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Readers Letters

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Dear David,

Thank you for the copy of Skywatch which I found very interesting. I must say that certain of your contributions, such as the ones on the Bignall End 'Humanoid' case and to a lesser degree your own items on the Amityville Horror and the Cottingly Fairies go a considerable way to answering some of the charges in my letter, and are the sort of thing I would expect to see in a scientific UFO Group's publication (to be fair to Robert Sheaffer, I should point out that his original Official UFO article on the fairies was a joke, but many people missed the point). I do, however, think it rather rash of you to fall for John Fullers latest book, with the track record that he has. I expect that publication of my letter will bring a few howls. Let me know.

Sincerely, Ian Ridpath Brentford Middlesex.....

Dear David,

Was interested in your scrippet on the Cottingly Fairies. I have long been convinced that the picture must be cut-outs since the children had the technical expertise (unusual probably for t at tim e) to produce the 'special effects' What I find puzzlinggis that few contemporaries appeared to have identified the source book(s), even though the photographs were a sensation at the time.

Regards, Lionel Beer, London.....

Dear David,

Thank you for Skywatch 35. As usual it is totally fascinating. The article on UFOs and the paranormal was especially interesting. Did you see that awful play on television the other week "Friends in Space" (See Review section this issue - Ed). I had been looking forward to seeing it but it was worse than terrible. The characters in the play were a bunch of raving lunatics. In these so called enlightened times, I would have thought that themyth of UFO enthusiasts being a load of cranks and screwballs was passing into its worthy place into oblivion. It would hardly be very encouraging to anyone who has a report to be investigated, if they thought all investigators were raving nutters. I mean - if it was true, all your neighbours would be emigrating en masse!

Best Wishes, Clair Robinson, Stockport, Cheshire.....

Dear David, 8581 3a3.....

Many thanks for your letter and SW Well, I think its the best UFO magazine there is, but maybe I'm biased. I was very interested in the Staffordshire report and its demolition. I think it will do Ufology a lot of good to be seen to be critical of its own claims, rather than adopting the attitude that the observers are honest people. They honestly believe it, therefore it must be genuine. The only problem is that such explaining may discourage people from reporting a sighting because they don't wish to be made to look silly. I think it would be better if no names were mentioned in such cases.

Psiufological phenomena was very well thought out. I'm glad to see the psychic aspect being given consideration Graphology too is a very good idea(though I know its exponents don't like it being called psvchic). I had my hand scrawl analysed once, and I was astonished by a rather good report. Congratulations on the debunking of Cottingly and Amityville; strange how falsifications seem to gain public acceptance more readily than the truth does - perhaps because the false is more sensational. The big lie technique? Live Long and Prosper

Magda Graham, Darwen Lancs

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter and the copy of SKYWATCH which I found most interesting; while I might t ke issue with Moravec on one or two minor poin ts (eg it's pushing it a bit to say that 'most parapsychologists believe that apparitions are communications received via ESP which become conscious through a hallucinated experience') by and large its an excellent piece of analysis, and just the kind of clear thinking our complex field of study requires. By way of response, I enclose a short piece which gives you some notion of the area my own current thinking is concerned with, and one which I believe can help to clarify the problem: if you'd care to publish it, you're welcome.

As regards the SPR, let me say right away that it is not our intention to form yet another UFO investigative group. Personally - though I know you won't agree with me on this - I'm all against the proliferation of small autonomous groups all over the country, and would prefer to see a more uniformly structured national organisation, with decentralised regional groups to cover local interests but integrated into a coherent whole so that standard procedures and regular inter-communication can make optimum use of manpower and resources. But of course this is nothing but a dream! In the meantime, the members of the SPR study group are encouraged to co-operate with established local investigative groups as they find them, and to provide a 'psychical back-up' in cases where their specialist knowledge and experience can be of help to ufo investigators who find themselves out of their depth.

All this sounds as though we'd got the whole thing worked out, which is far from being the case: the Group was only established a few months ago, and we're still constructing guidelines. At present we have no publications of any kind, except a preliminary report for internal circulation: but we shall soon be issuing a brief guide to our members indicating the ways in which they can most usefully contribute to the overall effort. As a Society, the SPR holds no corporate views on such matters as survival esp or whatever, and the same is true of Ufology. But I don't think any of us believe that Ufos are solely or even primarily a psychic or psychological problem. What we do believe is that the psychical/par-psychological aspects of ufology are of the very greatest importance: personally I believe that by answering the questions I raise in my attached article, we shall learn a lot not only about Ufos but also about a wide range of paranormal phenomena. Indeed I am giving a lecture to this effect next month at the SPR's International Conference at Brighton.

I think it likely that for the moment, most of the work done by our Study Group will consist of individual efforts. We are considering trying to set up some sort of psi-ufo seminar for the autumn, but have no definite plans as yet. One of our members, Kevin McClure, whom perhaps you know, has just written a first-rate report on the 'Welsh Lights' of 1904-5. I have just published a book aimed at the man in the street, with somewhat lurid illustrations and definitely over-simplistic in its approach: but though it's far from being the book I plan to write on the subject, I think it may do a reasonable job in telling the totally uninformed person that there's a lot more to Ufos than what she/he reads in the newspapers... So, if you should chance to come across a copy, don't judge it too harshly; it wasn't aimed at the likes of you!

Best wishes, Hilary Evans, Society for Psychical Research, London.....

Dear David,

Many thanks for your letter and SW 35. I enjoyed the account of the Bignall End Case, and for reasons you may guess - namely, not only does the astute analysis of this case agree with what I've been trying to say of late, but it is strongly reminiscent of a 'sighting' of my own (or shall we term it a 'lunar observation') some twenty years ago. The whole account - the report and the analysis - constitutes an exceptional UFO report. Of course by the criteria of the "Working Party on Standards" - this case is not a UFO report at all, which brings me to the subject of this letter.

I have for many years been as fascinated by process in the Ufology field as I am by the UFO phenomenon itself. The pompous gobbledygook of the "Report on Working Party on Standards in UFO Research" made fascinating and somewhat amusing reading for me at first glance. Reading the list of 'distinguished' members of the party, and the report itself reminded me of some of the pretentious nonsense my friends and I in the old Congress of Scientific UFOlogists used to grind out in the mid-Sixties, when we were all a lot younger. Thankfully we have all since stopped taking ourselves so seriously, and have tried to get on with the real business of dealing with the UFO problem as-it-is.

When the Working Party got down to providing its "definition" it ceased to be an object of amusement. I take their work here most seriously indeed, and view it with not a little trepidation. In the long checkered history of ufo research, there have been occasional attempts to impose a set of rigid standards on the whole field of ufology, and I have throughout my career resisted such attempts with every fibre of my being. It is of course true that it is the business of everyone in ufology to see to it that investigations are honest, thorough and appropriately documented (they seldom are), and your efforts in this direction are to be admired. There is also a need to apply appropriate ethical standards to investigations. For example, take Mrs. Richardson's sighting or my own mistaken sighting in 1960. When a case of mistaken identity such as

these is reported, the negative analysis must be given, no matter how embarrassing it may be to ufologists. But it is equally true that we must make an effort not to make the witness seem a fool for making an honest mistake. This has nothing whatever to do with scientific criteria, but it has everything to do with ethical propriety.

