

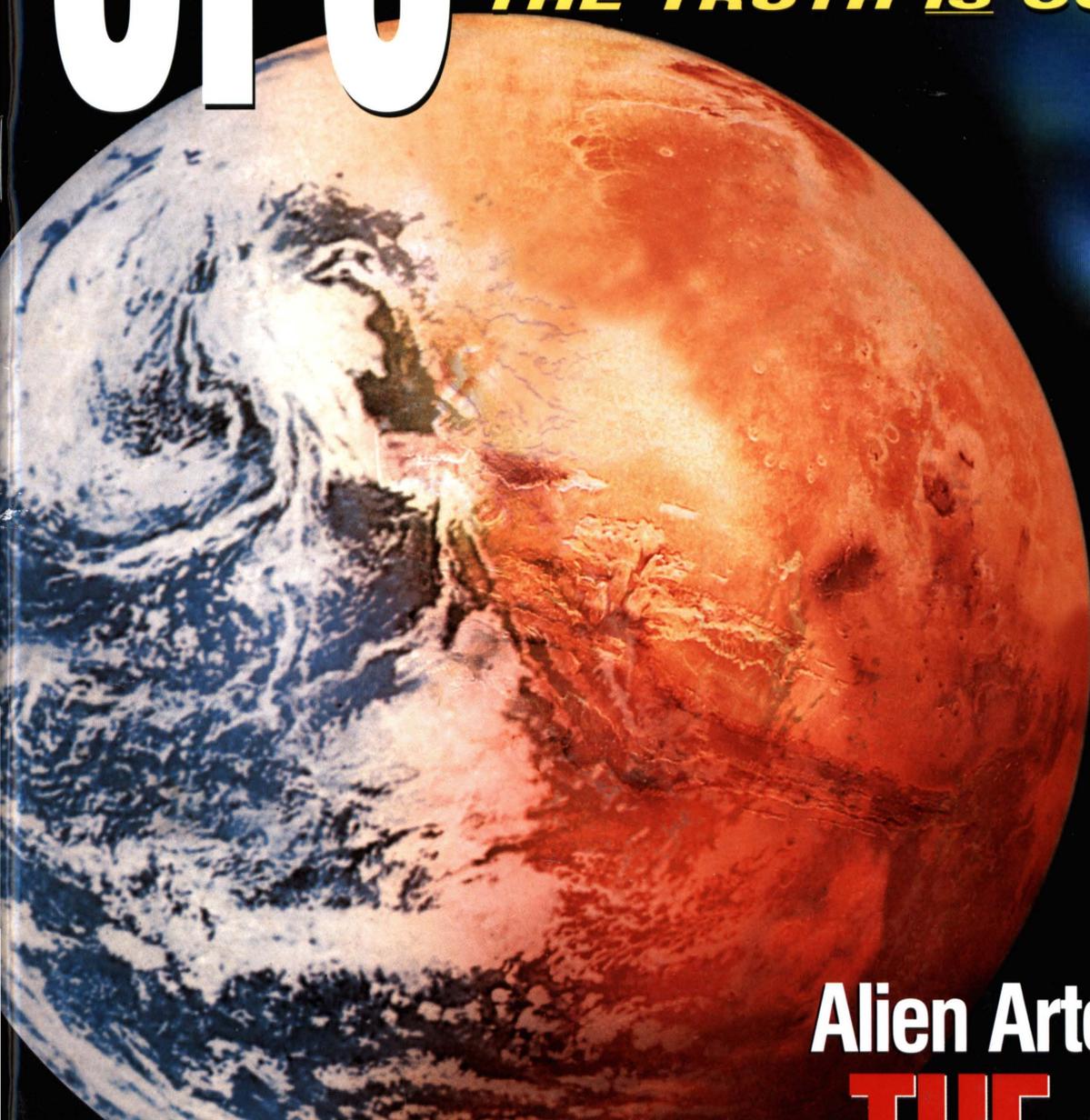
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FEBRUARY 2004

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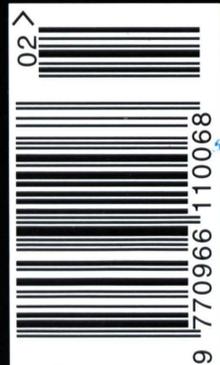
Alien Artefact?

THE ROCK



MARS...

Disappointing, Successful and Mysterious



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major features

Here's hoping you had a great Christmas and New Year holiday. With the printing and publishing industry being what it is most readers would have received their copies of January 2004 in December 2003 so may we first of all take the pleasure in welcoming you all to 2004.



Here in the UK we have been treated to UFO sightings and bumper coverage of the subject from both terrestrial and satellite television channels. All the best films have been aired, *Close Encounters*, *Independence Day* and *ET* along with two of the most objective and totally unbiased documentaries on the UFO subject I have ever seen.

These were the *The UK's Real X-Files* from the BBC flagship history programme *Time Watch* and *UFO Invasion*, a *Sci Fi* channel production. The latter was about the incident at Rendlesham forest back in 1980. This was an edited version of a two hour U.S *Sci-Fi* channel special, but, although cut down in size, it still left the viewer with a very positive version of events.

Not forgetting mankind's most ambitious journey of space exploration to date: the investigation of Mars involving several missions. Our anticipation started on Boxing Day when Beagle-2 entered the Martian atmosphere.

Unfortunately at the time of going to press, we are still waiting to hear from the craft. Not so NASA, who have celebrated the successful landing of the 'Spirit Rover', their mobile science station. Images are being transmitted back to earth via the craft of the Martian surface with a quality never seen before.

All this and more features in this our February 2004 issue of *UFO Magazine*.

Russel Callaghan



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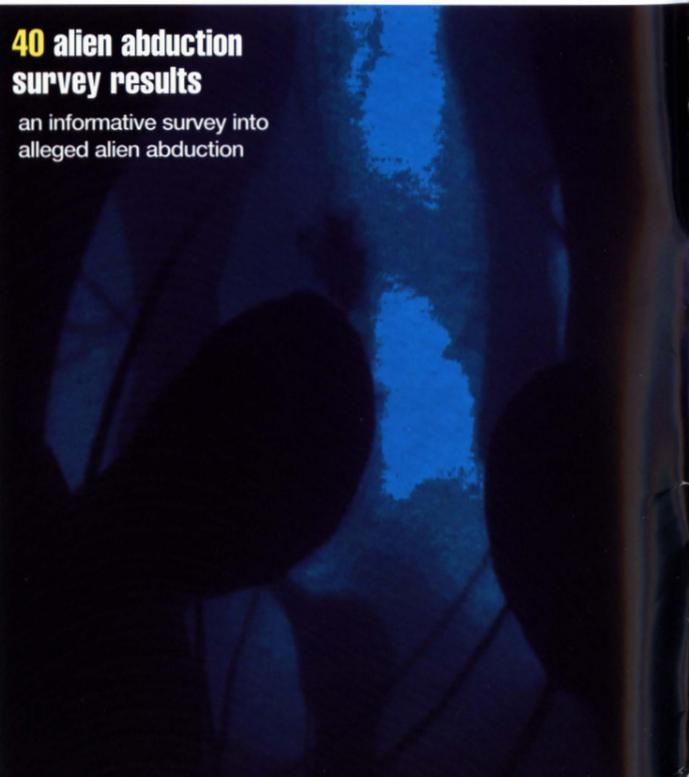
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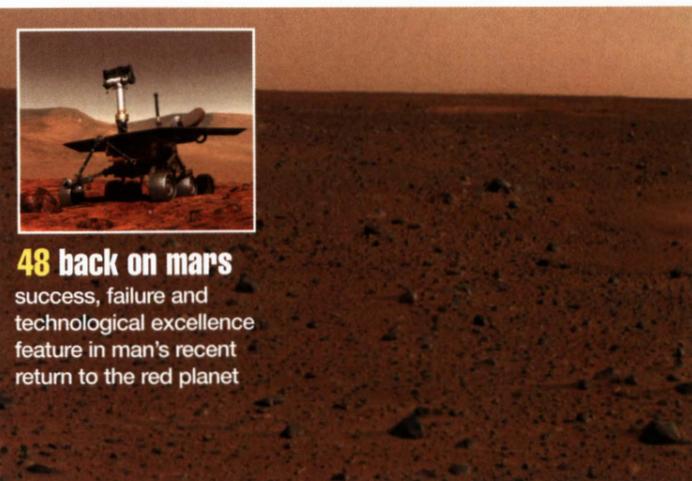
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lakes, trees, vegetation all appear to have been discovered on mars



The Ramey Office Photographs Reveal A More Complex Story

Background

Much has been published in the last 25 years about the 1947 Roswell incident since the story re-emerged, thanks to the keen ear of Stanton T. Friedman. Whilst waiting to be interviewed on a TV show back in the 70s, the name Major Jesse Marcel was mentioned in association with an alleged flying saucer recovery. This caught Stan's attention and the investigation grew to be the most famous event in UFO history.

There was never any physical evidence though to back up the case until the story of the crash and samples of the recovered debris were displayed by the Roswell Army Air Force base two days after the incident. Twenty one year old photographer James Bond Johnson was dispatched by the *Fort Worth Star Telegram* to attend and report - James arrived at the base mid-afternoon and took four photographs. The names of those involved: Marcel, Ramey and DuBose would become etched in UFO folklore forever.

Neil Morris and the Ramey Photograph Interpretation Team have conducted detailed research on the plate negatives taken back in 1947. Their findings are intriguing...

Neil Morris

Throughout the research into the background of the Ramey Office Photographs one contentious point has raised its head time after time. Just what were the circumstances surrounding the so called "Press Conference" at which the ROPs had been taken. I say this is a contentious point because the one person able to comment with some authority about it, James Bond Johnson, the person who took the pictures, has consistently maintained there was no press conference and he was the sole press man on the scene when he took his pictures. Can any light be shed on all this by the photographs themselves? For the first time I now believe it can.

Of the seven photographs known to exist that were taken in Gen. Ramey's office on 8 July 1947, only four original negatives now survive in the University of Texas Library's Special Collections and it is with these four original negatives this current research has been mainly concerned.

The research done by the Ramey-Office Photo Interpretation Team or RPIT has always been a collaborative undertaking and this current set of findings is the result of just such collaboration. In attempting to take accurate measurements of the debris seen in the photographs, my fellow Canadian RPIT researcher Andrew Lavoie had been able to use computer software to produce what is in effect a "virtual" Ramey Office in which accurate measurements could be taken.

These have confirmed that though some of the debris seen in the images "could" match the size of materials used in the ML307 Radar target, which the USAF

claimed the debris represents, there were many other items within the debris which did not, and cannot be resolved by reference to the ML307 target.

In one of our many transatlantic phone discussions regarding the photographs and the results we were getting, I mentioned in passing that I had a troublesome feeling about the "look" of some of the images, for example when comparing the Ramey/DuBose and Marcel images side by side. I couldn't quite put my finger on what was wrong, but as a lifelong amateur photographer "something" wasn't quite right about their geometry. So I thought I'd put the question, would there be any way Andrew's model could actually tell us what type of lens had been used to take the original photographs? It might reveal something, as each camera lens has its own set of characteristics and these should be the same across any number of photographs taken with that individual lens.

Andrew loves a challenge, and after some intensive research into the Speed Graphic 5x4 plate camera and its lenses, he came back with a rather startling result.

In taking the four surviving negatives, his initial findings were indicating that two different lenses appeared to have been used! How could this be?

We knew from long discussions with Bond Johnson that his Speed Graphic had only the one lens, the one his camera was purchased with. We didn't know exactly what type it was and Bond only recalled it as a "std" type supplied with the cameras. This could have been one of two types in the 120-135mm range, though a 100mm "wide field" lens was also supplied specifically for "press use".

Other lenses were available, from ultra wide angle to telephoto but they were expensive and changing a lens in the field on a Speed Graphic was not undertaken lightly!

Andrew's later more thorough results firmed up the initial indicators, the four UTA negatives could be split into two groups.

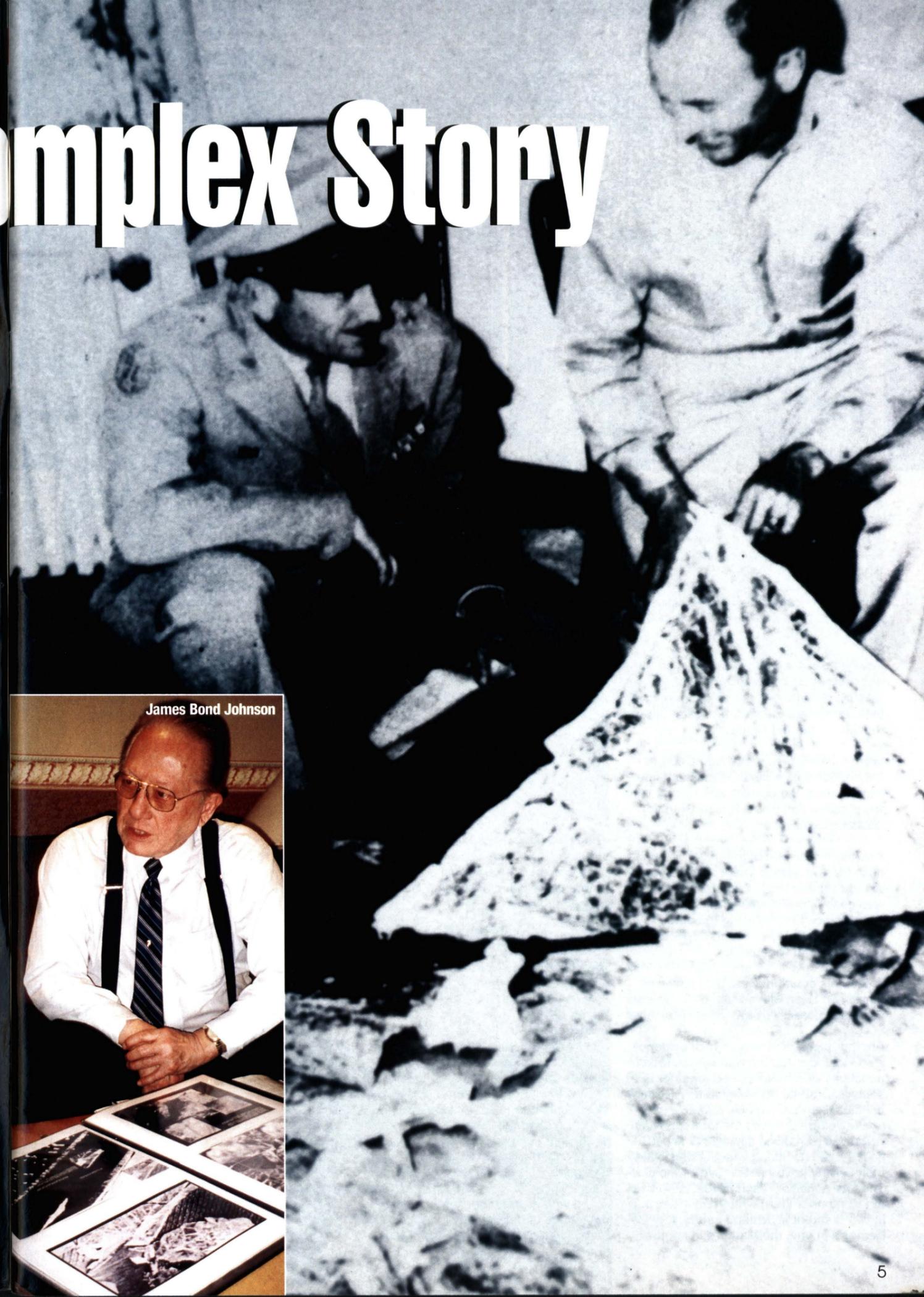
The pictures containing Ramey were taken with one type of lens while the images of Marcel indicated they were taken with another, longer focal length lens.

One fact Bond Johnson has maintained as long as I've known and talked with him is the fact that he has no recollection at all of Marcel being present at his photo session in Ramey's office. He has always assumed, as anyone would, that as the Marcel negatives were kept together with the Ramey negatives, and he knew for certain he took the Ramey photos, then he also must have taken the Marcel images at the same time. This was a scenario I myself was happy to go along with.

But Bond had no recollection of Marcel, and now we had stumbled on the fact that the Marcel pictures seemed to have been taken with a totally different lens. Here we had a mystery, but as we probed deeper other things also started to fall into place.

They also set the Marcel and Ramey images apart and re-enforced the growing belief that the Marcel photographs were not taken at Bond's photo-session with Gen. Ramey at around 3.15pm on the afternoon of July eight 1947, but possibly some time later that day.

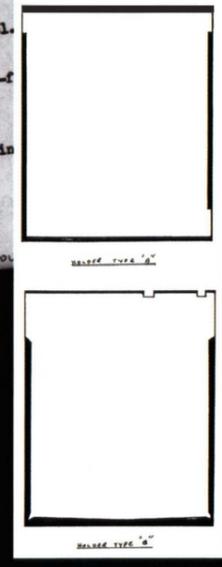
Though all the UTA negatives were taken with ANSCO film, by examining the whole negatives it has been possible to discover that the two Marcel negatives come from a different batch of film stock from that used for the Ramey pair. And not only that, the Speed-Graphic camera used flat sheet 5"x4" film held in a double sided film holder. The film was held in the holder by a frame whose outline was transferred to the negative when the film was exposed. ▶



James Bond Johnson

FF2026 July 8, 1947

1. Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey, left, and Col. Thomas J. Dubose looking over wind-f device.
2. Brig. Gen. Roger Ramey looking at win device.
3. Maj. Jesse A. Marcel of Houma, La.
4. Maj. Jesse A. Marcel of Houma, La.



The two Marcel photographs were taken in a totally different style of film-holder from the Ramey shots, unfortunately this is not a conclusive point in itself, as the *Star Telegram's* darkroom had a "pool" of film holders which could be drawn upon and they could have had a mix of the two styles. But a further discrepancy can also be inferred from the Marcel image film holder markings.

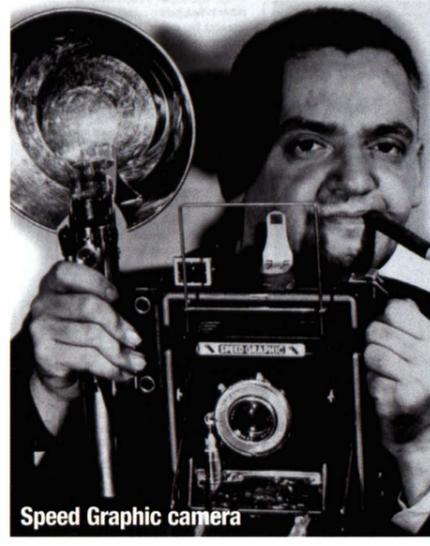
The 5x4 cut film has locator notches placed in one corner of the film sheet to identify the type of film and, more importantly to ensure the film was loaded into the film holder the right way.

From this, coupled with the position of the shadows as a result of the flash, the way in which the camera was held to take the pictures (if it was a Speed-Graphic) could be determined.

And the orientation of the negative notches in the two Marcel images would seem to indicate that the camera taking these was used in one position, then rotated 180 degrees before taking the other. A very awkward way to use the Speed-Graphic, if that was used.

In fact this could indicate they may well have been taken with an altogether different camera or possibly by two different cameras.

Another piece of circumstantial evidence also indicates that the Ramey and Marcel negatives were not handled together but separately at the *Star Telegram*. The original *Star Telegram* Archive negative storage envelope in which the four surviving negatives have lived since 1947 is still held at the UTA along with the negatives themselves. Its log notes give us the clue. The four negatives each have a hand written ID number (1-4) written on them, but in two different styles and hands, the Ramey's in one, the Marcel's in another.



The first three envelope notes are type-written and concern the two Ramey negatives and one of the Marcel pair, the final Marcel entry was handwritten, this possibly a later addition.

It seems the negatives may have arrived in the ST archive at different times prompting the handwritten addition to the envelope notes when the later arrival was filed together with the other pictures.

A final pointer that indicates the Marcel pictures could have been taken some time later is to be seen in the Marcel images themselves. In the Bettmann-Ramey image (though not a UTA image, its cutlines attribute it to James Bond Johnson by name), Bond's hat can be seen sitting on the chair behind Gen. Ramey. In the Marcel shots Bond's hat has gone.

Taken with all the other pieces of evidence this to me strongly suggests the Marcel images were taken some time

after Bond Johnson had taken the Ramey pictures, and this now raises an interesting possibility.

Maybe both sides of the "was there, wasn't there a press conference" argument may be partially right if seen from their own point of view. Bond Johnson has and still maintains he was the only pressman there at his photo session.

I believe he's quite correct. At his session where he took the four images of Ramey and Ramey+DuBose he was the only person there, he would be. He was way ahead of the story which only appeared on the AP wire at 3.26pm FW time, some 10 minutes after he had taken his pictures, which we have timed at 3.15pm from a shadow angle seen through Ramey's window in one of the photographs.

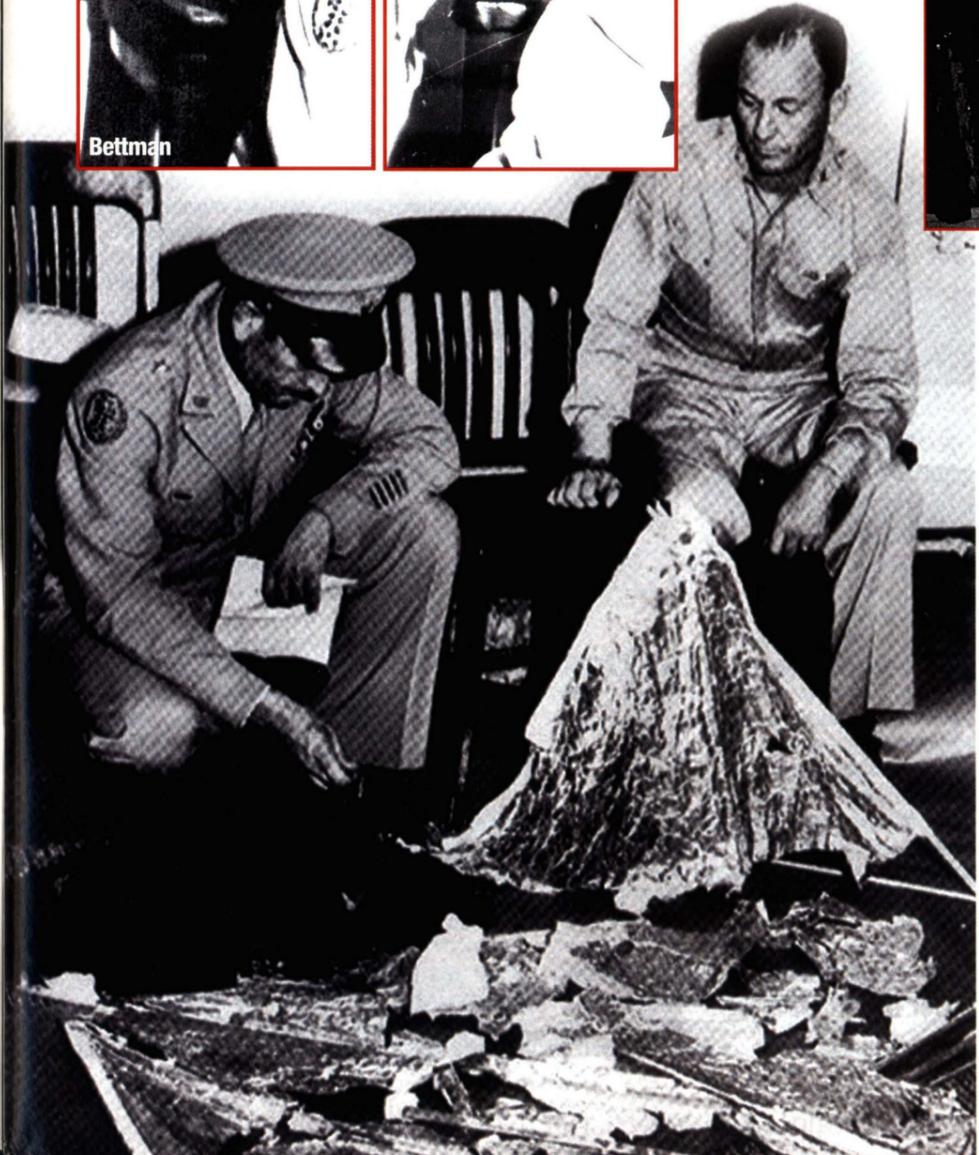
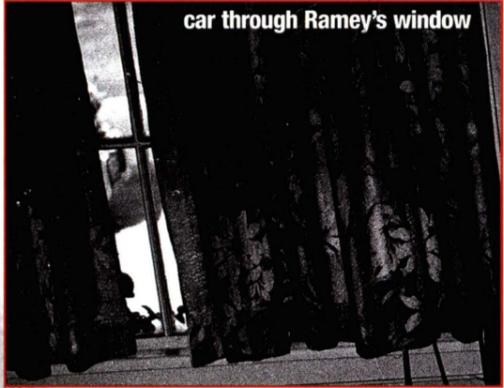
But how did the *Star Telegram* get the Roswell story before the AP? Good question, and I can only guess at the answer.

We do know the story had been floating around Roswell itself since Mack Brazel told Frank Joyce about it during his Sunday radio show on KGFL some two days before. We also know that Lydia Sleppy started to transmit the story to ABC news in California probably in the late morning of July 8 until she was stopped allegedly by the FBI. So we know the story was trying to get itself out of Roswell before the AP finally succeeded at 2.26pm Roswell time that afternoon.

AP was one of the largest and widely subscribed to news services but there were many other wire services in operation. On checking, the *Star Telegram* itself subscribed to AP, it had four dedicated lines, but it also subscribed to another five wire services and had a complete room filled with wire service teletypes.



NO SAUCER—Brig. Gen. Roger M. Ramey, commanding general of the 8th Air Force here, sits beside the pile of crumpled tinfoil, broken sticks and ragged rubber...



Can we say without certainty one of these other services may not have caught wind of what was going on in Roswell before AP?

But we do also know of a another reason why Bond Johnson may have had an early and open door to Gen. Ramey's office. I'm not able to go into details here, but some time before the events of July 1947 the *Star Telegram* had assisted Roger Ramey in matters totally unrelated to the Roswell events, and as a consequence, Gen. Roger Ramey really did owe the *Star Telegram* a very great favour.

But what about the press conference? Did it happen? Well, maybe... after a fashion.

Jesse Marcel recalled a number of press men and photographers taking his picture, and he said there was just that one photo session in which he was involved, and we have just the two Marcel original negatives which seem to be the only pictures of Marcel with the debris in Ramey's office. So let us assume these were taken at his remembered photo-session. But this was not the Bond Johnson photo-session, for the reasons I've outlined. ▶



So if Bond Johnson or any other *Star Telegram* reporter or photographer didn't take the Marcel pictures, how did the two Marcel negatives end up in the *Star Telegram's* archive?

I've pondered this long and hard and then just recently I found a possible answer staring me in the face, prompted by Bond Johnson's own recollections from that evening.

When Bond returned from the Fort Worth Air Base with his pictures he remembers that by this time the story was all over the wires and people were clambering for

more information. On his desk he found there were a number of phone messages from some of the wire services all asking for pictures, he remembers wishing he'd taken more shots than he had. It appears that though Bond was employed by the *Star Telegram*, and they had the pick of his photos, he seems to have been at liberty to sell on any remaining pictures if he wished.

In the event, Bond must have at least sold on one picture to the wire services; the Bettmann Archive image was wired out not by AP, but via INP much later that night and, by the coding on the cutlines, possibly from Dallas not Fort Worth. It also seems that, and this has been confirmed by Bond, photo negatives could be bought, sold or exchanged and transported across town from one paper or news service to another when the need arose, this by either taxi or even by bus.

Might the Marcel negatives have arrived at the *Star Telegram* later that evening by just such a deal? Bought in from some other source, they would become *Star Telegram* property and as such be filed "later" in the archives joining the other pictures from that story, being processed like any other *Star Telegram* picture.

All this could have been arranged "over the phone" without involving any *Star Telegram* reporters or photographers, just as our source who was there on the night (but not involved directly with the Roswell story) has told us.

In the end the events now indicated by the photographs themselves seem to be not as cut and dried as any simple pro or anti press conference stance would have us believe.

When Bond Johnson was in Ramey's office he was indeed the only photographer there, the story had yet to break into the mainstream news media via the

2.26pm (3.26pm FW) AP wire story. Later that afternoon, probably due to the increasing press interest, Marcel found himself paraded out as the guy who recovered the "disc", and again sometime later Irving Newton (AAF) was put forward as photo-fodder to re-enforce his identification of the "disc" as nothing more than a radar target and put the final touches to the cover story.

In a final twist the photos also enable us to claim that the Marcel and the Newton photos could have been staged in close succession. This can be inferred from the fact that packing paper in both of these images can be seen to be in exactly the same position in both shots.

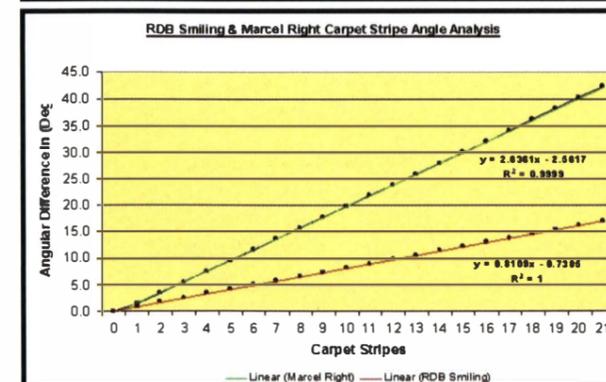
Yet the paper in question is not seen at all in the earlier Ramey pictures, and a document wallet or briefcase, seen on the same chair in both the Ramey and Marcel pictures, has also gone by the time the Newton image was taken.

There is a logical flow in the way these pieces of visible evidence appear and disappear, so linking the images together through time:

Ramey images > Marcel > Newton > Hat/Briefcase > Briefcase/package > packaging

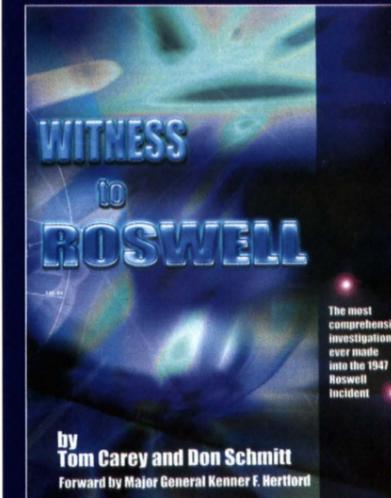
We still have many blanks to fill in and maybe some questions may never be answered, but the quest for the full story behind the Ramey Office Photographs continues.

I won't go into boring details of the mathematics or computer software used, I'm sure Andrew would be most happy to explain this at length privately should anyone be that interested. But the bottom line of the calculations is shown by these two graphs.



In effect the slope of the graph lines, one for each picture, is an indicator of the focal length of the lens used in each case. If all the images were taken with the same camera and lens, then each line in the graphs would have the same approximate slope or angle. You can see from the plots that the two Ramey images closely follow this rule, but the Marcel plot shown does not, and differs by a very obvious amount. ■

Neil Morris, Manchester, UK, Jan 2004. With major contributions by: Andrew Lavole, Dieppe, NB, Canada.



The most comprehensive investigation ever made into the 1947 Roswell Incident

by Tom Carey and Don Schmitt
Forward by Major General Kenner F. Hertford

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Russel Callaghan, UFO Magazine, UK



BRITAIN'S X FILES

BBC 2 Timewatch. Friday, January 9, 2004

By Stuart Miller

The two consultants on the programme, Dr. David Clarke and Andy Roberts, are sceptical UFO researchers and Andy in particular is often quite aggressive in his views on various Internet message boards. As such, although one shouldn't judge a programme like this in advance of seeing it, the expectations were not great that the subject of British Ufology would be treated impartially.

Not only was the subject looked at in a neutral and fair light, but such was the balance of the programme that it was perfectly possible afterwards for both Believers and Sceptics to claim "victory".

There was no bias, no attempt to rub-bish witnesses and everybody had a fair say. There was one statement towards the end of the programme which did raise an eyebrow and that was when the narrator claimed that the end of the Cold War marked the end of flying saucers. This remark puzzled me and I wondered if Clarke and Roberts were happy having this statement attached to a programme they had been involved with. They both assured me they were but that the statement should be looked at within the context of their own views on the subject, namely that sightings are often caused by the World political situation or newspaper scare stories and the general culture of the day.

Probably the strongest case presented was the Swiney/Crofts sighting from 1952. A trainee pilot and his instructor saw three discs while out on an exercise. The principle points were the quality of the witnesses and the clarity and strength of their testimony. Absolutely no attempt was made to debunk them.

This will have caused some confusion to the non-partisan viewer as the programme swept from an apparently strong case like this to various experts who wrote off UFO sightings as being down to psychological/sociological factors. But with no attempt made to discredit any sightings, the viewer would have been inclined to believe the witnesses, and the sceptical viewpoint faltered.

David Clarke put forward a fascinating explanation for the Janus case involving Sir Peter Horsley, an Equerry to Prince Phillip. Acting on the Prince's very keen interest

in flying saucers, Sir Peter had been invited to a flat in central London where he was introduced to Janus, and became convinced that Janus was of extraterrestrial origin. Clarke believes that Sir Peter was set up by British intelligence as a means of finding out just what the Prince was up to and whether he himself might be a threat to National security. It's an interesting and worthwhile theory but difficult to accept as it doesn't take a great deal of thought to imagine the consequences if the plan had been rum-

bled. Heads would have rolled, possibly literally!

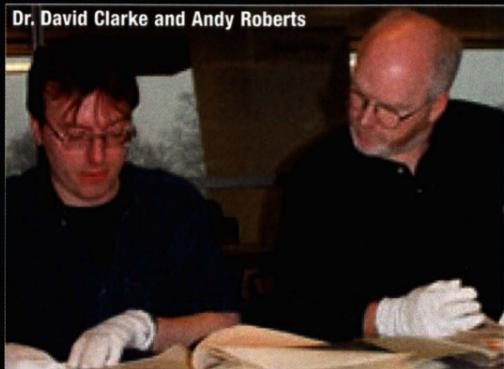
The programme's run through on Rendlesham was fascinating though brief. It stood out for one factor alone and that was the complete absence of any mention of the

Orfordness Lighthouse. This is the favourite and most touted explanation offered by the debunking brigade as a way of explaining Rendlesham and the lights seen in the forest but it was never mentioned and as such, at least as far as this programme was concerned, the case for Rendlesham was only strengthened. Apparently it was all down to American hysteria because of Russia's recent invasion of Poland and the outbreak of hostilities in Afghanistan.

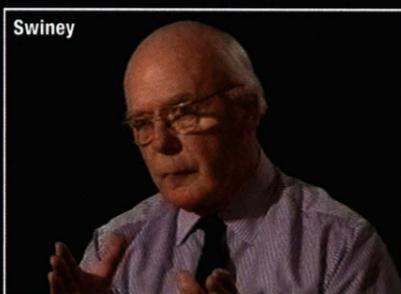
Both Nick Pope and Andy and Dave were excellent on screen and accredited themselves well.

Dave and Andy's averred intent was to try to give a fair and unbiased view of British Ufology and in my opinion they unquestionably succeeded.

More of the same please gents! The hoped for and predicted audience prior to transmission was in excess of three million but I read at least one somewhat negative pre-view (*Daily Telegraph*) beforehand. I do hope that didn't put people off, as this deserved as wide an audience as possible.



Dr. David Clarke and Andy Roberts



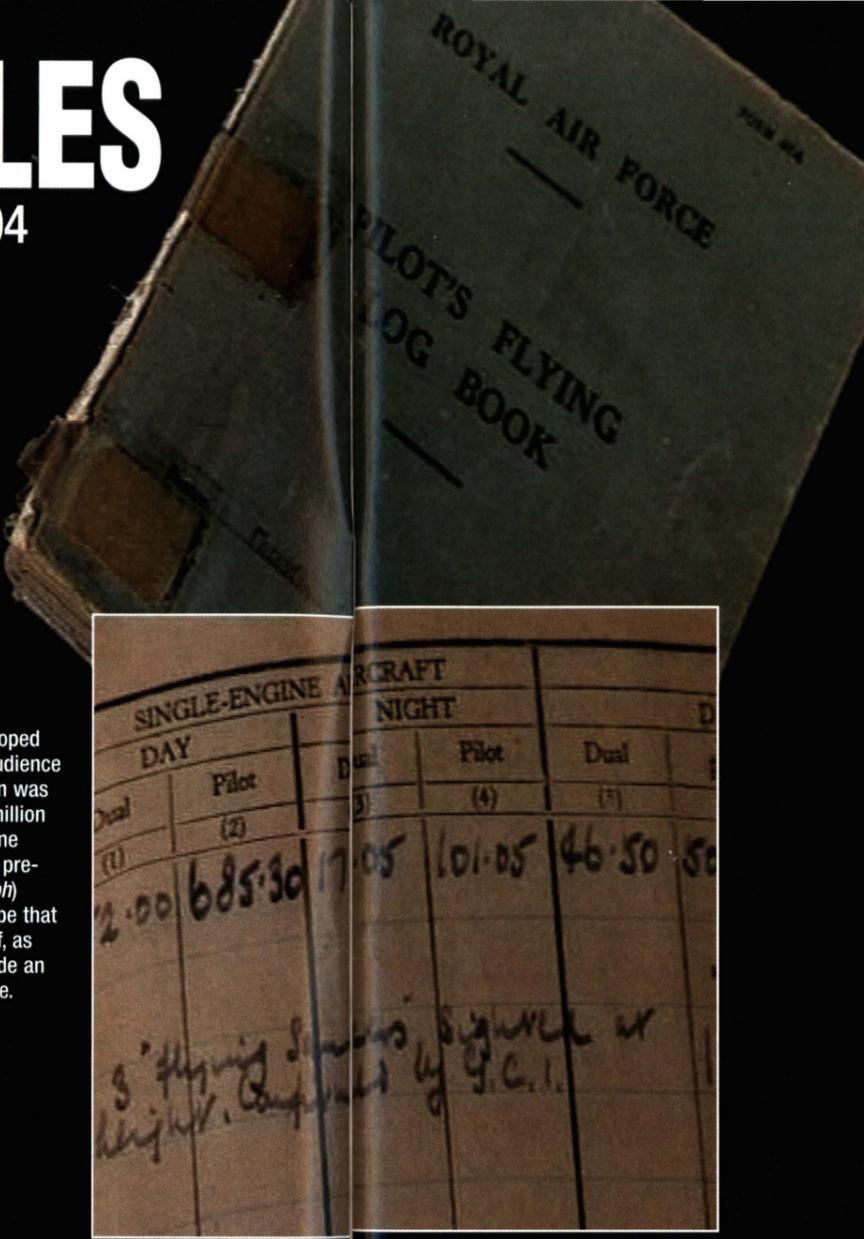
Swiney



Sir Peter Horsley



Crofts



SINGLE-ENGINE AIRCRAFT		PILOTS FLYING LOG BOOK	
DAY	Pilot	Dual	NIGHT
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4) (5)
2-00	685-30	17-05	101-05 46-50 50

3 flying saucers sighted at night. Reported by S.C. 11

Enterprise Orbs?



Please have a look at this video clip from a recent episode of 'Star Trek Enterprise'.

If you look over Captain Archer's shoulder at the starry background visible through the window you can see what look like 'Orbs'. The effect is definitely beyond the actor as he physically blocks it from view when he moves in front of the window.

This suggest to me that they are not in fact 'Orbs' but an effect caused from the out of focus lights used to create the star field.

I have sent a copy of the tape to Paul France as I would like a professional's opinion on this.

Lee Nichols, Essex



What we see in the shot is the effect caused by an out of focus light source. This can be created on most cameras or camcorders by slightly defocussing an image or a street light against a dark sky or maybe a night shot of aircraft lights.

According to 'Orb' researchers though the phenomenon appears in photographs where there was no known light source.

Russel Callaghan

UFO OVER ROSARIO-ARGENTINA

This UFO was seen on Saturday, December 27, between 1:00 and 1:30 a.m. in the "El Patio de la Madera" sector of the city of Rosario. The luminous object travelled from west to east at a speed similar to that of an airliner.

Upon seeing the object, the eyewitness ran for his camcorder but couldn't find a free tape, so he chose not to waste any more time and used his digital camera.

Rosario is less than 60 km distant, in a straight line, from the city of Victoria in the province of Entre Rios, which is famous for sightings that involve lights similar to the one shown in the photos below. The witness states that a fisherman recognized the object and said that it was identical to others that he had seen in the past over the same area.

SOURCE: Planeta UFO, January 6, 2004



The Fleetwood Witness Testimonies

By Gary Heseltine
The PRUFOS Police Database

On 25 November 2003, I received an email from a man who claimed to have seen strange lights over the sea at Fleetwood in Lancashire whilst out night fishing with a group of friends on Saturday 22 November 2003.



witnesses) and the unearthing of an amazing and previously unreported sighting in Ireland in 1979. (I plan to do a little bit more research before publishing his account. Hopefully this will appear in Part Two).

Given my job as a working Detective, I interviewed the witnesses in much the same way as I would do for any crime. At no time did I get the impression that any of the witnesses were perpetrating an elaborate hoax. All information appeared to be the genuine 'free recall' of events.

The next day he emailed me again apologizing for the fact that he'd just realised that I investigated only police officer sightings.

However, a couple of days later on a chance visit to the offices of *UFO Magazine*, Russ Callaghan said, "Come and have a look at this footage".

What unfolded before my eyes was arguably the most important night footage ever recorded. But not only that, Russ explained that the footage was recorded over Fleetwood, Lancashire on Saturday 22 November 2003!



