

**THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF
CROP CIRCLES AND BEYOND**

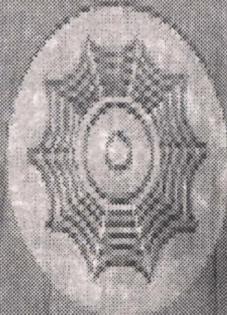


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37

JANUARY 1995

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**Zecharia Sitchin - CCCS Calendar - Stanley Messenger -
Astrograms - Alien Abductions - The Sphinx - And More..!**

"The most terrifying fact about the Universe is not that it is hostile but that it is indifferent, but if we can come to terms with this indifference then our existence as a species can have genuine meaning. However vast the darkness, we must supply our own light" STANLEY KUBRICK



The Monthly Magazine of
Crop Circles and Beyond

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Front cover: Avebury and the Web formation, August 1994. Photograph by Andrew King.

Welcome to the new look, all singing-all-dancing SC. Well actually it doesn't sing or dance but it will sustain and hopefully increase its ability to keep you informed on all the important developments in events and thinking relating to the patterns appearing in our cropfields which have stimulated so much discussion and soul-searching. And, of course, we'll be going 'beyond' where appropriate, as with this month's Zecharia Sitchin report. And all this in our usual good humoured spirit of not letting anyone or anything off the hook in our quest for 'the truth', although as Pontius Pilate once said (allegedly) "what is truth?". What indeed.

Somewhere good humour seems to be lacking somewhat at the moment is on the CCCS Council. It's currently engaged with bitter in-fighting and bickering from many sides over personal matters which are admittedly important to the people concerned. The current situation however is not the way these things should be worked out. This is not about crop circles, which is what brought everybody together in the first place, and all weapons should be laid down for a pow-wow NOW. Constructive (if heated) debate is something SC has engaged in in the past, but the manner of the recent squabbles is something quite different.

This isn't important, you might say, let them get on with it. Well, it may not affect the circle phenomenon itself, but it does potentially threaten the flow of information concerning the circles that CCCS provides, whatever criticisms have been levelled at it, and in that respect, it is important that a 'peace treaty' is achieved. The date of the Annual General Meeting will be announced soon, and I would say, if you are a CCCS member, rather than leaving the Council to their troubles, make an effort to attend it and contribute your enthusiasm to making the organisation the useful entity it should be and will be again given the right attitude, by discussing the issues that *really* matter. In the meantime, a message to the Council, (many of whom are friends); put aside your differences and get rid of the aggro, before it gets rid of you.

ANDY THOMAS

Stanley Messenger looks and speaks like television's first *Doctor Who* in the 60's - and I mean that in the nicest way. With flowing white hair and a face lined with wisdom, he commands total attention when addressing an audience, in a manner similar to his TV *doppelganger*. A long-term student of the philosophies of Rudolf Steiner, Stanley continued the Winter Lecture series with his own views on the significance of the crop circles entitled *Creation in Nature - Cosmic and Human*.

Stanley is not someone to be listened to lightly. If you *could* give him only half your attention at one of his lectures, you might as well go home. His thoughts and musings seem to take place on another plane from normal thinking processes, somewhere around the etheric and just left of the tenth dimension. And it's wonderful. One has to leave

one's usual perceptions at the door when listening to Stanley and be prepared to absorb his words on a deeper level. If you haven't had to actively think about the last thing he said, you haven't understood it. Sounds daunting but give in to this and an intensely rewarding experience awaits you. It's a bit like watching Shakespeare plays. If you're not used to the style, the first 10 minutes are completely unintelligible. And then it clicks, the brain deciphers the lingo and suddenly everything falls into focus. So it is with Stanley.

Even his Winter Lecture was not a simple address - the evening took the form of a long relaxation and visualisation for the audience, which began over-looking (in our mind's eye) the East Field at Alton Barnes, scene of so many major crop formations. Our minds thus became screens for a visual documentary, negating any need for a slideshow as Stanley began his history of the formations and our relation to them as he saw it, which is worth attempting to precis here as best I can.

The patterns now appearing in our fields were originally put down as energy thought-forms by "beings" from some sort of Devic realm at a time when Mankind was discovering the importance of the physical world at the expense of losing the subtle energy realms we were previously attuned to. The patterns were placed in the Earth to help Man

adapt and proliferate corn in larger yields which would be needed with Man's new dependency on the physical. Stone monuments were often erected to hold these energy patterns in place, the remains of which we see today. Now we've come full circle. The patterns are reappearing in our fields to mark the end of this process of encouraging greater and greater crop yields. Now the scales have tipped too far; the soil and wheat in our fields are practically barren through overintensive farming. Common sense and science is showing that crop growth will be useless within a century if we continue with this constant rape of the Earth's resources, no nourishment or goodness left in the grain we harvest. The process started by the placing of these energy patterns has outstayed its welcome and become a take with no return dead end. It is time to

move on to new methods.