However, the Working Party's attempt to impose a specific definition of the term 'UFO' on the rest of us has little to do either with integrity in investigations or the need for ethical standards. In fact, a case could be made for the contrary. To begin with, I must echo John Hind's criticisms. The first thing that struck me when I read the Party's conclusions was that the definition would serve a ghost as well as a UFO, but Mr.Hind's example of an unknown trace in a cloud chamber is even better.

More sinister, however, is the overall bias of the definition - namely, that only an 'unknown' constitutes a UFO, which is in keeping with the long-cherished unological prejudice that only possible evidence of something beyond the mundane is of importance. The Hynek definition of a UFO if accented leads us yet one more merry stop down the garden path of UFO 'belief' as opposed to open-ended research. I reject this definition completely. I fully believe that 'unknowns' - that is to say UFO reports that have not been (thus far) identified should be investigated, analysed and investigated and analysed yet again and again. I also believe that so-called 'IFOs' - UFOs that have been identified as of conventional origin should equally be the object of our close and abiding attention. The truth about this phenomenon we are dealing with may as well emerge from the latter as from the former, and as likely will emerge from a comparison of the two categories as from any other analytic technique.

Moreover, I am highly suspicious of attempts to impose any exacting standards on UFO research. We simply don't yet know enough about the nature of the phenomenon to be able to say with any authority what is or isn't a good definition, or what is or isn't a sound technique. I fully believe that if the orthodox wing of ufology is allowed to set standards for UFO research, then that research will have predictable results that follow from the framework orthodox ufology has set for itself. If we accept a definition for 'UFO' we may next be 'treated' to a "Working Party to Define What is and is not a UFO-logist". With my own history of unorthodox attitudes and methods, I can well imagine where I, and others like me, would be in terms of that 'proposed definition' - namely, out!

David, we all know, in an informal sense, what is meant by the term 'UFO'. It is a working flexible jargon-word for an as-yet unresolved mystery. In sort, the informal definition is in keeping with what we presently know about the phenomenon. Until we know more, let's keep it that way.

Feel free to print any or all of this, as you see fit. I continue to enjoy hearing from you and thank you once again for your fine publication.
Sincerely, Allen H.Greenfield, Ufology Notebook Newsletter, Georgia, USA.....

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PSI AND THE UFO PARADOX - by Hilary Evans

The UFO paradox has been boldly set forth by the French ufologist Pierre Vieroudy in his brilliant (but alas untranslate^d) Ces OVNIs qui annoncent le surhomme : his view is that we are not likely to make much fundamental progress in ufology unless we accept that the ufo is both a physical and a psychical phenomenon.

With this view I go along totally. However brilliant the hypotheses of the Jung and the Vallee's they must somehow be reconciled with the physical existence of ufos : for evidence I would look no further than BUFORA's first-rate catalogue of Vehicle Interference cases, which provides the nuts-and-bolts with some very impressive support.

At the same time it is no less evident that we are up against a massive array of psychical phenomena which certainly constitute a very large part of the ufo problem. Mark Moravec's article in Skywatch 35 analyses with admirable precision some of these psychical aspects, and sets out the possible mechanisms at work with lucidity and logic.

But Moravec is concerned only with those areas of activity where the interests of the psychical researcher and the ufologist overlap : that is to say, with known parapsychological phenomena which are now to be found in a ufo context over and above their traditional forms. On this level, I think that ufologists and psychical researchers have much to gain from co-operation : each can profit from the others's expertise, and our understanding of poltergeists, apparitions and the like may well be given an important push forward thanks to the weight of additional material emanating from ufo reports.

UFO REVIEW Vol 2 No.7 1980 - Edited by Timothy Green Beckley, Global Communications, 303, Fifth Avenue (Suite 1306) New York NY 10016, USA. 6 issues Sub in Europe Ten Dollars. This 'zine' is in Newspaper format, and after seeing the demise of Official UFO magazine in America into pulp fiction, I did not know what to expect with this effort by Tim Beckley. On the front cover the blurb states "The world's only Flying Saucer Newspaper", I'm sure Karl Veit would not agree. If only Alpha and Fortean Times were on newsstands in Britain, it would show UFO Review where they went wrong. The stories and artwork are what you would expect in a publication like this - not very good - I was drawing better ufos when I was 10 years old. It makes you wonder why they go to the trouble; is it because the American general public like this sort of thing? I had to laugh at the following advert in its pages - "Space Travel, Passport - personalized - useful in Close Encounters". Gee, I must buy one! The UFO subject does not need enemies whilst UFO magazines like this are printed. My advice is to would be subscribers: send your money to Alpha and Fortean Times. Richard Avery.

TELEVISION:

PROJECT UFO - a science fiction series from USA, screening on various ITV regions. Sorry to say the show is at present "hidden away for the most part, in an afternoon graveyard slot".

Fans of the smallscreen from that generation who remember Jack Webb's police actioner Dragnet ("All we want are the facts ma'am") will also recall Webb's innovative production style - notable for its terse dialogue, rapid-fire editing and its stoney-faced emotionless featured characters

Although Webb's Mark VII Productions appear to be a most prolific TV film making outfit these days, one of his more recent offerings. Project UFO, leaves a lot to be desired. Obviously inspired by Steven Spielberg's 1978 box-office grosser Close Encounters of the Third Kind, Mark VII's unidentified flying object series arrives on the home screen as little more than the old Dragnet format given a pseudo SF respray

The whole nature of the show is strict, formal and documentary-like. As a stern voice narrates, the opening sequence shows us a series of blueprints crossing the screen: "Izikiel saw the wheel. This is the wheel he said he saw. These are unidentified flying objects that people say they are seeing now. Are they proof that we are being visited by civilizations from other stars...or just what are they? The United States Air Force began an investigation of this high strangeness in a search for the truth. What you are about to see is part of that 20-year search."

Concluding in 1969, the US Air Force's Project Blue Book investigated UFO reports and sightings for over 22 years, and it is from these files that the series' episodes are based.

Creator-executive producer Jack Webb "liberated" files of the actual cases from the Air Force under the Freedom of Information Act, and accumulated over 400,000 documents (on microfilm) which detailed some 13,000 sightings.

"Roughly 70 per cent of the Air Force's cases were explained satisfactorily as natural phenomena like balloons or clouds," comments Webb. "There were hoaxes, too, like people sailing hubcaps in the air and photographing them. But about 12 to 15 per cent are true unknowns."

Project UFO's general theme operates around two deadly earnest Air Force officers, Major Jake Gatlin (played by William Jordan) and Sergeant Harry Fitz (Caskey Swain) who travel around the country interviewing "witnesses" and probing for "physical evidence".

The content and style of each episode is confusingly presented. By way of an opening teaser (the idea being to grab the viewer from the start) we get to actually see a UFO, whether it be a misshapen boomerang-like object sailing past a commercial airliner or a luminous blob spewing forth small green men to frighten Kansas corn belt farmers. That established, we then join our two dauntless military men in search of "hard" evidence and "reliable" witnesses. Sometimes when the storyline offers several subplots we get to see several UFO incidents - all are tracked down during the course of the following hour. However the problem - a glaring, unmistakable one - is that most of the cases are then logically explained away proven to be of a natural and earthly origin (from distorted weather balloons to unique compositions of sun and cloud formations). To show a character in the story witness an event at the beginning, then have two other characters prove it to be a common-or-garden item at the conclusion is just plain deceit on behalf of the show's producers. It's not unlike an old Hitchcock ploy wherein a character's story shown in flashback turns out to be a lie.