It should be pointed out that none of the witnesses realised there was video evidence of the sighting. They gave their information to me without that knowledge and in my opinion this adds greatly to the credibility of their testimonies. What follows are those testimonies based upon my telephone conversations with each of the witnesses.

Witness B

I was on the beach at Fleetwood with a group of four other night fishermen and two teenagers. It would be around 9 - 9.30pm when one of the group spotted six orange lights overhead. We all looked at the lights and initially put them down to shooting stars but as we watched their positions changed in the sky and we realised it couldn't be that.

We all knew we were watching something strange. None of us had ever seen anything quite like them before.

We watched them for about 15 - 20 minutes until the lights gradually blinked a few times and faded away. There was no noise associated with the lights and they appeared to be at a high altitude.

I don't know what they were but I can tell you that they were not aircraft, balloons, helicopters, natural phenomena etc. As night fishermen we are all used to looking at lights in the sky and these objects did not resemble anything like them.

Witness C

I was night fishing with several of my friends on the beach at Fleetwood. We'd got there around 7pm and spread out at close proximity to each other along the shore. Around 9 - 10pm one of the lads said, "Look at those lights" and we all looked up at them. I saw six orange lights low on the horizon which were rising vertically into the sky. The lights were stacked vertically.

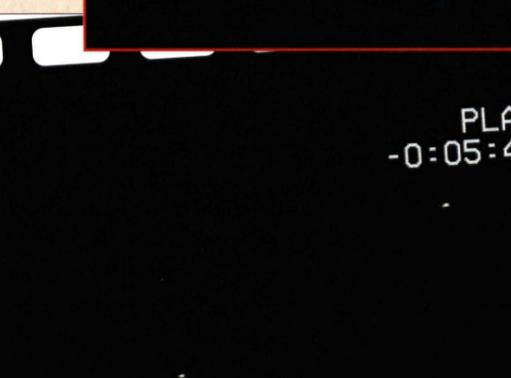
As they rose higher the six lights broke up into two groups of three. They sort of made an L shape in the sky for a time. I would estimate the length of this event as being in the region of 15 - 25 minutes.

Gradually the lights began to blink on and off before completely fading away. I don't know what they were but they were definitely not planes, helicopters, balloons etc.

There was little wind and it was cold but not freezing.

When I got home I remember telling my wife about them and at first she thought I was pulling her leg but soon realised I was serious.

(I spoke with his wife who confirmed his excited manner upon his return from fishing that night and she stated quite clearly that her husband had been a little bit 'spooked' by the incident. In police terms this is often referred to as 'evidence of early report'. This is especially true in sexual cases, and is useful anecdotal information that often tends to corroborate an event.)



Witness A

During the hours of 7-11pm on Saturday 22 November 2003, my friends and I saw what appeared to be six UFOs in the sky. From the beach they were in the Eastern part of the sky and appeared to be extremely high (much higher than any commercial aircraft).

At first the six objects were in a straight vertical line, but they soon split up and from their movements it was very clear that they were not normal civil aircraft.

One of the witnesses has worked for British Aerospace for many years and could not explain all the movements of the objects.

At one point there was a triangle of three whilst the other three appeared to join up.

This was witnessed for 10 - 15 minutes before the craft simply faded away.

I also know that other people in the local area saw the same thing that night, and although I remain sceptical, I do believe I saw something very strange.

I said to Russ, "I've got witnesses to that." We checked his list of known witnesses and we realised that my contact represented corroboration from another independent source. Not only that, my source indicated that there were at least six other independent witnesses who could be traced and interviewed.

Given the quality of the video footage I realised the potential significance of this sighting and decided to investigate it. What follows is an account over a two week period.

My investigation would lead me to seven other people (plus links to another three potential

Witness D

(ex Army Guardsman)

I was with a group of four friends night fishing on the beach at Fleetwood. There were also a couple of young teenage lads with us, they were a little away from us further up the shore.

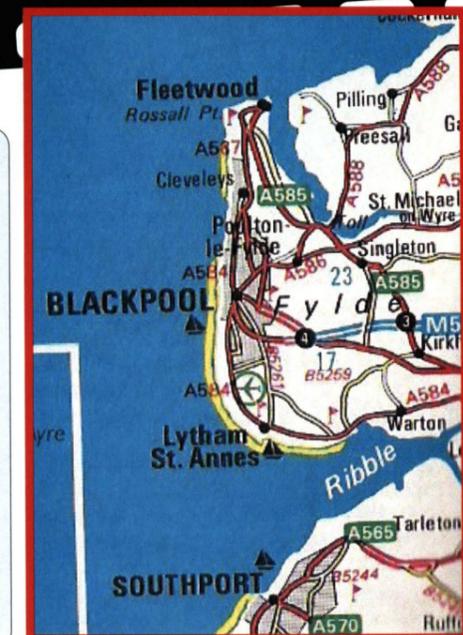
It would be around 9pm when one of the lads told us to look up at some lights in the sky. When I did so, I saw six orange lights in a vertical stack rising slowly and vertically into the night sky. They appeared to be equally spaced.

As we watched I saw that the six lights divided into two groups of three. Three lights went to the left of the other three.

The UFOs appeared to be at high altitude and seemed to be heading inland in the direction of Blackpool Tower.

I watched these lights for approximately 10 - 15 minutes in duration until they gradually blinked a few times and disappeared. I can definitely rule out any conventional explanation. They were not planes, helicopters, natural phenomena etc. There was no noise heard at any time.

I do not know what they were but they were very odd. I've never been interested in the subject of UFOs but after the events on Saturday 22 November I would have to say that I now have an open mind as to their possibility.



Witness E

(current Aerospace expert with over 20 years experience)

On Saturday 22 November 2003 I was on the beach at Fleetwood with some friends fishing at the sea cadet base at the top of Beach Road. The time was about 8pm and the weather was clear with no cloud cover and little or no wind. Out to sea you could faintly see the northern lights.

When we noticed the first of the lights it was twice if not three times brighter than any of the stars or aircraft lights in the sky at the time. The light came up from the horizon from behind the sea cadet base in the direction of Garstang.

The light rose in the sky at a slow steady rate followed by five similar lights. These lights were perpendicular until all six were visible. Then the top three lights moved at the same pace but went off at an angle of about 30 degrees, they then formed up into a triangular shape.

At this point they were about twice the height of commercial airliners as you see the anti-collision lights on some aircraft. I would estimate their height at between 60-80,000 feet.

When the two sets of lights had formed up they moved across the sky from right to left over the next 10 - 15 minutes covering an angle of about 120 degrees.

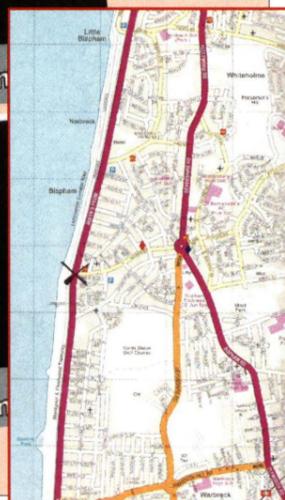
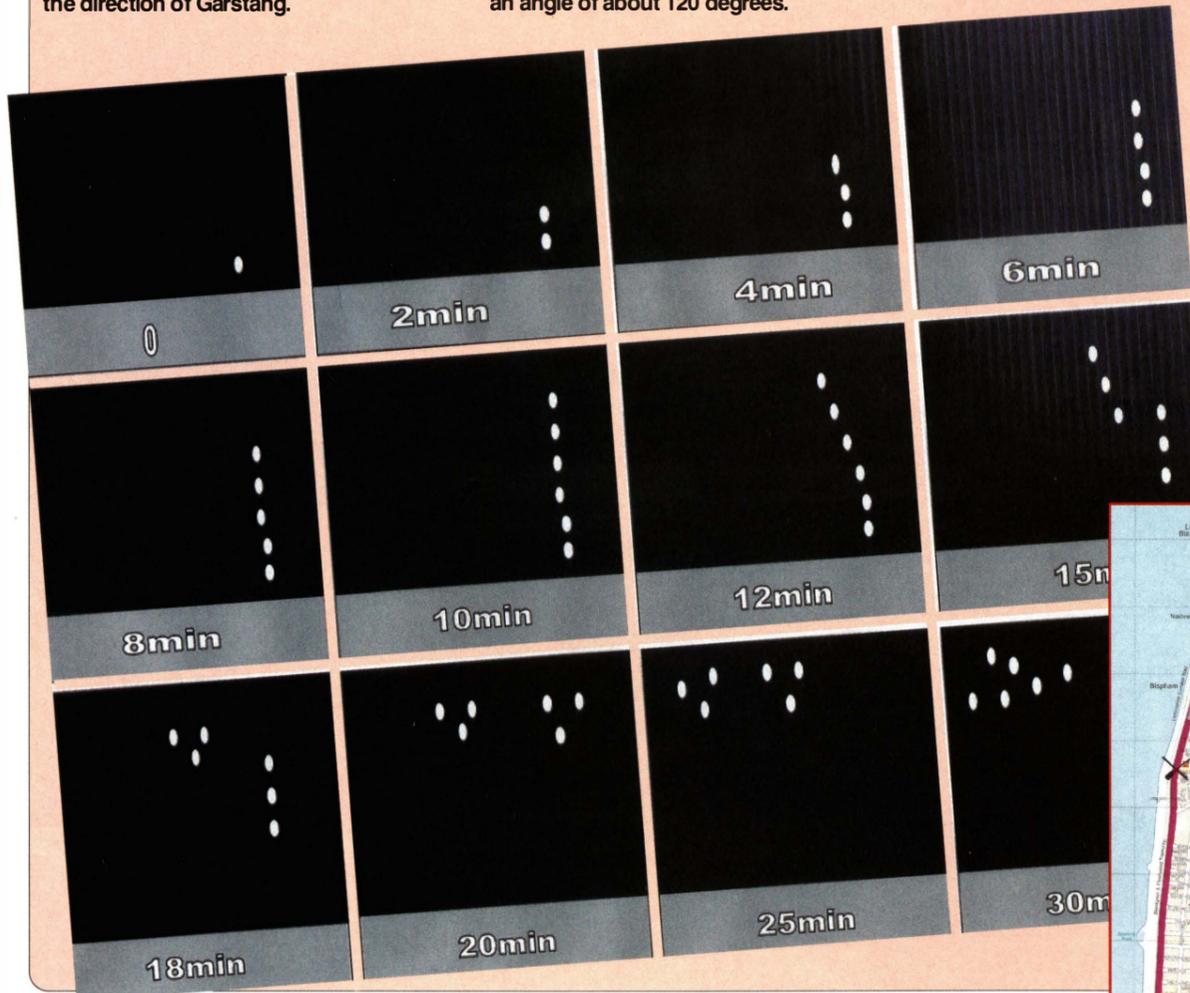
At this point they stopped and the formations changed, seeming to rotate about each other. After a while some of the lights started to fade into the distance as if they were heading away from us. This carried on until there was only one light left; this then stayed on for a little while longer before fading itself.

The lights were not aircraft, balloons, flares, or natural phenomena and were definitely anomalous. I have never seen anything like it in all my years of working within the aviation industry.

I believe that some of the commercial aircraft in the area at the time could have seen the same lights we saw.

There was no noise associated with any of the lights.

I am aware of a group of other night fishermen who may have witnessed the same unidentified lights.



Witness F

(16 years old)

I was with my friend who is the same age as me. We were on the beach at Fleetwood about 100-200 metres away from the older people we were fishing with.

I'm not sure of the time but it was on Saturday night. We'd been there for a while when I noticed some lights in the night sky.

I told my friend to look at them and he did. I looked up and saw six lights that were

red or purple in colour. At first we thought they must be stars but the lights kept changing position.

We watched them for about 5 - 10 minutes before they faded away.

(Incidentally, I spoke to his mother, prior to speaking to her son, and she confirmed that when he had got home he had told her about the lights he had seen. He was very excited and insisted that he was being truthful. Once again this is evidence of 'early report' which tends to add credence to the account given by her son.)

Witness G

(16 years old)

I was on the beach at Fleetwood with my friend. We were a short distance away from a group of older night fishermen. It was Saturday night around 9.30pm when my friend drew my attention to a group of five or six orange lights high in the sky above us. The lights kept changing position.

I think I watched them for 15 - 20 minutes before they moved away. I have no idea what the lights were.

Witness H

(Civil Servant)

I was night fishing with two friends at the top of Red Bank Road on the Promenade at Bispham, a few miles south of Fleetwood. We'd arrived there about 7pm and it was around 8.45pm when I noticed several lights in the sky out at sea.

It was a clear night with lots of stars and we initially thought they were shooting stars but soon ruled that out when they kept moving and they remained visible.

At one point one of the lights seemed to 'dive' down lower into the sky which was unusual. I believe there were approximately 3 - 4 unidentified lights.

I watched them for several minutes before they headed off in the direction of Fleetwood.



The colour of the lights was a mixture of yellows and blues. There was no noise associated with the lights.

(When asked if they were aircraft etc. he was quick to rule out conventional explanations.

At that point I asked him if he had ever seen anything like

the lights before and to my surprise he said. "Yes". What emerged is an exceptional sighting in its own right which I will reveal in the next issue of UFO Magazine.)

UFO Sightings and Experiences

UFOs spotted over Huddersfield

Twinkling Christmas stars may have been replaced by UFOs over Huddersfield.

Shocked pensioner Malcolm Stapp is adamant he saw a couple of flying saucers in the night sky.

Mr Stapp, 74, of Salendine Nook, said: "It sounds incredible I know, but I couldn't believe what I was seeing."

He had been watching a film on TV and was going to bed at 12.30am on Monday when he saw a bright light in the sky.

He said: "It was stationary over Huddersfield for at least 15 minutes. At one point another appeared travelling north and going very fast - a lot faster than the jets that fly over here.

"It was certainly not a helicopter or a plane."

He added: "Both UFOs were globular with lots of lights on them.

"I tried to look at the stationary one through binoculars, but it was just a blur of intense lights. I watched it for 15 minutes and it was still there when I went to bed.

"I've never seen anything like it before."

PC Dave McSweeney, of Huddersfield police, said that they had received no other reports of sightings of UFOs in the early hours of Monday.

Huddersfield News, Jan 2 2004
The Huddersfield Daily Examiner

Gary Taylor writes...

This photograph was taken in the Miles Platting district of Manchester on 29 December 2003. My wife and I were driving in the car when I asked her to stop while I took a photo of the sun setting. The picture was taken through the windscreen with a Finepix A202, 2 million (fine) setting. It was when I looked at the picture that I noticed an aerial object to the left of the shot.....as to what it is I haven't a clue. Maybe you can shed some light on it? It doesn't look like a bird? I didn't notice anything when I took the shot.

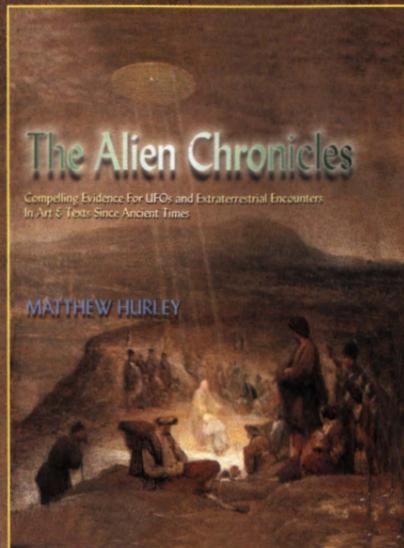
Pam Davey, Stourbridge writes...

As you have been publishing articles on 'Orbs' during the last two or three months, I thought that you may be interested in a sighting we had during a skywatch in June 2003. I am a member of UFORM (UFO Research Midlands). Myself and a number of other people were on Hartlebury Common, Stourport, Worcs. It was around 11pm, the sky was still dusky when we saw an "orb" travelling from south to north, fairly quickly.

It was not very high above ground level, approximately 40 feet, and it was dimly lit, like a low wattage light bulb. We watched it travel horizontally for about 40 - 50 feet, for 3 - 4 seconds and suddenly it was gone. Then to our surprise another one came along, travelling exactly the same distance and then it too was gone. It was a very exciting experience.

Mystery 'Orbs'





"An enthralling journey through the past to a new vision of the UFO phenomenon. Not since Jacques Vallee's legendary Passport to Magonia has an author tackled the fact that UFO sightings and close encounters have been a part of human history for millennia with such expertise. This book is an absolute must for anybody who's curious about unexplained phenomena. A major addition to the field of UFO research."

Whitley Strieber
Author of *Communion*, the New York Times bestseller



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See something and report it...

Tamworth based prototype development engineer Tony Lenton spotted the following report in his local paper The Tamworth Herald (www.tamworthherald.co.uk) and sent it to UFO Magazine.

Did anyone else see this 'UFO'?

This was the question posed by a bemused Tamworth resident whose name and address are known to the newspaper.

I was walking my dog last Monday morning (1 Dec 2003) at about 1am. I was just passing the back of the local vets by Stanhope House car park when my dog started to bark and look upwards.

Comment

I find this report similar to the 'Fleetwood Lights' sighting of last November.



Futhermore I can reveal that over the Christmas holidays Joanne England who filmed and photographed the lights in Fleetwood along with her family and a street full of witnesses, has recently discovered that a local resident had informed a local shopkeeper in conversation that she had seen the objects on the night they were filmed.

They were not airborne as such but hovered just a few feet above the ground over some common land visible from her kitchen window.

At first I saw nothing, but he continued to bark and wouldn't move which made me stand still. What I saw next is a mystery. 'My god it's a big bubble, were my first thoughts.' I was about 25 yards away from it and what I saw was approximately 2 ft across, transparent with two central bright lights inside it, it just seemed to be floating, travelling around 10-15 mph and less than 20 feet up. It was silent. It just seemed to roll, changing shape as it moved but the lights remained in the centre.

The request published in the paper encouraged other residents to respond.

Like your reader, I went to get my dog from the garden because he was barking to come in as I stepped outside I saw this large something glowing and moving slowly across the sky. It appeared to be completely orange in colour and totally silent ruling out an airplane or helicopter.

I called my daughter to come and see, and we both watched the craft until it was just a dot on the horizon.

Friends thought we had lost it when we told them what we saw but my daughter and I know it was no ordinary aircraft. It was indeed an unidentified flying object.

I hoped someone might write to the Herald and I'm glad they did.

I live in the Amington area and would be interested to know if anyone else observed this object.

Patrick Simpson Polesworth.

I personally had a strange experience on Tuesday 9 December 2003. I was also walking my dog (I work evenings) I was in Sandy Park near Abbey Green Flats in Polesworth and I was looking up at the sky when suddenly something moved into my vision.

It was a clear sort of bubble object with greenish lights in the centre. I could only describe it as a sort of plasticine glass coloured ball as it seemed to change shape from round to oval as it moved, I would say it was about three or four feet in diameter.

It moved quite slowly at first and then sped off towards the river.

My dog didn't bark but he did stand still in his tracks.

John Freeman E Mail

I am a farmer in the Tamworth area and over the last three months I have borne witness to strange sphere like objects hovering over my fields. There are usually three or four of them and they seem to dance around each other, usually in the early hours of the morning.

I hope someone will be able to shed light on this issue.

Chris Pratchett E Mail

I work nights on the Lichfield Road Industrial Estate. I went outside for a smoke around 2.00am, I was looking at the stars when one of them seemed to get brighter and lower in the sky. It was spherical but I can't be sure of its size. It was transparent and had a greenish glow coming from the centre. I stood mouth open watching this strange object move slowly across the night sky. Suddenly, without warning it shot off again as if going back to the stars.

I told my work colleagues but I don't think any of them believed me, maybe now when they read this they will realise I am no fruit-cake.

Name and address supplied

Comment

Could these phenomena be connected? Could all the sightings be of the same craft or crafts observed on separate days? If this is the case then we seem to be in the middle of a 'UFO flap'. It's thanks to witnesses like these who know they have seen something unusual, and have the mind to report and respond to others asking for information and then thanks to keen reporters on local newspapers for getting their editors to publish such stories.

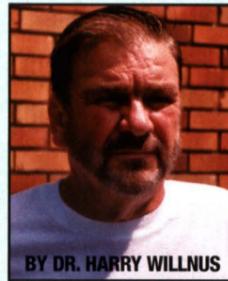
Stories like these should be of great interest to both the public and to the authorities. Perhaps if they were published in a straight forward manner as with the Tamworth Herald's report and not spiced up or branded into the 'Wacky World of UFOs' (such is the label given to the BBC Time Watch programme aired earlier this month) then readers and witnesses alike should be able to give this subject the respect and investigation it deserves.

Russel Callaghan

If four or five individuals have reported seeing these strange unidentified objects, then one has to wonder how many others saw something but thought better of making their observations known. Perhaps we will never know.



SWAMP GAS REVISITED



BY DR. HARRY WILLNUS

This article explores one of the most famous UFO cases in U.S. history, namely the 'Swamp Gas' sightings in March of 1966, in the state of Michigan. I have recently rediscovered in my UFO files a long buried, previously unpublished police report that gives the facts on what was seen and heard by a group of people, which included at least a dozen police officers, on the night of March 20.

This police report is discussed and analysed and it becomes evident that the dozens of people who witnessed this event saw something other than swamp gas that night in Dexter, Michigan. The role of J. Allen Hynek is detailed. At that time he was the United States Air Force (USAF) "Front Man" for UFO investigations, and the one who offered up the swamp gas explanation. But Hynek, the debunker, would do a complete reversal and eventually go on to become the modern day "grandfather of ufology".

What actually spurred me to write this article was that picture on pages 8-9 of your January, 2002 issue (Vol. 21, No. 2J). I had not previously seen it and it certainly caught my eye.

I recognized the standing man as Allen Hynek, someone I have met, conversed with, and been a part of his UFO organization, The Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS). The caption read, "J. Allen Hynek (standing)". I looked at the unidentified man seated next to the standing Hynek and suddenly realised that I also knew him. It was Doug Harvey, the former Sheriff of Washtenaw County, Michigan.

I checked the photo more closely for clues as to its date of origin. The calendar, posted just to the left of Sheriff Harvey, shows the year as 1966, and the month to be March.

I quickly scanned the remainder of the article, "Working Towards An End", in hopes of finding reference to the photo but there was no additional information. March, 1966, a well known time in U.S. UFO history, and one that I was most familiar with, immediately came to mind.

In reflecting upon all of this I recalled a police report that had been buried in my disorganised UFO files for over a quarter of a century which pertained directly to the Dexter case.

The report was obtained from a friend of mine who had access to police reports. Knowing of my intense interest in UFOs and the so called "Swamp Gas" case of 1966, she had dug into records and successfully rooted out the report detailed herein.

It was in March of 1966, that a flurry of UFO reports erupted in Michigan.

Two sightings in particular attracted national media attention. The one this article will focus on took place on the night of March 20, 1966, near Dexter, Michigan. It was one of a few U.S. UFO cases focused upon in the recent first time broadcast of the documentary "Out of the Blue" on the Sci-Fi Channel. The other occurred the very next night at Hillsdale College, about 60 miles away, and involved dozens of co-eds as well as the area's Civil Defense Director.

Why these two particular UFO stories soon became front page news across the country, no one seems to know. After all, there had been other U.S. UFO "flaps" in other places that went relatively unnoticed by the media. But in the Michigan cases it was different. Maybe it was because the police were eye witnesses in the Dexter case or because there were so many witnesses in the Hillsdale case. Maybe it was because the USAF became entwined in the situation and sent a representative (Dr. Hynek) to Michigan to find out exactly what it was that so many people had seen and couldn't identify. Whatever the reason, these UFO events enthralled the media and a circus like atmosphere ensued for several weeks afterward.

The Sheriff's Department Report

The following report, when quoted, is verbatim and includes original spelling, punctuation and grammatical errors.

The report is dated March 20, 1966. The nature of the complaint was listed as UFO.

The time that the call was received at the Sheriff's Department was listed as 8:30pm.

The assigned officers were Deputies McFadden and Fitzpatrick in Car #34 and they received the assignment at 8:35pm.

The details of the complaint are as follows: "Comp.(complainant) called and stated that there was a strange object in the swamp at the end of McGinnis Rd. It was on the ground, went up in the air about 500' (feet) and came down making a lot of noise."

The "INVESTIGATION" portion of the report briefly states that the officers arrived at the location and made contact with the complaining party, namely Frank Manner (correct spelling is Mannor) and his son Ronald of 10600 McGinnis Rd.

They "advised that an un-identified object was presently in the swamp, to the rear of afore mentioned location, and had been so located for approximately (1) one-half hour. Complainant further related that the object had been observed to rise to an altitude of approximately 500 Feet, and then to return to the ground. Subject stated that lights were observed upon the object, and that the lighting turned from a blue green to a brilliant red to a yellow in coloring. Object had appeared to be having difficulty in getting off of the ground."

The report then cites "ACTION TAKEN" by the two deputies. Briefly, the two officers, along with the senior Mannor, got into the patrol car and drove to a point where they were on the other side of the swamp and "where a vantage point was obtained, being in direct line with the house, and the area of the object's observation. At this point, the patrol vehicle was secured, and the afore mentioned proceeded into the woods, in an attempt to locate the swamp edge, and the object."

The report continued:

"While in the woods area, a brilliant light was observed from the far edge of the woods, and upon approaching, the light dimmed in brilliance. As the afore mentioned approached the upper ridge, and edge of the woods, the Brilliant light again appeared, and then disap-

peared. A continued search of the area was conducted, through swamp, and high grass, with negative results...

"Upon returning to the patrol vehicle, the undersigned officers were met by others who had gathered to observed, and the undersigned officer were informed that one of the objects had been hovering directly over the area where our flashlight beams had been seen, and had departed in a West Direction of flight, at high rate of speed."

Next the police report describes the talk the officers had with the witnesses:

TALK WITH FRANK MANNER: FRANK MANNER stated that he had observed the lights coming from the swamp, and had awakened his son, RONALD. BOTH MANNERS then proceeded into the swamps in an attempt to find out the object which was producing the light. Upon entering the lower edge of the swamp, RONALD stated "what is that thing", and as FRANK MANNER looked in the direction indicated, the object was observed.

At the instant of observation the small lights went out, and in just an instant, re-appeared across the swamp, a distance of about 500 Yards. At this time, the object became illuminated from a brilliant source of light, which flowed horizontal between the two small lights. After watching the object for a couple of minutes, the rays of light from two flashlights were observed from the ridge above the object. The light from the object intensified, then went out, and a whistle similar to the sound of a Rifle bullet Ricochet was heard, and the object passed directly over the MANNERS in just an instant.

The report gives a "DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT". Here a very specific description is noted and it was obvious to me that it was not one of swamp or marsh gas:

"Object was observed to be of a brown coloring, appearing to be Quilted type outside surface. Object appeared to be flat upon the bottom, and cone shaped toward the top, however, being low in height. Two small lights appeared to be at the outer edges of the object, glowing in a bluish-green light, and intensifying to a brilliant red in color. When the vehicle or object illuminated, the lighting was a yellow-white in color, and ran horizontal between the two outer light, allowing some the object to be viewed. Outer body appeared to be rough in texture."

The persons listed as viewing the object are "FRANK MANNER" and "RONALD MANNER" with respective dates of birth as 5 January 1919 and 28 January 1947.

The report ends with the sighting of several other UFOs in nearby communities:

"FURTHER UFO SIGHTED: Shortly after the UFO was departed from the scene, CHELSEA POLICE DEPARTMENT reported sighting a similar object over the Village of Chelsea,

Washtenaw County Sheriff's Department Report, March 20, 1966

Comp. No. 61050	WASHTENAW COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT
Comp. Name: Bob Wagner	Nature of Comp.: UFO
Address: Dexter Body Shop	Location: Between McGinnis Rd. & N. Terr
Dexter Mich.	Date Received: 3-20-66
Time: 8:30 P	Time: 8:30 P
Phone No: Res. - Bus.	Date Occurred: 3-20-66
Time: 8:30 P	Time: 8:30 P
Telephone: Radio - Letter - In Per - Received by: Dep. Kelly	Officer Assigned: Dep. McFadden & Fitzpatrick and Car #34
Time Assigned: 8:35 Pm	

Comp. called and stated that there was a strange object in the swamp at the end of McGinnis Rd. It was on the ground, went up in the air about 500' and came down making a lot of noise.

INVESTIGATION: Dispatched to observe location, and made contact with the complainant at 10600 McGinnis Road. Complainant advised that an un-identified object was presently located in the swamp, to the rear of afore mentioned location, and had been so located for approximately (1) one-half hour. Complainant further related that the object had been observed to rise to an altitude of approximately 500 Feet, and then to return to the ground. Subject stated that lights were observed upon the object, and that the lighting turned from a blue-green to a brilliant red to a yellow in coloring. Object had appeared to be having difficulty in getting off of the ground.

ACTION TAKEN: The undersigned officer, in company with the complainant, proceeded along Dexter-Hillsdale Road to Territorial Road, and then turned onto McGinnis Road, where a vantage point was obtained in direct line with the house, and the area of the object's observation. At this point, the patrol vehicle was secured, and the afore mentioned proceeded into the woods, in attempt to locate the swamp edge, and the object.

While in the woods area, a brilliant light was observed from the far edge of the woods, upon approaching, the light dimmed in brilliance. As the afore mentioned approached the upper ridge, and edge of the woods, the Brilliant light again appeared, and then disappeared. A continued search of the area was conducted, through swamp, and high grass, with negative results.

Upon returning to the patrol vehicle, the undersigned officers were met by others who had gathered to observed, and the undersigned officers were informed that one of the objects had been hovering directly over the area where our flashlight beams had been seen, and had departed in a West Direction of flight, at high rate of speed.

STATUS: OPEN

DESCRIPTION OF OBJECT: Object was observed to be of a brown coloring, appearing to be Quilted type outside surface. Object appeared to be flat upon the bottom, and cone shaped toward the top, however, being low in height. Two small lights appeared to be at the outer edges of the object, glowing in a bluish-green light, and intensifying to a brilliant red in color. When the vehicle or object illuminated, the lighting was a yellow-white in color, and ran horizontal between the two outer light, allowing some the object to be viewed. Outer body appeared to be rough in texture.

PERSONS OBSERVING OBJECT: FRANK MANNER, OF 10600 McGinnis Road, Dexter, Doh Jan 5, 1919 RONALD MANNER, OF 10600 McGinnis Road, Dexter, Doh Jan 28, 1947 Several others, names unknown.

OTHER UFO SIGHTED: Shortly after the UFO was departed from the scene, CHELSEA POLICE DEPARTMENT reported sighting a similar object over the Village of Chelsea, however, and then departing at high rate of speed in a Westerly Direction.

A further sighting of similar bluish-green lights was reported near the woods and swamp, North Side of N. Territorial Road, between Scully Rd., and Webster-Church Road, in Webster Township, County of Washtenaw, by Washtenaw County Sheriff's Patrol #19, however, when attempt was made to get closer, lights disappeared and were not observed again. Further search of the area was made with negative results.

DISPOSITION: FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND SEARCH OF THE AREA WAS MADE WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. STATUS: OPEN.

STATUS: OPEN

Respectfully Submitted,
David G. Fitzpatrick
Deputy Sheriff

hovering, and then departing at high rate in a Westerly Direction." (note: Chelsea is a small community about 15 miles from the original site where the Mannors lived.)

"A further sighting of similar bluish-green lights was reported near the woods and swamp, North Side of N. Territorial Road, between Scully Rd., and Webster-Church Road, in Webster Twp., County of Washtenaw, by Washtenaw County Sheriff Patrol #19, however, when attempt was made to get closer, lights disappeared and were not observed again. Further Search of the area was made with negative results."

The report ends with the following: "DISPOSITION: FURTHER INVESTIGATION AND SEARCH OF THE AREA WAS MADE WITH NEGATIVE RESULTS. STATUS: OPEN:"

In closing the report reads, "Respectfully Submitted, Dep. Fitzpatrick/McFadden" and is signed by David G. Fitzpatrick, the officer who wrote the report.

Deputy David Fitzpatrick took several pictures in several different locations of strange lights. All of the pictures were taken at or around the time of the swamp gas episode. All were night photos and show little more than blurbs of light against a dark background. ➤



J. Allen Hynek (standing) and Sheriff Harvey

Why It Wasn't Swamp Gas

Several key factors in the Sheriff's report indicate something was observed other than swamp or marsh gas, which the press later latched onto as the basic explanation for the series of sightings.

In legend and folklore a real but rare phenomenon has been referred to as marsh gas, jack-o-lantern, will-o'-wisp, and fox fire. It is caused by decaying vegetation and consists mainly of methane. Sometimes it can ignite and float just above the surface casting a flickering type of light, with or without faint crackling or popping noises. It is my understanding that such a gaseous display stays close to the surface of the ground or water and cannot attain much height. Swamps or marshes are ideal places for this rather unusual and natural display of nature. This writer has never seen it despite having lived close to a wetland for over 30 years.

Clearly swamp gas was not a feasible explanation for the Dexter sightings. The Sheriff's report states that the object "was on the ground, went up in the air about 500' (feet) and came down making a lot of noise." Swamp or marsh gas does not attain heights of 500 feet and does not make "a lot of noise".

It was reported also that "a whistle similar to the sound of a rifle bullet ricochet was heard and the object passed directly over the Manners in just an instant. Swamp or marsh gas does not display this kind of capability.

What's more, the term "object" is used no less than ten times in the Sheriff's report and the term "vehicle" is used once in describing the sighting. It's hard to believe that police officers, who were also witnesses in this particular case, would call a gaseous substance an "object" as well as a "vehicle".

The report describes, "Object was observed to be of a brown coloring...Quilted type outside surface...flat upon the bottom...cone shaped toward the top...rough in texture."

Also mentioned are bluish-green, brilliant red, and yellow white lights, and "two small lights appeared to be at the outer edges of the object". One of the principal witnesses in this case, Frank Mannor, became dismayed at the swamp gas explanation focused upon by the press and said: "I spent time on army maneuvers in the swamps of Louisiana during World War II. I've seen plenty of swamp gas. This wasn't it."(1)



UFOs Come To Michigan

A week before the Dexter UFO event there were reports from Michigan citizens and police officers in three different counties of objects moving at fantastic speeds, hovering, climbing and diving. One report cited a police officer having a UFO approach his squad car to within seventy-five feet, causing his police radio to stop functioning. Some of these were far better UFO reports for the press to focus on than what had been reported in the Dexter case. But it was the latter case, along with the Hillsdale case, that captured the attention of the press and the nation at large.

While in Michigan, Hynek was met by hordes of reporters. He donned boots and sloshed around in the swamps. He rode with police and described a scene of "near hysteria" as people reported seeing UFOs and squad cars chase about after fleeting lights in the sky. He later noted, "The scene that greeted me was one of utter confusion, much like the crowd that gathers around the scene of a catastrophe, or perhaps it might be likened to a circus, with many rings in full action."(4)

With this chaotic situation in full swing, and the press calling for an explanation, the Air Force ordered that a news conference was to be held on March 25, only five days after the Dexter sighting. Hynek was the man of the hour and also the man on the spot. The news conference was held at the Detroit Press Club located in Detroit.

The News Conference

Hynek's instructions were to release a statement about the cause of the sightings. As Hynek later said, "It did me no good to protest, to say that as yet I had no real idea what had caused the reported sightings in the swamp. I was to have a press conference, ready or not."

Hynek then offered a possible explanation for the sightings. Hynek described the properties of swamp gas, which he said he learned about from a University of Michigan professor. He pointed out that decaying vegetation can create certain gasses and, under certain circumstances, ignite and cast a flickering flame. He pointed out that the light can flicker out in one place and suddenly appear in another place and that this can create the appearance of motion. No heat is felt, there are no burn marks, no smell, and the lights can burn for extended periods of time. There may be popping sounds.

Hynek repeatedly said that his explanation was not, "a blanket statement to cover the entire UFO phenomenon", and that, "I cannot prove in a Court of Law that this is the full explanation of these sightings".

As it turned out, a press conference was not a place for scholarly discussion of the properties of swamp gas. Hynek later would remember the scene as chaotic. "Everyone was clamoring for a single, spectacular explanation of the sightings. They wanted little green men. When I handed out a statement that discussed swamp gas, many of the men simply ignored the fact that I said it was a 'possible' reason. I watched in horror as one reporter scanned the page, found the phrase 'swamp gas', underlined it and rushed for the telephone."

The next day newspaper stories generally reported that swamp gas was the real culprit in the Michigan cases and that swamp gas could explain other UFO cases as well.

The story was generally greeted across the country with laughter, ridicule, and derisiveness. Hynek would leave Michigan, as he later said, "as quickly and as quietly as I could".

J. Allen Hynek



For those not familiar with Dr. Hynek, he was born in 1910. He earned a PhD in astrophysics from the University of Chicago in 1935. Hynek became involved with a variety of U.S. government projects over the years that were related to space exploration.

For instance, he was asked to work with Project Sign in the late 1940s, the USAF group which looked into UFO reports.

As director of the MacMillan Observatory at Ohio State University, Hynek was asked to examine reports and note those that could be misidentifications of astronomical bodies such as planets and stars. He worked with Project Moonwatch whereby he organized amateur astronomers to assist in tracking satellites.

In March, 1952, Project Blue Book came into being as a new and upgraded government UFO investigative group. Its headquarters would eventually be at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. Hynek began an association with Blue Book as a scientific consultant and he continued to that end until Blue Book was disbanded in 1969. In that year the U.S. government proclaimed that it would no longer investigate reports of UFOs and that UFOs were not a threat to the nation's security.

Early in his career Hynek was a non-believer and sceptic regarding the UFO phenomenon. In his own work, *The Hynek UFO Report* (1977), he noted:

"I had started out as an outright 'debunker,' taking great joy in cracking what seemed at first to be puzzling cases. I was the arch enemy of those 'flying saucer groups and

enthusiasts' who very dearly wanted UFOs to be interplanetary. My own knowledge of those groups came almost entirely from what I heard from Blue Book personnel: they were all 'crackpots and visionaries'. It was useless to remonstrate with the staff of Blue Book personnel; it would have been a clear-cut case of 'fighting City Hall'."(2)

However, by the late 1960s, Hynek had begun to lobby for science to take a closer, more detailed look at the UFO phenomenon. He noted that not all UFO reports could easily be explained away by conventional means, and that there was room for an objective study of this type of phenomenon. He noted in *The Hynek UFO Report*:

"My transformation was gradual but by the late sixties it was complete. Today I would not spend one further moment on the subject of UFOs if I didn't seriously feel that the UFO phenomenon is real and that efforts to investigate and understand it, and eventually solve it, could have a profound effect, perhaps even be the springboard to a revolution in mankind's outlook on the universe."(3)

But before Hynek would make that final break with the established party line he would face what was probably the most humiliating experience of his life and that experience would make Hynek the butt of jokes, cartoons, and articles.



A few examples of political cartoons which appeared in papers across the country and poked fun at the Hynek explanation of swamp gas being the culprit in the Michigan sightings. These examples were obtained from the files of The Center for UFO Studies (CUFOS) located in Evanston, Illinois.



Results Of The News Conference

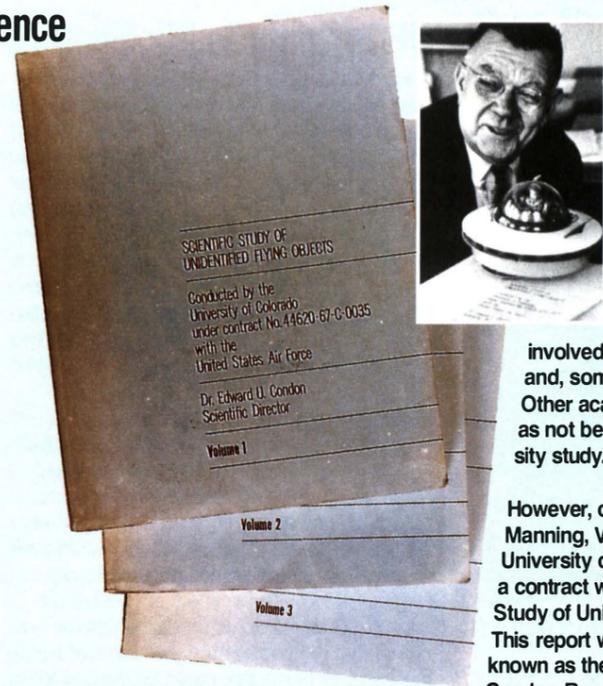


Some Michigan citizens were outraged at the swamp gas explanation. They put pressure on Michigan Congressman Gerald Ford (later President Ford) to call for an

open Congressional hearing on UFOs. Ford criticized the USAF's handling of the investigation in his home state, saying that the public deserved a better explanation than what had been offered. On April 5, 1966, the first open Congressional hearing on UFOs was held before the House Armed Services Committee. It lasted only one day with only three witnesses being called, one being Allen Hynek. Hynek made a number of remarks before the committee and also suggested that "a civilian panel of physical and social scientists...examine the UFO problem critically for the express purpose of determining whether a major problem exists".

Hynek had made this suggestion more than once before. He thought that a panel of civilian scientists should be appointed to take a new and fresh look at the UFO issue and there is evidence that Hynek wanted very much to be a part of any future governmental study of the UFO phenomenon although his appointment never did come about.

The Committee thought an independent study group a good idea. The Air Force supported that idea seeing a possible chance to get out of the UFO business, something they had sought to do since the late 1950s. The Air Force took the lead in openly seeking a university to contract for an investigative study of the UFO question..



It didn't happen quickly. There were delays and several major universities turned down the invitation to accept a contract. These included such prestigious institutions as Harvard, the University of North Carolina, The University of California, and the University of Massachusetts. There were few who wanted to get involved with such a controversial and, some said, disreputable topic. Other academicians branded the topic as not being "respectable" for a university study.

