

STRANGE DAZE

A VACUUM IS A HELL OF A LOT
BETTER THAN SOME OF THE STUFF
NATURE REPLACES IT WITH .
-Tennessee Williams



MAY 1997

NUMBER 13

PRICE : £1.50

This Issue:

**Floating Frogs &
Flying Saucers**
We discuss the
gravity of the
Situation.

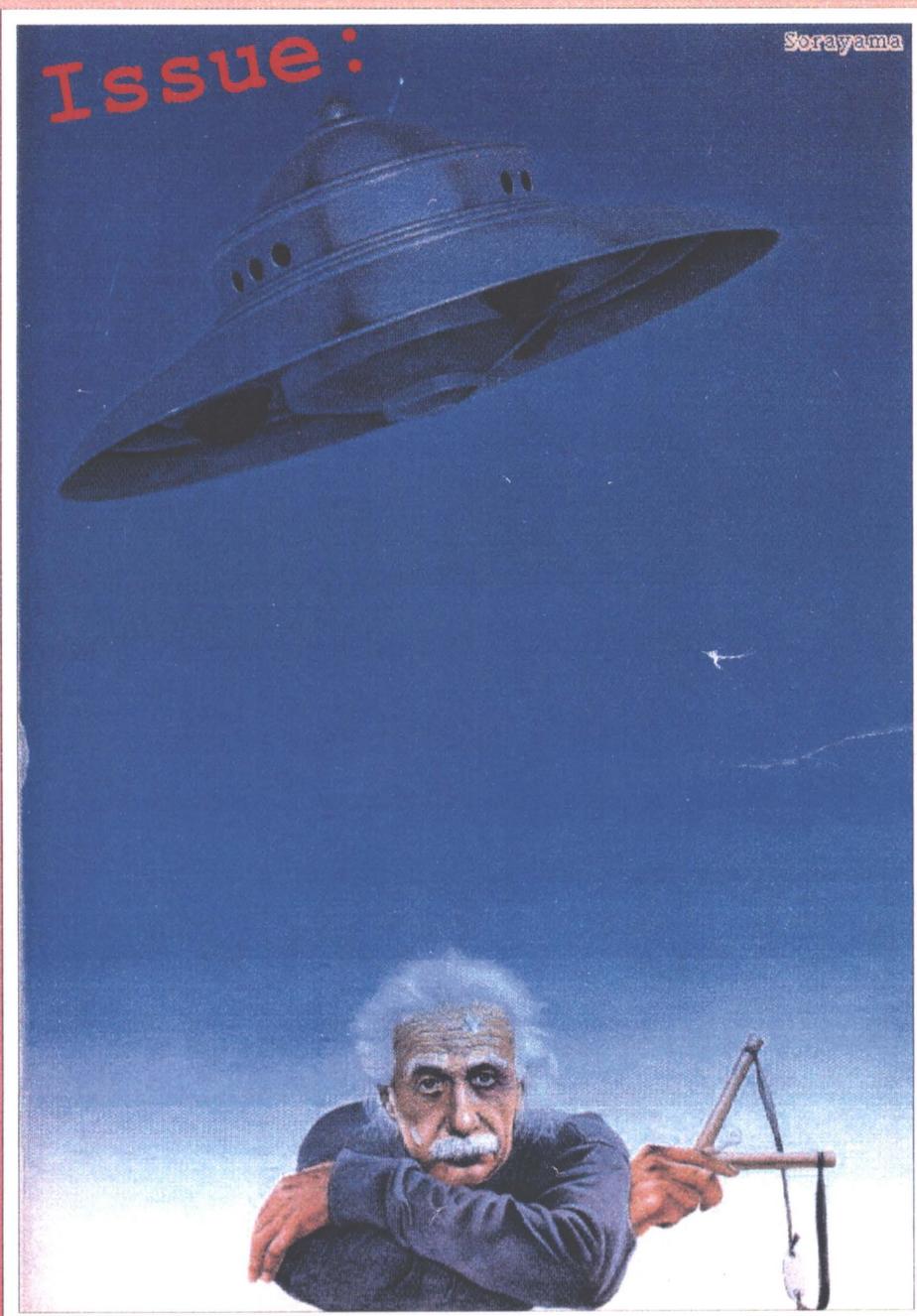
**The Falkland Hill
Landing.**
The Fife
Incident 1996.

**The Return of
Dr. Bob Doddman!**

**Saucer Crash in
South Yorkshire?**

Case
Investigations
by **Gloria Dixon**

**& All the
Other
Regular
Features.**



NUFORI NORTHERN U. F. O RESEARCH & INVESTIGATION

STRANGE DAZE Number 13 May 1997

Contents:

Editorial.....	3
News.....	4
Investigations by Gloria Dixon.....	7
The Fife Incident by Malcolm Robinson with comment by David Colman.....	12
Xenomorphology by Paul Cabby.....	18
Tracks on the Desert by Dean James.....	19
Amateur Science solves the UFO Mystery by Steuart Campbell.....	21
Reviews.....	24
Letters.....	29
Heck's Files.....	31
The Paranoid World of Dr Bob Doddman.....	32

STRANGE DAZE is the publication of Northern UFO Research and Investigation.

Postal Address: NUFORI, Unit 2A, East Cheap, Heaton,
Newcastle upon Tyne, NE6 5UA.
E-mail: Alys4@aol.com
Fax: 0191 2764437

No personal visits, please.
It's not our office.

Suave, Sophisticated Editor & International Man of Mystery: Dave Newton. Tel: 0191 2714419 ☎

Editorial assistants & Illuminati double agents: Alyson, Paul, Ian D, Jeff, & Jon.

"Colin the Clip Art" appears courtesy of Ian Roden and Podium magazine. © 1997.

Investigations Coordinator: Gloria H. Dixon Tel: 0191 2368375. ☎

Subscription Rates: £1.50 per issue, £6.00 for one year (including postage). Please make cheques payable to **D.A. Newton** (not "NUFORI"). We also accept payment by postal order, cash, postage stamps and beer (although it tends to make the envelopes soggy).

STRANGE DAZE is printed on paper made from trees, a renewable natural resource. But our computer runs on plutonium pellets - Atoms for Energy! ☺

Views expressed are not necessarily those of the Editor, Strange Daze or NUFORI.

© 1997. Articles are copyright of the named author or Strange Daze.

NUFORI is a small group of UFO investigators, researchers and writers. Since UFOlogists invariably end up having fights and putting laxatives in each other's beer, NUFORI does not hold regular meetings. Being sad, we prefer e-mail. ☺



Above: The editorial meeting. "No, don't make me read Quest's UFO Magazine again!" screams Jon Lee.

Left: Your editor being eco-friendly and hugging a tree up in Edinburgh. "Yup, just the right size for the Strange Daze papermill."

EDITORIAL

Welcome to the 13th issue of Strange Daze, all the copies of which should be adorned by a splendid full colour cover. This issue is also adorned with a new improved price, too. Those lucky people known as "existing subscribers" don't have to pay extra, but from now the subscription rate goes up to £6 per year. So, it is unlucky 13 for the rest of you. I don't like having to raise the price, but my bank manager does. Recent increases in production costs (caused by a year long strike by the Union of Guatemalan Staple Miners), plus the ever increasing size of the magazine, force me to charge a reasonable amount for it.

Comet Hale Bopp has now gone past its peak and from now on we can watch it fade and retreat back into the outer solar system. Perhaps some of you, like your editor, have been following the comet with binoculars and telescopes and maybe looking out for a companion spaceship twice the size of Earth. What a surprise - we haven't seen one! Why? Because there is no companion. If it was there, we would have seen it by now. Either that, or the aliens can make it invisible. I have no doubt that some of the conspiracy theorists and alien believers will be saying just that. After all, the aliens can make their ships invisible during abductions and float people through walls, can't they? They seem able to suspend the laws of physics at will. Despite the improbability of the "Hale-Mary", this comet companion story seems to have spread far and wide. I was asked about it many times while showing the comet to people at one of the observing sessions in Sunderland's Backhouse Park. I told everyone the story was rubbish, because I am absolutely certain that it is.

Nevertheless, there are plenty of gullible people about who are willing to believe anything that sounds like a new X-files plot. But the story continues to develop: The non-existent companion is now the follow up mission to the alien spaceship called by us Comet Shoemaker-Levy, which collided with Jupiter a couple of years ago. How the aliens could fail to see and avoid an object as big as Jupiter can only add weight to the theory that aliens are well and truly crap. (See the article on alien incompetency in the last issue of Strange Daze.) What has happened to this latest invasion force, heaven only knows - Perhaps they lost their way in all the dust being given off by the comet itself.

Comets are traditionally the harbingers of great change, disaster, upheaval and death. It certainly meant death for the Heaven's Gate group in San Diego, California (where else?). Twenty one women and eighteen men in Marshall Applewhite's cult committed suicide on 25th March by taking large quantities of Phenobarbital washed down with vodka. The group believed that after shedding their bodily shells, their souls would rendezvous with the spaceship behind Hale Bopp. Several times before, Applewhite had led his group during their travels through the United States to camp out in a field and

wait for a UFO to take them all away. The UFOs never arrived, naturally, but Applewhite did get some fame/notoriety out of it; after one such failed UFO rendezvous in 1975, a TV movie starring John Forsythe was made about him and the group. As Obi-Wan Kenobi might have said, "Who is the more foolish? The fool, or the fool who follows him?" Still, it was their decision to take their own lives and I respect that decision, as futile and pointless as it may seem to the rest of us. Yes, it was a tragedy, a waste of human life, etc., etc. But I cannot help also but feel that now at least there are 39 less idiots in the world for the rest of us to have to deal with.

Death plays a big part in Fortean studies. Just take a flick through the FT Book of Strange Deaths. There are a myriad wonderful ways to shuffle, slide, drop and explode off this mortal coil. The method of farm buying chosen by the Heaven's Gate group seems fairly restrained: For example, take the youth in Texas who popped his clogs after strapping a JATO rocket pack onto his Chevy Impala (or a different make of car, depending upon which version you read) to see how fast it would go. He ran out of road, and brake pads, at approximately 350 mph and hit a rock face. Police thought at first that an aeroplane had crashed into the rocks. Now, THAT shows a certain sense of style. One other death/disappearance I appreciate involves Benjamin Bathurst. Bathurst was in Perleberg, Germany while on official British government business during the Napoleonic Wars. While watching his luggage being loaded onto his carriage outside the White Swan Inn on 25th November 1809, he stepped around to the heads of the horses and vanished. Despite being in the presence of several other people, he was never seen again. Perhaps this gentleman was beamed aboard a passing comet, body and soul. If so, would Applewhite have been applegreen with envy?

For me, the most interesting feature of the Heaven's Gate mass suicide is that each cult member had, with their small bag of possessions, \$5.75 in cash. Why? In Mark Twain's 1907 story "Extract from Captain Stormfield's Trip to Heaven", the Captain went on a trip through outer space by catching a ride on a comet's tail. The cost of the trip was five dollars and three quarters.

At least that shows a certain sense of style.

Regarding the above mass suicide, I noticed the following letter in the Newcastle Evening Chronicle on Thursday 3rd April. It raises an important point. It was written by a Mrs E Frazer from Wideopen, who is more than welcome to write in to Strange Daze:

"The mass cult suicide in America sent cold shivers of fear down my spine. We know that the leaders communicated by the worldwide web, sending sinister messages on the Internet, making others believe that that there was a UFO following the Hale-Bopp comet. I have always been suspicious of the Internet - and this has just confirmed my fears. First it was pornography at the touch of a button - now it's calls for suicide.

When will it all end? There must be more control over new technology today. The Internet has the power to corrupt minds and influence lives without people even leaving their home. There must be more done to protect them from evil influences."

What a wonderful example of someone talking out their backside. Mrs Frazer doesn't seem to realise that the members of the cult, and the rest of us, are grown adults capable of making our own decisions. Information, whether it be printed, audio, video or on TV, word of mouth or downloaded from the Internet, will only influence those people who want to be influenced. Anyone with half a brain would know that the "Hale-Mary" story was nonsense, but we have to have the right to choose. Indeed, having spent sackfuls of cash on a computer and internet connection, I demand the right to download pornography from the net whenever I damned well want to. (There is some fascinating stuff out there and quite Fortean too, as you will know if you've ever surfed into Peepot's Playpen.) I can well imagine Mrs Frazer's ancestors campaigning through history against such evil new technologies as the television, wireless, the printing press, the wheel and possibly even fire. ("... While walking back to my cave someone ran over my foot with a new-fangled "wheel" contraption, causing me to fall on a "fire" and singe my bearskin... Where will all this evil madness end?...")

Give me strength. Or better still, Prozac. I'm getting depressed again. *****

Sources: Information on Heaven's Gate taken from numerous newscuttings and Paul B. Thompson's article on the AOL Parascope website. Brief information on Bathurst can be found in "What a way to go", by Bowler and Green, Pan Books, London, 1983, and Fortean Times 54:pp40-44 (Thanks to Paul Sieveking).



Colin the Clip Art



"10 years without promotion, three kids, a failed marriage, a flat above a curry house, and who could tell?" thought Colin proudly.

NEWS:

39 UFO SECT MEMBERS FOUND DEAD IN SAN DIEGO

Thirty-nine members of a UFO sect called Heaven's Gate were found dead at their rented mansion, Rancho Santa Fe, in San Diego County, California. The group had rented the home last October and were led by Marshall Herff Applewhite, 66, aka Father John, aka Do (pronounced Doe), formerly "Bo" of "Bo and Peep," aka "the Two," itinerant UFO apostles who first became prominent in the 1970s. (See Newsweek magazine for October 20, 1975.) Applewhite's consort, Bonnie Lu Truesdale Nettles, aka "Peep," died of liver cancer in 1985. The victims ranged in age from 26 to 72. All but four have been identified. Among the victims were Thomas Nichols, brother of actress Nichelle Nichols, who starred in TV's original Star Trek, and David Van Sinderen, son of a former chairman of the Southern New England Telephone Co. (SNET). The official cause of death has not yet been determined, but Det. Lt. Jerry Lipscomb of the San Diego County Sheriff's Dept. said there was no suspicion of anything but suicide. "Overdose and suffocation, self-inflicted," Lipscomb said, "Nothing in this investigation that would suggest anything but." (See the New York Post for March 29, 1997, page 3) Dr. Brian Blackbourne, San Diego County medical examiner said toxicological tests on five of the victims showed that three had lethal levels of Phenobarbital. "Since the lethal level is 6 grams, it would take 50 tablets of 135 milligrams each to commit suicide." (New York Post, March 29, 1997, page 2) Yet puzzling discrepancies remain in the official version concerning the original discovery of the crime scene. On Tuesday, March 25, Richard Ford, aka Rio DiAngelo, a former member of the group, received a videotape in which the 39 members, including 18 women and 21 men, said farewell, announcing their intent "to shed their physical containers" and be lifted up to a UFO reported to be following the comet Hale-Bopp. Also receiving a tape was Rev. Rick Strawcutter, pastor of a nondenominational Christian church in Adrian, Michigan. (Note: The Hale-Bopp "companion," aka "the Saturn-like object" or SLO and the "Hale Mary," was first spotted in November 1996 by amateur astronomer Chuck Shramek. Professional astronomers dismissed Shramek's claim, contending that the object was an eighth-magnitude star, SAO 141894, that had been photographed out of focus. However, other observers sighted and photographed "an anomalous object" an estimated 2,000 kilometres behind the comet until January 10. Also, the SOHO satellite, which photographed the solar tsunami that day, caught an image of an oval-shaped object above the sun. A week later, a NASA press release described the SOHO image as "a proto-comet." There have been no further

sightings of the Hale Mary or any other anomalous object since January 10.)

APPLEWHITE GROUP LINKED TO BLAVATSKY, TWAIN

Heaven's Gate, the UFO group headed by Applewhite, had links to 19th Century occultists, including Madame Blavatsky and novelist Samuel Langhorne Clemens, better known as Mark Twain. The house at 18241 Colina Norte is just down the street from the San Dieguito Reservoir, a favourite spot of Mrs. Katherine A. Tingley, a disciple of Madame Helena P. Blavatsky. Mrs. Tingley moved to San Diego in 1896 and founded an ashram of the Theosophical Society at Point Loma. The centre opened February 25, 1897, with a ceremony attended by several prominent people in San Diego, including the mayor. (See the San Diego Union for February 26, 1897) Like Applewhite, Mrs. Tingley believed that a major cataclysm would sink most of California and end Western civilisation. She predicted that San Diego would survive to become the capital of an island nation called "Nueva California." She also had an interesting vision of albacore tuna swimming through the drowned halls of the Assembly building in Sacramento. Another one of Madame Blavatsky's disciples had a vision in India in 1907 of San Diego in the year 2100 as "a gleaming white city and capital of the New Age world."

Interestingly enough, in 1907, Samuel Langhorne Clemens, aka Mark Twain, wrote a short story entitled "Extract from Captain Stormfield's Trip to Heaven," in which the hero leaves Earth for "an extended excursion among the heavenly bodies" on the tail of a comet. In the story, the hero has his passport on him, plus five dollars and three 25-cent pieces for the fare. Many of the Heaven's Gate victims had their passports on their persons and \$5.75 in their hands. (See New York Post, March 29, 1997, page 6) In a strange twist, the comet Hale-Bopp has the same initials as Helena Blavatsky. Also, the acronym for Evolutionary Level Above Human (ELAH) spells HALE backwards. (See the Boston Herald for March 29, 1997, page 3)

LEADS IGNORED IN HEAVEN'S GATE CASE

More surprising revelations emerged this week in the wake of the recent mass suicide. On Sunday, March 30, 1997, Yuba County deputies checking out a trailer in a remote canyon near Marysville, California (population 9,900) discovered the remains of a man who gassed himself to death "because he wanted to join the crew of 39 on the Heaven's Gate spaceship trailing the Hale-Bopp comet." (See the New York Post for April 2, 1997, page 12) The victim was identified as Robert Leon Nichols, 58, a former roadie with the rock band Grateful Dead. Nichols was last seen alive on Sunday, March 17. "Nichols was lying on his back in bed with a clear plastic bag over his head. The hose to a propane tank was under the bag and a 3-by-3-foot (1 square meter) mostly purple scarf covering his upper torso." (See the Boston, Mass. Herald for April 2, 1997, page 25) A suicide note found with the victim read, "I'm going on the spaceship with Hale-Bopp to be with those who have gone before me." Interestingly, the Nichols note is dated

10 a.m., Thursday, March 28, 1997--"several hours before the public was told how the cultists died and that their bodies were covered with a purple shroud." (New York Post, April 2, 1997, page 12) On Tuesday, April 1, the North County Times of San Diego reported that police had discovered a small arsenal of rifles, shotguns and handguns in a pair of storage sheds rented by the group. "Lt. Jerry Lipscomb of the San Diego County Sheriff's Department office said authorities found the cache of weapons after the owner of the 10-feet by 10-foot sheds realised one of the dead cult members was his customer." The storage sheds were located in Escondido, California, 30 miles (48 kilometres) from the group's rented mansion in Rancho Santa Fe. Weapons included two semiautomatic rifles with scopes, a bolt-action rifle, two semi-auto handguns and two revolvers.

