand window to look eastward toward the objects. At this time he would have been flying southward, roughly parallel to the flight path of the objects for a short time. Arnold did not report his air speed. However, because of the type of aircraft he was flying his speed would definitely have been above a stall speed of about eighty mph and probably above 100 mph. In any case he would have realised immediately that he was gaining on these objects. He would have realised that they were relatively slow compared to his speed and certainly he wouldn't have estimated the speed at anything like 1,700 miles per hour, or even 100 miles per hour. In other words, had they been birds, even if unrecognised by Arnold, he would have had no reason to think that he was seeing radically new aircraft with extreme flight capabilities, so his whole report would have to be a fabrication.

In June, 1997, just in time for the Fiftieth Anniversary of Arnold's sighting, *San Francisco Examiner* science writer Keay Davidson published another explanation: meteors. The details of the explanation are given in a small monthly publication by Philip Klass which he calls the *Skeptics UFO Newsletter* (SKUFON; issue #46 of July 1997). (One wonders why it took fifty years for this explanation to be proposed. Could it be that previous skeptics considered this to be just too "outrageous?") Mr. Klass has been writing articles and books purporting to explain UFO sightings over the last thirty years, yet he has not previously "explained" the Arnold sighting. (His first book, *UFOs Identified*, was published in 1968.)

According to Mr. Klass, writing in SKUFON, the new explanation was published by Mr. Davidson after some research that was "sparked by a conversation" with Mr. Klass. The exact nature of this conversation was not reported, but one may imagine Klass suggested that Davidson ought to check on the possibility that Arnold saw meteors. According to Klass, after some research Davidson discovered that "the number of meteor falls reaches a peak around 3:00 p.m." in June in the northern hemisphere. Arnold's sighting occurred at 3:00 p.m., June 24, 1947. Thus, according to Klass' article, the large number of meteors detected in June lends support to the meteor hypothesis. (The astute reader will note the careful, "lawyerly" use of words: "lends support to" which is not the same as "proves" or "is evidence for.")

Klass' SKUFON article mentions Arnold's statement that the objects seemed bright and shiny as if reflecting the Sun. By way of comparison and explanation, Klass cites a 6:00 p.m., June, 5, 1969 pilot sighting, which he claims turned out to be several meteors, in order to point out that meteors, when seen in

the daytime, can look as if they are shiny metal. These pilots saw the bright objects seeming to come toward them (i.e., they were looking along the trajectory of the objects) and thought they were looking at shiny metallic objects. The pilots thought the objects were close, when in fact they were over a hundred miles away.

Klass also points out that pilots can make errors (as if we didn't know that!). The implication is that if the 1969 pilots could mistake daytime meteors for UFOs, then perhaps Arnold did also. However, the Arnold sighting was quite different from the 1969 sighting.

Arnold reported seeing repeated bright flashes at varying time intervals from nine objects travelling one after another, along a roughly horizontal trajectory. Their altitude was about 6,000 feet (since they travelled at the level of the mountain peaks south of Mt. Rainier). He realised that the flashes occurred as the objects tilted steeply to the left and right as they flew along a southward path. Arnold concluded that the flashes were a result of reflections of light from the Sun, which was high in the sky to the west (behind him). The objects flew southward past Mt. Rainier and, when they weren't tilted, he saw them as thin dark lines silhouetted against the snow on the sides of Mt. Rainier. When they were tilted but not aligned with the Sun, so as to make a bright flash, he saw them as semi-circular at the front with convex, somewhat pointed rear ends (one object seemed to have a double concave crescent shape at the rear).

By way of contrast, meteors which are travelling fast enough to glow (or, actually, to cause the air around them to glow) do not dim to the point of being "not bright" and then brighten again, repeatedly. This is because, as Klass correctly points out, what causes the light is the high velocity of the meteor passing through atmosphere. The meteor is travelling so fast that it "instantaneously" heats the air as it passes through. (Note: Klass gives a meteor speed as 10,000 mph or 2.8 mi/sec. However, this is lower than that of any body entering the earth's atmosphere from space. Free fall to the earth from a great distance would produce a speed of about 7.4 mi/sec at the earth's surface in the absence of atmosphere. Orbital speed, which is lower than meteoric speed, but still large enough to cause a plasma in the upper atmosphere, is about 5 mi/sec.) This heating is a very rapid process caused by the meteor compressing the

air ahead of it and raising the temperature (kinetic energy of the air molecules) to the point where the air becomes ionized (a plasma). In returning to the un-ionized state (free electrons reuniting with the atoms/molecules) the atoms/molecules give off light, which appears to envelop the meteor (one does not see the meteor itself, but rather the envelope of heated air). The natural tendency of a meteor is to slow down as it meets with resistance, while forcing itself at high speed through the atmosphere. If it slows to a speed low enough so that it no longer creates a plasma, it will become dark (not giving off light) and will not again appear bright, since there is no way for it to regain its lost speed. At the high altitudes of meteors (50 miles and higher), the atmosphere is quite thin and easily heated to the plasma state by the speed of the meteor. Furthermore, the air resistance is quite low, so the meteor can travel a great distance before being slowed to "sub-plasma" speed. However, as the altitude decreases, the atmospheric density, increases and it takes ever more energy from the meteor to maintain a glowing plasma. It is doubtful that any meteor would be still glowing at an altitude of 6,000 feet, but if it were, it would be quite large and eventually would be slowed to the point of hitting the earth. The suggestion that one, or several, meteors could travel many miles horizontally at a speed high enough to glow while at an altitude of 6,000 ft is not supported by any known physics of meteors.