However, the appearance of these patterns in our crops is being triggered from a subconscious level by *our need for them*, not by anything or anyone. We must stop looking for 'The Circlemakers' as an outside sentient force. The beings who originally laid the thought patterns down millenia ago have moved on to other things and have no part in the circle creation process. Other beings *are* taking an interest in our *reaction* to the formations and are concerned for our welfare (?) but will not intercede by interfering with our free will. They may help increase the energies that reactivate the patterns under the trigger of our subconsciousness but that's all. Grapeshot circles are 'power points' to boost energy either for potential or existing larger formations. The crop patterns and the energy they radiate are instigating a process of evolutionary change, not just in human realms but also in the animal kingdom, particularly within insects, especially butterflies. By observing their own contemporary leaps in development (still subtle but increasing rapidly, eyesight abilities for example) we can help gauge our own progress and be alert for signs of evolutionary growth.

There was a warning for circle hoaxers - they may be playing a dangerous game. By creating their own inevitably crude (on subtle energy levels) mu-

- REPORTS -

MESSENGER OF DESTINY

The London Winter Lectures on the circle phenomenon continued recently with Stanley Messenger; deep but rewarding as ANDY THOMAS discovered...

tated versions of energy thought-forms, they may unwittingly be producing powerful negative symbols. Ancient Greek 'psychic musicians' who tuned into and then played tones which resonated with 'The Music of the Spheres' were put to death if they erred even slightly, so important to the harmony of the Universe was this music considered. Hoaxers may be 'putting themselves to death' on a psychic level for erring in their replication and interpretation of the Divine.

Phew. This is as much justice as I can do in the printed word to the depth of Stanley's thoughts as voiced and visualised at the lecture. As he said himself, "These things must be understood with the heart, not the head". This is very true of Stanley's exquisite but ultimately 'symbolic' talks in general. Watching Stanley's face and posture as he composes his thoughts into something that can be expressed in vocabulary is like watching a man tor-

turing himself by turning his soul inside out like pockets, but seeing beautiful, mystifying and incredible things falling out in a wonderful array as a result. Stanley's style is not an easy one, least of all on himself, but it's that which makes it such a rich experience to witness. Recommended. When lectures are as heartfelt as this, who needs the head anyway? **AT**

Due to its success, the Winter Lecture series has been extended for another two months, continuing with MARCUS ALLEN in February, followed by JIMLYONS In March and JOHN MARTINEAU in April. Each meeting is held on the first Thursday of every month at THE FRIENDS INTERNATIONAL CENTRE, 1 Byng Place, London, WC1 from 7.00pm to 10.00pm. Admission £4.00 for CCCS members, £5.00 for non-members. A good atmosphere, well worth going to.

Andy Thomas gave me ufologist Doug Cooper's telephone number after telling me he had some information regarding possible 'astrograms' (ie. crop circles in the sky). I phoned Doug who seemed an all round good geezer, glad to tell all he knew. "I understand" I said, "that some prisoners in Dartmoor saw a very bright light making shapes in the sky. What can you tell me? This is what he said:

"Around about midnight in March this year (1994), a group of prisoners witnessed from their cell window a very bright light moving from the north-west. The light came to a sudden halt. Then it started, almost immediately, to make geometric patterns, mainly triangles. The extraordinary thing was that the light/craft left a glowing trail in its wake, like a finger writing. This lasted only a few seconds or so. The aerial show entertained the inmates for nearly one and a half hours! A circle was also created plus zig-zags and straight lines."

Doug also told me that in Axminster, near where he lives, another bright object, again coming from the north-west, came to an abrupt halt and immediately proceeded to make a triangle consisting of

three anti-clockwise circles, again remaining in the sky for a few minutes like the trail of a snail. Similar activity was recorded in Paxton in Cornwall where yet another display was given. Again, the light/craft came from the north-west. On the first and second occasion the light, after making its display, shot off in the direction of the moon!

In Dorset where much crop circle and UFO activity took place in the summer of 1994, a major astrogram was described as a huge "paper-doiily" in the sky by an elderly lady who watched it being created. This lady was so shaken up that she wouldn't go outside at night afterwards and now refuses to speak any more about it (so far)!

These reports certainly seem to fit the description of astrograms as predicted by many, not just lights in the sky but moving, shifting geometric patterns which perhaps serve a similar purpose to the crop circles. If any readers know of similar sky effects, please let me know. Meanwhile, as the summer months approach, instead of just looking down into the fields try raising your eyes to the heavens. This, I believe, is where it's at! **PB**

Zecharia Sitchin is a remarkable scholar. A Russian emigrant to Israel, where he was educated, he now lives in the USA and has devoted his life to the ancient languages and archaeology of the Near East. By refusing to take for granted traditional readings of historical documents, interpretations developed in pre-technical times when references to such artefacts as flying machines were assumed to be either fanciful or metaphors, and by working backwards in time to the sources beyond the Hebrew versions of the book of Genesis, Sitchin has painstakingly assembled from these earliest accounts a novel and convincing version of the origins of the solar system, our own Earth and of humankind.

