

skywatch

S K Y W A T C H

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ooo000 Readers Letters 000000

Dear David,

I hope you don't mind if I address you informally, as do your other readers on the letters page.

Thank you for sending me issue 36 and the 2nd special. I would like any back issues in print yet, and the 1st special if it is still available. The money for these can be taken out of my subscription, meaning that I would have to renew that much sooner. If this is not enough, please let me know.

The review of Jack Webb's "Project UFO" television series (issue 36, pp.6-7) is interesting and perceptive, but not entirely accurate, depending as it apparently does to some extent on false statements about the show made by its producers in order to enhance the public image.

One statement in the review is that "the show's producer William Coleman is a retired Air Force colonel who actually ran Project Blue Book during the early '60s" This claim was frequently made in the US press too, sometimes adding the period of Coleman's alleged tenure as head of Blue Boo, 1961-1964 (e.g. Los Angeles TIMES, April 28, 1978). Of course, the project was in fact headed during this period by Robert Friend (1958-1963) and Hector Quintanilla (1963-1969). Coleman did have a position with the project, but a less important one, and for a much shorter period of time.

The other erroneous statement in the review is that "creator-executive producer Jack Webb 'liberated' files of the actual cases from the Air Force under the Freedom of Information Act." I had not previously heard this claim made in the show's publicity here in the states. The truth is that Webb had nothing whatsoever to do with the public release of the files, which were made available to the public at the National Archives in July of 1976. The pilot for the series was shot over a year later, in October of 1977 (Milwaukee JOURNAL, May 21, 1978--UPI article from Hollywood), and it premiered on the air on February 19, 1978. Webb merely took advantage of the previously-released files.

Fortunately the review did not repeat the claim that the series is an accurate presentation of the incidents, as Webb has requeently stated. For example: "I want it to be authentic... we're reporting it pretty close to the way it was" (Madison, Wis., CAPITAL TIMES, Feb. 18, 1978, and Green Bay, Wis., PRESS-GAZETTE, Feb.19, 1978 --AP article by Jay Sharbutt from Hollywood).

Webb's claim is belied by the fact that the UFO incidents depicted on the show are highly distorted, if not fictional. The actual sightings were as exciting as the dramatised versions (or even more so), so "dramatic licence" was not necessary. Furthermore, you would never know from watching the program that Air Force investigation of UFOs was, in general, careless, biased, and of low priority. Coleman's phony credential is in itself a commentary on the integrity of the show.

Thanks for letting me say my piece about "Project UFO," and for the back issues of MAPIT SKYWATCH and the special. I'll be looking forward to the next issue.

Ufologically yours, Richard Heiden, Wisconsin, U.S.A.....

Dear David,

As usual Skywatch 37 made lively and controversial reading. Where would we be without it! It never tries to be pretentious, just sits on the fence and lets the crazy world of ufology and ufologists speak for itself. Keep it up!

The point was emphasised by the lively debate on who is right in the simulated war between Tony Pace, and John Hind and myself. In fact I don't even know who is right (I expect we all are to a certain extent) so work that one out! Fufer call for an honest answer; I always try to be honest and my answer (which I have given before) remains the same. I reported the evidence, as supplied, in FSR. The evidence appeared to preclude the moon explanation (viz experienced investigators, my personal calculations which showed the moon had set before the experience ended and the comments of a noted lunar expert Dr.Pon Maddison). CK - so Tony has shown the moon probably was the stimulus, but I still want to understand how this generated a complex human experience. Would somebody (Fufer included? - especially your correspondent, Richard Avery - please tell me how this turns me into a pseudo-scientists or myth-maker? It bothers me; I seem to be missing out on a connection

somewhere. Yes - there is a heavy overlay of belief stimulation within ufology (and this applies to Tony Pace just as much as anyone else); I just do not see what purpose is served by calling people rude names just because one disagrees with them. How many people disagreed with Einstein? Yes at least his arguments were listened to. I listen respectfully to Tony and other Pufora officials. Frequently I disagree and say so but I keep listening and do not start to call them names. This really is too silly for further comment. There are much more important questions to ponder. By far the most important aspect of Skywatch 37 was Allen Greenfields paper on Ufo process. Highly thought-provoking from a man who is streets ahead of most of the people in ufology who spend all their time verbositising (how's that for verbositising?) and forget the real issues at stake. I agreed with almost every word Allen has ever written and after commenting in my new book that an article in Magonia by him was the most important I had read in years he follows it up with yet more cogent comment. Keet at it, Allen. The closed loop idea in ufo process is a fascinating one which might go a long way towards explaining something which has often puzzled me: Why is it that ufologists tend to attract towards them cases which emphasise their personal stance? Contrary to what a rather uninformed Richard Avery believes, I do not only ever investigate CE3 or CE4 cases. In the past 3 years I have only investigated three of these (Risley, Fredsham and Oakenholt). I have investigated, or been involved with, far more ordinary cases, many only get minor mentions or none at all in the literature (for obvious reasons). Of course CE3s and CE4s get more space, the reasons should not even need elaborating on. Ufoin was created to concentrate on these cases not to manufacture them (I am not quite sure what is being implied here). Even so it is true that the investigator attraction effect exists. No doubt it does apply to me; it certainly applies to Martin Keatman and Andy Collins (who are investigators with intentions, I do assure you). The need to discuss identified cases is one I recognise. I published a study of an IFO in Magonia last year, (Vendetta with Venus) and have another one in process. Let us hope others will recognise the value of the data in their midst (a point I emphasise in Ufo Study). Allens article bears extensive thought, but I must here endorse all that he says. Let us all remember its message in our work. Best wishes, Jenny Randles, Warrington, Cheshire.....

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MENTAL COMMUNICATIONS AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DISTURBANCE by MARK MORAVEC

Some of the more exotic UFO reports involve claims of "mental communication" with UFO entities. On the surface, such reports suggest that selected people can communicate with non-human intelligence by means of "telepathy". An alternative explanation is that the people involved are psychologically disturbed and are merely describing delusions which have no basis in physical reality. In this article, I will look at a number of Australian "mental communication" cases and show how they can be interpreted as primarily due to psychological disturbance.

Case 1

Mr.A. has had one major sighting of what he believes to be a UFO. One night he had a strong impulse to go to the local airport. He went onto the observation deck and saw a bright, round light in the sky; a light which "took off past the moon". The impulse to go to the airport was so strong that he got a headache.

Mr.A. has also had a number of more subjective experiences. He sometimes feels that "they" are controlling his mind against his will and directing him to do things which he doesn't want to do. Some nights Mr. A. has seen "invisible" beings near his bed. In one particular instance, he was awakened by the presence of an invisible being pointing to a burn mark (accidentally done when welding) on his forehead. He believes that the west coast of the USA will be destroyed by earthquakes or other natural disasters as punishment for the wickedness of man.

Can we accept the reporter's statements as a true and accurate portrayal of reality? In order to evaluate the case, we have to look at the persons reported experiences and how close these match up with the reported experiences of people who have been judged as psychologically disturbed. We also have to look at the reporter's background to see if there are any factors or crises which may have contributed to a psychological disturbance.