It must leave the viewer wondering if the show is actually on the side of the UFOs, telling us that they do really exist. Sadly, after about two or three episodes, the viewer will be able to tell pretty quickly what the outcome of the investigations will yield; the likely, earth-bound origin of the apparent UFO, which of the witnesses are lying etc. Another aspect of "high strangeness" arises between the two central Air Force characters. There is no natural camaraderie between them, they simply and formally address each other as "Major" and "Sergeant". Their cold formality toward interviewees - the latter usually taking on the stance of witches at a witch-hunt - stops barely short of a war-crimes trial, but held over a coffee table. With most of the cases proven to be natural phenomena or hoaxes the show becomes almost a crash-course in frustration - you want them to discover a real flying saucer or shake hands with little green men, or something. But, no. What little they do give credence to merely results in a neutral report. The whole of West Virginia could be littered with flying saucer debris and screaming little green men but Project Blue Book wouldn't recognise it as "physical evidence". Typical exchange at the close of an episode would be: "And what would the Air Force file this one under, Major?" Casting a knowing glance at the questioner, "Unknown". The show's special effects are two-pronged: the bad ones appear (via subjective camera) as intricately designed boxes, sometimes pulsating with coloured lights, that move slowly into extreme close-up; the good effects come along when a landing or hovering UFO is seen in composition (and size-reference) with the surrounding countryside. Some of the latter effects can be quite interesting when the UFO is seen moving through trees or cruising just above a highway. Project UFOs production in most departments, is handled efficiently, including some good-to-expert location photography. Although regular scripters, Harold Jack Bloom, Donald L.G. Old and Robert Bles sometimes tend to get too bogged down with technical facts and jargon. Bles' 'The Nevada Desert Incident' teleplay remains a topnotch job, carefully constructed and dramatically effective. The show's producer William Coleman is a retired Air Force colonel who actually ran Project Blue Book during the early '60s. Excepting Richard Quine's direction on the premiere segment (The Washington D.C. incident) the rest of the episodes are merged with routine interest by Robert Leeds, Sig Neufeld and Dennis Donnelly. Music by Melson Riddle underlines most accurately the theme of events - impending disaster.

Credit: Tise Vahimagi - Starburst No.18.

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"FRIENDS IN SPACE" - Play by Ray Hassett and John Ratzenberger

Last December, Normal Oliver, editor of BUFORA Journal, received a phone call to say that the TV Times was looking for background material for an article on UFOs. The article, in support of "Friends in Space", appeared in the 1-7 March 1980 issue, headed "Close Encounters of the Weirdest Kind" by Alan Kennaugh. It carried pictures of six film or TV sci-fi aliens, and went on to comment on recent sightings, concluding with a list of 13 UFOs investigated by BUFORA.

The play, in the ITV Playhouse series, was screened on Wednesday 5 May, running for nearly an hour. It started with five enthusiastic but assorted members of the "Friends of Space Society" meeting at the rambling old house of their eccentric president, Rex G.X. Thornton. (Did the authors come across contactee enthusiast Rex Dutta I wonder? And Thornton's electrical paraphernalia ought to have made John Seart, alias Lunic Enterprises, green with envy!)

Despite 10 years of Newsletters, this was the first meeting of the Society - dedicated to making contact with extra-terrestrials. FOSS member Mr. Babcock, sporting blazer with embroidered military crest on the upper lefthand pocket, carries the parody further by admiring Rex's electrical junk heap in glowing mumbo-jumbo terms. His loving wife, Esther, is depicted as reacting to situations as his opposite. Don, a parody of an American hamburger merchandiser drops names and flashes his saucer-shaped lighter and "Special UFO Investigator" badge. Introvert, Tom, a car mechanic, is encouraged to relate his experience: After the TV went funny there was a knock on the door. Two aliens with big domed heads had landed from Solar Elexis X. "I may have even soiled my trousers I was so scared", Tom recounted. Inside their space craft which had landed on a marsh, Tom saw a medical operating table. On it was the engine of a Cortina. How did it work the aliens enquired. Tom was equal to the question. However he had become disconcerted

about travelling to another planet in his bedroom slippers. The aliens perceived his dilemma, and he awoke in front of his TV set in the early hours of the morning. Clumsy bickering amongst Club Members followed in the script, which was immediately terminated by Rex announcing the real reason for the meeting. A shuddering cigar-shaped object had crashed into the nearby hillside. In the burnt out wreckage he had retrieved - and bedded down in an upstairs bedroom - a green glassy-looking alien, who was accompanied by chemistry-lab sound effects. (Perhaps the script had given the alien indigestion? It looked rather as though it had escaped from a pond in the BBC's "Life on Earth" episode the previous evening). FOSS members were totally unprepared and Susan (what poor lines for elegant Eleanor Bron) the much travelled intellectual, decides she wants to go home. Babcock also panics and tries to sabotage Rex's equipment, while Rex ineffectually directs his members for the momentous event. Quickly a blue light appears in the sky. As foretold by Rex, the family of the green alien have come to collect junior - homing in on Rex's lights in the front garden. There is a brief parody of Steven Spielberg's (CSIII) film, complete with inconclusive ending. This situation parody could have been adapted to various themes, and will probably reinforce some opinions that some ufologists are well-meaning crackpots. Unlike "Star Trek" I shall not watch a repeat....

Lionel Beer.

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IMAGERY AS A POSSIBLE PSYCHOLOGICAL EXPLANATION FOR REPORTED CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH THE "UFO PHENOMENON" - by Keith Basterfield

Abstract

A ten year study of reported observations of Unidentified Flying Objects shows there is a class of currently inexplicable events which may be explainable in terms of known psychological processes.

Introduction

The great majority of reported observations of UFO's are explainable in conventional terms once commonsense investigation has taken place. Aircraft Satellites weather balloons, clouds, the Moon, the Sun, the Stars, Planets and Meteors have all been the cause of reports from people caught either by something which they haven't previously observed or by an unexpected or unusual aspect of viewing.

Ground markings reportedly associated with UFO's have been caused by fungus, slime mould, leaf smut, animals, whirl-winds, helicopters and hoaxes.

Even photographs have fallen to the use of sophisticated computer technology which has now eliminated all but a few of the more than 1000 photographs known to have been investigated since 1947.

Radar 'evidence' has been confused by the lack of understanding that even in this medium the human element of interpretation still comes into play and that other cases can be eliminated by the words "anomalous propagation". The January 1979 New Zealand radar reports in association with two movie films represents the point in question. The New Zealand government declared the radar targets to be due to faulty equipment and anomalous propagation effects. The second film was said to be Venus and doubt was cast on the initial film as being of little scientific value.

The residue left after the above explanations have been taken into account are a few photographs which have passed computer analysis, a small group of physical trace cases and a larger number of close encounters where verbal testimony is the only evidence available.

It is this latter group of reports which will be the subject of this paper.

The events

The following examples of reported encounters will illustrate the typical event under consideration.

Gum Creek, South Australia (1964)

A farmer's wife lying awake at 2 a.m. noticed a "figure" suddenly appear outside the bedroom window as if "a movie screen had been unrolled" the scene seemed

very bright as if daylight and the entity was revealed in great detail because of the unusual lighting. The male figure appeared to be taking 'photographs', then advanced towards the window. The lady wanted to speak to the figure but found she couldn't. She slipped down into bed and fell asleep. It was conjectured by her that the lighting came from an object above the house. No traces were found.

