

Alternate Horizons Newsletter

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ARE THE UFO "PEOPLE" REALLY SUPERIOR?

By John A. Keel

Today the chiefs of remote African tribes drive Rolls-Royces, as do the oil rich Sultans of the Persian Gulf, and the politicians of the Orient. Yet none of these men probably fully understand how automobiles actually function, and none of their countries are advanced enough to actually manufacture such vehicles. In fact, Sheiks in the Middle East are in the habit of abandoning their cars outright when they break down . . . because there are no mechanics available to make even minor repairs. Could we honestly say that random leaders in still-primitive countries are "technologically superior" because they are able to utilize the developments of other, distant societies?

By the same token, a modern secretary spends her days hammering away at a complex electric typewriter. She didn't build it, she doesn't really understand how it works and, in fact, she often is unable to change the ribbon in the damned thing. Is she "technologically superior"?

How, then, can we even suggest that the UFO pilots are advanced beyond our own present stage? Perhaps their machines can outperform anything we have been able to build so far. But that hardly means that the UFO pilots themselves actually constructed their vehicles.

When you carefully re-examine the some 2,500 "contact" stories and UFO "pilot" sightings of the past hundred years, and if you are able to accept them at face value, it quickly becomes clear that in the majority of these cases the elusive "occupants" were described as having behaved in a crude, primitive, even stupid manner. Could these hairy little "monsters" and blundering "giants" have actually manufactured the circular machines which they use for transportation?

During my extensive travels to flap areas in the past year I have uncovered many new and unpublicized contact stories. And there are many fascinating new clues in these tales. The "creatures" are nearly always described as behaving in a peculiar, bewildered, not-too-bright manner. Some of these groups do not appear to come from any kind of organized society. They display a baffling naivete' and they constantly make absurd mistakes which, if our credibility were stronger, would give them away immediately.

We can no longer exclude the possibility that the UFO "occupants" may not be the designers and builders of their craft, but may merely have been selected to carry out specific missions, or may have obtained the craft from some other, more remote and better organized society. It might even be possible that these craft were constructed by another society aeons ago, and that they were so well built that even after that society perished other groups were able to continue using them.

~~Ivan T. Sanderson, and others, now believe that many - or all - of the UFO occupants are actually "androids" . . . manufactured entities. Some of the new data in my files actually points to this. This would mean that we are not dealing with thinking, feeling beings, but are facing the rather hopeless task of trying to understand chemical machines which are merely "programmed". (Just as we are programmed by DNA.) Such beings would~~

have no social relationships and, therefore, would have no society. In short, we might be dealing with a total blank - non-beings operating craft which they obtained from a source we may never be able to uncover. We could never ask them to "Take us to your leader" because they would have no leader. Their flights may be simply haphazard and cover the entire solar system, or the entire universe, without pattern or purpose.

Innumerable contacts were claimed during the 1896-97 flap, and from the available reports it seems that those pioneer contactees were told contradictory stories, just as the modern contactees tend to contradict each other. Some ufologists now suspect that these contrasting "facts" are being seeded on purpose, to keep us from learning the real "truth". It could also be possible that these contradictions are simply an indication of another, more obscure, "truth" . . . that the ufonauts don't really know who or what they are. And that they simply "reveal" whatever seems to be the most palatable to the witness.

In any case, we should face the dismal fact that twenty years of applying the "scientific method" has failed totally to produce any answers. A new approach is needed. Instead of dealing with fanciful theories and speculations, we should re-examine all of the available "hard facts" and determine first the exact nature of our own confusion before we go on with more endless and aimless discussion and controversy.

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NYC. May '67

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AR BOOKSHELF & LIBRARY: Books of interest

The Druid Stone, By Simon Majors, Paperback Library, 50¢, 157 pages. This fine fictional account is well worth reading for those interested in the alternate reality theory. Somewhat like The Incomplete Enchanter and other "fantasy" books.