In this and the following cases, there are a number of experiences which are typical of those reported by "paranoid schizophrenics". According to disturbances in cognitive functioning. The individual may have delusions where real events are misinterpreted in a way which substantially differs from consensual reality and where these interpretations significantly influence the person's thoughts and behavior. Less often, the individual may also have hallucinations where he "perceives" people, objects or events which do NOT physically exist; or fails to perceive people, objects or events which DO exist. Hallucinations may involve any of the five senses, though auditory and visual hallucinations (in that order) are the most frequent.

As the term suggests, the most common delusion of paranoid schizophrenics is a paranoid fear of being influenced and controlled by outside forces. Although common sense may initially suggest otherwise, a belief in a hostile world offers many psychological advantages. For one thing, a paranoid person is relieved of personal responsibility for his own situation. The blame for personal failures and wrongdoings is always placed upon somebody else. Paranoia can be viewed as a psychological defence mechanism which projects the individual's responsibility onto the external world. Another advantage of paranoia is that a person can make an uncertain world predictable. No longer does he have to battle with his own personal conflicts or with subtle social influences. The paranoid's "enemies" are clearcut - all he has to do is to fight "them", and then life will become rosy. However, because this is a delusion, he will never succeed. The paranoid individual gains a short-term comfort at the expense of obtaining long-term solutions to his problems.

In the case of Mr.A., the subjective experience of his mind being controlled by outside forces is typical of the paranoid individual. The "invisible" beings are hallucinations which help provide companionship and meaning to an isolated, alienated man. The predicted natural disasters are part of a pseudo-religious belief which functions to de-emphasise the individual's own weaknesses by emphasising the failings of other people.

There are a number of factors in the reporter's background which have probably contributed to his psychological disturbance. He is a 56-year-old migrant who lives alone in a small room with only the barest of essentials. He has trouble staying at jobs; sometimes fights the people there; "they're all against me, and I don't know why". He sometimes strikes out in frustration. In his home country, he sometimes wanted to kill himself "because it was all too much" for him. All these details show that Mr.A has trouble coping with everyday life. His isolation, old age and the social dislocation of trying to settle in a new country have all probably contributed to his present state of affairs. His UFO sighting is only a low weight nocturnal light with no supporting witnesses or physical evidence. Since he has read much UFO literature with a preference for the "way out" type of articles, we can safely conclude that Mr.A has merely incorporated UFO material into his delusions.

Case 2

Mrs.B claims to have had three UFO sightings. The first was 30 years ago when she and a girlfriend saw an unusual object of light on a clear summer day. In the most recent sighting, her home was "buzzed" as a light went slowly overhead, "hovered" for five minutes and then went slowly away. In addition to these sightings, the reporter claims a continuing series of bizarre experiences involving contact with, and harassment by, unidentified entities or forces. Her experiences started some four years ago and were mostly centered in her home. She claims that articles of clothing disappeared when she wanted to use them and then later reappeared. Electrical equipment broke down; the television went haywire. She receives peculiar phone calls from people with unusual, unrecognisable voices who tell her they've seen her, to come and meet them, or that they will come over and visit her. She is also under telepathic control to make telephone calls to strangers. She claims to be a medium and is occasionally taken over in deep trance, afterwards not being able to remember anything.

The reported attributed other experiences to persecution by scientologists. She is controlled at a distance by an unidentified hypnotist who forces her to write "psychic" letters against her will and either post them or deliver them to a "contact" she refuses to name. Mrs.B. doesn't know when she is "under hypnosis" but

other people notice she is acting differently. Thoughts not her own are being put into her head. She is watched all the time and is followed around by people in cars. "One day a garden truck tried to run over me". She believes the scientologists are trying to drive her crazy because she resists their attempts to get money out of her. It should be noted that Mrs.B's first and only contact with the scientologists (before the present "harrassment" was over 20 years ago.

Mrs.B believes that other people (especially men) dislike her for no reason at all. Somehow she manages to "turn everyone off". She is blamed for anything that goes wrong and keeps losing her job. When she moved home, she received more strange telephone calls and she believes her phone was tapped. She then moved into a hotel in the same area and one day found her door smashed in. More recently, Mrs.B. claims to have been kidnapped and beaten by "entities". Incidentally, the reported claims to have an unusually large aura and to be "psychic" like her mother.

The above data can be interpreted in either a ufological or a psychopathological framework. In the ufological framework, we can firstly take note of the three nocturnal light sightings. However, these are of a low weight and Mrs.B. was very vague on details. Secondly, the misplaced clothes could be interpreted as a poltergeist (teleportation) effect. The malfunctioning of electrical equipment also falls into line. However, there is no objective evidence supporting the reporter's claim. The communication with "entities" could be interpreted as contact with the UFO intelligents. However, the witness is unsure of who she is "in contact" with. The harrassment could be interpreted as an MIB- related manifestation. However, she attributed a large part of her harrassment to the scientologists and is unsure whether or not it is connected with her "UFO" sightings.

In the psychopathological framework, we can interpret the reporter's experiences as matching the "symptom pattern" of paranoid schizophrenia. Mrs.B. appears to have paranoid ideas of reference where she unjustifiably associated external events with herself. For example, the alleged harrassment by scientologists and entities; thoughts being put into her head by hypnosis; being forced to write letters; receiving threatening phone calls; being followed at night; even her disappearing clothes are seen as part of some conspiracy directed against her. She is projecting her own unacceptable thoughts and feelings onto other people and events so that it appears that she is being persecuted. The reporter has also had hallucinations. An example is the man who picked her up one night and who supposedly turned into a repulsive caterpillar right before her eyes. Her perception of self is also disturbed. She feels she has been taken over by other personalities who must be pleased.

If the reporter of these experiences is going through a schizophrenic episode, what triggered it off? It is probably not a coincidence that these bizzare experiences started shortly after she was divorced four years ago. My impression is that the reporter was searching for a label for her experiences, i.e. as due to UFO entities, or the scientologists, or something else. As far as can be determined, all her reported experiences are completely subjective. Thus it is most likely that Mrs.B's experiences are due to a disturbed psychological state triggered off by her marriage breakup.

Case 3

For many years, Mr.C claims to have seen "beautiful spiritual lights" coloured pink, green, blue or orange. The lights come down, stop in mid air and burst into many beautiful colours. The largest UFO he saw was a large ball of which light with a grey coloured central cabin. The object seemed to land close to a ridge. The reporter later discovered a "blasted" boulder which he connected with the light. Mr.C wanted to go to bed but a voice said to him: "don't go, wait". He waited and "saw the most beautiful sight I could ever see" - white, zig-zagging lights. Mr.C claims to have had several "voice" contacts. On a bushwalk, he heard a voice tell him which was the right path to take: "The track is on your left side.... I said thank you whoever you are, turned left 20 feet and beheld the track. Was it a UFO being who could bend light waves or was it a Spirit from the other side.?"