Sandford, Tasmania (1978)

Awakening due to a dog barking a woman rose at 11.50 p.m. and looked out of the window. She noticed a "doorway" of white light out on the rough, front driveway. It was dark everywhere else surrounding the "door". However through and only through the "door" she could see the drive as if it were lit up by daylight. Then a golden glow spread from the door and both went out instantly. No traces found.

Boyup Brook, West Australia (1967)

A man was driving alone at 9.30 p.m. doing a steady 100kph, suddenly he became aware of the approach of a lighted object from the air. The car was immediately "stopped dead" and all electrical systems ceased to function. There was no feeling of deceleration at all. Looking up he reported seeing an iridescent blue oval over the car with a tube of light extending down into the car. After an estimated five minutes the object left and he found himself travelling along at 100kph again with all systems working and no feeling of acceleration. His watch was later reportedly found to be five minutes slow.

Prospect USA (1977)

At 1 a.m. whilst driving alone a 19 year old man claimed he was abducted from his car and taken into an object where weird entities were observed. He was then returned to his vehicle and found himself still travelling at speed.

An inspection of a large (300) sample of such close encounters mainly within Australia lead to the conclusion that most are reported to occur in rural or isolated localities, at night, mainly with only one person present, frequently when they are driving a vehicle. There are 'peaks' in the times of reports, namely 8-10 p.m. and 2-4 a.m. The type of object reported varied tremendously, and in some cases a humanoid "figure" is described in association with the UFO. There are physically inexplicable events described such as "materialisation", cars being "taken over" from the drivers' control and abduction stories of medical examinations.

In attempting to determine if there was a real event without resort to the extra-terrestrial hypothesis or other more fanciful theories, two cases caught my attention. Details follow.

Ivy Tanks, South Australia (1973)

A lady was travelling as a passenger in a semi-trailer and decided to go to sleep at 2 a.m. About 3 a.m. she heard a warm male voice calling her name and telling her to look out of the window. By the side of the road she saw an egg-shaped object surrounded by a "force field". The entire thing was alight with a white glow, which seemed to come from all over and inside it. She feels the oval may have been semi-transparent. This illumination was so good that she was at a loss to compare the colour and glow to anything she could think of. Although the viewing time was short (5 seconds) much detail was noted. Two figures were visible associated with the object. The "force field" glow died down in an inexplicable manner. She woke up feeling fresh and upon questioning the driver found he had said and seen nothing.

Frankston, Victoria (1972)

Whilst driving home a 36 year old housewife encountered a large silverblue iridescent object hovering over her car. Twentytwo days later a similar or the same object appeared over her car at the same location. Suddenly the car's engine cut off and couldn't be restarted. She tried the steering wheel pumped the brakes and changed gear, all to no avail. The car "controlled itself" to the side of the road and stopped. All sound drained out of the air and she was told three things. The engine then started itself and she drove to a police station and reported the incident. Later a mental message told her to return to the spot. On the way a man "materialised" then later "dematerialised" inside her car. Meeting two other people at the spot she again saw this "man" then lapsed into unconsciousness and whilst physically in the presence of two people who saw

none of this, she described being taken inside a "room". There was no visible sign of illumination yet the room was well lit. She then recovered in the car. Other odd psychic events occurred at around this time, eg. voices in her head. She was regarded as an average, normal healthy person by those who knew her.

As will be noted from these two reports there are items which we would consider impossible, cars do not take over control of themselves and materialisation is not an everyday practice. Remember though we are not talking of cranks or crackpots here, we are speaking of credible, reliable, healthy average persons who stood up to rigorous cross examination. These events are single or at most multiple over a period of six months in an entire lifetime, not constantly repeated unlike so called "contactee" claims. A court would have no doubt about the status of these people as reliable witnesses.

A literature search revealed that there are known psychological phenomena which are still not fully understood (as far as mechanism goes) which seem to provide a possible examination for these events. These are hypnagogic and hypnopompic imagery. (1)

Hypnagogic imagery was so named by Alfred Maury in 1848. Maury perceived "faces" in the dark. Both types of imagery most often occur with the eyes closed but may also occur in a darkened environment with the eyes open. McKellar (1972) reports encountering in individuals who reported remarkably similar imagery which occurred when they were fully awake.

The imagery content is visual or auditory in the main but may also include sensation of heat/cold, smell or touch. They may be reproductions of the events of the day or strange, bizarre images of pleasing or frightening proportions. Little control seems to be able to be had over their appearance, and thus a person could certainly be frightened by their sudden onset. Reality and images of this kind can be readily confused. One of the most basic auditory images is that of hearing one's name called. You may recall instances where sleeping or dozing waiting for a morning call to breakfast, you hear your name called and obediently trot into the kitchen only to find a half cooked breakfast and a puzzled chef.

Visual images range from simple (patches of colour) to integrated and complex scenes. Objects can be "strange" or notices from an unusual angle with sometimes an unusual clarity of detail. Durations range from seconds to minutes. Persons experiencing these images comment on the unusual intensity of colour and lights using such phrases as "strange luminosity" and "glow of the Sun".

Surveys which have been done have led to speculation that such imagery is experienced by all but denied by some as some deny having dreams. The incidence of imagery amongst the population has been found to range from 50-70% with events occurring to a number either nightly or regular experienced on at least half the nights.

As an example of just how "real" these images can be, an instance related by McKellar (1968) is of note. A young couple had a routine of the wife getting breakfast ready for her husband and then seeing him off to work. One morning she recalled getting out of bed, washing, dressing, getting breakfast and then kissing her husband goodbye. At this point she "woke" up, still in bed to find her husband kissing her goodbye. She had been asleep in bed all the time until that point.

Green and McCreery (1975) related what they called type two awakenings where we find people awakening normally to find themselves in bed. The surroundings at first appear normal but then become unusual or uncanny. Alternatively they may awake immediately to a stressed or stormy feeling. In either case they may experience fear, panic or an hallucination or apparitional effect. This may also be accompanied by a seeming paralysis of the body or an "out of body" state.

To an outside observer the person would appear asleep lying with eyes closed. Occasionally type two false awakenings are simply the sensation of awakening then really awakening. Table 1 compares characteristics of UFO events and imagery.

I would suggest that events such as Ivy Tanks (1973) Gum Creek (1964) and Sanford (1978) are imagery caused as they occurred on the awake/asleep interface where we know imagery occurs.

The accounts of the Boyup Brook (1967), Prospect (1977) and Frankston (1972) cases contain the same basic elements and occurred to persons travelling alone in an environment of unrelieved nature, i.e. driving along a relatively isolated road where one would have the probability of being in relaxed wakefulness on the sleep/wake interface.

There are hundreds of such events described in the ufo literature which the "image" hypothesis appears to be able to satisfactorily explain.

About 100 cases exist on record where people claim to have been "abducted" by aliens and subjected to a medical examination on board a UFO. An examination of twenty five cases in depth indicated strong correlation with the types of event already discussed. There are the same basic details present, except these abduction events result in a more convinced reported with seeming physiological and physical traces, eg. glazed eyes, needle puncture marks. However, many cases occur where the witnesses claim to have been awakened from sleep or travelling in a vehicle where image conditions are optimum.

One abduction case (Calgary, Canada, 1967) presents a further pointer to this hypothesis being credible. A boy on a three minute walk between two houses along a paddock arrived home in a daze. Under hypnosis he revealed he heard a high pitched noise, looked up and saw an object. He was taken up into it and medically examined. However, the hypnotist believed that the incident was actually a subconscious memory recall of an earlier appendectomy operation.