The Weirwoods, By Thomas Burnett Swann, Ace Books, 50¢, 125 pages. Fiction.

The Worm Oroboros, By E. R. Eddison, Ballantine Books, 95¢, 520 pages. Fiction.

The Fairy-Faith in Celtic Countries, By Walter Yeeling Evans-Wentz, University Books, \$12.50, 524 pages. A good, non-fiction reference.

Operators and Things, By Barbara O'Brien, Ace Star, 50¢, 157 pages. Non-fiction.

Fairies at Work and at Play, By Geoffrey Hodson. The Theosophical Publishing House (London), 8/6, 126 pages. Non-fiction.

If you know of books, manuscripts, etc. of interest to AR investigators, please let us know about them.

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QUESTIONNAIRE ON PRETERNATURAL VARIABLES

Instructions to witness or investigator:

(1) This form may be used as an aid in investigation of unusual phenomena. (2) Please fill in with as much detail as possible. (3) If necessary, use an extra sheet of paper. (4) It is not necessary to fill in all spaces. (5) If you are unsure, but have a possible answer, please label answer unsure. (6) Unless notified otherwise, return form to address above.

- (1) Name of witness _____ (2) Address _____
- (3) City _____ (4) State _____ (5) Zip Code or zone _____
- (6) Occupation _____ (7) Military Service _____ (8) Education _____
- (9) Special Training _____ (10) Age _____ (11) Sex _____
- (12) Further personal information you consider relevant: _____

(13) Please describe unusual phenomenon; experience: _____

(14) If there were other witnesses, please list number _____ names and addresses: _____

- (15) Have you ever had similar experiences before? _____ (If yes, please describe on separate sheet of paper.)
- (16) Have you ever had other experiences that you would describe as unusual? _____ (If yes, please describe on separate sheet of paper.)
- (17) Are you presently acquainted with any individual or individuals who have had unusual experiences? _____ (If so, please describe on separate sheet of paper.)
- (18) Have you ever been acquainted with an individual or individuals who have had unusual experiences? _____ (If so, please describe on separate sheet of paper.)
- (19) Do you consider yourself to be in any way "psychic"? _____
- (20) Do you consider yourself knowledgeable in matters of psychic phenomena, parapsychology and/or unidentified flying objects? _____
- (21) Have you read a great deal of literature on matters related to psychic phenomena, parapsychology and/or unidentified flying objects? _____

(22) Prior to your experience, have you heard anything of other unusual incidents in your area recently? _____ (23) If "yes" to the last question, please describe: _____

- (24) Have you noticed or heard of recent power failures in your area? _____ (25) Have you noticed or heard of recent disappearances of animals (pets, livestock, etc.) in your area? _____
- (26) Have you noticed or heard of recent disappearances of individuals in your area? _____ (27) Have you noticed or heard of cases of unusual illness recently in your area? _____
- (28) Have you noticed or heard of recent cases of strange or unusual radio interference in your area? _____ (29) Have you noticed or heard of cases of unusual telephone calls recently in your area? _____
- (30) Have you noticed or heard of recent cases of telephone interference or failure in your area? _____ (31) Have you noticed or heard of any new persons moving into your neighborhood recently? _____
- (32) Are there any outstanding parks or monuments in your area? _____ (33) Are there an unusually large number of high tension wires in your area? _____
- (34) Do you live near a government installation of any sort? _____ (35) If you answered "yes" to any of the ten preceding questions, please describe, in the order of the question: _____

- (36) What was the date of your experience? _____ (37) What was the time of day of your experience? _____
- (38) Since your experience, have you received any unusual visitors? _____ (39) If "yes" to the previous question, please describe: _____
- (40) Shall we keep case confidential? _____

I. Volume One, Number One

Editorial: A Look at the "AR" Theory, Page 1-2
 Some Interesting Items In The UFOlogy Press, Page 2-3
 Questions & Answers About the "AR" Theory, Greenfield¹, Page 3-4
 Contact Cases In Light of the AR Theory, Greenfield, Page 4