Klass points out that Arnold estimated he saw the objects for two and a half to three minutes. This includes about half to three quarters of a minute before they passed Mt. Rainier and another nearly two minutes after they passed Rainier. This would be "extra long" for a meteor. Most meteors most burn out (at high altitude) in a second or so, although large meteors, called fireballs, can be seen from one location on the earth for many seconds up to a minute. Since meteor durations are limited to a minute or less, Klass argues that Arnold's time estimate was probably wrong. He points out that "witnesses are notoriously unreliable in estimating the time duration of unexpected events" and cites the March 3, 1968 re-entry of the Zond Soviet space rocket as an example in which witness errors resulted in sighting duration estimates as low as fifteen seconds and as high as five minutes.

There is an important difference between Klass' example of witness error and the Arnold sighting: Arnold used a clock!

Klass acknowledges that Arnold used his dashboard clock to time the passage of the objects between Mt. Rainier and Mt. Adams, but Klass does not mention the time duration reported by Arnold. Instead, he writes as follows: "SUN questions whether Arnold...who was focusing his attention on the unusual objects while also occupied flying his aircraft... would have taken his eyes off the objects to carefully observe his cockpit clock." In other words, Klass questions the accuracy of the witness' claims about his own actions. If the actions seem illogical to Klass, then the actions are suspect and, of course, any data resulting from the actions are suspect. (Note: if Arnold had not looked at his clock but simply reported an estimated time the skeptics would probably raise the question, why didn't he look at his clock?)

So, why did Arnold do such an "illogical" thing as look at his dashboard clock as the objects were disappearing? Even though Klass used Arnold's letter to the Air Force as a reference, he does not tell his readers that Arnold wrote that he intentionally measured the speed: "I had two definite points I could clock them by" (he was referring to Mt. Rainier about twenty miles east-northeast of him and Mt. Adams about forty miles south-southeast of him). He reported that he could see that the objects were flying southward so he looked at his dashboard clock as the first object passed the south flank of Mt. Rainier. He then watched the objects as they continued southward. During this time the objects passed over a ridge that is about five miles long. According to Arnold "the first one was passing the south crest of the ridge" as the last one "was entering the northern crest." Hence, they covered a total distance of about five miles. By the time they were passing Mt. Adams they were so far away he could only see their flashes. At this point there was no reason to continue watching carefully because they were fading out in the distance. Therefore he wasn't missing anything by taking his eyes off the objects to look at the clock. The second hand on his clock showed that 102 seconds had passed. (Note: he was able to pay attention to the objects even though flying the plane because, as he reported, the atmosphere was calm and clear and there were no aircraft in his vicinity; the closest aircraft was roughly fifteen miles north and heading away from him.)

The calculated speed based on Arnold's measured time between Rainier and Adams is by itself sufficient to reject the meteor explanation (is this why Klass did not report

the calculated speed?). The objects travelled about fifty miles in 102 seconds, corresponding to a speed of about 1,700 mph, far below any meteoric speed and certainly not enough to make the atmosphere glow.

By way of comparison, if one were to hypothesize a meteor in a level trajectory travelling at essentially orbital speed but at an altitude of 6,000 ft, it would have required only roughly ten seconds to travel from Mt. Rainier to Mt. Adams. Even at Klass' underestimated speed of 10,000 mph the flight time between the peaks would be only about seventeen seconds. One would hope that Arnold, using his dashboard clock, could tell the difference between 102 seconds and ten (or seventeen) seconds.

Aside from the difficulty in imagining that Arnold could mistake ten seconds for 102 seconds, the mere suggestion that a meteor, or nine such meteors, could travel at a meteoric speed at an altitude of 6,000 feet while glowing brightly is far outside the accepted meteor phenomenology. Meteors cool as they penetrate the lower atmosphere, or rather the speed decreases to the point that they are no longer ionizing the dense air. Hence the basic concept that Arnold saw bright meteors travelling past Mt. Rainier must be rejected.