However, on October 6, 1966, Thurston Manning, Vice President at the University of Colorado in Boulder, signed a contract with the USAF for a "Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects". This report would eventually become known as the Colorado Project or the Condon Report named after the project director Edward Condon.

Condon was a confirmed nonbeliever in the UFO phenomenon and said so on several occasions. His negative attitude had a major impact on the final report, released in October of 1968. It has generally been shown to be a whitewash of most of the UFO field.

Visit With The Former Sheriff-Doug Harvey

In doing research for this article last year, I sought out the former county sheriff, Doug Harvey, to get his views on the 1966 case. I found him living in a community not far from me. We met over breakfast. Harvey was 72, robust, and energetic. He has retired from law enforcement and now owns and runs several driver education testing businesses. He was friendly, open, and willing to talk.

"My men saw something that night and I'm positive what they saw wasn't swamp gas," he told me. He was also sure that Hynek did not view the police report which is detailed herein.

The former sheriff described how he took Hynek to the Mannor residence so Hynek could look over the terrain. Later they returned to the sheriff's office. "We sat for a while and talked," Harvey recalled. "Hynek admitted he didn't know what all those people had seen out at the old Mannor farm. That's when the phone call came in," Harvey said. "The dispatcher stepped into the office and said Dr Hynek, you've got a call from Washington."

Harvey said Hynek stepped out of the office to take the call. Returning moments later, Hynek looked perplexed and a little pale, "It's swamp gas, it's swamp gas they saw," Harvey then quoted Hynek as saying.

Most of the literature surrounding the case suggests that Hynek got the swamp gas idea from a University of Michigan chemistry or botany professor who called Hynek about swamp gas being the possible culprit. Hynek reported the same in some of his writings.

However, the Washington phone call, if it did indeed take place as Harvey described, strongly suggests that direction on this matter was coming from a high government source.

Phone Conversation With Ron Manor

I made contact with the younger Mannor who lives in a nearby town not far from where the original sighting occurred. Ron's father, Frank, had passed away some years earlier. The short interview was conducted by phone.

I explained to Ron that I was doing an article on the episode which took place in 1966.

Ron immediately said he did not want to discuss the case and that it was something he wanted to forget. Nonetheless, I did manage to engage him in conversation about it for several minutes. He emphasized that what he and his father observed on that March evening was an actual object and not a gaseous substance like swamp or marsh gas.

After the sighting the press and hordes of people had descended on the Mannor residence. For a time after the incident, he said, cars were often parked nightly on both sides of the dirt road for hundreds of yards in either direction with people tromping about.

Sometimes, he said, a carload of "religious freaks" would drive by and yell things like "you are sinners" and "you're going to hell".

Ron said that one night the family heard noises on the upstairs roof. The senior Mannor came out of the house with a loaded shotgun to find two men had placed a ladder against the front of the house and were attempting to get into a second story bedroom. Frank Mannor ran them off promptly. Ron also took more than his share of ribbing from friends and acquaintances.

In my attempt to get several photos of the old Mannor residence as it might look today, I discovered that the roads have been reconfigured over the nearly 40 years since the swamp gas event and the old place where Frank Mannor raised 10 children no longer exists.

This photo was taken close to the old Mannor residence, which no longer exists. The exact location could not be located due to a reconfiguration of the roads in the area over the nearly 40 years since the incident. Note the radio telescope dish (operated by the University of Michigan) located just above the tree line in the middle of the picture. It appears almost cloud like. Hynek quickly dismissed the dish as the cause of the swamp gas sighting



The Life Magazine Article

On April 1, 1966, *Life Magazine*, published an eight page article titled "A Well-witnessed Invasion by Something". This was less than two weeks after the Dexter swamp gas event. On page 29 of that issue the Mannors' sighting was specifically detailed.

Unfortunately, the flavour of the piece ('It wasn't no hullabillusion', said the farmer) was slanted toward poking fun at the Mannors' experience. Here are the last three paragraphs of the *Life Magazine* page which detailed the Dexter event:

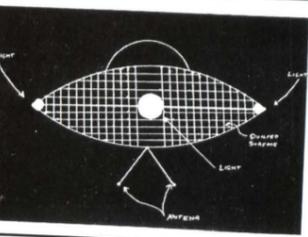
Back by Frank Mannor's house the road jammed up with the cars of the expectant; one man scraped away at a violin for an hour in the hope of summoning creatures from outer space and another blinked a light in what he described as a "pi code" which he

believed to be the key to interplanetary understanding. Mannor grew more indignant by the hour.

"People are trying to make a fanatic out of me," he complained. "They was still tramping around here at 3 o'clock this morning and look at them now. They say, 'How much money are you going to make off this?' That's crazy. I don't want no money. I didn't want no publicity in the first place. I don't want none now. I'm just a simple fellow. But I seen what I seen and nobody's going to tell me different. That wasn't no old foxfire or hullabillusion. It was an object. Maybe it'll come back if all these people would stay away and we could get a picture and have verification of it. Anybody wants to give me a lie-dector test I'll take it."

'It wasn't no hullabillusion,' said the farmer, and 52 agreed

With blinding glare from strategically placed lights in a lagoon marsh (left) near Ann Arbor, Mich., *Life* photographer Bob Gannell re-created former Frank Mannor's description of the eerie glow he saw on this exact spot. The sketch below shows details of the "vehicle" Mannor (right) saw when he approached the lights. The sketch bears a striking resemblance to UFO photographed from a Navy ship off the coast of California in 1957. Note its configuration, running lights, cabin and antennas. The rough exterior of the object in the photo appears to jibe with the description Mannor and his 19-year-old son gave police: "It was rough and pitted all over like coral rock."



Life Magazine, April 1, 1966

Leona, his wife, was more succinct: "We ain't Martians they act like you're not human or something because you seen it. I'm about to get a gun and shoot some of these smart alecks if they don't stay the hell away." ➤



The "Good" Doctor

Allen Hynek, in my mind, deserves the title "grandfather of ufology". While he began as a true Phillip Klass type debunker, he had the sense to see that there was indeed something more than ordinary, earthly explanations to some of the hundreds upon hundreds of

Project Blue Book



UFO reports that came his way over the years. After Project Blue Book closed in 1969, and the U.S. government was publicly out of the business of UFO investigations, Hynek, in 1973, launched his own investigative UFO organization: CUFOS. This worked differently from other UFO organizations of the period such as the National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena (NICAP).

Firstly, CUFOS, headquartered in Evanston, Illinois, had a telephone hot line available to police agencies across the country. And secondly, when a UFO report was phoned into CUFOS headquarters, and if it looked promising, the report would be passed along to an investigator in that particular state or area.

In late 1973 or early 1974, I saw Hynek in an interview with U.S. TV talk show host Dick Cavett. Hynek explained the purpose of his newly formed UFO group and I was immediately moved to write to him. I was appointed as an investigator with CUFOS for the state of Michigan a few months later.

Before Hynek died in 1986, I had met with him several times, often at UFO conferences. He was often accompanied by his wife Mimi who became actively involved in CUFOS operations. Hynek was always pleasant, easy to talk with, and a true gentleman.

I heard him speak numerous times and I often marveled at how he would show one political cartoon after another which made fun of his 1966, swamp gas explanation. The audience was often left howling with laughter. But then, getting serious, he would go on to talk about some of the most perplexing cases that had come his way during his career. He would point out that science needed to take a closer look at the UFO phenomenon and not so readily dismiss the topic. It is the 1966 Michigan swamp gas case that is Hynek's most remembered UFO investigation and it made an impact on the evolution of his thinking from debunker to supporter of UFO scientific investigation. ■

- REFERENCES
1. *The Ann Arbor News*, Oct. 4, 1999. Sec. D, pp. 1, 2
 2. Dell Publishing Co., p. 1
 3. *Ibid*
 4. *The UFO Encyclopedia*, by Jerome Clark, 2nd edition, p. 531

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Dr. Harry Willmus has been following the UFO scene for over 50 years. He has been associated with a number of UFO organisations, including CUFOS and MUFON, and has investigated numerous cases over the years. He presently is a consultant with MUFON.

What the papers say *Gazette, Friday November 21, 2003*
Thanks to Mr. Hayter, Basingstoke

Granddad convinced of close encounters

Exclusive by Paul Stamp

ARE aliens travelling through the skies of the Basingstoke area? That is the question being posed by a retired airport worker who has studied UFO activity in the borough for the last 10 years.

Grandfather-of-two Derek Bridges, 63, says he has seen amazing sights from his Overton home – the most recent occurrence happening just last week.

He believes north Hampshire is a hotbed of extra-terrestrial activity and has spoken to several people living in the area about their past encounters with UFOs.

Mr Bridges, of The Green, contacted *The Gazette* to talk about a 45-minute incident he witnessed from his garden at midnight on November 12.

Recalling what he saw in the sky Mr Bridges said: "Something was travelling from the direction of the North Hampshire Downs, near Kingsclere, towards Overton. I saw a flashing light and I was looking at the light moving slowly across the sky."

He then noticed more craft travelling with the first, which he recognised as a standard plane.

"There were pulsating lights – there were probably about six to 12 aircraft all around.

"It seemed like there were quite a few out there," he said.

Mr Bridges added that he saw one craft do something "extraordinary".

He explained: "This aircraft was bright red, had the capability to slow down and appeared to be stationary. It dropped from the sky."

Mr Bridges, who believes the high-profile UFO incident at Roswell in America was not a hoax, said there is a lot going on in the Basingstoke area and that more and more people are becoming interested in UFOs.

He can also recall an occurrence several months ago when a disc-shaped craft, 30ft to 50ft in size, passed over Overton towards Andover.

Mr Bridges, a former member of rock band The Wildents who backed '60s singer Marty Wilde, explained: "The trouble is it is hard to video. All you can see is lights and it is very difficult to put across what you have seen."

Various people have met Mr Bridges over the years and told him about their experiences. One story involved a person who told him about a close encounter on the Downs that happened when he was a teenager.

Mr Bridges said: "He was playing on the Downs with his mates, and he saw what he thought was a helicopter. He went towards what he saw, and when he got nearer he realised it was a disc. It was hovering about and having difficulty landing."

"Five or six things got out of the craft, and then a taller one got out wearing a silver top. He said it had a long head with big eyes, and he started to make a gesture to him."

When the boy's friends followed him making a lot of noise, the beings shuffled back into the craft and it shot silently back into the sky.

Mr Bridges said: "A lot of people are frightened of ridicule and don't like to talk about this in public. People look left, right and forward – but they don't look up."

"I feel I should do my bit because this is what I believe in. This is just the tip of the iceberg and I have no doubt at all in my mind that we are out alone."

Referring to the latest incident, Caroline Edie, a Ministry of Defence spokeswoman, said: "There was certainly nothing low flying in the area at that time. However, up above is a busy piece of civilian airspace that could be used by aircraft at medium level. It is recognised as an exceptionally busy piece of airspace."

She added that there is an MoD UFO sighting hotline on 0207 218 2140 that can be contacted if people believe they have seen a UFO.

Derek Bridges

SPIRIT has landed on Mars...

Wanda

Super Express 01/07, 2004, Warsaw, Poland

Strange object over Leeds

Darren, a Post Office worker in Leeds, West Yorkshire, was on his way to work on Sunday morning, 28 December 2003, just before 8am. Living in Bramley, a suburb of the city, Darren was driving down Armley Road close to the prison. Looking towards the south-west of the city towards Morley, he noticed in the distance, a strange object in the early morning sky.

He described a shapeless object, dark in colour with no visible lights or audible sound (he was in his car at the time). "It was sort of like an eighth moon with a piece missing, it just looked really odd and I felt as though what I was looking at was not normal."

The sighting only lasted for a short time as Darren had to turn off the main road to get to his office, and on this part of his journey the view was obscured by buildings.

However, before losing sight of this strange object Darren saw an aircraft (could have been a helicopter but it was too far away to be sure) approach the shape "as if it was checking it out".

On arriving at his place of work Darren scoured the skies but could see nothing.

Whatever Darren had seen left a lasting impression of strangeness with him.

BETTY HILL INTERVIEW

The advertised interview with Betty Hill will appear in the March issue of *UFO Magazine*. Betty is 80 years old, she has lung cancer and Christmas was a busy time for her. I must admit though when I spoke with her in December she sounded nothing like her 80 years. She asked if we could conduct the interview early in the New Year and our correspondent K T. Frankovitch who is a personal friend of Betty's has agreed to conduct the interview for us.



Russel Callaghan

Strange Images on Nasa Website

I have been fortunate over the years to visit many air shows especially the International Air Tattoo held at RAF Fairford here in the UK. These affairs are exciting, noisy and colourful but I have never observed anything as depicted in these two images I discovered on NASA.gov

<http://microgravity.grc.nasa.gov/outreach/airshow01/show.html>

Look at the title of the page on microgravity. I wonder how that relates to the content of what is basically a collection of pictures taken at the Cleveland Air show in 2001.

I recall Jaime Maussan bringing some alleged UFO footage from a south American air show to one of his UK lectures. It too had aircraft performing a display but just hung there, above the main show area, was a circle of smoke, it stayed there for the duration of the recording which was several minutes. To my knowledge it was never explained.

Well here is the phenomenon again on NASA's website, the captions read 'special effect over air show' and 'smoke ring left by airship'.

Now you would think an airship at an air display would be worth photographing especially has it's alleged deposit has caught the attention of the photographer.



Check out the link above, there's not a single airship in sight.

And talking of airships, take a look at this design from *21st Century Airships* below.

I dare say that would cause the phones to start ringing at *UFO Magazine* if it flew over Yorkshire.

Russel Callaghan

HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH 'ORB'S'

Gary Hart responds to the many articles recently featured regarding 'Orbs'. He believes he can both explain and demonstrate how the effect is produced.

The 'Orb' phenomenon, as seen in recent issues of *UFO Magazine* and on many 'Ghost/Supernatural' websites is, in my opinion, a simple case of out of focus photographs.

I did a personal study several years ago and proved to myself, using both stills and video cameras, that 99% of 'Orbs' are out of focus dust or water particles.

These substances, when photographed in certain conditions, create the classic circular shaped image with detailed concentric rings seen in so many images.

The technical term for this phenomenon is an 'Airy Disc'; it is a common visual effect for those who work with complex optical systems.

Try this test example and film your own 'Orb':

Standing at the side of your camera looking sideways on to the area that will be illuminated by the camera flash, take a test shot.

You should see tiny particles of dust etc. illuminated by the camera's flash. These may appear in your photograph as 'Airy Discs' or may not. But the phenomenon can occur because the particles have been so brightly illuminated by the flash. The focus point of the camera will be set on some distant object, so anything between the camera and the focal distance is either selected by the operator or set automatically by the camera and will be out of focus by varying degrees, hence some 'Orbs' are bigger or smaller than others in the same shot.

'Orbs' only appear in flash photography. No 'Orb' will be visible without the use of a flash.

I believe some examples of 'Orbs' were snowflakes. If you get the opportunity this winter take some pictures of snow falling close to the camera lens, both during the day and at night.

Also, take test shots of rainfall and ice crystals from thrown snow that can be visually seen to fall within an inch of your camera lens using a flash. You should film 'Orbs'.

Don't take my word for it - prove it for yourself. 'Orb' photos and similar phenomena claimed by some to be something special should be proven genuine before any claims are made.

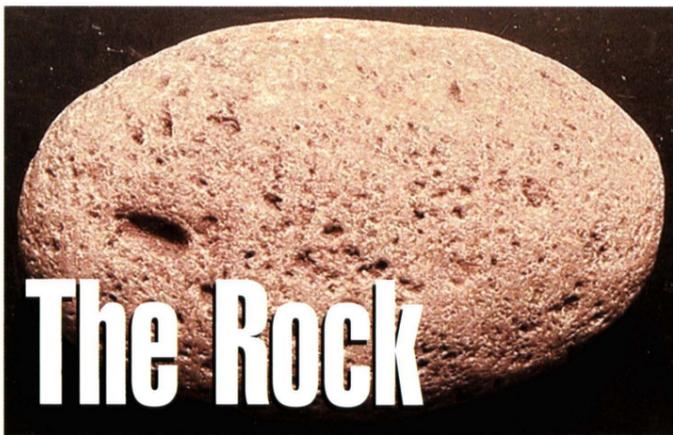
Such proof must be understandable, repeatable, and duplicable - in other words be able to prove why 'Orbs' aren't created by the techniques described above.

The apparent sharpness of 'Orbs' actually proves what they are: out of focus reflections of the camera's own flash light. In the UFO field, 'Orbs' seem to have generated wild misinterpretations of what is actually taking place.

Comment

'Orbs' as described by Paul and Denette France in last month's issue were definitely not 'snow or ice' and as a professional photographer Paul is aware of the complexity of stray intrusions into the focal length of his field of view. Could it be that, although the above answers some of the questions associated with the origin of 'Orbs' some 'Orbs', are caused by a yet unknown factor?

Russel Callaghan



The Rock

Some time ago while out on a hike, John Williams an electronics engineer and resident of Albuquerque, New Mexico, stumbled across a strange and intriguing object that has both puzzled and baffled him ever since. Having done much research trying to identify this 'odd' object, John has even put up one hundred US dollars of his own money to the first person who can convince him just what this object is.

As you can see from the photographs John kindly sent to *UFO Magazine* the object is in fact a rock, but it's a rock with a difference. Carefully inserted into the solid body of the rock and protruding from the surface are what appear to be three metallic connectors. The connectors definitely seem to have been placed accurately within the rock, but for what purpose?

John has often wondered about the rocks origin. Could it be a man made object, could it be something from an ancient civilisation or could it be a relic from an alleged UFO crash?

Although he admits that he is an engineer, and has no geological qualifications, he suggests that the rock appears to be quartz and feldspar granite, and it is very hard. It's approximate size is 61mm long, 38mm wide and 22mm high, excluding the pins. The embedded component is 8mm diameter and the pins stand 3mm high with a spacing of 2.5 mm.

The pins have been tested for electrical conductivity and an ohmmeter gave a reading of either very high impedance or open circuit. The underside of the rock is slightly magnetic and the edges of the rock show slight fluorescence under a standard black light (ultra violet lamp).

No part of the rock glows in the dark or feels unusually hot or cold. It weighs in at 2.5 ounces U.S. and nothing rattles about inside the rock.

John is not prepared at this time to identify the exact location where the rock was discovered but explains that he was out hiking, trying out some of his electronic sensing equipment when one of his instruments suggested a signal was coming from beyond an area of thick bush.

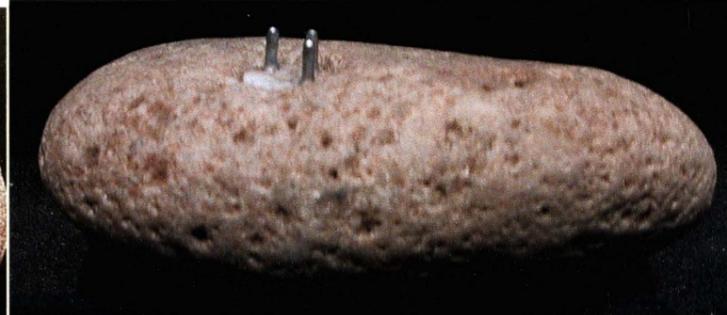
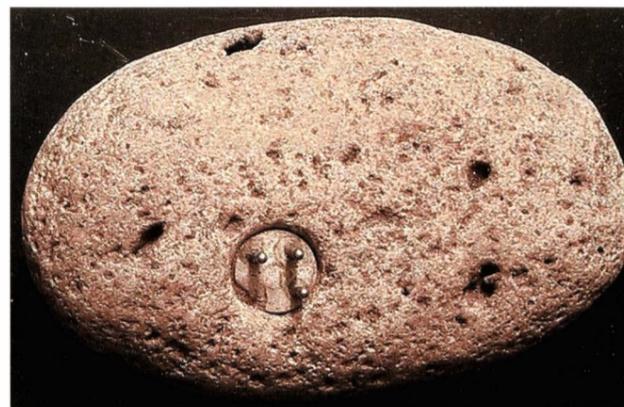
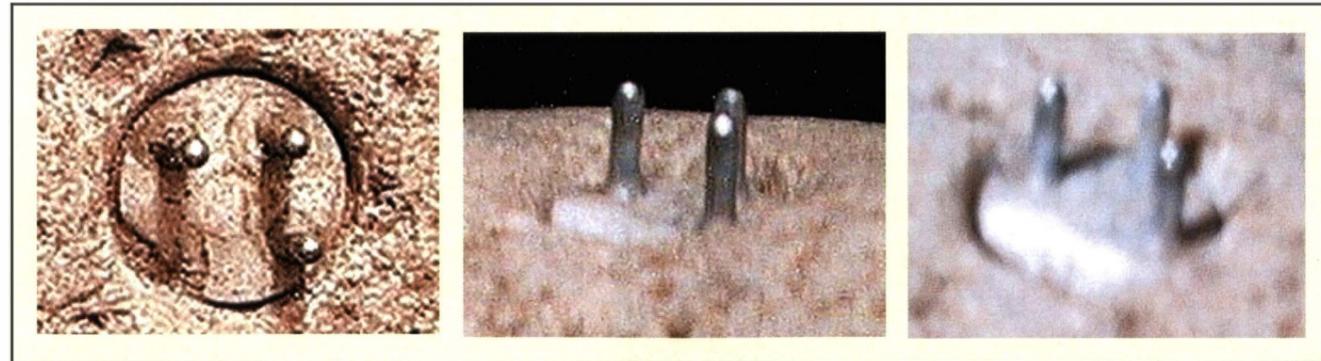
John was wearing shorts and hiking boots so it was a painful exercise to get to where the rock was discovered. It wasn't just lying there though, he felt it first with other rocks under his feet and had to pull it out of the ground, about two inches high, because it was covered in baked mud. It was only on closer inspection that the three protruding pins were noticed.

The bushes around the find were undisturbed and are of a kind that lives for many years so who knows how long the rock could have been lying there.

John Williams is not a man who would be easily fooled, he is an engineer who has also designed and built testing equipment so this is not just 'acting on a whim or making wild allegations' - some research has been done.

You can read more on the background of this story on the internet and you can also read the rules applying to the \$100 prize offered by John (<http://www.tsc-global.com/petradox.htm>).

There have been some suggestions as to what the rock might actually be, these range from dinosaur implants, reptile keepers egg warmers or alien healing stones.



Who knows what the origins of the rock really are.

I would suggest though from what I can see in the pictures that the connector looks like an XLR plug. This is something

used mainly for public address loud speaker cables or professional microphone connections to an amplifier, but why would you use this in a rock?

Perhaps we are not too far away from the real purpose of the find.

Could it be a garden loudspeaker or transducer, something that could be placed among flower beds or displays and deliver its

music or advertising message without looking too conspicuous. Remember it was proved magnetic in tests carried out by John and the ohmmeter readings could confirm a magnetic coil of high impedance (a loudspeaker).

I don't want to be a party pooper here and I don't want to claim the \$100 reward but *UFO Magazine* is about research and investigation and in this business if you don't act on your instincts you can get caught out. I am not suggesting to John that I think anything untoward is being presented, but has an amplifier output ever been connected to the Rock? Why do I suggest this?

Take a look at this advert from MP Sales and Distribution, Ontario Canada.

Outdoor Rockspeakers



You got it!!!! This really is an outdoor Rockspeaker.
150 WATTS, ALL-WEATHER, AND READY FOR YOUR YARD.

Rock speakers blend easily into any landscape. The extremely "Rock like" appearance of the unit will easily make everyone wonder where the music is coming from.

Rock Speakers are ideal for listening to music while:
working in the yard
relaxing outdoors
entertaining guests at garden and barbeque parties,
or relaxing at the cottage.

The Rocks are weatherproof and can be permanently left outdoors

Our Design allows us to get great sound and at the same time disguise the speaker, this means that the Rock has no unattractive "speaker holes". This makes it almost impossible to distinguish our Rockspeakers from real rocks

Only \$149.99 US per Speaker



A final comment from UFO Magazine
The component part of the rock seems is cored out of the actual rock, it appears that however it was fixed it was done well. So well in fact that if a repair of some description was required it would be basically impossible and the rock connector would be rendered useless i.e. throw away, maybe that's what happened here.

Real rock music.

Russel Callaghan

Amazing UFO/ET Eyewitness Cases

Flying Disks, Cattle Abductions, Alien Encounters, all reported hundreds of years ago just like today. Isn't it amazing how things tend to stay the same? In this chapter I have compiled similar reports from today, as well as from history. By Jim Hickman

First an eyewitness report of a flying disk from 1290 AD...

'While the abbot and monks were in the refectory, a flat round, shining, silvery object (discus) flew over the abbey and caused the utmost terror.' 1290: Byland, North Yorkshire: from William of Newburgh's Chronicle.

Next, early reports of a 'flying saucer' from just down the road in Texas...

On the morning of 22 January 1878, John Martin, a farmer living six miles south of Denison, Texas, spotted a fast moving dark object high in the southern sky. When it passed overhead, he saw that it was the size of a 'large saucer'. It continued on its way and was soon lost to view. In recounting the

It was the size of a car tyre; about 30 cm high, with a rounded top that rotated and a pivot between the base and the top. It took off very fast. Later the faces and arms of the boys became red.

July 29, 1952 Enid, Oklahoma - Sidney Eubank went to the Enid police station and told Sergeant Vern Bennell that an enormous disk had buzzed his car as he drove between Bison and Waukonis on Highway 81. The rush of air made the car leave the road while the object flew west very fast.

March 19, 1958, Moscow, USSR - Near Moscow, a large, disk-shaped object was seen on the ground. It rose in a spiral motion, then took off and was lost to sight.

Note: I spent many hours at George AFB (Air Force Base) back in the 70's, nice place for a UFO...

May 1, 1952. George AFB California, 10:50 a.m. Witnesses: three men on the arms range, plus one Lt. Colonel 4 miles away. Five flat-white discs about the diameter of a C-47's wingspan (95°) flew fast, made a 90° turn in a formation of three in front and two behind, and darted around, for 15 - 30 seconds.

As many of you know, you just don't mess with an Oklahoma Trooper...

July 5, 1952. Norman, Oklahoma. 7:58 p.m. Witness: Oklahoma State Patrolman Hamilton in State Patrol airplane. Three dark discs hovered and then flew away, silhouetted against a dark cloud. 15 seconds.

July 27, 1952. Wichita Falls, Texas. 8:30 p.m. Witnesses: Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Ellis. Two disc-shaped objects, illuminated by a phosphorus light, flew at an estimated 1,000 m.p.h. for 15 seconds.

Inside were six strange looking beings jabbering in a foreign language. These beings suddenly became aware of Hamilton and the others. They immediately turned a searchlight on the farmer, and also turned on some power, which sped up a turbine wheel (about 30 ft diameter) located under the craft. The ship rose, taking with it a two-year old heifer, which was roped about the neck by a cable of one-half inch thick, red material.

The next day a neighbor, Link Thomas, found the animal's hide, legs and head in his field. He was mystified at how the remains got to where they were because of the lack of tracks in the soft soil. Alexander Hamilton's sworn statement was accompanied by an affidavit as to his veracity. The affidavit was signed by ten of the local leading citizens.

Next a reported aerial battle with UFOs in 1917...

GERMAN FIGHTER ACE RED BARON SHOT DOWN A UFO IN 1917!

BONN, Germany - The flamboyant fighter pilot known as the Red Baron not only shot down 80 enemy planes for the Germans during World War I - he also was the first human in history to gun down an alien spaceship!

That's the fascinating claim of former German Air Force ace Peter Waitzrik who says he watched in astonishment as the deadeye fighter pilot shot a UFO with undulating orange lights out of the sky over Belgium in 1917. Then, Waitzrik said, he stared in disbelief as two bruised and battered occupants of the downed craft climbed

from their spaceship and scampered off into the woods - apparently never to be seen again.

"The Baron and I gave a full report on the incident back at headquarters and they told us not to ever mention it again," the feisty, 105-year-old retired airline pilot recently told a reporter.

"And except for my wife and grandkids, I never told a soul. But it's been over 80 years, so what difference could it possibly make now?" The aging Waitzrik said he and Baron Manfred von Richtofen - the renowned Red Baron - were flying an early morning mission over western Belgium in the spring of 1917 when the UFO suddenly appeared in a clear, blue sky directly ahead of their Fokker triplanes. "We were terrified because we'd never seen anything like it before," recalled the easygoing great-great-grandfather of five.

"The U.S. had just entered the war, so we assumed it was something they'd sent up. The Baron immediately opened fire and the thing went down like a rock, shearing off tree limbs as it crashed in the woods. Then the two little baldheaded guys climbed out and ran away."



Waitzrik said he assumed the glittering silver spaceship was some sort of enemy invention until the flying saucer scare that began in the late 1940s convinced him that his buddy had shot down a UFO.

"The thing was maybe 40 metres (136 feet) in diameter and looked just like those saucer-shaped spaceships that everybody's been seeing for the last 50 years," the awed older said. "So there's no doubt in my mind now that that was no U.S. reconnaissance plane the Baron shot down, that was some kind of spacecraft from another planet - and those little guys who ran off into the woods weren't Americans, they were space aliens of some kind.

"You know, sometimes I wonder what ever became of those guys, anyway."

"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe." -

Albert Einstein

event, a local newspaper remarked, "Mr. Martin is a gentleman of undoubted veracity and this strange occurrence, if it was not a balloon, deserves the attention of our scientists". *Denison Daily News*, January 25, 1878.

More flying disks from Jacque Vallee's *The Maginot Files*

Habebishopsheim, Germany - An American soldier saw a disk-shaped object come down rapidly, oscillate, and land. The site could not be found in the dark. The event took place 35 km northwest of the town.

June 21, 1947 Spokane, Washington - Eight disk-shaped objects, each the size of a house, were seen flying at 1000 km/h. A civilian woman stated that the objects fell with a dead leaf motion and landed before ten witnesses on the shore of the Saint Joe River in Idaho.

April 8, 1950, River Road near Amarillo, Texas - David, 12, and Charles, 9, Lightfoot saw a disk land behind a hill and touched it.

Next, a few of the lesser know flying disk incidents that can be found in Project Bluebooks 701 Unknown's file...

July 8, 1947. Muroc Air Base, California, 9:30 a.m. PDT. Witnesses: 1st Lt. Joseph McHenry, T/Sgt Ruvolo, S/Sgt Nauman, Miss Janette Scotte. Watched for an unstat-ed length of time while two disc-shaped or spherical objects - silver and apparently metallic- flew a wide circular pattern, and then one of them later flew a tighter circle.

March 20, 1950. Stuttgart, Arkansas, 9:26 p.m. Witnesses: Chicago & Southern Airlines Capt. Jack Adams, First Officer G. W. Anderson, Jr. One 100' circular disc with 9-12 portholes along the lower side emitting a soft purple light, and a light at the top which flashed 3 times in 9 seconds, flew at not less than 1,000 m.p.h. It was seen for 25 - 35 seconds.

April 6, 1952. Temple, Texas. 2:59 p.m. 50-75 grey-white discs changed position within formation continually, tilted in unison every 12 - 15 seconds during 3.8 minute sighting.

Jan 1, 1955. Cochise, New Mexico. 6:44 a.m. Witnesses: instructor and student pilot in USAF B-25 bomber/trainer. A metallic disc, shaped like two pie pans face-to-face, and 120 - 130° in diameter, paced the B-25, showing both its edge and its face, for 5-7 minutes. Only item in case file was in summary form.

Next, here's a cattle abduction report from April 1897. Some still call it a hoax...

In a sworn statement dated 21 April 1897, a prosperous and prominent farmer named Alexander Hamilton (Le Roy, Kansas, U.S.A.) told of an attack upon his cattle at about 10:30 p.m. the previous Monday. He, his son, and his tenant grabbed axes and ran some 700 feet from the house to the cow lot where a great cigar-shaped ship about 300 feet long floated some 30 feet above his cattle. It had a carriage underneath which was brightly lighted within (a dirigible or gondola?) and which had numerous windows.

UFO Sightings and Experiences

RATHFARNHAM, IRELAND Brian J. Dwyer reports...

I have always considered magazines such as *UFO Magazine* cater for those who wish to live out their fantasies. My attitude however has hanged dramatically because of an experience I had on Monday, 3 November 2003.

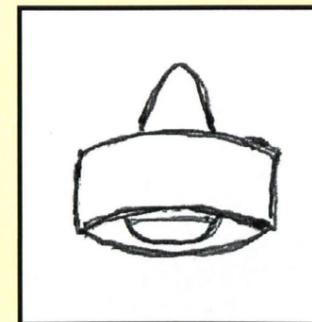
I was driving from Dublin to Wexford on that day and the time would be around 5pm. It was a beautiful evening, the sun had only just gone down below the horizon and there wasn't a single cloud in the sky, but the remaining daylight made it impossible to observe any stars at this time.

I observed two airliners through my car wind-screen, one following the other. It was their contrails that first caught my eye illuminated by the setting sun.

Then, away to the left of the aircraft, another bright object caught my attention. I stopped the

car to get out and have a closer look. I had a pair of binoculars in the car and grabbed them.

What I saw was an object, as large as life, and a shape I had never seen before. It was stationary



clearly observed. I watched the object for about 15 seconds and then it just gradually faded away.

The two aircrafts' crews must have seen the object as well.

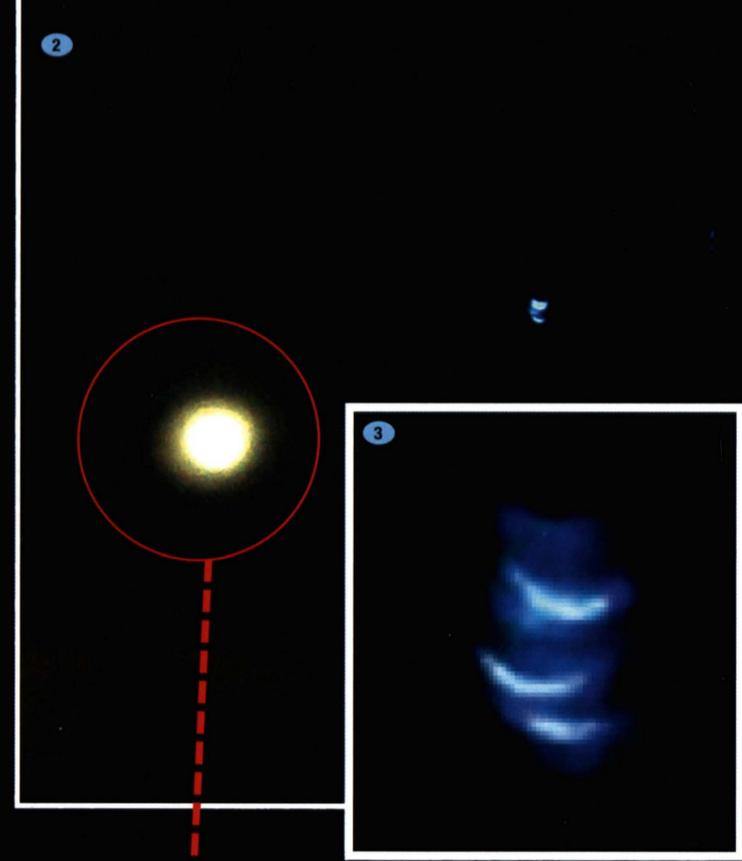
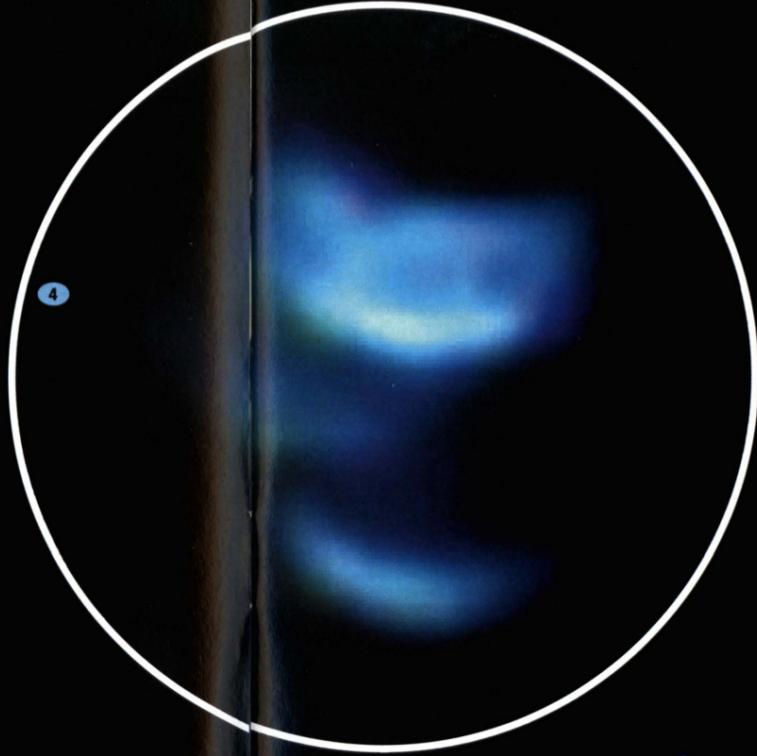
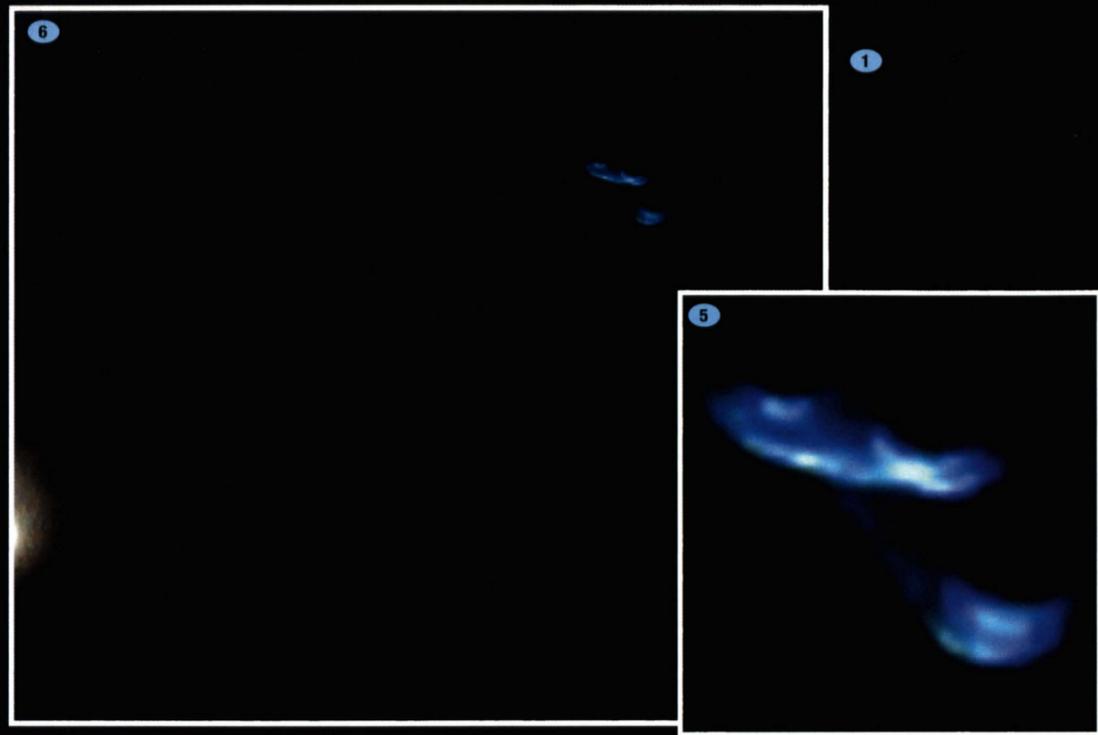
NEAR ALTON, HAMPSHIRE Ashley Martin writes...

Around 5.40pm on Tuesday, 9 December 2003, I was standing in our sitting room, looking out the window towards the wood which runs along our property, when I noticed a white circular light in the sky, several feet above the treetops.

Already, I have had two UFO sightings, both over our property, and have video footage to prove that they exist, therefore I know the difference between aircraft and UFOs.

I watched the light for a while, expecting it to move away, but it didn't, it just remained in a stationary position. There was no discernable sound and no coloured flashing lights which a normal aircraft would have. Neither was it a firework, a flare, a shooting star or a comet or meteorite.

After a while I decided to drive over to the wood to have a look, but by the time I got there the light had disappeared. My mother, who had also seen it, thought it was a bit odd. Did anyone else see this?



The Blue Fairy Incident

By Phil Kirk

Sometimes when a UFO incident occurs one gets a gut feeling that this could be something special. The following case sent to *UFO Magazine* by Minnesota researcher Phil Kirk carries the hallmark of a very convincing case indeed.

The witness's story is backed up on three occasions by photographic evidence; photographic evidence that passed the early evaluation tests carried out by Phil and by MUFON MN.

There are multiple witnesses to the events and the local police force confirmed that they had nothing to do with it. Likewise, the local airport can confirm that there was no activity at the time of the incident.

The key witness reported 90 minutes of missing time - and these sightings are continuing to happen.

27 September 2003,
Minnesota, USA

Something strange was about to happen in the early hours of the morning to the witnesses featured in this case report. They have asked for complete anonymity and that will be respected in this article.

The family in question have an early to bed, early to rise lifestyle so there was nothing unusual about the witnesses being up and about at 5am. What was strange, however, was the unnerving series of events that was to affect our witnesses.

It started off with the witnesses hearing a strange low frequency humming sound, describe as similar to the drone of a distant aircraft waiting clearance to take off.

My thoughts, as the investigator, were could this be an early sign of tinnitus, the hearing complaint. But a quick check in the medical reference books revealed that this would not be the case.

Tinnitus only affects the high frequency hearing range resulting in the affected person hearing a constant whistle or hissing sound.