MYSTERIOUS EXPLOSION OVER SOUTH YORKSHIRE

On Monday, March 24, at 10:06 p.m., a deafening explosion was heard in the skies over South Yorkshire, not far from the Derbyshire line in Britain. Detectors at the Seismic Unit at Edinburgh University, Scotland, picked up vibrations from the explosion, which they likened to "a sonic boom that could have only been made by the Concorde, a military jet at low altitude, or a bolide." Witnesses at Marjorie Hill, South Yorks. claim to have seen a UFO hovering above the peak, "shining light beams at the hillside" at the time of the explosion. The explosion sparked rumours of an aeroplane crash. A search of the area, including six RAF Tornado jet interceptors, turned up no wreckage, and the search was called off on Tuesday, March 25. By then, however, rumours of "a saucer crash and retrieval" had spread throughout Britain. One story told of a glowing orange triangle hovering over Wigan, Lancashire. But Tim Matthews, head of the Lancashire UFO Society, disputed that report. Matthews said LUFOS observers saw no "flying triangle" take off from the Warton British Aerospace research facility at Preston that night, and his group received no calls about UFOs at Wigan or anywhere else in Lancashire. (Many thanks to John Hayes, Graham Birdsall and Tim Matthews for this story.) *****

On March 24, 1997, at 10:06 p.m., a mysterious explosion rocked South Yorkshire. The boom, confirmed by Edinburgh University, was attributed to a sonic boom from an RAF jet flying too low at supersonic speed or to a bolide or exploding meteor. Now two men, one a ufologist who wishes to remain anonymous, claim they saw a black triangular UFO pass over their house near Sheffield and Dronenfield, Yorks. just prior to the blast. The ufologist's friend claims he looked out the window at 9:45 p.m. on March 24 and saw a large object fly over the house. He described it as a triangle, "200 feet in size, with a light at each tip and a large blue intense light in the centre bottom." He also claims to have seen the object followed by six RAF Tornado jet fighters, "first two, then two more, then two more. Following that, helicopters began to appear." Hearing the explosion, the

friend told the ufologist, and together they drove down Highway A57, also known as Snake Pass Road, hoping to find the crash site. They then ran into a police roadblock, which prevented them from entering "the barrens" beyond Sheffield. Rumours of a "Black Triangle" (BT) crash persist in Britain, despite the official denials. Supporters of the theory cite an alert that evening at the Royal Hospital at Halamshire to expect the arrival of "plane crash victims." Also, there are unconfirmed reports of UFO radar contact at the bases RAF Cosford and RAF Shawcross. Investigation of these reports by Britain's UFO community continues. (Thanks to Errol Bruce-Knapp for forwarding this story)

LUMINOUS UFOs SEEN NEAR SYDNEY AND DARWIN

On Saturday, April 5, 1997, at 12:10 a.m., people in Wanguri, near the city of Darwin in Australia's Northern Territory (N.T.) saw "a large red fireball travelling quickly overhead. "The UFO was described as "a very red colour" and had "a small fiery rim." It was "headed south toward the Alice (Springs) and was about the same height as a small aircraft." The condition of the sky was clear with no wind. No sound was heard from the UFO, which "was larger than the full moon, 12 o'clock high (directly overhead) and moved faster than any aircraft." The same evening, April 5, at 8:30 p.m., witnesses in Sydney, Australia's largest city, reported seeing "globes of light...orange illuminated light" in the southwestern sky. The illuminations "split into two pairs and speeded off in opposite directions, east and west." At 9:15 p.m., people in Campbelltown, New South Wales (N.S.W.) saw a luminous orange orb in the southeastern sky. It retreated to the southeast. At 11 p.m., Campbelltown residents spied "up to eight illuminations" approaching the city from the southeast. The UFOs hovered for a few minutes and then changed direction, flying away to the west. At 9:55 p.m., orange UFOs were also spotted west and southwest of Mount Ousely and the town of Nowra, N.S.W. (Many thanks to Ross Dowc of Australia's National 24-Hour UFO Hotline for these reports.)

FLAP CONTINUES IN THE NETHERLANDS

Hard on the heels of last week's sighting in Oosterwijk come five reports of UFOs in the eastern Netherlands, close to the border with Germany. On Wednesday, April 2, 1997, at 10 p.m., "three lightning balls" appeared over the Dutch city of Hengelo (population 67,000). The first witness, a young woman, was sitting in her car when she spied "three objects passing through the northern part of the sky. At first I thought they were satellites, and then the white objects slowed to a standstill and hovered there for a very short period of time." She estimated that the UFOs were 40 degrees above the horizon. Then, she added, they "went away quickly towards the east," seemingly heading for Schutterof, Germany. At 10:15 p.m., a middle-aged couple driving from Enschede

(population 157,000) to Hengelo spotted "a glowing object" in the northern sky. They watched the UFO for one minute while it zigzagged through the sky. At 11 p.m., a man in Delden "saw two light-balls." He watched them for several seconds as "they flew away to the northeast." Another woman saw "three objects moving and hovering in the sky above Hengelo." She described the UFOs as "like the brightest stars (first-magnitude)." She watched them "only for a few seconds before they flew away." (Many thanks to Jeroen Kumeling and UFO-Werkgroep Oost-Nederland (UFOWON) for these reports.)

[Editor's note: Thanks to the excellent UFO Roundup for the above articles, taken from Volume 2, Numbers 13, 14, 15.]

SCIENTISTS LEVITATE FROG

A team from the University of Nottingham and the University of Nijmegen have managed to levitate a frog two metres up a cylinder using a magnetic field of 16 tesla, vastly stronger than the magnetic field of the Earth or everyday magnets. They repeated the levitation with grasshoppers, fish and plants. Professor Peter Main of Nottingham's physics department said, "We had seen superconductors with magnets levitating above them. This is the same effect." "It works because it actually distorts the electron orbits in the frog's atoms. That generates a tiny electric current, which generates a magnetic field in the opposite direction to from the main magnet." The frog appears to have been unharmed by the exposure to such an immense magnetic field. It is hoped that the apparatus might be developed into a low cost test bed for chemicals and materials for use in space. A device for levitating a human being would have to be bigger, several metres across, but it would not require a stronger magnetic field.

SPACE BEER!

Three British scientists have discovered a huge cloud of ethyl alcohol floating in space. Dr Tom Miller, Dr Geoffrey MacDonald and Dr Rolf Habing have found the cloud called G34.3 10,000 light years away from Earth in the constellation of Aquila. In the centre of the cloud is a young star. The alcohol formed when the contracting cloud heated up, allowing the elements in the cloud to chemically combine into more complicated molecules. The cloud is 1,000 times the diameter of the Solar System and they estimate that the cloud contains enough alcohol to make 400 trillion trillion pints of beer.

LIFE ON EUROPA?

The Galileo spacecraft flew close by Europa, a moon of Jupiter, in February, sending back high resolution pictures of the surface. The images suggest that below the frozen surface there could be a vast ocean of liquid water, perhaps containing more water than all of Earth's oceans. The water is heated by tidal friction and perhaps volcanic activity driven by the gravity of the massive planet

Jupiter, which pulls the moon repeatedly out of shape. The same tidal friction is responsible for making Io, Jupiter's innermost moon, the most volcanically active place in the Solar System. The ocean of liquid water raises the possibility that if life ever developed on Europa, it may well still exist there.

Later this year a spacecraft will be sent to Saturn. The Cassini probe will be launched on the 6th October for the seven year journey to the ringed planet. It will be carrying a smaller probe called Huygens, which was designed by Kent University scientists. This probe will be dropped through the atmosphere of Saturn's moon Titan and will provide information on the thick atmosphere and surface conditions. It will be the first British made probe to land on a different world.

ALIEN INSURANCE DOESN'T PAY OFF AFTER ALL

Last issue we included an Aurora UFO news report about abductee Joseph Carpenter, who was to receive a million pound payout on an alien abduction insurance policy and receive the cheque from Gillian Anderson. Well, it all proved too good to be true. Paul B. Thompson now reports on AOL's Nebula website that the whole story is false. The alleged abductee, Mr Carpenter, now turns out to be one Joe Tagliarini who happens to be the business partner of Simon Burgess, the insurance broker. Burgess specialises in offering strange insurance policies, including one covering pregnancy by immaculate conception. "It probably started as a silly joke, but it has backfired", said Mark Birdsall of UFO magazine.

CAT IN THE BAG (Envelope?)

The Observer (13th April) reports that the bizarre practice of mailing of live cats is to be banned in Switzerland. About 85 animals are posted every day, mostly to laboratories. However, parrots and rabbits can still be sent, but only in aerated containers.

TURIN SHROUD TO BE HIDDEN

During a blaze at Turin Cathedral, the Shroud of Turin was saved by fireman Mario Trematore who cut through four layers of bulletproof glass to remove the silver reliquary containing the cloth relic. Most of the cathedral was unharmed by the fire but the chapel containing the shroud was gutted. After examining the unharmed shroud, the Archbishop of Turin, Cardinal Giovanni Saldarini, said "It is intact. It is a miracle". After considering what to do with the shroud, the Archbishop decided that it should be kept for safekeeping at an undisclosed monastery.

The Roman Catholic Church has never actually declared the shroud a Holy relic and radiocarbon dating suggests that it is no more than 700 years old. However the shroud, alleged by many to be the burial shroud of Jesus Christ, remains an object of much religious devotion.



CASE INVESTIGATIONS

by Gloria Dixon

REPORTS FROM AROUND THE UK

As an introduction to the case reports in this issue of Strange Daze, I would like to give readers some insight as to the nature of sighting reports that are coming into BUFORA and NUFORI. During the last six months BUFORA has received 261 sighting reports. Approximately 10% of these are reports of triangular objects, which are coming in from areas in Scotland, the North East, the North West, Wales, Wiltshire, Northants and Somerset. There appears to be little doubt that there is a new prototype UAV operating out of British Aerospace at Warton, that may account for many of these sightings. However, even with the dramatic increase in Flying Triangle reports, 20% of reports coming into BUFORA are still described as disc, globe, circular or saucer shaped, and the cigar shapes have generated only about three per cent of reports since last October. What is rather interesting is that close encounter reports have certainly increased. Out of 261 reports, 27 of these fall into this category, so we are looking at ten per cent of reports being perceived as a close encounter experiences of some kind, some of these involving interaction with unknown objects at close range and entities, which, in some cases, appear to produce physical effects which witnesses perceive to be linked to this experience. Even so, and with 43% encompassing the above reports, we are still looking at 57% as falling into the category of lights in the sky (LITS), the major culprit here being aircraft seen at odd angles or distances involving unusual weather conditions. Secret military testing of new prototypes using Stealth technology needs to be taken into consideration as well. The next culprit for misidentification are laser light displays which are generating an enormous amount of UFO reports to BUFORA, NUFORI and other UFO organisations. These displays can actually be observed within a thirty mile radius and in some cases a sixty mile radius from where the display is being shown and with the right atmospheric conditions can look very strange in our skies as they bounce off and illuminate the clouds with circles of many lights. These displays are certainly technologically very advanced now and consequently many shapes can be seen revolving within the cloud. Witnesses often have no frame of reference for the distance from where these may be emanating and consequently they totally misidentify what they are seeing and describe these light as seeming to be attached to solid objects as the brain completes the picture to rationalise what they are seeing. Bright stars and planets still generate many reports also, although as some people are becoming more familiar with astronomy, particularly with the media coverage on the Hale-Bopp comet, they are realising that they are actually observing meteors, bright stars and planets. The above three explanations cover a large percentage of the LITS reports. As I do not wish to bore readers with too many statistics, I hope this gives some idea as to the facts and figures of sighting reports to BUFORA over the previous six months.

The BUFORA National Investigations Committee (NIC) held their first meeting for 1997 in Newcastle Upon Tyne on 8th March. During this meeting there were several

directives which were discussed and voted on by the investigators. I would like to give details on two of these directives which are relevant to NUFORI and I hope will be taken on board. They are as follows:

1. **New Introduction of Terminology for 'Abduction' related phenomena.** The BUFORA NIC are to introduce a new terminology as a substitute for the general 'Abduction' or 'Abductee' terminology presently used throughout the UFO community. They shall hence be referred to as **Close Encounter Experiences**. This move is designed to 'clarify' the true nature and meaning of the phraseology adopted to all aspects of **Abductions** which is presently misleading in context!

Abduction: associated meanings include kidnapping, capture, ravishment, seizure or Rape. This terminology is totally misconstrued in giving an accurate description to events with which no apparent overwhelming evidence is presently available to which this label should be attached. Therefore this descriptive label is both misleading and offensive and does not portray an accurate account of a 'little known' phenomenon.

2. **Hypnosis.** There is already a moratorium on the use of regressive hypnosis within the BUFORA NIC. All investigators at the meeting voted for this moratorium on hypnosis to continue. With this in mind, there will be a module incorporated into the Postal Training Course regarding the use of hypnosis, as this can be a totally unreliable method of eliciting further information about the event, not necessarily representing an objective truth, but the *truth* as the witness was able to perceive or understand it with the imagery available to them. Conscious memories, fragmented though they may be, are far more significant than those recovered under regressive hypnosis. Bearing in mind that some witnesses may insist they would like to undergo hypnosis, BUFORA investigators' position would be that the witness may of course proceed with this avenue for an understanding of their experience, BUT they must do so independently of BUFORA's investigation. The major problems of this way of eliciting further information about the event should be clearly pointed out to them by the investigator concerned.

In view of the above and before proceeding, with case reports, I would like to briefly address the issue of the worrying trend of the close encounter experience being perceived and interpreted by some as '*abduction by aliens*'. This interpretation of inexplicable events that appear to be related to UFO encounters, and even without any substantial evidence to hand, has captured and seized the imagination of some people. I feel that we are treading on very dangerous ground now with *abduction by aliens* being almost accepted by some as an objective reality happening within our physical world. What makes me supremely uneasy is the way this has particularly captured the creative, curious and open minds of children. I say this with first hand evidence of this troubling trend, having received several letters/e-

mails from children who '*think*' they have been abducted by aliens, and are extremely disturbed by this. In two of these cases the children, aged thirteen and fifteen respectively, have been frightened by what they think has happened to them. To add fuel to the fire, I was contacted by a lady recently, asking what I knew about aliens in her area! She explained '*my two and half year old daughter has been drawing strange objects with alien faces and has also been hearing voices in her head as well as having nightmares*'. She went on to tell me that this could not possibly have been created by anything she had seen on television or in picture books etc. The lady in question was obviously very worried about her young child, as any mother would be, and was evidently very familiar (anyone out there who is not familiar with this subject today!) with the UFO subject. I explained to her that BUFORA was not the correct agency for her to be contacting and I made the strong suggestion that if she was worried about her daughter the best course of action was to take her to their GP. Obviously children's television programmes, comics and books generate much visual imagery on space age characters incorporating aliens and intergalactic wars etc. and I have no doubt that even very young children have digested these pictures within their young and receptive minds. I do not at any time dismiss the fact that strange and extraordinary experiences incidents do happen to people including children as they always have, but are we being abducted by aliens, with an agenda that appears incomprehensible? Are we indeed perceiving these mysterious experiences with the extensive imagery now available as *abduction by aliens* in order to try to make sense of puzzling and disturbing experiences that just do not fit into any frame of reference that we can understand...yet? There are many parts to UFO and paranormal phenomena just as there are many facets within the human consciousness that we have yet to understand and these are possibly linked together, illuminating the way to answers which will possibly be far more profound and startling than abduction by aliens..

To add further credence to these thoughts, I would like once again to quote from Dr. Jacques Vallee in his brilliant autobiographical book, **Forbidden Science** where he sums up his views about UFOs and writes:

"The UFO Phenomenon exists. It has been with us throughout history. It is physical in nature and it remains unexplained in terms of contemporary science. It represents a level of consciousness that we have not yet recognised, and which is able to manipulate dimensions beyond time and space as we understand them".

"It is the destiny of man to stand always between the certainly of his scientific achievements and the annoying evidence that they do not account for all there is. Other forces manifest. We are quick to give them convenient names and familiar roles. We call them ghosts, spirits, extraterrestrials. When all else fails we abjectly turn them into gods, the better to worship what we fail to grasp, the better to idolize what we are too lazy to analyse. I am in search of a different truth.

8 *"I returned to Pontoise last year to look again at the hills of my childhood, to stand at my father's grave, to examine the steps I had taken when I began this research and to assess what I had learned. I came away with the*

certainty that, given the chance, I would take the same actions again today, because the only thing that counts in this life is to question the mystery of it, with all the means at our disposal, with every moment of awareness, with every breath."

Breathtaking words from one of the greatest UFO researchers of our time.