Consider now the number of explanations that have been offered for the Arnold sighting: secret US aircraft (Arnold and other witnesses), secret Soviet aircraft (US Air Force Intelligence), quirks of eyesight (Blakeslee), motes in the eye, reflections in glass (Nelson), mirage (Hynek), blasts of snow (Menzel), haze reflection (Menzel), mirage (Menzel), orographic clouds (Menzel), wave clouds in motion (Menzel), water drops on the windshield (Menzel), birds/geese/pelicans (recent skeptics), and meteors (Klass/Davidson). With this dozen or so available explanations, surely the Arnold sighting has been explained.

NOT!

The complete Arnold sighting and an in-depth discussion of the failed prosaic explanations are available from this author via email (brumac@compuserve.com).

From studying the approach of the skeptics to explaining just the Arnold sighting, one learns Maccabee's First Rule of Debunking: any published explanation is better than none. The Second Rule is, if the first explanation seems

unconvincing or just plain doesn't work, publish another. The Corollary to the Second Rule is (you guessed it!) if that doesn't work try yet another.

The procedure of proposing explanations is part of the scientific approach to explaining UFO sightings.

However, simply proposing explanations is not sufficient. It is the "first half" of the method. The other "half" of the method is to test each proposed explanation against the information from the sighting and to decide whether or not it is, at least, convincing (you may not be able to determine whether or not an explanation is correct, but it is possible to determine whether or not it is convincing). Unfortunately Menzel, Klass and other skeptics generally have not carried out this second half of the scientific method. Menzel simply proposed

explanations, one after another, as if it were logical to believe that the more prosaic explanations one could offer for a sighting, the more likely it is that the sighting could be (or has been) explained by one of the explanations. This, of course, makes little sense. Each sighting has one and only one explanation. Thus the analyst should pick the best or most convincing explanation out of a collection of potential explanations (by using the complete scientific method on each sighting and rejecting the unconvincing ones) and then publish that explanation and only that explanation. As a "rule of thumb" to help the reader decide whether or not a sighting has been explained, I would suggest that the larger the number of proposed, unconvincing explanations, the less likely it is that the sighting has been explained.

(Continued next issue.)

IS ABDUCTION RESEARCH DANGEROUS?

By Jenny Randles

In UFOIN (UFO Investigation Network) right now we are having a fervent debate on what might seem a very strange topic. We are seriously considering whether abduction research should come with a health warning or even be banned altogether.

Why on earth would a team of UFOlogists seemingly consider such matters? Would not the elimination of such vital research effectively kill off the phenomenon? Is it not an infringement of liberties to try to suppress this method of working anyhow?

You might think so. But this is a complex matter.

Firstly, bear in mind that British UFOlogy has long been taking a stand against what many of us (myself included) perceive as an over abuse of abduction research. When I was BUFORA Director of Investigations in the early 1980's I travelled the UK meeting with local groups and forging a code of practice to govern ethical behaviour and set out how we should treat the witness as a priority. This became the standard template for all members in groups such as

BUFORA and ASSAP but has never been widely adopted elsewhere.

UFOIN has updated and tightened up this code at its formation in 1999 (you will find it on the UFOIN web site) and any group wishing to utilise it is free to do so.

But 15 years ago BUFORA recognised that the code's restrictions about regression hypnosis were not enough. Initially these simply attempted to reign in its over use. Then the code required full medical support for the witness (too much regression in UFOlogy even now is conducted by non medical personnel with obvious risks that appear not to stop this process). Eventually, in 1989, a complete ban on the use of regression was introduced - although in BUFORAs case simply as an experimental moratorium that they are now debating anew.

UFOINs ban on the use of regression in its research is total and final. We are convinced that it is a threat to witnesses and a misleading tool for researchers. It compromises the study of abduction cases so much that we feel it may

be taking us far from the truth and not towards it.

The dangers for a witness were seen more than a decade ago as the first spectre of false memory syndrome and fantasy prone personality evidence appeared in the medical profession. Hypnosis can - and often does - generate fantasies so real that they come to be believed in as memories. If that's just a false recall that you went to Brighton last weekend its no big deal. If it's a memory that you were abused by your parents as a child it is far more serious as wrongful imprisonment can (and has) followed.

Things of that degree of criticality have now been verified. The prospect that hypnosis was leading witnesses to recall some cases of a traumatic alien abduction that in fact never happened has to be sufficient grounds to call a halt.

Aside from the horrendous imagery of doubtful provenance left as a life time legacy with a witness there is the serious risk of UFOlogists dabbling in areas for which they have no expertise (the human mind). If you muck up the investigation of a white light over Stockport it hardly matters. If you make serious errors of judgement when dealing with the deep subconscious you risk the mental health of a human being.

There are already enough cases in my view where witnesses have suffered. I have seen epileptic seizures during hypnosis, medical conditions that went undiagnosed because their symptoms were treated as real memories by UFOlogists and witnesses driven close to the edge of mental breakdown. There are cases in the US where suicide may have followed belief in alien abduction. For the benefit of the witness it is obvious that this is not in the best interests of the one person we are sworn (by the code of practice) to protect - the witness.