Physiological and physical occurrences in people might have a parallel with the medically recognised "hysterical conversion". Hysteria is recognised as an illness resulting from emotional conflict and is classically manifested by dramatic physical symptoms involving the voluntary muscles or the organ of special senses. During the process of conversion unconscious impulses are transmitted into bodily symptoms. The emotional conflict is expressed physically, eg. facial swelling, tunnel vision or shock.

Mechanism

Although we accept imagery as occurring we are still not certain of its mechanism. EEG experiments reveal that creative imagery is connected with the Theta brain wave pattern and that excess theta may be evident in schizophrenics and psychoneurotics. Victims of the former can withdraw into fantasies and hallucinations. Much more investigation needs to be performed and it would be premature to speculate on the possible mechanism here beyond reporting that Ferguson (1973) describes how William Dent and associates of Stanford University looked at neural discharges - PGO (pontine-geniculo-occipital) spikes which occur most heavily (but not exclusively) during paradoxical sleep. These bursts are thought possible to bring on the intense visual imagery associated with REM (rapid eye movement) sleep.

If abnormal discharges of this kind occur to normal, healthy people at other than REM Sleep periods this might prove to be a possible mechanism.

If these encounters are in fact images we would need to address ourselves to the question of why the form of imagery is metallic spaceships and entities. Surely imagery has been with us through the years?

Looking back through time we do in fact find support. People experienced "visions" and "apparitions" which were reported in a religious context and perhaps became the village oracle or were held to be witches. In the middle ages we became afraid of elves, hobgoblins and fairies. A percentage of the population could be found who actually reported seeing such creatures in isolated spots, notably during the hours of darkness. Materialisation and dematerialisation of entities was reported. A general belief in all this pervaded all classes of people, with the grass roots of society firmly convinced. The 20th Century brought us a disbelief in such happenings, belief in them was seen as childish. Along came aircraft, rockets, missiles and talk of extra-terrestrial life. Many people today believe life exists outside of the Earth. The jump from existence to visitation has been strongly reinforced by science fiction films, books and open discussion on the subject. I would suggest that we have merely moved the content of our imagery from the supernatural to UFOs.

NOTES : The intermediate period between wake and sleep is termed hypnagogic and between sleep and awake hypnopompic.

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TABLE 1

COMPARISON OF IMAGERY VERSUS CLOSE ENCOUNTERS.

IMAGERY	CLOSE ENCOUNTERS
Occurs on the sleep/awake interface can occur during day	Mainly occur at night, often when driving alone or when awoken from sleep during night few occur during daylight
Eyes closed, or in a darkened environment, usually	Mainly occur in a darkened environment
Little control over the appearance or disappearance	Occur suddenly and unexpectedly and most objects move away at incredible speed.
Vary from simple to complex	Momentary encounters to longer duration abductions.
Little control over the content	All sorts of descriptions or objects and aliens. This has been said to be a good reason to disbelieve the ETH
Unusual quality of lighting/colour	Main point brought out by people reporting encounters is the intense lighting and vivid colours of ufos.
Healthy normal people are percipients	Normal healthy people report.
Content may be bizzare/unusual	Car stops, car paces, engine failures, weird electrical effects which do not last etc. Seemingly impossible

(This article is reprinted from 'UFO Research'. Vol 6 No 6 Nov/Dec 1979).

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MAPIT NEWSDESK

Keep the following dates clear next year, the 2nd International UFO Congress will take place on Sunday/Monday, 24/25 May 1981. Venue is again the Mount Royal Hotel in London BUFORA expect to invite a leading ufologist again from the USA, but not necessarily the same ones as previously....

In response to James Moseley item in this column last issue, Lionel Beer writes in to say "I noted your comments on James Moseley's alleged fetish. In 1954 before he changed the title of his magazine to Saucer News, it was called 'Nexus', so he has been at it for some time"....

Nigel Watson, a regular contributor to Fortean Times, informs me that he has just completed his book entitled 'Portraits of Alien Encounters'. Only problem he has now is finding a publisher - any offers, anyone?....

Dana Parry of UPNB says he cannot see himself restarting publication on the bulletin; also Dana is a Mister and not a Miss. It is planned for Dana to write a regular column in SW and he regards his views nowadays to be very controversial, so it should make for interesting reading. Are we about to witness the emergence of Dana as ufology's answer to Brian Clough?....

The Tasmanian UFO Investigation Centre have a new address. Write to them at: PO Box 99 North Hobart, Tasmania 7000 Australia....

The question is "Where has ex-editor of CNK Edward Harris gone to?" In a recent letter to me he says "I'm going on a very long journey" and "I'll look down on earth and remember you" Also "no forwarding address to me will be possible, your mail just wouldn't reach that far" In the letter, Edward turns out to be the Director of ESCD (Experimental Spacecraft Development) Salvage 1 look out!....

New books to look out for are the following:- Signs of the Gods by Erich Von Daniken (Souvenir Press); This House is Haunted, by Guy Lyon Playfair (Souvenir Press); Rames II and His Time by Immanuel Velikovsky (Abacus); and The New Soviet Psychic Discoveries by Henry Gris and William Dick (Sphere) Paperback edition....

Dean Preston's new magazine 'UAP Encounters' has just been published; issue No.1 runs to 16 pages. Contributions for forthcoming issues still required. Contact Dean at: Haute Murailles, Samares Lane, St.Clement, Jersey, Channel Islands....

Janet Bord sent me the following information concerning her new book published on 20 March. "Alien Animals" - Deals with lake monster, out of place big cats, phantom black dogs, giant birds and birdmen, and Bigfoot/Yeti and Towie. There are many illustrations, including some rare ones of the alien animals themselves and distribution maps. After describing the animals and word wide appearances of them, we discuss the various theories put forward to explain them, and this discussion includes material on leys and ufos.

This book is published by Paul Elek/Granada Publishing, 258 pages - £7.95. The address of the publisher in case anyone has difficulty in obtaining the book from their local bookshop (which is where they should try first), is Granada Publishing Ltd., Frogmore, St.Albans Herts, AL2 2NF....

Randall Jones Pugh, co-author with the late Ted Holliday of the book 'The Dyfed Enigma' (Faber 1979) tells me he is at present working on his 2nd book, to be called "aftermath" and will include more Dyfed encounters.

Harry Griesberg of the Australian Center for UFO studies informs me that the 5th annual ufo conference (UFOCON) will be held this year in Canberra, Most probably on November 29/30th, though these dates have yet to be confirmed....

A European researcher requires facts, information, person experiences in connection with Men in Black. Please write to Box 20, c/o editorial address....

Antonio Silva Faleiro who produces the ufo bulletin 'Cosmonig' in South America, wishes to correspond with overseas researchers. Write to him at: Rua Francisco Teodora 36, 35537 Passa Tempo - MG, Brazil....

A recent addition to our reference library is a large format hardback book entitled 'UFOs - the Greatest Mystery' by Hilary Evans (Albany Books - price £3.95p). This book is an excellent primer and is one of the most colourful ufo books I have ever seen. Coloured illustrations by various artists really do impress, in particular the Hill and MIB pictures, the latter sent shivers down my spine by just looking at it! Recommended....

The Supernatural Research Society's free newsletter has ceased publication. The SRS will continue its work but its outlet will be the publication called - 'Occult World'....

Assorted 2ndhand paperback books on UFOs and related subjects for sale; for list send SAE to editorial address....

ATTENTION: Members: If a cross appears on the following line, your subscription to Skywatch and membership to Mapit has run out _____ See back cover for rates.