Another time, the voice of his mother told him that he was on the wrong river. When he goes "deep into the UFO country" he received the feeling that little friendly people are present and are guiding him deeper into the gorge. Mr.C. believes there

may be a UFO base nearby and that he is a medium receiving the higher vibrations which others can't perceive. Amongst other subjective experiences, Mr. C. has had the feeling that someone was in the house with him and has had dreams in which he saw an underground "hangar". He claims to be able to track UFOs with divining rods and claims spiritual gifts of diving with rods for water and minerals, trance healings, automatic writing, reading flowers and teacups, voices and visions, ESP communications with animals and psychometry.

Now to an evaluation of the case. At least some of the UFO sightings appear to be explicable. The bursting lights could be flares. According to the witness himself, a television newsreport stated that the most spectacular sighting was actually of a meteorite. The possible physical evidence of the blasted boulder is unconfirmed. Mr.C's subjective experiences indicate a disturbed psychological state. The "voices" are most probably hallucinations. This is especially indicated by the incident involving his mother's voice which functioned to provide comfort and reassurance to him whilst in his isolated mode of existence. The man's background indicates difficulties in coping with life. At age 49 he had a nervous breakdown after his marriage broke up. He now lives alone, except for his dog. He owns his own home and people call him a "Pension Bludger". In one of his letters, Mr.C. asks: "Why me, Why?? Who am I, just a battler through life, hated all my life, but have kept as far out in front as I could." In conclusion, Mr.C's experiences appear to consist of delusions and hallucinations associated with misinterpretations of mundane lights and incorporating UFO and psychic lore. His marriage breakup, his profound isolation and his advanced years have probably all contributed to his current state of affairs.

Case 4

Mrs.D.claims to have had five UFO sightings. In the first sighting, the reporter got up from bed when she heard neighbourhood dogs barking. She heard a soft, low-pitched humming sound, looked outside and saw a large silvery-white, cigar-shaped object facing three smaller cigar-shaped objects, all at a high altitude, Bluish-silver "sparks" emanated from one cigar while the larger cigar appeared to "shudder". The witness woke her young grand-daughter who, upon being shown the lights in the sky, became frightened and ran into another room. The objects were viewed for over an hour and then the witness tried to get some sleep. The following afternoon, the witness allegedly became ill, vomited and had recurring headaches. Mrs.D. later discussed the sighting with her relatives. Strangely, her daughter-in-law was also allegedly to experience the same physiological symptoms!

The second sighting occurred one night at 4 am. An orange-coloured "flying saucer" with black sections or "windows" was seen for 20 minutes by Mrs.D. and her daughter-in-law (the latter allegedly becoming ill as detailed above.) After the object left, Mrs.D. felt "as if I had lost a friend". In the third sighting, Mrs.D. saw a vague, dark shape over the telegraph wires at 1.30 am. In the fourth sighting, she saw a white, dinner-plate shaped object in motion for 15 minutes while a passenger in a car. The object disappeared from view before anyone else could witness it. Mrs.D's fifth sighting was of a triangular object, multi-coloured, which appeared to move towards a plane.

Apart from these sightings, Mrs.D. has experienced hallucinations of "letters" in the sky. Once, she was standing at a busstop and saw brown-coloured "initials" ("S" and "P") which appeared to come out of a cloud. No one at the bus stop gave any indication of having seen the same thing. Another time, Mrs.D. was travelling in a car with her family when she again saw some letters in the sky. However, the others in the car ridiculed her and claimed there was nothing to be seen. The reporter also claims to have had two visions of Christ in a neighbourhood church. The apparitional figure, which appeared to carry a goblet, walked up to her, said "drink this for my sake", and then glided away and disappeared. She was the only witness to these visions. Several times Mrs.D. has received mental communications whilst engaged in routine activities such as doing the washing or watching television. In one incident, a male "voice" stated: "We are peaceful...Seek and you will find. You have not lived on our machines but have visited ten minutes as conditions were unsuitable. You contacted a 'mothalin' from a white cloud. Many people from 'Asperio' are from Japan;

England a few; and Australia 125. While on earth we seek, we have ways of communication. A message will be transcended very shortly. 25 men will be transported shortly. We think this man transports. Confide in no one except self-seeing humans. In contact with human who speaks foreign tongue. Do not touch. Evade is left eyes. We see eyes for transmission. Left hand straight with thumb up. Cuticle of utmost importance. Keep eyes clean. Protect colours: green, amber, blue good."

The messages appear to consist of images and words not necessarily connected in logical sequence, and the overall tone of the passages is emotionless and "mechanical" The above message was accompanied by vision of trees, large red flowers, a building and a black shiny pond all in the one scene. Mrs.D. is not sure whether the messages come to her in a psychic way from UFO intelligences or from her own mind. I would suggest the latter. The "communicators" provide a comfort and reassurance which Mrs.D. fails to find in ordinary living. By receiving these messages she has become a focus of attention and gained the feeling of being an important person.

The reporter claims to have a psychic background as a medium and has allegedly accomplished feats of levitation, healing by prayer, the sending of telepathic messages and the production of ectoplasm. Several times she has suddenly started speaking phrases in a "language" that no one has been able to identify (so-called "speaking in tongues"). She believes her home has become infested with mice, cockroaches, tarantulas, etc. A woman told her that it was a test by God.

How do we evaluate these bizarre claims? On initial examination, Mrs.D.'s UFO sightings appear to be fairly detailed and specific. However, at least some sightings may be misidentifications of planetary objects (for example, the light which was viewed for over an hour) and subjective exaggerations of ambiguous stimuli (the "dark shape" over the telegraph lines). The claimed physiological effects may have been induced by fear rather than any strange UFO influence. It is also possible that the single witness sightings were hallucinatory - especially since Mrs.D. has experienced a variety of other hallucinations. The reporter's observations of "letters" in the sky and visions of Christ are clearly hallucinatory since other people present failed to observe anything unusual. Likewise, her mental communications are most likely auditory hallucinations incorporating her subconscious fears and ideas from UFO and psychic lore. She appears to hold the delusional belief that her house has been purposely infested with bugs and pests. Her instances of loose association (the mental messages) and of fragmented/incoherent speech (the "speaking in tongues") are typical of the disturbances in thought which can be found in psychoses.

There are a number of factors which appear to have contributed to the reporter's psychological disturbance. She is aged 65, lives alone and is very isolated. Her poetry reveals an intense loneliness. She readily admits that life is going too slow for her and that she is not involved enough. She is divorced and immigrated to Australia some 16 years ago. Apparently a number of years ago, Mrs.D. underwent a period of amnesia following the death of a very close friend. There is evidence of marked conflict and tension between herself and some members of her family. Her mystical background has provided her with ample raw material for delusions.

From the above case studies, we can draw out a number of common factors which are "warning signs" that may point to a psychologically disturbed individual. Firstly if we look at the actual EXPERIENCES reported, the following experiences are consistent with an evaluation of psychological disturbance.