In addition, UFOlogy suffers more insidiously in my opinion. It may not be very long before some money conscious witness takes it upon themselves to sue for alleged mental anguish generated by being led into the conviction that they have been abused by aliens. It does not really matter if this is real, as huge consequences will follow for any UFOlogists who did not treat them with due medical propriety. We have to work to avoid that and not sit and wait for the inevitable day to dawn.

Moreover, the evidence being gathered through this kind of research is taking on huge prominence - vastly more than its credibility warrants. We are ignoring the solid data for UFO reality and forming conclusions on the basis of information gathered by methods that at best are inconclusive and at worst are actively misleading. We have, by the way we research these cases and subtly guide witnesses towards telling us what they think we want to hear (for that's how the subconscious mind works) become not just archivists of the UFO evidence but architects thereof. More to the point very few of us are aware of that factor as we play with the stories from around the world.

What we have done in falsely deifying the information gathered through abduction research is curiously out of line with what most UFOlogists think that we have done. To them we have uncovered clues about the alien intent. In reality we have gone way off track in the hunt for proper answers chasing shadows instead. In effect we are all locked in a dark bedroom with a notepad and pen asking witnesses to tell us about their half remembered dreams. Meanwhile outside in the garden, oblivious to us all, fascinating physical changes to the grass, EM fields and readily analysable evidence is surrounding us in the wake of the close encounters and duly being ignored.

There is only one way to describe that pervading practice and it's neither as science nor serious research.

UFOIN fears that any technique that at the same time deflects massively from the quest for truth and puts the welfare of the witness at stake is not merely stupid - it is dangerous. And for that reason we are now considering very carefully what to do next.

By all means let us know if you have any suggestions. Contact us through our web site at:

www.ufoin.org.uk

Jenny Randles

EDITOR'S NOTE: As a member of UFOIN, and as Chairman etc of YUFOS, I fully concur with Jenny's concerns above. Myself, and all members of YUFOS who wish to act as investigators or researchers for the group, are obliged to sign the Code of Practice.-DB

COUNTDOWN TO THE MILLENIUM- *Conference Review*

By Adam Bradley

We approached Cottingly on a grey, wind blasted, rain addled Saturday. We managed to sneak through Manchester, the very brief Tyson fight being only a few hours away. Cottingly itself was just coming to life, streams of the old and young marching to the town centre which didn't appear a lot larger than the high street in Sheffield. The venue was wedged between the town car park and bus station and was quite unassuming and unremarkable. As library buildings go, it was quite large for such a small town, however on the inside, the inside was much like the outside, being large and unremarkable. The room of the event was at the very top of the building, after a half-hour of climbing we entered the venue. There was perhaps a dozen or so rows of chairs with a bank of tables running down there left.

I approached the woman selling tickets at the front of the room and announced, "We're from the Yorkshire UFO society, do we get a discount?" She can't have heard the comment about the discount but she did indicate our seats and took our money. The first table along the row was loaded down with paranormal magazines, a few local and a few more glossy popular magazines plus a couple of the books by some of the potential speakers of the afternoon. I did notice a strong presence of ancient astronaut/mystery themes in quite a lot of the literature which I found surprising as I'd assumed people had mostly turned their back on this area. We took our seats and it wasn't long before Tim Matthews was calling the assembled group to attention in order to introduce the day's speakers.

He began with a brief explanation of his reasons for widening the area of subjects covered. He believed that the popularity of the event would benefit with a wider appeal, then went on to give a brief line up of the days speakers. All this was thickly mixed with jokes about the Birdsall's of *UFO Magazine(UK)* and jokes about his alleged employment by MI5 which I couldn't help thinking he enjoyed immensely.

First on the block was Sean Hennasy who Tim introduced as a philosopher, with qualifications in philosophy, history and astronomy and who was once an Ofsted history inspector for schools. He also mentioned his interest in cosmology. Sean Hennasy began with a quote by Goethe 'without context you are living hand to mouth' and added that to understand or develop a theory of ET life we needed a background or context upon which we can create a theory. He then said he would put forward a few propositions on ET life.

1) The interest we have in ET life is very old and goes as far back as ancient Greece it is not an interest confined to the west as many cultures have legends regarding ET life including the aborigines who believed the pliedes constellation (popular with Billy Mier) were seven women ascended to heaven.

Islam's attitude to ET life is very relaxed as they believed that there were many inhabited worlds in space all with there own prophet. The Christian faith was uneasy with the idea of ET life as they believe that all humans are born with an original sin. Now I must admit at this point I missed his train of thought but I think that this human sin was self awareness, the eating of the apple is what gave it to us, and that Jesus was perfect in the sense that he was able to understand his own self awareness and that's why he came to earth to absolve us of this sin so we could become like him. This sort of excluded one-eyed Martians with tentacles. Philosophers at this time believed that lack of evidence sharpened wit and made the human race work harder at understanding the mysteries of the universe (although this is another statement I didn't understand him making).