The following titles are TV movies worth looking out for with a UFO flavour.

The UFO Incident - The Hills Interrupted Journey (1975)

The People - Passive extraterrestrials (like the Waltons) living in New England(1971)

Gargoyles - for lovers of Keel's 'Mothmen' Books (1972)

A Cold Night's Death - the Ty Phoo monkeys will never seem the same (1973) and finally - Don't be Afraid of the Dark - you will if you watch it alone. Lock that Cellar Door (1973) I can assure you that the above five films will really impress you and are some of the best produced TV movies I have seen - so watch out for them in your TV and Radio times....

A new UFO Group has just been formed, which hopes to publish a magazine later this year. The Group's name is GROUP (Gloucestershire Research Organisation into Unidentified Phenomena). Interested persons please write to: Warren Gemlik, 158 Swindon Road, Chaltenham, Glos. GL51 9EY Warren is also a Mapit member....

Readings of this issue will notice that no sightings are featured. Well, in our local area they are non-existent! This seems to be the case in the UK at the moment. Regards overseas cases, in SW 37 will be featured a good selection, so look out for this.

May I wish all members and readers all the best for their holidays, (yes, folks, its Summer again!) and hope you all have fine weather. How about sending me a postcard?

Bye for now;

David.....

ADVERTISEMENTS

JOURNAL OF GEOMANCY: Quarterly and informative. £3.00 p.a. from Nigel Pennick, 142 Pheasant Rise, Bar Hill Cambridge.....

Are you reading THE KINGDOM VOICE? The British monthly newsletter dealing with Bible prophecy and the coming new age and order. £2.00 or 5 Dollars post free. From: Reginald A Bradbury, Riverside Cottage, Bridgend, Harpford, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 0NG.....

OCCULT WORLD: The independent magazine bridging the gap between the various occult traditions. Stimulating and controversial, an open forum for all occult points of view and dedicated to pagan co-operation. Quarterly 30p post paid. From: 303 Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich Suffolk, IP4 5AJ.....

REVELATION: is a quarterly magazine, published mainly for the occult student and spiritual seeker. It is a magazine which bridges the gap between the ancient wisdom and new age teachings. Single back issue - 38p. Latest issue - 45p 4 issues subscription - £1.70p Prices include postage. From: Revelation, 8 Victoria Court, Victoria Road, New Brighton Wirral, Merseyside, L.45 9LD.....

UFO INSIGHT: Published by the Federation of UFO Research and an excellent and informative magazine. Single issues 25p and six issue sub £1.20p. Send to: FUFOR 2 Acer Avenue Crewe, Cheshire.....

WARMINSTER: Ley and UFO centre. Cottage now available to ufo researchers, skywatchers, and ley hunters. Holidays or weekends. SAE for details - UFO services, 47 Belsize Square, London.NW3.....

MAGIC SAUCER : A pool of news and views reflecting the magic and mystery of strange things in the skies. A magazine for young ufo enthusiasts. 25p a copy. Write to: 8 Ely Close, Habberly Estate, Kidderminster, Woccs.....

THE LEY HUNTERS : The leading Ley-line magazine in the World. Edited by Paul Devereux, six issue sub. £3.00. From PO Bcx 152, London N10 2EF.....

FORESIGHT: a bi-monthly magazine dealing with spiritual evolution of humanity and promoting a philosophy to encourage a greater spiritual awareness of the true spirit of the new age. Single issues 9p. 6 issues £1.74p. Write to: John Barklam, 29 Beaufort Avenue, Hodge Hill Birmingham B34 5AD.....

EARTHLINK: Read Earthlink for serious flying saucer news, ufo reports, articles and related phenomena, from home and abroad. Rates: UK 62p a single copy, £2.50 (4 issues). Overseas: £1.00 a single issue, £4.00 (4 issues). Cheques, postal orders, IMOs payable to the: Essex UFO Study Group at 16 Raydons Road, Dagenham, Essex.RM9 5JR. Gloria Saville, General secretary.....

GNOME NEWS: The Gnome Club of Great Britain/Gnome International, the club for people aged 3 to 103 who enjoy gnomes. Are you interested in the more intangible inhabitants of the earth either as serious phenomena or fantasy? Membership £2.50 (GB) elsewhere £3.50. Enamelled Gnome badges, Gnome News issued 3 times a year. The Gnome Club is at The Old Rectory, West Putford, Devon, EX22 7XE.....

FORTEAN TIMES: The magazine of strange phenomena, published quarterly and recommended. 4 issue Sub £3.00 Write to 9-12 St. Anne's Court, London W1.....

UFO DIRECTORY: of UFO Societies, Groups and Publications world wide! Only £1.00 inc. postage from UFO Network, 2 St. Ivian Court, Cojneyhatch Lane, London N10.....

CASSETTES FOR SALE

The following are audio recordings on standard Philips Cassette Tapes, running times listed are approximate:

CS-1 Space Visitors from Lanulus: Narrated by Woodrow Oerenberger (30 min) audio of TV broadcast describing his contacts with Indrid Cold - £4.25.....

CS-2 The Truth behind the Flying Saucers: (40 min) The voices of famous contactees such as George van Tassel, Dan Fry and Orfeo Angelluci, also comments by Maj. Donald Keyhoe and Frank Edwards - £4.25.....

CS-3 MUSIC FROM ANOTHER PLANET: Narrated and played by Howard Menger (30 min). Menger tells of his meetings with space people and plays the music taught to him - £2.25.....

CS-4 GRAY BARKER ON THE AIR: (60 min) A typical radio interview with Barker wherein he recounts various UFO theories and creature encounters (sound quality inferior, but highly intelligible). - £4.75.....

CS-5 THE WORLD OF MAZIK: (30 min) Narrated by Albert K Bender, famous for his hushup by Men in Black - £4.25.....

CS-6 THE REINHOLD SCHMIDT STORY: (20 min) This mutual radio network broadcast cites Schmidt's encounter with a UFO and with German speaking people on board on Nov. 5 1957. In conclusion we hear a spokesman for White Sands Proving Grounds confirming a UFO at that base. - £4.75.....

CS-7 THE UFO ENCOUNTERS OF JENNINGS H FREDERICK: (60 min) Frederick has achieved national importance because of his encounter with a strange creature known as 'vegetable man'. Here is the first hadn account, along with other amazing experiences including abduction and visitations by Men in Black - £4.75.....

CS-8 THE MEN IN BLACK: (45 min) John A Keal, addresses the 1967 New York Congress on Scientific Urologists and relates cases of men in black, contactees, strange creatures and other data (See review of this tape in this issue) - £4.75.....

CS-9 A WARNING FROM UFOs: by John Stuart (60 minutes) Tells of evil UFO entities who terrorize two UFO researchers and force them to abandon their work. This tape includes some shocking references and permissive statements. It is not recommended for children or people of a nervous disposition - £4.75.....

CS-10 CALOS ALLENDE SPEAKS: Near the actual voice of Carlos Miguel Allende, as he tells of the Philadelphia experiment, the disappearing ship and his part in the mysterious varo edition of Jessup's case for the UFO. Recorded during one of Allendes rare appearances. Is he a Government Agent, an imposter or one of the space people (30 min). £4.75.....

CS-11 THE SHAVER MYSTERY: (60 min) told by the late Ray Palmer, in one of the few recordings ever made of his voice. Palmer tells of spending a night in Shaver's house and hearing the voices of Oero. He also tells of the controversial Maury Island affair, and expresses some of his beliefs about life after death - £5.25.....