As an introduction to some important and fascinating sightings, I would like to quote (yet again I hear you say!) from 'The Observer' life section, entitled **Sceptic's Corner** by Spenser Malebranche where he writes:

" 'Reason' turns out to have a narrow remit for sceptics. Acupuncture, vegetarianism, UFOs, homeopathy, astrology, meditation, ley lines, yoga, psychotherapy, tantric sex and religions (all of them) are bundled together in the dumper. What unites these disparate subjects is that sceptics have little knowledge and less experience of them, and that they constitute a threat. Admit a grain of truth in this accumulated store of human learning, and the brittle rational world view quickly begins to crumble. As we know, life on planet earth is anything but rational. People see ghosts, have prophetic dreams and receive messages from long lost Auntie Mavis. Statues weep, frogs fall from the sky and hardened military pilots swear they have been waylaid by flying saucers. In short, stuff happens, and has been for as long as humankind has been around. The sceptics and scientists are in deep denial, and the corner is where they belong-scowling from the sidelines while the rest of humanity gets on with the game of life played with a sense of wonder! "

Great stuff, and as Spenser Malcbranchc so correctly points out life's mysteries have always been with us and I have no doubt always will be. Surely these extraordinary things can only expand humankind's consciousness and as John Michell comments in his review of Patrick Harpur's excellent book **Daimonic Reality**, "Patrick Harpur's account of the daimonic realm, its questionable attributes and its uncertain influence upon our lives, strikes me as more relevant to actual human experience than any modern work of science or psychology."

Location: Edinburgh

Date: October 1991

Inv. George Niedzwiedz (BUFORA RIC Scottish Borders)

This is a very brief summary of some extraordinary events which occurred during a 'dreamlike' experience to CD and his wife in their flat during the early hours of the morning in October 1991. At 2.30am CD became aware he was lying face down on the bed with his wife next to him and at the same time he was aware of being 'held down' with a figure standing over him with a small instrument that he describes as like a 'squashed ice cream cone'. He was aware that the device touched his left shoulder, moving down his back and he had the impression that its purpose was to 'immobilise him'. He then felt a tingling sensation down his right arm and was unable to move. He then became aware of figures

in the room and had the *unmistakable impression* that something was happening in which he could not take part. His wife's account of the events that night state that she became aware of waking up and an intense bluish bright light which was in the room. Upon trying to reach over to awaken her husband she found she was unable to move or speak and at the same time was aware that her husband was awake, but unable to move. Around her she had the impression of four or five shadowy forms, whom she described as tall and pale and others small and dark. She had the impression of wrinkles and some sort of gown or cloak. She then felt as though something was being stuck into the centre of her forehead and that she was lifted up and taken out of the room.

Upon waking up the following morning CD and his wife found that these experiences were uppermost and extremely vivid within their minds. Each one spoke of the strange dream they had experienced and after discussing these dreams, it became apparent that they had shared a similar dream. They felt naturally rather unnerved by this and in the same year saw a Channel 4 documentary which related to Whitley Strieber's experiences and book **Communion**. They identified with some of his descriptions with the *visitors* as very similar to their own. The trigger which led to them reporting this intriguing incident to BUFORA was due to a television programme which documented Garry Woods encounter in Scotland. George Niedzwiedz has conducted an initial interview and investigation with the couple concerned.

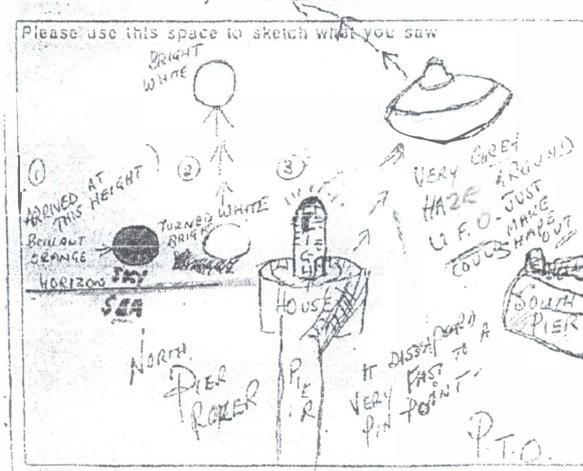
Date: Early June/July 1982

Location: Roker Pier, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear

Inv. Gloria Dixon

AM and his friend were fishing at the end of the north pier at 4am. He was sitting with his back against

SECTION C Object Characteristics



the lighthouse looking directly east out to sea when a large orange light, the size of a mini car appeared straight ahead. He did not see it arrive, it just seemed to appear and remained static for about ten minutes, suddenly changing from brilliant orange to brilliant white. It then started to move straight up not changing its shape and then stopped again. Both men could not understand what it was they were looking at and came

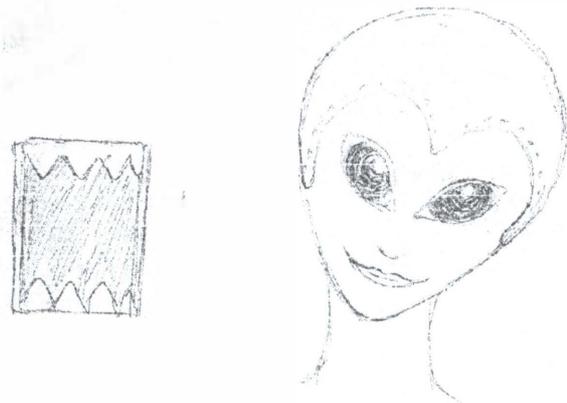
down from the round head of the lighthouse on to the pier, turned around and then observed the light high up in the sky to the south east. It was a misty type white haze by this time and AM describes the shape as like a big spinning top with a crown on it. It moved off straight up and slightly north east and sped off leaving a haze behind it. (See drawing). Any other reports from Sunderland of a similar nature would be appreciated.

Date: 15th December 1997

Location: Shropshire

Inv: David Pointon (BUFORA RIC Staffordshire/ Shropshire)

During the night of 14th/15th December Mrs. F's young daughter awoke in the early hours of the morning. This had been occurring on a regular basis for a while, and after putting her daughter back to bed she returned at about 4am to her own bed and fell asleep beside her husband. She recalls a very vivid dream that she had lost her purse and found it in a telephone box. She then heard a voice which said '*something is coming*, and was aware of a rushing noise and awoke from this dream. Although wide awake, she felt she was unable to move and was surrounded by a buzzing feeling as though it was electrical, but it was not painful. She was lying on her side and tried to move towards her husband when she noticed red and blue lights about 20 in total which appeared to be emanating from outside her window. She was still trying to awaken her husband, but could



not talk and she tried to lean over him to reach the light switch she found a great deal of resistance *as though everything was in slow motion*.

Suddenly she heard a loud bang and found herself lying on her back, but had no recollection of moving to that position. The feeling of being unable to move had gone and everything appeared to be back to normal. As she lay there she was suddenly aware of an image in front of her. The image was of a square/rectangular object black in colour with what she described as white teeth. She was then aware of a further image, which appeared to be of an entity with facial features of large black oval eyes slanting slightly to the nose (see drawing).

Mrs. F did not feel threatened by this and for some reasons recalls that she felt as though she was observing

it through her right eye. She then shouted to her husband to turn on the light. He awoke and did this and the image disappeared. He checked the house but found nothing out of place and returned to bed turning off the light. At this point Mrs. F saw the image again but less vividly *as though it was fading*. She then told her husband of this unusual experience. Her perception of this experience is that she feels the image was an image left on her retina during the period that she could not recall from when she was trying to lean towards her bedroom light and when she heard the bang and found herself lying on her back on the bed. She interprets this experience as being real and feels that it was a positive experience for her.

Date: Early December 1996

Location: Manchester

Inv: Penny Hoyte

Mrs. C went to bed just after midnight leaving her husband downstairs watching television. Her three children were asleep in their bedrooms. As she was trying to get off to sleep she seemed to hear voices and the room appeared to fill with a bright light. She felt frightened and refused to open her eyes even when she heard her name several times. She then remembers drifting off to sleep, but then became aware of feeling a terrible pain in her side which caused her to sit bolt upright in the bed and become aware that she was now on the opposite side of the bed. Mrs. C then saw a figure that she initially thought was her husband kneeling beside the bed with a mask on. Still believing this to be her husband, she shouted at him to *stop messing around*. The figure backed away and she realised that this was not her husband and that the figure was about 3ft tall and completely black. The head was large with small round eyes, but the mouth frightened her the most, it was large, and grinning full of what appeared to be pointed teeth.

She tried to get out of the bed, but the figure grabbed hold of her leg as she continued to push it away. She was now crouched on the bed, but could still feel the pain in her side and a grabbing sensation on her leg. Her mind was racing trying to make sense of what was happening and she was about to cry out when she was aware of a presence at the foot of the bed and could just see two other figures, who were different from the other one, taller and paler, but she could not see any further detail. She felt one of these figures touch her head. At this point she stopped feeling frightened as she somehow *knew they meant her no harm* but that they made her feel like a child. She specifically remembers hearing her own voice asking why they had hurt her. She did not speak these words. There was no reply and she was then aware of falling asleep.

Mrs. C awoke the following morning and found a large bruise on her leg with a lot of discomfort in her side. She had no initial memory of these events but over the following month she experienced flashes of these events and subsequently a fully recovered memory of what she perceived had happened. Penny Hoyte has interviewed the witness twice now and suggested that an option would be attending the Witness Support Group in Liverpool in order to discuss these experiences with other witnesses. This investigation is still ongoing at the present time in order to

establish more background detail on the witness.

Date: January/February 1989

Location: Guilford, Surrey

Inv. Gloria Dixon

This is a fascinating case, which reminds me very much of these somewhat elusive glimpses certain people experience sometimes almost as though they are indeed looking through shimmering glass into *other worlds*. I have documented several similar cases over the years in *Strange Daze* of *Peter Pan*, and *goblin* type figures in the air or by the roadside, indeed the little people as some refer to them, the folklore of yesterday, today and I have no doubt tomorrow too. Even now they appear as the *grey aliens* of today's UFO culture I wonder who and what they really are, maybe they are whatever we would like them to be, our innermost nightmares or our fantasies, or just our fragile connection with something else... out there....just out of reach.

Marcia Hill (pseudonym) was 12 years old in the winter of 1989 and she and a friend were having an evening together in her home in Guilford. Her parents had gone out. Her home was contained by a 6ft privet hedge with patio doors from the dining room leading to the garden. It was 7.30pm and the girls were watching TV, when suddenly there appeared to be a very bad reception with black lines moving across the screen. Marcia told me that reception was always excellent in this area. The weather was clear and from the corner of her eye she noticed the amber lamps flickering. Her friend needed to visit the bathroom and she went up stairs followed by Marcia. Marcia went into her bedroom and the light from the bathroom had lit up the garden. She was drawn to look into the centre of the garden where she saw a figure crouching there which appeared to be white and had very long fingers. With its fingers, it appeared to Marcia to be stroking the grass, and she describes it as being in a foetal type position on the grass. It did not appear to have a face. She did not feel scared and was drawn to watch it for what seemed to her to be at least ten minutes. She turned to call to her friend to come and see this figure, but when she turned back it had gone. Her friend said she had only been in the bathroom for a few seconds and Marcia could not understand this, as she felt that there was a time discrepancy somehow. Upon returning downstairs the television was fine and the lamps were no longer flickering. She told her parents upon their return and they checked to see if everything was okay.

After this strange incident, Marcia began to have nightmares in the form a recurring dream, which is still ongoing to the this day. She experiences this two to three times a week and it takes the form of Marcia herself being lost near a high mountain range and no matter how hard she tries she cannot find her way out. She also has the impression of looking at this through frosted spectacles. Marcia also tells me that since this incident she feels differently in that she is not able to make friends and does not trust anyone. She says she is very cynical and that the recurring dream has caused her severe problems in sleeping. What is quite

interesting here is that her mother has confirmed to me that Marcia did change a lot after this incident and she also told me that both she and Marcia had observed a very strange iridescent red ball of light prior to this.

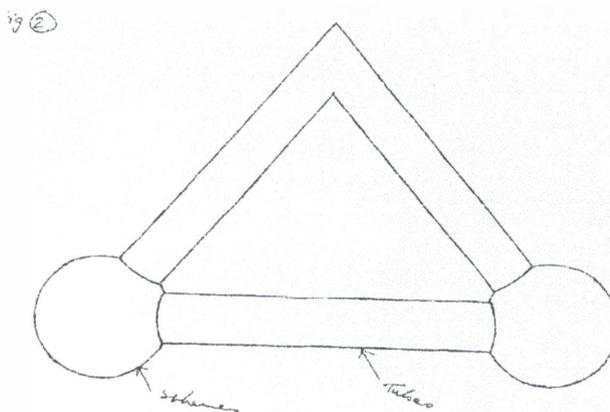
During my conversation with Elizabeth (Marcia's mother) she went on to tell me about a strange experience she herself had at age seventeen in the winter of 1968. Elizabeth lived with her family in Bearsted, near Maidstone in Kent. She had left home at 7.10pm to take the bus to meet a friend in Maidstone. She was walking to the bus stop which was a few minutes away in a residential area, when she heard a noise. Elizabeth describes this as like the sucking noise in a vacuum cleaner. She then saw silhouetted against the housing estate an object which was like a fluorescent tube pointed at both ends and about 15ft long moving slowly past the houses at tree height. It passed over her head and she started to quicken her pace towards the bus stop as she was feeling apprehensive. She was by this time only 40ft from the main Maidstone Ashford Road. She glanced over her shoulder and there above her completely silent was the object. She began to run towards the bus stop shelter and looking back observed the object silently hovering above the junction. At a nearby pub two men came out and got onto their motorbike, but did not appear to notice the object at all. She looked again and says 'it was there and then not there and I had the powerful impression that it was there for me to look at'.

Several years later Elizabeth experienced another unusual incident this time with her husband. I am awaiting more information on this case report from both Marcia and Elizabeth in the form of drawings. I will add these drawings to a future issue of *Strange Daze*.

Location: Charlton Park, Charlton, London

Date: Mid 1960s

DS contacted BUFORA to relate an interesting daylight sighting report from the sixties. According to him, during the Sixties his Mother used to walk in Charlton Park and one summer day she was walking



through the park when she observed a triangular object, which appeared to be spheres joined by tubes (see drawing). At the same time she became aware of a silence and could not hear any familiar sounds at all. As she came out of the park she saw the object again, heard a whooshing sound and then it disappeared. An unusual

footnote here is that DS told me that in the seventies his secretary told him that she knew someone who had seen exactly the same object in that particular park. He asked her to get a drawing from this person and found that this was identical to the drawing his mother had sketched many years ago. I would be interested if any readers know of other sightings around this area.

Date: September 1980/81

Location: Chester, Cheshire

As a fifteen year old GW was out cycling in his home village of Mollington, just outside Chester, when he noticed an intense bright orange glow, circular in shape at an estimated height of 3,000 ft in the dark night sky. It was about 9pm and the light seemed to slowly descend and as it did it became clearer and larger in size. It appeared like a round orange fireball and it seemed to descend slowly in three stages hovering briefly for a couple of minutes at each stage before landing in a field which was about two fields directly in front of him. As soon as it landed the orange glow disappeared and it seemed to adopt a triangular shape which took on a green violet colour with the odd red light. It then appeared as though some sort of hatch opened revealing a well lit interior and after a minute or two closed. The total time GW observed this object was about 30 minutes and he describes it as rather like a triangular shaped fluorescent road sign.

To conclude this issue of Strange Daze case reports I would like to request that any readers who are aware of similar events or sightings that may be related to the above reports please write to me via the NUFORI address. Thank you.



THE FIFE INCIDENT:

A Story of UFOs and UFOlogists

Readers may be aware of the UFO incident which occurred at Falkland Hill, Fife, Central Scotland on the 23rd September 1996. It could be one of the most significant Scottish cases for many years, and it has raised a great deal of interest from Northern investigators. It was featured first in the January/February 1997 issue of Quest's glossy "UFO Magazine", and true to form Quest have apparently butchered the facts to suit themselves...

I would like to thank **Malcolm Robinson** for sending us his report on the incident, which is reproduced in edited form later on in this article. But before we get to Malcolm's work, I would also like to thank **Davy Colman** of Scottish Unexplained Phenomena Research (SUPR) for his time and for the following comments on the Falkland Hill incident:

"The encounter at Falkland hill on 23rd Sept 96 has the undoubted potential to be one of the most important events in ufological history. There are many questions that have been raised in my mind since being contacted by "Mary" (One of the main witnesses). One of the most puzzling of those questions is why Quest Inter-

national (who were the first investigators to the case) have failed to fully research this encounter. It transpired that Mr. Dodd could not even be bothered to come North himself, sending a Glasgow Social worker, minus equipment, to investigate. I have contacted Mr. Dodd on two occasions for assistance and comment on this encounter but have received no reply. As the Quest investigation and interest apparently ended with the patently sensational publishing of their "account" I must conclude that the landing is:

A) not considered important enough to investigate fully;
B) Quest do not consider the witnesses' stories credible. If either of these explanations are remotely accurate then careful thought as to Quest's mission must be given. Can such a report of a landing not be considered an important event? If the report is thought to be flawed...why publish it in sensational style in UFO magazine?

"It would appear that the initial investigators on this case have made such an impact on the witnesses that they are now loathe to speak to anyone and trust no-one. One (Jane) has completely refused to speak to researchers and the other (Mary) has asked SUPR to re-research the encounter and subsequent events. Mary remains guarded and protective of her family and after the way she has been treated who could blame her. Despite her misgivings Mary agreed to allow me to publish her report, (which was initially intended purely as a research tool), in attempt to counteract the inaccurate and often trashy articles that have appeared. She had specifically requested me not to publish the psychic/apparitions material in Cover-Up, but was forced to reconsider her wish due to certain investigators' "publish and be damned" attitude, displaying little or no regard for the wishes or feelings of these families. This irresponsible and selfish approach makes me despair for the future of UFO research. How long will it be before a professional, responsible and mature attitude prevails in Ufology? The old methods of UFO research are no longer valid nor are they acceptable. In the past SUPR have warned of the dire consequences of ham fisted "vampiric" researchers. The Falkland hill encounters have unfortunately proved our point!

"Despite no longer having any personal involvement with the case, Malcolm Robinson of Strange Phenomena Investigations (one of the initial Scottish investigators) has agreed, at my request, to supply SUPR with all his early investigation results. This will undoubtedly save me time and effort in the short term but much patient and painstaking work remains to be done on this case."