The quest which ended only with the publication of his magnum opus, the four books collectively known as *The Earth Chronicles*, be-

gan when Zecharia, as a schoolboy studying the sixth chapter of Genesis, refused to accept his teacher's instruction that the word 'nefilim' should be translated as 'giants'. Sitchin objected that the root meaning of the word was "those who from Heaven to Earth came down" and spent the rest of his life justifying that assertion. How far he succeeded can readily be assessed by anyone who shares his knowledge of the culture and writings of the Sumerians, Egyptians, Babylonians and Assyrians. Studying the mass of evidence he assembles and sets out with such clarity and logic, we have to decide for ourselves whether the narrative he develops provides a credible interpretation of the great issues with which it deals and whether, if we reject his version of events, we can provide an alternative that carries equal conviction. Personally, I cannot.

To attempt even a complete list of the matter contained in *The Earth Chronicles* would exceed both my scope and my intention here, which is simply to set out those aspects of Sitchin's narrative relating to man's encounters with UFO occupants, their aims and activities.

According to Sitchin's interpretation, those Nefilim who came down to Earth 445,000 years ago were 600 natives of the planet Nibiru, the tenth planet in our own solar system which has an atypical

comet-like orbit which requires 3600 years to complete. Anu, king of the advanced Niburian culture, dispatched a party of 900 individuals, 600 of whom, under the command of their leader Enki, established an initial base in what is now southern Mesopotamia. The remaining 300 did not come down but operated the space links with their home planet from a space station in Earth orbit and a

planetary base on Mars. The purpose of the expedition was to obtain gold, which was urgently needed on the home planet to maintain the ecology of Nibiru, whose inhabitants enjoyed a life span so long that we should consider them virtually immortal. During the next 45,000 years, as the ice age gave way to an interglacial period, the Nefilim extracted gold from seawater, built cities and a spaceport, and established gold mining

operations in southern Africa. Enki's half-brother Enlil was then sent to take over the administrative side of the operation, allowing Enki, the master scientist and engineer, to concentrate on his specialisms.

300,000 years ago, there was a mutiny at the gold mines, so serious that Anu himself came down from Nibiru to settle the matter. The Nefilim working the mines had decided that 100,000 years manual labour was enough. Enlil was furious and wished to take a hard line with the rebels but Anu was wiser and listened sympathetically to their complaint. Enki however found the answer. He undertook to create primitive slaves to do the work, by taking the eggs of female hominids, fertilising them in-vitro with sperm from the Nefilim and bringing the embryos to term in the wombs of Nefilim females. The creatures thus produced were known generically as 'The Adam', sterile mules whose function was to work for the Nefilim and accept them as gods. This method by which the Adam was produced in quantity was of necessity slow and probably unpopular with the female Nefilim, so Enki, the great geneticist, gave a further twist to the DNA chain which finally led to the production of fertile men and women, creating Mankind as the self-perpetuating species it has been ever since. In a mere 50,000 years, *Homo Sapiens* had popu-

- FEATURES -

ZECHARIA AND THE ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS

What's this Zecharia Sitchin everyone in UFO-circles seems to be talking of all about then? GORDON MILLINGTON enlightens us...

- NEWS -

ASTROGRAMS A REALITY?

Predicted for some time, pictograms in the sky have finally arrived, as PAUL BURA discovers...

lated several continents and many of the male Nefilim, finding the human girls attractive, had helped in the process, to the disgust of Enlil, who was beginning to think the creation of Man in the image of the 'gods' had been a bad mistake, especially as Enki had gained all the credit for it. Thirteen thousand years ago, when it became clear to the Nefilim that a great deluge was imminent on Earth, calculated to destroy all life there, Enlil was content to see this happen and persuaded the council of the 'gods' and his father Anu to agree.

The biblical story of Noah is well-known, but it is perhaps not generally realised that this is a corrupt version deriving from Akkadian and Sumerian accounts and altered to conform with the monotheistic preoccupations of the editors of Genesis, who treated the god-word as singular while leaving the plural verb forms unchanged. The Hebrew word 'Elohim' is plural and corresponds to the Nefilim, the 'gods' who gave the Sumerian scribes the original story. In the Assyrian version, Noah is called Utnapishtim, whose story is simply a retelling of the Sumerian account of their king Ziusudra, known personally to Enki and forewarned by him of the coming flood. The Nefilim did not create the flood nor could they prevent it; it arose as a consequence of the increasingly unstable Antarctic ice cap slipping into the sea under the gravitational influence of the approaching Nibiru at its perigee in the asteroid belt. The Nefilim planned to save themselves by taking off into Earth orbit until the waters subsided but they were not going to tell Mankind of the approaching doom. Enki was supposed to keep this secret but instead he decided to save his faithful servant King Ziusudra and gave him instructions to build a giant submersible craft, which he and the trusted members of his court, his workmen and their families too, were all to board when they saw the rocket ships of the Nefilim taking off from the spaceport. Enki also provided him with a navigator who was to direct the ark to Mount Ararat when the floods began to subside.

