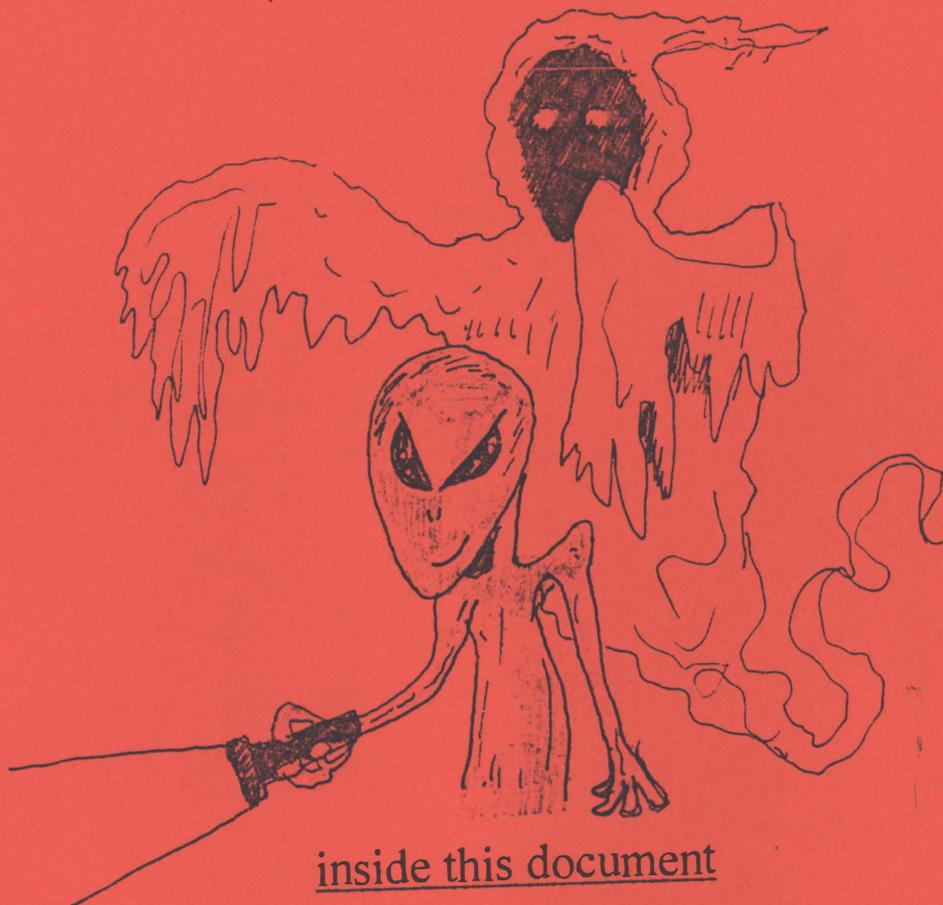


YUFOS
YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY

PROJECT RED BOOK

(Vol 5, # 4, October 2001)



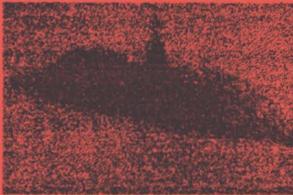
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YUFOS ON GHOSTS & UFOS
NICK REDFERN, CLAS SVAHN

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YUFOS



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YORKSHIRE UFO SOCIETY
224 BELLHOUSE ROAD
FIRTH PARK
SHEFFIELD
SOUTH YORKSHIRE
S5 6HT

Tel (0114) 2497270

e-mail: davbak@ic24.net

website www.yufos.org.uk

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Editor, Chairman & He-Who-Speaketh-The-Most Dave Baker

Web-master, Group-secretary and Chauffeur to the Editor, Chairman & He-Who-Speaketh-The-Most Richard Moss

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Cover Illustration- Dave Baker

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"... you're a mentalist!"

SHAG HARBOUR

MUFON, UFO Canada
(www.renaisssoft.com.UFOCanada)

The Shag Harbour UFO crash/retrieval may well prove to be the most important UFO case ever to come out of Canada.

It has already been compared to the Roswell Incident, though it has one important element that Roswell does not have -- documentation. Shag Harbour has a paper trail a mile wide, from various government and military agencies, as well as film of the actual retrieval operation which was shown right across the country on the CBC (Canadian Broadcasting Corporation) evening news. After the event, and after the government's claims that nothing of any import occurred, it faded away completely.

Faded, only to be resuscitated 26 years later by the indefatigable Christopher Styles, a researcher from Halifax and MUFON's Assistant Director for Nova Scotia. Chris' work on this case is nothing short of phenomenal, and all the more exemplary considering this was his first formal investigation.

On the night of 04 October 1967, shortly after 11:00 PM, a UFO some 60 feet in diameter was seen to hover over the water near the tiny fishing village of Shag Harbour, Nova Scotia. The UFO, which displayed four bright lights that flashed in sequence, tilted to a 45-degree angle and descended rapidly towards the water's surface. Upon impact, there was a bright flash and an explosive roar. Concerned witnesses began calling the nearby Barrington Passage RCMP detachment. None of those witnesses mentioned anything about a UFO. Most believed that a large aircraft had ditched into the harbour and that there might be survivors.

Eventually, three RCMP officers arrived at the shore near the impact site. Corporal V. Werbicki and Constable Ron O'Brien, dispatched from the Barrington Passage Detachment, were approaching from east of the site. Constable Ron Pond, who was on highway patrol on Highway #3, was heading towards Shag Harbour from a position west of the impact site, and his position allowed him to view the UFO while it was still in flight. The unusual lighting configuration and flight characteristics tipped Cst. Pond off to the

unusual nature of the object long before he heard from Cpl. Werbicki, who received his information through the initial complaints to the detachment. When all three officers met at the impact site they found that the UFO was still floating on the water about a half-mile from shore. It was glowing a pale yellow and was leaving a trail of dense yellow foam as it drifted in the ebb tide.

Neither the Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Halifax nor the nearby NORAD radar facility at Baccaro, Nova Scotia, had any knowledge of missing aircraft, either civilian or military. Cst. Pond reported that the object had "changed" during its descent to the water's surface, i.e., it changed shape, and that it appeared to be "no known object." Later, other local witnesses described much the same details as those of Cst. Pond.

Also, a coast guard lifeboat from nearby Clark's Harbour and several local fishing boats were summoned to investigate, but the UFO had submerged before they reached the site. The sulfurous-smelling yellow foam continued to well to the surface from the point where the UFO went down, and a 120 by 300 foot slick developed. Search efforts continued until 3:00 AM and then resumed at first light the next day. Everybody involved was convinced that "something" -- that is, something real and unidentified -- had gone into the water.

The next morning a preliminary report was sent to Canadian Forces Headquarters in Ottawa. After communicating with NORAD, Maritime Command was asked to conduct an underwater search ASAP for the object responsible for the concern in Shag Harbour. Seven navy divers from the HMCS Granby searched throughout the daylight hours until sundown of 08 October 1967. On Monday, 09 October 1967, Maritime Command canceled the search effort claiming "nil results." Outside of the local area, media attention quickly faded.

The Shag Harbour crash/retrieval became Case #34 in the infamous Condon Committee Report which would serve as Project Blue Book's swan song. The case was brought to Dr. Condon's limited attention by the late Jim Lorenzen of the Aerial Phenomena Research

Organization (APRO). Dr. Levine, the investigator assigned to the case, allocated the grand total of two long distance phone calls to this investigation. One call was to the Watch Officer at Maritime Command and the other was to an RCMP spokesperson. Dr. Levine was assured that there was nothing to the case and that further investigation was futile. Thus, interest in the Shag Harbour case withered away, and the case remained dormant until the spring of 1993.

Chris Styles, inspired by the work of the late Leonard Stringfield and Stanton Friedman, felt the time was right to re-open an investigation of Shag Harbour. With a modest grant from the Fund for UFO Research and much kind advice from veteran researchers Don Berliner and Stanton Friedman, Styles began to sift through the large legacy of documents and witness testimony that the Shag Harbour crash generated.

Since the spring of 1993, here in point form, is a list of key points that have become apparent as a result of the research effort:

- Of the witnesses who called the Barrington Passage RCMP Detachment, not one said anything whatsoever about a UFO. It was the authorities, i.e., RCMP, RCN, RCAF, NORAD and Coast Guard that first referred to the possibility of a UFO being the object responsible for the Shag Harbour crash.