Readers may like to also read the excellent transcript which appears in Davy Colman's own magazine "Cover-Up", which gives the full account of the landing by Mary, one of the witnesses. Copies can be obtained from Mr Colman at 49 Limefield Crescent, Bathgate, West Lothian, EH48 1RF.

So, what really happened that night in Fife? Let's publish and be damned:

THE FIFE INCIDENT:

An Investigation by Malcolm Robinson & SPI.

PREFACE:

UFOlogy can throw up some pretty challenging cases, and many Investigators world wide have seen how vastly perplexing this subject can be. High strangeness cases are on the increase, but what exactly does this tell us? Here in Scotland, recent cases would suggest that 'strange things are still afoot'. And not only have there been photographic and video evidence of late, but we have had a few CE IV or close proximity cases with witnesses claiming encounters with small grey 'alien' beings.

The following case to all intents and purposes, is quite staggering, it borders on belief, and, even for this researcher, was quite hard to accept. But having said that, one must realise that we live in a strange world with many mysteries which currently tax our minds, it would be foolish to turn our backs on these mysteries just because they sound absurd. The following case, features elements both common and uncommon. It was initially featured in the English based QUEST INTERNATIONAL publication, "UFO MAGAZINE".

I would now like to present Strange Phenomena Investigations research into this most fascinating case, but before I do so. I would like to inform the reader to the fact that, after this case was featured in UFO MAGAZINE, all witnesses refused any more interviews with Scottish or English researchers. They have told their story and now wish to get on with their lives. We at SPI accept this decision as it is becoming more and more common with cases of this nature. Thankfully SPI managed to Interview two of the four witnesses in this case, and what you are about to read is the culmination and extracts of a most fascinating audio taped interview.

THE FIFE EVENT, 23rd SEPTEMBER 1996.

SPI learned of this event a few weeks after it had occurred and in a telephone call to one of the witnesses, we arranged a date and time to visit and Interview. Malcolm Robinson, accompanied with Billy Devlin and Garry Wood, travelled up by cars to where Mrs Mary Morrison (pseudonym) lived, an area in Fife in Central Scotland. The area itself is covered by farmland and there are many small farms secluded about the landscape. The area therefore is not heavily populated, and the contours of the land rise and fall at different locations. After getting lost, we eventually found Mrs Morrison's farm and introduced ourselves to her. We found her to be a warm and pleasant person and quite attractive, her farm house actually sits on top of a hill which gives her a commanding and panoramic view of the Fife valley. After our introductions, Mary then settled down to tell us quite an incredible tale I sat back in my chair, and was amazed as this strange tale unfolded, this is what she had to tell SPI.

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER !

On the evening of the 23rd of September 1996, Mary Morrison accompanied by her ten year old son Peter and Mary's friend Jane, left their farmhouse home to travel

to a nearby town to buy some coffee, the time was around 8:05 in the evening. On the way there, they observed a huge white stationary light in the sky, this was initially observed by Mary who was driving. Mary presumed that this light was either an aircraft or a helicopter, but after a few seconds realised that this was not the case, as the object was still not moving. This bright light then amazingly changed into 'two' bright lights at which point Mary said to her friend, "look at those bright lights up there", to which her friend replied, "it must be an aeroplane"

Mary decided to stop the car and get out for a look still thinking that perhaps it could be some form of aircraft, everyone alighted from the car and stood next to the road looking up in bewilderment at this strange spectacle in the sky, "this was weird" she said, but things took a turn for the worse when suddenly two 'massive' bright spotlights illuminated the ground around them. Beams of light criss-crossed one another in a spiralled dance which all witnesses were captivated by. After a period of seconds, these huge bright white lights were switched off and Mary became aware of looking at a large black triangular shaped object. This object then proceeded to bank very gently in which Mary then became aware of small red lights at each apex of this triangle, a brighter light source (white) was obscured to them as this object slowly turned. As the object completed its turn, further small red lights were observed on the underside of this object. No noise was associated with this object and there were no visible signs of any appendages. However, Mary did say that she saw on top of this triangle, a small dome. When asked by SPI as to how large this triangular shaped object was, she replied that if she held her hand out in front of her, this object would still be bigger than her hand !

After a few more moments, the object then slowly and gradually moved or 'drifted' away. The feelings of all the witnesses were of amazement, they knew that what they had been looking at was not a normal man-made object. The object proceeded to move away from them with only the faint red lights showing, at this point Mary decided on the spur of the moment, to wave at this 'thing' and she was most surprised when this object flashed three times to them ! She reckons that the total duration of this incident, was around five minutes and further stated that the corners of this triangular shaped object were more round than pointed.

With the object now gone, they decided to get back into their car and continue on with their journey to collect a jar of coffee. It was on their return journey that they wondered if they would see this strange object again, no sooner had they thought about this when the same, or similar object was sighted in the sky, only this time it was travelling quickly in their direction. So quick was this object coming towards them, that Mary's young son Peter, started to cry, thinking perhaps, that this object might hit their car. No sooner had Peter started to cry, than this strange object shot back the way it came and was lost to view in seconds.

BUT MORE WAS TO COME !

Another purchase that Mary had made in this local shop apart from her coffee, was a UFO magazine which contained the phone number of Larry Dean, an Investigator with research group SKYSEARCH. She left a message on his answerphone, stating that if there were any UFO Investigators in her area, to get them out quick for something strange was going on. After making the phone call, they then related their strange sighting to Mary's friend's daughter Susan, aged 15. Susan was very sceptical and thought that this was one big wind up, however, after a bit of persuasion, it was decided to once more go back outside and see if they could still see this object, never for one moment thinking that they would. Mary said to SPI, that usually these things are only seen once in a life time and she wasn't really prepared for what transpired next. But nonetheless, they all agreed (including young Peter who had earlier been crying) to go out and see if they could see it. Travelling out in the direction of their earlier sighting, they did not see the same object again, but what they did see was what looked like stars sparkling in the night sky but only much much lower. 'there were hundreds of them' she said. she couldn't for the life of her fathom out what they were. but they were beautiful. It was at this point that things started to get 'strange' and the following information may prove (at least to the hard nosed sceptic, hard to believe) But this is what they said happened next. All four witnesses were startled to see a tremendously bright white light on the ground beside a group of trees which was at the other side of a ploughed farmers field. Their initial thought, was that this might be a bright security light attached to a building, however they soon noticed a bright glow over some trees, this was an immense bright blue glow which actually shone up from the bottom of the trees into the dark night sky, they likened it to a bright searchlight as it continued it's spinning movements up and out of this grouped range of trees. In an effort to get closer to this amazing spectacle, they decided to get back into the car and travel down a little back road. This they did, and they continued to view this strange spectacle. A sense of unrealness was in the air when suddenly the bright blue spinning light, was joined by other bright lights, red and green. Mary likened them this time to a laser light show, "they really were lovely" she said. "We were all moved to tears by them". It was at this point that events took a dramatic turn, for whilst they were all captivated by these spinning lights, Mary suddenly became aware of 'figures' silhouetted in these lights, small grey figures who were running around and appeared to be very busy picking up what looked like boxes or cubes, and also cylinders or canisters. Further back in the woods she said that she saw some form of triangular 'structure' of which these small 'beings' were coming and going to. But what really surprised Mary the most, was the sight of a very large 'being' who was a different colour than the rest. This 'being' she said, was a sort of tan brown, 'he' was standing a short distance away from the rest of these 'beings' as if he was somehow in charge, (this she strongly felt). Indeed at one point, this large 'being', actually stretched down towards the ground and opened

his right hand to 'something' then he stood up, moved back into the trees a bit, then took up the same position as before. In the sky around this amazing spectacle, were hundreds upon hundreds of these small star-like 'things' which were just hanging in the sky, suddenly a bright beam of light shone down from the sky and illuminated the road in front of them. Mary related to SPI, that as soon as this 'light beam' hit the ground her memory of events is rather sketchy, but she believes that they all took a fright to this light, and jumped back into the car and headed off to her friend's house. Indeed this is what did happen (at some point !) It was at her friend's house that she decided to phone Larry Dean again and inform him about what had happened, Larry was home and suggested to Mary that she should contact Malcolm Robinson of SPI, he then gave out the number but unfortunately when Mary tried it, she found much to her disappointment, that the line was discontinued, (Malcolm Robinson had moved house). She again phoned Larry, who this time put her in touch with Tony Dodd of UFO MAGAZINE.

THE THIRD SIGHTING.

It was at Jane's house that Mary spoke to Jane's husband about what had transpired, unfortunately he had to go to work, but offered them the use of his binoculars. With these the intrepid witnesses decided once more to go out into the dark night and see if there were any more evidence of these strange objects and 'beings'. One would imagine any other witnesses as being to frightened to again venture out into the night, but curiosity was the major factor here and although slightly frightened, they just had to find out more, would they see anything more? Or would the area be as dark as it usually was on a crisp September evening ? Well they didn't have to wait long, as they travelled in the direction of the earlier sighting, they again saw many of those strange star shapes in the sky. Also observed near a transmitter on a hill, was another immensely bright white light which was flashing in a sequence of 3 !! They continued on with their journey and this flashing light was lost to view. At this point Mary stated to become more alarmed, she felt that as these were narrow country roads, she didn't really want to get trapped here, the excitement of the initial events was now becoming more and more frightening but she didn't want to show this in front of the others. They stopped the car and proceeded to look up into the night sky with the borrowed binoculars, Jane who was at this point holding the binoculars, thought she was looking at a star, Mary replied that "this was not a star" and she quickly took the binoculars from her friend and directed them to this object, Mary stated to SPI that what she saw resembled a 'squashed ball', elongated from top to bottom, it looked like a hot fiery orange colour with big irregular indentations in it. It looked really "shimmery" she said as if this 'thing' wasn't on the ground, but it was near the ground. Near the base of this 'squashed ball' was something like a wiggly long oval black spot. It was moving slowly and was tilting on it's axis. To the right of that and all around, was a small orangey red light, very round and very small.

The scene once more changed, and they again all witnessed these small 'beings' in the woods which seemed to be supervised somehow by this tall brown 'being'. SPI asked Mary how tall she thought this 'being' was, and she replied, "Oh at least half the size of the trees" ?

The time of this third visit, was roughly around 11:30pm and during all of these observations, no noise at all could be heard, apart that is when Mary directed the binoculars onto that strange 'squashed ball', she thought she heard a crackle, something like an electrical crackle. Another unusual statement that Mary relayed to SPI, was that after using these binoculars to view these strange sights, she could see just as well without them, she can't for the life of her understand how because she said that these binoculars were so bad that it was a wonder at all if you saw anything out of them. SPI asked Mary if she saw what could be termed fingers on any of these 'beings' to which she replied, "no" but went onto say that this large brown tanned 'being', had a very large bulbous head with a very flat face.

When we asked Mary about how these smaller 'beings' moved in the woods as they carried these boxes, she stated that they moved just like any normal person would move, "they were bending at the waist" very natural. There was no struggle as these 'beings' lifted these boxes and cylinders, they were lifting them quite easily. The cylinders or canisters, Mary went on to say, were being carried by these small 'beings' length ways in their arms. No markings could be discerned on any of these boxes or cylinders.

Susan and Peter, daughter and son of both women, also stated that they could see just as well these strange 'beings' in the woods close up, as if they were almost there, an effect that they should not have experienced at this distance !

"THEY ARE COMING OUT OF THE WOODS" !!

However the most frightening part of the whole night was to come on this third visit, for whilst they were all again looking at this strange spectacle in the woods, of lots and lots of small grey 'beings' busily running around, Jane screamed out, "Oh my God, they are coming out of the woods, there is a mist coming towards us, my God there is a cocoon, there are hundreds of them, they are in these things". Susan also screamed "they are coming towards us" they are moving so fast" Mary was by now becoming increasingly alarmed and she couldn't understand how it was so light at the beginning of this field, she could even see the straw bales which she wouldn't have normally seen had it been pitch dark. The next sensation or impression that Mary had, was of these huge straw bales crowding across the road from them, and she could 'sense' a 'being' at the passenger side of the car, at the window. At this point Mary's friend said, "let's get the f*** out of here" followed by Susan who shouted, "There is one standing grinning at me".

Mary then slammed the car into first gear, then second

and third and soon realised that she was doing 55 miles per hour, at which point she thought it better to slow down as she didn't want to end up losing control of the car. The other passengers in the car looked back out of the rear window and claimed that the whole field 'lit up' in an enormous blue flash. They eventually arrived back at Jane's house and stayed up most of the night extremely shocked and amazed.

FURTHER RECOLLECTIONS.

I (Malcolm Robinson) asked Mary about this mist that was coming towards her car just before they fled and she told me that she herself didn't see this mist, but her friend described it as looking very fibrous, like a cocoon, and all these small 'beings' were being carried in it towards their car, their legs never moved ! The orange light that they all saw earlier, also contained 'beings' in it as well, although Mary claims that surprisingly she didn't see them, but all the others did. SPI ascertained that they arrived back at Jane's house roughly around 00:30am in the morning, Mary had the distinct impression that she had watched this amazing spectacle for much longer than the actual time that had transpired, and indeed on one occasion, whilst sitting in the car and watching all these small 'beings' moving around in the woods, she felt the distinct impression, that although she was in a sitting position in the driver's seat, she also felt that she was being pushed back into a lying position with someone or 'thing' ! holding her head, she didn't mention this sensation to the others for she didn't want to alarm them.

UNUSUAL MARKINGS FOUND ON THE WITNESSES BODIES.

During our taped interview with Mary, I asked the question, "have you noticed any strange marks on your body, marks that previously were not there" ? She replied that researcher Tony Dodd from UFO MAGAZINE had suggested for her to look out for this. That first day as far as she knew, she had none. It was a few days after that, that she learned about her friend's daughter, Susan, had found a strange mark on her shoulder, 'as if the blood had been sucked up through the skin'. This mark resembled two small vertical bars side by side separated only by a small space. Jane, Mary's friend, ended up initially with two marks on her body, one was on her right buttock, like a very pale brown birth mark, and the other one was found underneath her right breast on her ribs.

Mary informed SPI, that although she hadn't noticed any marks on her body, she was getting extreme discomfort from underneath her arm, at the top where it joins the body (right shoulder), there was no visible mark, but it was very painful to touch. Her son Peter, had no marks at all. A few days later, Jane found another Mark, which appeared up on her right shoulder which consisted of a brownish discoloration, blotchy and irregular around the edges.

Susan, Jane's daughter, then found another mark, this time on her right shoulder. It was about 4 inches long and appeared roughly around a week after the main sighting. The week after the event, (Monday the 30th) Jane found on the top of her right thigh, an immense bruise, a very colourful bruise. SPI asked Mary if she or the others had experienced any headaches or strange tastes in their mouths after the incident, she replied that they had not, but individually they were all very stressed out by the whole incident.

SPI also learned, that the night Mary had stayed with her friend. (the night of the incident), Mary kept sitting up in bed and throwing off the top quilt from the bed, this went on for around twenty minutes to half an hour. Mary then explained to SPI, that her muscle on her right arm was very painful and was very swollen some days after the incident.

STRANGE DREAMS.

Malcolm then asked Mary if she had had any strange dreams after the incident to which she replied that there had been one or two, some with sexual overtones. She remembers walking through various corridors, whereupon she saw a black door, she was being accompanied by a 'male' person. There was a short corridor and a marble sort of floor, and there were black doors and silvery walls. She got to the end and saw a ladder which she proceeded to climb, this led her out through a hatch where she saw an outside view which she describes as a grassy hill or bank of which a 'saucer' was sitting on the grass, (which was odd she thought). Then she had the impression of a 'male' person doing something to her neck, this male person explained that she might experience a very strange sensation. Mary further explained to SPI, that she has had strange dreams like this all her life ! Mary also said, that a few days after her UFO sighting, she dreamt that she was onboard a 'craft' she was unsure if it was a 'real dream' or bits and pieces of fragmented memory of a real event. She dreamt that she was in a room, it was a white room, and there was about half a dozen of these little grey ones in there. She thought she saw a black cupboard and bench in there. The roof appeared a darker grey, and it got lighter on the walls. She also saw a large chair, (like an office chair without the arms) and there was a brown 'creature' sitting in it. This brown 'creature' turned to face Mary, and all the little ones were in front of her, she then said that she went over to the brown one and started feeling his arms.

Mary's friend Jane said that she could also recall being in this 'craft' so Mary explained to SPI that she had spoke about her dream to her friend and asked her if the creature's arm felt rough and warm, to which her friend said, "You were definitely in the 'craft'." Mary said that this "creature's" arm felt very "textured", and very "leathery looking".

MORE QUESTIONS, MORE ANSWERS.

Garry Wood asked Mary about her friend Jane, who was with her on the night in question, "how was she taking it" ? Mary responded by saying that Jane was taking it better than her, that she had seen an awful lot more. Garry went on, "When you were looking at the UFO on the 23rd did

you feel that you were getting any communication from it" ? Mary replied that she never got anything, she was just completely stunned.

At this point in the proceedings, I, Malcolm Robinson, asked Mary "Do you think that what you saw is the true image of these beings, or do you think that it is something else" ? She replied that she "didn't know". She felt that they were collecting things, taking samples. She then went on to say, that at one of the sites where they saw these 'beings' (when they went back at a later date, there was a huge rock, like something that had come out of a stone building house, this had been moved from one area to another, very cleanly). And it was near this that Mary said that they had found an 'igloo thing', which was about three feet in height and was about the same diameter. It was beautifully constructed, made out of weeds, grasses and things, but she couldn't recall seeing any twigs. Malcolm asked her if perhaps this might have been built by kids, she replied that it was really complex, perfect.

AIRCRAFT AND HELICOPTERS.

Malcolm Robinson then asked Mary if she had heard any aircraft in the area over the past few weeks, she replied, "Stacks of them" She went on to say that both she and her friend has never known so many night flying aircraft prior to when they had their sighting. Mary also explained that a neighbour down the road had told her that she had heard the constant noise of aircraft for days. Mary then related the time when she saw a helicopter in the area, not long after her UFO sighting, she said it was during the night, and it was flying 'nose down' without any lights. She didn't see any markings or insignia on it and speculates that it might have been using 'night-vision' as it circled over the valley.