What our witnesses described was a sound at such low frequency that you could feel it, and also a feeling of being watched but the witnesses saw nobody or nothing. Even the family pets seemed disturbed, possibly by the sound.

Having gone outside into the street to try and find out where the sound was coming from, our witnesses noticed an illuminated object in the early morning sky. One witness, being an avid photographer, had the presence of mind to grab a camera on the way out in order to capture anything of interest and possibly associated with the noise.

The witness described what happened:

"Having gone outside it was a cool dry morning, the sun was yet to rise but away in the distance, above a densely wooded part of the neighbourhood, was a strange light just hanging in the sky."

The area where the object was seen is a combination of hills and prairie with a number of the large lakes that the state of Minnesota is famous for.



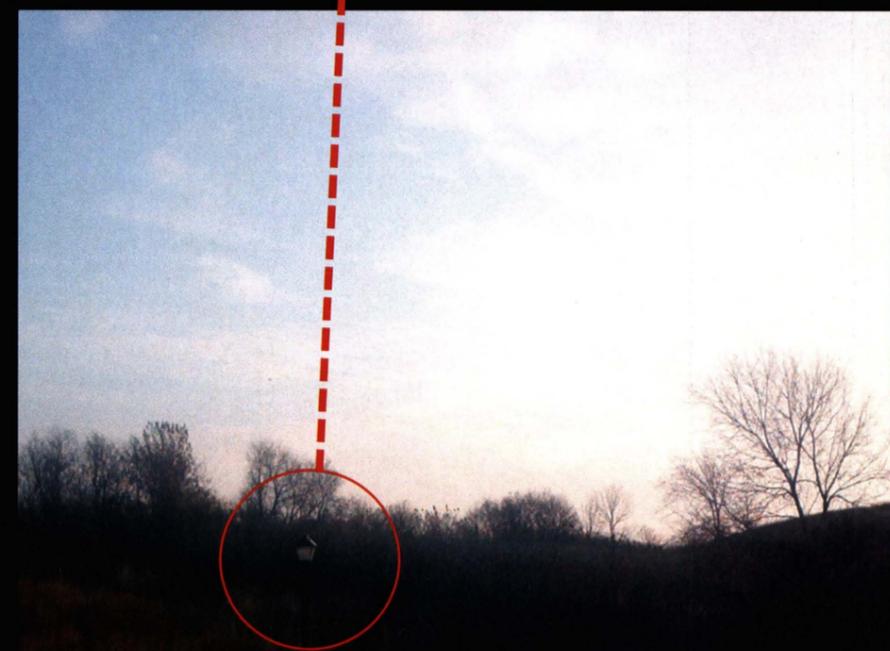
The closest airport is some 200 miles away from the sighting zone and the nearest military establishment along with a nuclear power facility is over 100 miles away. Although there is a local landing strip suitable for light aircraft about 15 miles away, a quick check of the aero club's logs showed no activity during the hours of darkness.

I checked with a local law enforcement official who made it clear that no police personnel or vehicles were anywhere near the vicinity of the UFO sighting. An important piece of information as some sceptics have suggested police vehicle lights in local woods to be responsible for the sighting.

The witness described the event as "The Blue Fairy Incident". The sighting lasted around 15 minutes and many photographs were taken (pics 1 - 6).

The object, although steady in the sky, had appeared to move around itself (some may say morph). But from an analysis of the photographs, the object appears to have structure and to be solid in construction.

The witness could only "best guess" the times involved but the case gets even stranger from this point onwards. ➤



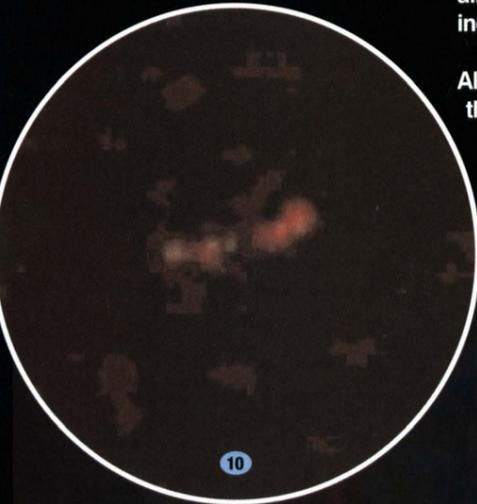
The next thing the witness remembers is waking at 06:45. If we account for 15 minutes as the duration of the sighting we are left with 90 minutes plus of missing time.

Confused by the events the witness got out of bed - and couldn't help but notice an object passing across the sky. This object was made up of 'Orb' like lights and our witness counted 30 of them all moving in different directions, some in formation, some solitary (pics 8 & 9).

This phenomenon was also photographed and the witness said it was obvious that "these were being intelligently controlled". As the objects moved they changed colour from a dull metallic grey colour to a bright glowing red.

Our witness explained that a movie camera would have shown the movement.

Comments from those who have seen the images have suggested a blurred moon or police car lights. Well, our research cleared the police vehicle as a culprit and, as for the claim that it is a blurred moon shot, take a look at the streetlamp in the same photograph, no movement or shake is visible.



These sightings were reported to Brian Vike, of HBCC UFO research, who co-ordinated the Minnesota MUFON group to help the witnesses and make computerised enhancements of the original photographs.

The photographs were shot on a Hewlett Packard 320 digital camera. MUFON in turn worked on the photographs and concluded that they showed very little sign of lateral or vertical movement of the camera; they are a very good quality sequence of photographs of what appears to be a very real object.

These sightings were not one off events; they are still ongoing with a further sighting on November 8 and the latest taking place on November 30. (pics 10 & 11) One witness has also suffered nose-bleeds and found marks on their person following the sightings.

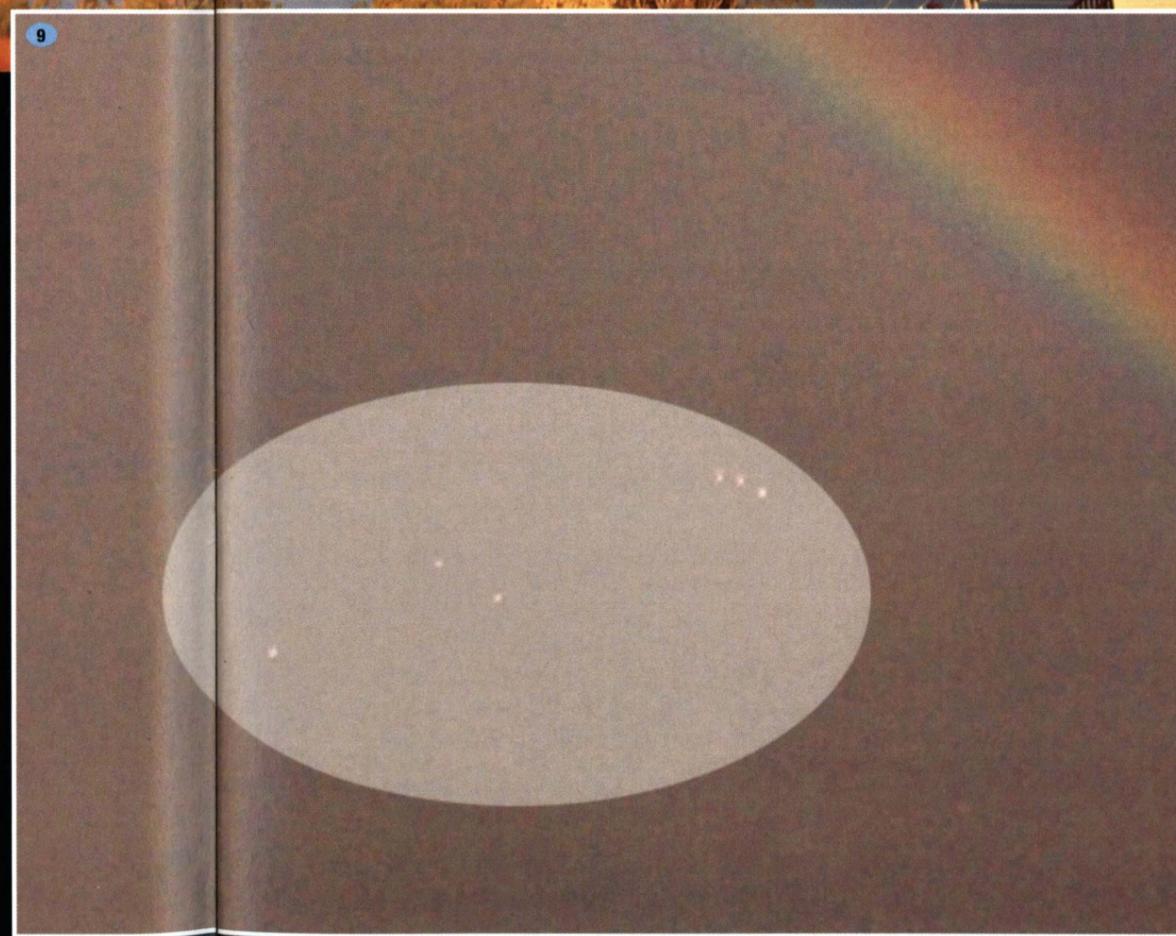
Since these reports were made, other witnesses have come forward to confirm the same "Blue Fairy" hovering in the skies above mid-western Minnesota.

For personal reasons the witnesses wish to remain strictly anonymous, and also strongly wish to retain copyright on all photographs that they have taken, including those that you see here.

Although still confused by the events they witnessed, they also firmly believe that the separate sightings we see around the world are not separate events, but are a gradual build up, with the 'main event' somewhere in our future.



Brian Vike of HBCC UFO Research can be contacted at hbccufo@telus.net
Phil Kirk can be contacted at pjkirk03@msn.com
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ROD CAPTURED IN 'JOURNEY' FOOTAGE?

Thank you for the January 2004 edition...superb.

My wife Julie purchased me a Bush dvd video/tv for Christmas and, at long last, also got me the entire set of 'Hard Evidence'.

You can imagine my excitement.

Importantly, (after probably twenty hints on my part) I also received the dvd of 'The Journey' (though I had written to Santa just in case!).

I mention the manufacture of my dvd player (Bush), as it allows you to use the pause/still button on the remote control, and access 24 frames per second. Not only can you view all 24 frames individually, but you also have a facility to zoom in and magnify each frame.

My reason for this contact concerns *The Journey* and to draw attention to what is either a cigar shaped object of enormous size, or the largest "rod" captured on film. It was not mentioned in the dvd, as Anthony Woods was focusing his camcorder on a daylight disc.

In the dvd, there is a recording date of 16 July 2001, which shows a light travelling across the screen in broad daylight.

At precisely 8:41:20 as displayed on the screen itself, the light drops out of sight.

I was watching the dvd for the first time, and felt sure something else flashed across the screen at that same time.

If you play back the dvd at that precise time, you will note the cigar or rod I refer to.

It is only captured on three frames (frames 8, 16 and 24) within the 24 frames within that one second duration.

The size and speed are awesome.

I thought I would pass this on to you and my fellow subscribers, and perhaps you or Anthony Woods would like to comment in one of your future issues?

Keep up the good work!

Brian Vincent

For details of how to order 'The Journey' see page 43



More correspondence on page 78

Experiencers find their voice



By Philippa Foster

The 'Contactee Close Encounter Resource Network', better known as CONCERN, has been steadily gathering pace since its creation by Mary Rodwell earlier this year. It has truly been a team effort and now has many 'Buddies' and 'Therapists' affiliated with it. The 'Buddies' are experiencers who will talk with other experiencers who need to discuss their encounters with someone who understands what they are going through. And the 'Therapists' are qualified in areas such as: Clinical Hypnotherapy - for people who want regressions for 'missing time' incidents, Counsellors - for people who have suffered the traumatic aspects of some encounters, and Spiritual Healers - to help people whose psychic faculties have been activated by their experiences. See CONCERN details below.

It has been a real rollercoaster of a year for all 'concerned'. For me it will always be intertwined with the tragic loss of Graham Birdsall. At the conferences we attended to help launch CONCERN, and at the seminars we gave to find people for the Therapist and Buddy lists, we saw a real outpouring of grief at his loss. It was as if it had torn the heart out of UFOlogy. But we also saw the emergence of a gritty determination, where people were coming together as a unit to ensure the world of UFOlogy would survive his loss and continue the incredible work done by Graham and all at Quest Publications. Much support was shown for Graham's family, Russell Callaghan and the team who were ensuring the magazine continued despite their great loss.

Thanks to them we have been given all the evidence we need to prove that UFOs and Extraterrestrials are visiting this planet and interacting with humans, regardless of whether 'the powers that be' admit to it. Detailed, scientific evidence now exists, courtesy of so many brave souls who've put themselves on the line for this subject, giving help to those at the sharp end of these phenomena, namely the Experiencers.

Being a part of CONCERN has highlighted for me just how many people are dealing with the UFOlogical reality in their lives.

Reassuringly, many people have encounters that are benign and instructive, although strangely these are often dismissed by people as being too whimsical. Then there are the single encounters which seem to be accidental glimpses of ET craft going about their business, whatever that might be! And sadly there are the abduction cases, which are incredibly hurtful and intrusive, and can have a devastating effect on the abductees.

In relation to this, two particularly striking lectures I attended this year were by Budd Hopkins (pictured) at Glastonbury Symposium and Derrel Simms at Yeovil. The reason I mention them is that both felt it important to

stress that some ETs are bad news, and I understand why they felt they needed to say this, even though it is not what people wanted to hear. Most people would still prefer to believe that all ETs are here to enlighten us, and although I personally believe that some are, clearly some are not. Unfortunately our fear of accepting this truth may be hindering our ability to develop a realistic response. It also makes me wonder if this is the reason the 'powers that be' endlessly stall on the release of information about UFOs and ETs. Do we need to demonstrate our ability to accept the full truth about the ET reality, in all its forms, before they reveal it publicly?

What the abductees and contactees have shown me, is that the human spirit is an incredible thing, and people can and will survive this revelation, and even grow from it. I believe it would be a blessed relief for everyone if this cat were finally let out of the bag. The sufferers of the worst attacks wouldn't have to suffer in silence. Those who have the wonderfully benign encounters could share their stories without people's eyes glazing over, as they normally do.

Those in high places could finally be relieved of the karmic burden of lying to us for so long. And everyone else could say - Yeah, I knew it all along", like they always do after the event. Surely a win-win scenario all round!

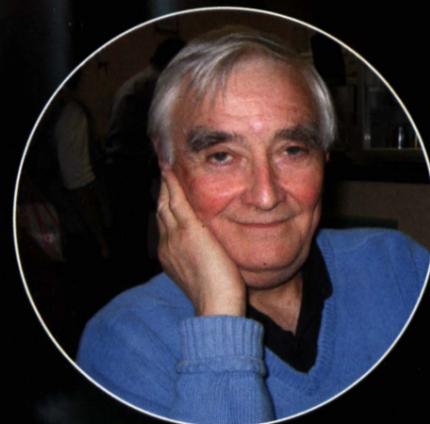
So we are at an amazingly poignant time in the history of UFOlogy, where we have so much information at our disposal, and yet we may actually balk at what it has to tell us. But if we turn away from it I believe we miss out on the best adventure humanity could wish for. According to 'The Assessment' (courtesy of Command Sergeant Major Bob Dean), there are more than twelve ET races visiting this planet, so the law of averages dictates that we should find some amongst them that we like! The Contactees themselves have mixed feelings about their ET visitors, but nearly all would say they now couldn't imagine life without the ETs, because of the profound effect it has had upon them. But no matter what the future brings, this year has at last given a forum for the experiencers to privately discuss their own experiences amongst themselves, and that is a real breakthrough.

For further information or support from CONCERN contact:-

One-to-One Buddies for experiencers:
Email: concern.north@tiscali.co.uk
Professional Therapists and Support:
Philippa and Alan Foster:
Tel/Fax: 01458 860 543

Further information about CONCERN:
Email: concern@smartgroups.com

Website: <http://www.smartgroups.com/groups/concern>



Scientists freeze beam of light

Physicists say they have brought light to a complete halt for a fraction of a second and then sent it on its way.



The researchers stopped the light for a fraction of a second

Harvard University staff held a light pulse still without taking away all of its energy, the journal *Nature* reports.

Controlling the movement of light particles - so-called photons - to store and process data could lead to the development of quantum computers.

In a 2001 experiment, light pulses were briefly stored when particles of light were taken up by atoms in a gas.

The Harvard experiment tops that achievement by holding light and its energy at a standstill.

Light speed

Light normally travels at about 299,000 kilometres per second (186,000 miles per second), but it slows down when passing through some materials, such as glass.

The team fired a light beam, called a signal pulse, through a sealed glass cylinder containing a hot gas containing atoms of the element rubidium, illuminated by a strong ray of light known as a control beam.

While the pulse was travelling through the rubidium gas, the researchers switched off the control beam, creating a holographic imprint of the signal pulse on the rubidium atoms.

Earlier experimental methods had then switched on a single control beam to recreate the signal pulse, which then continued on its way.

On the pulse

However, in this latest study, researchers switched on two control beams which created an interference pattern that behaves like a stack of mirrors.

As the regenerated signal pulse tries to continue on its way through the glass cylinder, the photons bounce back and forth, but the overall signal pulse remains stationary. The light beam was essentially frozen.

The researchers were able to keep the photons trapped like this for about 10-20 microseconds.

The research was conducted by Mikhail Lukin, Michal Bajcsy and Alexander Zibrov of the department of physics at Harvard University, Cambridge, US.

Quantum Leap

Mr Bajcsy said that a distant application of controlling light would be in powerful quantum computers.

"In [quantum computers] you would have to transfer the information from photon to photon to photon. And in order to do that you have to make the photons interact with each other such that you control it very precisely," he told BBC News Online.

Professor M. Suhail Zubairy, a physicist at Texas A&M University, said the Harvard team's achievement was a significant step forward in the emerging area of quantum computing and quantum cryptography.

Quantum cryptography might provide very secure forms of electronic encryption, because the process of eavesdropping on an electronic message would introduce errors in the message, garbling it.



Mikhail Lukin

"This would allow you to exchange a key on a public channel, but whereas any classical system can be broken by an eavesdropper, in quantum cryptography you would always find out if someone was looking at your message," Professor Zubairy told BBC News Online.

CREDIT: Paul Rincon BBC News Online science staff

Alien Odds Cut



William Hill have cut their odds about official confirmation of the current existence of intelligent extraterrestrial life being forthcoming by the UK Prime Minister before the end of 2004 from 500/1 to 100/1.

25 December 2003

RUSSIA: UFO MOBILISES CIVIL DEFENCE

MOSCOW, 29 (ANSA) - Russian Civil Defence authorities sent a helicopter to the Russian Siberian region of Kemerovo, whose inhabitants claimed having seen an unidentified flying object which gave the impression of having "landed".

Regional authorities quoted by the Itar-Tass news agency explained that in the early hours of December 26, residents of the city of Gurievsk followed the manoeuvres of a UFO for over half an hour. The object, which had the appearance of a fireball, eventually fell to earth.

According to eyewitness accounts, no explosions were heard, nor were any reports of fires or toppled trees received, as seems to occur whenever a meteorite is involved.

SOURCE: ANSA News Agency

Mysterious Red Light Prompts Coastguard Scramble

14 November 2003

Coastguard rescue teams were scrambled after a strange red light was reported off the coast of Stonehaven on the evening of November 13 2003.



A report was received of what was thought to be a red distress flare over the water off Garron Point near Cowie just after 7pm. Two maritime Rescue International Lifeboats were launched and the coast guard search team were called but found no sign of a boat or swimmer in distress.

Calls were made to Aberdeen Airport and The Royal Navy who confirmed neither were aware of any flares being released. A coastguard spokesman said: "In these cases it is always better to be safe

than sorry, but it now appears as if the light may have been a shooting star".

It follows the sighting of three mysterious bright red star-like objects seen over the airport earlier that morning. An Aberdeenshire man who was travelling from Old Meldrum to the airport just after 5:30am noticed what he described as "three bright red lights" in the sky. His sighting was backed up by employees at the airport, who were also baffled by the sighting. The man, who asked not to be named, said: "I have never seen anything like it, it's the first time I have witnessed something so spectacular."

"It wasn't a plane because two of the lights didn't move and the third did move position-and it had changed position again when I arrived at the airport.

It was really unexplainable because I don't think a plane or helicopter could move that fast."

He mentioned the sighting to staff at the airport. By this time there was only one light visible. One employee said "It just looked like a bright star but it was red, it was also lower in the sky than you would expect to see a star plus no other stars were visible in that part of the sky."

The Met Office have ruled out any meteorological link. A spokesman explained if visibility had been poor the particles in the air could have made the lights look brighter but he said: "It was certainly not a weather phenomenon."

Thanks to Brian Harwood of Mastrick, Aberdeen for this report.

A Night To Remember!

UFO Magazine joins the Dana Centre for a UFO debate

Tuesday 9 December 2003. Venue, the recently built Dana Centre, pronounced 'Dana' as in Scully. No connection intended, I don't think. Situated on prestigious Queens Gate, South Kensington, London, along side the Science Museum, this hi-tech, multimedia, user friendly venue is a pleasure to visit. Brightly decorated and well lit one could refer to the centre as a 'modern day speak easy'.

Guests are welcomed at the box office where they are shown to a lower level café bar. An assortment of drinks - hot, cold, hard and soft - are available along with snacks. An ideal place to sit and chat. 'Talking science' is part of the centre's mission and the café houses giant video screens at either end with four top quality video projectors beaming themes from the day's event, plus advertising for the Dana Centre's own forthcoming attractions. Guests can relax above the bar on the mezzanine area, and make use of several high speed internet equipped computers.

Events take place in the two 80-90 seat studios and again state of the art facilities are ever present. Audiences are invited to interact with the lecture presentations via a special key pad that enables voting, Q&A etc. No phone a friend though and definitely no coughing will be entertained, a joke. The whole experience is designed for interactivity between audience and presenters and works very well.

There are plenty of friendly staff on hand and events are co-ordinated by a 'facilitator' complete with headset, mike and a cute Edinburgh accent. It's all very professional and the centre and its staff produce an atmosphere that will encourage discussion and debate on many topics.

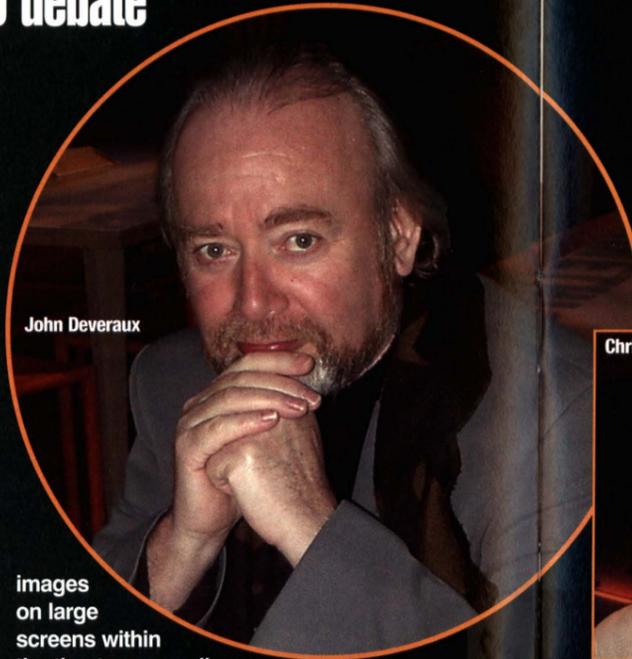
This all sounds great, so what on earth could go wrong in a venue so new and hi tech? Well nothing technically, but to say I was disappointed was a bit of an understatement.

The aim of the presentation was to discuss the reality of the UFO phenomenon and, in order to test the water with the paying audience, we were polled as we entered the theatre before three guest speakers delivered their thoughts and opinions on the subject.

The guests were author and presenter John Deveraux (Earth Lights), Nick Pope (MoD) and Professor Chris French (Psychologist). John Deveraux cited some good examples of earthlights, but then went on to try and convince the audience that we all suffer from muddled memories and that this suggests that even the best witnessed cases might not be as reliable as we believe. Prof. French is heading a study into alleged alien abduction (funded to the tune of EU35,000 - not a lot compared to some research grants but a lot more than the UFO subject on the whole is used to). Chris stuck with his beliefs that sleep paralysis and temporal lobe stimulation are responsible for most abduction claims and that when properly investigated all UFO cases appear solvable. Nick Pope was the subject's only true believer to present his views and did on more than one occasion politely disagree with his fellow guests.

Prior to the event *UFO Magazine* was asked to provide a selection of UFO clips that would perhaps convince doubters in the audience as to the reality of this subject. I offered my services to the Dana Centre suggesting I could present a 10 minute film of some of the best clips and evidence available. This was declined. What the centre wanted was a film that could be shown to the audience prior to the presentations, so that's what they got. Incidentally, Christopher Martin also sent a film to the organisers. I was told on my arrival that Christopher's tape had snapped and they would be only showing *UFO Magazine's* DVD.

After putting in quite a lot of effort and producing a short film that covered many aspects of the subject, I was disappointed to find out that the audience would only see the DVD if they chose to visit the café bar prior to taking their seats in the actual theatre area. It seemed obvious to me that if you were trying to change people's minds about something, it would be a good idea to share all the evidence you have available with them. Alas no. So really the film was a waste of time. Tony Barker, my colleague, and I counted less than ten people in the café prior to the presentations, so it's fair to say 80% of the audience saw nothing other than Paul Deveraux's earthlight photographs. Such a shame when the Dana Centre has the ability to show high quality graphics and



John Deveraux



Chris French

images on large screens within the theatres as well as in the bar.

The invited speakers presented their own research, but in all fairness the questionnaires put to the audience were flying saucer UFO based. The precise content of which was missing from the presentations made.

After the three speakers delivered their works the audience were invited to throw questions across the floor. Most disagreed with Paul and Chris, although what they presented does account for some alleged UFO incidents. Certain members of the audience proceeded to



Event co-ordinators



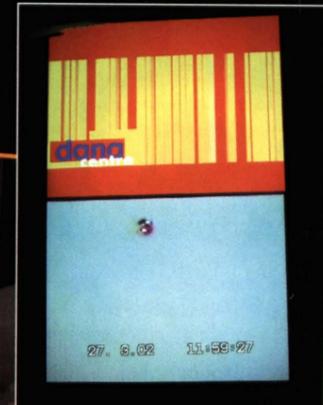
give a basic briefing on the hard factual evidence that is available, quoting radar, pilots, police and other hard to discount reported cases of UFO activity.

For those believers in the audience it was simply a case of 'we've heard it all before'. In fact I am sure if a bright blue UFO landed in front of certain researchers it would be the wrong shade of blue to be convincing evidence.

Russel Callaghan



The cafe bar where giant video screens show themes from the days events



Nick Pope

Nick Pope's review of the night's events

Introduction
The UFO phenomenon is a subject that inspires strong passions. There are a wide range of opinions about the true nature of UFOs, and this means that the subject lends itself to a debate. Such debates have previously been held at UFO conferences and on television, and at Establishment venues such as the Oxford Union. But on 9 December 2003, the subject was debated at the Science Museum. This does not mean that the Science Museum takes any particular view on the UFO phenomenon, but the fact that they are prepared to host such a debate is an encouraging sign for the subject.

The Speakers
To ensure that the debate was lively and wide-ranging, the event organisers wanted to ensure that the speakers had very different areas of expertise and views on the subject. I was invited in view of my former job running the Ministry of Defence's UFO project. Professor Chris French has a reputation as a sceptic, but his current study into the alien abduction phenomenon (featured in the January issue of *UFO Magazine*)

shows that he is one of the few UK scientists taking a serious interest in UFOs and aliens. The final speaker was Paul Devereux, whose research into the so-called Earth Lights phenomenon has been an interesting and controversial contribution to the debate about the true nature of the UFO phenomenon.

The Audience
Part of the thinking behind the Dana Centre is that they want to encourage audience participation. All too often the speakers get most of the time, with only brief time being given for questions at the end. The event organisers take the view that the opinions of the audience are just as important as those of the speakers.

Accordingly, speakers made brief opening and closing statements only, with the rest of the time being given over to questions or statements from the audience. The audience for the UFO debate (which included *UFO Magazine's* Russel Callaghan) certainly needed no encouragement on this score, and were forthright in putting forward their views. Some of the audience were ➤

people who had previously attended UFO conferences, but others were people with no prior involvement in the subject, who came along because they thought the event sounded interesting. As was the case with the speakers, it transpired that there was a wide cross-section of views among the audience. It transpired that among the audience were several people who had had UFO sightings, and at least one abductee.

The Debate

The event was held as a so-called swing debate, with the same questions being posed both before and after the event, so as to show if and how people's opinions had changed as a result of what they had heard from the speakers and from other members of the audience. Voting took place using state of the art electronic keypads, and the results were displayed on a screen at the front of the room. The debate was a lively but friendly affair, and from feedback that I received afterwards, it seems that everybody enjoyed it.

The Results

The five questions posed are reproduced here, together with the three possible answers. The two figures after each answer show how many people voted for each answer before and after the event. The figures were confirmed to me via Email after the event, for use in this article. See **Table 1.**

Analysis

Mathematicians among you will have spotted that more people voted afterwards than before, and that even among the before and after votes, there were differing numbers of votes cast for some of the questions. I believe this is explained by a combination of three factors. Some people arrived late, so more votes were cast at the end than the beginning. Secondly, discrepancies were caused by people failing to operate the keypad correctly and therefore failing to register their votes. Finally, a few people may have left the room briefly, and not voted. Accordingly, I have reproduced the questions below, and converted the numerical figures into percentage figures (rounded to the nearest whole number), to better show the nature of the swing. The first figure represents the percentage of votes cast at the beginning of the event, and the second the percentage of votes cast at the end. See **Table 2.**

Conclusions

I will leave it to the statisticians among you to debate these figures, but I think they show some interesting trends.

The Future

The Dana Centre staff thought that the event was a great success. It created just the sort of lively debate they were looking for. Accordingly, they may return to the UFO phenomenon in the future, or look at a related issue such as alien abduction or crop circles. If they do, I'm sure that *UFO Magazine* will cover the event. As I said at the outset, I believe that the real importance of the debate was that it happened at all. I wonder if, ten years ago, the Science Museum would have wanted to associate itself with the UFO phenomenon in any way? I suspect not. I think it is an encouraging sign that the scientific establishment is now apparently willing to embrace the subject.

Table 1.

If you saw a bright light moving in the sky would you think it was:	Before	After
A UFO?	4	12
A figment of your imagination?	1	0
A natural phenomenon?	34	37
Have you ever seen an unidentified object in the sky?		
Yes	16	24
No	16	23
Unsure	7	7
Do you think some UFOs could be extraterrestrial in origin?		
Yes	25	29
No	5	14
Unsure	15	11
Do you think we are alone in the universe?		
Yes	2	4
No	35	42
Unsure	7	8
Do you believe the government is suppressing information about UFO sightings?		
Yes	24	22
No	11	24
Unsure	9	8

Table 2.

If you saw a bright light moving in the sky would you think it was:	Before	After
A UFO?	10%	24%
A figment of your imagination?	3%	0%
A natural phenomenon?	87%	76%
Have you ever seen an unidentified object in the sky?		
Yes	41%	44%
No	41%	43%
Unsure	18%	13%
Do you think some UFOs could be extraterrestrial in origin?		
Yes	56%	54%
No	11%	26%
Unsure	33%	20%
Do you think we are alone in the universe?		
Yes	5%	7%
No	79%	78%
Unsure	16%	15%
Do you believe the government is suppressing information about UFO sightings?		
Yes	55%	41%
No	25%	44%
Unsure	20%	15%

Were it just the Dana Centre, one might be tempted to write this off as a one-off. However, I was recently approached by the organiser of the Cheltenham Festival of Science, and asked to take part in a debate about UFOs to be held in June. Ufology may not yet be a recognised science in the eyes of the scientific community, but they do seem to be taking a greater interest in the phenomenon. This can only be a good thing for our subject.

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The Object Of Their Vexation

The Herald Press, Huntington, Indiana
Sunday, January 4, 2004

The day after Christmas, three Huntington law officers saw something moving through the sky over the city in broad daylight - but they can't explain what it was...

Chip Olinger was warming up his car when he saw it. He radioed for an extra set of eyes; in fact he got two witnesses.

Greg Hedrick and Randy Hoover looked skyward; the saw it, too. All three are Huntington law officers, guys who have seen just about everything. But this time, they didn't know what they were seeing.

They're hoping someone else might have been looking toward the sky shortly after 2:30 p.m. Friday, December 26, and can at least compare notes, if not provide an explanation.

The object, seen from just north of the city Police Station, came out of the northwest to the steeple of the SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, then shot straight back north. It didn't make any noise, and it remained in their sight for less than a minute.

But it was big - described as the size of a hot air balloon or a backyard trampoline - and low enough for Olinger to think it was going to get hung up on the steeple of the Cherry Street church.

Normally, such an object passing over the city would have lit up emergency lines. But this one didn't. No one called 911; no one called city or county dispatch; and no one called the State Police.

The three officers may have been the only ones to see it. And for a few days, they didn't say anything about it.

"We thought people would think we're crazy," Hoover said.

But now, curiosity had the better of them. Did anyone else see it? And what was it?

Olinger had finished his shift at 2:30 p.m. on the day after Christmas and was warming up his car, parked in the lot across Market Street from the station. He was sitting in the car, facing north.

"It came from a long way off," he said, describing the sighting a week later. "First it looked like a parachute that you can steer, black and curved, but there was nobody in it. It started rolling, a slow roll, and turned upside down. Then it looked like a giant set of bird wings. It did more rolls, and turned into an oblong circle that was orange."

Olinger radioed Hedrick, who was inside the station's kitchen, to come out and look. Hoover, who had just walked out of the station's back door, heard the radio traffic and looked up.

"It was so big, within no time at all I spotted it," Hoover said. "When I first saw it, it was going in a flat plane, hovering, moving slowly right toward the church."

"Then it stopped, began moving in a circular motion, and turned bright orange," Hoover said. It went flat again, and hovered over the steeple.

The officers believe the object turned orange when it reflected the sunlight, "like a compact mirror would if you twirled it," Olinger said.

Hedrick, who did not return the radio call, told the other two that his first impression was that it was "a tire" in the sky, but that made no sense.

Olinger said the object changed shape three or four times. It moved in a straight line, tumbling as it moved, and made no noise.

"It would glide, rotate the wide way around, and stay at one level," Hoover said.

It appeared to be moving along at treetop level, no higher than the roof of the church. It disappeared from Olinger's view after it went behind the church steeple and moved directly north.

Olinger was in the parking lot at Market and Cherry; Hoover was walking from the back door of the station to his car parked at Cherry and Market; and Hedrick was 30 to 35 feet to Hoover's left.



Olinger said the sighting lasted 30-45 seconds; Hoover agreed it was less than a minute.

"It wasn't any kind of flying machine that I can think of," Olinger said. "And it's not like a 50s flying saucer. It was that big, but it didn't have a hump in the middle."

"It was completely circular, dome shaped," Hoover said. "I can't imagine how it could possibly be anything I could relate to. The object would stop and then spin slowly," he said, "a manoeuvre no known aircraft can accomplish. I was never really afraid, I was just in total amazement."

Father Ron Rider, pastor of the SS. Peter and Paul Catholic Church, said he didn't see anything unusual that afternoon, and hasn't received any phone calls from anyone who did.

"That's the first I've heard of it," he said on Friday.

Diane Redlich, one of the managers at the Huntington Municipal Airport, was in the air that afternoon, but had headed to Cincinnati and didn't fly over Huntington.

She said, "Several other planes took off from the local airport that afternoon as well, but there's no record of any out-of-the-ordinary craft making either a takeoff or landing at Huntington."

Bob Scott at Fort Wayne's Smith Field doesn't have any clues either.

"I worked that afternoon and I don't recall anything unusual," he said. "Other than Santa Claus heading home, I don't know what it could have been."

Sandra Lux, public relations manager at Fort Wayne International Airport, did not return a phone call.

Alien Abduction Survey Results

by Marilyn Ruben, M.Sc.

Alien Abduction Experience and Research
www.abduct.com

The Alien Abduction Experience and Research (AAER) web site at www.abduct.com has just completed summarizing results of its very popular Alien Abduction Survey. The world's largest web site on alien abductions has been gathering data from its popular online abduction survey for over six years. The Survey identifies typical experiences shared by many abductees and will let readers compare their experiences with those of known abductees. Readers' anonymous responses were entered into the database. Out of well over 100,000 surveys received, 91,528 were fully completed and used for research purposes.

Survey Results:

Readers were asked to respond to 25 "yes" or "no" questions to see how similar their backgrounds were with other abductees. More "yes" responses indicated a higher likelihood of alien contact or abduction. More than one-fourth of readers (19,653) answered "yes" to up to 15 questions, indicating a suspicious number of events in their background commonly experienced by other abductees. About one-eighth of readers (8,469) answered "yes" for 16 - 20 questions, indicating they had many events in their background commonly experienced by other abductees. At this level, readers were encouraged to begin exploring the abduction possibility, if they had not already done so. About one reader in eighteen (5,206) answered "yes" for 21 - 25 questions indicating an overwhelming number of events in their background commonly experienced by other abductees. At this level, there is a very high probability of alien contact or abduction and many readers were already aware of it at this stage.

Demographic characteristics showed 55% of men (50,316) completed the Abduction Survey, as compared with 45% of women (41,212). The Caucasian race represented 86% (78,300) of the sample size. Hispanics represented 5% (4,612), Asian or Pacific Islanders were 4% (4,040), Blacks were 3% (2,467) and Native Americans (American Indians) were 2% (2,109) of the group. More than two-thirds of readers (62,475) completing the Abduction Survey were 29 or younger, and nearly one third of readers (22,935) were between the ages of 30 and 59.

Abduction "specialness":

1 Over half of all readers (50,123) reported secretly feeling they were "special" or "chosen". This response comes from so many abductees being told how special they are by the aliens. While some may question the sincerity of the aliens making these statements, the bottom line is many abductees either feel or are persuaded to believe they are more important than other people. Many readers are haunted with a sense or urgency that they must discover what special task or mission they are supposed to undertake. If this were destructive thinking to the person, or harmful to friends or family, it could be regarded as cult-thinking. But here for abductees, this sense of feeling chosen is just par for the course.

2 Nearly half of all readers (38,337) reported having a special place they secretly believed held a spiritual meaning just for themselves. As children, many readers had a private place they regarded as a secret place for themselves only, it was not usually shared with siblings or friends. The significance of these secret places is the grip they maintain over the abductee into adulthood. The web site has received many letters from readers describing their secret activities as children including sneaking outside at night after the

family was asleep in bed, in order to meet the alien strangers that taught them many things.

Abduction and the paranormal connection:

3 Over half of all readers (54,607) reported feeling psychic. Readers know or dream about future events for themselves, their families or the world. Some abductees sensed something was about to happen a week before terrorists crashed jets into the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001.

4 More than one-third of readers (38,639) reported unexplainable sounds, apparitions, or unusual events in their homes that they attributed to ghosts. Because ghostly activity is so common among abductees, some researchers wonder what is the connection between ghosts and aliens? Or, do they both represent other entities reaching out through the veil of hidden dimensions to communicate with unsuspecting people?

5 More than half the readers (52,526) reported dreams of flying or being outside their bodies. Many abduction experiences or encounters seem to occur in dimensions other than the conscious waking state. This includes out-of-body experiences that straddle other

dimensions. Going to bed at night does not mean going to sleep for abductees. It is often the beginning of a very busy night of activity. Many abductees have seen other entities, other people, UFOs, monsters, and all sorts of other worldly things in this out-of-body netherland between sleep and consciousness.

New age sensitivity:

6 Nearly one-third of readers (26,503) reported having dreams where superior beings, angels or aliens were educating them about mankind, the universe, global changes or future events. Aliens force the abductees to watch movies from the future, of terrifying catastrophes that will happen to Earth. Abductees usually find this information very disturbing, and are sometimes told it is not too late to make improvements. However, most abductees usually do not know what they can do to prevent these problems.

7 More than half the readers (46,596) reported being more sensitive to issues affecting the environment than shown by other people. This awareness of the fragility of the Earth is often attributed to information shared by the aliens. Many abductees say the aliens indoctrinate them into an awareness of the danger to the Earth's delicate environmental balance. Abductees feel this sensitivity brings them closer to the planet and have a strong desire to protect the Earth, its resources, and its plant and wildlife.

Abduction and health concerns:

8 About one-fifth of readers (20,139) reported consuming more vitamins than other people. Taking numerous vitamin supplements is commonly reported among abductees.

9 More than half the readers (54,607) reported having sinus or migraine headaches. Many abductees have chronic sinus or migraine headaches and are heavy users of over-the-counter or prescription medications. However, it must be recognized that sinusitis and allergies are prevalent among the non-abductee population, and not necessarily indicative of abduction experiences.

10 More than half the readers (51,912) reported having sleeping difficulties. Many abductees have difficulty sleeping and will use night

lights or keep hall or bedroom lights on at night to enable them to go to sleep. Others report taking alcoholic beverages to induce sleep.

11 More than half the readers (46,746) reported waking up with unexplained bruises or other unusual marks. These marks may be small scars in the shape of triangles, dots, or other patterns or imprints that are typically healed over upon awakening or within a day. Some of these have been photographed and are at the web site.

12 Nearly half of all readers (41,289) reported waking up with unexplained nosebleeds. Many abductees reported having partial or full memories of small objects being inserted forcibly up their nostrils, up into their sinus cavities or brain. Despite being told this will not hurt, many abductees cringe with fear at recalling the pain associated with these rapid surgical procedures.

13 About one-tenth of readers (8,465) reported X-rays or other procedures that revealed unexplainable foreign objects lodged in their bodies.