It is also especially interesting to note that in the intervening years, many persons in authority warned Styles that this particular or that particular witness was a drinker. However, not one of these people gave testimony that was in any way exaggerated, fanciful, suspicious, or contradictory to other testimony in any way. All the truly astounding observations and statements came from the professionals involved in the search effort, the military brass, or the witnesses to the peripheral related sightings that are part of the 04 October 1967 milieu.

- A vast amount of documentation -- including most of the military orders and communications between the military bases and CFHQ -- was unclassified and readily available to the public in Canada's National Archives file RG 77. The composite picture that is painted is one of an extremely serious search effort for a UFO with the belief that it may in fact have been a vehicle of extraterrestrial origin. This was a serious consideration right up through the cancellation

of the Maritime Command search effort and afterwards.

- Within the Canadian military, concerns about Shag Harbour and other high-profile cases such as Falcon Lake, Manitoba (Stephen Michalak) caused the topic of UFO responsibilities to be brought to the attention of then Defense Minister Leo Cadieux. After lengthy consultation with Canada's Scientific Advisor, the Chief of Defense Staff Dr. H. Sheffer, Brigadier Ross and staff at the RCAF's "AIR DESK" (Canada's Blue Book equivalent), UFO responsibilities were transferred to Canada's National Research Council.

A document, sent to the Chairman for the Advisory Committee on Scientific and Industrial Research and signed by the Defense Minister, was released to Styles by Department of National Defense's (DND) Directorate of History. It states Canada's belief in the possibility that "UFOs exhibit advanced technology which could contribute to scientific or technical research."

- The night of the Shag Harbour crash there were several sightings over eastern Canada that were every bit as solid and significant. Some of these were hidden in "X-file reports," were unavailable, or were simply forgotten.

The sighting of four UFOs by the crew of the M.V. Nickerson, a dragger with 18 men fishing off Sambro, Nova Scotia, had solid returns on its Decca radar for over two hours (this was from two hours till one half-hour before Shag Harbour began).

Sightings all down the Nova Scotia coast in the hours just before Shag Harbour roused both 12-year-old Darrel Dorey and Shelburne insurance salesman R. Grandy Irwin to file official reports before Shag Harbour ever hit the headlines.

Air Canada Flight 305 of 04 October 1967, while westbound on V 300 between Sherbrooke and St. Jean, encountered UFO activity that caused the pilot and co-pilot to file official reports in the hours just before the Shag Harbour crash.

- Newspaper clippings published after the search effort was officially terminated show that in some military circles the interest in Shag Harbour and related sightings from that area and time period still ran high.

An extremely interesting story dated 02 November 1967 -- almost a month after the Shag Harbour incident -- ran in all the southwest Nova Scotia weekly papers. It bore the title *Military wants UFOs reported*. It was credited to a Major Victor Eldridge. Styles discovered that the Major wore many hats. Besides serving as a town councilor in the community of Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, and doing military columns for the southwest Nova Scotia weeklies, Victor Eldridge also served throughout the entire Shag Harbour incident as Chief Administrative Officer for CFS Barrington at nearby Bacarro, Nova Scotia.

This base was a key staging area for the Shag Harbour search effort and was a NORAD radar facility as part of the Pine Tree Line. Unlike practically everyone else -- the RCMP officers and RCAF and Navy personnel who have talked both on and off the record -- Styles discovered that the major had absolutely no memory of the event or of any other UFO incident involving the base. And neither did his CO.

This stance became even more suspect when a RCMP UFO report dating from November 1970 mentions that the CO from CFS Barrington, one Colonel Rushton, called the Barrington Passage detachment to request the completed copy of the RCMP UFO report on what would later be known as the Smith Brothers sighting of Shag Harbour. Colonel Calvin Rushton also requested a list of civilian witnesses from Cst. Ralph Keeping. Though having "no memory of Shag Harbour or the subsequent search effort," Major Eldridge, in a 01 May 1993 telephone interview with Chris Styles, assured him that, "There was not enough to it to warrant any journalistic treatment."

A strong opinion indeed from a man who did not know what he was being asked about just seconds before. It is also an opinion not shared by the military witness (Cpl. Timothy Nielson) who experienced the same Close Encounter and missing time episode as the Smith Brothers of Shag Harbour.

•The role played by Father Michael Burke-Gaffney in the Shag Harbour crash and other UFO cases was largely unknown before Styles' investigation. This former and now deceased Jesuit priest was an astronomer and cornerstone at St. Mary's University in Halifax. What was less known -- and would have made UFO debunker Donald Menzel proud -- was that Father Gaffney also held a position with

Canada's NRC as a UFO investigator and government contact person. Requests from Ottawa can be found in Canada's RG 77 file calling for the priest to gather physical samples from UFO trace cases and Close Encounters to send to NRC headquarters for detailed analysis. Despite this high level of involvement, the father was often quoted in the press a propos his "being sick to death about UFOs."

In a 18 October 1967 interview in the Halifax Chronicle-Herald, Father Gaffney claimed to have no interest in the phenomenon, and then states that speculation on the topic did no good.

Hmmmmm. This statement would appear to be somewhat at odds with the files, in fact genuine RCMP X-files, which Styles found among the personal papers of the late astronomer. Two of those x-files are replies to Father Gaffney from the superintendent of the Nova Scotia RCMP, assuring the father that he would receive UFO reports from southwest Nova Scotia as quickly as was reasonably possible. In fact, personal notes in archives from this period of October 1967 show that he took notes on the details of UFO sightings given to him over the telephone, even before they could be mailed or telexed. Time seemed to be an important concern for this scientist who had "no interest in the UFO phenomenon."

•The Story! Perhaps the most exciting element of Styles' investigation is the story of an attempted recovery operation at a point some 25 miles up the Nova Scotia coast from the impact site, near the community of Shelburne.

At this point in the investigation, this story is only just that, a story. However, though hard documentation is so far lacking to confirm the details, there are documents that support the belief that there was in fact a second search effort other than the one confirmed at Shag Harbour.

Also, some of the military personnel in secondary roles have gone on the record regarding their roles, their instructions and orders, and their second-hand knowledge of this other naval operation off Government Point. Men who were directly involved have told their stories, but have requested anonymity due to the usual and familiar concerns about family and pensions.

The "story," unlike other crash/retrieval scenarios, has what we might call a "happy ending": after ships sat over the submerged UFO for a week, watching it being repaired by yet another craft, the flotilla is ordered to show challenge to a soviet submarine that decided to violate the then 12-mile international limit and attempt to make contact with the underwater UFO. As this confrontation unfolds, both UFOs leave the area underwater and move toward the Gulf of Maine, where they break the surface and fly away. This departure gives rise to a second major sighting on 11 October 1967 of two UFOs sighted in that area by multiple witnesses from Shag Harbour to Yarmouth.

As a wrap-up to this Shag Harbour report, a direct quote from Chris Styles himself would be fitting. Chris hopes:

"..to avoid comparisons to other UFO crashes and their respective investigations and legends. It would be tragic to get into a 'my UFO crash is better than your UFO crash' argument. Crash scenarios, like every other aspect of the UFO phenomenon, offer the promise of a greater understanding of UFOs, wherever they occur. We should be ready for anything, though. Yeats may have been more correct than he knew when he was heard to say that 'Knowledge increases unreality.' We should be ready to have our belief systems challenged."

The Shag Harbour Crash/Retrieval has been featured on TV's *Sightings*, *Strange Universe* and others, and has been the focus of many radio programs and newspaper articles as well. Chris Styles, along with Don Ledger, are co-authors of the upcoming book *Dark Object*, based on the Shag Harbour investigation.

The Shag Harbour investigation continues to unfold. It is imperative that anyone with any relevant information on the Shag Harbour incident or related cases should come forward and share their knowledge.

Relatively speaking, the Shag Harbour case is a fairly recent one. Many of the original witnesses to the event are still alive (and for the most part, still kicking) and have been interviewed. However, the investigation is reaching a critical point. There are still a few missing pieces to the puzzle. And we know that there are people out there with valuable information that we do not have.

ATOM EXPERIMENT BRINGS TELEPORTATION CLOSER

(*Japan Today*, September 27, 2001)

Physicists in Denmark have made two samples of trillions of atoms interact at a distance in an experiment which may bring *Star Trek*-style teleportation and rapid quantum computing closer to reality.

Eugene Polzik and his colleagues at the University of Aarhus are not about to beam anyone up to the Starship Enterprise, but their research reported in the science journal *Nature* on Wednesday makes the idea of instantly transporting an object from one place to another less far fetched.

It involves quantum entanglement - a mysterious concept of entwining two or more particles without physical contact. Albert Einstein once described it as "spooky action at a distance."