Prices include postage and packing. For payment overseas, please send an international money order, a giro transfer to account 36 822 2004, a bank draft or currency. Send to: Susan Stebbing, 41 Terminus Drive, Herne Bay, Kent.....

UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE: Want to keep up with the real "Close Encounters? One excellent way of doing so is with the UFO Newsclipping Service, bringing you UFO reports from the United States and around the World. Since 1969, our service has obtained newsclippings from an international press clipping bureau, then reproduced them by photo-offset printing for our subscribers. Many fascinating UFO reports (photographs, landings and occupant cases, etc.) are only published in smaller daily and weekly newspapers. Our service provides these for you, along with wire-service items from Associated press, United press international Reuters and other agencies. Each monthly issue of the UFO Newsclipping Service is a 2½ page report containing the latest UFO accounts from the US, England, Canada and Australia, South America and other countries. English translations of foreign language reports are also provided. Let us keep you informed on World wide UFO activity. For subscription information and sample pages from our service issues, write today to: UFO NEWSCLIPPING SERVICE, Lucius Farish, Route 1 - Box 22½, Plumerville, Arkansas - 72127, USA.....

THE BITCH IS BACK.....Jenny Pandles

I have come to the conclusion over the years that one needs several special attributes, apart from the more obvious ones, in order to be a Ufologist. To the qualities of being hard-skinned, insensitive and a little insane it seems (according to MsMagda Graham in SKYWATCH 35) that, if a lady ufologist, it helps to be a bitch. I am not quite sure why my comments on the BUFORA Conference (at which she was admittedly not present) should provoke such a reaction within her psyche, but then I fail to be surprised by very many reactions to things in the crazy world of Ufology. It seems to me that the sociology of the phenomenon is a comedy show far superior to any our television sets have to offer these days. We are all a part of it (myself included) and it is quite good fun, provided we realise the fact and do not get caught up in silly pretentious thinking such as "my group is going to solve the UFO enigma" (That one is a classic) The fact that I DO NOT TRY VERY HARD TO CREATE THE RATHER BIZARRE REPUTATION I have seemingly been saddled with, has to say something. On occasion it irks me a little, or annoys me. Most especially in such cases when I hear silly stories like a fabled trip to Paris I took on the money I make out of Ufology (with the price of bus fares these days I am lucky to be able to make it to the corner shop on what little I do make via books, et c.) Furthermore when I discover that I (in my sleep I assume) am inviting people to join in the Government sponsored UFO investigation team of which I am a part - complete with company car (Rolls Royce - no doubt!) I find myself swinging over to the other extreme and having a jolly good laugh. We take ourselves too seriously, I'm afraid - which is a pity.

SKYWATCH 35 has a number of points upon which I would like to comment.

I will say no more about the BUFORA conference piece since David Rees did include part of my letter of explanation about it in the letters column. I will, however, add my appreciation to David's for Lionel Bear. We have had our differences in the past, to be sure, but I recognise that he has been a very good servant for many years to BUFORA's cause and, like me, he has had his fair share of critique to stand in front of. I would also feiterate that Magda Graham is totally wrong about my lack of desire for cooperation with others, as she might realise had she ever read any of my articles on the theme. She may also be unaware of how long I was a member of BUFORA, or that I served on its council. So I have done my bit towards cooperation, and am still open to any possibilities. Unfortunately, despite laudable efforts such as those of NUFON to coordinate groups together or the fine principles of the 'statement of intent' from MAPIT and FUFOR, true cooperation in Ufology is a fantasy. It's rather like expecting Callaghan and Thatcher to team up with the Muppets. It would not work because their styles of comedy are too dissimilar. Not that it would be an experiment without interest if they were to give it a try! Progress in Ufology comes from individual effort and very rarely from groups or (rarer still) group coordination. Whilst both these latter do, I maintain, have a valuable data collation function (outside of their sociological role) they are not going to solve the theoretical problems we still face. I sometimes wonder what would happen if all the people who devote so much energy to criticising others or debating interesting, but rather irrelevant, questions, suddenly decided to switch their minds to the resolution of the UFO enigma. Maybe we must might stop running around in circles.

You see John Hind is quite right in his suppositions in SKYWATCH 35, and so in a sense is Ian Ridpath (although his professed scepticism is being taken to an unrealistic extreme) It is ridiculous creating false definitions that are meaningless if one bases them upon presumptions. To my mind there are two gross presumptions within Ufology which all my research (and I stress that word - not wishful thinking or mindless theorising, but research) validates. These are that:

- a) there is one solution to the phenomena regarded as UFOs and
- b) at least some element of the solution is alien or exotic in nature.

I am afraid I cannot accept either of the above as proven, and to my mind the evidence we seem to have points in opposite directions. If anyone is interested in taking these points further I suggest that they read "UFOs: A British Viewpoint" (in print now) and "UFO Study" published later this year, by Robert Hale. In these books I have set down the results of this research to which I refer.

Progress in Ufology will not come about by arbitrarily deciding how we should define UFO Report, but by analysing the content and meaning of such UFO reports. To do this with effect we must choose many different approaches. John Hind's 'UFO myth' approach is one; my own "psychokinetic hypothesis" is another. I do not even deny that an ETH orientated approach is valid provided we do not all follow it

I think of Ufology as well represented by the following illustration. We are a group of people all together in a central encampment somewhere in the Midlands of England. We are quite an assortment. Somewhere out there, at a place known only to God, is buried the Golden Fleece. No if we all set off in the same direction, as a group, heading perhaps southwards towards London we might find it, but most likely we would not. If, however, we set off in different directions and use different techniques (and clairvoyance and the OS Map might well be equally valid as tools), then we stand a much better chance of someone finding it. Of course, to do this we have to agree in the first place that the prize is shared in the end and compare notes as we go along. We are comparing notes (via the various books that are written which prove more than just rehashed of data from 'get rich quick' merchants), but so far we do not seem to have overcome the spirit of the Gold Rush. He who gets there first, it is assumed, will claim the prize. Somehow I doubt it because the rest of us will refuse to believe that the lump of golden, shimmering fur in his hands is the real McCoy and will go on searching. Of course it could be that - up there - in his wisdom, God has seen this as a very useful intelligence test and so it does not really matter who finds - it is the searching that counts.

I must apologise to John Hind, a researcher whom I have known and admired for some years. There was never any intention to create the impression that he was rude and offensive at the BUFORA conference. The remarks which I attributed to him may not have been verbatim quotes but the gist, I think he will accept, was correct. I should note, incidentally, that when I berrated the method of selection of the International Working Party members, it was for John and others like him I was concerned and not, as might have been imagined, sour grapes because I was not involved. In truth I did feel I should have been invited because I had published contributions on the theme of the discussions (which was more than most of those who were invited had done), but quite honestly it did not upset me that I could actually sit back and enjoy the conference instead of spending it in a stuffy boardroom! Nevertheless proven dynamic thinkers such as John should not be ignored for pseudo-political reasons otherwise the working party and the whole subject is made a mockery.

Finally I would comment about the contribution between pages 9 and 11 of SKYWATCH 35.

Whilst I assume nothing was meant by it I did notice that this was printed in full, crediting the article to me and citing investigators Derek James and Chris Bourne of UFORA Staffs, but somehow omitting BUFORA Research Director Tony Pace who was also involved in this case. If we are attempting to lay the blame here, let us do it fairly, please.