From their orbiting craft the Nefilim watched the overwhelming of the world they had built and many of them were sad and wept. Eventually, when Enki had landed on Mount Ararat to meet Ziusudra, they learned that Mankind was not altogether destroyed and even Enlil was finally persuaded that the world must be rebuilt. The 'gods' used all their knowledge and technology to re-establish humanity as the floods gradually receded, promoting agriculture and animal husbandry. Human civilisation spread

out from the Middle East to cover the globe, actively assisted by the 'gods' in their airships. Enki, known in ancient Egypt as 'Ptah', personally ordered the development of the Nile valley culture, where some of the great engineering works of the 'gods' still remain to impress us, as does the base of their post-diluvian spaceport at Baalbec in the Lebanon.

Sitchin continues his story, filling in the biblical background in depth, until in a further book, *Genesis Revisited* (1990), he tells the story which suggests that the final chapter in the dealings of the Nefilim with humanity remains yet to be written, that the bug-eyed, Strieber-type ufonauts with whom some believe the US government has done a secret deal with are in fact the android creations of the Nefilim, still operating from the old Martian base they set up so long ago. The story he tells, with photographic evidence in support, is that of the USSR unmanned space probe Phobos 2, launched in July 1988 to explore the planet Mars and more especially its unusual moonlet, Phobos itself. Phobos 1, launched at the same time, was lost two months later, allegedly by a command error, but its twin arrived safely into Martian orbit in January 1989.

Although officially a Soviet craft, Phobos 2 represented a collaborative international effort with more than thirteen European countries involved and the participation of leading British and American space scientists. Briefings from mission control in Moscow indicated that it carried equipment to locate more precisely the heat-emitting areas on Mars, scanning both the planet and its satellite with infra-red and gamma-ray equipment. Phobos was to receive special attention, perhaps in view of Soviet suggestions that it could be a captured asteroid deliberately placed long ago in its almost perfect circular orbit as a hollow space station. The moonlet was also to be probed by radar and photographed by three television cameras. Two landers were to be dropped on its surface, one stationary and one mobile and it was planned that the probe would hover a mere 150 feet above the surface, recording features as small as six inches in length. It certainly seems that the expedition's planners expected significant results. "But" asks Sitchin, "was there someone there, at Mars, who did not welcome this intrusion?" For on March 28 1989, Soviet mission control announced that contact with Phobos 2 had been lost.

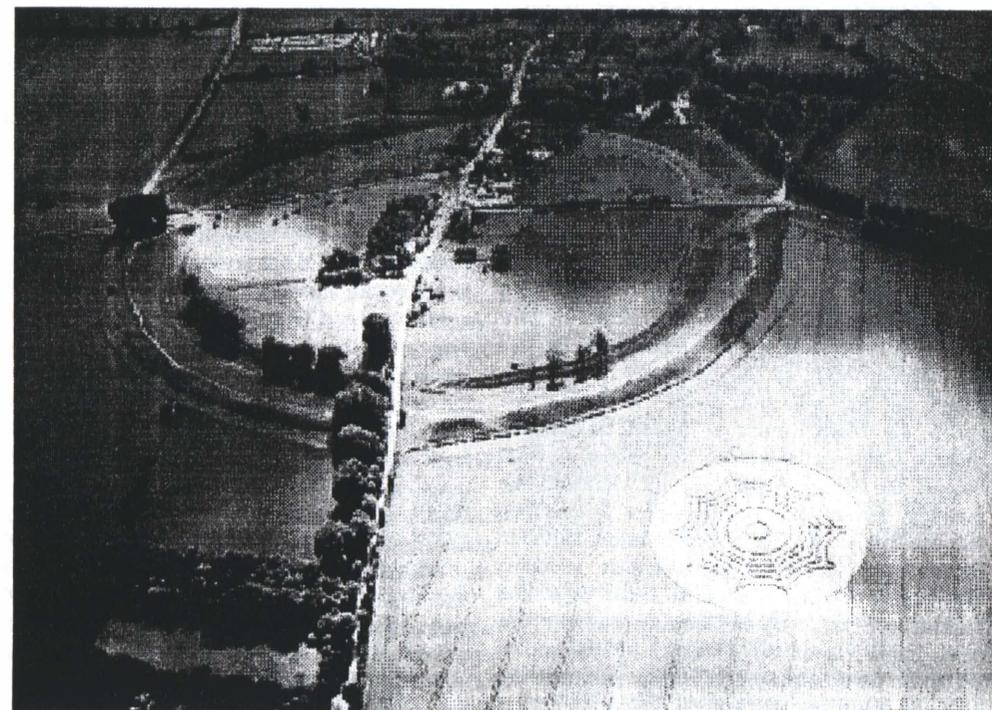
Gradually the details of what had occurred were