Entangled states are needed for quantum computing and teleportation. Scientists have entangled states of a few atoms in earlier experiments but Polzik and his team have done it with very large numbers and using laser light.

"It is the first result where two macroscopic material objects have been entangled," Polzik explained in a telephone interview.

"We have produced entanglement at a distance which means you and me can share entangled objects which is important for quantum communication, including quantum teleportation."

In 1998 what has been described as the first teleportation experiment was done when scientists at the California Institute of Technology teleported a beam of light across a laboratory bench.

Ignacio Cirac, a physicist at the University of Innsbruck in Austria said achievement of Polzik and his team could lead to real-life quantum communication systems, teleportation and quantum computers.

"This is the first time two different atomic samples have been entangled in this way - using light - even though the samples are separated by some distance," he said in a commentary in *Nature*.

Cirac believes further experiments will follow which could "revolutionise the field of quantum information."

"PENDULUM" UFO SEEN OVER ROTHERHAM

YUFOS CASE REPORT

By Dave Baker

DATE: 10 August 2001
TIME: 22:35 pm
LOCATION: Eastwood,
Rotherham, England

The following report comes from YUFOS member Paul Garner (42), who experienced the event with his son, Ryan (21).

Paul was at one time an investigator for the old Yorkshire UFO Society formed by Graham and Mark Birdsall of *UFO Magazine (UK)* fame, so has some experience in UFO research and investigation.

Paul is also a keen astronomer and photographer, and when it was an active base, had regular access to RAF Finningly. Here he was able to observe aircraft of all kinds and learn to recognise light configurations and differentiate between engine and prop-driven planes.

THE EVENT

On the night of Friday the 10th August, Paul and his son Ryan were walking their dog through the Chesterton Industrial estate close to where they live. This is a regular nightly excursion, and Paul always walks the same route, although not always with his son.

There was thin, scattered cloud with some stars, and the night was calm with no wind.

Paul explains, "I am a keen amateur astronomer and so I am always looking skyward, and aware of astronomical phenomena and events for that particular month.

"For that reason, on our return journey I was trying to spot Mars between buildings, low on the Southern horizon. On doing so, our attention was drawn towards two moving lights."

There were two lights visible, one above the other, and at first, Paul thought that they were

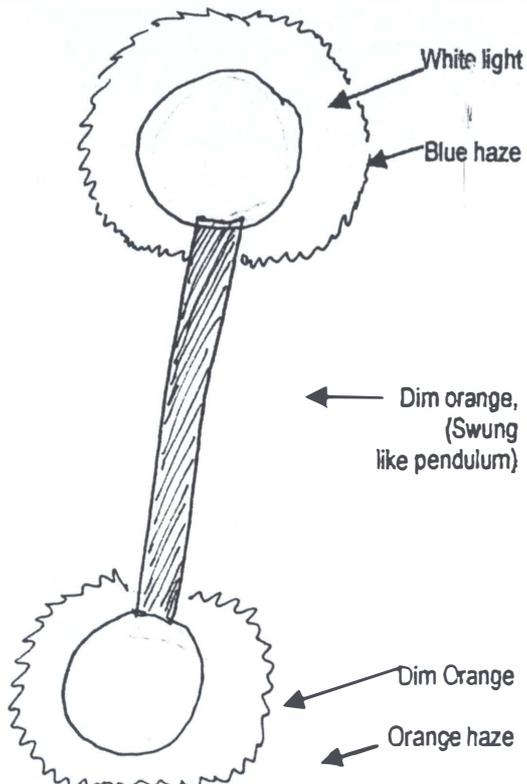
probably light aircraft, but as the object came closer, it became apparent that this was something more unusual.

"We noticed that there was a central column between the two lights, giving the impression that they were connected.

This central 'column' was dimly lit by a dull orange colour. The top light appeared to have a bright white core, surrounded by a light blue haze. The bottom light was smaller in size, with a dim orange centre with an orange glow around it.

"What struck us as very odd was the central pillar, which swung like a clock pendulum, but not as rapid."

Paul and Ryan watched this object for around two minutes, until the lights went out, but even then something solid could still be seen moving against the dark sky. They watched until the object moved out of sight.



No sound was heard during the event. Paul pointed out that the factories were all closed and they saw no-one else around, so feels that, combined with the calm conditions, they would have heard something had there been any sound to be heard.

The dog behaved as normal and did not seem aware of the objects. "All he was concerned about was chasing the rabbits we see regularly around there." Paul commented.

It is perhaps typical of both UFO encounters and the famous Northern England phenomenon known wryly as "Sod's Law", that although Paul often takes a camera with him on these nightly walks, he had left it at home on this occasion.

CONCLUSIONS

Paul and Ryan explained that although the lights were initially noticed moving against the background stars, the lights/object later passed below cloud level, so are unlikely to be of an astronomical nature. Paul is well-versed in astronomical observation, and aware of many IFO explanations, and so can reject many of these.

On investigation, we have been unable to trace any aircraft in the area, and Paul is convinced that the phenomenon he observed was not a plane or helicopter.

I considered that one possible, but certainly not provable explanation, could be drug-trafficking aircraft we have mentioned in these pages before. Could the upper light have been a light on the aircraft, and the light below a lighted package such as a carryall? This could explain the 'pendulum' motion as the heavy weight swung as the aircraft flew over the area before finding the 'drop-off' point and releasing the cargo.

This may sound far-fetched, but long-term readers of *PRB* may recall the case from Charlton Brook Dam in Chapletown, Sheffield a couple of years ago.

Briefly, two independent witnesses watched as a 'dark object like a child's spinning top' dropped a "bright light" or "lamp" into the waters of the dam before moving silently away.

One of the witnesses, who lived on the banks of the waters, was prevented from approaching

the dam the following morning by a police cordon. Two divers were entering the water from a dinghy, but the witness was assured it was all merely "training manoeuvres" for the divers.

Unhappy with this explanation and his treatment, the man continued to press the police for a satisfactory answer, and detectives eventually confided to him and the other witness that the object had been an unregistered helicopter which had dropped a waterproof carry-all of drugs into the dam for accomplices to pick up later.

Apparently this is a little-known, but regular practice of drug dealers, who make such drops in remote, out-of-the-way places, and may also have been the explanation for the still-untraced light aircraft witnessed during the Howden Moor case.

However, it should be pointed out that there was no sound in this case, and Paul considers that the central column was considerably thick, and certainly not a rope or cable, and that he would still have recognised any aircraft, regardless of its lighting configuration.

Paul has this to say in conclusion;

"Calling upon my previous knowledge and experience as an investigator of the UFO phenomenon, I have done the elementary tests covering almost everything I can think of (as an explanation) and at present, (the object) still falls into the category of 'unidentified'.

"I am therefore making no claims that was an alien craft, but it certainly was of an unusual nature. It certainly is open to question, and I would like to hear other people's opinions of this observation."

THURSDAY THE 13th. YUFOS INVESTIGATE A HAUNTING

BY MARK P MARTIN

Thursday the 13th of September, 2001, found Jon Slater, Dave Baker and myself motoring through persistent drizzle on route to a haunted house.

A couple of weeks previously a nervous sounding man had phoned Dave with an intriguing claim: "I am being haunted". This gentleman got in touch via Radio Sheffield; he had heard Dave being interviewed by the station at the Sheffield Show. Brief details were given of apparent supernatural intrusion. Consequently the September meeting of YUFOS resulted in the three of us deciding to visit the man and his paranormally infested home. Thus the following Thursday morning we threaded our way through a Sheffield council estate, I was piloting my squeaking, chugging old Citroen whilst Dave and Jon navigated.

We dropped anchor at our location and discovered a typical looking, pre-war council semi. We received a friendly greeting from the house's tenant, also our witness, whom we shall call Steve.

We three intrepid inquisitors settled onto the front room's furniture as Dave handed out note pads and pens; we were ready to transcribe a chronicle of the paranormal. Steve took his place, centre stage, standing up in front of his audience.

As you would expect the three of us were very keen to know just exactly why Steve thought that his house was haunted; we fired the questions at him thick and fast, the first one being along the lines of: "So what exactly has been happening". As Steve began to relate his tale we began to take down as many detailed notes as we could.

This report on our scrutiny of this haunting is in three parts: Evidence, Analysis and Conclusions. The evidence section contains of brief details of what has allegedly happened in the house, as related to us by Steve. The other two sections we will take a very rigorous look at this evidence and elucidate on how conclusions were reached.