2. Science a little later on managed to take the focus off the religious idea that earth was the centre of the universe by proving that the earth revolved around the sun. This led to the idea that earth may not have been unique and there could be other planets with intelligent life. At this time an astronomer named Lowell discovered tiny grooves on the surface of mars and conjectured that they

could be canals built by Martians. He spent many years figuring out the methods they used to build and maintain them but his theory was eventually disproved by astronomers that proved them to be geological faults. This led to a slump in interest in ETs as it led to a loss of faith in the existence of other worlds.

There was a re-emergence due to the popularity of sci-fi however and the theory of the existence of ETs was once again in the public imagination. It wasn't beyond the grasp of the political opportunists either as many different ideas of perfect ET life were created by different political parties including the communists who theorised a communist state on Mars similar to Lowell's canal building culture, where the state controls a vast unemployed proletariat by channelling their efforts into building these canals to supply water to a barren and desert Martian environment.

Political satire on these alien environments was also quite popular at the time with alien political debates and conflicts much like those on earth at that time. The growing popularity of the idea of ET in the media and politics showed a growing presence of this issue in the public subconscious. But during this time the subject became impoverished due to a loss of moral understanding of ET (this is another statement that I'm not entirely sure about and one he made several times during the speech, my guess is it has something to do with him being a philosopher and has something to do with the philosophical approach to the unknown, an approach where you must retain your morals before making up your mind about something, but that's just a guess) and a very basic scientific approach in which people only wondered at the human aspects of an ET civilisation (their laws, culture, science, etc.) The prevailing attitude now is that if an alien environment exists it followed the same Darwinian evolution than ours, survival of the fittest etc., but that if they had reached a level of intelligence similar or equal to ours they may be actively involved in their own evolution, a process roughly similar to that put forward by a scientist called Lemark. The focus still appears to return to the pare they like us or are they microbes typified by the greys and the bacteria on Mars debates. Humans appear to have a hard wired fear of life in unknown space, like cavemen staring out into the night hearing all the strange and sinister noises of the unknown nocturnal

creatures, stuff like that, and we seek to tame the unknown creatures by giving them friendly or at least familiar faces.

He then went on to do a slide show of pluralism (a belief in more than one inhabited world) throughout the ages, from old sketches of men trying to fly to the moon using contraptions tethered to geese to more modern pictures of rocket ships and floating cities. He wound up by addressing the old problem that if ET life is as prolific as we think it is why have we not heard anything from them, among others there was the theory that aliens fear to contact Earth due to our track record of violence and environmental abuse, that we are being watched and studied, but left alone a bit like a zoo or planet-sized safari park, that there aren't any aliens, that they may not have lived long enough to become evolved having been killed off by wars, meteors or environmental failure or that the signals we are looking for are so grounded in human sciences that we have completely missed them by assuming they have evolved forms of information and communication similar to our own. He added that a conservative approach was useful to a point as it used logic and science to their best effect, but that there should be a certain amount of open mindedness.

They then threw it open to questions one of which stood out. I don't remember the details but it involved a gent sitting toward the back of the room talking extensively about his knowledge of a certain period and adding a token question on the end that required the speaker to respond with something like "erm, yes". But I can't fault him I couldn't think of anything to say, perhaps apart from "nice moustache", but after doing this article I've thought of several.

Overall it was a deeply intelligent, informed and sympathetic overview of interest in ET life through history and was mostly oriented at understanding the human approach to understanding ET life. He did make a very brief comment at the beginning to UFOs, insinuating that he believed that it was an outcropping of this interest in aliens (thus I assume not real) but didn't go any further.

We broke for a few minutes while the next speakers set up so I inspected the boxes of books set at the other end of the line of tables. There were a couple of Von-Daniken books, mystery books, a few on nuclear war and fighter-jets, cars, a Star Trek magazine, a book from the seventies on wrestling and a

few novels, some science fiction and some not, the theme of this being a little lost on me.

Next up were Brian Alan and Dean Devlin of SBI. Appearing a little more nervy than the previous speaker they explained that they would be reading partly from notes and took their positions behind a table to the left of the screen. I must admit I forgot which was Brian and which was Dean so I'll assume the smaller, portlier gent was Brian. He kicked off with the surprising statement that they believed they had a viable explanation of all paranormal phenomenon but unfortunately they didn't have the time to explain as they were there to discuss something else (never mind). After this muffled bombshell he explained that they were there to speak about an enigmatic 'church' in Scotland with a long and mysterious history. Its name was Roslyn Chapel. Their intention initially was to take a group of psychics to the sight to investigate, as he believed it to be a more direct form of investigation.

They began to explain some of the history. Built by William Sinclair the name Roslyn can be broken into two words, *ros-* ancient knowledge and *lyn-* down the ages. Evidence they have gathered suggests that it wasn't placed there as a chapel but for other reasons. There are pagan images throughout the chapel including the green man, which is an ancient pagan image of the wild man. This leads them to believe it is not a church. They pointed out that its design is identical to that of the ancient Knights Templar temples.