- * delusions (particularly paranoid beliefs)
- * hallucinations (such as "voices" and unpleasant smells)
- * distorted self image (body "contaminated"; body falling apart)
- * a bizarre, or illogical associations in thought and speech
- * autism (retreat from reality into a fantasy world)
- * vagueness and low weight of UFO reports
- * single witness status of experiences.

Secondly, there are a number of witness background factors which can contribute to a disturbed psychological state:

- * isolation
- * new settler (immigrant)
- * old age
- * history of nervous/mental breakdowns
- * difficulty in personal relationships.
- * unstable work history
- * well read in UFO and psychic lore.

Current convention divides psychological disturbances into two major categories: psychoses and neuroses. Neuroses can involve:

1. Worry, tension and distractability - indicants of excessive fear
2. Excessive forgetting obsessive thoughts and compulsive rituals - self-defeating attempts to cope with fear situations.
3. depression and fatigue - psychological residuals of prolonged tension.

Psychoses can feature:

1. hallucinations - disturbances in perceiving reality
2. delusions - disturbances in interpreting reality
3. loose associations, fragmented and incoherent speech - disturbances of thought
4. prolonged melancholy or elation - disturbances of mood.
5. isolation and withdrawal from others - disturbances in personal interaction.
(Buss.1986, p.31).

It has been said that the neurotic dreams in an unreal way about life whereas the psychotic lives life in an unreal dream. Using the above classification system, the people discussed in the case studies would be considered to be displaying psychotic behaviour.

Each of these two major categories can be further subdivided. Paranoid schizophrenia (featuring paranoid delusions) is considered to be a psychosis. It has to be stressed that these theoretical distinctions are inexact and controversial. There can, in fact, be considerable overlap in behaviour between categories. Also, a "breakdown" and the accompanying behaviour changes may only be temporary. Another point requiring emphasis is that we are not dealing with an organism "illness". There is no mysterious "insanity virus" floating about. On the basis of current psychological knowledge, psychoses can most reasonably be viewed as the result of many interacting factors - cultural, interpersonal, learning, biological and cognitive. That person, who may be biologically or developmentally predisposed to respond in a schizophrenic way, may have a breakdown if he experiences sufficiently great environmental stresses or crises. Further research is required to determine the relative influences of all these factors.

The line between "normal" and "abnormal" behaviour can be extremely fine depending on the situation or the cultural context. Is the man who keels down next to his bed and starts talking to himself mad, or is he praying? A witness does not have to be psychologically disturbed to be able to put an exotic interpretation on his experiences. For instance, people who are religiously-inclined can find great significance in their UFO experiences:

Case 5:

Mr.E was driving home when he saw a very bright, silver-white, cigar-shaped object or light source, stationary in the sky. No sound was detected and the object was seen for about 30 seconds. The reporter also felt that definite "feelings" had been "transmitted" from the object: "It wasn't aggressive, and it wasn't afraid - it was just sitting there as if it were a part of the sky, a part of the scheme of things, a part of nature, and it was such a natural part of the sky, that other people probably would not have noticed it. It seemed to know how to be a part of the Universe, and wasn't concerned what we think of it... It was an experience which I think few people would associate with as it was something which happened to me alone (seemingly only a very short incident, but has had a fairly great impact on my understanding of man's existence on earth and his relationship with God)." Soon after the sighting, Mr.E. became suddenly aware of what an "extraordinary beautiful clear day it was". He said that the "sky was the bluest he had ever seen before" and felt sure that these very strong feelings and the beauty of the day were relevant. "Without a doubt this day was extremely 'spiritual'."

In this case, the sighting stimulus could easily have been a distant balloon or aircraft. The witness has strong religious convictions and this led to a religious interpretation being placed upon a mundane event. It was a way of confirming his own desire to believe in "God", and of being a privileged witness to one of "his" manifestations.

The existence of UFO-related "mental communication" cases raises several issues. One issue is - what comes first: the psychosis or the UFO experience? We have argued in the case studies presented, that personal difficulties have contributed

to a psychological disturbance and that the individual has merely incorporated UFO and psychic lore in his delusions. An alternative viewpoint is that a traumatic UFO experience can trigger off a psychotic reaction in the individual. For this latter hypothesis to have any support, I would suggest that at least three conditions are necessary.

- a. the witness has experienced a traumatic UFO experience.
- b. this UFO experience has not been overshadowed by personal crises, and
- c. the disturbed psychological state (and accompanying behaviour) clearly began AFTER the UFO experience.

15. None of the cases which I have examined satisfy these criteria.

Are there any cases of mental communication which cannot be explained as simply due to a psychological disturbance? Further research is required to give a definite answer to this question. However, there do exist a number of provocative cases which are difficult to dismiss. In the Frankston, Victoria case of 1972 (Magee 1972) Mrs. Puddy had several detailed encounters with UFOs, mental communication contacts and apparition experiences. However, this was only a single witness case. The 1968 French case of Dr. "X" (Michel 1969) is one of the most extensively documented cases of psiological phenomena on record. In this case, the central witness received mental communications and experienced a wide variety of paranormal events subsequent to a detailed UFO observation. Even in the continuing case of Dr. Andrija Puharich (Holroyd 1979), whilst the communications received via mediums were most probably expressions of subconscious fantasies, some apparently genuine paranormal events (poltergeist-like effects and telepathy) did take place. In these cases, whilst the mental communications can still be interpreted as delusional, these subjective experiences may have been triggered off by a genuine UFO experience. Thus the "mixture Hypothesis" sees these cases to be a combination of objective, inexplicable UFO/paranormal events and subjective psychological delusions.

What are the implications of mental communication cases? At the most, they imply that some human beings can communicate directly with alien intelligences, and that such communications may potentially alter the course of human history. At the least, they imply that some people can successfully incorporate the UFO mythology into a complex, if delusional, belief system. It has been the aim of this paper to show that at least some mental communication cases can be explained as being the delusions of psychologically disturbed individuals. Other, more evidential cases appear to involve psychotic delusions triggered off by traumatic, but objectively real, UFO events.

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REVIEWS

BOOKS

Signs of the Gods by Erich Von Daniken. Published by Souvenir Press, 252 pages with photographs/illustrations. Price: £5.95.

This latest offering was first published in German under the title of 'Prophet Der Vergangenheit', and has been translated for Souvenir by Michael Heron. Since his rise to prominence in 1969, following the success of his book 'Chariot of the Gods' Von Daniken has cornered the market with his "Was God an Astronaut" writings. All Danikenites will, I'm sure enjoy this latest offering and will no doubt be asking for more! The first chapter deals with the 'Ark of the Covenant', which rambles on for some 40 pages, only for him to conclude that "the ark of the Covenant must still be in existence," and that the Plutonium reactor would still be emitting radiation,

therefore Von Daniken's way of uncovering the ark is with "a helicopter with sensitive detectors on board to fly over the potential territories". Simple, isn't it? Has anyone got a spare CH-47 Chinook? The rest of the book is the usual "evidence", cloning, mystery tribes, Malta - which he describes as a "paradise of unsolved puzzles", a comment I'm sure the Maltese Tourist Board will welcome! Daniken is the King of the Unanswered Question; perhaps when he's written fifty books this bad habit will dry up. To sum up Daniken, the words of Clifford Wilson are appropriate: "He takes conjectures, accents them as facts, builds onto them way-out theories and presents his "many small coincidences" according to his own preconceived notions. He deliberately chooses the unconnected, weaves a semblance of connection around it, and puts his theories out as forgone conclusions. This approach is often used by writers, and it may make exciting reading, but one dare not accept it as substantially credible".....