While I am implicated by inference I should point out that my FSR article was based upon the investigator's comments (including those of Tony Pace) which at the time I found quite satisfactory. I was not of course, involved in the investigation myself as the case occurred in a different part of the country.

The INSTITUTE FOR THE EVALUATION OF ANOMALOUS PHENOMENA published this report three years ago and have since disappeared from the scene. It is rather hard to comment about their work as I do not know who they were then or where they are now!! Nevertheless they raise some interesting points. At the time I recall their evaluation was considered with the witnesses and discussed in detail. They brought forward a number of counter points, and Mr. Richardson in particular was adamant that he knows what time he left and saw the object, and finds the inference against his eyesight rather unjust. Even so it would obviously be impractical to discount the calculations about the placement of the Moon.

Had I been in the position I am now with regards to my research when I wrote up the investigators comments in 1976 I might have noted what seems a plausible explanation to this case. It would appear possible that the Moon did somehow trigger some kind of experience - psychological or parapsychological - who knows? - within Nellie Richardson but to dismiss it simply as the Moon is akin to discovering a diamond and throwing away because it is not a sapphire. Why did this happen - and how? That is the question, and to my mind, causation or no causation the experience remains a close encounter. It is a trap to believe that if we prove it is not alien we prove it is not a UFO. That all depends rather a lot on what a UFO is! I would also wonder why David Rees believes this has a bearing on the question of ethics. Perhaps he would enlighten us on this. As for me, I have considered turning to something less dangerous - such as rolling down Everest in a beer barrel. It may be less dangerous but it's not as much fun, I'm afraid. So I think I shall stick to Ufology.

COMMENTS ON SKYWATCH 35 AND THE PREVIOUS ARTICLE 'THE BITCH IS BACK' by Tony Pace -
Research Director, BUFORA.....

Bufora Congress - August 1979

Naturally one expects to receive criticisms when a voluntary organisation like Bufora attempts to emulate a major professional event on an international scale. The organisers are stretched beyond their limits! We would hope for positive criticism or even offers of help but as usual it all boils down to another case of 'sour grapes' from the opposition. In Skywatch 35 John Hind gives his inevitable unrealistic views on the quality of papers and the audio visual problems, he also claims to have invetned the truly scientific conference. In his worl all are first class researchers who make excellent speakers who never suffer from nerves - and they are supported by technologically infallible equipment! On the question of the proceedings, John has obviously little idea of the work involved in producing these and even then we have to ask ourselves - are they worth publishing - can we afford to publish them? The readers of Skywatch will be enimently conversant with Jenny Randles' view of the congress. This egotistical codswallop is not worthy of further comment and I would just offer the following. My advice is simply this: - if you are not happy with Bufora and its congress events - don't attend! In fact, because we are eager to maintain and improve standards, we might get a bit more choosy on who we accept in the future! The next congress takes place on the 24/25 May 1981 in London.

International Working Party :

No doubt if John Hind had been in attendance we would not have ra'e the 'grave errors' which his article outlines, instead, most probably we would have become completely entangled with his articulate verbiage and the whole weekend entirely wasted! The working party comprised some eminent researchers from many parts of the globe, some of them seientists and professionals in their own right. Are these people then inflexible fools as Mr.Hinds article seems to indicate? Bufora was accused of expecting too much from this first meeting - this is of course nonsense! Peter Hill and I achieved what we had set out to do - we reached agreement on perhaps the most important issue - that the working party should meet again! The second meeting is scheduled for the 19th October in Copenhagen to coincide with a conference held by the Danish group Sufoi. Finally I would like to make a small point concerning John Hind's challenge to the working party. Perhaps the Hill abduction case and the Lakenheath Radar visual case have more in common that John cares to admit - or may be he is not aware that the Mill ufo was in fact tracked on military radar by the strategic Air Command at Peace Air Force Base, New Hampshire!

The Institute for the Evaluation of Anomalous Phenomena and Pseudoscience

I hope that once and for all the following remarks will set the record straight with regard to the above institute and the investigation and evaluation of the Bignall End, Staffs report of the 31 December 1976! I refer to Skywatch No 35 and the current article stragely titled 'The Bitch is Back' by Jenny Randles. Though there is unfortunately no such organisation as the IEAP, nevertheless the sentiments expressed are very valid. I 'created' this body principally as a blow for objective ufo research and against the perpetrators of pseudoscience - these pretenders who set themselves up as authorities on the subject and constantly mislead, confuse and misinform the majority of Ufo interested parties. Out of thin air they conjure a stream of mysteries and myths which many accept, not because they are based on facts or are scientifically justified, but simply because it is the latest fashion to do so! More specifically the reasons for my evaluation can be

tabulated as follows -

- i) the conclusions given by Jenny Randles in the Fsr Article concerning the alleged humanoid case are incorrect. The UFO was the Moon!
- ii) My name was used in her article without permission and it was inferred that I, along with the other local investigators agreed with her conclusion. It is untrue that her article included any comments of mine. This is a gross misrepresentation! I had in fact simply accompanied D.James on his investigation. But any suggestion of mine that the Moon was responsible was ignored! Unsatisfied I revisited the witness, took measurements, checked with the Royal Observatory and confirmed my suspicions that the ufo was undoubtedly the Moon!!
- iii) I did not write direct to Fsr with my conclusions because the explanation leading to these was lengthy and usually magazines like Fsr have neither the space nor the inclination to publish regular retractions. Thus the institute was born! This is just one example of the common practice of pseudoscience. The reader will note that this practice is still being adhered to by Jenny Randles in her current article. You will note that in my evaluation there is no inference whatsoever about the quality of MR.Richardson's eyesight. Is there any ready who can honestly claim he or she has never made a mistake involving the time? But now we come to the 'best part' and I quote: "It would appear possible that the Moon did somehow trigger some kind of experience - psychological or parapsychological - who knows? - within Nellie Richardson, but to dismiss it simply as the moon is akin to discovering a diamond and throwing it away because it is not a sapphire" - Jenny Randles... I can think of only one word that aptly describes this comment - Crap!! The lack of ethics in ufo research is reflected strongly in the treatment of this case. The evidence has been corrupted and so has the witness and in this particular case even the reputation of an independent investigator - myself - has been cast into doubt. These practices have to stop. I duly hope the readers of this magazine will use their own judgement in this and other cases and in future not rely on the 'wisdom of false teachers' - they have already been condemned out of their own mouths!

E N D.

THE END BITS

QUOTES: When people say we're all in the same boat, what they usually mean is we're all up the creek together. Credit: Magda Graham.

Every time I paint a portrait, I lose a friend. John S.Sargeant.

Cauliflower is nothing but cabbage with a college education. Mark Twain

He who can, does. He who cannot, teaches. George Bernard Shaw.

Long experience has taught me that in England nobody goes to the theatre unless he or she has Bronchitis. James Agate.

Twinkle, twinkle, Little Star
Who the hell do you think you are? Maggie Teyte.

The trouble with nude dancing is that not everything stops when the music stops.
Sir Robert Helpmann.

The best thing about some UFO Groups is their headed notepaper. Raymond Soul.

SNAPIT In the 'for your protection' series, the office of fair trading have issued a leaflet on photography. There is a clever cartoon on the front, of a man camera poised adjacent to alien and landed saucer. Caption reads (referring to camera) HELP! - its Jammed! Credit: Lionel Beer.

and Finally::::::::::::: a quote:
If God has wanted us to see the sunrise, he would have had it come up later in the day - Anon.

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