They showed a floor plan of the chapel in which they indicated an unusual design on the east end corner floor. The psychics they had taken with them had apparently sensed immense energy there and the entire party were physically lifted when they investigated it, an event they had actuary caught on camera. Unfortunately they had forgotten to bring it with them.

They questioned the chapel guide about the possible Masonic links but he refused to discuss anything to do with this (we later discovered that the Knights Templar were the precursors of the Masonic faith, movement or whatever the hell it is). The west wall outside was never finished but it resembles king Herod's temple in Jerusalem. (This kind of dropping in of odd bits and bobs of information and connections between the chapel and other sites was typical of the talk).

A pillar within the chapel was commissioned to a famous architect but during its design he went away and when he returned it had been completed by his apprentice. This enraged the architect and he killed his apprentice and their faces are now represented as two carved marble designs at each end of the chapel.

Apparently the Knights Templar were accused of worshipping Baphomet, who, depending on your perspective is either a goat-headed devil or a god of wisdom. The trustees of the chapel have refused all requests to investigate and the speakers theorised that it could possibly be that there is no essential mystery or that the knowledge hidden in the temple would be too much for society to handle.

They then began a brief history of the Knights Templar explaining their formation as knights of the church who's aims weren't entirely clear; some believed they sought the book of Jesus' life. They explained their fighting tactics such as when in battle, if faced with three or less opponents each Templar knight would have to fight but any more and they were allowed to retreat. The structure of the Templars were broken into four sections; servants, clerics, sergeants and knights. Knights fought, sergeants co-ordinated their fighting, clerics recorded their fights and deeds and servants served them. They took a vow of poverty and celibacy and wore their hair short and beards long, at the time a fearsome sight.

The speakers then went on to mention the priory of Zion. It didn't appear to relate to anything else they were saying at the time apart from it being another alleged secret group, but they explained that it was a secret group of Jews that are alleged to have infiltrated banking through out the world. They went on to explain that the world bankers and other conspiracies theorised by the far right in America were all essentially accusations against the Jews, and I am fairly convinced that they were not backing this up but they said just about as much as I have just written and went on to their next subject. I'm not entirely convinced that they were backing this up but it is worth mentioning that Adolf Hitler used a theory very similar to that during the economic troubles in Germany just before the second World War to effect his rise to power. It is not a subject that anyone can treat lightly as it led to one of the worst atrocities of human history. Anti-Semitism is a

dangerous and contagious idiocy and cannot just be blurted out.

They then moved on to the Mergovinigan kings who were, some believed, to be the direct descendants of Christ. They then explained that according to some despite their vow of poverty the Templars were wealthy men answerable only to the pope. The Templars developed a type of tarot card to educate their new initiates. They explained that some believe that Jacques de Molay, last grand master of the Knights' Templar, is the image on the Turin shroud.

They then turned back to the Chapel and explained that the as yet unexplored vault beneath the chapel could contain the answer to its essential mystery as it involved the final mystery of the Templars; could it contain Jesus' head, physical evidence of a UFO(?), the sinclairs bodies who were possibly the continued hidden society of the Templars.

They then went on to explain their own investigation of the chapel with a small group of mediums. They had called forward to the chapel to ask permission to bring along a photographer from a local paper but had received a firm no, so they set off requesting the photographer to meet them there. The photographer was turned away at the door and the group continued without him. They intentionally withheld the location of the odd floor design from the mediums but as they scoured the chapel with their pendulums they came across the odd floor design and the pendulum went wild. The mediums realised they were onto something. One of the mediums saw an apparition of a sword hovering over the floor pointing to the vault underneath. She then took the unusual step of claiming that there was an astral door there, they then had the experience of floating which introduced itself by the arms of the assembled mediums and investigators being gently lifted and ended in the legendary filmed event of the actual floating, the film of which they had apparently forgotten. One of the assembled mediums went on to state that the astral gate was used by UFOs to navigate and at the moment it was closed but they could collectively open it. They would however need to place a 'guardian' at it so as not to let anything out.

Their talk moved back again to the chapel where they had identified alchemical symbols

and they also found a set of cubes set into one of the pillars that they believed to represent musical notes. Due to their unusual size and irregularity, a computer software designer had taken an interest in this and promised to decode its music, this is pending. They managed in the mean time to employ a singer to sing at the pitch that they believed the cubes represented in one of the lower chambers and experienced a unusual power surge through the chapel. The mediums were also not told of the cube design but sensed that the chapel had a sound quality related to the ley lines that ran under it.

They then advised the investigators that the chapel was not stable in this dimension as it existed in two dimensions and this could be proved by the fact that the stained glass windows were always changing, although you had to watch them long enough. They also advised that a nexus of ley lines ran under the church. They wrapped up by saying that this beautiful site deserved more investigation and all information on this and other paranormal events could be found in their magazine.