released. The final television transmissions, recorded by both colour and infra-red cameras, showed an object, either a craft or a missile, heading straight from the Martian surface towards Phobos. These pictures were released only three months later by the Soviet authorities, but the very last frames, taken just before the transmission was ended by the destruction of the orbiter, have never been released to the public media. In the penultimate chapter of *Genesis Revisited*, after a detailed discussion of all the evidence, Sitchin concludes as follows: "What the secret frames hide is evidence that the loss of Phobos 2 was not an accident but an incident." Perhaps the first incident in a Star War - the shooting down by aliens from another planet of a spacecraft from Earth intruding on their Martian base. (Four years later, NASA's Mars Observer probe was inexplicably lost - we were told - in a

similar orbital position to Phobos 2 - Ed).

It seems however, most improbable that any of the Nibiru would have condemned themselves to millennia of pointless exile in bases beneath the sands of Mars. If, as Sitchin suggests, such bases still exist and are manned, then a maintenance crew of androids and robots seems much more likely. If Phobos is indeed part of their installations, then they would certainly have been programmed to defend it from intrusion. Whether their instructions have also included keeping a watch on our own planet, particularly since the time of our first atomic explosions when the UFO phenomenon went public, we do not know, nor can we be sure that their findings are not relayed back to planet Nibiru, now being searched for by astronomers in Earth's southern hemisphere as it flies through space on its return journey towards our sun. **GM**

We thought this month's cover photograph deserved a space to itself. Andy King took this glorious view of Avebury and the web formation, which somehow compliment each other perfectly - surely the intention...



A couple of years ago, Gateway Books published an excellent calendar using glorious colour photographs of crop formations. Nothing materialised in 1994 but for 1995 CCCS have revived the idea and produced their own, resulting in an A4 size ring-bound effort. "Devised" principally by Michael Glickman and Lucy Pringle, the calendar had a troubled and rather late birth, with Council arguments over its format and especially - horror! - concern that it should not unwittingly contain any hoaxed formations in its selection. George Wingfield in particular campaigned tirelessly for a major disclaimer to be printed on the front pointing out the possibility that some of the contents (presumably all, from his point of view) may have been man-made. This debate has led to the appearance on the front cover of the rather awkward

compromise "We do not know the origin of this phenomenon or how the individual formations are made" instead. Did anything at all need to be said? Crop formations are crop formations whatever your personal theory about their origins. "A photographic record of the 1994 crop circle season" which also appears as a subtitle says all it should.

But is it any good? Well yes, actually. Chiefly because, in the absence of any kind of yearbook, this is about the finest - and only - proper collection of 1994 season formations you're likely to get. Even if you don't use it as a calendar, you can do what everyone did with their Gateway one, ie. cut it up for your portfolio or frame the pictures on your walls. The well-selected formations included are the crescent moon at The Sanctuary in rape (curiously the only pole shot photo - all the rest are aerial), the 'Manx runner' at Berwick Bassett, the Bishops Cannings 'scorpion', the 'galaxy' at West Stowell, the Barbury Castle 'bee' (or whatever), the Froxfield 'flower', the 'dragon's claw' at Hackpen Hill, the 'infinity' symbol at West Overton, the Alton Barnes 'eye', various 'thought bubbles' including East Dean in Sussex, the Olivers Castle rings, and the Avebury 'web'. By and large the quality of the photographs, taken by a variety of well-known cropies, are absolutely excellent, in particular the web, the flower and the galaxy. The Alton Barnes eye fares less well as it seems to have been re-

produced too darkly and one or two of the other pictures could be sharper, but these are minor quibbles for what are genuinely stunning views of 1994's cropfield wonders even if there have been rumblings from some that permission wasn't sought for use of their photographs. Unfortunately, someone at the printers decided that instead of a neat hole on which to hang it, a great big blob shape should be punched through each picture, making it look like a crude UFO hovering above the formations. Still, I'm quibbling again.

As for the dates part itself, this is really an at-a-glance calendar, with little space to actually write anything beyond a couple of words for each day, whereas several inches are given over to a suitably wistful quote from somebody famous (usually dead) for each month, which is the giveaway for any unfamiliar with the devisers that *somewhere* behind the creation of this calendar somebody thinks these formations are more than just pretty pictures. Who knows what they're doing to our subconsciousness even as they stare across the room from our walls as we sit down to breakfast or whatever. Having these photographs legitimately on display via something as normal as a calendar will at the very least provoke some interesting conversation from any visitors who come to your house, as I can testify.