II. Volume One, Number Two

Editorial, Page 1-2
 "AR" Booklist & Library, Page 2
 Then and Now: A Comparison, Farish, Page 3-4 ²

III. Volume One, Number Three

Editorial: Yell Fire Or Not, Page 1
 Action Program: A Proposal for AR Development, Page 2
 Saucer Sightings And Reality Warps, Greenfield, Page 2-3
 AR Booklist & Library: The Tolkein Library, Page 4
 Then and Now: A Comparison, Farish, Page 5-6

IV. Volume One, Number Four

Alternotes, Page 1
 Observations³, Steinberg, Page 1-2
 Then and Now: A Comparison, Farish, Page 3-4
 Additional Alternote, Page 4
 List Of Goals Of The Foundation For Philosophic Advancement, Page 5
 Back Issue Department, Page 5
 AR Bookshelf & Library, Page 5
 Membership Application, Foundation for Philosophic Advancement, Page 6

V. Volume One, Number Five

Observations, Steinberg, Page 1-2
 Alternotes, Page 2
 Public Notice, Page 2
 The Enchanted Cavern, Greenfield, Page 3-4
 More About Brooksville, Greenfield, Page 4
 The Alternate Reality Theory: Why It Makes Sense, Greenfield, Page 4-6
 AR Bookshelf & Library, Page 6
 AHG On Alien Motives, Greenfield, Page 6-7
 Why Call This "Fun", Greenfield, Page 7-8

VI. Volume One, Number Six

Are The UFO "People" Really Superior?, Keel, Page 1-2
 AR Bookshelf And Library, Page 2
 Questionnaire On Preternatural Variables, Page 3
 Alternate Horizons Newsletter Index To Volume One, Page 4
 A Strangeness in the Air, Greenfield, Page 5-6

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- (1) Special assistance by Donald R. Cook, Jr.
 - (2) First of a series.
 - (3) First of Two Parts.
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Authors of material published in Volume One

- (1) Lucius Farish
- (2) Allen H. Greenfield
- (3) John A. Keel
- (4) Eugene R Steinberg

A S T R A N G E N E S S I N T H E A I R

by A.H.G.

UFology being what it is, communication between people in the field is something less than we would wish. But you do hear things.

What is around right now may or may not have any basis in fact in the sense that there is necessarily a monolithic objective stimulus, but from the standpoint of a subjective phenomenon something is going on, at least within what may be loosely described as the "Eastern Saucer Establishment".

To begin with, let us define what we conceive of as the "Eastern Establishment." There are at least several spheres of influence within the UFology field, among them the West Coast Contactees, NICAP, etc. The "Eastern Establishment" as we see it consists of such people as Jim Moseley, Gray Barker, Jack Robinson, Joan Whritenour and others ranging up and down the Eastern part of the United States. They are linked together by what may be loosely understood to be a common attitude toward the UFO subject. Since I am myself involved with this group of people more closely by far than any of the other UFology spheres of influence, I am more in tune with the thinking here than elsewhere. Perhaps the whole field is having a similar experience. But whether this is so or not, the Easterners are caught up in something we could describe as a strangeness in the air.

What are the origins of the current atmosphere? Without speaking with any finality, I would like to point to such things as the Great Northeastern Blackout and the strange goings-on in the West Virginia area, notably the Derenberger contact case and the reports of a mothman creature. The former has been followed by a series of blackouts of varying scope while the latter may have been the beginning of a series of various types of unusual occurrences.

Perhaps because of the presence of so much of the Eastern Establishment in the area, New York City and environs seem to be a major focus of the strange things that have been taking place. It should be pointed out, though, that the phenomena do not seem restricted to this area. Related matters have come to our attention from such scattered places as the State of Ohio, the Ohio Valley, Virginia, Georgia, Florida and Oklahoma. A bit of information has even come in from as far west as Colorado and Washington State, though the phenomena does seem centered in the East. This, again, could be due to the quality of reporting, etc.