Abduction strangeness:

14 More than one-third of readers (34,540) reported hearing a voice talking to them from inside their own heads which they knew was not their own. Unlike schizophrenics or cult leaders who claim to receive divine or satanic messages, abductees sometimes hear instructions or faint voices speaking to them from inside their heads. Some abductees believe this represents communication or a downloading process whereby aliens transmit educational or informative information directly into their brains.

15 Well more than one-third of readers (38,355) reported experiencing missing time, which is a period of time while awake, where they could not remember what they had done.

This experience was most often noticed after going for a walk or drive and arriving at the destination several hours later than anticipated. Missing time does not include any memory lapses due to drinking, sleeping, medication, mind-altering substances, highway hypnosis, or being lost in reading a good book. Missing time is an important clue for readers wanting to know when abductions could have occurred.

Abduction fears:

16 One-third of readers (30,131) have fear or anxiety over the subject of aliens or UFOs. Not surprisingly, many readers become hypersensitive to the topic of aliens or UFOs, even without a conscious memory of alien contact. Yet their fear is so great, it restricts normal activities of daily life.

17 Over one-third of readers (31,730) reported secretly fearing being accosted or kidnapped if they did not constantly monitor their surroundings. Abductees are apprehensive in situations where other people are not. Abductees are reluctant to let down their guard and typically find themselves in areas where they feel they must remain hyper-vigilant for security reasons. While most abductees do not have any concrete reasons to carry on this way, their behavior is persistent and permanent in this direction. Old habits are difficult to break, and abductees are overly sensitive to any intrusion into their lives from aliens.

18 This fear of a potential assault situation was reported by nearly one-fourth of all readers (18,995) who had seriously considered or had already installed a home security system, even if there was no justification to do so. The sense of imminent danger leads many abductees to buy or install security systems so they can sleep better at night.

UFO sightings and interactions:

19 More than one-third of readers (37,004) reported seeing faces or alien beings near their beds at night that were not explainable. This included experiences from childhood. Many abductees recall how quickly parents would scold them for being afraid of monsters that came out of the closet as if these alien faces were merely the product of over-active imaginations. But many abductees know they have had alien contact since they were children, and seeing alien faces around the bed at night or coming out of the closet is a strong clue of alien contact.

20 Nearly one-third of readers (28,542) reported dreaming about UFO's, being inside UFO's, or interacting with UFO occupants. One of the biggest obstacles for abductees is separating fact from fiction.

Abductees frequently have partial memories of UFO experiences through their dreams. Upon awakening, abductees are torn between what to believe or not believe. Yet contact with other abductees shows abductees are dreaming similar things.

21 More than one-third of readers (35,705) have seen a UFO while two-thirds of readers had not.

Seeing UFOs is an important factor in determining one's connection with aliens, as many abductees have some conscious memory of having seen UFOs in the past.

22 About one-eighth of readers (14,200) have seen a UFO up close within a short walking or driving distance. People who have seen a UFO up close sometimes had partial memories of contact. This is the area where readers can "freeze up" because there is normally a great deal of fear associated with alien encounters.

23 About one-fifth of readers (18,451) reported multiple sightings of UFOs. A smaller number of readers have had multiple sightings of UFOs. Readers with dozens of UFO sightings were typically able to recall alien contact experience in greater frequency and in more detail.

24 About one-tenth of readers (10,031) reported having seen a UFO up close and were compelled to walk, drive or stand near the UFO. Readers who were able to remember such an experience were very often able to remember parts of their abduction experience.

25 About one-eighth of readers (11,654) reported having a waking memory of being inside a UFO or interacting with aliens. Most, if not all, abductees are given instructions telling them to forget everything they have just seen or experienced.

This technique is similar to a post-hypnotic suggestion where the subjects are told they will not remember anything that has just happened. However, some people resist this suggestion as children and adults, and grow up having full recall of these very strange encounters.

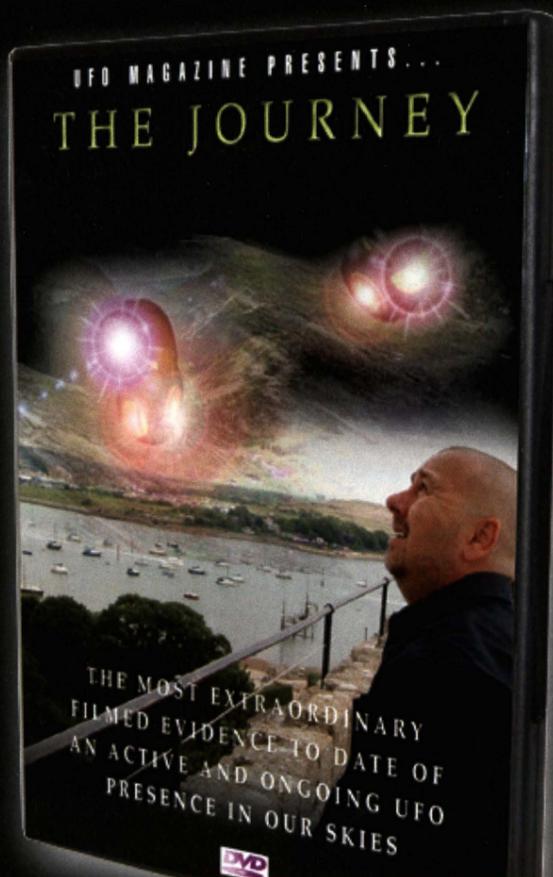
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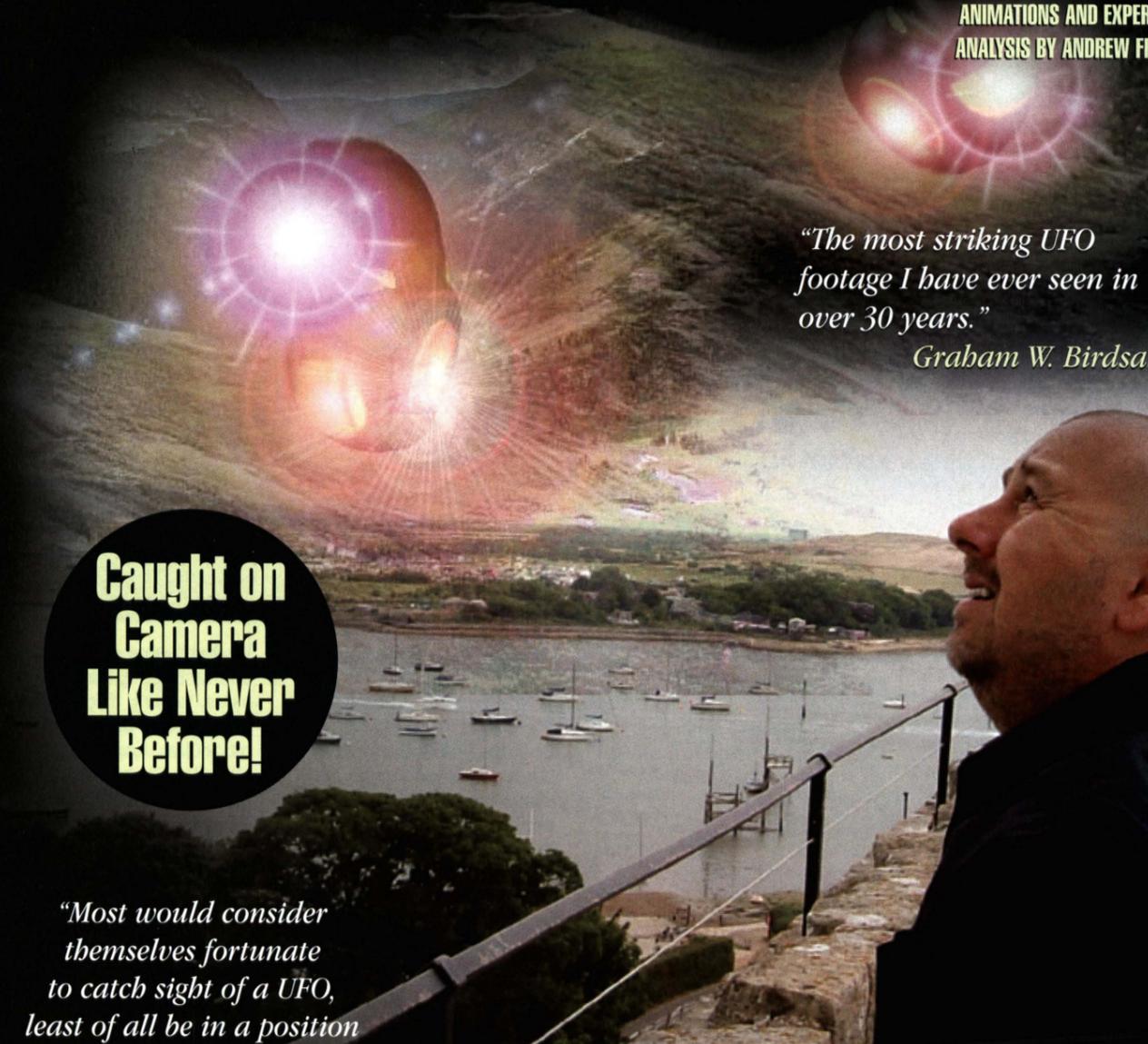
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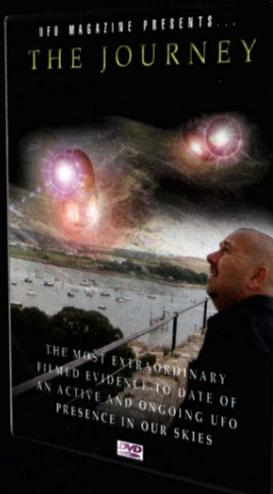
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22. 3.02 12:23:40

"Diary of a Skywatcher"

"Raising children"

How do you tell children there's more to the heavens than at first sight meets the eye. Joanan, our eldest son, is nine years old. Last night he rushed in with his nephew Joram and asked me to show him the constellations of Cygnus and Lyra.

"Look Mum. That's Jupiter over there and that one is Saturn."



She looked up and muttered in a low voice: "Don't tell me you are teaching him to look for UFOs." At that very moment a fiery streak of greenish light entered the atmosphere, heading southwards with a hiss.

After just a few seconds, the fireball exploded with a big bang. The kids were screaming and dancing in the yard, Christien stood baffled and in no time the rest of the family came running out, gazing up in amazement.

"What the hell was that?" my sister-in-law cried out.

"An exploding star," Joanan cried out.

"An imploding space ship," I added with a grin.

The kids were so excited that it took them about an hour and a half to get to sleep...

The 'BOOM' changed our family life in a subtle way: Christien did not mutter anymore when we were discussing the possibilities of tracing life elsewhere in the universe and aliens visiting the Earth.

Over the years, the kids, bombarded by space ships and aliens on Cartoon Network, began playing UFO Commander in their sleeping room and came up with questions about UFOs, aliens, angels and the existence of God. We tried to answer those questions with great care and had inspiring discussions about the possibility that somewhere out there, in the vast emptiness of space, other beings were discussing the same theme.

We had some wonderful enchanting nights under starry skies, looking through our telescope or using a pair of binoculars, hopping from one planet to another. Never again did Joanan mention *UFO Magazine*, although it is in the house every month.

Until last night that is: "You read that magazine and I'm telling you it was not a plane Dad...it was a UFO."

"Okay," I replied, "tomorrow morning we'll take a look at UFO Plaza," the (Internet) UFO portal for the Netherlands.

"Perhaps someone else has seen the same thing."

Next morning at 07.00 a.m., he woke me up: "Come on Dad, let's take a look at UFO Plaza."

I did not believe my ears: "Pardon me?" No way to escape; we went down the stairs in pants and t-shirt, entered the living room and started up the computer. After a minute the screen showed: "UFO Plaza". I scrolled down the menu and scanned the latest reports.....to my utter amazement there it was:

Report from Zwolle (10 miles from the place where we live): strange light appeared in the northern skies, about 8 p.m.

Witness reports an anomalous light. It stopped in midair and suddenly went in the opposite direction. Sighting lasted about two minutes.

I sat back in silence; it was still dark outside...my son waiting behind me.



"Well Dad"? With an early morning grin I turned my face to the boy. "You were right lad." Slowly we went up the stairs, he put his little hand in mine and suddenly I realized our relationship would never be the same.

We shared a secret.

A moment later Christien woke up with a yawn: "Don't tell me he saw a UFO."

She did not see the smile across my face.

Jan Blei, January 2004, Holland

Spain in Close Encounter with a Meteorite

Thousands of people living in Spain called emergency services after seeing balls of fire in the sky.

Experts think the fireballs may have been part of a meteorite burning as it fell through the atmosphere to Earth.

"I heard a big explosion, like an earth tremor, and a white cloud of smoke formed," one eyewitness said.

Police later searched the area where they thought the fireballs would have fallen in northern Spain, but they couldn't find any pieces of it.

Some people were worried when they first saw the flames, because they thought a plane might have caught fire, but this has been ruled out.

Instead Jose Angel, director of the University of Santiago's observatory, said they were more likely to be a meteorite crashing into the Earth.

The fireballs were spotted over Santiago de Compostela, Madrid and around the coast of Valencia in the east.

In northern Leon province, residents reported seeing a ball of fire light up the sky and explode in a mountainous area, igniting a fire and shaking house windows.

A similar explosion was heard near Palencia in the north.

Fire-fighters extinguished a blaze behind a roadside discotheque in the Castellon area.

Rescuers searched for the wreckage of airplanes or unusual rocks in several places, but found no clues.

The National Meteorological Institute said that its radars and satellite images showed nothing abnormal.

Aviation authorities said they had no knowledge of any plane crash.

Astronomers at the University of Santiago de Compostela said they suspected a meteorite.

Wales 2003

On 2 October last year this wonderful picture was captured by a Welsh schoolboy. He impressed NASA after taking an amazing picture of what seems to be a meteor while he was out skateboarding.

Fifteen-year-old Jonathan Burnett snapped the fiery ball as he was taking photos of his mates doing skate stunts.

He rushed to his home in South Wales to show his parents and later Emailed it to NASA. They're now trying to decide exactly what it is.

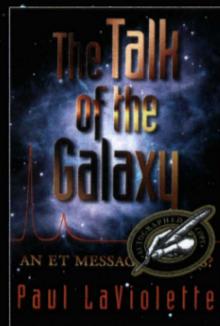
Jonathan first thought it was just the sun reflecting off the clouds.



He took two photos, one of the 'meteor' hurtling through the earth's atmosphere and one of it disintegrating and leaving a burning trail.

But NASA experts can't agree exactly what it is yet. Apart from a meteor, they say it could be a plane's trail or maybe something even more unusual...

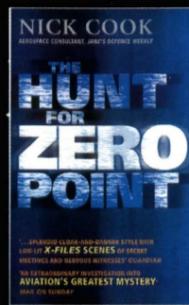
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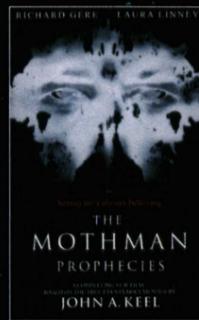
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PAPERBACK

The Hunt for Zero Point traces the origins of advanced technologies back to the closing days of WWII, and how Nazi scientists enabled the U.S. to stay one step ahead of the Soviet Union. But has an even bigger step been taken? One of the best books for ages, forget the science fiction - this is science fact!

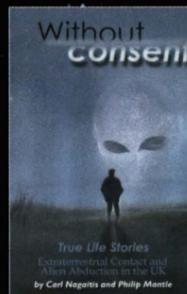
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PAPERBACK

This is not a book about the hit movie, but a revised version of John Keel's original work which inspired its making. For those that have seen the movie, this is an 'absolute must'. For anyone who hasn't, be prepared for what lies in store, because Keel is describing *real* and extraordinary experiences which impacted upon *real* people - and were scared witless!

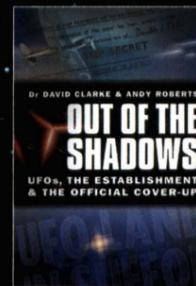
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PAPERBACK

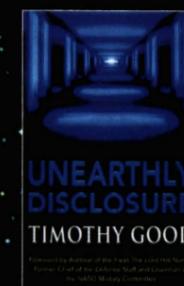
Without Consent, newly reissued by Beyond Publications, is a laudable study for readers wishing to understand the alien abduction phenomenon. Plainly presented, *Without Consent* neither indulges in unfettered speculation nor subjective interpretation; the cases it presents stand as representative enigmas from the annals of British ufology. The authors approach the abduction enigma as a challenge to conventional thought, leaving the verdict to the reader. *Without Consent* is a short, sensible primer that shines a much-needed light on the state of UFO research in the UK.

QP/XX174 Price: £11.50 Europe £13.50 USA/Rest of World £15.50



The British Government's early involvement in the UFO issue is brought to the fore by Dr. David Clarke and Andy Roberts. You may not agree with their conclusions, but you cannot fail to be impressed by the sheer wealth of reports, eye-witness testimony and hitherto classified UFO documents they uncovered. Read the facts and decide for yourselves!

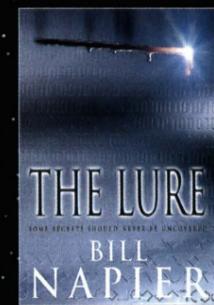
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PAPERBACK

Best-selling author Timothy Good reveals startling new evidence which suggests that the alien presence is firmly fixed at hidden locations around the world. A meeting between Timothy and high officials at the Pentagon is but one of many fascinating disclosures. Highly recommended.

QP/XX152 Price: £8.49 Europe £10.49 USA/Rest of World £12.49



PAPERBACK

The Lure, by Professor Bill Napier, an astronomer at the Armagh Observatory in Northern Ireland, is a work of fiction, but brilliantly intertwined with science fact. As a group of astronomers and scientists ponder over how best to inform the world they have discovered an extraterrestrial signal, the powers-that-be set about trying to stop them. A cracking yarn!

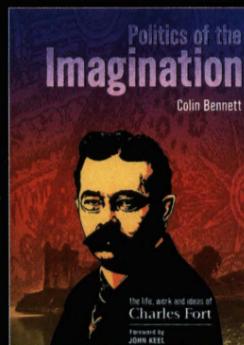
QP/XX166 Price: £8.49 Europe £10.49 USA/Rest of World £12.49



PAPERBACK

Reg Presley, lead singer of "The Troggs", here details the wild things that he believes the government secretly knows about, but will go to the most extraordinary lengths to stop the public from finding out. He presents evidence of alien visitation, crop-circles and his scientific theory of why the Earth is gradually changing shape.

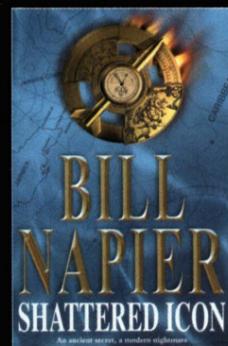
QP/XX182 Price: £18.49 Europe £20.99 USA/Rest of World £23.49



PAPERBACK

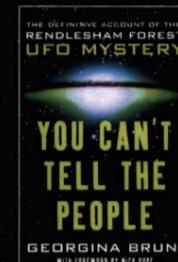
Colin Bennett's astute study of the life and times of Charles Fort is rich in detail and high in coming to understand what the man was all about. Years ahead of his time in alternative thinking and open to all possibilities, Fort's reputation and methodology have been tarnished to some extent by those who 'claim to support them', but they are, in fact, as closed-minded as they come. The scourge of sceptics and debunkers, Colin Bennett does the business!

QP/XX170 Price: £14.99 Europe £16.49 USA/Rest of World £18.49



As an antique map dealer in a small English town, Harry Blake appreciates the quiet life. But when a local land-owner asks him to value a 400 year old journal and twelve hours later he is brutally murdered, Harry's peace of mind is shattered. What does the dusty journal contain that is a matter of life or death? Why is someone prepared to pay Harry a fortune to steal it? He turns to marine historian Zola Khan to uncover the mysteries. And when they meet at the old Greenwich Observatory, Harry is convinced there is more to Zola than meets the eye. The trail of the journal leads him into a world of deadly Elizabethan conspiracies, and the thread of history takes him through a thousand years of religious intrigue back to the blood-soaked Crusades. And he finally learns that at stake are millions of dollars and a plan to trigger nothing less than war...

QP/XX183 Price: £14.99 Europe £17.49 USA/Rest of World £19.99



PAPERBACK

Britain's answer to Roswell? What actually occurred near the joint twin bases of RAF Woodbridge and RAF Bentwaters, Suffolk, in December 1980? Why would former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher issue a comment that would later feature as the title for this stunning new book? New facts and eye witnesses uncovered. A highly recommended work.

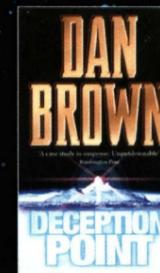
QP/XX156 Price: £9.49 Europe £11.49 USA/Rest of World £13.49



PAPERBACK

A staggering 834 pages in length, and one of the bargain books of the year. Packed with UFO case incidents and a myriad of UFO-related topics gleaned from around the world, this is a veritable A-Z of all things alien. Lacks updated info on UK matters, but is nonetheless a book that will keep you fully engrossed until Xmas 2004!

QP/XX172 Price: £11.99 Europe £13.99 USA/Rest of World £15.99



PAPERBACK

The action comes thick and fast when NASA inform the President they have discovered life within an ancient meteorite discovered under layers of Arctic ice. But is it the real thing? That and numerous other questions posed throughout the book are only resolved at the end. But in-between we guarantee you will be thrilled by the multiplicity of plots and sub-plots injected by Dan Brown in what is surely the thriller of the year. You will not be disappointed!

QP/XX171 Price: £7.49 Europe £9.49 USA/Rest of World £11.49

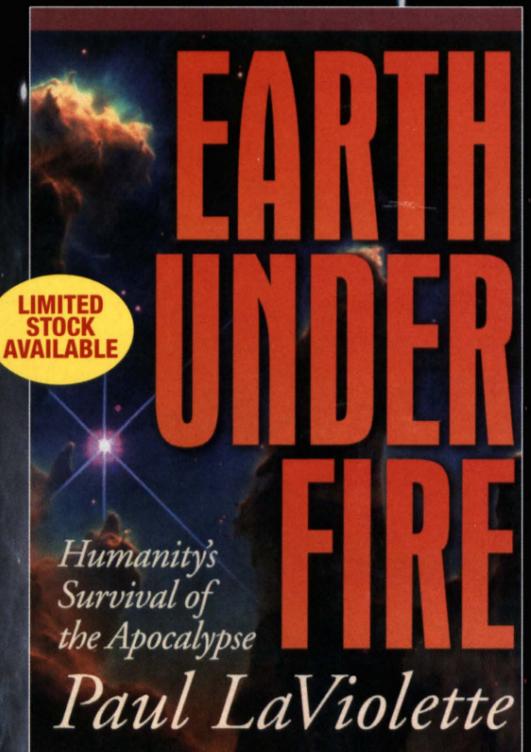


PAPERBACK

"AWAKENING" will give the reader a concise review of the abduction phenomenon, from the Contact experiencers themselves, right through to understanding the coping process and looking at what Contact may mean. "In my opinion this will become the bible of the Alien Abduction Phenomenon and will make itself apparent in every library the world over." Dr. Roger Leir

QP/XX175 Price: £11.50 Europe £13.50 USA/Rest of World £15.50

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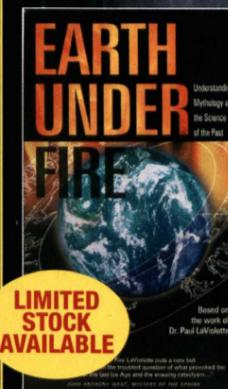
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FREE VIDEO WHEN YOU PURCHASE THE BOOK EARTH UNDER FIRE

Ancient myth and esoteric lore from around the world tell frightening tales of humanity's suffering through destructions by fire and flood, legends of catastrophe so extreme and so pervasive that now we tend to discount them as imaginative exaggerations. Paul LaViolette thought so too, until he discovered an ancient time-capsule cryptogram written in the constellations that relates the Galactic cause of these events. In *Earth Under Fire* he explains how this scientifically advanced message combines with ancient esoteric lore to alert us to a cyclical cosmic disaster, one that could recur today virtually without warning.

QP/XX186 Price: £17.50 Europe £19.50 USA/Rest of World £21.50

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Join Dr. Paul LaViolette and host Johanna Lambert, as we explore our galactic neighbourhood and reveal that the Earth is periodically visited by a celestial catastrophe. Whether it is the cosmic explosion in our Galaxy, or the discovery that major loss of life on Earth, in the past, may be caused by influxes of cosmic dust - Dr. Paul LaViolette's theories continue to gain ground in the scientific community. Similar to the recent Hollywood films *Deep Impact* and *Armageddon*, *Earth Under Fire* tackles the idea that there may be disasters from space that have shaped our past and will affect our future.

QP/436 PRICE: UK £13.99 EUROPE £15.99

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"We're back"



However judging by the tone in administrator Sean O'Keefe's statements:

"This is a big night for NASA. We're back. I am very, very proud of this team, and we're on Mars."

It seems he is unaware of the millions of pounds, dollars and euros made available to embark the UK based Beagle 2 on a similar mission. I might be sounding a little conspiratorial here but would administrator O'Keefe and NASA have celebrated our forgotten efforts to independently search for signs of past life on the Red Planet with such excitement if we had got there first. It seems the Beagle 2 mission could have been doomed before it even left earth's orbit.

Let's face it, the technology that was to deliver Beagle 2 to the surface of Mars was the same parachute and airbag systems that got 'Spirit and an earlier Robotic Rover' safely and accurately to Mars.

Would NASA have accepted second place?

Here's their version of events anyway.

Mars Exploration Rover Spirit successfully sent a radio signal after the spacecraft had bounced and rolled for several minutes

Mars Exploration Rover



utes following its initial impact at 11:35 p.m. EST (8:35 p.m. Pacific Standard Time) on January 3.

"This is a big night for NASA," said NASA Administrator Sean O'Keefe. "We're back. I am very, very proud of this team, and we're on Mars."

Congratulations are in order for the team of experts at NASA responsible for the epic journey and successful landing of the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit.

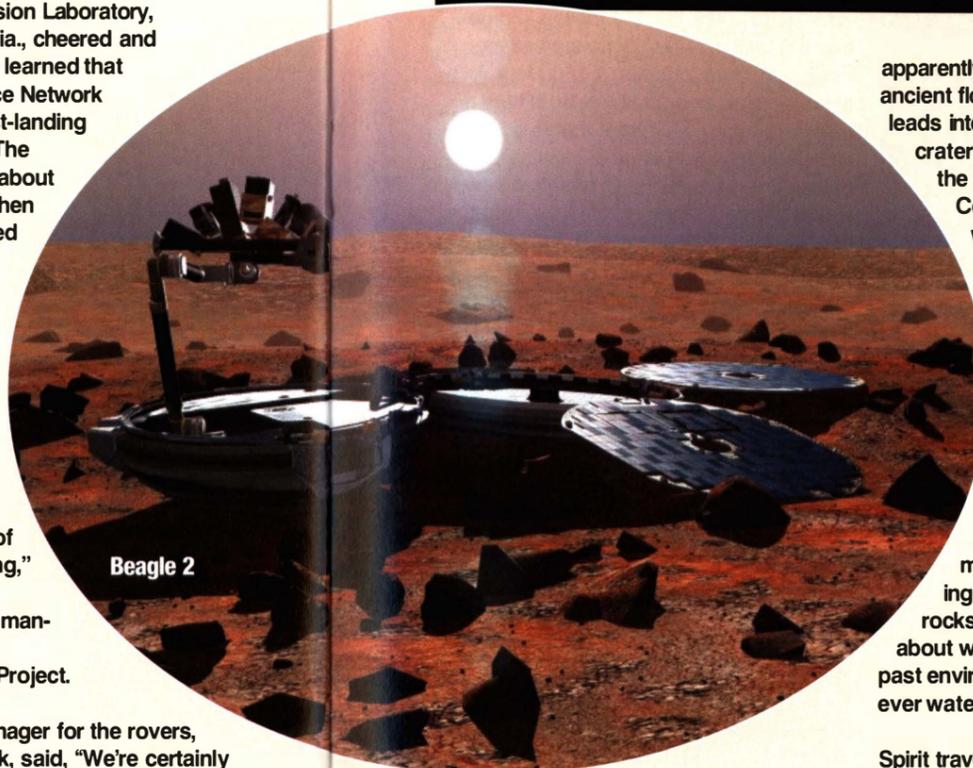
Members of the mission's flight team at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California, cheered and clapped when they learned that NASA's Deep Space Network had received a post-landing signal from Spirit. The cheering resumed about three hours later when the rover transmitted its first images to Earth, relaying them through NASA's Mars Odyssey orbiter.

"We've got many steps to go before this mission is over, but we've retired a lot of risk with this landing," said JPL's Pete Theisinger, project manager for the Mars Exploration Rover Project.

Deputy project manager for the rovers, JPL's Richard Cook, said, "We're certainly looking forward to Opportunity landing three weeks from now." Opportunity is Spirit's twin rover, heading for the opposite side of Mars.

Dr. Charles Elachi, JPL director, said, "To achieve this mission, we have assembled the best team of young women and men this country can put together. Essential work was done by other NASA centers and by our industrial and academic partners."

First Look at Spirit on Mars-2 - Jan. 4, 2004



Beagle 2

apparently carved by ancient flows of water, leads into Gusev. The crater itself, a basin the size of Connecticut, was created by an asteroid or comet impact early in Mars' history.

Spirit's task is to spend the next three months exploring for clues in rocks and soil about whether the past environment at this part of Mars was ever watery and suitable to sustain life.

Spirit travelled 487 million kilometres (302.6 million) miles to reach Mars after its launch from Cape Canaveral Air Force Station, Florida, on June 10, 2003. Its twin, Mars Exploration Rover Opportunity, was launched on July 7, 2003, and is on course for a landing on the opposite side of Mars on January 25 (Universal Time and EST; 9:05 p.m. on Jan. 24, PST).

The flight team expects to spend more than a week directing Spirit through a series of steps in unfolding, standing up



View From Above Spirit on Mars-2 - Jan. 4, 2004. This mosaic image taken by the navigation camera on the Mars Exploration Rover Spirit has been reprocessed to project a clear overhead view of the rover on the surface of Mars.

and other preparations necessary before the rover rolls off of its lander platform to get its wheels onto the ground.

Meanwhile, Spirit's cameras and a mineral-identifying infrared instrument will begin examining the surrounding terrain. That information will help engineers and scientists decide which direction to send the rover first.

JPL-NEWS RELEASE: 2004-003
©All images NASA

We look back at over 40 years of man's attempts to visit and study our nearest planetary neighbour Mars...

- July 2003: U.S. Opportunity rover expected to land on Mars in late January 2004.
- June 2003: European Mars Express orbiter enters Mars orbit in December 2003.
- June 2003: British Beagle 2 lander apparently fails December 2003.
- June 2003: U.S. Spirit rover lands on Mars in January 2004.
- March 2001: U.S. Mars Odyssey spacecraft arrives in orbit October 2001. Continues to operate.
- January 1999: Mars Polar lander and Deep Space 2 microprobes lost on arrival at Mars in December 1999.

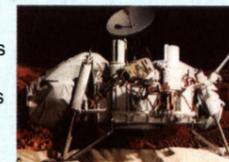


- December 1998: U.S. Mars Climate Orbiter lost on arrival at Mars in September 1999.
- July 1998: Japanese Nozomi spacecraft fails to enter Mars orbit in December 2003.
- December 1996: U.S. Mars Pathfinder lander and Sojourner rover land on Mars in July 1997. Last transmission September 1997.
- November 1996: Russian Mars 96 orbiter and landers fail on launch.
- November 1996: U.S. Mars Global Surveyor arrives in orbit around Mars in September 1997. It has returned more than 134,000 photographs and continues to operate.



- September 1992: U.S. Mars Observer orbiter fails in August 1993 as it nears Mars.
- July 1988: Soviet Phobos 1 orbiter and lander fail one month after launch. Phobos 2, launched five days after Phobos 1, is lost March 1989 near the Mars moon after which it was named.
- September 1975: U.S. Viking 2 orbiter arrives at Mars in August 1976. Viking 2 lander arrives following month. Orbiter operates until 1987; lander operates until 1980.

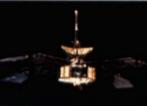
- August 1975: U.S. Viking 1 orbiter arrives at Mars in June 1976. Viking 1 lander arrives the following month. The orbiter operates until 1980; lander operates until 1982. Together, the four Viking spacecraft have returned more than 50,000 photographs.
- August 1973: Soviet Mars 6 and 7 combination flyby module-Lander spacecraft arrive at Mars in March 1974. Mars 6 Lander smashes into Mars; Mars 7 lander misses planet.
- July 1973: Soviet Mars 4 spacecraft flies past Mars in February 1974, but fails to enter orbit. That same month, the Soviet Mars 5 spacecraft arrives in orbit, but operates for only a few days.



- May 1971: U.S. Mariner 8 orbiter fails on launch. The same month, the Soviet Kosmos 419 lander achieves Earth orbit only. The Soviet Mars 2 orbiter-lander arrives at Mars in November 1971; no useful data received after lander burns up. Soviet Mars 3 orbiter-lander arrives December 1971; lander operates on surface for 20 seconds before failing. U.S. Mariner 9 orbiter arrives at Mars in November, operates until October 1972, returns 7,329 photos.
- March 1969: U.S. Mariner 7 spacecraft flies past Mars in August 1969 and returns 126 photos.
- February 1969: U.S. Mariner 6 spacecraft flies past Mars in July 1969 and returns 75 photos.



- November 1964: Soviet Zond 2 spacecraft flies past Mars, but radio fails and no data is returned.
- November 1964: American Mariner 3 spacecraft fails to fly past planet. Mariner 4, launched three weeks later, succeeds in flying past planet in July 1965 and returns 21 photos.
- November 1962: Soviet Mars 1 spacecraft radio fails en route its flyby of Mars. A second, unnamed Soviet spacecraft achieves Earth orbit only, fails to fly past Mars.
- October 1962: An unnamed Soviet spacecraft achieves Earth orbit only, fails to fly past Mars.
- October 1960: Two unnamed Soviet spacecraft achieve Earth orbit only, fail to fly past Mars.



©All images NASA

Source: NASA

How Did Navigators Hit Their Precise Landing Target on Mars?



Anyone who's been blindfolded and spun around knows how hard it is to "pin the tail on the donkey", even though players are pointed in the right direction when they last look at their target. To land in a precise location on Mars after travelling over 300 million miles, navigators at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) had to overcome the head-spinning challenges of calculating the exact speeds of a rotating Earth, a rotating Mars, and a rotating spacecraft, while they all simultaneously are spinning in their own radical orbits around the Sun.

All the hard work paid off January 3 when navigators hit their target at the top of the Martian atmosphere to within about 200 metres (660 feet), setting a new standard for navigation accuracy for all future interplanetary missions. "The trajectory was so perfect that not only was it within 200 metres, we also didn't need to adjust course in the final eight days of cruise," said Dr. Michael Watkins, navigation and mission design manager at JPL.

Navigators cancelled two trajectory correction manoeuvres that were scheduled to correct the flight path by firing a series of small engine thrusters. The navigation team researched the exact performance of the engine thrusters to a tiny fraction of a millimetre per second to ensure flawless aiming for the four previous manoeuvres.

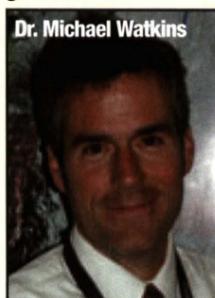
"The Mars Exploration Rover spacecraft design team helped our ability to navigate precisely in the sense that they created a dynamically quiet spacecraft. Spirit didn't

thrust much during prior trajectory manoeuvres because the spacecraft was spinning for stability, and when it did thrust, it did so in a way that was easy for navigators to predict movement," said Watkins. Spacecraft thruster firings are a significant effect navigators have to deal with, but even the seemingly insignificant solar radiation pressure and thermal radiation forces acting on the spacecraft to a level equal to less than a billionth of the acceleration of gravity one feels on the Earth need to be taken into account.

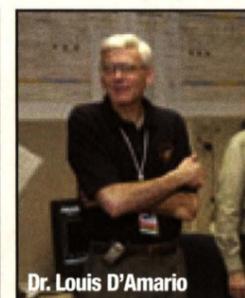
Without knowing the acceleration error to that degree, the spacecraft would have moved off course by 3.7 km (2.3 miles) over 10 days.

"We had to know everything from how the iron molten lava in the centre of the Earth was churning, to how plate tectonic movements were affecting the wobble of the Earth, to how the plasma in the atmosphere delayed the radio signals to and from the Deep Space Network stations," explained Dr. Louis D'Amario, Mars Exploration Rover navigation team chief.

"We assembled the best navigation team in the world with experts in orbit determination, propulsive manoeuvre design, and entry, descent, and landing trajectory analysis," said D'Amario. The navigation team has been working extremely hard on this mission for three years - they even sacrificed their holidays this December and New Year's Eve, and they have essentially worked around the clock for the last two weeks.



Dr. Michael Watkins



Dr. Louis D'Amario

Navigators use radio signals sent and received by the Deep Space Network (DSN) antennas on Earth to compute spacecraft position and velocity. Three DSN sites are roughly equally spread around Earth's globe at 120-degree intervals, so that antennas are pointed toward Mars at any given time as the Earth turns.

If the exact location of any of these antennas is incorrect by just 5 centimetres (2 inches) on the surface of Earth, that math error builds over the 150 million kilometres (90 million miles) distance between Earth and Mars, creating a 1500-foot (0.3-mile) location error at Mars. So hitting a precise landing site target that is scientifically interesting on Mars is impossible unless the calculations of how fast Earth is rotating on its own axis is known to the timing of 0.2 milliseconds. At the other end of the journey, navigators must also know the location of Mars to the level of accuracy of several hundred metres.

Martians Purposely Screwing With Earthly Probes

LOS ANGELES (Wireless Flash) -- Scientists have yet to connect with Europe's Beagle 2 Mars probe, but a nuclear physicist in Los Angeles has a spacey explanation: Martians are sabotaging the satellites.

Dr. Franklin Ruehl says there's been so many snafus connected with the Mars probes, especially when compared to other space probes, that Martian intervention can't be ruled out as a cause.

Evidence of intelligent life has yet to be found on Mars' surface, but Ruehl speculates that there's an underground civilization purposely trying to avoid detection by Earthlings.

He's not basing his theories on old sci-fi films. Ruehl says there are many structures on Mars that show signs of an advanced culture, including the famous "Face on Mars" and a giant cemetery near the polar caps which features perfectly arranged tombstones standing 200 feet high.

Ruehl realizes his theories are not mainstream science, but he figures to be vindicated soon because at least two Mars probes are reaching Mars in the coming weeks.

2003-12-31 - Wireless Flash Weird News

Colour Images of Mars

Russel Callaghan

I am having great difficulty in understanding some of the so called problems NASA are citing as to the lack of colour images being sent back to earth from the Spirit Rover.

Graham Ennis, *UFO Magazine's* science correspondent has suggested all is not quite above board with earlier colour images released of the Martian surface. Well I am sure there are those out there who might think we are off our rockers in making some of the suggestions that we have published, but how come NASA expect us to believe that they can't show us colour photographs yet because the antenna has to be just right and 'well, we have to twiddle this and turn that' etc, etc.

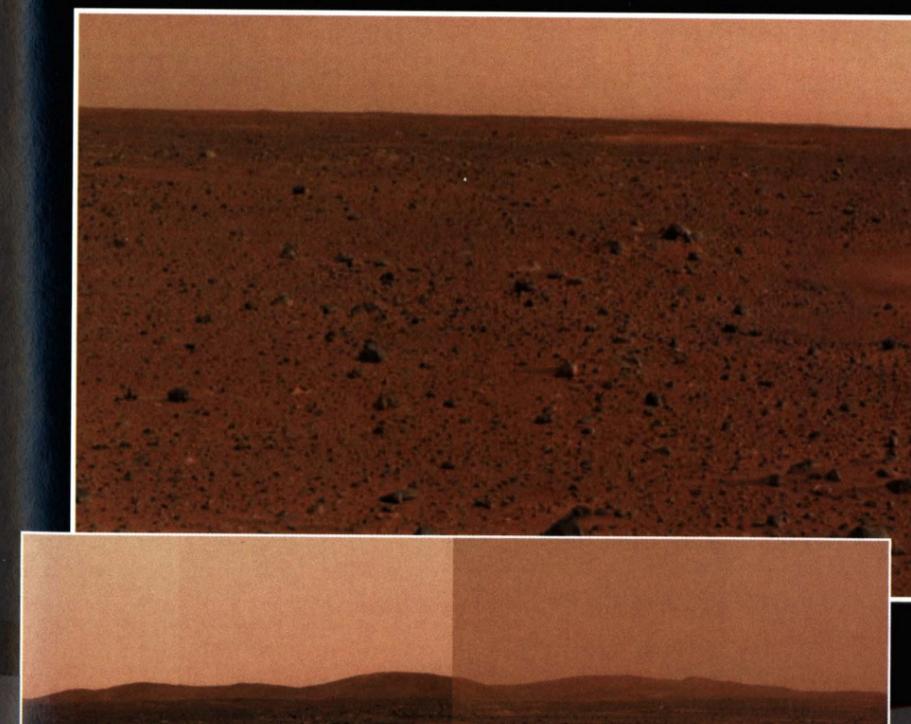
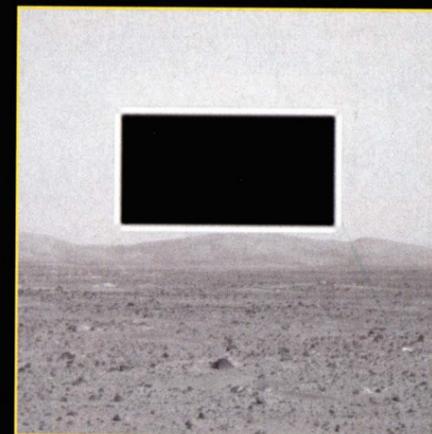
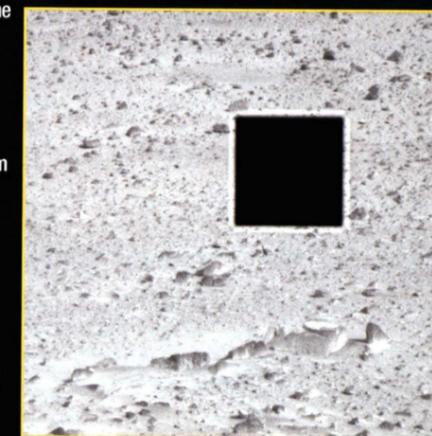
Come on, is NASA telling us that the colour images come down a different aerial than the black and white ones? If that's the case, did the three dimensional landscape transmitted after just 48 hours on the surface, have it's own antenna also?