OTHER POINTS THAT CAME OUT OF SPI'S INVESTIGATION.

1. Mary refused SPI's help of hypnotherapy in an effort to see if there was any more hidden subconscious information. We did inform her about the pitfalls of hypnosis and said to her that it wasn't the best of tools, however, we did say the final decision on whether to use it or not, would be hers. Mary felt that she didn't want to explore this avenue. However, she did accept counselling, and SPI put her in touch with an expert and qualified counsellor, (Not Quest International, I hasten to add. UFO MAGAZINE said if was they who had got the witness a counsellor, not so, it was SPI).

2. Sadly Mary refused to let SPI have access to any of her son's drawings (he had drawn a lot on our visit, of the craft that he saw, and also the 'beings' that he saw), none of this was given over to SPI.

3. UFO sighting account forms were left for the witness and her son, she promised to complete these and return, but we never received these forms back.

4. Essentially SPI have no written confirmation or drawings by any of the witnesses, thankfully we do have a audio recording of our visit that night.

5. Mary explained to SPI, that when she was sitting in the car looking at all these small 'beings' in the woods, she experienced the sensation that something was stand-

ing outside near the car. She then experienced the feeling of someone holding or forcing her head back and as if she was lying on her side, but she told SPI that she was in a sitting position in the car. She describes this episode as "really bizarre".

6. The witnesses now feel that they have told their story, and they no longer wish to discuss it anymore, they now want peace and quiet. This is a great pity, but a decision we must respect. There are indeed a number of unanswered questions, points we would like cleared up, but due to the witnesses refusing any further corporation, we sadly cannot answer those points.

7. Mary has left her Fife home, and now lives with her husband and family in Wales. This move of house was planned prior to these UFO events and not because of them.

HOW SPI LEARNED ABOUT THIS CASE.

We learned about this case from Garry Wood, a UFO abductee from Edinburgh who has assisted SPI a great deal with cases over the years. Garry's own case is incredible in itself, and we thank him for letting us know about this one. Garry informed Malcolm Robinson of some of the information that he had learned about through a lady called Sharon Coul who lived in the Fife area. Sharon was a friend of one of the witnesses to this case and had spoken to Garry about it. Garry had also informed me that QUEST INTERNATIONAL were now on the case, and that Tony Dodd was the main Investigator dealing with it. I quickly phoned Tony Dodd and asked him if he could tell me anything about the case, indeed I wanted to know as much as possible. Unfortunately, Tony refused to tell me anything about it, due, he said, to witness confidentiality, which I must admit, I had no qualms about, this I respect. Indeed, we at SPI would also follow the same guidelines should a similar case come about, (if the witness requested it !). I thanked Tony for his help and informed him to let me know as much as possible about this case on completion of his study. Tony had informed me that he had put a Scottish member and Investigator of QUEST, onto this case, one Brian Rooney. My next call was to Sharon Coul herself, Garry's informant. Sharon was very helpful, but could not put me in direct contact with her friend who had experienced this strange event as she was still very traumatised by this strange event, however she did say that she would telephone her friend, tell her all about me, and see if she would perhaps call me direct. I thanked her for this and put down the phone. A very short while later I received a phone call from one Mary Morrison (pseudonym) Sharon's friend and UFO witness. She was on the phone to me for a very long time indeed explaining all about what had happened. As she continued with her experiences to me, by every sentence it was becoming apparent that this case, was not only very big, but could possibly be the biggest case of it's kind ever to have occurred in Scotland, (perhaps even surpassing the Garry Wood A70 case).

Mary related to me about marks on the ground, and small grey 'aliens' cocoons, 'creatures' in her home, and a whole host of strange and puzzling events. By the

time she had finished talking with me, it would be fair to say that I myself, was more than a little shocked, I was honestly 'stunned' by this startling information. I promised Mary that SPI would help her as much as we could, and would ensure a proper and thorough Investigation. Her reply was that she would be happy to continue talking with SPI, but more than anything, she desired counselling, she just had to talk to someone, a professional person with a Medical background about what she had seen, and indeed was still seeing (!). I promised Mary that I would find her someone to go to, and, true to my word, I put her in touch with a professional counsellor (name on SPI's files).

STEPS TAKEN BY SPI TO OBTAIN MORE INFORMATION TO HELP WITH THIS CASE.

I again contacted Tony Dodd and informed him that I now had the telephone number of Mary Morrison, one of the witnesses, he was most surprised at this as he was sure that she wouldn't talk to anyone else, but I explained that she really needed help and was prepared to talk to anyone who could offer this. I then asked Tony to assist SPI, by giving us all the information he currently had, including any photographs or drawings, he replied that he couldn't do so at the moment as all this material was required to assist in the writing up of a case report on this event for UFO MAGAZINE. This published report about this incident, has since come out, but as yet SPI have not received any information which could assist us in compiling our own report and also to continue with our own Investigations.

CONCLUDING REMARKS.

Without a shadow of a doubt, this case is truly a puzzle, and has all the elements of what must be the biggest UFO event ever to have occurred in Scotland, perhaps even surpassing the A70 UFO abduction case which occurred to Garry Wood and his friend Colin Wright. Sadly in the Fife case, the witnesses have refrained from giving any more interviews to UFO Investigators which is a great shame, but something that we must respect. This does not mean to say that the case is false or did not happen, the witnesses have told their story and would now rather forget it.

Editor's Comment: Note that the above is very much an edited version of Malcolm Robinson's submitted report. There is much more background information and other experiences related by the witnesses in the original report which we do not have the space to reproduce here, so we have chosen to focus simply on the main incident. Those interested in the full details of this case are encouraged to contact Malcolm Robinson of SPI at 29 Kent Road, Alloa, Clackmannanshire, FK10 2JN. Telephone 01259 210714.



SOME THOUGHTS ON XENOMORPHOLOGY

by Paul Cabby.

[What shape would aliens take? Paul Cabby uses some big words and casts a sceptical eye over reports of human like visitors, supposedly from other worlds. - Ed.]

Well I suppose its a start. At least the aliens in "Independence Day" didn't look all furry and mammalian. If life is out there I contend that we will be hard pressed to recognise it in any form familiar to us. Why should I think that? Why am I suspicious of descriptions of "Greys" and "Nordics"?

The improbability of our evolution, fortuitous and based on contingent events, makes me think that parallel evolution on other worlds would be almost impossible. There is a strong feeling that bipedalism is necessary in the evolution of big brain intelligence; but probably, the only requisite will be the ability to allow the "hands" to be free. Once manipulation is possible the feedback between brain and hand kicks in. In theory. It must be stressed that this is an anthropocentric view; perhaps we assume that it must be universally true because it worked for us. However, it is a strong case for grasping tool like hands being essential in big brain development. It is not only the Devil who finds work for them. Even so, if we accept that bipedalism may be a necessary prerequisite to intelligence, I would not be surprised to find that the similarities ended there.

Perhaps if we take a brief look at the improbable variables and chances which assisted our arrival we might see how improbable are the chances of a parallel, if not identical evolution occurring elsewhere.

Everyone is familiar with the demise of the dinosaurs. Whatever caused their extinction (and there is still some debate about it) they are undoubtedly extinct. Nothing of their lineage survives, save perhaps birds, but the jury's still out on that one. In any case birds would represent an offshoot, not a direct descendency. The dinosaurs strode the Earth for some 257 million years. Small mammals existed alongside the earliest dinosaurs but remained in the twilight, small, furtive and subjugated. They only got their "chance" when the dinosaurs died out. If the extinction of dinosaurs was as random and contingent as it seems than we must assume that, had no such catastrophe occurred, there is every reason to suggest they would still flourish as the dominant species on this planet. If little *Troodon* was on the way to getting a bigger brain just before he bit the bullet, it's not a giant leap to believe that had intelligence eventually arisen amongst dinosaurs, then it would have looked dinosaur. (For the record: *Troodon* had opposable claws and a larger brain ratio than others - perhaps well on the way to problem solving.)

Flow back in time even further: The great Permian extinction, the mother of all extinctions. Some 97% of all animal life went seriously dead. Huge swaths of marine life, wiped out; culprit unknown. For almost two million years (a mere blip in evolutionary history) in recovery,

the earth was populated by very few species, almost dominated by one mammal like reptile, as commonplace as sheep. Suddenly in the palaeontological record, small bipedal reptiles start to proliferate and dominate, gaining ground where no obvious natural advantage can be observed. The birth of the dinosaurs.

Back further into "Deep time": For billions of years, bacteria are sitting there, quietly mutating, adapting and invading every niche available. Suddenly, they "decide" to join into multicellular forms and an explosion of form occurs. The so-called Cambrian explosion gets under way and it is almost like the design board goes crazy. Every form or shape possible and improbable hits the geologic scene. Life is seething all over the planet, teeming and multiplying, shapes, designs and weird body parts. It seems unstoppable, inevitable and beyond control; then, BANG!

The drawing board goes blank. The first great extinction. The first clues of a serial killer who remains, to this day, unidentified. Most marine life is wiped out in an unforgiving purge. The "Burgess Shale" finds in Canada have offered us remarkable insights into how tenuous and fortuitous was our hold on life. How lucky we are...

During the Cambrian explosion of life, experimentation in body shape, size and form is immense. But the shale represents a recording in time when the proliferation stopped - the first great life extinction. From what we can establish, the multitude of shapes and forms were reduced via extinction to a handful of species. Try as we might, we cannot deduce or infer any inherent advantage offered by the survivors. Equally, those animals that were chosen for extinction seemed no less adapted than the ones which prevailed. The only conclusion we are drawn to is that the extinction was a lottery, without plan or design, random, and ruthless. One of the smaller creatures that endured happened to be the forerunner of all Chordata or backboned animals. Our ancestor. Yet had this tenacious little bugger not held on, we would not be here, wondering about the Universe and the life it contains. Such was the dramatic pulse of extinction since that time, no new body plan has ever evolved since! It was a if nature had checked all the possible excesses.

More recently, it took great unforeseen unplanned climactic upheaval and general cooling planet wise for our lineage to "decide" to stride out onto the plains and savannahs, leaving an arboreal life behind and adopting a bipedal gait. Whilst there are convincing arguments still to be found for why we actually did walk upright (because none explain the whole story) there is no doubt that, on a geological time scale, the phenomenon is recent. DNA evidence suggests we parted company from Chimps less than six million years ago. We are still infants in terms of Hominid form. The Universe has had billions of years elsewhere to practice evolutionary pressure. I'd bet we can't even imagine the diversity of life out there. Life here has been that tenuous; a lottery winner here, a small furry creature that manages to avoid being dinosaur toe-jam, there.

18 Stephen J. Gould, the palaeontologist, likens time to a tape recording. But the message is clear, if you rewind the tape it will not play back the same way again. With all

these improbable odds against our appearance, what can the odds be of a near identical evolutionary pathway occurring elsewhere? Pretty slim I would suggest. There are just too many variables of chance, random events leading to other random events to believe that our form is a Universal Body Plan. For there is no hand in the design other than the natural selection which shapes all life. We are an insignificance within the universe. A probably unrepeatable quirk on this planet, following no design or plan. We would not occur twice.

Natural selection is I think probably a Universal constant, but the raw material that it works on will be different and contingent throughout the Universe. To find life remotely similar to us, we have to adopt narrow search parameters to planets where constant and recent environmental upheaval is regular, for such are the conditions for evolution to do its stuff. It might all be very disappointing or incredibly exciting; perhaps we might even be repulsed by what we find. Indeed, we might be pronounced repulsive. Either way, the prospect is mouth watering.

All this brings me back to my original premise. With all the randomness of our evolution, I can't help but feel that descriptions of Greys and Nordics are a bit parochial, dare I say it, lacking in imagination. They simply look too much like us to be probable. Its too much like Star Trek where all the life forms are basically identical with a few added flaps and folds. For my money, I think we are going to be in for some incredible surprises; life in places we thought hitherto not capable of sustaining life (as indeed we are finding on Earth now - how centrist and arrogant are our views...)

Forms we may only imagine in our nightmares or our wildest dreams. But it will be interesting and not at all based upon wishful thinking.

Editor's comment: The tall, blond "Nordics" are surely candidates for wishful delusions of what we want aliens to be like. The "greys" are perhaps more likely, for who knows what biology lurks beneath their grey exteriors, if indeed they are real, live extraterrestrial organisms. Don't be fooled by the media hype, though. Many different types of aliens are reported, quite often humanoid in form but not always so. Readers may like to check out Patrick Huyghe's recent book, "The Field Guide to Extraterrestrials" (Avon books, 1996), which tries to identify and classify the different entities seen in connection with UFOs. Creatures shaped like brains, limb less robots and metallic stalks of asparagus have also been seen, which are perhaps much more persuasive than the humanoids. On the other hand, few of the entities are seen to require breathing apparatus. For the record, I think it likely that intelligent extraterrestrials would be humanoid in appearance, but other species with limbs may also develop intelligence given the right conditions. Differences in surface gravity and atmospheric composition would mean that the aliens would come in a wide range of sizes and physical strengths, and would almost certainly require breathing apparatus and perhaps pressure suits to exist on Earth. There is also the problem of the aliens

developing the desire and the technology to leave their own planet and explore interstellar space, all of which makes the ETH rather unlikely. So what are people seeing? We don't know yet.



TRACKS ON THE DESERT...

by Dean James

[Dean James' article on George Hunt Williamson in the last issue, together with David Sivier's article, generated a certain amount of interest. I am pleased therefore to be able to print another article by Dean James on Williamson and the 1950s circle of contactees. -Ed.]

"And there came a voice from heaven, saying, Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." - Mark I:II (King James version)

The 1950s threw up countless space age mystics and messiahs, each more dotty than the one before. Among the earliest and most influential of these was American channeller Dr George Hunt Williamson, who died in 1986 at the relatively early age of 60. Williamson was a prolific writer on the theme of contact with extraterrestrials. It would however be a capital error to classify him solely as a UFO researcher. He was above all an occultist whose activities helped to usher in a new magical aeon - the Aeon of the Flying Saucer. No attempt can be made to understand him or his work unless this fact is first taken into account.

Little is known of Williamson's early life. Jacques Vallee states in Messengers of Deception that his real name was Michel d'Obrenovic. This canard has been repeated in several articles on the early days of UFO research. According to one leading pundit, "Williamson [frequently] used his Yugoslavian name of Michel d'Obrenovic, although most of his writing was done under the Anglicised name." In actual fact Williamson was born in Chicago, Cook County, Illinois, the son of George L. and Bernice (Hunt) Williamson. Inquiries to the Yugoslavian government have revealed that although there was at one time a royal family named d'Obrenovic, it ceased to exist as long ago as 1903 when the head of the line was assassinated by revolutionaries.

Williamson's use of the title appears to have been entirely spurious, dating from an occasion in 1961 when he attended a wedding posing as "HRH Michel d'Obrenovic van Lazar, Duke of Sumadya". Like some latter-day Dr Mabuse, he routinely used disguises and aliases to further his own ends.

Williamson's academic qualifications were equally bogus. In the late 1950s he was listed in Who's Who in America and American Men of Science as a respected anthropologist and authority on the Hopi and Zuni Indians. It later transpired that his various degrees and qualifications were either self-conferred or, in one notable case, acquired from an institution known as the Great Western University of San Francisco, which researcher John J. Robinson was moved to describe in Saucer News as "a massage parlour". Williamson's formal education actually came to an end in February 1951, when the University of Arizona disqualified him from further study on

the grounds of poor scholarship. Disdaining to reregister, he instead moved temporarily to Noblesville, Indiana, and there took up an editorial position with *Valor*, the in-house journal of William Dudley Pelley's Soulcraft organisation.

Pelley was at one time enjoying a new lease of life, having recently been released from prison after serving an eight year sentence for his wartime opposition to Roosevelt. A former fascist and leader of the Silver Shirts, he also had an abiding interest in occult matters, having compiled 32 volumes of automatic writing on contact with higher intelligences. In addition to Williamson his post was circle is believed to have included seminal contactee George Adamski and others of the same kind. Some authorities suggest that Pelley and Adamski first became acquainted as a result of their mutual interest in Theosophist Guy Ballard's I AM cult. There is also evidence to suggest that Pelley may have introduced Williamson to Adamski.

Like many a UFO buff before and since, Williamson later gravitated to the south western state of Arizona, settling in Prescott and attempting to contact the space people by radio telegraphy and direct-voice channelling. According to investigator Sean Devney, quoting from eyewitness accounts, "when Williamson started to channel it was something truly inexplicable. [He] would begin speaking in several different voices, one right after the other."

On 20th November 1952, Williamson and his wife Betty were among the witnesses to George Adamski's historic first meeting with Orthon the Venusian in the desert near Mount Palomar, California. This event more than any other seems to have catalysed his activities. From then on he switched to high gear, publishing "The Saucers Speak" in 1954 and following it up with a series of the most remarkable UFO documents ever conceived.

Another little-known but influential saucer-cultist was Dr Charles Laughead, who with his wife Lillian published Williamson's "Book of Transcripts" in 1957. (Lillian Laughead was among the other dedicatees of Williamson's "Other Tongues, Other Flesh", "for her contribution of the Lemurian interpretation of the tracks in the desert...") Laughead is thought to have emerged from the same background as George Adamski et al. In 1959/50 he threw in his lot with the famous saucer evangelist Marion Dorothy Martin, aka Mrs Keech, whose mission to save mankind is recounted in "When Prophecy Fails" (Festinger, Reicken and Schachter, University of Minnesota, 1956). Mrs Keech and her followers had lately been told by a spaceman that the final trump was at hand, and were determined to warn as many people as possible. To Laughead this sort of thing was meat and drink. Filled with missionary zeal he left a prestigious job at Michigan State University and began proselytising on their behalf, rather in the fashion of Thurber's Get-Ready Man, who "used to go about shouting at people through a megaphone to prepare for the end of the world." When the appointed hour came, and the world continued much as before, Laughead moved on to other things, and in 1956 chanced to meet Dr Andrija Puharich in a hotel in

Acambaro, Mexico.