The Janos People by Frank Johnson. Published by Neville Spearman. 198 pages illustrated. Price: £4.50.

Johnson's book tells the story of a "Close Encounter of the Fourth Kind", (abduction/regressive recall of events). Experienced by five witnesses on a lonely road in Oxfordshire in the summer of 1978. "Ufology looks quite different after experiencing this investigation", the author proclaims, followed by "This story is sensational", Indeed it is, but not in the way Johnson would wish us to believe. The Janos people we are told, all ten million of them are waiting in space for permission to land on Earth and start a new life, throughout the book we hear of the planet Janos and its demise caused by one of its moons, Satcon, breaking up, climate, transport, food, clothing, animals, housing are all featured to give us the impression of it being once the elusive utopia. The five witnesses - Gloria, Frances and John, a carpenter/joiner and the two children, Tanya and Natasha, related in meticulous detail their ordeal. This includes the usual routine, a rather romantic comment comes from Uxiulia, a top explorer pilot, when answering the question, "Where is Janos?", his reply is, "Further away than you have every dreamed of". I found Johnson's questions very disturbing, a good example being the following when talking with Natasha (who was five years old at the time of the incident) some eight months after the experience. FRANK: And did you say you saw people in the windows?

NATASHA: Yes!

FRANK: And you saw them looking through the windows. Do you think they were looking at you?

NATASHA: Don't know!

FRANK: Were they looking down at you?

NATASHA: Yes.

A good case of asking leading questions! With the above in mind Johnson later states "Young children are more reliable, as witnesses, than most adults". The author's complete belief in the whole story is very evident indeed; such gems as the following enhance this view - "if its tripod straddled the roadway" (the tripod legs being 50 feet tall supporting a 350 foot diameter spaceship), "the very size of the spaceship would make it unrecognisable as such by a passing motorist; it would look like a motorway bridge in a patch of mist." The Janos people are responsible for the Sasquatch and Johnson also does not rule out the possibility that the Tunguska explosion in Siberia was the accidental destruction of a Janos ship. When reading the book, and in particular the philosophical aspects of life on Janos, my thoughts reminded me of an American TV movie made by ABC in 1971 starring William Shatner about space visitors who colonized the earth because of the destruction of their home planet. These aliens were peace-loving old-fashioned folk, like extraterrestrial Waltons, - this film was called 'The People'. I'm sorry to say that this book follows in the mould of Harold's "The Uninvited", and would not be out of place on a Science-fiction bookshelf. At last Britain has its own Daniken, says Kevin McClure (see his review of the Birmingham NUFON Conference this issue), which probably means to say that it will be a best seller

Round Trip to Hell in a Flying Saucer by Cecil Michael. Published by Roofhopper Enterprises Inc., 10, Orchard Street, Avondale, Auckland 7, New Zealand, 65 pages. Price: Three dollars 45 plus one dollar 20. Also available from Susal Stebbing, 41, Terminus Drive, Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 6PR (write for price).

This book is a reprint of the original, first published by Vantage Press in the States in 1955, and tells the bizarre story of Michael, an auto-mechanic being visited by two visitors from outer space who decide to take him to hell and in doing so he meets the devil. I don't wish to seem unfair but I could not stop laughing and in the end I put the book down in disbelief. At one stage we have Michael saying that the interior of the spaceship was illuminated by giant candles! I have never read such nonsense in all my life. However, I would advise people to read it, just to experience a part of ufology history best forgotten.

The Interrupted Journey by John G. Fuller. Published by Souvenir Press, 340 pages. illustrated. Price £6.95.

Following the success of Fuller's last two books, "The Ghost of Flight 401" and "The Airmen who would not die", it was perhaps the appropriate thing to for the first time publish this classic case in Britain. Included in this edition is an up-dated foreword and epilogue which includes a hypnotic session with the Hills Benjamin Simon, Fuller and Allen Hynek. After seeing the dramatised version of the Hills' abduction on television some time ago, made by Universal in 1975, entitled "The UFO Incident", which was very well made, the book is an in-depth investigation into two hours that were lost when Betty and Barney Hill were motoring home from Canada to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, USA. They had noticed a large shining object ahead of them and only through countless hours of regressive hypnosis conducted by a distinguished psychiatrist, Dr. Benjamin Simon, does the true detail of their remarkable encounter emerge. Betty's recall of seeing a star man in the Ufo, which Betty later drew and was identified as Zeta Reticuli, is real evidence that the whole affair was physical and not a product of the mind. I recommend this book to all serious students of the subject - a long needed update of a case that has stood the test of time.

Photographs of the Unknown by Robert Rickard and Richard Kelly. Published by the New English Library. Large hard back format, 144 pages. Price £7.95. This fascinating book was published on October 16th. It includes some 300 photographs (many never before published) and is a unique collection of photographic evidence of the paranormal. The book is in six parts, chapter headings are: Strange Life; Unusual Natural Phenomena; UFOs; Psychic Phenomena; Paranormal Persons and Mind over Matter. A six-page introduction precedes the collection of photographs. Rickard and Kelly must be congratulated for uncovering this mass of visual excellence and I for one hope that a second volume can be published in the very near future. The large format and glossy paper makes some of the inclusions very impressive indeed! In particular, Stigmata on pages 70/71, Lansing's Thoughtography on pages 80/83, Pain Immunity on pages 114 and 115 and the colour photos of the Enfield Poltergeist case at the end of the book. This book is a must for anyone's book shelf, and a first class reference source as all photos are credited with their source at the back of the book. Well done, gentlemen!.....

* * * * *

NOTES FROM A PARALLEL UNIVERSE - THE BIRMINGHAM NUFON CONFERENCE 11.10.80.

Advertised in FSR as having the theme "Close Encounters in the Past, Present and Future", this edition of the NUFON Conference never really had any pretensions to objectivity or scientific method. I suspect that it was originally designed to launch the Psigistics theory to a broader audience, but in fact it amounted to more than that. It was a valuable experience, and there was much to be learned; about belief, human nature, abnormal psychology, and sometimes about UFOs. But essentially this was a day devoted to UFOlogy rather than UFOs, to our approach and response to the phenomenon, rather than to the phenomenon itself.

It fell to me to "do" the past, which I did in the only viable way, looking at accounts of religious experiences. With evidence gathered from a variety of cases - the "Egryn Lights" (Wales 1905), Fatima, Garabandal, Lourdes, Joseph Smith, Llanthony and Beauraign - I pointed out the frequency with which these early entity cases appeared to have their "cue" or trigger in the appearance, often to witnesses to whom the entity did not then appear, of a ball of light or similar event. To me at least, it seems that CE cases have been occurring for many years, with notably consistent characteristics.