Something that was announced in one recent press release was the mention of 'having the colour filters in place and the images stored on board the rover.'



While writing this short article I was able to download one colour image, referred to on the NASA website as a thumbnail. It shows nothing but the rusty backdrop that has long been associated with images of Mars.

It is 2004. Colour is not a problem.



Update

Since writing the piece above NASA have begun publishing colour images of the surface (two so far, 12 January 2004) but watch out for next month's magazine. We already have some proof that all is not quite as it seems with some of the images distributed by NASA.

If we are correct in our assumptions, the manipulation of images could indeed point to a cover-up on a monumental scale.

The images shown here with black areas are according to NASA, missing some of the data (it is still stored onboard spirit awaiting transmission). To enjoy the 3D landscape of Mars you will need a pair of 3D glasses, if not get someone to buy you a box of 'Quality Street chocolates' and use a red and a green sweet wrapper, it works just as well!

©All images NASA

Galaxy's life zone pinpointed

Australian scientists have helped narrow the search for extraterrestrial life.

Researchers from Melbourne's Swinburne University of Technology have identified the part of our galaxy where Earth-like planets capable of harbouring life are likely to flourish.

It is called the Galactic Habitable Zone - an area where rocky planets not only form easily, but can safely harbour life away from deadly hazards such as exploding stars.



Professor Brad Gibson

The ring-shaped region contains about 10 per cent of the galaxy's 200 billion or so stars and, aptly, includes our own sun.

Scientists from Swinburne University of Technology and the University of New South Wales wrote the research paper, which was published in the journal *Science*.

The three researchers used a model that examined whether stars were likely to have life-bearing planets.

Such stars need to be old, so their planets have time to develop life.

They need to contain metal, essential for the formation of rocky planets.

And they need to be away from supernovas, or exploding stars, which can be fatal to life in neighbouring solar systems. Such stars, the team found, were concentrated in the part of the galaxy they dubbed the Galactic Habitable Zone, between 23,000 and 30,000 light years away from the centre of the galaxy (which is about 100,000 light years wide).

"Not surprisingly, Earth's solar system falls within the zone, although it's younger and further from the galactic centre than the average complex life-bearing planet," said a co-author of the paper, Yeshe Fenner, from Swinburne's Centre for Astrophysics and Supercomputing.

Stars that contain metals are most likely to harbour rocky planets, although those with too much metal could be dangerous, the researchers said.

Stars that were too rich in metal spawned giant planets with orbits dangerous to smaller, Earth-like planets.

"There is a Goldilocks zone of metallicity: with too little metallicity, Earth-mass planets are unable to form, or with too much metallicity, giant planets destroy Earth-mass planets," the paper said.

Another of the researchers, Professor Brad Gibson of Swinburne, said the discovery of the GHZ did not mean advanced life necessarily existed beyond Earth, "but if there is life, we've determined where you are most likely to find it".

"Our Milky Way galaxy is home to hundreds of billions of stars but until recently astronomers could only guess as to how many are hospitable for the development of complex life," said co-author Dr Charles Lineweaver from the University of NSW.

"What we have done for the first time is to quantify carefully where complex (animal) life is likely to exist."

CREDIT Stephen Caughy
Science Reporter
January 3, 2004

1st Annual Exopolitics Expo - X-Conference

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Paradigm Research Group announces the speaker lineup for the X-Conference and includes 23 presenters from the United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Italy, and Australia. This is the strongest group of experts ever assembled to speak on the governmental, political and media aspects of 50+ years of a government imposed truth embargo on information confirming an extraterrestrial presence engaging the human race.

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Contact: Stephen Bassett,
Executive Director
Phone: 202-431-2459

Paradigm Research Group was founded in 1996 to support the work of research/activist organizations addressing the science and politics of extraterrestrial related phenomena.

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Japanese Mars mission 'abandoned'

Officials have decided not to put the Nozomi space craft into orbit around the planet.

Last-ditch attempts to fix an onboard electrical fault have failed, and the probe will be steered off into space.

This will stop Nozomi crashing into Mars and possibly contaminating its environment, which may once have harboured life - and perhaps still does.

The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said a final attempt was made on Tuesday to remotely repair electronic circuitry on the Nozomi probe.

"But we failed to fix the short-circuit in the electric system and, as a result, we gave up the plan to place Nozomi into orbit around Mars," said researcher Yasunori Matogawa.

A spokesman for the Embassy of Japan in the UK confirmed that the mission had been aborted.

Collision course

Nozomi will now be directed away from Mars to stop it crashing into the planet.

It will probably end up circling the Sun somewhere beyond the fourth planet. But the agency has not lost all hope of getting something out of the mission.

Engineers will continue trying to fix the circuit so that they can use the probe for other space observations.

Nozomi, which means "hope" in Japanese, was launched in July 1998 and should have arrived at Mars the following autumn.

But it has been dogged by technical problems since soon after take off. A technical fault left Nozomi low on fuel and its flight path had to be radically altered to get it to the Red Planet.

Japan has given up on its first interplanetary space mission on the final leg of the journey to Mars.

Two fly-bys around the Earth put it back on track, but the craft was exposed to a solar flare that damaged its electrical systems.

Rocket failure

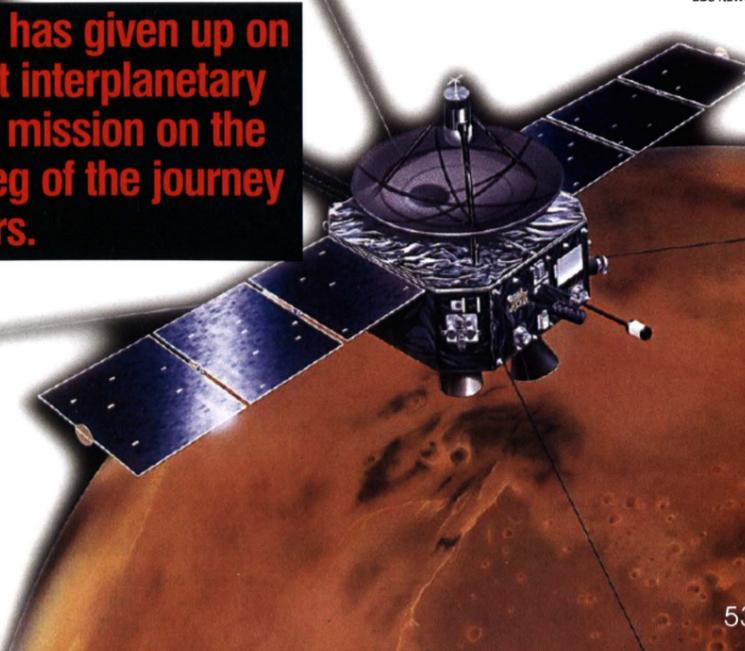
The abandonment of the Mars mission is the latest setback for Japan's space programme.

Last month, it was forced to destroy a rocket carrying two spy satellites intended to monitor North Korea.

Officials said the rocket had to be destroyed after take-off because of an unspecified technical failure.

It came just weeks after China's recent success in sending an astronaut into space.

BBC NEWS



Future Flight

The Shape of Things To Come

It is difficult to appreciate now the overwhelming challenge that faced Wilbur and Orville Wright as they attempted the first powered flight on 17 December, 1903.

But as the aviation industry looks towards the next 100 years, it will have to confront challenges at least as daunting as those faced by the Wright brothers.

Growth in air travel is expected to soar over the next 30 years and beyond, and there is a real possibility that the aircraft industry will struggle to keep up.

Manufacturers are also under pressure to cut noise and emissions from aircraft. Innovative new technologies may come to the rescue, but only if they satisfy a financial bottom line.

The UK Government estimates growth in passengers at around 4% per year until 2030. Industry forecasts broadly agree with this projection.

"Occasionally, things like the Gulf War and the Sars epidemic slow that down for a short period, but then it goes back up to the same level roughly a year later," says David Velupillai, regional spokesperson for European aircraft manufacturer Airbus.

"Looking to the future, passengers will double every 15 years and triple every 23 years."

Super-jumbo

Airbus's response to the challenge posed by rising demand is the A380 - a king-size double-decker aircraft able to seat a total of 555 passengers, about 155 more than current jumbos. The A380 will house a lounge, a bar, showers and a gymnasium.

This "super-jumbo" is primarily designed for heavily travelled routes such as London to Singapore, London to New York and Tokyo to Los Angeles.

But at US space agency's NASA Langley Research Center in Virginia, US, researchers have been working on a different vision for the future of aviation.

The Small Aircraft Transportation System (SATS) offers an alternative solution to the problem of burgeoning demand for air travel.

SATS, its originators suggest, would divert pressure away from the "hub-and-spoke" model of air travel. Hub-and-spoke refers to the typically US model of passengers being processed through large "hub" airports and then on to secondary flights to "spoke" airports near their final destination.

Air-taxis

The vision of SATS is of a nation of air travellers hopping between small airports on a point-to-point, on-demand basis in "air-taxis".

NASA is designing new aircraft for the job: 4-8-seater passenger jets and looking further to the future, personal air vehicles (PAVs), which it says would be affordable for the general public and be self-operated without the need for a pilot.

Sats aircraft would also use computer display technology called "synthetic vision". This provides a virtual map of the terrain below the aircraft. This will allow pilots to land safely in low-visibility on badly-lit landing strips at small airports.

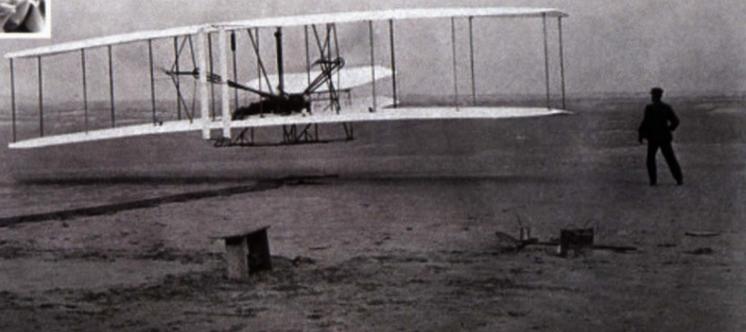
Engine technology is at the forefront of research into future aircraft. One of the developments we are most likely to see before too long is a move to "all-electric" engines and aircraft.

THE FUTURE OF FLIGHT?

- Super-jumbos
- Air-taxis
- All-electric aircraft
- Scramjets
- Flying wings



Orville and Wilbur Wright



First flight at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, on December 17 1903

"Looking to the future, passengers will double every 15 years and triple every 23 years"

David Velupillai, Airbus



Boeing's Blended Wing Body project could result in the development of several different types of aircraft. In the artist's concept illustration above, a BWB tanker serves as a "flying gas station" for several smaller jets.

Conventional aircraft engines provide thrust, hydraulics, pneumatics and electrical power. But engineers envisage hydraulics and pneumatics being replaced by electrical power.

All-electric aircraft engines would provide the aircraft with thrust and act as mini-generators to supply the aircraft with electrical power.

"This would make engines simpler and more efficient," says Martin Johnson, head of communications for civil aerospace at Rolls-Royce.

Hypersonic planes

The movement towards all-electric aircraft in the commercial sector is a gradual, evolutionary process. But elsewhere, researchers have been working on a new type of engine that has the potential to truly revolutionise air travel.

Hypersonic engines or "scramjets" (supersonic combustion ramjet) would enable aircraft to travel coast-to-coast in the US in about 30 minutes and from London to Sydney in about 90 minutes.

Scramjet engines operate at speeds in excess of Mach 5 (five times the speed of sound) and have a simple mechanical design with no moving parts.

They would also permit single-stage-to-orbit space vehicles - spacecraft that fly into space in one piece, something that might bring space tourism within the grasp of the ordinary person and not just billionaires.

Aircraft with new propulsion technology may need to be radically redesigned. One of the most popular concepts of recent years is the "blended-wing-body" design, originally conceived by aerospace corporation McDonnell Douglas.

This design does away with the traditional tube and wing design of modern commercial aircraft,

instead opting for merged shape that makes it look like a flying wing.

Its advocates claim that integrating the engines, body and wings into a single lifting surface improves the overall efficiency of the aircraft.

Whether new technologies get taken on will continue to depend on the business case that can be made for them.

But meeting passenger growth and environmental targets for the future means aircraft manufacturers are taking blue-sky thinking seriously, says Johnson.

The matter-anti-matter engine is one propulsion system that has been floated among futurists in the past. But aircraft manufacturers say they're not looking at such things. Not yet, anyway.



A Local SATS Airport Concept Emphasizing Intermodel Connectivity



The twin-deck widebody of the roomy A380 has meant that some airlines have requested on board showers, an office, a childrens' play area, a gym, a bar, shops, a smoking area, and a mini casino.

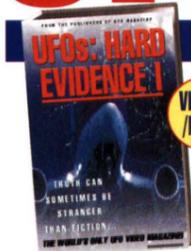


Small 4- to 8-passenger jets that incorporate advanced safety and automation features may operate from thousands of small airports across the nation for a variety of different needs.

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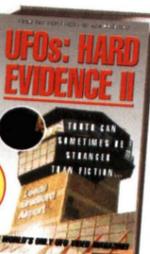
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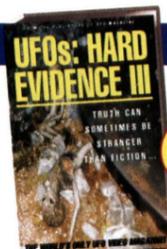
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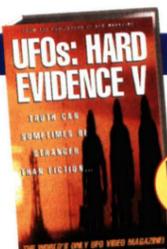
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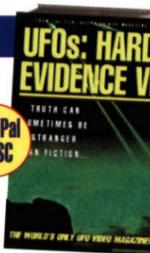
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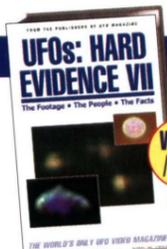
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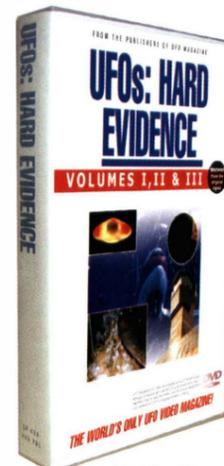
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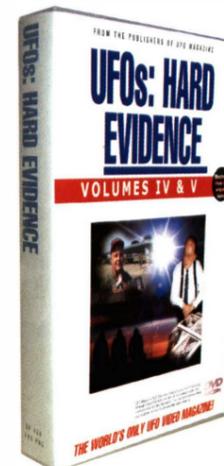


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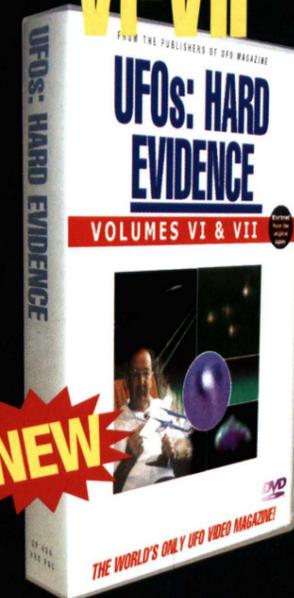
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HARD EVIDENCE VIII COMING SOON...

'One In Forty: The UFO Epidemic: True Accounts of Close Encounters With UFOs'

By Preston Dennett, published by Kroshka

After investigating UFOs for more than ten years, I have uncovered cases of virtually every type. I am constantly amazed by the huge number of reports and the high credibility of the witnesses. It is extremely important for witnesses to report their encounters because each case contains new information. Let's face it, UFOs are still a mystery. We don't know who they are, how they get here, or what their agenda is. In fact, some feel that we are still at the stage of trying to prove their existence!

The evidence that UFOs are real is, I think, overwhelming, and would convince any reasonable person. Beyond that, it's anyone's guess. The UFO phenomenon is so vast and bizarre that it is difficult for any single theory to account for all the evidence. Some cases just seem to defy any rational explanation.

What follows are two cases which I think show some of the strangeness and complexity of the UFO phenomenon. Both are taken from my new book, *One In Forty: The UFO Epidemic: True Accounts of Close Encounters With UFOs*, which has been recently published by Kroshka Books.

The Strawberry Field UFOs

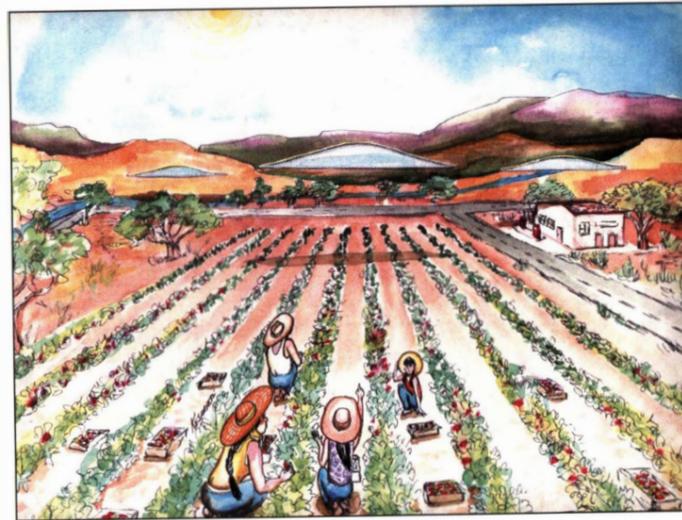
Some UFO encounters are so close, they leave absolutely no room for misidentification. The following case is a perfect example. Sally Sanders (not her real name) was only nine years old when she had her encounter. She was working with her parents in a strawberry field in Livingston, California. The family were immigrants from the Philippines, and their livelihood depended on the prosperity of their strawberry farm. The family had therefore spent many hours under the open sky, picking the ripest strawberries.

Then, one clear summer afternoon in 1953, Sally and her family became witness to an amazing close up UFO sighting right over their strawberry field. Sally vividly remembers how the whole ordeal began.

They were all busy picking the berries when seeming out of nowhere, three small saucer-shaped objects swooped silently out of the sky and hovered low to the ground only a few hundred feet away. The saucers were very small, only about twenty feet wide and ten feet thick. They were a polished silver color, and the only sound they made was a soft whirring noise. As they hovered, they seemed to wobble.

Sally stared at them in awe. As she says, "My dad had a strawberry field and it was close to the river. We were all working at the time. And this thing didn't make a lot of noise, it was like a soft whirring sound...but it must have been the sound that made us look up, because we were busy. I had the impression we all pretty much looked up at the same time. It's like, all of a sudden, it just appeared. We looked up we were all surprised...I saw three of them. I'll tell you, one was pretty close to us - really close. It looked so close, like it could have been within fifty to a hundred feet of us. The other two were spread out in a sort of semi-circle. There was a gas station about three miles down the road, and it looked like the last one in the semi-circle might have been over in that area. They all just sat there. It seemed like forever. We were scared. It was almost like whispering. We were looking up at it...it was really weird. It's like you don't know what to do; it was right there. It was so close. It looked so close."

This case is interesting because the witnesses knew instantly that they were seeing alien spacecraft. There was simply no other explanation. As Sally says, "It was the old saucer-shape that a lot of people talk about...



they didn't look like they were that big. No windows, not nothing. It was all a silver-steel color, completely closed. They almost seemed to move in a slow whirl, a very slow whirl, and they stayed in one spot. It was like you could see it whirling around, from what I can recall. Because it was just staying there. It stayed there. It stayed there. It stayed there for - it seemed like twenty minutes...The reason I have a feeling that it was probably that long is because we talked about it. We looked down. We looked up. I don't recall having

the feeling of wanting to run. I don't know if it's because there was no place to run to. I guess after a few minutes, we all calmed down."

Many questions raced through Sally's mind as she watched the objects. She couldn't help but wonder what their intention was or who was inside. As Sally says, "They were small. I still to this day have the feeling that it would hold no more than one or two people. It just didn't look that big...but it was awful close, and I knew it was really small."

The entire family was perplexed by the strange behavior of the UFOs. Why were they hovering in one place so close to the ground? What were they doing? Sally and her family continued working as best as they could, considering that three UFOs were hovering above them. "We just went and started working. We weren't working really well now. But it was like we got the impression that nothing was really going to happen. Because they were there so long, it was like the fear had pretty much passed. When they left, they all left at the same time. They all moved at the same time. And when they left, it was really quiet and whispering,

really soft and gentle. I mean, planes are loud. This thing, when it came up, it was so quiet that when we looked up, it was already there. So we didn't hear it until it was already there. It was really quiet," explained Sally.

The descriptions and recollections by (then nine year old) Sally are important because the encounter displays so many of the classic UFO trademarks including the disk-shape, the wobbly hovering motion, the quiet whirring noise, the silvery metallic surface. There is little possibility that misperception is involved simply because the sighting occurred under ideal conditions.

The witnesses were able to observe the objects on a clear sunny day from a close vantage point for a period of twenty minutes. This was no fleeting glimpse.

However, Sally hesitantly mentioned another detail of the sighting which she thought was strange - something that should be regarded as highly significant. As Sally says, "I remember feeling, thinking they had mental telepathy so that we wouldn't be afraid...even at that time, I knew it was different, it was kind of scary. I don't know if they were actually communicating with us, 'It's okay.' They might have been. I remember thinking that in my head, but I don't know if that's what happened or not."

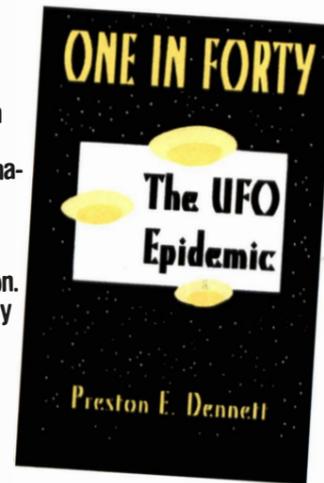
Unknown to Sally, many witnesses have described the exact same message from UFO occupants. In fact, the phrase, "Do not be afraid," is among the most common messages given by extraterrestrials.

Sally's sighting is an investigator's dream. It is the kind of sighting that just cannot be dismissed as a hallucination or misperception. The objects were too close, and they stayed there for too long. The incident was witnessed by at least four people in broad daylight under perfect conditions.

Many investigators believe these sightings of metallic disks strongly support the extraterrestrial spaceship theory of UFOs. What else could they be? It was by all definitions and craft, but yet, remains totally unknown.

It seems safe to make the assessment that Sally and her family witnessed three extraterrestrial spacecraft hovering at the edge of their strawberry field. It is the single explanation which best fits the facts.

What aliens would be doing in a strawberry field remains a mystery.



The Aliens at School

Many people believe that alien encounters take place only in remote areas. Nothing, however, could be further from the truth. In fact, aliens turn up in some of the most unexpected places. For example, the following case involves an encounter that took place in the front courtyard of an elementary school in the middle of a densely populated suburb in Los Angeles. It also involves one of the clearest and most extensive descriptions of alien beings I have ever investigated.

The witness, Susanne D. works as an Art Designer within ten miles of where her encounter took place. This encounter took place in 1980. At this time Susanne was attending Northridge University earning a bachelor's degree. She lived with her mother and brother in Van Nuys, in southern California.

Actually, her ordeal began with a very dramatic UFO sighting near her home in the San Fernando Valley. What is interesting about this sighting is that the UFO was seen hovering over the highly technical Lockheed and Hughes Aircraft installations and the Van Nuys Air Force Reserve Base.

It was a summer night in 1977 when Susanne and two friends witnessed a triangular formation of lights hovering in the sky.

As an artist, Susanne is a trained observer with an acute eye for details and an incredible memory. Because of this, she is able to fully describe her encounter. As she says in her own words: "It was a beautiful, beautiful night - very clear, and it was very warm. I was standing there looking out and I realized that the sky didn't look normal. I'm looking at the moon, and I'm thinking, that's not normal. It's all orange over there. It's two o'clock in the morning and it's orange. And so I was looking at it and I realized that what I was looking at was the glow coming off these three objects. There was one really big object and two smaller ones on either side of it and above it."

As Susanne studied the objects, she saw that they hovered below the horizon of the mountains. She estimated their distance to be about ten miles, but like many UFO witnesses, she had trouble estimating the size of the objects. The object in the middle was huge and the ones on either side appeared to be about one-third the size. When asked what the objects looked like, she replied, "... sort of a saucer-shape. I mean, it was flat and they appeared to be rounded. But they were so far away that I wasn't underneath them. I couldn't see under them. I was seeing more a profile view. They were elliptical."

Susanne concluded she was seeing three separate objects. As she says, "They were hovering on either side of it, above it. So they formed sort of a triangle.

"The big one was lower and it was the bottom point of the triangle. I sat there and watched them for a couple of minutes, and they weren't moving. All the orange glow in the night sky was coming off them.

"They (the objects) didn't really appear orange. They appeared shiny, maybe metallic, but all this orange glow was around them. It was lighting up the whole area around them orange - like streetlights glow. That's what it was like, but it was orange."

Susanne literally could not believe her own eyes and ran inside to get her friends. She dragged them out, pointing to the sky. "Do you see that?" she asked. Susanne's friend, Adlai Fredriksson, remembers the incident well.

But where Susanne remembers the objects being motionless, Adlai remembers them moving around. This dissimilarity actually serves to strengthen the credibility of their report. As any investigator learns, if two reports of the same incident are exactly alike, it is a strong indication that the witnesses may be lying.

The differences show only that they observed different details. It could very well be that Adlai saw the objects after Susanne.

According to Susanne, the sighting actually lost its novelty because the objects just sat there, motionless. She actually became bored and eventually went inside. Adlai on the other hand, must have stayed out longer because he remembers seeing the objects depart. He also gives an excellent description of the sighting.

As he says, "We went to the front yard and looked up, I guess the south-easterly sky, and saw three lights that appeared to be moving in unison. We wondered if it was one craft with three engines or if it was three different ones. And they came and just hovered overhead for a little while and started shifting, moving around at different angles. It seemed like they broke formation and then reformed, took off, and away." Adlai finally concluded that he was looking at one solid object with three lights.

He also had trouble estimating the size, but decided they must have been huge. Like Susanne, he remembered the strange color. As he says, "Just yellow-hot white. It seemed like I could have seen a shape behind the lights, but I couldn't be sure.

"I couldn't tell if they were connected or even if they were there, because when you were staring at the lights, you get like the hue.

"But I sensed intelligence and just naturally accepted the fact that I caught a glimpse of somebody going by."

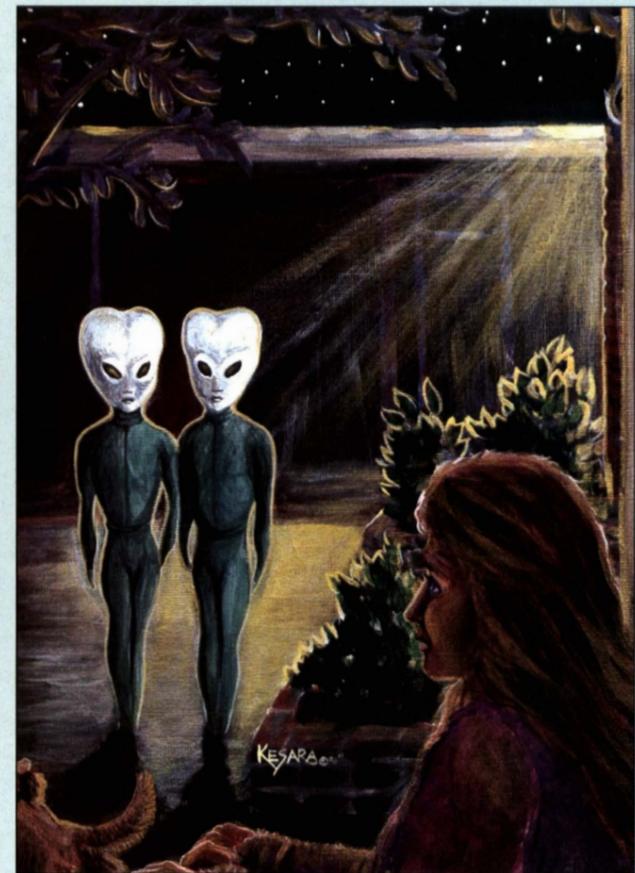
Adlai also recalled the lights changing in brightness and intensity. As he says, "The light surface, the disk - the intensity would move around inside there, so it wasn't like a consistent burning intensity. You would get hot and cold spots. But then, staring into one of them, trying to see what was there puts a strain on the eyes. I haven't thought anything other than it was a UFO. I accepted that as being what it is, just an unidentified flying object."

The third witness was unavailable to be interviewed, but according to Susanne and Adlai, he was also suitably impressed by the strangeness of the objects.

The fact that the UFO hovered over major technological installations greatly intrigued the witnesses. It seemed as if the UFO was checking up on our level of technology. Many UFO investigators have noticed a high number of UFO sightings around high-technology installations, and that is certainly true in this case.

After the sighting, none of them thought that there might be future encounters. However, in Susanne's case, it wasn't long before she had a truly incredible encounter - a face-to-face confrontation with two gray-type alien beings. And this encounter occurred in the most unlikely place imaginable, right in front of the local elementary school!

One evening in 1980, about three years following the above sighting, Susanne decided to take a walk with



her dog around the block. She had no idea that she was about to walk into the single most terrifying experience of her entire life. Here Susanne vividly describes what it is like to have a close-up encounter with extraterrestrials.

"I was in college and my girlfriend and I did art projects together. We had this one project we were working on - we were 'collecting' shopping trolleys that you find hanging out on street corners, lonely shopping trolleys with nobody to push them around. We had already collected two or three and we were going to make this great art project out of them. We thought it was really esoteric. So we had these shopping trolleys.

"One night I was driving home. It must have been about eleven, eleven-thirty at night, it was quiet with very little activity out on the streets. I spotted another trolley, I don't know why it didn't occur to me to just stop and put it in my car. For some reason I thought: Well, I'll drive home, and I'll take Sarah my dog for a walk, and I'll go get the shopping trolley. And then I'll put it in my car.

"The lonely shopping trolley was down on the corner of Strathern and Amestoy. Amestoy runs in front of Stagg Street Elementary School, and Strathern runs across it... so for some reason, I decided that I should take my car home and go back and get the shopping cart and bring it home, put it down in my car, and then take it and go to my girlfriend's house. Looking back at it, it would have made a hell of a lot more sense to just stop and put the shopping cart in my car and drive away. I had a station wagon so the trolley would have gone in the back.

"So I called in home got the dog and I went for a walk, and we went to get the shopping trolley. I was walking in a circular route. I went up my street to Strathern, down Strathern to Amestoy, picked up the shopping cart, and was going past the school to Stagg. As I'm going down Amestoy, I had to go past the school. I was being careful not to attract too much attention, I guessed the shopping trolley made me look a little suspicious. There aren't a lot of houses, almost no houses on that side, because of the school. So I thought it would be very easy to get it past the school. ▶

"I'm making my way past the school, and I got up near the front of the school where the administration block was. There's an open area, a theater, and the administration area and the kindergarten, all on the school frontage and right in front of the theater, there's a big illuminated open area with a flagpole. So I'm coming past there and I'm thinking I'm totally alone and I'm not going to be seen by anybody. Then I looked to my right and realized that there were two, what I thought at first were people. I thought they were just two people standing there talking.

"At this time the school's on my right and I was on the footpath in front of the school."

It was at this point that Susanne first began to realize that something strange was happening. She could understand two people standing in front of the school, but when she looked at them, she noticed immediately that something was horribly wrong with the way the "people" looked. At first she thought they were children and didn't pay too much attention. But as she got closer, she realized that there was no way they could be children. They looked much too different.

Susanne continues, "They were facing each other. As I looked at them, I started to notice they were kind of strange. They had on these dark green jump suits. They had really big heads, and they weren't very tall. They were like my height, like 5'4". But I wasn't really impacted with their presence until they turned to look at me. They turned simultaneously away from each other and both towards me. So instead of facing each other, it was like they opened a book, absolutely simultaneously and without moving their feet. They just sort of hovered and turned."

At this point, I asked Susanne to describe exactly what they two figures looked like, with all the details she could remember. She proceeded to give one of the clearest and most complete descriptions I have ever heard.

In Susanne's own words: "Okay. The heads were really big; they were abnormally large, like twice the size of a human head. The skulls were grossly exaggerated. They didn't really seem to have any ears or nose, and they seemed to have some slight indication of a mouth, they had really big eyes. I don't really remember seeing whites in their eyes. I just remember they had really big dark eyes, big almond eyes, their heads were - well, it was like they had a big crease in their head, like two lobes. It was like you could see the lobes of their brains sticking out.

"Their arms were just hanging at their sides. It seems like they had hands. And their skin was all just pale - really, really white, like they could have been dead they were so white. You know, if they had been human, they would have been dead."

"I don't remember seeing any feet and their jump suits were all this dark olive-green color, and it came up in like a mandarin collar around their necks and it was just very plain. I didn't notice much of anything".

"At that point, when they turned to face me, I was parallel with them. I was in a straight line with them. They're standing and I'm walking past. First I see them. We see each other and as I keep walking, at the point which I was straight in front of them, they were both standing, facing me and at that point, I realized that they weren't normal - they probably weren't human. They didn't move like humans. They didn't look like humans."

I asked Susanne if the figures could possibly have been children wearing Halloween masks, but she vehemently denied this possibility. As she says, "No, I didn't really think they were children in masks. They were too big to be children, unless they were maybe boys. They couldn't have been girls, I mean, unless

they were totally flat-chested. It would have been an elaborate costume. They were identical. And they were in the spotlights where I could see them. But the light was behind them, so whatever was on their clothing all just kind of blended into the gray-olive-green color, because the light was coming from over their shoulders. So I didn't see a lot of detail on their clothes. It was mostly silhouette. But their skin was so white, it was pretty easy to see their eyes, and the shape of their head."

As Susanne walked along the sidewalk, she approached to within twenty feet of the two figures. Her fright at this point bordered on panic. The two alien-looking figures had stopped what they were doing and were looking straight at her. She didn't receive any mental messages, only an intense feeling of shock and fear. As Susanne says, "They stopped what they were doing. They were standing very close too. . . well you know, when I started to walk up, I noticed that there were two people standing there. And as I started to get closer, I noticed that they didn't look normal. They didn't have hair, and they were pressed almost face to face, and that didn't seem normal, they didn't have their arms around each other. And then, as I kept walking, they pivoted. It was like I was walking and watching them.

"I felt like I just got more and more scared as I realized more and more that this was something I had never experienced before. They didn't move like humans. They didn't look like humans. They didn't say anything. The point at which I would have had to start looking back over my shoulder at them, by that point, I was so scared, all I could think about was just getting the hell out of there. And the whole time I'm pushing this stupid shopping trolley, and it's rattling down the road, clug-clug-clug-clug.

"Sarah my dog didn't freak out at all. She just kept walking next to me the whole time. She sure didn't go up and try to sniff them. So I was very scared. I was terrified. I mean, I didn't know what they were. I didn't. I thought, my God! They're going to follow me home! Oh, no, I'm going to die! I'm so scared! "So I was walking as fast as I could without running, and without making an enormous amount of noise with the stupid shopping trolley. Once I got out of the light and a little way down the road, there was a clump of bushes. I ditched the shopping trolley in the bushes and just, well all I wanted to do was just get out of there without running, without being obviously frightened to death. I didn't run. I walked as fast as I could straight home without looking over my shoulder. I felt like they were right behind me the whole time. I didn't look over my shoulder."

Susanne's encounter with extraterrestrials, although extremely frightening, was actually totally benign. They never hurt her, followed her or made any aggressive actions. Her fear was based solely on her own shock at seeing something so totally out of her normal experience. In fact, the shock of seeing them was so great, that Susanne says, "It was like being woken up when you're awake."

At the time of the encounter, Susanne had no idea what she was seeing. She had never read anything about UFOs, and her knowledge of the subject was limited to her own recent sighting. Yet her description of the alien beings matches the descriptions of other witnesses, detail for detail. The large bald heads, the short stature, the white skin, the large almond eyes, the total lack of visible ears, nose and mouth, the greenish jump suits, the aliens' identical appearance, all these details corroborate exactly with other reports of which Susanne knew nothing. In fact, Susanne simply assumed that it was a unique experience. It bewildered her to such an extent that she told nobody about it for several years.

One detail that absolutely astonished Susanne was the way the figures moved in perfect unison. This detail

has been observed over and over again by other witnesses. In Budd Hopkins' book, *Intruders*, he lists several cases that involve the simultaneous leaning, blinking and stepping of alien creatures. It's as if they are so telepathic, they are able to predict each other's movements. Still another detail that adds to the authenticity of her account is how it began.

Susanne had the totally illogical impulse to delay the picking up of the shopping cart until she could return to it and push it home. Her hindsight showed her how illogical this impulse was. Susanne, of course, had no idea that many other people's encounters often begin in the same way. Preludes to many missing-time abductions often involve bizarre impulses to drive or walk to certain areas. Susanne had no idea how close she was to having a full-blown contact. As far as she knows, she didn't have any missing time. She has had no nightmares of the incident, nor has she found any mysterious scars on her body that might indicate an abduction. She does admit, however, that it is possible her experience is more extensive than she can remember. She doesn't remember the exact time she left her home, nor the exact time she returned.

However, if she did have missing time, she has no desire to undergo hypnosis and dredge up memories of an experience that was already considerably traumatizing.

One detail that made Susanne doubt she saw aliens was the lack of a UFO. It wasn't until much later that Susanne even connected what she saw to the concept of extraterrestrials, simply because there was no craft associated with the encounter. She does admit, however, that it would have been quite easy for a large spacecraft to have been landed in the enclosed playground of the school.

It may seem incredible that her encounter took place in front of an elementary school in a crowded suburb, however, as any UFO researcher will tell you, this is not at all unusual. I have investigated several other encounters that have taken place in the oddest locations including hotels, condominiums, on freeways, even inside hospital rooms! It seems that the aliens have reached such a high level of technology that they can easily elude detection.

In fact, less than two miles from the above account, an entire family experienced a dramatic series of UFO encounters that started with simple sightings of star-like objects darting about the night sky, moved to dramatic bedroom visitations by gray-type aliens, and culminated in at least four abductions complete with bizarre experiments and a baby presentation aboard an alien craft! All this, of course, took place over a densely crowded suburb in the San Fernando Valley.

The above accounts, and over thirty other dramatic firsthand UFO encounters can all be found in my book **ONE IN FORTY - THE UFO EPIDEMIC: TRUE ACCOUNTS OF CLOSE ENCOUNTERS WITH UFOs**, which has just been published by Kroshka Books, a division of Nova Science Publishers. The book details virtually every type of UFO encounter including: star-like UFOs, intelligent fireballs, nocturnal lights, silvery ships emitting beams of lights, UFO contactee accounts, Bigfoot encounters, UFO waves, missing-time abductions, face-to-face encounters with extraterrestrial beings and even stories of the government study and cover-up of crashed UFOs and alien bodies. It contains 343 pages, is a hardback book, and is fully illustrated by award-winning UFO artist, Kesara.

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Stardust probe makes comet flyby

The NASA probe Stardust has had a dramatic encounter with Comet Wild-2, passing just 240 km away from the mountainous ball of ice, rock and dust.



Big jets

Comet Wild-2 is probably 5.4 km (3.3 miles) across. It sailed past the probe at a relative speed of 21,960 km per hour (13,650 miles per hour).

A mass of data collected in the course of the encounter was due to be fed back over more than 30 hours, including about 70 images.

"These images are better than we had hoped for in our wildest dreams," said Ray Newburn, a co-investigator for Stardust. "They will help us better understand the mechanisms that drive conditions on comets."

The first pictures showed a roughly spherical comet nucleus that was heavily pitted. Four or five major jets of material could also be seen bursting from the object.

The spacecraft's dust flux instrument suggested Stardust flew straight through two of these big jets.

"We expected the flux to increase as we approached and then decrease, but we also saw big bursts of particles which would have terrified us had we known about it in advance," said Tom Duxbury, Stardust project manager.

Old and cold

The surface pockmarks, some of them cavernous in size, have already drawn comment from researchers and journalists.

Such features have never before been seen on a close-up image of a comet nucleus and raise the intriguing possibility that these "dirty snowballs", just like planets, moons and asteroids, retain the scars of past impacts.

But Dr Brownlee was sceptical. He thought they were "sinkholes", which formed as the comet lost material.

"I don't think they are actually impact craters; I think they are erosion features for the most part, where the more volatile material has formed the huge jets and the atmospheric coma that we see around the comet."

Comet Wild-2 is thought to be 5.4 km (3.3 miles) across. This image, taken from a distance of 500 km (310 miles), shows a roughly spherical nucleus that is heavily pitted.



Dust from Wild-2 was scooped up by a robotic collector filled with aerogel - a very low-density glass - and stowed inside a sample-return capsule. This will be delivered to Earth on 15 January, 2006; the capsule making a soft landing at the US Air Force Utah Test and Training Range.

'Time capsule'

If the return works, the particles would represent the second robotic retrieval of extraterrestrial material since 1976, when the unmanned Soviet Luna 24 mission brought back samples of rock and soil from the Moon.