I was going to end this review with details of where to obtain the calendar but rather irritatingly, have just learnt that CCCS don't actually have any left. This could have something to do with hugely successful sales rates but might also have to do with the fact that a large proportion of the stock was sold off in bulk to the US to make a quick and assured buck where this sort of thing is in big demand. Good news then for US readers, less good for Blighty-bound duffers. If you belong to a local CCCS branch, your branch convenor may have some copies hanging around however. Worth a try. So on the offchance that you can get hold of a copy, here are four good reasons to do so: a) Great pictures b) CCCS need the funds c) Good conversation point, impress and amaze all your friends etc. d) You'll know what day it is. AT

- REVIEWS -
**A CROP
FOR ALL
SEASONS**

It's here! The CCCS crop circle calendar. You can't buy it anymore, but ANDY THOMAS reviews it anyway.

SC is so provocative that it is impossible not to write in some reactions to SC 34. First, if you

- LETTERS -

guy in Britain can't be arrested, so far, for trespass, then what was all this hoo-ha about fearing farmers and worrying about their reactions I've been hearing for four years? You mean all they could do so far was to sue in civil court? This is a joke! In the US, it is a crime and you can get locked up and fined. Welcome to the real world Britain!

Re. the USS *Enterprise* (Barry reports in SC 34 a photo that looks like its crew beaming down - Ed), Lesley Clementson, whose husband operated his 'Gizmos' (circle-surveying devices) this summer, took a photo of a UFO that looks remarkably like the *Star Trek* starship flying over Cheesefoot Head in 1992. I sell copies in the USA for \$5.00 each, Box 9517, Marina del Rey, CA 90295.

Re. the Froxfield formation, so easy to make on paper with two compasses (no it's not - see below - Ed), I would suggest that it was also easy for hoaxers to make with ropes to guide them, as was the Avebury spiderweb with additions, later. In that one, I found eight wear-marks at the centres of logical radii, out of ten possible spots.

Re. reported "blocks of darkness"; I find these more interesting than the circles now. The Clementsons have photos of a flying 'black blob' near Warminster and Bratton Castle. There is also a fellow named Tony who was staying in a caravan behind the Barge pub all summer who was very tightly holding on to possession of a photo of cropies in a formation, with a black blob in an upside-down 'J' shape with a strange face in the crook. Tony wouldn't sell a print but still hasn't published it in four years. Maybe someone English will have better luck in getting it published for him.

It is hard to criticise a man in a wheelchair. But to treat Paul Bura as any other person is only proper. I listened to a tape of Paul's spirit ('Joeb') channelled by him, and another spirit, female, channelled by an American lady. The pair were supposed to shed much light on crop circles. I found both 'spirits' to be boring, vain, petty, supercilious, pompous and affected. They really revealed nothing. I regret to say it, but I am not convinced that either really was a channelled spirit at all. I am also sceptical about Emun and the 'Guardians of Cissbury'. All too easy to make up. Proof is needed to stimulate belief. The crop circles movement has fallen too much into the hands of New Agers due to the lack of any meaningful messages coming

through to us via the circles, other than that they are groovy to look at.

My own theory now is that those that are real are put there to make us react, and our reactions are looked at as a psychological test by aliens. If you are a cropie, that makes you a major test subject (rat) if that is any consolation.

I hope that you will be able to print some of this. Better than three pages of Paul Bura, nice guy though he may be. New Age rambling is not research.

ERIK BECKJORD, California, USA

SC REPLIES: I suppose this letter is also pretty "provocative" in its own way and deserves some addressing. First of all, re. the Criminal Justice Bill, just because something similar is already law in the US, does not make the UK version right or justified in the first place. It is the ambiguity of the bill that makes it so dangerous. As far as the Froxfield flower and Avebury web formations are concerned, see the report on Michael Glickman's London lecture last month ('City Glickers' SC 36) to see why neither of these formations could have possibly been "easy" to create by hoaxers. The Froxfield flower cannot be drawn up simply with two compasses - this idea resulted from a misunderstanding in our Clapham report. The Avebury web uses so many different arc points and accurately worked-out displacements of logical positionings, the same arguments apply against Erik's views. No-one else reported any "wear marks" at the radii centres of the web - which extended several feet out into the standing crop and would have been easy to spot. As for the business about channelling, I thought it only fair that Paul Bura should have a chance to speak his own defence. What I would say is that the results of our 1994 survey show quite clearly that the majority of our readers do not share Erik's negative views on the place of channelling in crop circle research, whatever their views on its source, and therefore the occasional devotion of a few pages to channelling-related work seems fully justified - Ed.

PAUL BURA REPLIES: My dear Erik, I'm glad you treat me as a human-being, albeit sometimes in a wheelchair, I wouldn't have it any other way. As for 'Joeb' (my friend from the Fourth Dimension, you know, that place where worn-out human beings go when they die), I feel your treatment of him

I must defend. "Boring"? I guess we're all capable of that. "Vain"? Never. "Petty"? Not to my knowledge. "Supercilious"? Not if he can help it. "Pompous and affected"? If you say so, Erik. But those who know Job and speak with him often, would wonder who the hell you were talking about. Your description doesn't fit! Never mind.