What distinguishes the present wave of phenomena from previous waves? At the 1967 Congress of Scientific UFologists at New York during the Third Closed Session held on Friday, June 23rd, John A. Keel described the situation as a nightmare on the ground. To be sure there have been "ground" experiences reported perhaps for as long as there have been reports of aerial phenomena. In fact, it is quite possible that these reports ultimately predate the aerial observations. But the current wave is perhaps an increase in the number of reports of this type or an increase in awareness, or both. *

What type of reports? Such things as reports of silencings, men in black, strange phenomena related to telephones, mysterious disappearances, etc. For example, take the case of Researcher "A".

Researcher "A" is one of the people involved in UFology who may be classed among the "most respectable" in terms of his relationship to the world at large. Suddenly he reportedly has an experience of the "Men in Black" variety. He is apparently very reticent about the matter and seems terribly upset.

Gordon?
Evans?

Sound like something out of They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers? Ah, but this took place during the Summer of 1967!

If we are to look for key positions in time of which a person can say "this was one of the starting points", one should include the Congress of Scientific UFOlogists at New York. Indeed, one might be able to write a whole book on the strange occurrences here alone. In an article in the Alternate Horizons Newsletter, Volume One, Number Five we discuss some of these goings-on.

* Some. But not all. For example I have since heard a story of a veritable "man in black" headquarters located in the Hotel Commodore where the convention was held. Nothing terribly dramatic happened to me personally, but there was that lady down the hall from me who seemed to be having great troubles getting into her room until I went into mine. Imagination, probably. But, then, there was that lamp that got knocked over in my room, it seemed to me, when no one had any business being there to knock it over.

There are also the funny phone calls. An article in the Volume Three, Number Three issue of Timothy Green Beckley's Searchlight by John Keel calls attention to some of this. Reportedly some UFO witnesses in West Virginia got strange calls consisting solely of "beeping" during the period extending from January to April, 1967. In the New York area there have reportedly been a number of weird phone calls.

Storms. Thunder and lightning. Elijah raises his arms and the sacrifice is consumed. Blam! Nothing new about this. But a new wave of incidents involving the basic elements may be going on.

Summer, 1967. Researcher "B" is talking on the telephone and lightning strikes the line. Blam! Suddenly Researcher "B" is cured of an old ailment. Not long thereafter Researcher "C" almost gets struck by lightning. Blam! Most disconcerting.

Which is not to say I believe any of it. But when I was out skywatching some hours ago there was lightning. I came back inside.

There have been reports of power failures and rumours of others. Within the space of about a week we had three at our home. Everything's normal. Suddenly the lights are out. From outside, BLAM! A transformer across the street seems to have exploded or somesuch. Power is fortunately soon restored, but every clock in the house needs resetting. The cause is said to be a poor unfortunate bird which electrocuted itself at the transformer. Sad. But a few days later, Blam Again. Another bird. Power restored. Coincidence, no doubt.

But later that same day, Blam a third time. Another bird? I never found out, but it would not be an unreasonable possibility. As my old-time UFOlogy contemporaries can attest, I've lived at my present location for a number of years. I don't think anything like this ever happened before. A weird coincidence? Some might call it an omen.

Are we building to some kind of climax? If we are thinking in ultimate terms, I would say no. This is not the first time in the history of the field where a wave of this sort has taken place. If on a much smaller scale - there was a wave of this sort several years ago which largely evaporated into nothing. There were the famous cases of the "Bender era" which may have seemed preclimactic at the time.

By the time you read this article, the whole affair may have blown over. Then again, perhaps it will continue for some time to come. What we are in the midst of is an enigma which might explain a great deal if solved. Are we embroiled in an elaborate hoax? If so, a la Palmer it might be well to ask whose hoax? Is it psychological? A case of the "jitters"? Or are we, indeed, in the midst of a nightmare on the ground?