NASA's Genesis spacecraft should be the first since then come September, when it returns samples of the solar wind it has collected in space.

Scientists believe in-depth terrestrial analysis of the Wild-2 samples will reveal much about comets and the earliest history of the Solar System.

Chemical and physical information locked within the cometary particles could be the record of the formation of the planets and the materials from which they were made.

"Comets are made of ice and are very cold and have been very cold since they were formed," said Dr Simon Green, an Open University, UK, scientist on the Stardust project.

"That protects the material of which they were made from any process of heating, so they haven't been changed since they were formed, right at the beginning of the formation of the Solar System.

"So we can have almost a little time capsule of what things were like 4.5 billion years ago."

Time for a Cover-up



Steven O'Mullan

UFOs and religion. Two subjects which over the years have consistently found themselves intertwined, but aren't they worlds apart, in more ways than one?

Recent world events lead me to believe we will soon be subjected to yet another round of "Aliens are coming to save us!" Hogwash.

At the time of writing, the world has just emerged from a heatwave more ferocious than any other in recent history. America has suffered devastating power cuts costing citizens millions of pounds. The year has already seen a war come and - not quite - go, with the repercussions still being felt.

On top of all this we have a growing public awareness of the "pole shift" theory which suggests the world is going to be subjected to disasters of all sorts when the magnetic poles flip (all this assuming a meteor doesn't hit us first!).

2003 appears to have had more than its fair share of global catastrophes and it seems the world is going through a particularly desperate period. History has taught us, that in times like these, the one thing that always rears its head is religion, particularly in connection with ufology.

There are the well known sects like the Raelians with their claims of cloning, the Church Universal and Triumphant whose members made doomsday prophecies only to change them when they didn't come true, and most controversially of all,

Heaven's Gate. This cult, founded by a man and a woman known as Bo and Peep (!), claimed that comet Hale-Bopp was being followed by a saviour spaceship which would take them all to heaven.

Cult members committed mass suicide for these beliefs. Heaven's Gate is thought to have had less than 200 members maximum, yet they managed to achieve international press coverage thanks to this self immolation.



All these groups have beliefs involving UFOs and extraterrestrials, some frankly ridiculous. Others, such as the Aetherius Society, have interesting theologies which seem no less valid than many mainstream religions.

All of them, however, are damaging ufology with their outlandish and unscientific claims.

Have any of these doomsday cults ever actually been right? No, I believe not. Rather inconveniently for some of them, the world's still here! Now I realise not all religious UFO commentators are members of cults but to an outside observer it all amounts to the same thing - a glaring lack of credibility.

Take as a parallel the so called "Pyramidots". Egyptologists still find well respected theorists like Graham Hancock, Alan F. Alford and Christopher Dunn rather distasteful and just plain wrong - despite the fact that they can provide detailed research, well thought out arguments and even respected scientists to back up some of their claims.

Egyptology has ignored these people for years and many of them have genuinely

solid theories, yet credence is given to similar theorists within ufology, none of whom can provide a theory that's backed up by facts or research. Blind faith is all they have, but they expect us to take them seriously. Why? None of them are ever right and they simply bring an unnecessary degree of lunacy to a subject already suffering from a lack of respect from "serious" scientists. If a highly regarded researcher like Graham Hancock can't garner respect from a sceptical scientific establishment, how can we expect ufology to fare any better?

Can we ever expect governments to fund research into the UFO phenomenon when we're so preoccupied with questions of theology? Would Tony Blair set aside money for an investigation into the possibility of the second coming of the Messiah? Of course not - and if he did, the taxpayers would be up in arms. So how can ufologists and serious UFO fans ever expect the government to take ufology seriously?

This article is not supposed to put down or ridicule religion - I believe religion has its part to play in the world but it should not be allowed to hijack ufology for its own ends. It's time we took stock of the UFO community's public face and brought a more level headed, fact based approach to things. Sure, cloud cities bringing salvation to mankind makes a nice story, but it isn't going to happen anytime soon. Until it does, we should not be giving the religious fantasies so many column inches.

The Ministry of Defence is regularly accused of covering up dangerous information. I would suggest that it's time for ufology to cover up the romantic beliefs engendered by the false prophets, who are harming our genuine quest for knowledge.

Steven O'Mullan
<http://www.tudormint.info/>

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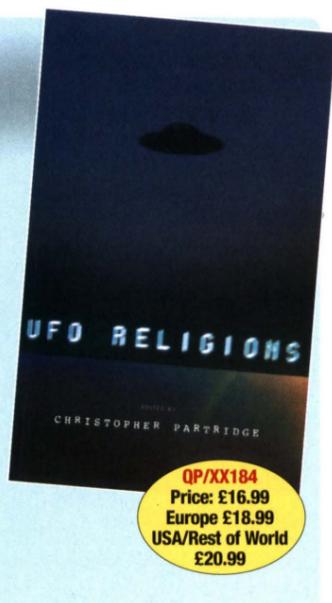
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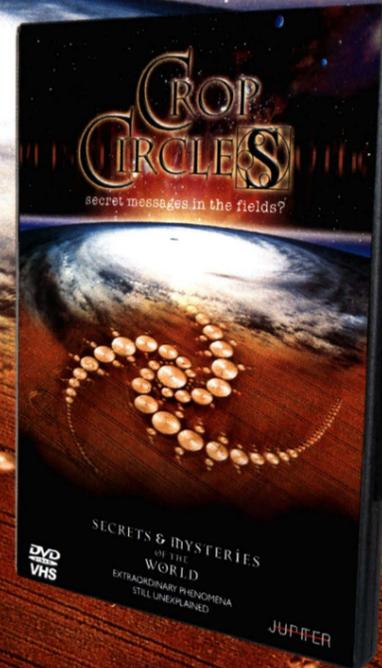
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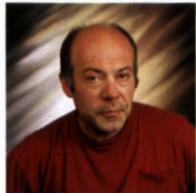
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Reviewed by **Stuart Miller**

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THE GENESIS RACE

• **AUTHOR:** WILL HART
 • **PUBLISHER:** BEAR & CO
 • **ISBN:** 159143018-8
 • **PRICE:** The UK distributors tell me it will go on sale in the UK in December at £15.99. It has been on sale for a while now at Amazon UK at £9.55!

Oh I do love these types of books. The objective in brief is to prove that mankind is a seeded race put here by extraterrestrials and that essentially the stories in the Bible are true except that you replace the word "God" with "ET".

Far fetched? Ridiculous? Burn the heretic at the stake? Well Will Hart isn't the first to put forward such theories in recent times and he won't be the last. Who's going to be offended the most? Well, Creationists will rejoice in that he picks insightful holes in Darwin's Theory Of Evolution but the let down for them is that he inevitably arrives at a different conclusion.

Darwinists, already slowly on the retreat, will shrug their shoulders and take yet another step backwards into the shadows that they have begun habituating.

I'll give them another twenty years or maybe less before we begin to look upon them in the same way we look upon The Flat Earth Society.

Yes, things really are changing that fast, because of.....you've guessed it, science! Darwin himself knew of the Achilles heel in his theory, which is that there is no fossil evidence of intermediate links in the evolution of Evolution.

In other words, there is no record of those species that would have developed under Darwin's theory but failed owing to the "survival of the fittest" dictum.

And there should be loads of evidence. Hence the term "The Missing Link." It's actually missing links.

In fact these doubts about Darwin have even been breaking out into the mainstream media and more than once I have read that random mutation and natural selection cannot account for the complexities of Life. It is true that Darwin never actually addressed the origin of Life itself, preferring rather to pick things up after that point. Nevertheless, you might already be way of reading astronomer Fred Hoyle's now infamous statement about the chances of Life originating in an organic soup being as likely as the assembly of a fully functioning 747 by a whirlwind passing through

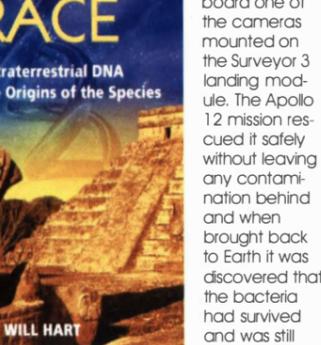
a junkyard. So, thanks for the last 150 years Charlie but we now need to be considering other possibilities about how we got here. Shame really. It was a nice comfortable idea that seemed to fit but the holes the author blows in it are just too big to patch up.

Okay. So perhaps we didn't crawl out of the "soup" to start off with and maybe we didn't move along after that as Darwin proposed. So what other alternatives are there? At the moment, to be precise, two. The more scientifically inclined theory is Panspermia as originated by the Swedish physicist Svante Arrhenius in the nineteenth century and developed further by Francis Crick the co-discoverer of the structure of DNA.

Crick proposed that Life was seeded on Earth by spores from outer space that got here via rockets from another planet where Life had evolved to a higher technical level beyond where even we are today. I do not know how Life was meant to have formed originally on this other planet first but that, for the moment, is by the by.

Later, Fred Hoyle and his colleague N. Chandra Wickramasinghe claimed that these spores got here on the back of comets that crashed to earth, a theory that was greeted with ridicule. In fact Wickramasinghe recently claimed that the SARS virus might have got to earth in a similar way too.

What gradually gave these theories some credence and scientific acceptability was the result of an accidental experiment. The bacterium *Streptococcus Mitis*, a throat infection, inadvertently hitched a ride to the moon in the late 60s on board one of the cameras mounted on the Surveyor 3 landing module. The Apollo 12 mission rescued it safely without leaving any contamination behind and when brought back to Earth it was discovered that the bacteria had survived and was still viable. And that



was after more than a year of sitting on the moon in a very inhospitable environment. This added a lot of credence to the Panspermia argument. Life it seemed could survive the extreme cold and intense levels of radiation in outer space.

Hart spends a bit of time on these theories and obviously has some respect for them. But they are not his way. He is struck by the sudden and dramatic increase in human innovation and activity from around 3,500 BC in six key areas around the world: Mexico, Peru, Egypt, Sumer, the Indus Valley and China.

Here could be seen the construction of monumental structures, the formation of towns, the move to agriculture away from hunter gathering, organised workforces, specialist skills, and, especially in Sumer, an intellectual development that was truly breath taking. In Sumer (modern day Iraq) they invented irrigation, kilns, writing, the wheel, bronze, the chariot, sailboats, mathematics, astrology, schools, and the concept of a trade or profession. Pretty well the entire foundation of future human civilisation. Bearing in mind that humans only 500 hundred miles away were still living in mud huts and had no idea about sticking a seed in the ground and watching it grow, you have to ask, why the vast disparity?

These places stood out from the rest of the world in very sharp contrast. What was going on there to cause all this?

The creation myths from these geographically unconnected areas are very similar. Gods, appearing as superior humans, descended from the heavens and created human beings as we now are, and gave them civilisation. Hart believes all this was caused by "intelligent extraterrestrial intervention". Not one of these lost civilisations claims in their creation myths that they themselves discovered the talents that made them so unique. They all claimed it came from the Gods.

After Sumer, he takes a look at Egypt and in particular focuses on the Great Pyramid and The Sphinx, and specifically, the uncertainty about how these projects were built. He implies strongly that we would have difficulty building a project like that even today and while various archaeologists have offered explanations and even tried practical experiments to demonstrate how they were built, he remains unconvinced. So who built them?

There is also the little matter of the Great Pyramid's properties. It is a geodesic marker of the centre of the earth's landmass (facing due north) and the ratio of its height to its perimeter equals the ratio of the earth's radius to its circumference. Pi is incorporated in various features.

Little is known about the Water People of the Indus Valley, located in southeastern Pakistan and western India. This is mainly due to the fact that we haven't been able, yet, to decipher their language and many of their discovered cities have yet to be excavated. They appeared at around 3000 BC and like the Sumerians, they built two story buildings in brick and stone, developed sewer systems, streets, and even put up the first ever billboard.

Unfortunately, we can't read it! They seemed to display a similar level of development to Sumer and there is evidence of the two groups trading. They were peaceful and multi racial and seemed able to spread themselves and expand over a considerable area without violence. They also appeared very egalitarian, as there is no evidence of grand palaces and large, exclusive homes.

There is for me in this chapter an interesting reference that allows me to look a little more objectively at what Hart

writes here. He makes mention of India's National Institute of Oceanography and their discovery in 2000 of some anomalous objects 80 feet under water off the Coromandel Coast. They called in Graham Hancock to take a closer look and Graham made a fascinating documentary on the project that I remember well from a couple of years ago. They were looking for lost cities and based on what Graham filmed and showed us, I had no doubt that that was exactly what he had found, and not just there either. But the programme was balanced and offered other points of view, and experts were called in who disagreed with Graham's interpretation. Hart makes no mention of this and takes the evidence of Graham's discoveries and assessment as a given fact.

The chapter on China is, quite simply, fascinating. It is not well known that there are about 100 pyramids located in a 70 mile radius of the city of Xian. Only one westerner, a German by the name of Hausdorf, has been able to briefly see them back in 1994. As is tiresomely usual, the Chinese government remains extremely wary of letting anyone near them and apparently has not attempted to investigate them themselves. Hausdorf is convinced they're hiding something.

But the really fascinating part of this chapter is a story that Hart acknowledges is extremely difficult to verify.

It's not the first time I've come across this tale but there is more detail here than I've read before. It involves the 1938 discovery of a number of strange skeletons near the Chinese border with Tibet.

LIFE WITH A COSMOS CLEARANCE

• **AUTHOR:** DANIEL M. SALTER (AS TOLD TO NANCY RED STAR)
 • **PUBLISHER:** LIGHT TECHNOLOGY PUBLISHING
 • **ISBN:** 1-891824-37-8
 • **PRICE:** \$19.95.

£11.44 on line at Amazon. Or straight from the publishers at www.lighttechnology.com. Publishers might be worth checking out as they have an interesting catalogue of other books.

I have found this the hardest book I have had to review so far simply because I cannot tell if the contents are true, partially true, or totally made up by the author.

Daniel Salter was a witness in Steven Greer's Disclosure Project back in 2001.

Greer collected together a large number of insiders who had worked on UFO matters during their mainly military careers and presented them to the press in Washington in the hope that the publicity would force the American government to go public on what they knew about UFOs and ET. The plan has so far failed, but has nevertheless brought into the public domain people like Salter who would otherwise have probably gone to their graves without their stories ever having been heard.

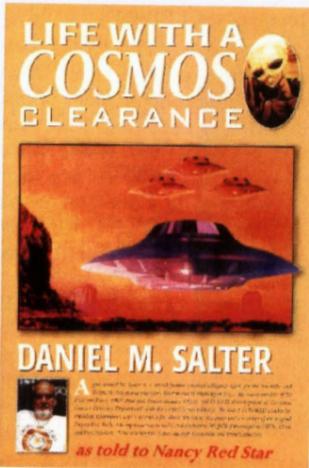
My own feeling is that some of what he writes might be true and some of it

These skeletons could not be linked to any known human racial group and were very thin with large, overdeveloped heads. There is also the matter of the hundred stone discs found nearby and the story that is related in them and more recently, the discovery, in the remote province of Quinghai, of a mysterious 180 feet tall pyramid and strange metal pipes located close by. Truly intriguing but you'll have to buy the book to find out more.

The same unexplained puzzles about how and why concern the Olmec people of Mexico and the Chavin people from Peru. Where did they come from, how were they able to build the large and strange monuments they left behind, how did they learn to become as sophisticated as they were and above all, where did they go?

With the way the world is in its attitude towards the Mayans these days, I expected Hart to work himself into a frenzy in this chapter, but he only really covers the major points that anyone interested in the subject will already be familiar with. In fact if I have a complaint, it is that he has left it until this chapter, virtually the middle of the book, before he seriously addresses in detail one of the most amazing facts about all these sites - their geodesic alignment. It has been mentioned previously but almost in passing and it is here that he goes into much more detail.

He questions how our staple crops of wheat, corn, potatoes and rice came about. How they suddenly seemed mysteriously to evolve and haven't changed in 10,000 years, and how since then, despite modern technology, we haven't invented another staple crop since.



won't be, which isn't really fair on you, the reader. However, in his defence, the Disclosure Project didn't just accept anybody to go and stand in front of the press, and so his credentials will have been checked out as will his story.

And what a story. He started off working in the Cryptographic Center at Langley and working at Cosmos clearance gave him access to information on UFOs and ET's. At other times he has worked for the NRO, and the ACIO (Advanced Contact Intelligence Organisation); and he was also a Chief Conrad Courier - one of the two people who always accompany the President and carry the box with codes in that allow the launch of nuclear weapons.

Some of the claims he makes are as follows:

Even dogs come under his microscope with him challenging the vague belief we hold these days about the original domestication of mutkins from the wolf. He's not having that either. Neither is he convinced by the Sumer's sudden acquired skills in metallurgy. In fact, he questions virtually everything.

There have, of course been other books like this before, though certainly some of his ideas are new to me. And indeed, while I'm sure there are a pile of archaeologists and other eminent specialists who would be pleased to form an orderly queue in order to have their turn in knocking his ideas down, they would need to go some to convince me otherwise about the holes in our knowledge of ancient man. The problem that some will face is not about those gaps which are self evident, but in accepting his solution. The next hurdle for them to climb is suggesting an alternative to his ideas and that's where it gets quite difficult, because he does make sense.

So what are we left with? That ancient man was created and helped towards civilization by advanced human like creatures from another world.

This is a superbly written book, as much due to the author's style as well as the content. If I have a slight criticism it is that he sometimes repeats the same point perhaps too many times. If you've never read anything like this before then not only will you enjoy it but you may also be disturbed by it too. This book is capable of shaking your current belief system and that is always unsettling and challenging. But it is a challenge you should not avoid. Read it.

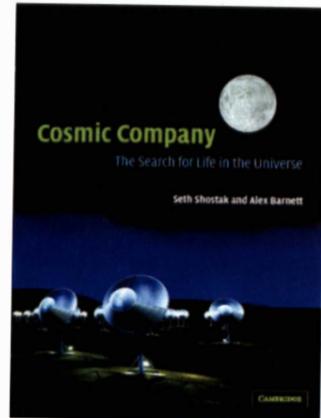
★★★★★

UFO secrecy is as a result of pressure from the oil industry. We already have an alternative to fossil fuel and it's free (electromagnetic energy), but introducing it would cause the oil industry and other affiliated businesses to collapse.

Both the United States and Russia have been warned repeatedly by an Alien civilisation about not using nuclear weapons, not just in space but anywhere. Around 1962, the Americans launched a missile with a nuclear warhead attached aimed at the moon "to see what would happen". It never reached its goal as a UFO shot it down.

He claims to have seen film of an above ground extraterrestrial base on the dark side of the moon. He could clearly see roads and bridges inside three glass biospheres and that some of the structures had collapsed. The Americans were told by ET to leave these buildings alone as they belonged to another alien race who intended to come back and reclaim them at some point. According to Salter, there have been three further attempts by the Americans to go back to the moon and check out these sites, one in the 80s and two in the 90s. All attempts failed as a result of non-hostile interference by ET.

He makes mention of a major crash retrieval in May of 1989 in the Kalahari desert. This is actually a very contentious case that many now regard as a hoax but Salter says it happened. The UFO crashed because it was shot down with a laser cannon launched from two Mirage jets belonging to the South African air force. The cannon, an experimental weapon, had been loaned to the South Africans by the USA. In return for supporting the South Africans



COSMIC COMPANY - THE SEARCH FOR LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE
 • **AUTHORS:** SETH SHOSTAK AND ALEX BARNETT
 • **PUBLISHERS:** CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY PRESS
 • **ISBN:** 0-521-82233-5
 • **PRICE:** £19.95

This book is not unlike *Alien Life* by Barry Parker, reviewed in the last issue of *UFO Magazine*, in that it is a general summing up and overview of the Universe and the possibility of other life forms existing elsewhere. It's a shame really that this was published a little too late last year to make the December issue as this would have been a good book to recommend as a Christmas present for a younger relative. Alternatively, if you are a teacher, it offers a sound basis of data on which to pitch a lesson or talk to an age range of between eight and fifteen years.

★★★★★

publicly after they detonated their first nuclear explosion, the Americans were allowed to recover the spacecraft and took it back to Wright Patterson Air Force base in the States in a gigantic C5 Galaxy.

Salter alleges this case is significant because as a result of this recovery, the Americans were able to back engineer the captured craft and produce the Black Manta, the first Flying Triangle.

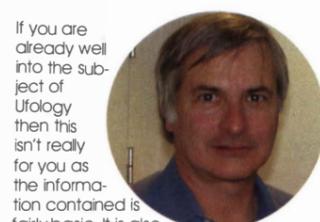
These machines he says have three engines; a jet engine to take it out of earth atmosphere and two electric atomic engines to get the craft up to warp speed.

He claims that Foo Fighters, the balls of light that both Allied and German pilots saw during World War II were in fact German weapons designed to interfere with the electrical systems of Allied planes with the intention of causing them to crash. They didn't work.

Cattle mutilations are laser and plasma experiments in blood transfusion by the American government using alien technology.

Among the many underground bases and cities around the world that the American military has constructed, there is one that runs from the Bentwaters American Air Force base in Suffolk out to under the North Sea. He says that some of the Black Manta FTs have been built there.

The Phoenix Lights and the Gulf Breeze sightings were demonstrations by the American military that it had no fear of going to war with either Iraq or North Korea.



If you are already well into the subject of UFOlogy then this isn't really for you as the information contained is fairly basic. It is also fairly conservative in its opinions but that is understandable. Seth Shostak is heavily involved with the SETI project, which looks for signs of alien life via radio signals. If there were strong evidence, as far as he is concerned that aliens either did or did not exist, then he would be out of a job as there wouldn't be any point carrying on looking. So his approach is cautious.

Chapter titles, which give a good indication of content, are as follows:

Habitats For Life
 What Might Aliens Be Like?
 Intelligent Life
 Visitors from afar.
 How might we get in touch?
 The Drake equation
 The future.

The book is beautifully produced. The paper is a delight to touch and the quality of the photographs is impressive.

There is also a light streak of wry humour that pervades the entire book, with extremely funny models of how aliens might look and even a picture of a tin of Campbell's Primordial Soup.

An enjoyable, slightly lightweight read.

★★★★★

By now you will have got the general idea of this book and there is a great deal more of this type of information in it. Sceptics wouldn't touch it even if you paid them to. I certainly found it an enjoyable read, in fact entrancing at times, but it left me confused. Did I or didn't I believe him?

That is a question for you to answer if you buy the book. I cannot help you here. Part of the problem when reading books like this is that the author's ego gets in the way and often it is a case of "How marvellous I am that I have done this or seen that and I know something that you don't." That is not the situation here. Salter's style is modest and unassuming and that adds to the problem.

But, whether it's true or not, I can't get away from the fact that I enjoyed reading it and on that basis, my better recommendation?

★★★★★

If you have produced material on a UFO subject - written a book, produced a video or edited your own magazine/newsletter and would like to see it reviewed in these pages, send a copy to Stuart c/o:

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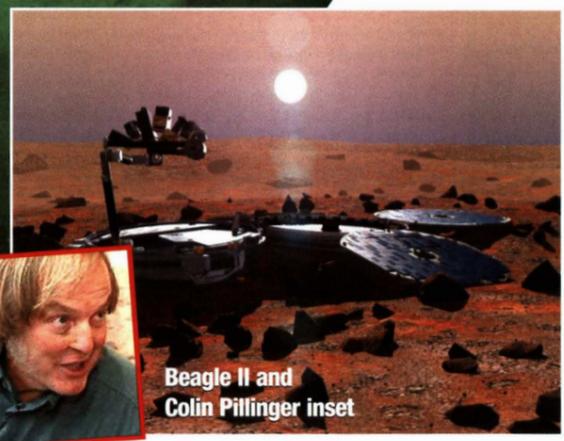
RED PLANET: THE GREEN TRUTH

Revealed for the first time: The secret American pictures that show lakes and liquid water on Mars.

As Christmas Eve unfolded into the small hours of Christmas Day, and people partied and celebrated, I was tucked away in my study, glued to a set of glowing computer and TV screens. The Graham "Cyberbubble" was working flat out, as I watched satellite TV and the Internet for breaking news. I watched as the British Beagle II Mars mission separated from the Mother-ship and began its long fall to the surface of the Red Planet. If all went well, a weak radio signal no more powerful than that of your mobile phone would soon beam up from an ancient dried up sea-bed, and we would be in business, as Beagle started its project of searching for traces of life on the fourth planet from the Sun.

Alas, it was not to be. As the hours went by, an increasingly anxious Professor Colin Pillinger, head of the British Mars Project, was finally confronted with the news that all contact had been lost with the Planetary lander, and we would not be seeing ground-

breaking TV pictures from an ancient, dried-up Martian seabed. Unlike the American probe that landed a few days later, Beagle II was heavily equipped with instrumentation specifically designed to look for traces of alien life on the Red Planet. Drills and borers, for penetrating rocks, TV cameras for looking for plant life on the surface, and a miniature laboratory that could snare even micro-life as small as bacteria, were all on board, incredibly miniaturised, and packed into a space no larger than a domestic dustbin lid. It was the best chance so far to detect life on our neighbouring world, and now it was lying lifeless and inert at the bottom of a steep, narrow crater amongst the rocks and the ice. The deep freeze conditions there would kill its onboard batteries



Beagle II and Colin Pillinger inset

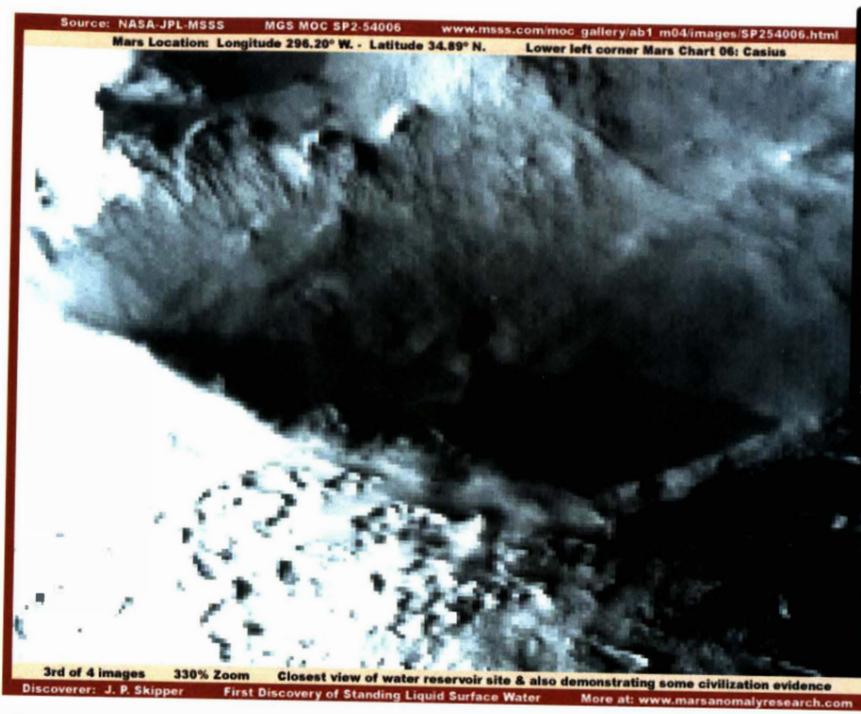
and computers at more than 100 degrees Celsius below zero, without life-giving electrical power trickling from the probe's Solar panels.

By Boxing Day, I had given up my quest for information about our British probe, now another great British defeat. Some part of a lonely Martian field was now forever England. Nearly all the computers were shut down, the TV screens silent, and I picked away distractedly at my lunch. I brooded about the madness of sending a dustbin sized space-mission across a hundred million miles of cold space, to an equally cold and forbidding planet, where even if some small remnants of life were still struggling to survive, it was clear that most of that World was as dry, dusty, and lifeless as an Egyptian mummy.

Then as I sipped my after-lunch coffee, I could hear the soft persistent chime ringing from my study that indicated I had Email.

When I read it, I was dumb-founded. A long string of stunning reconnaissance photographs were soon rolling off of my printer, courtesy of an "Old Friend" at NASA. For the first time, I was staring at the unexpurgated images, previously kept secret, that suddenly justified the entire effort to find life on Mars. They were taken by the American Mars Orbiter spacecraft, as it circled endlessly round the planet, with high definition cameras developed from those onboard Cold-War spy satellites.

The accompanying Email explained that the secrecy and holding back of some of these pictures had required a Congressional inquiry, and a law-suit in the American Courts by dissident space-scientists, to get them released. All 27,000 of them.



Source: NASA JPL-MSSS MGS MOC SP2-54006 www.msss.com/moc_gallery/ab1_m04images/SP254006.html
Mars Location: Longitude 298.20° W. - Latitude 34.89° N. Lower left corner Mars Chart 06: Casius
3rd of 4 Images 330% Zoom Closest view of water reservoir site & also demonstrating some civilization evidence
Discoverer: J. P. Skipper First Discovery of Standing Liquid Surface Water More at: www.marsanomalyresearch.com

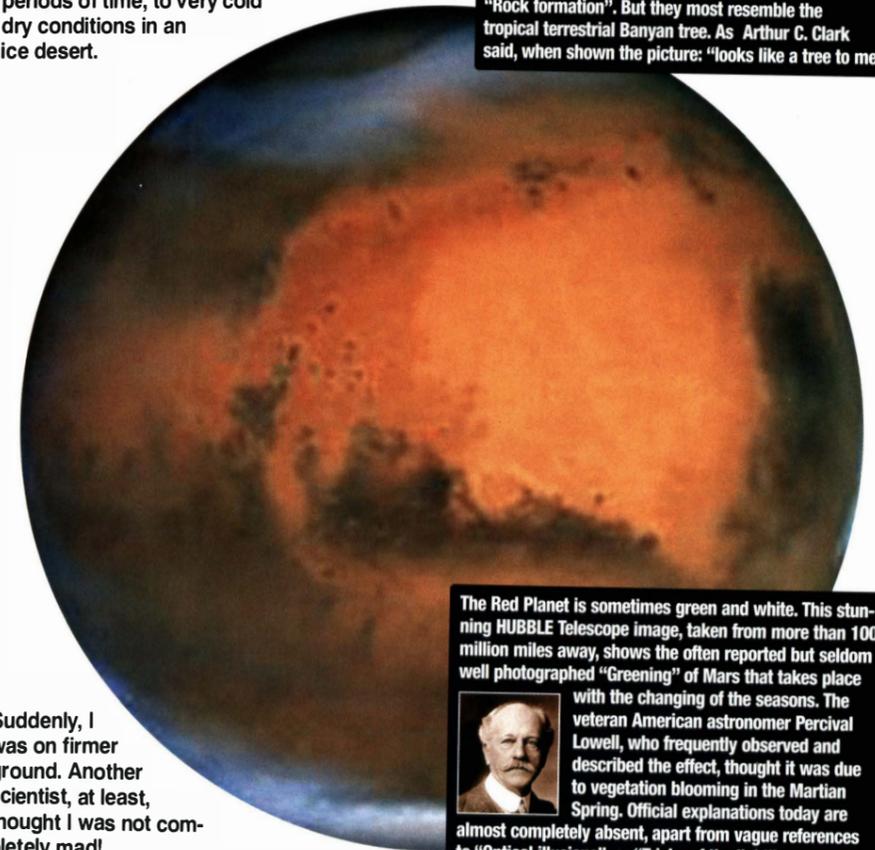
When I started to look intently at them, I could see why. There were things there that went completely against the carefully crafted American official image of Mars as the dead dry Planet. Firstly, there was the water. Not just a few patches of snow or ice, but billions of tons of it, thousands of kilometres away from the long known polar caps of Mars.

What I was seeing were mountain glaciers of ice, amongst some steep equatorial mountains, but even more startling, were the lakes. There, in one amazing image was a high lake, kilometres long, full of unfrozen water, and surrounded by steep slopes of rock and ice. Other pictures showed small ponds and pools, all of liquid water, lying on the open surface, and thin small streams of water flowing across the floors of valleys.

Now scientists have always maintained that any water left on Mars was frozen solid, and that the very low air-pressure meant that any liquid water that appeared would instantly evaporate, as it cold-boiled in the ultra-thin air that was a hundred times less dense than that of Earth. Also, the freezing Martian weather, with temperatures seldom climbing above zero should have turned everything to white and solid ice.

What I was seeing, however, in these pictures was pure scientific heresy. If there were lakes and streams on the Martian surface, even if only in a few areas, then something very peculiar was happening. There were obviously whole areas of Mars where the temperature was high enough for liquid water to exist, one of the absolutely basic requirements for life. Then there were the other images, even more stunning, that showed what could only be vegetation. I was stunned. Looking at the pictures, it was quite obvious I was seeing some sort of bush or tree, plus some huge areas that looked like the ancient Banyan trees that grow in the

Tropics on Earth. Not at all sure now, I asked over a biologist friend, who stared silently for a long time at the photographs, then said something surprising. He had seen such vegetation before. "Where?" I inquired. "In the Canadian High Arctic". These were plants that had adapted, over long periods of time, to very cold dry conditions in an ice desert.



Suddenly, I was on firmer ground. Another scientist, at least, thought I was not completely mad!

After a very sleepless night, filled with strange Martian dreams, I sat down to complete this article, held over right up to the magazine deadline, whilst we waited for >

A large mountain lake on Mars
An oblique reconnaissance image that was kept secret until recently. It shows a mountainous area of surface, covered in steep slopes of ice and snow, and what is clearly an Earth type Alpine lake feature. What appears to be a small glacier is feeding melt water and flow water into a blocked valley. Across the valley bottom, is a large dam of ice, holding back the lake. This lake probably contains two cubic kilometres of water. According to the official physics of the Mars atmosphere and climate, it cannot "officially" exist, just like the other lake features cannot. Local volcanic ground heat, and a supply of glacial water flow, may be the explanation for this "Oasis" of clear liquid water that provides conditions for the survival of life? Not only was this picture officially classified secret by the American authorities, but it has never been explained by them scientifically. It was simply (until recently) suppressed.



This was taken by orbital reconnaissance cameras and shows a huge network of tangled, tree-like growth on the surface. The image area is about the same as the size of Trafalgar Square in London. This intricate and complex web of trunks and branches has been dismissed as a "Geological structure", or "Rock formation". But they most resemble the tropical terrestrial Banyan tree. As Arthur C. Clark said, when shown the picture: "looks like a tree to me".

The Red Planet is sometimes green and white. This stunning HUBBLE Telescope image, taken from more than 100 million miles away, shows the often reported but seldom well photographed "Greening" of Mars that takes place with the changing of the seasons. The veteran American astronomer Percival Lowell, who frequently observed and described the effect, thought it was due to vegetation blooming in the Martian Spring. Official explanations today are almost completely absent, apart from vague references to "Optical illusions", or "Tricks of the light" or "Duststorms". Curiously, in this picture, the main areas of green are in the Southern hemisphere, at Spring. Also notice the equatorial white area on the right, just visible at the Planet edge. It's a huge system of water clouds, not surface ice. Mars has weather, as well.

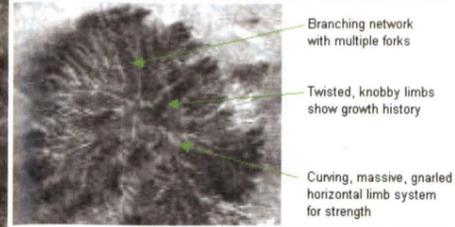




news about Beagle and the other space probes. Over breakfast, things sort of fell into place. It was clear that what had been captured by the orbital cameras was definitely life, of some sort, even though it might not be, as Captain Spock in *Star-Trek* would say, "Life as we know it, Jim".

Aeons ago, when the Martian Seas were full, not the dried up frozen mud of today, and the atmosphere was thick and warm, life must have teemed and swarmed on that planet, where the thick air had acted like a greenhouse, and kept the temperate regions in a sort of perpetual Spring-like condition, cold but tolerable to life. Now all that remained were a few stubborn remnants, clinging tenaciously to life, under almost unbearable conditions, worse than those at the tops of the Himalayas or Andes on this Earth. But life it was. That single extraordinary fact, that in a vast universe, life existed literally right next door, just one planet away, in a small and

This shows an extensive, changing area officially described as "Rock formations, together with "Little rocks", and "Rocks" that cluster together and intertwine, mimicking Earth "Trees". The "Growths" are huge, measuring hundreds of feet across.



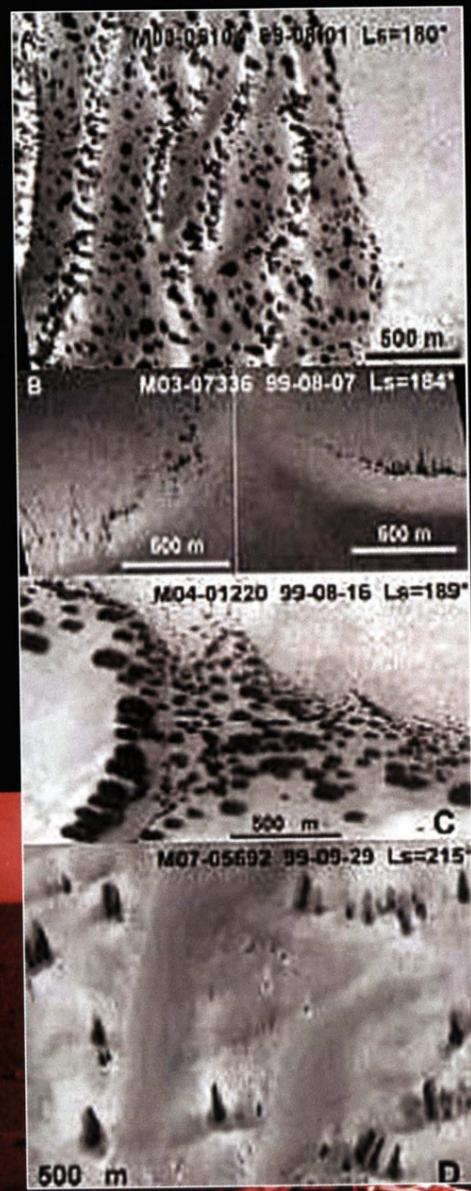
"What a tree expert said"

A trained and experienced forester, when shown this image, had no difficulty pointing out the emphatically tree like structures in the picture. He was clearly able to spot the branch and trunk system, and other features. His view is that this was a very old, extensive, but very slow growing system, in marginal terrain and conditions. He hazarded a guess that the "Growths" might actually be very old indeed, perhaps thousands of years.

A large "Melt water" lake on the edge of the Martian Antarctic, late Spring. This shows something that simply should not be there. This is a large water feature, kilometres across, with large bergs of floating ice in it. An expert said that at first he had thought the picture was of Earth origin, and showing the Earth Antarctica. Clearly, there is often free liquid water on the surface at certain seasons, in large quantities, but in only limited locations. Remember that these ice and water features are infrequent and isolated. Most of Mars is still dry desert, all the seasons of the Martian year.

"The fringe of Life?"

Down on the Southern ice cap, there are large, semi-arid "Dry valley" areas, just like the dry valleys of Antarctica. Fringing them are long strips of what appear to be vegetation. Allegedly "Rock formations", they change colour and extent with the seasons, and are most extensive when the Martian Spring arrives. (Rocks that behave seasonally like plants?)



Banyan trees on Earth. The closest vegetation on Earth that matches the bizarre "Growths" on Mars are the Banyan trees of the tropics.

"They look like trees to Me... Arthur C. Clark"

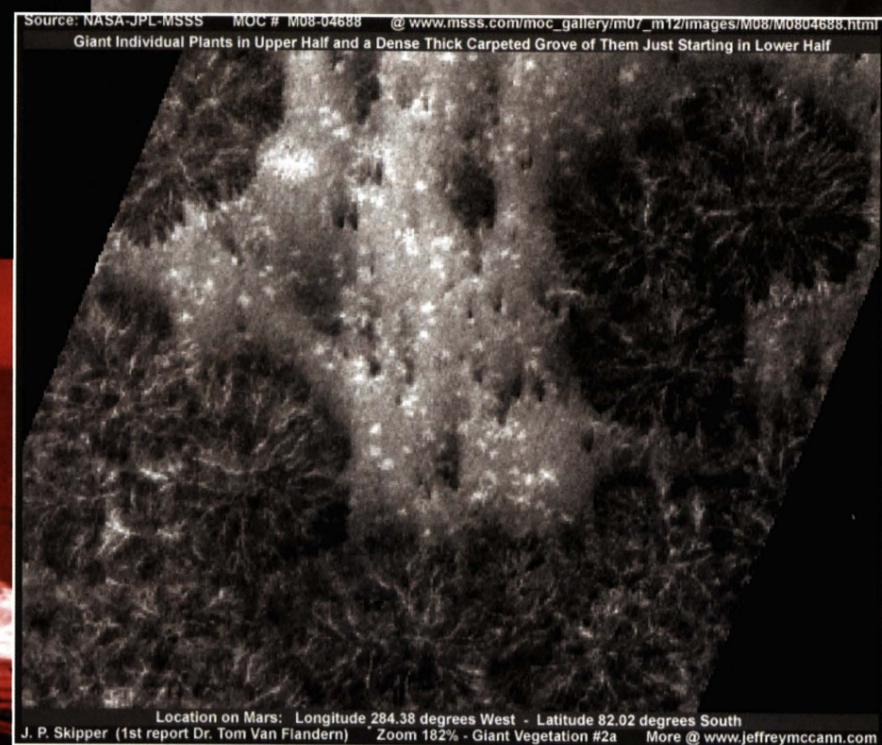
This is one of the most extraordinary images to come from Mars, although it does not look particularly impressive. The bottom picture is clearly not of rocks, but of large, tree like objects, sticking up through the snow and ice on the ground. Some of them are more than 100 feet high. The closest resemblance is to terrestrial Xmas trees! Note: All these "Growths" change with the seasons, and if they are rocks, they are very strange ones.

very typical star-system, has implications that go far beyond a few stunted, arctic-type trees and bushes. If there, then probably everywhere, was my instant thought. Life (even if it is not quite as we know it, Mr. Spock), must be very common, even in the most inhospitable and marginal of places.