It was then opened to questions. Of all the question sessions of the day this was probably the most interesting as a member of the para-science group seated at the front of the venue began to criticise the speakers for taking the photographer to the site when they were asked not to. The speaker explained that the end justified the means but this did little to satisfy the para-scientist who went on to say that they were damaging the reputation of all paranormal investigators. The argument never seemed to ascend above bickering but the para-scientist seemed to be oddly enthused and would not be put off with 'we just have different methods of investigation' explanations. Tim eventually stepped in and broke it up with another variation on that line and it ended.

I found it to be a fascinating talk but the information was laid on thick and fast without any particular order and they would benefit from experience in doing talks. I believe that the speakers were sincere but some of the information from the psychics I found a little hard to swallow as claims made by them need a lot more experimental evidence than just assuming their word to be correct. They should also leave the whole priory of Zion debate well alone as it did nothing for their talk. *(Continued next issue)*

UFO ON YORKSHIRE MOORS?

By Dave Baker

On Sunday, 02 Jan 2000, a report was posted to a number of internet sites, including the uk.rec.ufo newsgroup, and UFO Updates concerning a possible UFO sighting.

The report was as follows

"Something to report,

Until 11 o'clock tonight I had little interest in UFO's or little green men, the event which has changed me happened earlier tonight on my way back from my parents house in Holmfirth.

I had been to a millennium celebrations party over the new year at my parents house, driving back over the A635 back to Stalybridge where I live. I had several people in my car (My girlfriend and my brother)

I wasn't driving at any speed due to the fog, and I was approaching a car that had stopped up-ahead. The occupants of the car were still inside and my girlfriend said that I should stop and ask if they required any assistance.

Reluctantly, thinking that it may be some kind of trick my brother and I approached the drivers window and knocked on it. The driver wound his window down and said to me 'tell me that you see that' He was pointing toward some bright white lights facing the road about 100 metres away, rather like car headlights, but that's all i could see. My first thoughts were, oh my god someone's come off the road in an accident.

"I asked the man if he had been over to the car?" , and he said "It's not a car mate, I don't know what it is"

At this point we heard a sort of blast of noise rather like a ships horn. At this point the headlights turned greenish and dimmed slightly before a reddish bluish glow appeared underneath at this point the lights shout up into the air, no noise no nothing and they were gone.

At this point me and the man in the car exchanged telephone numbers and names and said that we should contact each other about the incident at a later date to report it.

Although I am sceptical about such things, this incident which

five people witnessed had no explanation in my mind at all. If it had been a helicopter it would have made some sort of noise taking off.

I hope to hear from some sort of expert, and would really like to get a contact number for someone in or near Manchester regarding UFO experiences. If you require any further explanations or anything please contact me

Thanx in advance..."

EDITOR'S COMMENTS:

I contacted the witness the next day, hoping to travel out to interview him in depth. Although he did reply a couple of days later, he was only interested in answering questions via e-mail, due to "a hectic social life".

I admit that I was put off by this – I wanted to hear his story again, and be able to question him point by point, and more importantly, face to face. Instead we would become mired in an endless series of questions over the internet, possibly with days in between each communication.

I must admit that I put the e-mail in my "to do" box, and promptly forgot about it...

However, the case resurfaced via the UFOIN list, as other investigators had seen the story too. UFOIN's Andy Roberts suggested that due to the date of the sighting, and the general description, fireworks of some description could not be ruled out. I rather agree. Perhaps the passengers of the other car may even have arranged it.

A number of these UFOIN members, including Andy and Jenny Randles, contacted the witness and there were vague plans that someone would go out and interview him. Although the witness did answer some of these people, others never received a reply.

As of the date of this writing, nothing had been arranged with the witness. It does seem unusual that someone should go to all the trouble of posting a story on the internet, only to lose interest soon after.

Any further developments I will report in PRB.

IS IT A BIRD? IS IT A PLANE? NO IT'S...A SPACE SHUTTLE!

(*Look Local*)

Over the last few weeks a whole host of weird and wonderful UFO sightings have been reported to *Look Local*.

Last week was no exception – a further two accounts – one at Stocksbridge and one at Wadsley- told of strange lights in the night sky – both sightings were on the same evening, Friday February 11th, the first at 6pm and the second only five minutes later at 6:05pm.

Was this just an eerie coincidence, or did some strange object really cross our night's sky that evening?

Another couple attentively watching the sky on that same evening was Mr.and Mrs.Parkinson of Smithy Moor Lane, Stocksbridge. Yet what they were both hoping to see was something far, far different from any Unidentified Flying Object...

"My wife and I were in our back garden watching the night sky from approximately 5:45pm onwards – not something we would normally do!!! However on this particular evening we had been prompted to do so by 'Fred the Weather Man' on the Richard & Judy *This Morning* television show. Fred had said that if we were to watch the Western skies at this time then there was a 'good chance' that we would see the NASA space shuttle cross over Britain shortly after it's launch.