Puharich records his impressions of Laughead and his wife in "Uri" (W.H. Allen & Co., London, 1974), referring to them as "charming but naive people". Laughead for his part was delighted at meeting a fellow MD in such unlikely surroundings and immediately launched into an account of his work with George Hunt Williamson:

"Through the assistance of a young man who is a very fine voice channel or medium, we have been in frequent communication for over a year with the Brotherhood of one of the ancient Mystery Schools in South America. These sessions covered a wide range of subjects, from ancient history and life origins on this planet, to science and religion. This Brotherhood also serves as a communication centre for contacts with intelligences on other planets and star systems, and on spacecraft. Some of these intelligences were obviously not human... Their knowledge and wisdom far exceeds our comprehension. For simplicity we referred to them as Space Beings or Space Brothers..."

Puharich was initially dismissive of all this, no doubt viewing it as a flight of fantasy. Later, on returning to continue his research at the Round Table Foundation in Maine, he received a letter from Laughead containing two space messages, "each from a different channel". These, together with a seemingly paranormal experience involving a self-renewing sheet of carbon paper, went some way toward changing his mind, laying the groundwork for the Spectra/Hoova affair described in the latter half of "Uri".

Puharich's pursuit of Spectra (a hawk headed entity said to communicate through Uri Geller) effectively placed him beyond the pale of orthodox science. Few people in the 1970s were prepared to substantiate his more extravagant claims. A notable exception was Ray Stanford, himself a UFO contactee of many year's standing. In the Autumn of 1973 Stanford was allegedly transported a distance of 30 miles, car and all, while en route to a meeting with Uri Geller. This happened on two separate occasions, and was reported with all due sobriety to Saul-Paul Sirag. For more on the Geller-Stanford connection see "Cosmic Trigger" by Robert Anton Wilson (Abacus/Sphere Books Ltd., London, 1979).

Perhaps significantly, Stanford was a product of the same milieu as Laughead and Williamson. Throughout the early 1950s he and his twin brother Rex were involved in a long running UFO case including telepathic communication and channelling. One of their fellow contactees at the time was John McCoy, who in 1958 co-authored "UFOs Confidential" with George Hunt Williamson. McCoy wove many strange new skeins into the tapestry of UFO research, notably the theory that a sinister cartel of "International Bankers" lay behind many 1950s sightings. ("International Bankers" is of course a synonym among far-righters for people of the Hebrew persuasion.) For better or worse he and Williamson continue to influence the sensibilities of UFO researchers world wide.

The Stanford brothers subsequently went their separate

ways, each distinguishing himself in his chosen field. Rex worked extensively as a parapsychologist at institutes in New York and Texas, while Ray formed the Association for the Understanding of Man (AUM), which concerns itself in large part with disseminating messages from the Great White Brotherhood.

Others of the original Adamski/Williamson circle weren't so lucky. Channellers Wilkinson and Karl Hunrath, who collaborated with Williamson during the latter half of 1953, disappeared in November of that year after hiring a plane and taking off from Gardena airport in Los Angeles to make contact with a grounded UFO. No trace of them was ever found. Their associate Hal Nelson died shortly afterwards, as did D.J. Detwiler, the man responsible for processing Adamski's earliest UFO photographs. Finally, ham radio operator Lyman Streeter, whose contactee experiences are chronicled in "The Saucers Speak", succumbed to a heart seizure at the age of only 35, thus bringing down the curtain on a particularly eventful period in America's secret history.

The disappearance of Wilkinson and Hunrath has since become a classic in the annals of UFOlogy. Williamson later ventured the opinion that Hunrath "was working as an agent for the Blacks of six solar systems of the Orion Nebula". His own researches continued in an unbroken trajectory, encompassing hermetics, ancient tribal lore and Theosophical literature. There can be no doubt that, whether by accident or design, he and his various collaborators played an enormous part in shaping New Age thought in all its manifestations. Together they constituted the single most important occult group of the post War era. Their influence is made all the more remarkable by the fact that it has seldom been acknowledged or even perceived by other researchers in the field.

As the 1950s drew to a close, Williamson ceased to play an active role in UFO research, and instead founded a monastery in the Andes. This occupied him for several years. Later he returned to Santa Barbara, California, and was ordained into the Nestorian Church. Always an enigmatic figure, he died in 1986, having retained his secrets to the end. Many details of his involvement with the Soulcraft group and its off-shoots are now lost to posterity. Others of the circle are either dead or widely dispersed.

Pelley and Adamski ... Hunrath and Laughead ... John McCoy and the Stanford brother ... It was from the tangled lives of these men that the contemporary UFO myths first grew and took shape.

Amateur Science Solves the UFO Mystery by Stuart Campbell.

[I am grateful for Stuart Campbell letting me use this article at short notice. His "mirage theory" has not been previously covered in this magazine, and I would be most interested in receiving comments from readers. - Ed.]

UFO reports are known to be caused by sightings of many different phenomena and objects and it is also known that many

reports are caused by sightings of astronomical objects. However there are some strange reports (what buffs call 'the core phenomenon') which seem to defy rational explanation. I shall show that, not only can these reports be explained by astronomy and meteorological optics, but that the phenomenon in question accounts for the consistent and universal reports of UFOs as discoids (besides some other characteristic shapes). The result must be that the UFO problem is effectively solved!

The mirage

Mirages are not illusions; they are images of real objects seen via abnormal refraction. Inferior mirages are often seen on hot flat surfaces such as deserts or roadways. Light is effectively reflected from a caustic (discontinuity) which forms between the normal air and the superheated air near the surface. In most cases, a reflected image of the sky appears as water. But any distant object, such as a mountain, can be reflected. On roads, vehicles can be reflected. Naturally, all these images appear inverted.

It is not so well known that mirages can appear in the sky. To some extent the light from distant objects is always refracted in air if the air is not uniform in density and the light traverses the air at an angle to the planes of the density layers that is less than a right angle. For example, the light from stars below the zenith is bent downwards in proportion to the zenith angle until, at the horizon, the refraction is about half a degree. The rising or setting sun is actually seen about 0.5 degrees higher than it really is.

If there is a strong temperature inversion (where atypically warm air lies over cold air), a similar caustic can form, reflecting light back down and causing inverted images to appear in the sky. This is called a superior mirage and can be seen wherever such an inversion occurs and there is a distant bright source near the horizon.

Unlike the inferior mirage, which is held in position by the hot surface, the air mirage can move, appear and disappear and be magnified by lens effects. Furthermore, some light can penetrate the caustic, be refracted by the thermocline above it and form an upright image of the same object. Consequently, a superior mirage may form two images, one inverted and one upright. Indeed, these two images can merge, losing parts in the process. The resulting image may then not be recognizable. Because of a microscopic (wave-optics) effect called Raman brightening, an interference and focussing phenomenon, mirage images may appear unnaturally bright. They may also shimmer.

Mirages of terrestrial sources

Superior mirages were first described by Joseph Huddart (Huddart 1797), but it was not until the publication of Samuel Vince's account (Vince 1799) that science took interest. In 1798 Vince observed and sketched images of ships seen across the English Channel from Ramsgate in Kent (England). His sketches clearly show simultaneous inverted and upright images.

There have been few accounts since then. However, in

1979, a resident of Moffat (Scotland) saw and photographed a mirage of Helvellyn, the second highest peak in the Cumberland Mountains, 95 km away (Campbell 1987a). In September 1986 a double superior mirage of a Boeing 757 landing at Edinburgh Airport appeared as a missile flying over a housing estate 6 km away (Campbell 1987b).

'Flying saucers' hit the headlines in 1947 when Kenneth Arnold reported seeing nine bright objects flashing and moving fast near Mt. Ranier in Washington (USA). In fact the objects were superior mirages of nine snow-capped mountain peaks in the Cascade Range. Their 'movement' was only apparent due to movement of his own aircraft. In November 1986, the crew of a Japanese Boeing 747 freighter over Alaska reported being buzzed by a giant UFO; in fact they took avoiding action. But their 'UFO' was a superior mirage of the runway lights of a military airfield 450 km away. A temperature inversion had lifted and magnified the lights so that they looked like rocket exhausts. In December 1980, after seeing a bright fireball over the North Sea (but believing that it was an aircraft falling in flames in the nearby Rendlesham Forest), USAF guards from RAF Woodbridge in Suffolk got permission to search the forest. They returned reporting mysterious lights. The following night the base commander mounted an expedition looking for signs of a landed UFO. He thought he found radioactive traces and evidence of such a landing. He also saw a mysterious blinking light which he followed towards the coast, where he reported other mysterious aerial objects. But the light he saw was from a floating light (lightship), possibly via mirage, and the other objects were planets. Subsequent felling of that area of the forest has convinced UFO buffs that a UFO crashed in the area and that the authorities are concealing the fact (Campbell 1985).

Mirages of extraterrestrial sources

Any prominent object near the horizon can stimulate a superior mirage in the appropriate conditions. But it does not have to be a terrestrial object; mirages can be stimulated by bright astronomical objects such as bright stars or planets. Moreover, because the light from an astronomical object is refracted differentially as it crosses the atmosphere, its mirage is likely to display various and changing colours. Because scintillation is a maximum near the horizon, the image is likely to exhibit flashing lights, often coloured due to refraction. Other features, such as beams, may be visible.

The double mirage of an astronomical object will (normally) show as two lights one above the other. Refraction should place red light at the base and violet light at the top of the upper image, with the colours reversed in the lower image. Various shapes will appear as the two images merge until, in circumstances where only half of each enlarged image is visible, the classic 'flying saucer' will be formed--'two soup plates, one on top of the other with the upper one inverted'. The 'merge line' will sometimes be marked by the appearance of a line of unidentified images (the 'disc' of the 'saucer') in which coloured lights may appear, perhaps as 'windows'

(see figure 1), which may appear to rotate.

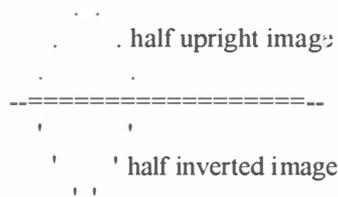


Fig. 1 The classic 'flying saucer'; a merged superior mirage of a star or planet.

Temporal variations in the thermocline may cause changes in shape and/or size during observation and changes in size may be perceived as changes in range. Enlarged and brightened images may be visible in daylight, so accounting for reports of the 'daylight disc'. Because of the more active atmosphere, daylight images are more likely to be mobile. The Trindade Island photographs (January 1958, South Atlantic) appear to show a mirage of Jupiter zooming back and forth across the sky.

Astronomical objects below the horizon can be visible on the horizon via a type of mirage called the Novaya Zemlya effect in which light is repeatedly refracted (ducted) around the Earth for great distances (Lehn/German 1981). This explains the notorious film taken from an aircraft off the coast of New Zealand in December 1978. The source was Venus, then 8 deg. or so below the horizon.

Scientists and UFO reports

Only Donald H Menzel (Menzel et al 1953-77) and William Viezee and Gordon D Thayer (Viezee 1969) in the Condon Report have seriously considered mirages, including astronomical mirages, as an explanation for UFO reports. Menzel came to the idea after seeing what appeared to be a classic 'saucer' in 1955, but which he identified as an image of Sirius (it was actually Saturn!). Although he once suggested that Kenneth Arnold had seen a mirage of mountain tops, he neither demonstrated this nor realized that the flashes Arnold reported were probably due to the strong focussing across one or more temperature inversions.

Unfortunately Professor Menzel did not see the application of the mirage hypothesis to many of the cases which he subsequently investigated. Nor did astronomer Dr Allen Hynek, for many years a consultant to the US Air Force and, ultimately, a believer in UFOs. He once asked one of his astronomy students who came from Socorro in New Mexico to find 'an obvious natural explanation' for the notorious CE3 report from a state policeman in Socorro in April 1964. In fact the sighting can easily be explained as a mirage of the star Canopus, then setting in the south over the Rio Grande valley where a temperature inversion seems to have formed. As astronomers, both Menzel and Hynek should have seen that mirages of astronomical objects can explain very many reports.

A panel of scientists, appointed by the (US) National Enquirer to judge the value of UFO reports, awarded the family who reported famous Delphos (Kansas) incident of 1971 a \$5000 prize for their report. This case is regarded as a classic and was awarded the newspaper's 'Blue Ribbon' as 'the most scientifically valuable evidence' for the existence of extraterrestrial life reported during the year 1972. In fact the incident appears to have begun with a sighting of a mirage of Saturn.

Few scientists have bothered to investigate UFO reports. They know that UFO reports are a can of worms which can damage their reputations. As a sceptic, Menzel had nothing to fear. Moreover he felt strongly that people should not be misled into believing that aliens were visiting Earth. Hynek, originally a sceptic, succumbed to the view that science cannot explain many 'core' reports and that these represent a new 'unexplained' phenomenon. James McDonald, a meteorologist at the University of Arizona, was a passionate believer in UFOs. But his subsequent suicide may indicate an instability that may have been the cause and not the effect of his interest in the subject. Ufology has attracted several eccentric scientists, those who have already adopted an unconventional view of the world. One such was physicist Harley Rutledge, who believed that UFOs reacted to his thoughts (Rutledge 1981).

Part of the problem is that the solution lies on the border between astronomy and meteorological optics. Modern science is so compartmented that few cross borders, let alone know what lies there. Astronomers are not interested in low altitude astronomy, believing (wrongly) that extinction always precludes observation. Meteorologists are preoccupied with synoptic meteorology and weather forecasting. Atmospheric optical phenomena, including mirages, are of interest to very few. For this reason, the solution to the UFO mystery has remained undiscovered until now. It has fallen to a 'mad' amateur scientist to point out what the professionals could have found many years ago. Even now, professional astronomers dismiss my hypothesis, mainly on the ground that the atmosphere cannot do what I claim it can do.

The only serious scientific study of UFOs was the Condon Report (see Viezee), commissioned by the USAF. Unfortunately its director (Dr Edward Condon) did not take the subject seriously and left co-ordination to a biologist who appears to have prejudged the conclusions. Although the project employed many scientists whose work well describes phenomena that can explain UFO reports (including mirages), its overall conclusions were that UFO reports reveal nothing that could be considered as adding to scientific knowledge and that further extensive study (by the USAF) would not be justified.

Psychology and UFO reports

One reason why physicists (astronomers and meteorologists) are hard to convince is that they are not aware of psychological factors. UFO reports come via an unreliable instrument which, even where there is an objective

stimulus, can severely distort the appearance and/or behaviour of the stimulus. I refer of course to human beings.

Psychologists are well aware that human perception is a hazardous and unreliable process, mainly because perception takes place in the brain, not (where most people think) in the eyes. The brain makes guesses about the external world and builds its picture partly from sampling the input and partly from stored memories. Studies of illusions support this hypothesis, by showing perceptual failures. Philosophers of science now describe perception as 'theory-laden', i.e. what we perceive is a construct of input and theories in the mind about the world. Stimuli are interpreted by the human mind in terms of what it already believes about such stimuli. Consequently we can only identify what we already know.

For everyday purposes, the difference is slight and of no importance. For practical purposes, we can function on guesswork. Problems arise however where the stimulus is anomalous, as in the case of most UFO reports. The human mind abhors uncertainty; it prefers to identify an object as anything rather than not identify it at all. Consequently, faced with an atmospheric mirage which displays unusual, indeed completely unfamiliar characteristics, there will be a tendency to identify it with the only thing the mind has in store that matches. Unfortunately, few of us in the West can claim not to have seen many representations of UFOs on TV, in books and magazines and in films. It is natural therefore that observers will report mirages as UFOs, even with characteristics that were not actually visible but which their minds constructed in order to make sense of the stimulus. If the object cannot be identified as a conventional object, natural or man-made, it is certain to be identified as an alien one, perhaps even with aliens.

Some believe that people who report UFOs are either psychopathological, fantasy prone, hypnotizable or less intelligent than normal. In fact studies have shown that this is not so (Spanos et al 1993). I know of only one case caused by abnormal psychology; the 'witness' suffered a hallucination brought about by his preoccupation with the UFO myth (Campbell 1981). Most people who report UFOs had no prior interest in the subject and were not members of any UFO organization. Nor are professional observers immune to deception. Reports from police officers or pilots are no more reliable than those from anyone else. Until everyone becomes familiar with mirages, they will continue to be reported as UFOs. Physicists, who naively believe that people are objective reporters, make insufficient allowance for perceptual problems and (foolishly) attempt to explain reports as either false or misperceptions of normal objects (which the observers must have been unfamiliar). Many sceptics (especially in the US) make similar hasty judgements and label witnesses as simpletons or frauds. They also jump to the first conventional explanation that comes to mind, refusing to abandon it even when faced with contradictory evidence. Changing the mind of a hardened sceptic is as difficult as persuading a witness that they have seen a mirage.

The dangers of mirages interpreted as UFOs

Astronomical mirages appear to have caused some aircraft to crash. Unfamiliar with such phenomena and not trained to spot them, pilots panic or become mesmerized. In January 1948, Captain Thomas Mantell of the USAF tried to chase what appears to have been a mirage of Jupiter (not a Skyhook balloon, as many claim). Without oxygen, he flew too high (perhaps believing that he was flying at a constant height), lost consciousness and crashed. In October 1978 Frederick Valentich, flying over the Bass Strait (Tasmania), reported 'a large aircraft' with 'four bright lights' hovering on top of him, but nothing was seen on ground radar. Nothing more was heard from him and his aircraft has not been found. He may have been confused and alarmed by a mirage of Canopus, then rising in the SE, and undertaken manoeuvres which led to his crashing into the sea.

Where aircraft have not crashed, sights of mirages have caused pilots to undertake dangerous manoeuvres. Lieutenant Gorman, flying a F-51 near Hector Airport (Fargo, N. Dakota) in October 1948, attempted to intercept a mirage of Jupiter for 30 minutes.

Conclusions

Mirages can explain so many UFO reports, especially the most intractable ones, that I can claim that the UFO mystery is solved. A scientific hypothesis has been found which explains UFO reports. There is no need to consider pseudoscientific or more exotic hypotheses; there is certainly no justification for the idea that UFO reports represent evidence for the activity of aliens or paranormal influences.