Martin Keatman followed with a very relevant piece about "Acceptance Levels". His abstract ran - "This paper examines UFO and UFO occupant experiences and attempts to explain why there appear to be so many different types. It is rather that we see what we expect and would wish to see, more so than what is actually present". . . If investigators were on commission, Martin Keatman and Andy Collins would be rich. Of course they have been criticised, as any individual will be who sets himself up as an expert, and works so hard at living up to the title. But live investigation is difficult, and if Martin were to think out his case reports as well as his piece on "Acceptance Levels", and could consistently apply the thinking of one to the content of the other, there would be little to criticise. As he said, "If you wish to believe in UFOs from other worlds you will do so. If you believe in demons, angels, fairies, elves and the Virgin Mary you will see them. If you believe in the Devil he will surely appear to you. To believe is to cloud your vision . . . remember, belief is the enemy".

Anyone who heard Andy Collins speak would have to admit that he has courage. He spoke first from a broadsheet titled "The Prophecised New Age - What's it all about?" and then introduced John Day, the central figure of the Aveley case, who is now both a co-worker and a friend. It is clear that Andy believes in a forthcoming earthly Armageddon, and that this belief derives in large part from dreams and visions experienced by John and Sue Day in the wake of their "abduction". While we were not, unfortunately, permitted to know all the facts (which are apparently being saved for Andy's book, "The Chosen"), the key vision has been of the battered and scarred remains of humanity climbing wearily up Dragon Hill, Uffington to await the arrival of UFOs to carry them off to "some destination unknown". The "message" extracted from this is what we should live pure, healthy, vegetarian lives, "in total harmony with the forces of the earth." The alternative is that they "will suffer total degeneration, will become violent, arrogant, disorientated, and confused; and end their time in total destruction as the world itself collapses around them."

John Day, who spoke briefly about Aveley, and then answered a great many questions, has something of the guru about him. His lifestyle is the ideal of Andy's concept of the New Age survivor, and it is easy to see how he wins over those who meet him and listen to him. He has a serenity and candour that swayed even the darkest cynics among us, but sad to say that in no way confirms the objective truth of his claims. Evangelism has little to do with investigation, and knowing that presumably valuable information was being withheld for publication later did not encourage belief in the selflessness that was being recommended.

Secrecy and belief also featured in Frank Johnson's introduction to his book, "The Janos People", on sale for the very first time at the Conference. By the time this piece appears many of you will have read the book, and formed your own opinion of it. I understand that no report of the case has been submitted to UFOIN or NUFON, and the reason for this seems clear; the evidence for the case is so poor that it will only stand the sort of uncritical presentation it receives in the book. There is every reason to assume that Mr. Johnson's own beliefs have dictated the nature and content of the investigation, and on one occasion during his talk he said, referring to the films shown to the witnesses, "We saw one of the dogs." When picked up on this by a member of the audience he explained, "I'm a little bit telepathic". As the talk proceeded, he described psychological theories as "Airy, vague, meaningless phrases", and generally substituted repeated and unreasoned assertion for convincing argument. At last Britain has its own Von Daniken. What a pity!

After this flight into unconvincing (but clearly profitable) sciencefiction, the ubiquitous Jenny Randles came as an immense relief. Again, she is an individual who lays herself open to criticism by attempting to do what matters to her exceptionally well. She has already achieved an immense amount, and while she may be accused of dictatorship, she has at least proved that a successful investigation network, with markedly high standards, can be run without councils, committees, or Peers of the Realm. She has carefully reflected the trends that have prevailed in UFOlogy over the last few years - perhaps this is where her problems are now beginning.

On this occasion, however, Jenny did the right thing, and did it very well. After a day filled with beliefs, opinions and dramatic accounts, she bombarded us with facts, figures and analysis, from a survey she has made of CE3 and CE4 cases. I will not try and give details here (I took 5 pages of notes in 20 minutes), but it must be obvious that detailed analysis of the material we so diligently collect is absolutely vital if we are to resolve its problems to any extent. I hope Jenny will have time to extend this survey beyond the basic 70 cases, and will have the chance to publish the results. She clearly feels she has a responsibility to take an overview of CE cases just as they are, leaving argument and dissection till after the material has been collated and organised. I am sure she is right. Funnily enough, she was the only speaker, on the day, to whom the "paranormalism" label would not stick!

We don't have many conferences, and each of them ought to be something of a milestone in our development. This one certainly had its own character, and you could tell it had been set up by the Parasearch team. There is no doubt that Parasearch has impressed many of us with its diligence, its willingness to investigate despite personal inconvenience, and its energy in propounding new and radical approaches to our subject. But its influence and its way of thinking are essentially what has led to charges of "paranormalism" from NUFOIS, and of "allowing a vociferous and active minority to pervert the truth by making the facts fit their own beliefs", from FUROR. They have also led to letters such as that in Skywatch No.37 which ends, "Am I the only person to have noticed that the same people are always investigating these bizarre and weird UFO/psychic cases, and never your Joe Soaps."

Well, to some extent you make your own luck, or set your own Acceptance Level, or whatever. If you expect only ever to investigate third-rate LITS, then that's probably all you'll ever get offered to you. Parasearch, and a good many more of us knew that if you go out looking for good CE cases with psychic and mystical overtones, and you ask the right questions in the right places, then you'll find what you're looking for. And it does seem proven that many people are looking for weird reports and who's to blame them? LITS are not very interesting, and who wants to make a wholehearted commitment to boredom?

This is a time of experiment, and experiments involve patience, ingenuity and risk. I suspect that Frank Johnson's experiment has probably resulted in his creating a lengthy and complex CE3/CE4 through an act of sustained will and desire, more or less regardless of objective reality or experience. Andy Collins, who works incomparably hard at UFOlogy, has quite possibly fallen, through over-involvement, for an archetypal false prophecy. But then, it is a remarkable individual who never allows belief to get the better of him (And let one thing be clear - Andy organised this conference like a professional, and I hope he'll be asked to do it again).

The risks to individuals involved in what we might call radical UFOlogy are considerable, in terms of both mental well-being and family life. However, tactless or awkward its practitioners may be, there is no point in criticising them for investigating in a way we do not approve of, or of being jealous of what they come up with as a result of investigating in that way. There is no "right" or "wrong" way of investigating - to refer to one approach to investigation as that of "Joe Soaps" displays all the cultural subtlety of the average skinhead. Ball lightning is no more the whole answer than is psychism, and Zeta Reticuli and the Hill Star Map have as little to do with constructive investigation as does the presence of the Sasquatch on a planet on or near Janor. To decry CE3 and CE4 cases on principle is simply bloody-minded.