"This was due to take place at 5:49pm and we were to expect to be able to see the shuttle at the time it got to 6:05pm my wife and I had decided that we had either missed it or it had been so insignificant a sight that 'Fred' had got us all excited about nothing!!

"However just as we were about to give up and return indoors we saw two strange lights crossing from West to East over Stocksbridge. Although they were nothing like we expected the space shuttle to look like (not that we knew what to expect) we were quite convinced that this is what we had seen.

"Incidentally when we checked on Teletext to see if the shuttle had been launched we discovered that due to adverse weather conditions the launch had successfully taken place but 15 minutes late- a fact that further

convinced us that we had indeed seen the space shuttle on that night in question."

Mr and Mrs Parkinson appear to have been two of the lucky people to have seen the space shuttle *Endeavour* fly overhead on it's 11-day 'Shuttle Radar Topography Mission; in English that means radar mapping the Earth's surface. The Shuttle began it's journey on Feb 11th landing back on Earth on 22nd February.

Sheffield Triangle?

THIS is a Sheffield man's eerie account of his "Out Of This World" experience on one dark evening back in December...

"I was driving from Wortley into Sheffield when I spotted bright lights in the sky in a triangular formation. At first I thought it was just a helicopter, but what happened next made me realise that this definitely wasn't the case.

"The lights began to get closer and closer to me as I continued to make my way into Sheffield until they got so close that I decided to stop to take a closer look. I wound my window down, stuck my head out and could clearly see the lights hovering above me, but strangely, unlike a helicopter, there was no noise - just silence. Then the brightest light of the three started to rotate and shine down to the ground. At this point I got a little concerned and wound my window up ready to drive away, but before setting off I checked the sky again for the lights, yet they had mysteriously vanished out of sight."

Look Local, Sheffield 10-02-00

EDITOR'S NOTE: This sounds like the police helicopter to me. The lighting arrangement and the searchlight are typical, and the sudden disappearance of the lights is probably due to a change in the helicopter's angle from the witness. It is also a common misconception that you can always hear a helicopter. Depending on the way the wind is blowing, a 'copter could be right above you yet appear totally silent

POLICE PROBE INTO 'RED FIREBALL' NEAR ROTHERHAM

By Dr. David Clarke

Officers from South Yorkshire Police are probing two separate reports of a 'red ball of fire' which was seen to descend behind trees near the village of Firbeck, near Rotherham. (England)

Police from Dinnington were called out at 10.45 on the evening of January 7, 2000 after a couple saw fireball hovering in the sky from the garden of their home in Firbeck. A patrol car went to the highest point in the area, Beacon Hill, where officers met another couple from the village of Carr who had driven out after spotting 'a large purple/pink light' moving slowly over a farmhouse nearby and disappearing behind trees.

Checks were carried out with Sheffield Airport and East Midlands airport by the couple, and inquiries are now ongoing to trace other witnesses. The police suspect a remote controlled aircraft or helicopter may have been involved, and efforts to trace this are now underway.

FEDERAL JUDGE AGREES WITH UFO GROUP AND FINDS GOVERNMENT'S AFFIDAVITS INADEQUATE

(Paranormal News Network (P3N): Bulletin - February 16, 2000)

In a decision that is certain to put a frown on the faces of several officials within the Department of Defense, a United States District Court Judge in Phoenix has agreed with a UFO activist group and ordered the Department of Defense to provide additional affidavits, detailing the specifics of its search, to the group by March 17th.

Nine days ago, on February 7th, in a packed courtroom in Phoenix, Chief Judge Stephen M. McNamee heard oral arguments on the government's Motion for Summary Judgment in the Freedom of Information Act federal lawsuit of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy v. Department of Defense.

At the hearing, Citizens Against UFO Secrecy (CAUS) attorney Peter A. Gersten had argued

that the Department of Defense's (DoD) search for information on a very large and unusual triangular aerial object, seen on a regular basis throughout the United States, was inadequate. During the 30 minute argument, Gersten repeatedly asked to see the specifics of the government's search. In his decision, Judge McNamee agreed and ordered the DoD to provide that information within 30 days.

The DoD has maintained that a search could find no information on this enigmatic craft even though thousands of people have reported seeing it, some observing it hovering at treetop level. CAUS had submitted thirty-three affidavits from eyewitnesses in support of its arguments.

In an interview with P3N, the CAUS attorney stated he was extremely satisfied with Judge's ruling, though he didn't think it went far enough. "Judge McNamee agreed with my arguments and that is encouraging" stated Gersten. "But I won't be satisfied until I am allowed to question DoD officials under oath. There is no doubt in my mind that they are lying about not having any information on something so obviously within their responsibility of intelligence and security," he continued.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, 11th April 2000

YUFOS

Present a lecture by

RORY LUSHMAN
(UFOIN)

On

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RESERVE*"

At

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