Features of those reports which are apparently inconsistent with the mirage hypothesis are likely to be due to the reporter's (and/or the investigator's) ignorance of normal perceptual distortions, false associations and human fear responses. Accounts obtained by hypnosis are certainly unreliable.

It is now evident why UFOs are reported to be a similar appearance all over the world; stars and planets can be seen from anywhere on Earth through an atmosphere which is as likely to produce an inversion in one place as another. Furthermore the few basic shapes reported are consistent with the protean forms seen in mirages, especially the double 'saucer' shape. The 'saucer' disc is not an imagined shape for alien space craft (after all our spacecraft are a completely different shape). It is a real shape seen in the sky.

It is now evident why UFOs are reported to move about the sky at great speed and execute 'impossible' manoeuvres; there are no limitations on the speed or manoeuvres of an image. The hypothesis also explains why UFOs are so often reported to be silent, even while executing manoeuvres which should cause sonic booms or thunderclaps. They are not real craft.

The mirage hypothesis accounts not only for the fighters of the Second World War and the Korean War, but the mystery airships reported in the USA in the 1890s. I predict that this powerful hypothesis will find universal application and solve countless cases. It may even explain reports of other strange phenomena such as

ball lightning, will-o'-the-wisp or appearances of the Virgin Mary.

References

- Campbell, Stuart (1981): False report from Loch Ness, *Flying Saucer Review*, 26(6)19-23.
----- (1985): Throwing light on Rendlesham, *Magonia* 21:15-8.
----- (1987a): Mirage of a mountain, *J. Meteorology, UK* May/June, pp.157-9.
----- (1987b): Mirage over Edinburgh, *ibid.* 12(123)308-13.
Huddart, Joseph (1797): Observations on horizontal refractions which affect the appearance of terrestrial objects and the dip, or depression of the horizon of the sea, *Phil. Trans. (R. Soc. Lon.)* 87, pp 29-42.
Lehn, Waldemar H and B A German (1981): Novaya Zemlya effect: analysis of an observation, *Applied Optics*, 20(12)2043.
Menzel, Donald H (1953): *Flying Saucers*, London.
----- and Lyle G Boyd (1963): *The World of Flying Saucers*, New York.
----- and Ernest Taves (1977): *The UFO Enigma*, Garden City.
Rutledge, Harley (1981): *Project Identification*, Englewood Cliffs.
Spanos, Nicholas P et al (1993): Close Encounters: An Examination of UFO Experiences, *J. Abnormal Psychology*, 102(4)624-32.
Vieze, William (1969): Optical Mirage (Ch. 4), *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects* (The Condon Report, ed. Daniel S Gillmor), London. Part of chapter written by Gordon Thayer.
Vince, Samuel (1799): Observations upon an unusual horizontal refraction of air..., *Phil. Trans. (R. Soc. Lon.) Part 1*, pp. 13-23.

REVIEWS

FORTEAN TIMES UnConvention 97.

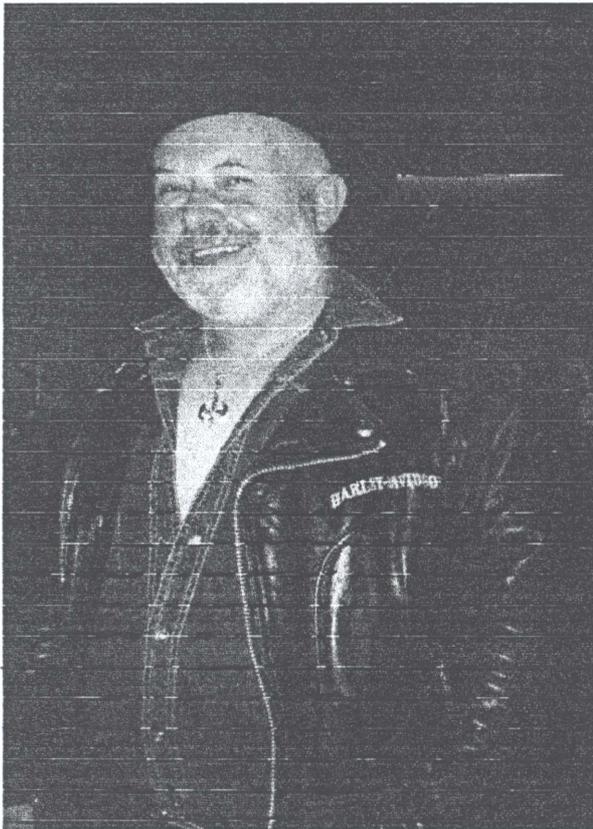
Held at the Institute of Education, Bedford Way, London on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th April 1997.

What originally promised to be a splendid weekend of weirdness turned out to be a splendid weekend of weirdness. With bells on. With tickets costing £20 for both days if booked well in advance, one would expect a varied line up of international speakers and we were not disappointed. With 1997 being the 50th anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's breakthrough UFO sighting, there was a strong UFOlogical theme to the event. Speakers included Budd Hopkins, Philip Klass, Patrick Huyghe, Paul Devereux and Hilary Evans, but some of the more interesting talks were not given by UFOlogists at all: There is more to Fortean, and an UnConvention, than just flying saucers. Oh yes.

With a large number of speakers to squeeze into the two days, the FT organisers had decided to run lectures in two lecture theatres at the same time. Inevitably this meant missing out on some fine speakers, but tapes are

available for those desperate not to miss anything. The UFOlogy was concentrated in the larger, plusher, amphitheatre (Logan Hall) while many of the other subjects were addressed in the smaller room (Jeffery Hall), reminiscent of a school assembly hall.

The first speaker I heard was the Rev. Lionel Fantorpe, presenter of the Channel 4 programme "Fortean TV". He spoke on three topics, including the fascinating story of the Creeping Coffins of Barbados, before ending the hour with a song. As viewers of the TV show will know, his singing abilities are rather dubious, but he is an engaging speaker and obviously a logical and thorough investigator of historical mysteries. I also managed to have a brief chat with him later in the day, and I can honestly say that a more likeable fellow would be hard to find. Top Bloke. (Below.)



Next was Budd Hopkins in the amphitheatre, who spoke about evidence for alien abductions and the one particular case covered in his new book, "Witnessed". This book deals with the Linda Napolitano (or Linda Cortile, or "Manhattan Transfer") case, which should be well known to saucerers acquainted with Budd and the abduction scene. What struck me most was that Budd didn't show any new evidence - his talk was very similar to the one he gave at the IUN Conference in Sheffield, 1993 (and reviewed in one of the earliest issues of *Strange Daze*). I am astonished that he was able to write a whole book on this one case, which has been well discussed in the UFO literature. Also disappointing was the next speaker, an elderly Philip Klass. Klass is a noted American sceptic and arch Nemesis of Budd Hopkins. While he was treated with far more respect by the audience that he receives at UFO Conferences in the States (he is allegedly booed and hissed when he makes

an appearance), I'm sure that many of the audience were bored rigid by his talk. Yawn.

I missed the next talk by Jim Moseley to listen to former UFO Brigantia editor Andy Roberts talking about "Haunted Heads and Screaming Skulls". These skulls and stone heads are associated perhaps with the ancient Celtic head cult. Carved stone heads replaced actual skulls over the centuries, and are often located over doorways or on chimneys to keep out spirits and ghosts. In some fascinating stories the heads bring bad luck. Other houses have human skulls, which can allegedly cause ghostly screams/poltergeist phenomena if mistreated. Despite the terrible mix up with the slides, Andy managed to pull together a good talk on a fascinating subject. Deciding then not to listen to Jenny Randles, I retired to a local hostelry for a pint or two of flat southern beer (and was pleasantly surprised by the fine set of polished beer engines and London Pride).

Suitably lubricated, I returned to see Paul Devereux give an illustrated talk on Earthlights and their importance for UFOlogy. An excellent, well presented talk, he once again gave a convincing argument that fault lines, certain mountains and areas of geological stress can produce light phenomena which may be misconstrued as UFOs. As in the Equinox TV documentary, he gave evidence that Kenneth Arnold may have seen such light phenomena in the geologically active Cascade mountains of Washington. This may be stretching the idea a bit, but I have always been impressed by Devereux's work showing that areas of high UFO sightings correspond to areas of interesting geology. It has to be more than coincidence. I hope he receives more funding for his important research, which is yielding important results for both geological science and UFOlogy. And he wasn't pulling his punches when talking about the state of popular American UFOlogy!

The Sunday morning opened with Chris Tinsley giving his talk "Cold Fusion - And perhaps a New Physics". Cold fusion may ultimately prove to be neither cold, or fusion, but it certainly is interesting which is more than can be said for this presentation. I walked out half way through, having realised that I wasn't going to learn anything about cold fusion itself. Trotting across to the big theatre, I next listened to American Patrick Huyghe discussing his new book, "The Field Guide to Extraterrestrials", which classifies and gives descriptions of the wide range of entities seen in connection with UFOs. Surprisingly few of the aliens seen need breathing apparatus, and most of them look vaguely human in form. However, some really weird ones have been seen, which makes it hard to make much sense of it all. I get the impression that this was a fun book to research, and it may be valuable research also.

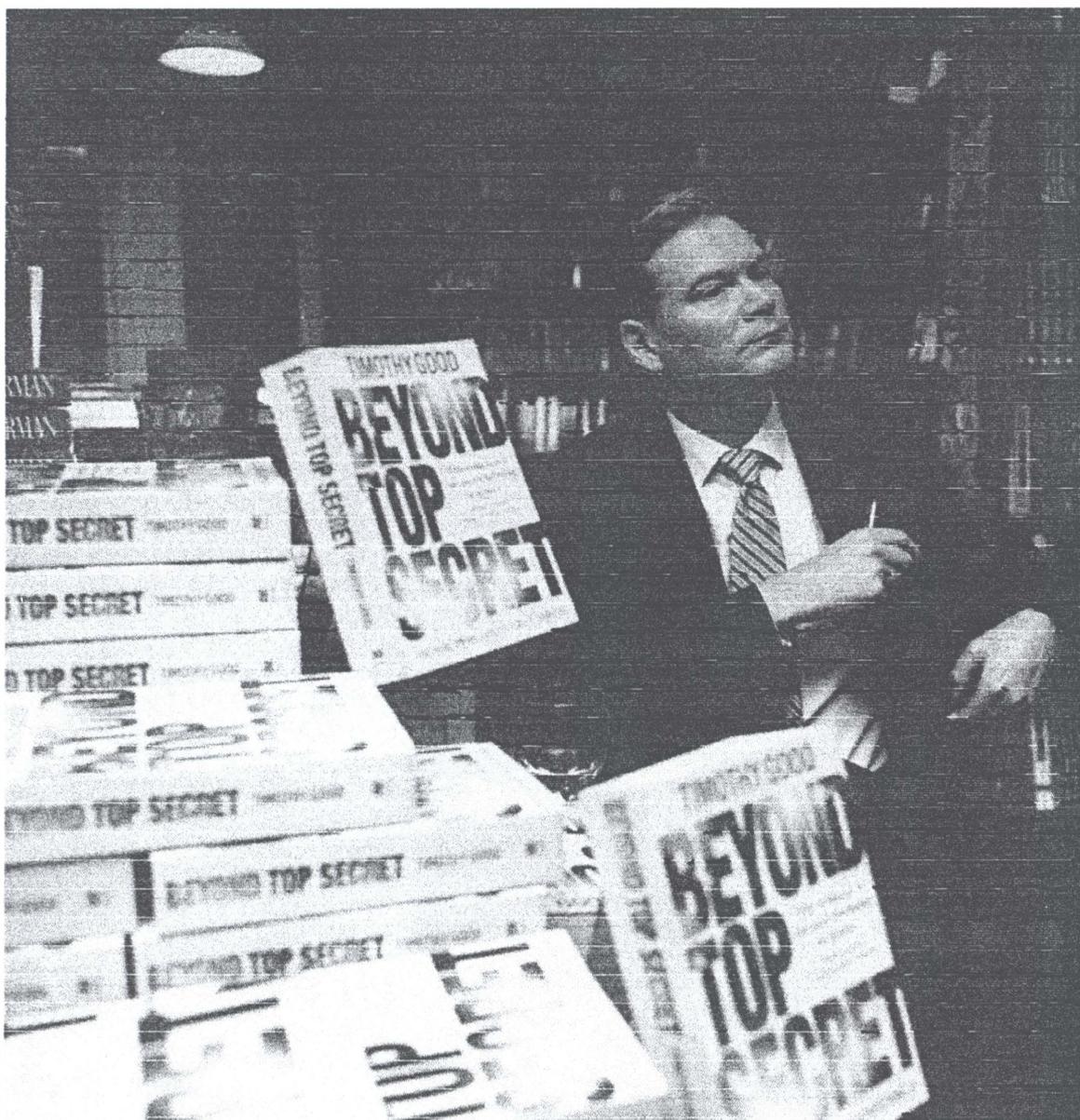
Following on was Hilary Evans, taking pretty much the opposite stance to Budd Hopkins in his talk on alien abductions. Evans' logic is sound, but I think he is fighting a losing battle against those who take the abduction stories as literally true. It may be the work of people like Patrick Huyghe, Paulinne Delcour-Min and Budd Hopkins himself which wakes people up to the real absurdity of it all, as the abduction tales become ever more nonsen-

sical. After Evans' talk was the big UFO discussion, featuring a panel supposed to be made up of Budd Hopkins, Philip Klass, Jenny Randles, Dennis Stacy and Patrick Huyghe. Only Budd didn't turn up, as he had once vowed never to appear on the same stage as Philip Klass, and was replaced by a little alien head. I didn't turn up either, going next door to listen to Danny Sullivan (now the editor of *The Ley Hunter* journal) giving his talk on the history of leys and ley hunting. Full marks to Danny for giving a splendid lecture while sporting a monumental comedy top-hat.

Following Danny Sullivan was Tony Cornell, dis-

cussing "What are Ghosts?" Cornell has been a dedicated and thorough investigator of ghostly phenomena for many years, and ghosts have been seen through all of recorded history one way or another. Unfortunately, we still don't know what they are, and Tony argued eloquently for the reality of the phenomenon and for increased scientific investigation.

Back over to the big lecture theatre and Marcus Allen's talk on conspiracies. At the end of his talk he had time to show some of the now controversial Apollo moon landing photographs, which many are now saying are hoaxes produced by NASA. Perhaps the originals



Above: Timothy Good, snapped at Dillons Bookstore in Newcastle earlier this year for the launch of the new paperback version of "Beyond Top Secret". Tim Good gave a talk and slide show, covering the history of UFOlogy and his own research into the subject, before signing copies of the book for the packed audience. Photograph © John Faulkner 1997. American abductioneer Budd Hopkins was also supposed to be talking at Dillons in April, but the IRA scuppered that with their bomb attacks on railway stations.

didn't come out very well, perhaps the Americans never went to the moon (Capricorn One style). If they are not genuine, then I would prefer the first explanation that they needed good publicity shots, so NASA worked up a batch in a studio. If they never went to the Moon, what the hell happened to Apollo 13? Allen managed, surprisingly, to get some volatile responses from the audience, which I thought Hopkins or Klass would have been more likely to receive.

For the final lecture of the UnConvention, I hopped back over to the Jeffery Hall for John Michell's talk on "Who Wrote Shakespeare?". Having read books by Michell but never having seen him, I was pleasantly surprised to find that he is a well spoken, highly educated and eccentric old gentleman. He discussed the problem of the authorship of Shakespeare's works in a fairly loose way for an hour, and I would guess that he would take little prompting to stay on stage and discuss Shakespeare (or several other topics) all day long. As you would expect, we never found out who really did write Shakespeare's plays. But if I ever return to Stratford, I will certainly cast a far more cynical eye over all of the Shakespearean sites of interest.

I had a great time at the UnConvention, and I hope to be there next year. It is not just about listening to speakers, but also about meeting old friends and acquaintances and meeting new people. At one point Paul Fuller (editor of the Crop Watcher), Rod Howarth and myself all inadvertently



Above: Smiling faces at the UnConvention: Andy Roberts and Jenny Randles ("OK, say Cheese - Have you heard the one about Philip Mantle and the steam roller...") ☺

among others for their company on Sunday night, and to my old mate Si for putting me up and making possible my pilgrimage to Danbury Church and the Griffin Inn. A psychic quest that ends with a beer pump can't be bad.

- Ed. *****

"WE THE JURY",

Grampian Television, 21st March 1997.

Will UFOlogy ever be proven as a serious subject? We all know that it finds itself at the forefront of many a media joke, and no matter how impressive the evidence can be, UFOlogy has never really proven its point. Well not so!

The case for UFOlogy was recently proven in court (admittedly a mock court) on Friday 21st March when Grampian TV based in Aberdeen completed its series of programmes entitled "We the Jury". This programme is set up in a court and takes in both topical issues and issues that the general public would like to see debated. For its last programme in the current series, they decided to debate the issue of UFOs in Scotland and the people who have claimed to have seen them. Was there a case to be answered? Are UFOs and alien sightings a reality?

For the first time in the history of UFOlogy the subject was to be given a serious hearing in court with a professional jury made up of individuals from all walks of life. Presenting the case for the reality of UFOs was Malcolm Robinson, whose study into the wave of UFO sightings over Bonnybridge is well known. Opposing the belief that UFOs are a reality was arch sceptic Steuart Campbell from Edinburgh whose books debunking UFOs and the Loch Ness Monster are well known.

Supporting Steuart in the court's audience were many professional and amateur astronomers including Professor Archie Roy of Glasgow University. Clearly then, the opposition were of high standing and their views that UFOs were a "non-reality" would no doubt be presented with academic vigour. [Editor's note: Archie Roy is an interesting character who has himself written books on paranormal topics: I would not regard him as a hard line debunker like some of the scientific community.] Mr Robinson's supporters for the motion that UFOs were a reality, were made up primarily of UFO witnesses which also included Scotland's most famous "UFO abductees" Garry Wood and Colin Wright; and also SPI members including Billy Devlin. The stage was set then, for what looked like a heated debate, and never have more true words been said (!).