There is a good rule of thumb to use while analysing anomalous phenomena. Whether it is claims of extraterrestrials shooting down R.A.F fighter jets over Sheffield's western moors, or men bending cutlery with the power of the mind, a genuine investigator does his utmost to find a conventional, prosaic explanation. Only then if no suitable, normal explanation is forthcoming can a paranormal one be considered. Extraordinary claims require extraordinary proof. This case did involve some extraordinary claims, but what about the proof?

The Evidence

Steve, his wife and their two toddlers moved into the house in February 2001. It was in about June that he started to notice apparent supernatural activity:

1. *Object moved unaided.*

A ball rolled, of its own accord, for a distance of about 6 or 7 feet across the living room floor. Steve observed this from the kitchen doorway (approximately 9 feet away); there were no other witnesses. The ball moved slowly, rolling in a straight line, and stopped gently. This was the only event of this type reported.

2. *Paranormal cold spots.*

Steve described how, on numerous occasions sudden temperature drops had affected him. A sensation of cold would come upon him, starting in his legs, which would become "...all tingly" and rise up his body, leaving him covered in goose bumps.

3. *Anomalous odours.*

Strange, out-of-place smells were perceived in the house. During one of the occurrences asparagus was cooking on the stove but the aroma produced was of fried onions. At other times a strong smell of bananas was detected, seemingly emanating from nowhere.

4. *Nondescript apparitions.*

Steve recounted to us that, at different times, he had seen some rather strange apparitions. The exact term he used was "Black things". He described these things as black shapes "about the size of a rat" which moved quickly across the carpet. They were observed at the edge of his vision, often late at night while walking from one room to the other, or "when i was on the computer". No one else in the house noticed any of these odd little spectres.

5. *Physical force exerted by supernatural means.*

Whilst watching television, alone, late at night Steve felt an invisible force push him. Specifically, while he was sitting on the edge of his sofa "something" pushed him by his shoulders to the back of the sofa. Additionally, two visitors to the house encountered this invisible force; the daughter of Steve's wife, was also pushed backwards. Another family member, an aunt, asleep one night on the very same sofa, was awoken because "she felt her nightie was being pulled up". This apparently happened very slowly and gradually rather than with any force, but was alarming nonetheless.

6. *Mediumistic contact with Spirits of the dead.*

A medium called upon the house and succeeded in making contact with no less than five Spirits. All of these were men, who had communicated their names, the age at which they had died and the year of their deaths. The ages ranged from 58 to 76 with corresponding dates of death between 1826 and 1976.

Analysis

The movement of the ball is unquestionably perplexing. However this event is not really typical of what we would expect from paranormal phenomena produced by a poltergeist. We will put our thoughts about how the ball started moving to one side whilst we specifically consider the actual movement. There was nothing abnormal about the actual motion of this ball. It merely rolled slowly across the floor and came to a gentle stop; there is nothing strange about a ball rolling.

Parapsychologists [i.e. those who make a scientific study of ghosts, poltergeists, psychic phenomena etc], such as Professor William G Roll of Duke University, North Carolina have made extensive studied of the dynamic manner

in which the objects transported by poltergeists actually move. He discovered that typically objects move in an arc (sometimes even around corners). When poltergeist projected artefacts come to a halt they usually to do so very suddenly, but also gently. Objects, sometimes large and heavy ones, have been seen flying through the air with apparent great speed and force only to stop virtually immediately with no detectable force of impact.

However the most significant aspect of Steve's report of the rolling ball was that it did so of its own accord; and if it genuinely did so, then this was a paranormal incident.

Was the ball's trip across the carpet due to a supernatural entity practising free kicks? Dave, Jon and myself presented Steve with as many probing questions as we could of. We needed to gather as much information and any and all relevant facts.

Firstly, the ball itself; Steve was happy to show it to us - a light, relatively small child's toy, rather than a large, heavy, soccer ball. It would not take much force to move it. Secondly, the floor; Steve thought the floor might be slightly sloping - the implications to this are obvious. Finally, the particular circumstances under which the occurrence happened. Steve was standing in the kitchen doorway when he spotted the errant spheroid.

One aspect of the house that struck us all was that it was very draughty. Steve was standing in the doorway, I made a specific point of asking him if he had actually opened the door, he thought he almost certainly had-- the doors where always kept closed. When a door is open or shut with any sort of speed a noticeable draught is created, combine this with the house already being draughty and we may have got to the root of the ball rolling event.

A literally spine-tingling phenomena that someone wandering around a haunted house may find themselves confronted by are "cold spots". As the name implies these are areas of a building where a dramatic, inexplicable drop in temperature occurs. These spots tend to be specifically defined; for example the measured temperature in one small part of a room will be radically lower than in the rest of it.

Steve, of course, reported that he believed he was experiencing these cold spots. As previously mentioned the house was very

draughty. Eagle-eyed Jon Slater spotted a thermostat that read 70 degrees, but despite this, we all agreed the house felt decidedly chilly.

As serious investigators we were obliged to try and discover any possible prosaic explanations to Steve's cold spots. After being told that one such cold spot was at the on the bottom of the stairs, behind the front door, Jon, with Steve's permission, actually went and sat there for a few minutes; I used the excuse of visiting the toilet to make a quick reconnaissance. We both came to the same conclusion: the house was riddled with cold draughts. Steve encountered his sensations of cold when he was alone on the sofa late at night, and the feeling always started in his legs. Dave reported that he could feel this draught from the door to the right throughout the visit. During our friendly interrogation of Steve something potentially very significant was revealed: Following a recent operation, when he was in the house he always wore his shorts.

Strange, out of place, unexplained odours are often reported during hauntings. A wide variety of spectral smells have found their way into the nostrils of many witnesses, ranging from pleasant hints of perfume and flowers to nausea-inducing, overpowering stench of rotting flesh and sulphur. In this particular case we had bananas and frying onions. There is not much to say about the scent of bananas, but the onions give us more food for thought. Although asparagus was cooking on the stove a strong smell of frying onions was detected. Could it simply be that something else had inadvertently found its way onto the stove? Perhaps a small piece of onion, left behind from a previous meal was on the bottom of the asparagus pan or on one of the cooking rings?

The account of the visiting medium communicating with the house's resident spirits is certainly very dramatic, but it also raises several issues. It does not necessarily follow that the discarnate entities [i.e. ghosts] that "came through" from "the other side" actually expired in the house. When mediums make contact with the dead they communicate with spirits who "passed over" from any and all geographic locations, not just from the building they are in.

The procedures followed by Steve's medium seem to differ from the norm. The spirit's names were given - this is in-line with normal practice, but all four of the deceased also indicated the dates of their deaths -this is

unheard of. When mediums get in touch with earth-bound spirits, it is often discovered that the spirits do not even realise that they have died (!), let alone give the dates of their deaths.

Perhaps the most frightening episodes narrated by Steve are those during which people residing on the sofa (where Dave and I were sitting) were pushed and pulled by an invisible, supernatural, force. Besides being disturbing it is also interesting for another reason: it is the only part of Steve's story that involves witnesses other than himself. However, these other people's encounters with the beyond, have only limited value as evidence, they are only second-hand reports. Steve passed on the accounts. We did not get the evidence from the witnesses first hand, so this is still only hear - say. Also we need to bear in mind that these two people could simply have been "on a wind up".

Conclusions.

Dave Baker, Jon Slater and myself all agree that, on the balance of the available evidence, no paranormal phenomena is involved.

What we need is more evidence; this could be obtained by talking to the medium and the two people who had frightening experiences on the 'haunted' sofa. Both Dave and myself asked Steve for the medium's name, but he seemed a bit reluctant to give it to us, and simply said that he was "a friend". He may have been unwilling to give us their name simply because he had promised not to. We asked Steve to see if the medium would be willing to talk to us, this was on the 13th of September and I've delayed completing this article until the 30th, to give Steve time to get back in touch with Dave, but nothing further has been heard.

A major factor that prompted us to jump off the fence and onto the "normal", rather than "paranormal" side, was Steve's apparent suggestibility. Prior to the commencement of the haunting Steve had spoken to his brother, who claimed that his house was haunted, and that Steve should look out for supernatural activity, the first sign of which was "black things" flitting around the floor...

Steve's television viewing habits could also be indicative of his suggestibility. He "always felt it the most" when he was watching certain types of television programmes--documentaries about ghosts and the paranormal...

However I do not necessarily believe that Steve was trying to deceive us (about the medium's visit or his experiences in general).

During the course of our conversation a couple of things came to light that indicated he might have been genuine in his beliefs. He mentioned that the medium had "done some stuff at a university in Edinburgh". Edinburgh University is in fact the home of the Arthur Koestler chair; this is a unique research department that studies parapsychology. The only people who would know about this are those with a pronounced interest in parapsychology and with all due respect to Steve, he did not strike me as this type of person.