In a couple of years, we will be very grateful to our "paranormalists" - such of them whose mental health and interest lasts that long - for establishing the boundaries of intelligent UFOlogy, and for finding out how to investigate without a BUFORA report form. At present, it may well be that they are seen to exaggerate, to over-emphasise features which interest them, and to give the impression that they do not wish to be "Joe Soaps". But for precisely this reason, the groups and individuals that counter-balance this attitude should be sticking with NUFON and UFOIN, not deserting it. Let's leave backing off to BUFORA, who are busy making a virtue of it.

There must, of course, be a sticking-point, a point where enough is enough. My opinion is that the cue for that point is the detection of intentional dishonesty, and any accusation of that kind must be taken seriously, and answered comprehensively. Cries of "Copyright", or "it's waiting for publication" are irrelevant at best, and are likely to raise doubts. I have only one suggestion to resolve our current conflicts, to improve the general standard of investigation, and to help clarify the nature of the phenomena and that is, simply, to deny ourselves the dubious luxury of hypnotic regression. An unconscious witness is all too malleable. Let's keep them conscious, keep them talking, and keep ourselves sane.

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UFO RESEARCH: TROUBLE ON THE GROUND by CHRIS RUTKOWSKI

Although Philip Boffey had a different meaning for his title, the above paraphrase is very much applicable to the present infighting between rival UFO groups.

Reading of the conflicts between the "north" and "south" British groups, and of the APRO/NICAP/MUFON ward in America, one has to sit back and look at the situation from a different viewpoint.

The basic unity between the groups lies in their agreement that UFOs need to be studied. Ideally, the studies should be done by a resourceful group of coordinated scientists, each collecting and evaluating data. However, the present situation has, for the most part, small clusters of individuals with relatively little scientific background striving to find "proof" of UFO existence. Research is hampered by many problems: ineffectual overlap, group politics and backbiting. In general, however, most groups cooperate on a large scale, and this is easily observable in the overlap of membership of several organisations. Dr. Hynek has pointed out (CUFOS Bulletin, Spring 1980, pp.3-6) many ways in which various networks serve as efficient reporting agencies. He notes that the main reason there are so many UFO reports coming from England is related to both these reporting systems and the high number of organisations per unit area.

In Canada, the situation is more sparse, with usually not more than one group per province (excepting Ontario). For comparison, per unit area, it would be as if there were only one group in all of Britain! Attempts to coordinate these Canadian groups are still in the testing stage, but it is expected that a feasible network will form soon.

A major cause of infighting is due to human nature. This is evident worldwide (and of course is not confined to UFO groups). It is rarely a case of "who is right?", but more usually just an unresolvable difference of opinion. Another problem lies in the fact that there is far too little self-criticism by UFO investigators and researchers of their own work, yet there can be no "official" judge of quality in ufological circles at this time. Peer groups are just beginning to form for UFO research. This is related to the makeup of the UFO groups themselves.

When a case is reported, whom does it "belong" to? It may not be as simple as "first come first served". What if the first group, Group A, has a less efficient team than Group B? What if Group C has better equipment for analysis? Who is to judge this efficiency and quality of equipment?

Again, it is wise to search for the ideal. A case is useful as data if it is investigated thoroughly and the investigating agency includes all relevant facts. Also, it would be important that information about the case be readily accessible to other researchers. Without a "UFO Citation Index" or "Ufology Abstracts", however, the latter is attained to a good degree by publishing in ufazines. If Group A overlooks a fact that Group B questions, then should Group B reinvestigate? (A re-evaluation by a nearby group might prove useful, especially for the close-knit groups, for example, in England. In Canada, however it is unlikely that if Group E in province E is incompetent in a UFO investigation, Group F, several hundred miles away, will look into it). But this brings up a possible situation of fingering and name-calling, some things to be avoided at all costs.

Differing attitudes, too, play an important role in group rivalry. It is obvious that a group with an ET outlook would tend to be at odds with a group leaning towards

the metaphysical aspects. But even within the separate attitudes, there can be disagreement between factions, for example, who apply less critical judgement than others.

Gray Barker had the right idea when he developed his chart depicting the attitudes of ufologists today. It is easy to find the "left", "right" and "middle of the road" groups and individuals in the UFO field.

Of course, nobody is entirely "wrong". A psychic-oriented or a hollow-earth group serves to develop UFO theories as well as a "scientific" Group. Even badly-organised groups dig up useful information for other researchers. Should they be purged anyway?

The answer lies in the main mystery of the UFO phenomenon. No one knows what the objects really are. Therefore, Group A's theory of origin is just as feasible as Group B's (within reasonable qualifications. What if Group C thinks UFOs are holes in the firmament?) We are all UFO investigators, and/or researchers, trying to find the truth. Personal conflicts and group rivalries definitely do not contribute to fruitful ends, yet are obviously going to continue as long as people are involved. But isn't that what UFO investigation is about? After all, we're not examining the UFO, but the witness. The witness is even already in a defensive position. ("I know what I saw!") Do we prove his or her sighting is a hoax, misidentification or true UFO? Group A finds evidence to show it was ball lightning, but group B has evidence to show it was a spaceship. (Group H, of course, holds a seance, and a spirit refutes both of them).

I don't know. Rivalries exist even among scientists; they are inescapable. In the field of UFO research, however, rivalries only fuel the attacks by scientists who point out that UFO "buffs" cannot seem to come to terms with each other. We're already in a bad position, and conflicts do not help at all. But, we'll manage, since in time, enough peer pressure will develop to a point where "good" UFO research will be recognized and appreciated.

And, to finish, let me add that a UFO report is not "mine" or "yours", but "ours" and "theirs" as well. I think that a central depository for UFO reports is an excellent idea. Contact UK and CUFOS both have UFO catalogues which are immensely valuable. Easy access is another definite plus, which still can be improved upon. Otherwise, what the heck, we're doing fine!

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MAPIT NEWSDESK

With this issue of Skywatch we say goodbye to 1980 and welcome 1981; the last twelve months have been very quiet regards actual ufo sightings. Most of them investigated by MAPIT turning out to be IFOs. In the New Year we will be featuring some of the more interesting cases from 1980 as well as brief details of the identified cases. Anyway, on with the news.....

Bad news in issue number nine of 'Alpha' magazine published in October. David Harvey and Roy Stemman (co-Editors) inform subscribers that Issue 9 may very likely be the last. Financial reasons it would seem, are to blame.....

Look out for Raymond Dranke's new book 'Titans in Antiquity' yet to be published. It will be his 9th 'Gods and Spacemen' book.....

The book 'Astronauts of Ancient Japan' by Vaughan M Greene, reviewed in Skywatch 33 is now available in Britain from Prentice-Hall International, 66 Wood Lane End, Hemel Hempstead, Herts, HP2 4RG. Price £4.50 plus 55p postage.....

Another book from Charles Berlitz will be with us soon. Published by Granada, entitled "The Roswell Incident", it concerns an American CE3 case.....

Issue 2 of 'UAP Encounters' published in Jersey by Dean Preston is now available. It includes "Biography of a Hoax" by Fufor and 'UFO's - a UK selection' by yours truly. Write to Hautes Murailles, Samares Lane, St.Clement, Jersey, CI.....