Why shouldn't you be sceptical about Emun? What happened at Cissbury Ring takes a lot of swallowing. All my life I've raged against those psychics out to con or hand out half-truths. I cannot prove to you that I'm channelling this entity or that, and yes, I could have made it all up. But for what? I ended up crying like a baby and shaking to the foundations of my being. Why would I put myself through all that? Ego? Money? You'll have to ask the people who know me.

In reply to the letter from Terry Wilson in SC 36, there has been considerable over-reaction in numerous journals with regard to the Criminal Justice Act which, in general terms seeks to address concern over crime, vandalism and other undesirable elements in favour of the great majority of the law-abiding general public, those who are, in fact, the real victims. There is nothing to fear by ordinary folk from the Act. If the complaints one reads about are taken to the extreme, we might as well give up garden parties, organised rambles by country walkers, bird watching, coach tours etc. This is nonsense. Only those having no respect for others on their property need be in fear. As regards crop circles this means trespassers who do not seek permission and of course hoaxers. Wouldn't we all, after all, like to see this diminish?

With regard to clauses 65 and 66, there are unlikely to be more than 20 people gathering to visit crop circles at one time, unless it's something like the coach tours from the Glastonbury Symposium, in which case permission from the farmers to go onto their land will have been sought. This should have been the case with either groups or individuals in the past anyway. As far as cropies wishing to observe the fields from the roadside is concerned one can hardly envisage the police stopping this unless asked to or unless it is felt some public disorder or potential problem was likely. They have too many other serious problems to deal with. If they feel such a potential problem is imminent - more likely in the vicinity of a public place or historical monument - well then, better the prevention than cure.

It could just be that the effects - if there are any - of

Job, very early on, gave us proof of an earlier incarnation of his in Sudbury in Suffolk, at the end of the 1st century AD. He told us in detail where his village was and where the stone circle that he used to serve was located. This was to prove to us that he existed. A group of us set out and found everything as he described!

Your theory concerning genuine circles and people's reaction to them (shape power) I totally agree with. There are many who would testify that the energy found therein has literally 'changed them', whether they like it or not. One day, Erik, you may have your own 'Pauline' experience on your own personal 'Road to Damascus' and you will then have to explain away to a bunch of sceptics what you, perhaps, find difficult to explain. Good luck mate. **PB**

this Act for the crop circle community could be beneficial rather than otherwise.

RAY COX, Halesowen, West Midlands

SC REPLIES: *Ray has taken the line that we're all supposed to, which is that this is a nice friendly Act that will be hard on those nasty criminals and kind to all us good law-abiding citizens. But it's in the fine detail where problems will arise. What makes a criminal? According to the Act, the smallest action can cross you over the line of legality if the police so define it, whether on private property or not. Whilst I agree it's unlikely that the police will immediately start targeting cropies to harass, the fact is that they can do so if they so choose. The same for garden parties potentially - they now have the power to define people's actions as whatever it suits them to if they need to. There's no retreating into an 'us and them' philosophy because the Act blurs the borders of what makes you an 'us' or a 'them'. Who knows when someone will decide we're all weird cultists who need removing? If they do, then the Act will not seem quite so appealing anymore. I shouldn't think it'll make much difference to the few hoaxers there are however as they have little respect for people's property, Act or no Act. As for the business about 20 or more people gathering - I've seen more than that lined along the road overlooking the Alton Barnes East Field with cars parked all along the verge. It would take nothing for that to be classed as a traffic problem needing clearing if nothing else. - Ed.*

There's so many interesting - and banal - television programmes that touch on the 'paranormal' right now, it's impossible to keep up with them all. One has to trust intuition as to what's worth tuning in to immediately and what's only worth videoing to be dug out for a rainy day. One of the former variety that appeared to be the other and another the other way around were recently screened on consecutive nights.

BBC 2's *Horizon* (28/11/94) certainly looked like tune-in-now material as it investigated the phenomenon of alien abductions. Advance word had already gone out that the conclusion was something about magnetic fields affecting the brain but that was okay, it would be interesting to hear another viewpoint to the ET theory put succinctly. Unfortunately it wasn't and what was presented was really rather mediocre.

Alarm bells rang early as the presenter turned out to be one Susan Blackmore, a member of the *UK Skeptics* (not mentioned, naturally) and a past contributor to their journal, who started by explaining that in 20 years of investigating the paranormal, she had never found anything to convince her that anything really paranormal was going on... Not a good start as far as getting a balanced view goes.

Various claimed abductees were brought on to give their testimony, and the work of Budd Hopkins, the well-known ET-investigator was prominently featured, as well as David Jacobs who has written extensively on the now worldwide and proliferating phenomenon of 'abduction' by 'Grey' alien beings, who supposedly poke about with people's internals and reproductive organs amongst other things. Once their case had been put, Blackmore got down to some serious scrutinization of their work and basically concluded that none of it could be trusted, or at least that the results had been interpreted from an over-biased viewpoint toward the ET theory. Some admittedly persuasive theories and demonstrations concerning the growing problem of 'false memory syndrome' induced by hypnoterapists themselves while regressing 'abductees', and the misunderstandings that might arise from the natural condition of 'sleep paralysis' were put forward. This

culminated in an experiment conducted on Blackmore herself, which involved being strapped into a customised motorcycle helmet fitted with electromagnetic wave generators which it was claimed could trigger hallucinations very similar to the archetypal abduction experience.