Steve had previously got in touch with another paranormal researcher and he was happy to name them; I recognised them as being someone who is indeed an active investigator. Steve must have gone to some trouble to locate this person, this indicates that he was sincerely concerned about anomalous phenomena prior to contacting YUFOS (as of yet Steve has not had a response from this researcher).

All in all, Steve seemed most concerned that the 'paranormal' events would escalate and become "dangerous", and he appeared truly worried that his two little girls would become involved in some way. We assured him that this was unlikely, and that if he actually ignored the events the best he could, they may actually fade away altogether.

I think we should offer Steve our thanks and respect. He went to the trouble of contacting YUFOS and welcomed three strangers into his home.

Nothing truly supernatural was found, but valuable experience was gained. Our endeavours did not lead us to an encounter with the forces from beyond. What we did succeed in was choosing an appropriate day to almost encounter something that was not quite paranormal; it was of course, Thursday the 13th.

MARK P. MARTIN

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Steve has not contacted me since our visit, which means, I hope, that nothing else untoward has happened, and that his experiences – be what they may – have not continued: Dave Baker)

FIREMAN SPOTS UFO

(Telegraph & Argus, 3 August 01)

Another strange object has been spotted in the skies above Keighley.

A man out walking his dog late on Wednesday evening [July 31] saw a bright cigar-shaped craft fly northwards over the town.

Retired fireman Leslie Howard, 61, said the object was definitely not an aircraft.

He was in fields close to his home at Copy Road, Steeton, at about 11.15pm when he noticed the puzzling projectile.

Keighley is a renowned hotspot for UFO sightings, with countless reports being received over the years of unexplained happenings in the district's skies.

Mr Howard told us:

"The object was a very bright silvery colour and was moving through the sky quite quickly. It was fairly long and went behind cloud at one point, but it was not a plane. There were no flashing lights.

"I reported it to the police and also contacted Leeds-Bradford Airport, which said there were no aircraft in that vicinity at the time.

"It's a mystery."

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 13th November

7:00pm – 10:00pm

THE THREE CRANES

Queen Street

Sheffield City Centre

SECRET ARCHIVES

BY NICK REDFERN

*Nick Redfern was is the author of the books *Covert Agenda; The FBI Files; and Cosmic Crashes* (which has just been released in paperback). His books were serialised in the *Sunday People* newspaper. He writes the book review page for *UFO Magazine* and writes for 2 internet sites *Destination Space* and *UFO City*. With *Jon Downes* he has a monthly link-up with the *Jeff Rense* radio show in the States; and he writes a column on mysteries for 3 *Staffordshire* newspapers. He also writes for *The Daily Express* and the *Western Daily Press* newspapers.*

As many of you may know, both the governments of the United States of America and the United Kingdom have provisions in place to allow members of the general public access to official files – either via the passing of a set period of time or if the agencies in question deem that the material is fit for public consumption. In Britain, this is known as the *Thirty Year Ruling* and in the USA, the release (or non-release) of files is a matter covered by the *Freedom Of Information Act*.

Over the course of the last two decades numerous files have been released into the public domain both in the UK and the USA from a veritable host of government, military and intelligence agencies. The CIA, for example, has declassified a mass of documentation on its notorious mind-control project, *MK-Ultra* (as well as a variety of files from associated projects and operations). The FBI has made available to the public a fascinating wealth of files pertaining to its monitoring of a number of high-profile figures including the actors *Errol Flynn* and *Frank Sinatra*; *Elvis Presley*; *Marilyn Monroe*; *John F. and Robert Kennedy* and a host of others.

Similarly, the provisions of the British Government's *Thirty Year Ruling* have led to the declassification of papers relating to the work of *MI5*, *MI6*, the *Government Communications Headquarters* and the *Ministry of Defence* on all manner of subjects, including wartime and Cold War espionage; code-breaking; nuclear defence; biological warfare and more.

This is not to say, of course, that the aforementioned agencies are entirely open with the populace at large. Indeed, there is no doubt that all of the above agencies (and many others) possess what could be accurately

termed *Secret Archives* where the most guarded secrets of all remain closed to the

public and the media alike - as I will now reveal..

Shortly before Christmas 2000, I was contacted by a source who had a remarkable account to relate to me. Essentially, he had acquired an original edition (not a photo-copy) of a near 200-page long file from the late 1960s and that dealt primarily with nuclear, biological and chemical defence issues. As I do not wish to in any way risk identifying the source of this material I will say no more about him. However, I can say that with the file in my possession, I have been able to verify that it is indeed both genuine.

Broadly speaking, the file was intended as a training-aid for a variety of Royal Air Force and other military personnel who took part in a course in May 1968 at the *Defence NBC School*, *Wiltshire*. Needless to say, its contents (that have not until now been seen outside of officialdom) make for fascinating reading.

As might be expected, the file contains entries with titles such as *Contamination Control; Protection Against Nuclear Attack; Nuclear Fallout; Survival Shelter Design; Radioactive Sources – Storage and Transportation* and *Home Office Prediction and Fallout Warnings*.

The file is not without its dark-side, however. In a section titled *Riot Control Agents* there are guidelines informing the military how to respond to incidents involving members of the public caught up in a post-nuclear or chemical holocaust. As I will shortly reveal, this is a matter of both profound controversy and significance...

Under the heading *Chemical Warfare Training Aids*, the file reveals how personnel assigned to the course were briefed on the dangers posed by such agents as *CS Gas*, *Mustard Gas*, *Bromine* and the battlefield use of chemical agents dispatched via aircraft (in a real

situation and at the time in question, according to the file, the RAF would have deployed *Hunter* aircraft with chemical weapons) and bombs.

The file also includes a host of data on the use of Mustard Gas in training exercises. As one of the entries states:

'Mustard Agent: This is the only live war agent that may be used for training. It can cause serious casualties and even death if incorrectly used.'

However, this did not prevent the author of the document from adding that troops should be allowed to:

'experience Mustard Agent in the following ways: (a) a drop can be applied to the troops' bare wrists and then decontaminated...Bleach powder can be applied to liquid Mustard to demonstrate the spontaneous combustion that takes place...Some liquid may be heated to provide vapour which the troops can then smell.'

Moving away from chemical warfare, the file devotes much of its attention to nuclear issues and what would have happened from the perspective of the military and the government in the event of a nuclear strike on the UK. These particular entries focus their attention for the most part on the ways in which the military would have assisted in attempting to co-ordinate some form of continuation of government. However, survivors of the holocaust could have found themselves subject to two specific pieces of Home Office-controlled legislation – *Public Protection and Warning* and something ominously known as *Justice*.

That the Government and military realised that in a post-nuclear war scenario the surviving populace (which would be reduced to scattered bands of starving, irradiated and desperate souls) would pose 'problems' is self-evident from scrutinising the file.

Many people, it states, would be suffering from (amongst other things) *'flash blindness; retina burns; likely-to-be-fatal damage to lungs, stomach and intestines; serious burns;* and, of course, the horrors of exposure to intense radiation. This, in turn, would inevitably lead to social collapse and 'riot' situations. Of course, in reality, the 'rioters' would be nothing of the sort – they would

simply be normal men, women and children desperate for food, water and essential provisions.

And to control the 'rioters', those taking part in the course were informed, CS gas was the preferable agent to use (for 'political' reasons) and was considered acceptable for use on both '*children and elderly people*'. How comforting to know that in the event that they survive the unthinkable, your sons and daughters will face being subjected to CS Gas attacks from British troops for just trying to obtain food and water.

But, incredibly, in the aftermath of a nuclear attack, the military itself is unlikely to fare much better. For example, personnel were told that to try and gauge the extent to which the country had been contaminated via nuclear radiation '*men are going to be deliberately exposed to residual radiation*'. The file makes it clear that strict guidelines were to be enforced at all times to keep exposure to radioactive fall-out to a minimum; however, that some personnel would suffer adversely in a real-life scenario seems inevitable.

The file continues in a similar vein and details in minute fashion the precautions to be taken with respect to nuclear and chemical agents; how the military would operate in a post-holocaust environment; and the way in which military personnel should be trained both physically and psychologically to cope in the aftermath of country-wide destruction.

But it is without doubt the areas of '*riot control*' and the vaguely-defined '*justice*' that give most cause for concern. It is now more than thirty years since the above file was prepared. Let us hope that its plans and recommendations are never needed.