Annual Subscription to Bufora has been increased to £7.50 from £5.00. Write to: Betty Wood, 6 Cairn Avenue, London, W5 5HX for a membership form.....

Genesis is the title of a new book published by Corgi and written by W.A. Harbinson. Its the first pornographic fictional book on Ufos and Ufology. An investigator named Stanford has a novel way of interviewing witnesses. He illicitly gets data from them by beating them to death or by raping them. 611 pages in length - it should come with a Government health warning. Price is £1.75.....

A varied selection of cassette tapes (13 in total) covering UFOs is available from Reginald Bradbury, Riverside Cottage, Bridgend, Harpford, Sidmouth, Devon, EX10 0NG. Two tapes £3.00 or ten dollars overseas (air mail). Send an SAE or IRCs for complete list.....

NUFOR (Southwest) have re-named their group 'Probe' and the magazine 'The Probe Report' copies are 45p. They also have hardback copies of Arthur Shuttlewood's book 'Warning from Flying Friends', which is 266 pages in length and can be bought from them at the bargain price of £1.00 including postage. Write to: Ian Mrzyglod, 16 Marigold Walk Ashton, Bristol, BS3 2PD or telephone: 0272-66270.....

Hangar 18 is the name of a new film just out starring Darren McGavin and Robert Vaughn. The story concerns a crashed Ufo and its coverup by you know who! Also another film to watch out for is 'The Ufo Chronicles'. Currently in production it will incorporate actual documentary footage as well as clips from early UFO movies. More details on this when available will be published in Newsdesk.....

Jenny Randles wrote to us recently concerning her new books - details as follows: UFO STUDY will be published in about March by Robert Hale. It is a guide to the development of Ufological skills for the would-be ufologists. WINDOW ON ANOTHER WORLD, co-written with Paul Whetnall is a study of the window area phenomenon with relevance to the Oakenholt area of North Wales and the experiences of the Sunderland family. Due in May from Neville Spearman. Jenny is also working on a fourth book which concerns 'time anomalies' or instances where time has gone amok. This book is tentatively called TRAVELLERS IN TIME. A contract is in process at the moment, but it will probably not be published by either of her other publishers.....

New titles from Sphere books to look out for in the new year are Tarotmania, written by Jan Woudhuysen, which is 'the definite Guide to the Tarot'. and Your Innate Psychic Powers by Jean Burns.....

The 15th November was a hectic day for me, as a meeting between Probe from Bristol, Fufor and Mapit took place at the editorial address. In attendance was Ian Mrzyglod, Mike Seager, Terry Chivers and Julie Blake for Probe. Steven Cleaver, Mark Tyrrell and Tony Clarke for Fufor and myself on behalf of Mapit. I would like to thank all those who attended and made the eight hours of ufological talk so rewarding. It is hoped closer ties can be gained from this informal meeting and that a future get-together can be arranged.....

* * * * *

2nd LONDON INTERNATIONAL UFO RESEARCH CONGRESS

DATES - Sunday and Monday 24th and 25th May 81 (Spring Bank Holiday)

VENUE: Mount Royal Hotel, Marble Arch, London W1.

Following the successful first International Congress held in London in August 1979 BUFOPA (British UFO Research Association) are now finalising the programme for the second Congress to be held in May 1981.

An eminent panel of speakers from the United States and Europe will subsequently be announced. Amongst those expected to present papers at the Congress are:

- Dr. Bruck S Maccabee of the United States
- Dr. Alain Esterle of France
- Mr. Charles Bowen, Editor of Flying Saucer Review
- Senor Jose Antonia Campana of Madrid, Spain.
- Herr B Kuhlmann - Sweden Project URD.
- Mr. D. Haisell, Canada.

Eminent Researchers from Sweden, Germany, Denmark, Netherlands and other countries have been invited to participate.

The President of BUFORA, Lord Kings Norton, Engineer and Scientist, is anticipating opening the Congress and Addressing the Delegates.

Dr. Hynek, Director of the Centre for UFO Studies in the USA and for twenty years a civilian consultant to the US Air Force, is also expecting to attend the Congress.

During Congress proceedings a report will be given updating the work of the provisional international committee on UFO research. Following the meeting of the Committee in Copenhagen, during October 1980, it is anticipated they will be meeting in London immediately prior to the Congress in May 1981.

A full programme of the Congress will shortly be published giving the bibliographies of the speakers and the contents of their subject. An exhibition of UFO Research material will be displayed, and any groups of ufologists or organisations at home or abroad are welcome to participate in the exhibition after clearance from the co-ordinator through the Congress Secretariat.

Any UFO groups wishing to circulate their members with details of the Congress can obtain leaflets on application to the Secretariat. (please state numbers required).

A special Congress dinner is planned for the Sunday evening hosted by Lord Kings Norton which will be by ticket only. Negotiations are in hand to obtain for the Congress one of the best UFO films produced and this will be shown after the Congress dinner.

To enable people who live outside London to attend the Congress at a considerable saving, BUFORA is negotiating with British Rail and Grand Metropolitan Hotels a special Congress Package. This incorporates a return travel ticket from the delegates local station plus two night accommodation in a centrally located hotel. Details to be published shortly.

BUFORA expects this second International Congress to be of great interest to both Ufologists and the Scientific establishment and consequently the cultist fringe will not be welcome.

For further information contact:

- Office Hours - Jeffrey Mansfield 01 629 6618
- Evenings - Lionel Beer, London 01 723 0305
- Leslie Bayer 04427 6140
- Peter Hill, Edinburgh 0589 33720

I would like to thank Leslie Bayer for the above information on the 2nd International UFO Congress.....

A handy little booklet is the newly published 'Flying Saucer Treasure Trove'; it is 12 pages in length and includes some 110 names and addresses of interest around the world, cassettes, slides, detectors, photos, etc. If you are looking for items such as that then this publication will be of great help. Also available is the 'UFO Research Directory with 600 contacts worldwide in its pages. Both publications published by Gene Duplantier, 17 Shetland Street, Willowdale, Ontario, Canada, M2M 1X5. Price of Directory: two dollars 95. Write to Gene for a full list of books and magazines.....

If a red cross appears on the following line, your subscription has run out with this issue. See back page for rates.....

May I wish all members and readers a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thanks to you all for your much needed support throughout the year.

DAVID REES.

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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. Quarterley 30p post paid. From: 303 Cauldwell Hall Road, Ipswich, Suffolk. IP4 5AF.....

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 Sub. £1.70 Prices include postage. From: Revelation, 8 Victoria Court, Victoria Road, New Brighton, Wirral Merseyside, L45 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. Sent 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. SAF 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, Worcs.....

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THE END BITS

QUOTES:

Horse sense is so called for a very good reason - horses don't bet on people - Carruthers.

Sign in a Manchester Office:

Rule one: The boss is always right.

Rule two: If boss is wrong, see rule one.

When I'm asked to hold the fort, why does it always turn out to be the Alamo? - Magda Graham.

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