The arguments against ET involvement in such claimed encounters with strange beings were mainly that the evidence for it is so flimsy. However - and this is where the frustration with the programme revolved - the evidence that it might be caused by other factors is not much better. Sure, false memory syndrome is of growing concern to many, especially in cases where adults have been falsely persuaded by raving fundamentalist psychiatrists that they were abused by their parents in childhood, and *could* possibly account for many ac-

counts of alien abduction, 'memories' being sparked off by poor hypnotherapy techniques. Yes, perhaps sleep paralysis might trigger fears of possible abduction in the more paranoid. And maybe magnetic fields can play tricks with the mind, although frankly Blackmore's reactions while hooked up to the device were far from convincing and her visions were never detailed. But none of this means that *this is the case*. Clearly the programme makers were aware of this sticking point in that, although really wishing to continue with the air of rather irritating scepticism, Blackmore rather clumsily concluded that there were no conclusions to be had, or at least none that she was going to voice.

Many unanswered questions remained. Bruises and scars on claimed abductees were too easily dismissed and no mention was made of claimed witnesses to *other people's* abductions. Could everyone share the *same* illusion from exposure to a magnetic field? I've no axe to grind on this one; until more evidence comes along either way, I'm ambivalent as to what might be behind this strange phenomenon which seems to eat into such deep areas of sexual and psychological fear. Clearly something's going on, as *Horizon* itself begrudgingly admitted, but the phenomenon deserved a better insight than this was able to deliver.

- **MEDIAWATCH** -

GREY AREAS

**One night alien abductions,
another the sphinx and Mars.
ANDY THOMAS checks out
the couch-potato worthiness of
two recent television efforts...**

Far more satisfying was the broadcast I chose to video for my rainy day while I enjoyed Bill and Ted's Bogus Journey the night before (27/11/94). BBC 2's (again) Timewatch series profiled the quest of John Anthony West to prove a private theory that the sphinx, guardian of the great pyramids at Giza in Egypt, is far older than historians have ever guessed, older than the pyramids themselves. What appeared at first to be a mildly-diverting investigation to fill a Sunday evening, turned out to be a real eye-opener, well structured and conceived (unlike *Horizon*), which culminated in the appearance of Richard Hoagland and his Face on Mars theories - a brave step for a BBC historical series to take, given the hostility of academics to such uncouth subjects.

Instead of just mouthing off with his theories, gained it would seem from psychic sources and intuition as much as anything else, West, knowing that his views would evoke derision from Egyptologists, did the sensible thing and recruited the help of those who could *scientifically* - as far as possible - *prove* him correct. With the help of a US police photo-fit artist, and geologist Dr Robert Schoch, he systematically showed that the face of the sphinx was not that of the Pharaoh Chephren (as widely believed, placing the building of the sphinx at the generally accepted time of about 2500BC) and that the erosion of the rock from which it is hewn was caused by *rain* - not wind and sand. This latter point is the most important because it places the construction of the sphinx at a time when the Sahara desert was a lush, wet plainland, which would give a date of anything from around 8000BC to 10,000BC. This in turn would mean that an ad-

vanced civilisation was in place long before accepted history tells us; no surprise to believers in Atlantis and Lemuria, but a source of intense anger to established persons of learning, for whom such discoveries are far from welcome. Despite the pretty irrefutable proof of Dr Schoch, Egyptologists refuse to acknowledge his findings with the rather lame excuse that 'geology is not their subject'. Well perhaps it's time it was. Nice to know our scholars are so eager to progress.

Still, even for West's colleagues, the Mars connection is a little too much, although the programme stopped short of including Hoagland's Martian tie-up with the Barbury Castle crop formation. According to the SC survey, most readers of this journal are happy to believe that monuments left over from a vanished civilisation stare up at us from the red planet's surface, but West's contention that the geological age (as extrapolated by Hoagland) of the Martian sphinx connects it - and automatically its age, which is supposedly several thousand years earlier even than 10,000BC - with its Giza counterpart leaves him out on his own for the most part. Again, no-one even wants to *consider* looking at the evidence, not even to rubbish it. Not that West minds that much. He gets perverse pleasure out of simply "upsetting the applecart" for the sake of it; a classic eccentric who knows that *someday* he will be hailed as a genius of sorts and that the truth (or not?) will out in the end, when someone bothers to look beyond the eccentricity and to the core of a man who dared to have the imagination to challenge the status quo of those who, in general, have become as dusty as the texts and artifacts they study. AT

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