EDITOR'S NOTE

As many of you will now know, Nick Redfern was forced to cancel his lecture for YUFOS on October 9th. This was due to circumstances involving Nick's emigration to the USA and financial visa problems restricting his travel.

We wish Nick all the luck and good health for the future and hope to see him soon.

MINIATURE STEALTH-LIKE PLANE OVER LAKE VÄTTERN

BY CLAS SVAHN (UFO Sweden)

One of the few Swedish daytime sightings in 1992 occurred in Brandstorp, south of Hjo, on the 20th of June. It was reported to UFO-Sweden the same day. Three days later Clas Svahn and Håkan Blomqvist visited the village and interviewed the witnesses.

Brandstorp is a small place between Hjo and Jönköping, on the shores of Lake Vättern, Sweden's second-largest lake. We stop near a two-storeyed house on the edge of the village. It is one of those many hot summer days, last summer. It is about one hour before noon and the sun is high in the clear, blue sky. Conditions are exactly the same as three days ago. Sighting conditions are perfect.

We meet Hans and Seija Augustsson in the garden behind their house. They tell us about their experience in a low voice, without a lot of fuss. It is not the object itself that puzzles them most, but the sound. That strange, undefinable sound.

AT THE MARINA

This is what happened. It was almost exactly 11 a.m. on June 20. The sun shone from a clear and blue sky. It was +20 degrees Celsius and Lake Vättern was as smooth as a mirror. Hans and Seija Augustsson had some relatives staying with them. There were five of them in all. They walked towards the marina, from which you can see the island of Visingsö. The marina is protected by a breakwater and behind it is a thick, green forest.

As they reached the water, Hans and two other men (a cousin and Hans' brother-in-law), walked down to the area where boats are overhauled. That particular part of the pier is parallel to the edge of the forest. The three men stood only a few meters from the nearest tree.

Seija and the cousin's wife continued walking towards the breakwater, where they stopped and chatted.

"While we were walking and talking, I happened to look up at a point just over the treetops," Hans tells us. "Then I saw something small and black coming towards us. At first, I thought it was a small black bird.

That thought had just about entered my mind when I saw that it was an object flying at an incredible speed. I called out to the others: 'Look up there, what is that?'"

The instance Hans called out, the object was already above the lake. It happened very quickly and Hans never got round to using his binoculars, which he carried in his hand.

"By the time everyone was looking up, the object had become a small, black dot in the distance. I observed it for 5 or 6 seconds, at the most. We all heard the sound, SWISH, it said. It wasn't really the sound of an engine, it was just a suction, as if something had passed at a great speed."

On the other side of the marina, Seija and the other woman heard Hans calling out.

"We stood on the pier, 15-20 meters away from them. We didn't know what the men were talking about, we couldn't hear each other. Then I heard a sound, and so did my friend, but we didn't react to it. It was a sound you hear when you dream about space, a metallic, cosmic sound. That's what made me react. What's this coming, I thought. I have never heard that sound before.

"It was a singing, whistling, or rather whining sound. It was a sound that gave you an impression of speed and strength, but it wasn't loud. There is no name for it, in my opinion.

"Then I saw the men running around and waving their arms. They told us what they had seen. I said: 'We heard the sound, clearly'."

Hans Augustsson:

"What is stuck in my mind is the moment when I saw the object above the treetops. I could see something that looked like wings and something like a cockpit. The plane was completely black. It was so small that I didn't react until it was above the lake. It came from above, made a turn and continued in a straight, northerly direction.

"I saw the cockpit very clearly. The plane continued in line with the horizon. As we saw it diagonally from behind I thought it

resembled a delta-winged aircraft. We got no chance to see much more of it before it was gone. It flew straight towards Karlsborg. When I called out 'Look up there', and everyone looked up – it was gone, and that's when the sound came.

CS: Can you compare the sound with anything else you have heard?

HA: It was a whining sound, combined with a low engine noise of some kind, but it was so soft and quiet. There was power in it, however.

CS: Could you see any exhaust trail?

HA: No, nothing. We thought it was an airplane, but it was too small. Then it was the speed. I had time to think "What is this?", before it became a dot, kilometres away. At that speed, there should have been a tremendous roar, had it been a jet. There was just this soft, swishing sound.

CS: Could it have been a model of some kind?

HA: Not at that speed.

COMPLETELY BLACK

CS: Perhaps it was flying at a very low altitude?

HA: No, no, no, not a chance. You could tell that it was a solid flying object. It wasn't big. It flew incredibly fast and was completely black. You didn't grasp the rate of speed until afterwards.

CS: As it turned, did it behave like an airplane, did it turn over on its side?

HA: It was flying straight ahead. That's how I perceived it. It never turned over on its side. It was halfway between the shores of Lake Vättern. It flew at a comparatively low altitude. It must have been a metallic object and so it must have been visible on radar, even at that speed. In four or five seconds it was just a dot on the horizon.

CS: If you were to measure it with your fingers on your outstretched arm, how big would it be?

HA: Two centimeters.

A remote-controlled plane?

CS: Big enough to be clearly visible?

HA: Oh, yes. Both of us got a good look at it. If I had looked through my binoculars immediately, I would have been able to see it for a few seconds. On the other hand, perhaps I would have lost sight of it altogether. The funny thing was that I expected a real roar from a jet aircraft afterwards. But no, there was just that sound, "schoouopp". I'll never forget that sound.

UFO-Sweden contacted the duty officer at the F6 air force wing at Karlsborg the same day as the observation took place, and the information department of the Air Staff in Stockholm the next day. Both stated that no military activity had taken place in that area. The only airborne aircraft on that day was on a mission over the Baltic.

What did the five people see and hear at the marina? It is difficult to tell. The object itself was real enough and the sound left no doubt that something real had flown by. Although the object was relatively small, the beautiful weather made it easy for Augustsson and his relative to see it. For the moment, we can't get any further. "A remote-controlled airplane" was the suggestion made by the Air Staff. The theory remains to be proven.

ANOTHER WITNESS

Another witness came to our attention. She had heard a similar sound in the afternoon of the same day, between 16.00 and 17.00 hrs. The woman, who wishes to remain incognito, lives in Hjo and gives the following description of the incident:

"I was at work when I heard a strange sound from above the house. My immediate reaction was that a flying saucer had passed over the roof. It sounded exactly as I had imagined such a thing would sound like - an eerie, cosmic sound. The woman rushed out to see what it was, but there was nothing to observe. Of course, it's impossible to say if there is any connection between these two reports, if the sound could have been made by the same object 4-5 hours later. In any case, the Brandstorp incident must be labeled a UFO.

Source: UFO-Aktuellt, issue 3 and 4/1992
Translation: Christina Gustafsson

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PARK LIFE!

(PART TWO)

OR: *The Good, The Bad and Those Bloody, Sodding, Hamsters!*
by Dave Baker

So, anyone has been following *Park Life* will remember that last month saw intrepid YUFOS representatives Dave "I'm Going to Wear My Shades And Look Cool"¹ Baker, Richard "I'm going to wear my Iron Maiden T-shirt and Nu-Metal shorts and attract the rock chicks"² Moss, Jon "I'm going to sod off to the beer tent"³ Slater, Adam "I'm going with him"⁴ Bradley, and newcomer Lorna "Dave Doesn't know me well enough to take the piss yet" arrive at the Sheffield Show to teach the General Public what UFOs are *really* all about.

Sunday also saw appearances from the Platten Family, coming to check that we hadn't destroyed their display boards, and Phillip Parkin, who brought his sister to chortle at us.

On Bank Holiday Monday, Jon either aged dramatically and shrunk to half his original size, or was replaced by Bill Booker, and Sunday also saw *Radio Sheffield* personality Rony Robinson arrive to interview us live-live-live! at our allocated spot.

Through a mass of "erms" and "uuhhs", I think that I did manage to make a *modicum* of sense, avoiding carefully (or perhaps naively) placed questions which could have made us look like...like...well, like two blokes stood in a tent on a bank holiday bloody Monday. Next to hamsters.

Luckily, Jon Slater taped the interview for posterity⁵ and I present here, for your delectation, a taster of the blistering, no-holds-barred interview...

Rony : I've come across the Yorkshire UFO-fo-fo so-society (sic) where two blokes dressed in black and sunglasses, looking very ominous and alien-like, are trying to interest us in oo-foes. Dave, good morning to you.

¹ I didn't.

² He didn't.

³ He did.

⁴ So did he!

⁵ Available to buy in a special presentation commemorative collectors edition double pack - price £22.99 from *Quest In...* just kidding.

Dave B: Good morning...

Rony: How did you get into it?