Liquid water, a little sunlight, and some cosmic biology, and the precious essence would spring up. On worlds that were closer to their Suns, hot, fetid steaming planets like something out of our Jurassic era, life would absolutely swarm. Perhaps. Then I would go and look at those ghostly images of trees and bushes struggling up out of the Martian snow and ice, the few liquid lakes (probably swarming with micro-organisms), and a small sense of wonder would grow in me. Even there, life was upon the face of the deep. ■

Red Dawn

The successful landing on the Martian surface of the American "Spirit Mission". The panorama shows the flat desert, ending in a distant range of hills, but not all Mars is desert. It is now clear that there are large areas of ice, and some of this melts into ponds and lakes, in limited areas, seasonally. Liquid water is the absolute pre-requisite for life.



Location on Mars: Longitude 284.38 degrees West - Latitude 82.02 degrees South
J. P. Skipper (1st report Dr. Tom Van Flandern) Zoom 182% - Giant Vegetation #2a More @ www.jeffreymccann.com

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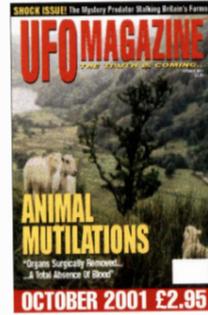
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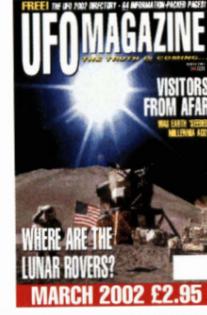
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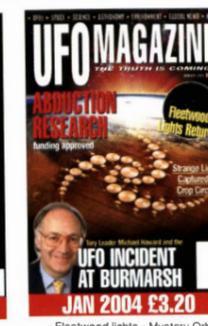
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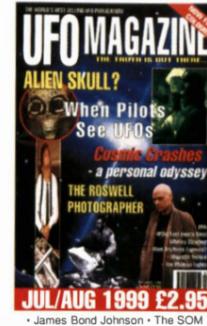
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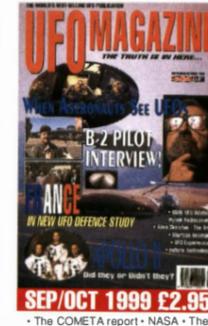
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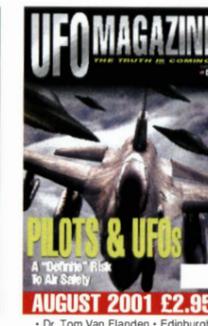
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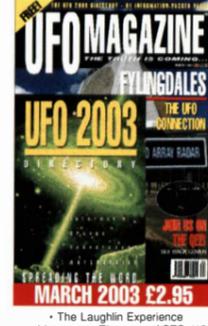
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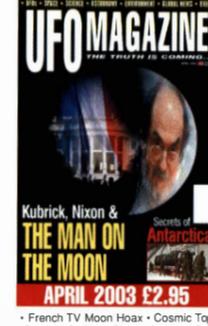
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SPACE & Astronomy



Andrew Pike BSc MSc PGDip FRAS

To date we have not seen any of the exoplanets directly. They are all too close to their parent stars and therefore hidden in their glare. Their detection is mainly down to measuring small variations in the Doppler shift of an exoplanet star's spectrum as the star is pulled towards and away from us when the planet orbits. There have been some detections made in other ways also, like transits across the star's disc, but even these are not seen direct like the transits of Venus will be this coming June. They are seen as a slight drop in the star's brightness.

At the time of writing more than 115 exoplanets are known, orbiting their parent stars at distances ranging from 0.0225 to 5.9 astronomical units (remember one AU is the same as the Earth-Sun distance of 93 million miles or 150 million kilometres). To put this into perspective compared with our own Solar System the distance of Mercury from the Sun (the closest planet to the Sun) is 0.39 AU while that of Jupiter is 5.2 AU.

The orbital periods of these exoplanets range from just 1.2 days to 14.7 years. Again compare this with Mercury and Jupiter at 88 days and 11.9 years respectively. Although we can see similarities with our own system there is one major difference: planets are forming much closer to their parent stars than in our Solar System, for example an exoplanet 'year' lasting only 1.2 days is quite something!

But what of their sizes? Masses range from 0.12 times that of Jupiter to 10 times that of Jupiter. To give some idea of this, Jupiter has a mass about

318 times that of Earth. This means the least massive exoplanet is still 38 times the mass of Earth and the most massive comes in at 3,180 times the Earth's mass. We can immediately see that there is some way to go before we detect Earth-mass planets.

Orbital shapes also vary. For the closest planets, the so-called 'Hot Jupiters', orbits are circular like in our own Solar System, but for those exoplanets orbiting further out there is a mixture of circular and elliptical (oval) orbits.

However, not all of these stars have just one exoplanet orbiting them. Two stars (Upsilon Andromedae and 55 Cancri) have three exoplanets each, while eleven other stars have two planets in orbit.

Despite the variations it is one of the earliest discoveries which bears a remarkable similarity to our Solar System, 47 UMa. Here there are two planets orbiting at 2.1 and 3.7 AU, however their mass ratios of 3.2 to 2 (3.2:2) is almost the same as that of the Jupiter-Saturn figures! Could it be that all that worry in 1996 surrounding this system and suggestions it hinted that our Solar System being an 'odd ball' was unfounded? Could there be several smaller planets closer in to 47 UMa like our own system? If so one might be of Earth-mass and might contain life, maybe even of the intelligent variety. It is an interesting thought that maybe astronomers in that system on a small rocky 'Earth' are looking at our system thinking the same!

I would like to add at this point my comments given in 1997

when I said that we will eventually discover systems like our own and we are not likely to be an 'odd ball' system in the end.

In other words we need not worry. Thankfully, I have been proved right, things are looking far more familiar these days.

Planetary Classifications

Most of us are familiar with the *Star Trek* programmes and the phrase from the Captain to "scan for an M class planet".

Apparently this means a planet like Earth containing an oxygen/nitrogen atmosphere. Well it did not take long before astronomers adapted this same idea for exoplanets.

These planets are now divided into five classes ranging from class I to V. Roman numerals are favoured over letters because star classes are given letters, our Sun is a G class star while M class means a red dwarf star. Nevertheless the principle is the same.

Without knowing the exact type of atmosphere surrounding exoplanets (although this is about to change) the I to V classes are arranged according to the temperatures of their outer atmospheres.

Class I is a Jupiter like temperature of minus 123 degrees Celsius (150 Kelvin) or less. Class II are the 'water planets'.

These are closer to the M class worlds in *Star Trek* with surface temperatures of 250 Kelvin containing water cloud dominated atmospheres.

Class III are planets with clear or gaseous atmospheres and temperatures of 350 to 800 Kelvin which makes them too

hot for water to condense into clouds. Class IV have temperatures greater than 900 Kelvin and are 'close-in' worlds. They have clouds consisting of silicate grains (rock forming material) and iron deep in their atmosphere. Class V are the 'roasting worlds' with temperatures in excess of 1400 Kelvin.

They are the closest and hottest of the exoplanets, the true 'Hot Jupiters'. Here silicate and iron clouds will form high in the atmosphere with the silicate layer above the iron giving rise to 'iron rain', an alien world worthy of the *Star Trek* storylines yet its fact not fiction!

The class into which each of these types fall depends on the distance of the planet from its host star. Let us take Sun-stars as an example. We would expect class I planets to be at a distance of 4 to 5 AU or greater. Type II planets at 1 to 2 AU, type III at distances of less than 1 AU, type IV at about 0.1 to 0.2 AU and type V at distances of 0.05 AU or less.

Obviously for a less luminous star the corresponding distances will reduce and for a more luminous star these values will increase.

EXOPLANETS:

What's New?

The number of planets discovered orbiting stars other than the Sun has now exceeded the one hundred mark. Much has happened since I first reported the discovery of the first three planets orbiting stars 51 Peg, 47 UMa and 70 Vir way back in 1996. As a way of bringing things up to date I have devoted this month's column to the state of play today and a look into the next few years.

Water Worlds

Alain Leger of the Institut d'Astrophysique Spatiale, France, has suggested a new class of exoplanet called a 'Water World' (not to be confused with the 'water planets' described above). Such worlds would be completely covered in water with no land masses.

They would have twice the diameter and around six times the mass of Earth with orbital distances from their host star about the same as the Earth (1 AU). They would have a metallic (probably iron) core about 4000 km radius, surrounded by a rocky mantle 3500 km thick, and be overlaid by a layer of ice 5000 km thick covered by the liquid ocean 100 km deep.

Finally, the planet would have a gas atmosphere to retain its liquid surface preventing evaporation into space.

Water Worlds would start life in a similar way to Uranus and Neptune in our own Solar System. However, in these exosystems they might then migrate to the warmer inner regions heating up as they go.

Such migration is likely to be common place in exoplanetary systems. It explains a lot of features observed there, in particular how the Hot Jupiters formed.

These Water Worlds are still in the realms of speculation but there are a lot of good reasons to believe they might exist and their detection might be closer than we think. Should one of these Water Worlds pass in front of a Sun-like star it would cause a dimming in the star's light of one in a thousand parts which is well within the scope of planned detection projects like the Eddington and Kepler missions.

Kepler and Eddington Missions

NASA's Kepler mission is due for launch in 2007. It is designed to seek planets in, or near, the habitable zones of other stars. The regions will contain planets with liquid water and therefore possible life. Its wide field CCD photometer will continuously monitor the brightness of around 100,000 main sequence stars simultaneously for a period of four years. This period should be long enough to detect any terrestrial planets like Earth and might find hundreds of candidates. The mission should also detect other closer in Hot Jupiters.

The Eddington mission is run by ESA (European Space Agency) and will launch in 2008. It carries precision photometers capable of detecting brightness changes as small as one part in 10,000. As well as monitoring star themselves the mission will also investigate planetary transits and should be capable of detecting planets as small as Mars!

The next decade or two should see the subject of exoplanets explode out of all proportions.

Amazing stuff seeing as less than ten years ago we knew of no planets orbiting stars other than our own Sun. Now in

Artist's concept of a Jupiter-mass planet orbiting the star, 55 Cancri.

©NASA/LYNETTE COOK

Andrew Pike's

Night Sky Guide

FEBRUARY 2004



February sees Jupiter becoming more prominent as it approaches opposition next month, while the slow decline of Saturn begins following its December opposition. Mars continues to hang on in the west after sunset with Venus finally becoming better placed for northern latitude observers.

Bright Stars

Many bright stars can exhibit strange effects unfamiliar to the casual observer, like colour change or disappearing behind haze especially when low on the horizon. As always I have included the brightness (magnitudes) of the most prominent stars after their names in brackets. This should also act as a guide when comparing brightness of objects throughout the guide. The magnitude system works such that the lower the value the brighter the object with particularly bright objects having increasingly negative values.

Arcturus (-0.06) and Spica (1.0) are low in the east around midnight at the beginning of February rising by 20h at the end of the month. To find these follow round the handle of the plough and you will first arrive at Arcturus then Spica.

Vega (0.04) and Deneb (1.26) hover low on the northern horizon. From British latitudes they are circumpolar meaning they never set below the horizon. However, Vega skims the northern horizon with Deneb to its left and if haze is present either may disappear only to reappear as they climb in altitude later in the night.

Altair (0.77) in Aquila will be setting close to the western horizon in the early evening, rising again in the east at 04h at the beginning of the month, and by 2.30h at the month's end. Antares (1.35) in Scorpius is rising at the same times but further around the eastern horizon.

Regulus (1.4) in Leo rises in the east by about 18h at the beginning of the month and by 16.30h at the end of the month.

Capella (0.05) is still high up overhead for much of the night.

Castor (1.58) and Pollux (1.16) in Gemini are on view for much of the night appearing due south at 22h at the beginning of February and 20h by the end of the month. Jupiter is currently close by giving an unfamiliar appearance to the constellation.

Aldebaran (0.8)/Betelgeuse (0.4)/Rigel (0.1)/Sirius (-1.46)/Procyon (0.4) all rise in the east in the early evening remaining on view for much of the night. By midnight they are close to setting and will have set by 04h. Saturn can currently be seen just above Aldebaran and close to the Pleiades star cluster.

THE PLANETS

Mercury

Mercury is not visible to observers in northern temperate latitudes. However, for observers further south the planet will be visible low on the south eastern horizon before dawn, but only for the first half of the month. The planet will brighten during this time from magnitude -0.2 to -0.6.

Venus

Venus remains visible as a brilliant feature dominating the western sky after sunset for some 3 hours. By the end of the month its angular distance from the Sun will continue to increase as it approaches a maximum separation next month (46 degrees) by which time it will be on show for almost 4 hours after sunset! During February the planet will brighten slightly from a brilliant magnitude of -4.0 to -4.1.

Venus will be 3 degrees north of the crescent Moon on 23 February.

Mars

Also in the evening sky is Mars which will continue to linger for some time yet. Now in the constellation of Aries it will fade further in brightness this month from magnitude +0.7 to +1.1. Mars with its characteristic red tint will be a noticeable feature and for those in British latitudes (50 degrees north) will remain on view until about midnight.

The reluctance Mars is showing to fade from view is due to the planet moving north in declination. For those in British latitudes this means it gains in declination to compensate for the earlier setting. Mars will be 1 degree north of the (almost) half Moon on 26 February.

Saturn

Saturn is still visible in the south western sky in the evening. For northern latitude observers the planet will remain on show for several hours after midnight at magnitude -0.2. It is well placed high up in the constellation of Gemini close to Castor and Pollux.

Saturn will be 4 degrees south of the gibbous (three-quarter) Moon on 3 February.

February Meteors

This month's meteors will be largely sporadic in nature. There are no obvious showers during the month, however, meteors can appear without warning at any time.

Comet C/2002 T7 and C/2001 Q4

These two comets should be prominent summer features during April and May. The two have brightened at the stage when astronomers were expecting a decline in brightness so hopes are high for a good show!



At present they are not best placed with Comet T7 near Pegasus and Q4

moving northwards from the region of the winter constellations of Canis Major and Orion towards Ursa Major in July. I will continue to keep readers informed.

Jupiter

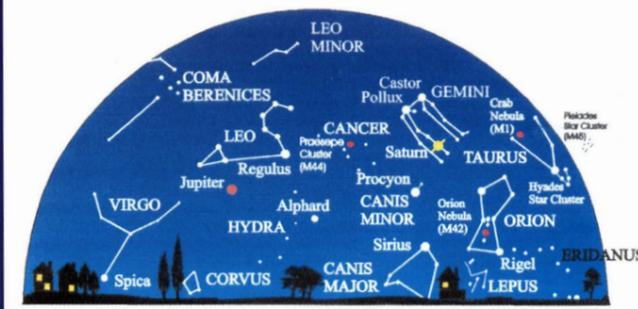
Jupiter remains visible as a bright object in the constellation of Leo. The planet will come to opposition next month (3 March) when it will be on view throughout the night appearing due south at midnight. At magnitude -2.5 it has brightened slightly since January as it becomes more prominent in the sky leading to its opposition. Jupiter will appear in the east shortly after sunset and will remain on view until dawn during January. Jupiter will be 3 degrees south of the (just past) full Moon on 8 February.

Northern Stars

1st February midnight 15th February 11.00pm 29th February 10.00pm



Looking North



Looking South

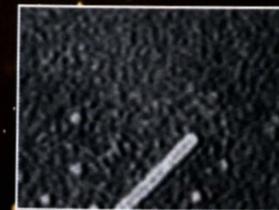
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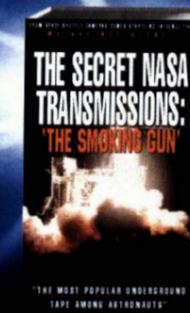
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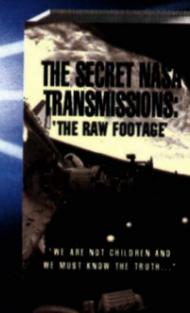
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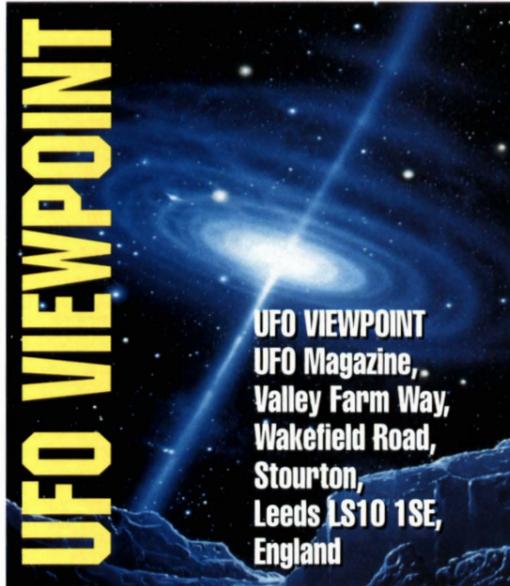
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RELIGIOUS CHAOS?

Would people knowing the truth really cause religious chaos?

I often hear it said that if the people were to find out the truth about UFOs and extraterrestrials, society, as we know it, would collapse into chaos due to the religious beliefs of billions of us being shattered.

There's no doubt that if the governments of the world suddenly announced that there is intelligent extra-terrestrial life residing on the Earth, it would be a historical moment. But would society really descend into chaos? There would be some concerned citizens, and I'm sure there would be a few gun toting rednecks getting ready for Armageddon. But the aforementioned rednecks look for any excuse to behave like that, remember Y2K? They were sitting in underground bunkers with 3 years worth of canned food and enough guns and ammunition to effect a "regime change" on a small country, while the rest of us were out partying. I'm sure some of them are still in those bunkers waiting for the radiation to subside so they can emerge to do battle with the mutants.

I'm sure in this day and age the large majority of Christians believe that the Bible isn't literally true. And recently a spokesman from the Vatican has been quoted as saying "extraterrestrials exist and are our brothers". Muslims also have no problem with ET life. Apparently it's all covered in the Koran.

Dinosaurs are never mentioned in the Bible, or any other religious texts to the best of my knowledge. Yet the discovery of massive ancient reptile skeletons hasn't caused chaos amongst the religious communities. The same cover-up could have been applied to them. You could just imagine

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someone digging up their garden and finding a one metre long skull. They then phone the newspaper, reporters arrive take a few pictures, then it's all over the papers. Next thing you know the "Men in Black" are getting involved. People are threatened, the skull is confiscated, and the man who found the skull is made out to be a lunatic or a hoaxer. We would have an all-new culture of claims and counter-claims, researchers and debunkers, sightings and hoaxes.

Humans are an incredible species. We know so much about the universe we live in having barely ventured away from our own tiny part of it. In only one hundred years we have gone from propeller driven planes to orbiting space stations and landing remote probes on other planets.

There is still an infinite amount for us to learn, but I think we are ready for the next step.

Matt Johnson
mj@gmx4.net

FACE IN BALL PLASMA?

The strangeness of this subject has long ceased to surprise me, therefore it was really only with a mild shock when I saw what I perceived to be a head above the presumed hand rails, of what now might be the soubriquet of 'Fiery Chariot' ('Engaging the Dragon', *UFO Magazine*, Jan. 2004, fig 5).

The head or perhaps it should be called 'a face' is apparently intent on looking down over the side of its chariot, maybe peering back at the humans that were looking at it. It has the mien of a man.

Mr A. Calvert
Barnet, Herts.

DISAPPOINTED

I have read everything you have published about Crop Circles, and made my way through several books including *Crop Circles - Signs of Contact* by Colin Andrews.

I am disappointed, for he gives us no answers. The book has no storyline, just an accumulation of disjointed chapters and several errors referring to Military Intelligence as 'M-Fifteen'.

Colin tells us firmly that Crop Circles appear only in cereal crops, but the book opens with another so called expert, Stephen J. Spignesi, telling us that he wished for a circle of a specific design and it appeared in a field of grass. (He didn't think to photograph it and it disappeared the next day.)

Colin then admits that many circles appear in rapeseed fields. In succeeding paragraphs he says foreign Circles have different designs to the ones found in the UK but they are the same as ours.



AEROSTAT SIGHTING

Regarding the article 'Snapshot from a cruise: An Aerostat Sighting', *UFO Magazine*, Jan. 2004, page 30. I can confirm that the photos were indeed of the infamous Aerostat Radar Balloon located at La Paraguera, Lajas in Puerto Rico. It is sited in a natural dip making it difficult to see when grounded although it is just a few hundred yards from the Caribbean Sea. When seen aloft of course it is visible for many miles.

I have visited Puerto Rico a few times mainly because of the UFO situation in that country. Many of the local people question the government's reason for the Aerostat (to combat illegal drug trafficking) and wonder if its real purpose is to monitor the coming and going of the many UFOs reported and seen there.

On one of my trips to the island I decided to visit and explore the equally infamous

This matter of wishing or pre-cogging crop circle designs is nowhere properly examined; he sights a drawing by an American woman which, he says subsequently turned up in nature yet the circle cited has almost no similarity to the drawing!



I accept that one can easily distinguish between genuine and hoaxed circles, so why does Colin's catalogue illustrate all the fakes without distinction, and why are their sites not identified?

This comes over as sheer sloppiness, and like so much of the book it undermines Colin's claims. In the end I am left with two major questions; and, until these are answered, the whole Crop circle thing remains a fuzzy puzzle. First,

why do some people deliberately fake crop circles? Are they paid by the government (see Colin's revelation about how the British Army 'set-up' a bogus circle right in the middle of his supposedly scientific 'Operation Blackbird'), or is the CIA behind all the fakery? Or are they serving a secret alien base on earth?

My second question is: what do all these increasingly complex signs mean? Going from plain circles to the Julia set and other complex mathematical and astronomical designs, what are the (presumably alien) creators trying to tell us?

Isn't it odd that, if these really are alien creations they should be utterly incomprehensible? And why hasn't Colin Andrews or his many supporters tried to figure out just what if anything they mean?

As I said: I'm disappointed. Can anyone provide some properly supported answers? Without a single clue, the whole topic seems pointless.

Ken Lake, Loughton, Essex

I hired a bicycle and set off from my base in Parguera taking the short route through the hills. After 30 minutes or so I realised I was lost. It was early morning so on passing a house I stopped and asked for directions.

It so happened the person I asked actually worked for the police department. After initial pleasantries were exchanged, in broken Spanish-English, I was told that this person had a close relative who worked for NASA at the Aerostat installation, and that they have 'little creatures' down there! When I asked for more information they told me it was dangerous to say more. (I am being purposefully vague in their description.)

The puzzle is why would NASA operate a Drug Trafficking observation balloon? Many Puerto Ricans are also puzzled by the situation.

M Prentis
Nottingham

LEEDS CONFERENCE REFUNDS

Refunds are being paid back in order of receipt and although taking longer than first anticipated it is a continuing process. We thank you for your patience and understanding over the last few difficult weeks and assure you that all refunds will be made.

Christine Birdsall is dealing with the refunds personally and can be contacted at this email address orders@ufomag.co.uk

13th Annual International UFO Congress Convention & Film Festival

FEBRUARY 8 - 14, 2004, LAUGHLIN, NEVADA, USA

Situated on the banks of the Colorado River, the Flamingo Resort Hotel in Laughlin, Nevada will play host to the world's largest UFO congress attracting speakers and delegates from around the world. Laughlin is less than 90 minutes drive from Las Vegas, and within striking distance of many other magnificent tourist attractions, such as Lake Mead, Hoover Dam, Death Valley, Meteor Crater, Red Rock Canyon, Area 51, Little A'le'Inn, Nellis AFB & The Grand Canyon!



FULL ATTENDANCE PACKAGE INCLUDES:

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- Admission to the Wednesday "Meet Your Speakers Party" - (Wine & Cheese Tasting, Door Prizes & Dancing)
- Admission to the Saturday evening Grand Finale Banquet and EBE Awards Ceremony
- Optional participation for Experiencers in special evening group sessions led by a qualified counsellor

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Early registrations received on or before January 5, 2004 the full package is \$399.00 Per Person Double Occupancy and \$529.00 Single Occupancy Registrations received between January 6 & February 3, 2004 are \$439.00 Per Person Double Occupancy and \$569.00 Per Person Single Occupancy • (Persons wanting the Double Occupancy Price, but don't have someone to share with, we can match you with a roommate for an additional \$10.00. Please complete necessary info on registration form. Reservations requesting us to find you a roommate must be received by January 24, 2004)

ATTENDANCE PACKAGE WITHOUT HOTEL ROOM

\$285.00 Per Person for registrations received on or before January 5, 2004 \$310.00 Per Person for registrations received between January 6 & February 3, 2004

PARTIAL ATTENDANCE PACKAGE PRICES

Persons attending less than the full week, the hotel room rates are: \$27.00 per night Sunday - Thursday and \$49.00 per night on Friday & Saturday. (Prices are the same for Single or Double Occupancy, and include all room taxes. These rates are available only when booked in advance through the Congress.)

DEADLINE FOR ALL ADVANCE REGISTRATIONS IS TUESDAY, February 3 (3:00pm MT). After that time, please contact the hotel for room reservations and availability. (Direct rates with the hotel will be slightly higher.) Conference event tickets may be purchased at the door. (Rates at the door will be slightly higher. Banquet seating may be limited.)

TRANSPORTATION
There are several airlines and charters that fly directly into Bullhead City, AZ Airport, which is just across the river from Laughlin. (The Flamingo has complimentary shuttles to and from this airport.) For those who fly into Las Vegas, there will be a discounted shuttle service available throughout the week. Special car rental discounts will also be available.

* Complete transportation information is provided in the information packets.

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Full registration and accommodation packages are available from:

International UFO Congress, 9975 Wadsworth Parkway, # K-2, 504, Westminster, CO 80021.
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INVITED SPEAKERS

- **JIM MARRS**
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- **MATTHEW HURLEY (U.K.)**
- **JOE McMONEAGLE**
- **WYNN FREE & DAVID WILCOCK**
- **Prof. JAMES McCANNEY**
- **DR. CLUADE SWANSON**
- **ADRIAN DVIR (Isreal)**
- **RUSSEL CALLAGHAN (U.K.)**
- **GEORGE FILER**
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- **MARY RODWELL (Australia)**
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- **RILEY MARTIN**
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- **COL. WENDELLE STEVENS**
- **MICHAEL HORN**
- **SANTIAGO YTURRIA GARZA (Mexico)**
- **Dr. NORMAN BERGRUN**
- **DANIEL SHEEHAN**

ALL SPEAKERS ARE CONFIRMED AS OF 15/11/2003 THIS SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE - BUT ONLY IF NECESSARY !

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

Because of recent events, *UFO Magazine* have decided to cancel the organised package tour "The Laughlin Experience" for February 2004, and would like to apologise for any inconvenience this will cause.

We will however continue to promote this fabulous UFO Conference and will help in any way possible those readers wishing to travel to this event.

Bob and Terri Brown have some great deals available for delegates, offering excellent accommodation within the Flamingo Resort Hotel, Laughlin, and access to all congress lectures and events.

You pay the one price and that's it. No hidden extras just a week of UFO magic.

There are good flight deals available from many major operators and if you wish you can choose to stay a couple of extra days in the entertainment capital of the world, Las Vegas.

UFO groups

-UFO MONITORS EAST KENT (UFOMEK) has a unique 24-Hour Information Hotline bringing you the latest news in the world of ufology and where you can leave details of your own sighting. Please call 0871 872 0010 or write to: Chris Rolfe, (UFOMEK), 23, Brabner Close, Folkestone, Kent, CT19 6LW. *Calls charged at standard BT national rates.

-MUFON, (Mutual UFO Network), America's largest civilian UFO organisation and publisher of the world renowned (monthly) *MUFON Journal*. Subscription enquiries to MUFON, PO Box 369, Morrison, CO 80465-0369, United States of America. Website: <http://www.mufon.com> Email: mufonufojournal@hotmail.com Tel: 303 932 7709 Fax: 303 932 9279.

-J.ALLEN HYNEK Center for UFO Studies, publishers of the world renowned (quarterly) *International UFO Reporter*, edited by Jerome Clark. Subscription enquiries to: IUR, 2457 West Peterson Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60659, USA. Website: <http://www.cufos.org>

research

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AUSTRALIA

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-UFO ROUNDUP <http://ufoinfo.com/roundup/index.shtml> Weekly UFO reports from around the globe and a lot more besides. Edited by Joseph Trainor. Visit the website for further details.

colswb.com Laugh or grimace at ET cartoons. Some UFO/ET knowledge necessary + 'Out There' building design service. All free.

-THE BLACK VAULT is run by John Greenwald Jr. and contains tens of thousands of hitherto classified UFO documents and much more. Visit us at www.blackvault.com

-www.uforum.co.uk
Exchange information with like-minded people in the new UK based on-line discussion forum, dedicated to all things UFO related.

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-SPACE TRAVEL USA
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-LUCY PRINGLE offers a wide variety of crop circle merchandise including photographs, calendars, postcards, etc. For further details, please send a SAE to: Lucy Pringle, 5 Town Lane, Sheet, Petersfield, Hampshire, GU32 2AF. Tel/Fax +44(0)1730 263454. E-mail: LucyPringle@cs.com <http://www.home.clara.net/lucypringle>

miscellaneous

-JESUS SAID "Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations beginning at Jerusalem." - Luke 24:46-47

events

-DORSET'S 9TH ANNUAL APRIL CONFERENCE 2004 National and International lecturers: Reg Presley, Philip Mantle to name but a few. Stalls available for traders. For details telephone: 01305 889108 or visit <http://universityoflife.users2.50megs.com/page/e4.htm>

-IRISH UFO CONFERENCE, GALWAY, IRELAND. 11/13 June 2004. Organised by Betty Meyler, President, UFO Society of Ireland. Website: www.ufosocietyireland.com or email info@ufosocietyireland.com See page 81 for more details.

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Copy close date for all advertisements for March 2004 UFO Magazine is 6 February

Is Anybody Out There?
A video on alien abductions, UFO sightings, crop circles, etc.

In this, his first ever television documentary, author Christopher Martin attempts to answer the perennial question:

IS ANYBODY OUT THERE?
Is Anybody Out There? (Running time: 50 mins. approx) QP/447 Price: £13.99 (VHS) - £17.99 (DVD) [Includes p&p]

His journey of discovery takes him around the world meeting witnesses, fellow researchers and the media.
Contains the very latest UFO footage filmed by Christopher and others which make for compelling viewing.

PLEASE NOTE

* UFO Magazine™ welcomes articles, photographs, case files, special reports, news-clippings etc. These should be referenced and presented as a hard copy and supplied on floppy disc or CD for Mac/PC.

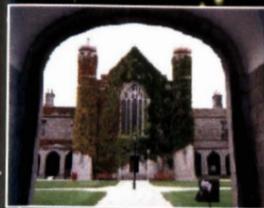
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First Irish International UFO Conference 11th/13th June 2004

WE KNOW THEY ARE OUT THERE!!



National University of Ireland, Galway

WELCOME to the First ever Irish International UFO Conference which will be held at National University of Ireland, Galway from 11th to 13th June 2004. This Conference brings together a panel of distinguished Speakers who are well known internationally for their work on research in various aspects of the UFO phenomenon.

The VENUE is the O'Flaherty Theatre of National University of Ireland, Galway. As the Theatre seats only 360, it is advisable to book early, as reservations will be on a 'first come, first served' basis.

The University is set in spacious grounds on the banks of the River Corrib and is one of the most attractive university sites in Europe. It is within easy reach of the town and its strategic location on the West Coast of Ireland gives visitors easy access to the surrounding beauty spots. The friendliness of the people of Galway will ensure that leisure periods between conference sessions will be looked back on with much pleasure, so why not take advantage of this break and bring the family. There is lots to see and do...

Galway itself - known as "The City of the Tribes" is a vibrant city with excellent shops, superb restaurants and lively traditional pubs, many with live music. You haven't lived 'til you have seen 'the Sun go down on Galway Bay!' To make the most of the city take a walking tour or an open top bus tour, or perhaps take a river cruise on 'The Corrib Princess' or visit the lovely off-shore Aran Islands. Nearby attractions include the Galway Irish Crystal Heritage Centre as well as Thoor Ballylee, once the summer house of the world famous poet William Butler Yeats and lots, lots more...

Galway is easily reached by air, ferry, train, bus or car - some websites to visit for more information are: www.irelandwest.travel.ie, www.aerarann.ie, www.galwayairport.com, www.shannonairport.com, www.west-irl-holidays.ie

The Conference opens on 11th June 2004 at 6.30 p.m. with a Wine Reception hosted by the UFO Society of Ireland in association with Ireland West Tourism. This will be followed by the Opening Forum and Introduction of Speakers.

On Saturday 12th and on Sunday 13th the Conference will start at 10.a.m. and finish at 6 p.m.

Details of times of individual Speakers will be announced at a later date. For information on Speakers click www.ufosocietyireland.com

Gala Dinner - savour true Irish hospitality and enjoy the 'craic' at the Gala Dinner on Saturday 12th June at the 4-star Radisson Hotel, Lough Atalia Road, Galway at 8 p.m. Superb buffet with a wide choice of dishes to suit all tastes prepared by award-winning chefs.

Music by "Rock 'n' Reel" a well-known Irish duo of Father and Daughter. They are one of the most sought after acts on the present Irish circuit and they bring their own unique style to a mix of songs and tunes - they even have a song of their own - on UFOs!!

TICKET PRICES:-

Wine Reception and Opening Forum - Friday 11th June - €15
Conference - Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th - €35 each day which includes tea/coffee breaks and a Box Lunch
All-inclusive price for 3 days €80 - Members only €75
Saturday & Sunday €65 - Members only €60
For details on how to join the Society and so avail of this offer click on

www.ufosocietyireland.com
Gala Dinner - €50 per head which includes wine
FOR ALL BOOKINGS AND INFORMATION CLICK
www.ufosocietyireland.com
Or telephone Betty on 353(0)71 9662844
Email: info@ufosocietyireland.com

SPEAKERS

BETTY MEYLER (Ireland)
Betty is the Founder and President of the UFO Society of Ireland. She has witnessed many UFO sightings and is dedicated to the task of disseminating information about UFOs and is the only person in Ireland collecting information about sightings in Ireland. Her Presentation will be entitled "The UFO Scene in Ireland".

EAMONN ANSBRO M.Ast.FRAS (Ireland)
Eamonn is the Director of Kingsland Observatory, Ireland. He is a SETI scientist and has conceived and developed a unique All-Sky Tracking system dedicated to seeking out AOPs (UFOs) that may indicate the first scientific evidence of extraterrestrial intelligent probes. His Presentation will be entitled "Search for Extraterrestrial Visitation (SETV)".

RUSSEL CALLAGHAN (U.K.)
Russel has worked for over 25 years in the commercial and broadcasting television world as both cameraman and editor and casts an experienced eye over much of the alleged 'UFO material' that crosses his desk at *UFO Magazine*. Some images simply fail, but he will present a collection of unusual clips from around the world. His Presentation will be entitled "UFOs - the Video Evidence".

STANTON T. FREIDMAN (Canada)
Stanton was awarded the first ever 'Lifetime Achievement Award' at the 2002 Leeds UFO Conference. He was the original civilian investigator of the Roswell Incident and has lectured at more than 700 colleges and professional groups in 15 countries. His Presentation will be entitled "Star Travel? YES!".

GARY HESELTINE (U.K.)
Gary is a Police officer with the British Transport Police and he has been collecting information from fellow Police Officers who have had UFO-related experiences. He is the founder of PRUFOS - Police Reporting UFO Sightings. His Presentation will be entitled "Evidence through Police Eyes".

MICHAEL HESEMANN (Germany)
Michael won the award for 'Best Video on a UFO Subject' for his 'Ships of Light' in the 2002 *UFO Magazine Awards* and is a much travelled international researcher. He has a vast library of startling UFO footage gleaned from around the world. His Presentation will be entitled "The Secret KGB UFO Files".

Dr. ROGÉR LEIR (U.S.A.)
Roger has done pioneering work in the surgical removal of alien implants from abductees and his scientific research uses academic science from which he draws his conclusions. He is the author of numerous books on the subject. His Presentation will be entitled "Alien Implants in Humans".

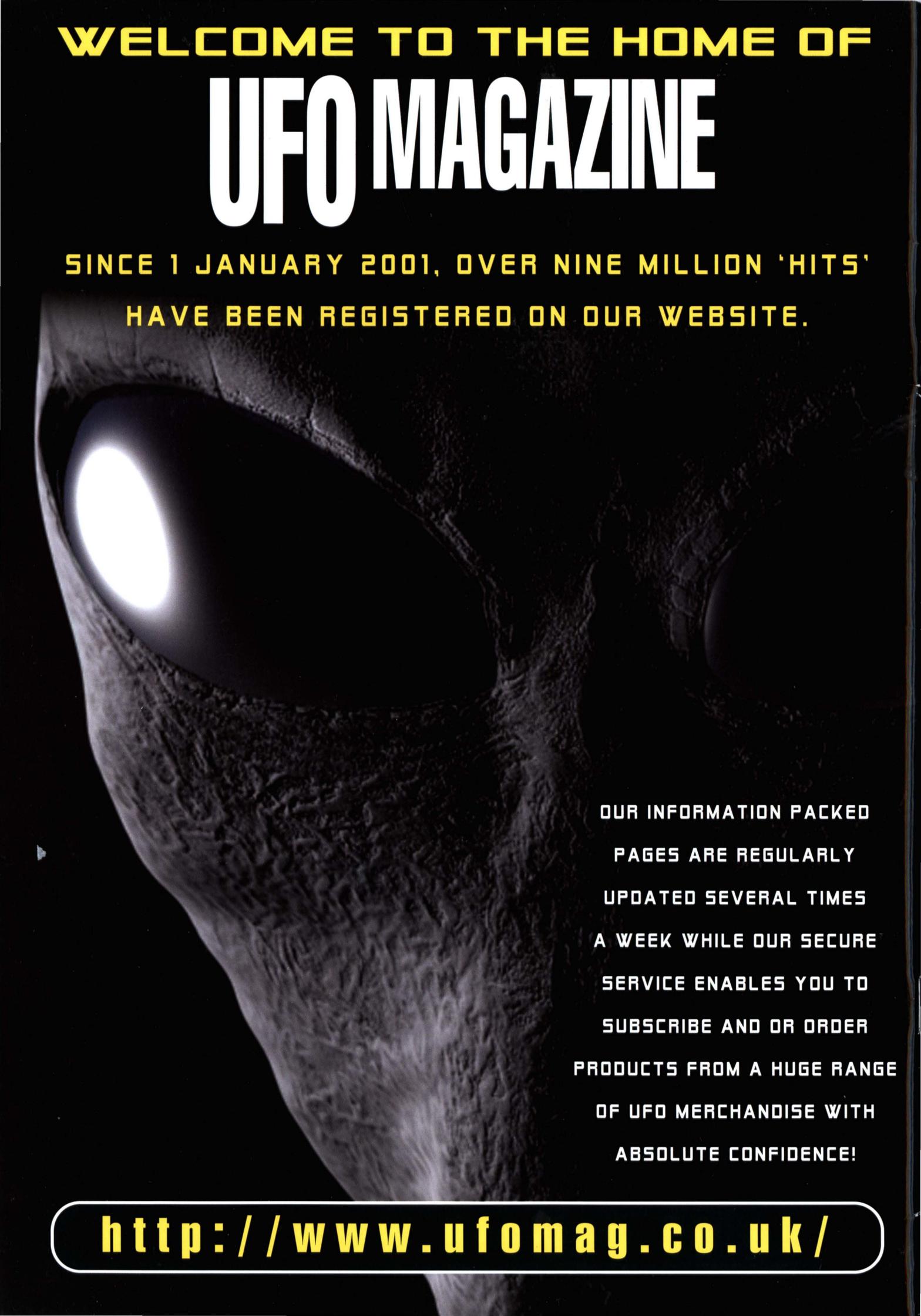
PHILIP MANTLE (U.K.)
Philip has spent many years researching the UFO phenomenon and is the author of many books on the subject. He was particularly interested in the controversial 'Alien Autopsy' footage. His Presentation will be entitled "Alien Autopsy Update".

PHIL MEDLEY (U.K.)
Phil has seen over 50 UFOs including several craft together at the famous Gulf Breeze in Florida. He has been in communication with an ET pilot from a craft for the last 7 years and his contact with ETs has involved travelling all over the world. His Presentation will be entitled "The Stargate Grid".

MIKE MURRAY (U.K.)
Mike is one of the three founding Directors of InterSeti (EUROSETI until 2003), most famous for their 'outing' of the SOHO satellite images of UFOs at the UK National Space Centre in 2002. This will be the first time these images will have been shown in Ireland. His Presentation will be entitled "Behind the Veil of Secrecy".

CARL NALLY (Ireland)
Carl is the co-founder, together with Dermot Butler, of U.P.R.I. - U.F.O. and Paranormal Research Ireland, which conducts independent and objective research into unidentified flying objects and the paranormal scene generally. His Presentation will be entitled "The Phenomena of Hypnosis and Altered States".

Dr. NABIL SHABEEN (U.K.)
Nabil, who is an actor, writer and film-maker, will present a talk about his personal UFO research and will describe some of the very extraordinary UFO experiences that he himself has had. His Presentation will be entitled "Of course it's true. But are they just tourists?".

A close-up, high-contrast photograph of a grey alien face. The alien's skin has a textured, wrinkled appearance. One eye is prominently featured on the left side of the frame, glowing with a bright white light. The other eye is visible on the right but is dark. The background is black, making the alien's features stand out.

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