As this was not a recording but going out live over various parts of Northern Scotland, it was a major platform to present UFOlogy fairly and accurately to the nation without any editing or people telling you what you could or could not say. Sure we've had Kilroy Silk and other daytime T.V. programmes debating the issue, but this was different, this was in court, with a proper jury. Could UFOlogy prove it's point, or would it fail miserably as the astronomers teared it to shreds? Well the scene was set, the gloves were on, it was time to do battle.

Mr Robinson then took the floor and spoke to the jury about close proximity UFO sightings, radar visual sightings, and the fact that the sheer volume and weight of "impressive UFO cases" were growing each year. He asked the jury to consider this, and also to remember the fact that this was truly a global phenomenon of immense importance. The hushed court listened intently as Mr Robinson delivered his speech after which it was the turn

of sceptic Stuart Campbell to present his case.

Reading from notes Mr Campbell asked the jury to consider that there was no concrete evidence to prove aliens or UFOs were visiting this planet, and that the whole of UFOlogy could be explained away as having natural explanations from temperature inversion layers to mirages. His plea over, it was then the turn of the court audience to voice their opinion on the matter, and boy did they voice their opinion. The arguments swung from left to right as both sets of people aired their views. Brian McMullan, lead guitarist with Glasgow UFO rock band CE IV, was not being put off by the astronomical explanations being given from the other side of the courtroom, and he spoke with contempt at these views and gave a scathing attack on Campbell for supporting them.

Soon the T.V. courtroom was filled with arguments swinging from both sets of "supporters" and one was beginning to think that things were getting out of hand. A cut for commercials soon came round which gave time for emotions to be cooled. Resuming the debate, one astronomer stated angrily that no other astronomer had ever witnessed a UFO, a point which UFOlogy can prove otherwise. (For example, the late Clyde Tombaugh who discovered Pluto).

During the course of this live T.V. debate, the viewers were asked to phone in with their own views on the matter: did they believe in UFOs? Had they seen one? Soon the phones were virtually ringing off their hooks! The presenter then asked Garry Wood to inform the jury and watching T.V. audience about his own UFO abduction. Garry delivered an emotional and honest account of his experience which was backed up by his friend Colin Wright who also shared this abduction.

All too soon though, the programme was coming to an end, and both Mr Robinson and Mr Campbell were asked to give a 45 second summing up of their case to the jury. Campbell continued to stress the point (with notes in hand) that UFOs were all misidentifications of ordinary mundane objects, whereas Robinson stressed the need to "examine the evidence for one selves" to look and search for the honest UFO data which was there in abundance. With that, it was time for the jury to deliver their verdict. What would it be? The courtroom was hushed as the Jury foreman was asked to give the verdict, which was, "We the jury find the case for the reality of the UFO phenomenon, proven by 9 votes to 3." This verdict was greeted by ecstatic applause by the supporters of UFOlogy, whilst the amateur and professional astronomers and UFO sceptic Professor Archie Roy sat silent with facial expressions of abject disappointment and disbelief!

This victory for UFOlogy was made all the more sweet by knowing that we were up against strong opposition who were not ordinary members of the public as such, but professional and amateur astronomers. So for the first time in British Television history, the case for UFOs was "PROVEN". But wait, there's more. Grampian Television were snowed under by telephone calls from members of the public who also believed there was a case to be answered. A staggering 86% of the public felt

strongly that UFOs were a reality.

So UFOlogy scored a victory which was celebrated back at the hotel into the wee small hours by members of SPI and also English UFOlogist Eric Morris [not a nurse - Ed.] who was flown up by Grampian to participate.

The platform for the reality of UFOs was taken on and won that night, the fight now goes on to show the world that they must now look at this subject with serious eyes and recognise the importance of UFOlogy. New cases are emerging every day, and we can only hope that the ridicule that this subject has endured throughout the years will finally be put to rest. It was that night, and boy did victory taste sweet.

Malcolm Robinson, Strange Phenomena Investigations, 29 Kent Road, Alloa, Scotland, FK10 2JN, Tel: 01259 210714

Book Review: "Who On Earth Am I?"

AUTHOR: Terry Le Riche Walters. PUBLISHER: Amora Books, 50 Christchurch Road, Ringwood, Hants, England, BH24 1DW. Price £7.99

There are many 'channelled' books currently on the market, some of which I've read, but I have to say that this book clearly is above all the rest. It is written in a style that the reader can understand, and contains many personal experiences of the author, which in some instances were shared by others. The author shares these lifetime experiences in this book, many of which are startling to say the least!

In chapter four, Terry informs us of his visit to Egypt, and he says that it is his belief that the whole Giza plateau was, in the past, a huge base for alien ...spacecraft! These Spacecraft Terry informs us, came from the star systems of Orion and Sirius. Some of the 'aliens' he tells us, were half animal in appearance. Terry is what's known as a contactee, and he is in regular communication with entities from Orion who have helped him (and others) throughout his life, and in this book, Terry presents many instances of this. His Orion friends, he tells us, are six feet tall, their skin is tanned and leathery looking, and their hair is thick and blonde (essentially they look like what UFOlogists would call as the 'Nordics').

The Nordics, we are told, are very concerned about what we on Earth are doing to our planet, which they (the Nordics) feel will have a knock on effect with their own planet. Indeed Terry believes that his Orion friends are actually living here on Earth at different locations in family groups! In Chapter six, Terry informs the reader about what these Orion spacecraft look like and what can be found inside them, this makes for interesting reading. The updated Orion craft, he tells us, has three floors, and is about 25 feet tall with a fifty five feet diameter and has a slightly domed shaped top. The colour of the craft, we are told, is a striking blue green.

What I found most peculiar about this book and something that I couldn't understand, was when his Orion friends asked him what was that running around on the Earth, Terry stated to him that they were horses (page 67). Surely if we are to believe in Terry's contacts,

one would assume that they would know what horses were !! I find this most incredible and is my only gripe about what I feel to be a very interesting book. It contains many interesting UFO and paranormal topics, and informs the reader about what channelling is all about. Of course sceptics won't agree with much that is presented in this book, however people like Terry should not be ignored, and by the writing of this book, Terry is educating the public (and sceptics) to the reality of the facet of human 'perception' that not all of us share. I'm sure this book will do well, pick up a copy, you won't be disappointed.

Reviewed by Malcolm Robinson.



Letters to the Editor

Please send letters for publication to the NUFORI address inside the front cover.

Sir/

A statement to be passed on to all.

To those who risk ridicule, insult and humiliation for "believing", praise and encouragement to continue.

To those who mock, deride and dispel, only a fool laughs at the facts.

Do not try to explain what you do not yet understand, and do not ignore "warnings", as in the past.

Knowledge is gained through time, "Rome was not built in a day." A tree needs time to bear fruit.

Those prepared to "accept" will evolve, those who are not will "fall on stony ground".

The future is yours, take what you need, not what you want. Consider the results of your actions, before you act.

The decision is yours.

Mik.

The following two letters both arrived at the NUFORI office on the same day, both with the same West London postmark and the same handwriting. I detect a sense of humour.

Sir/

I would like to take this opportunity of informing your readers of my UFO research group. Called the "Armchair Researchers Study of the Extraordinary" or "ARSE" for short, we try to uphold the finest traditions of Armchair Research. Let me tell you just how hard working our team is. Each member is expected to read UFO related literature from, and I cannot stress this too hard, from cover to cover. Some members even walk to their local libraries/bookshops for their own copies! Advanced ARSE members, such as myself, use the services of a UFO book-catalogue and have their copies delivered by mail order. Our team may get through a great number of volumes per year (club record, 4!) and we each form our own opinions/ belief systems on the UFO phenomenon from what we have read. Phew! Yes, it is as hectic as it sounds but if it wasn't for people like us, where would UFOlogy be? Did you know, some UFO "researchers" actually visit UFO landing sites and talk

to witnesses with not one preconceived notion in their heads?! [If only - Ed.] It's true! They then attempt to present their findings in an unbiased, rational "report" which these johnny-come-latelys then expect us to read!! As Victor Meldrew would say, "I simply cannot believe it!"

Anyway, I have to say that I sometimes see your name, "D. Newton" at the end of some of these "out and about" reports. My wife suggested you had an evil, crazed appleganger who is trying to besmirch your good name. Could she be correct?

Readers keen to see my ARSE in action are welcome to come and watch us reading quietly at their local branch library soon. We're also hoping to hold a Summer Conference next year when the big names in UFOlogy will stay at home and read quietly to themselves before getting up to make a drink and go to bed. The audience will watch via live satellite link. Anyway, back to the grind! I've got a Stuart Campbell bent backwards by the spine waiting on my chair and I don't want him slipping down the back and disappearing forever, now do I!

Good day,

Mr Karma Nips

Editor's comment: I also suspect that I have a crazed evil appleganger (is that similar to a doppelganger, I wonder?) who goes out at night chatting up women and drinking vast amounts of alcohol. As I never have any recollection of this the morning after, I can only assume that I do indeed have a dastardly double. In fact, make it a treble, barman. Now for the second letter from this bepsudonym'd writer:

Sir/

As a lifelong disciple and truth seeker of the works of Paulinne Delcour-Min, I wish to protest most strongly about the total lack of coverage of our Lady's work in your organ. Why is this? Are you a reptoid in your astral state and fear her Moon-Uranus conjunction rising? I suspect so.

On a personal level, I am a little Grey whilst the Karmic Exchange One (my wife, Joan) is a cricket. You reptoids fear her steely gaze and it is we, the ones who are not fit to touch the hem of her white 80% cotton blend Marks and Spencer lounge jacket, who are left to wonder at her stamina, her fortitude and her conference fees.

Please correct the omission at once or you will be ripped limb from bloody limb (karmically, of course). Yours in love and peace,

Orthon.

Editor's comment: If I had seen and read more of Ms Delcour-Min, then she might have received more exposure in SD than she has. From what I have seen of her (mostly from her appearance at last year's Day of Abductions conference) I'm not impressed. Having said that, with her apparent belief in the aliens existing and interacting with us on the astral planes, she is more positive and probably much less dangerous than Budd Hopkins. More letters please, Mr Karmic Nips, and best wishes for the future of your ARSE.

Here is some feedback on the Urantia Book article, which appeared in SD9, if memory serves.

Sir/

I got the Book of Urantia out of the library and most of the text concerning the Earth can be found from scientific journals etc. The early part of the book talks of Life Carriers which is similar to the Gods of the past and the central part of the book concerns itself with ice ages etc., and the exact date of them with reminders that the dating system started from 1834 or 1934, the rest of the book being devoted to the reason for Christ coming to round things off and dying for mankind. The names of the saviours all happen to be "The ancient record thus brought forth from the earth as the voice of the people speaking from the dust, and translated into modern speech by the gift and the power of God as attested by Divine Affirmation, first published in 1830 as the Book of Mormon". At first I thought it might be a publication from L Ron Hubbard's scientology outfit. The Book of Mormon that was given to me in the street has the subtitle Another Testament of Jesus Christ so I think I can be forgiven for thinking that the Urantia Foundation based in Chicago is just another testamental ploy.

Yours sincerely, Mr F.

Ed: Thanks very much for the feedback - I was hoping that someone would have the time to have a good read through the Urantia material and report back.

Sir/

Just a quick minute to recount a personal observation. A feature common to most accounts of alien abduction is the experience of lost time. This is where the alleged abductee has a strange experience which seems to last just a few minutes, but later proves to have taken hours. After the ministrations of a qualified, independent and unbiased hypnotherapist, this loss of time proves to have been spent by the abductee being forced into doing tasks against his/her will by arrogant, emotionless gnomes dressed in grey.

I personally have observed the exact opposite of this "time loss" effect in the very office where I work. This is where I have had an experience which seems to have lasted for hours but proves only to have taken a few minutes.

Strangely, this experience is also characterised by being forced to do tasks against my will by an arrogant, emotionless gnome dressed in grey.

I don't think I can prove the existence of Greys, but I certainly have conclusive proof of a grey existence.

Yours, I. Roden, Recovered Terrestrial Body.

Ed: You want to get a better job then, mate. See if you can get a job at the Benefits Agency - I work there and it's great! Never a dull moment. ☺

NEXT ISSUE

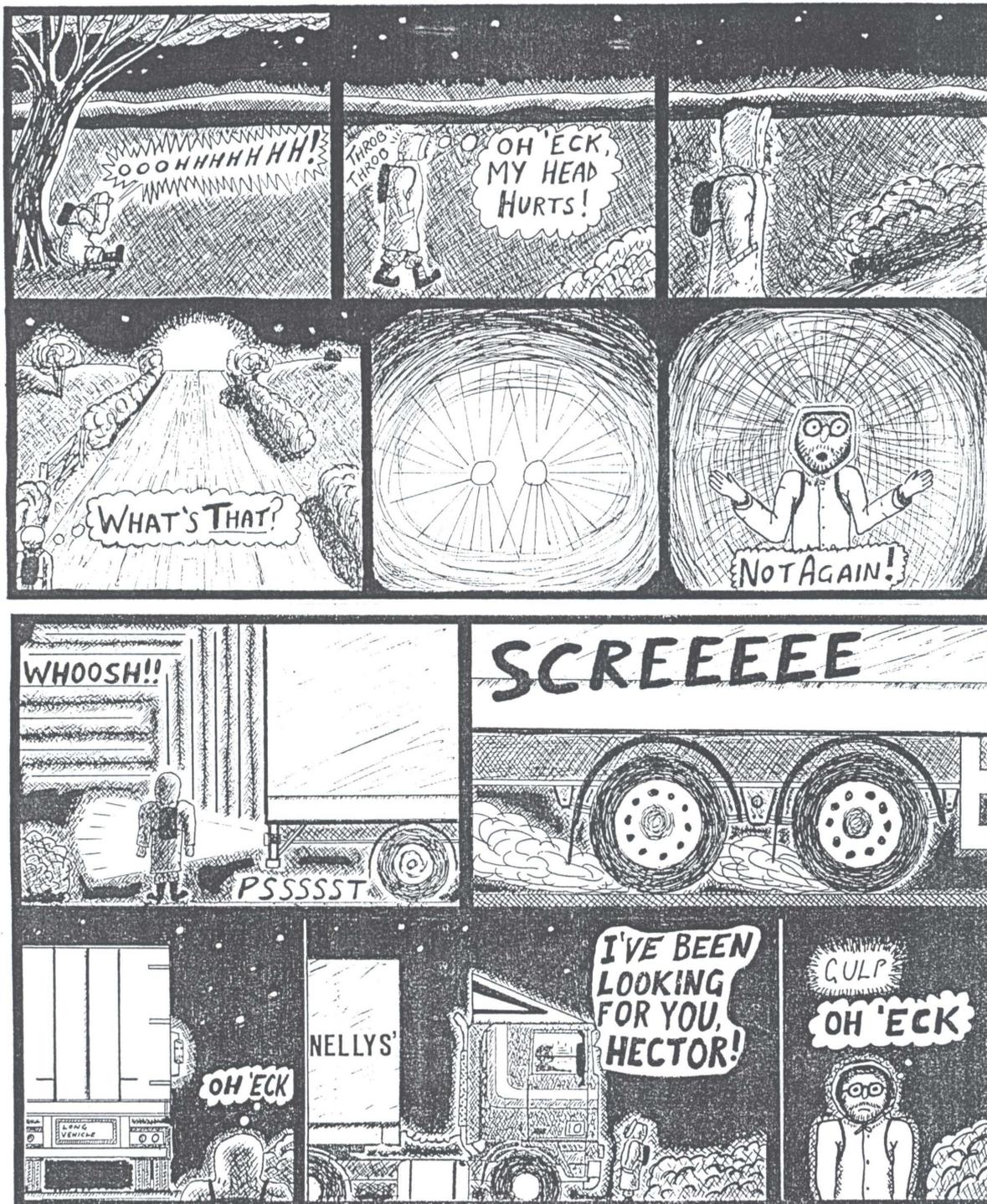
\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

The next issue of Strange Daze should be the August issue -but with the 50th Anniversary of Kenneth Arnold's sighting and the Roswell Incident coming up in July, we'll be trying to ca\$h in on UFOlogy's birthday. So watch out for our extra special "50 years of UFOlogy" issue, which should be hitting the shops in, well, July sometime.

££££££££££££££££



Heck's Files



* Mik *
1996 ©

IT'S A CONSPIRACY! WITH...

THE PARANOID WORLD OF DR. BOB DODDMAN UFOLOGIST



THE WORLDWIDE U.F.O CONSPIRACY

THAT ENDS MY PRESENTATION I SHALL TAKE QUESTIONS FROM THE DELEGATES IN THE AUDIENCE..

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL LECTURE... I MUST BE IN LINE FOR AN E.B.E AWARD!

HOME SOON TO WATCH COMMUNION AGAIN... I AM THE DREAMER... YOU ARE THE DREAM... YOU'VE BROKEN MY MIND... GREAT STUFF WHITLEY! AND A TRUE STORY AS WELL... WHO NEEDS CASABLANCA!

WHAT THE DEVIL... I MUST GO AND INVESTIGATE

I AM OBSERVING A MASS LANDING OF A FLEET OF ALIEN SPACECRAFT... I SHALL MAKE CONTACT AND TRY TO OBTAIN EVIDENCE

I COME IN PEACE... TELL ME... WHAT ADVANCED PROPULSION SYSTEM IS APPLIED TO YOUR SCOUTSHIPS?... WHAT GALAXY ARE YOU FROM?

TAKE THAT!

"BANG"

HUH?

CANDY FLOSS

A=HA "ANGEL HAIR" UNDENIABLE EVIDENCE

AMUSEMENT ARCADE

AN ALIEN CONTROL CENTRE WITH HUMANOID'S OPERATING SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY..... I ALSO SEE AN OPERATING TABLE THAT IS USED FOR ABDUCTION EXPERIMENTS

THE VISITORS ARE BOARDING THEIR CRAFTS TO BEGIN A MISSION OF ENLIGHTENMENT AND THE AWAKENING OF MANKIND...

I HAVE RETREATED FROM THE ALIEN SETTLEMENT TO INFORM THE WORLDS AUTHORITIES OF MY ENCOUNTER... GOD FORGIVE US ALL... IF ONLY WE HAD LISTENED TO GEORGE ADAMSKI...

PARR ©1997