Dave B: I have always been interested in UFOs as long as I can remember and I was part of another UFO group which disbanded, so then I decided to start a fresh group for the people who were still interested in this kind of thing.

Rony: Have ya seen one yourself?

Dave B: (*In a very loud and assertive voice*) No, we haven't! (*Small gap of silence*) But we go out looking on sky-watches... err... mainly to- so we get the idea what... err... stars and planets and... err... airplanes look like at night, so we can find out what people are mis-associating as UFOs...

Rony: Do you want there to be life elsewhere in the universe?.

Dave B: I'd like it to be...

Rony: Would you?

Dave B: Yeah. But just because I want it to be, doesn't mean its- (*interrupted by Rony*)

Rony: Of course, haha.

(*Rony asks about the display boards*)

Dave B: On this board... it gives a brief history of types of encounters people do report, close encounters of the first kind, second kind, third kind, fourth kind, named after Hynek who invented... (*Interrupted by Rony*).

Rony: Which is the worst kind?

Dave B: Worst?

Rony: Yeah, which one takes you up in space and sucks the vital fluids?

Dave B: That would be a close encounter of the fourth kind. (*Followed by a brief description of the sort of things Alien Abductees report and possible explanations*)

such as *Sleep Paralysis and temporal lobe epilepsy*.)

And so on...

Perhaps a more pertinent question, and one I asked myself numerous times, could have been "Why aren't you in the pub?", but in truth, Rony was friendly enough, and did seem genuinely interested, and pleasantly surprised that we were not clad in anoraks.

So much so, that the following day on his phone-in show, Rony mentioned that he had met representatives of YUFOS at the Sheffield Show and found us "very interesting and intelligent"(!). This announcement followed a woman's call reporting a Crop Circle near Doncaster and thought that "aliens must have made it". Prompted by a plea from Rony for someone to explain "...what Crop Circles were all about", it was arranged for me to call in the following day, and – for about five minutes – I ruined everyone's day with tales of planks, lengths of rope, and exactly what *humans* are capable of. YUFOS probably lost about fifty potential members too, but what the hell...it's the TRUTH we want isn't it...isn't it?

Anyway, Monday received more interested members of the public perusing our display and reporting UFOs. One woman regaled us with three separate encounters over the years:

*August 1972, 7:15 pm, Birmingham, West Midlands

Pauline's son and grandson were standing at the front door, the lad waving at passing bus drivers, when he excitedly called, "Look, Nanny! Plane!"

A metallic, oval silver shape was noticed very high in the sky. It made no noise, and there were no lights or smoke emitting from the object.

They watched this object moving "extremely fast" over Sutton Coldfields and Streetly for about three minutes.

*Winter 1972, 8:30 pm, Chelmsley Wood, Birmingham

Pauline explained; "I was watching TV on my own (my husband was out) when my son who was 2 and a half, and had been asleep in his bedroom, started screaming hysterically.

"I rushed down to his room and it was full of a blinding white light that hurt your eyes. I picked him up and took him into the living room. He was hysterical and said that ' a silver man like daddy' had been in his bedroom.

"By now the entire flat was full of blinding white light and I thought a plane was crashing. My husband came rushing into the flat, saying that he thought we would both be dead. He said there was a gigantic UFO hovering over our block of flats. He had seen it from Small Heath, about 7 miles away while driving home. I looked out of the flat window and could see people standing below taking photographs.

"The police arrived, and later the grass between the three blocks of flats was burnt dark brown."

Pauline reports that reporters arrived from *Calendar News* (in Birmingham?-Ed), and photos appeared on TV and in *The Evening Mail* newspaper.

Pauline claims that her son would not sleep in his room for some time afterwards, and kept asking "if the silver man would return".

(This appears to be a case worth following up – PRB will keep you updated should anything noteworthy transpire.)

*Summer 1991, 4:00 am, Hackenthorpe, Sheffield

Pauline and friend watched a football-shaped fluorescent blue object "stopping and starting" and moving in a "controlled manner". What appeared to be showers of blue and white lights emanated before it.

All in all, we thoroughly enjoyed the weekend, despite my jokes to the contrary, and it was a worthwhile experience to meet interested parties, and promote YUFOS a little more.

Already, we are planning for the Sheffield Show next year.

Now if only we can train hamsters to re-enact scenes from the Roswell Crash or Rendlesham...

DAVE BAKER

RESPONSE TO CLAS SVAHN

BY DAVID PERCY

Comments on, and corrections to the account by Clas Svahn concerning the review of the Fox TV program *Did we land on the Moon?*

In order to understand the points of view of David Percy and many others, please watch the video *What happened on the Moon?* and even more importantly, read the book *DARK MOON: Apollo and the Whistle-Blowers*, which goes into much more detail concerning Apollo. This is a serious recommendation. Before criticising a subject, one should at least do a minimum of research and not rely on the opinions of others, whether it be *Fortean Times* or a 'NASA-approved' web site such as Badastronomy.com.

In a democracy, it is perfectly reasonable to question matters in the public domain — and to produce a TV documentary that does just that. After all, NASA has promoted its point of view on Apollo since at least the mid nineteen sixties.

As to the points raised by Clas Svahn it would seem that he has certainly *not* got all the facts at his fingertips.

David Percy has never stated that human beings have not travelled to the Moon.

Both he and Mary Bennett, co-author of *DARK MOON: Apollo and the Whistle-Blowers*, are of the opinion that Mankind has indeed been to the Moon *but not necessarily in the manner portrayed in the Apollo photographic/filmed account and not with the named Apollo astronauts.*

David Percy's findings suggest that the photographs and TV coverage published by NASA purporting to be the official record of Apollo do not substantiate NASA's claim that these are a true and accurate record of the lunar surface EVAs. There are serious anomalies in both TV and photographic images and also discrepancies between the film and the still images of the same event that have led him to conclude that these images cannot be the true record of Mankind's expeditions to the Moon. Individuals appearing on any program made by a TV production company are not responsible for the content of such a program. To imply that the content of one program (disapproved of by Mr. Svahn *automatically* dictates that any other program made by that company is

equally 'dubious' to use his word, is hardly a valid criticism; to apply his poor opinion of the TV company to all the people interviewed is equally invalid.

If Clas Svahn was asked for his opinion on a subject on which he felt strongly, would he expect his name and reputation to be considered by the public as the same as that of the questioner? Would he not expect that people watching any such interview to regard him as an individual with his own point of view? Indeed, to follow Mr. Svahn's argument to its logical conclusion: the proprietors of a TV company, the makers of its programs and its interviewees must be in cahoots to lead the viewer to a conclusion decided previously by them and at the expense of some token 'opposition interviewees' . . . such an argument could make Mr. Svahn a conspiracy theorist himself!

Kaysing and Percy do not *accuse* NASA of making scenes up in Area 51 — they *state* that many of the Apollo images strongly infer the use of artificial light and since, according to NASA, no extra lighting was taken to the Moon [1] this in turn *infers the use of studio sets*. While Bill Kaysing inclines to Area 51 as a location for such a studio, David Percy considers that other locations have had their part to play.

Kaysing and Percy were merely interviewed by the makers of the program. (Or in the case of Percy, extracts from the video *'What happened on the Moon?'* were used by the US production company). Neither of them was in any way whatsoever involved in the making or editing of this production.

The Fox TV caveat shown at the beginning of this documentary was a well-balanced statement, which meant exactly what it said, and no more. Mr. Svahn cites the 'questionable' opinions of Dr. Brian O'Leary and questions the choice of the filmmakers' interviewees. Such criticisms should be addressed to the production company concerned and certainly not to Bill Kaysing or David Percy. And whatever Dr. Brian O'Leary's alleged 'new age' view may be (in

the opinion of Mr. Svahn) does not mean he is an unfit person to comment on the Apollo space program. In a democracy, everyone has the right to an opinion — any other position is censorship.

Clas Svahn quotes Kaysing as saying: 'There is no possibility that NASA landed a man on the moon' and writes that Kaysing refers to a study from 50 years ago, which showed that the chances of doing so were as low as 0.0017 per cent. The inference being, one must assume, that such an old study would have been out of date by the time they actually attempted the missions. We should remind Clas that Apollo was built on the practical experience of the NAZI scientists arriving in the USA from 1945 and indeed the whole of the American space program was built on cumulative experience, including precisely such studies as that of 1951. And if Mr. Svahn thinks that 0.0017 percentage is out of date and irrelevant, then he should note that in 1965, according to USAAF Major General Samuel C. Phillips, the Apollo Program Director, NASA and its contractors were in a worse state than ever before and were nowhere near hitting the targets they had set themselves; he should also note that in June 1969 *one month before Apollo 11* and the first *landing* on the lunar surface, NASA was totally unable to *guarantee* the safety of a bio organism in space. [2]

How was NASA going to guarantee the safety of the Apollo 11 astronauts? Indeed, how had they already *guaranteed* the safety of Apollo Missions 8 and 10, whose crews had allegedly been to the Moon and back?

Mr. Svahn states: 'The moon conspiracy has been constructed so that without the specialist knowledge needed one cannot investigate and judge the truth of the claims and Fox TV and Channel 5 have exploited this'. This statement is manifestly untrue — the evidence is available for all who wish to take the time and look for themselves. It is sitting in bookshops, on library shelves and on the Internet. If Mr. Svahn took the trouble to read the history of our *planet's* space program he would discover that books that include Kaysing's *We Never Went to the Moon* and Bennett & Percy's *DARK MOON* have been written entirely as a result of facts and events relating to the said history.

Taking for a moment the word 'conspiracy'. To use the term 'conspiracy theorist' is a useful way of sidelining opponents to the

status quo but it does not cover all of those who criticise the Apollo record. Bennett and Percy do not consider that there has been a conspiracy at all. In their view, a decision was taken at the very top level that NASA, the US government agency, would establish the Apollo missions as the public record of Mankind's journeys and landings on the Moon, while the *actual journeys* to the Moon proceeded simultaneously in a rather less glamorous and rather more dangerous fashion.

DARK MOON also provides the answers to the technical points raised in Mr. Svahn's article. Clas Svahn's article offers answers that are not as accurate as they might be — or are just *plain wrong*.

In conclusion, however passionately one holds a particular point of view, to accuse those who hold an opposing point of view as biased, while practising a journalism based on inadequate or incomplete research, leaves Clas Svahn open to criticism himself. Phil Plait of Badastronomy.com has apologised to David Percy for the ill-informed comments he published on his web site; a site recommended by Mr. Svahn in his article.

We trust that all of the above observations will be received constructively and that as a result Mr. Svahn might at least read some of the histories relating to our exploration of space and thus gain the background knowledge he is so manifestly lacking. Whether he then changes his opinion regarding the facts relating to Apollo is of course, entirely his choice.

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[1] This criticism takes into account the 'earth light'/atmosphere discussion.

[2] On June 28th 1969 a 14lb monkey was sent into space for 30 days in Biosatellite III. This was undertaken in order to study the effects of the space environment on a primate. This environment was *so stressful* that the experiment was cut short. The capsule was recovered on July 7th but the monkey was dead. The autopsy of July 8th concluded that it died of a heart attack — brought about by problems associated with weightlessness and lower than normal body temperature. This, despite having been no further up than 241 miles (below the van Allen belts), and having been kept in a pressurised Nitrogen-Oxygen atmosphere at a comfortable 75degrees F. This mission was considered a failure.

FROM AROUND THE WORLD...AND BEYOND!!!

UFOs, conspiracies, fortune and paranormal events compiled by Dave Baker

MYSTERY LIGHT WAS RUSSIAN SPACE JUNK

(Washington Post Sept. 6, 2001)

A fiery object streaked across the sky over much of the (U.S.) East Coast early Thursday, and Navy officials said it was a Russian rocket that re-entered the atmosphere after orbiting Earth since 1975.

The SL3 rocket body re-entered the atmosphere shortly before 6 a.m. about 100 miles off Delaware, said Navy Cmdr. Rod Gibbons, a spokesman for the U.S. Space Command at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

"The object was not designed to survive re-entry" and likely burned up before any pieces could reach the ground, Gibbons said.

Gibbons said the rocket was one of 8,300 man-made objects the centre was tracking in space. Some 17,000 such objects have re-entered Earth's atmosphere since the late 1950s, he said.

People from Massachusetts to Virginia reported seeing the object.

Charles Tekula, 49, a commercial fisherman in Long Island, was with his son at about 5:30 a.m. when he saw the sky light up.

"At first thought it was a jetliner coming toward us, but then I saw a smoke trail," he said.

"My son said it looked like a big, slow-moving firework across the sky," Tekula said. "We were speechless, it was the most fantastic thing I'd ever seen."

Officials at the National Weather Service and the Naval Observatory had earlier speculated that the object was a meteor.

BIG CAT FEAR AS SHEEP MAULED

(Sept. 18, 2001 - Evening Chronicle)

A big cat was today blamed for causing carnage after a farmer discovered his sheep flock mauled.

Bob Charlton, 63, fears a puma could be on the prowl after discovering five dead sheep and a badly injured ewe and lamb.

Following the latest attack a half-eaten lamb carcass was found similar to one discovered a few weeks ago.

Mr Charlton has 600 ewes and 900 lambs on 500-acre Linnel Wood Farm near Slaley, Hexham.

He said: "I suspect there's a puma about and there have been possible sightings. The worry from a farmer's point of view is losing stock, the cruelty to the sheep and the cost. T

"There have been reports locally of possibly paw marks and dung that doesn't look like being from any native or domestic animal."

Mr Charlton, who has been a full-time farmer for 25 years, added: "An enormous amount of meat was eaten on these two carcasses. If it was two or three young foxes then it's likely, as children do, they would fight over it. Therefore one would find a leg here or a bit of wool there, but it was just a carcass.

"There's nothing you can do except attempt to have a gun ready, but you can't carry a gun with you all day and the chances of getting close enough and in sufficient light is probably 500 to one.

"We treat it as a problem, but not a mammoth problem. Dogs are much more of a problem because people should be controlling them."

Chief Insp John Thompson, of South West Northumberland Area Command, said: "We've had similar calls and sightings of a big cat in the four years I've been here. I've no reason to doubt there could be a big cat."

Sgt Eddie Bell, Durham Police's wildlife liaison officer, lives around seven miles from the farm at Whittonstall.

He estimates around 15 big cats are on the loose in the North East. But he believes a dog is more likely to blame.

He said: "Cats like a puma or lynx have big

territories. They patrol them to keep them fairly secure from other cats.

"This frequency of attack would suggest it's not a cat. The greatest likelihood is it's a predatory dog.

"Cats are not great sheep killers. The main reason is cats lick the meat off the carcass, but find the wool fibre of the sheep gets caught in the barbs of the tongue and they don't like that.

"I'm not saying it's definitely not a cat. There are cats around, but not in the number people think."

BUBBLING SEAS CAN SINK SHIPS (*Johanna Marchant, New Scientist 26 09 01*)

Lab tests have proved that bubbles can sink floating objects. The findings add weight to suggestions that methane bubbles escaping from methane reserves in the seabed might have been to blame for vessels disappearing in the Bermuda Triangle and the North Sea.

The Greek mathematician Archimedes realised that for something to float, the density of the liquid has to be greater than the density of the object. So a simple argument is that if you mix enough bubbles into a liquid to lower its average density, an object floating on its surface should sink. People have suggested that this process is behind the mysterious demise of many ships that sank for no obvious reason.

However, Bruce Denardo at the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, was sceptical. He points out that rising bubbles often carry currents of water up with them, exerting an upwards force on the floating object. For all but the most violent bubbles, this upward drag might be enough to keep an object afloat.

Denardo and his colleagues decided to test the theory. They filled a four-litre glass beaker with water, then fed in air at the bottom at varying speeds. Then they dropped in steel balls filled with varying amounts of water and air to see how easily they would sink. If, in the absence of rising bubbles, the ball only just floated on the surface, switching on the bubbles made it sink.

"We were surprised that the theory was confirmed," says Denardo. "This is just what one might naively expect, but we expected that an upward drag would occur."

Even so, the case isn't closed, Denardo says. Because the experiment was carried out in a closed container, he thinks upward currents might not have had room to form. In the open sea, upwellings would form more easily in the region of the bubbles, while the water would flow downwards again a short distance away.

Initially this would help a boat to stay afloat. But if the vessel were swept slightly to one side, it might just hit the down currents and sink.

Denardo concludes that we can't rule out the methane theory for ships lost in the Bermuda Triangle. "If a phenomenon can be made to occur in a lab, it probably occurs somewhere in the natural universe," he says.

If bubbles can indeed sink ships, the military might want to use them as a weapon. Michael Stumborg, a researcher at the US Naval War College in Rhode Island, has proposed building "buoyancy bombs" that would collect and release bubbles.

An underwater vehicle could extract methane from a deposit in the seabed, then transport it to a point underneath a target ship. "The release of the methane will reduce the buoyancy of the ship and could in principle sink it," says Denardo.