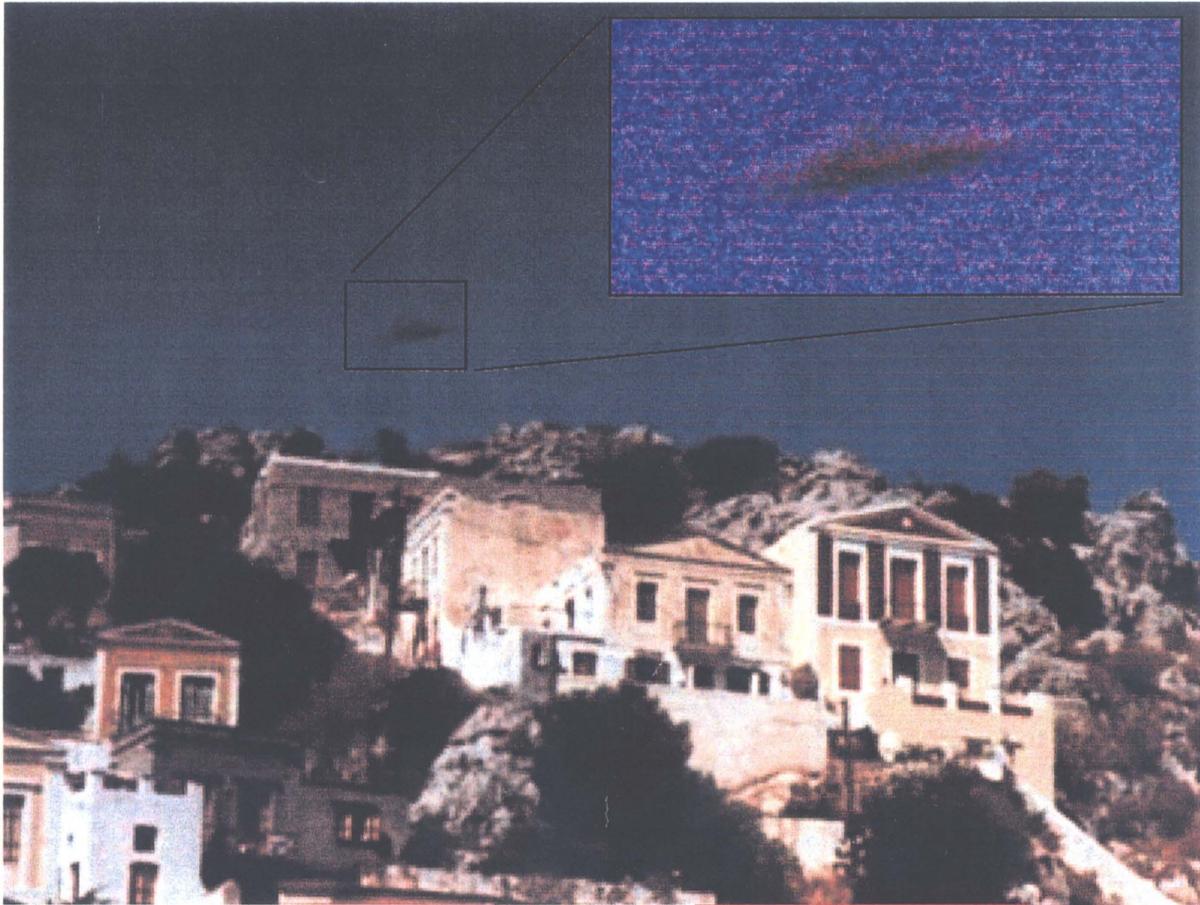


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STRANGE DAZE
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Oh! Let us never, never doubt
What nobody is sure about!
- Hilaire Belloc (1870 - 1953)



NUMBER 15
FEBRUARY 1998
PRICE: £1.50



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DECONSTRUCTING THE
NAZI SAUCER MYTH WITH
DAVID SIVIER
THE MAN OR ASTROMAN
INTERVIEW
NEWS, REVIEWS & LETTERS



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

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

Shaken but not stirred Editor: Dave D. Newton ("No, Danger's my middle name")

Man with the Golden (flash)Gun: Jon Lee

Auric Goldfinger: Ian **Ernst Blofeld:** Paul **Octopussy:** Al

All Time High: Y. Axl Cyderblent **Nobody does it better:** Sean Connery

Henchmen with scuba gear and spearguns: Jeff, John Mac, Chris P, Mik;
"Colin the Clip Art" appears courtesy of Ian Roden and Podium, © 1997/1998

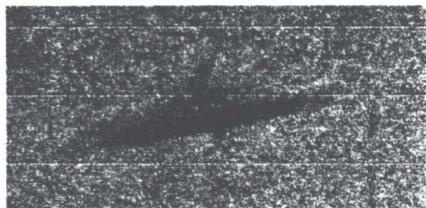
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Subscription Rates: £1.50 single issue, £6.00 for four issues (approx. one year), including postage. Please make cheques payable to D.A. Newton (not "NUFORI" or "Strange Daze"). We also accept payment by postal order, cash, postage stamps and Nazi gold bullion recovered from a lake somewhere in Switzerland.

Or why not buy it from a shop: I'd recommend Forbidden Planet on Grainger Street, Newcastle. Friendly staff. lots of other good stuff to buy. And just down the road from the Tap and Spile, the one with pineapples on the ceiling. Can't be bad, no chief.

STRANGE DAZE runs on Michelin XX Good Year Steel Radial staples. Never mix cross ply and radial staples, as the pages may swerve violently in wet weather.



Cover picture: This wonderful photograph of a UFO in flight was taken by April Turner on the 30th August 1997. It was captured over the Greek island of Symi between 2.30 and 3.30 in the afternoon. She maintains that no aircraft or birds were visible at the time; it remains unidentified pending further analysis.

EDITORIAL

Hello and welcome to the first Strange Daze of 1998. The regular subscribers will have received the Christmas Newsletter, but to everyone else apologies for the late appearance of this issue.

While I don't want to to over *all* the details of why this issue is late, I will say that the second half of 1997 was quite extraordinary. During the Summer I was approached by John Spencer, then the Chairman of BUFORA (The British UFO Research Association) about becoming the editor of their magazine *UFO Times*. After thinking about it for a few milliseconds I jumped at the chance. As much as I love Strange Daze and being able to print exactly what I want, editing *UFO Times* wasn't something I was about to turn down, even if it meant neglecting this magazine for a while. It has a much higher circulation than Strange Daze, and carries considerably more weight in this subject of UFOlogy.

The fun really started in September when BUFORA held a council meeting at which Welsh UFOlogist Matthew Williams raised some serious charges against BUFORA's press officer, Philip Mantle. As a result of this meeting, which has become known as Black Friday to those in the know, lots of people resigned - including Mike Wootten, the Director of Publications and the retiring editor of UT, and Andy Roberts, the deputy editor of UT. Andy told the gentleman who designs and prints UT that BUFORA was broke, and consequently he pulled out, refusing to do any more work for BUFORA or return any material until he was paid. A pretty dire set of circumstances for your new editor, who had an issue ready to print, had sent all of the material to the designer, and UT was long overdue.

Still, problems are made for solving. A company here in the North East managed to print UT for considerably less money than it would normally have cost and despite it being a rush job and losing a page somewhere along the way, it didn't work out too badly. It looks as though things are settling down within BUFORA now, so the only way is up. With a dedicated crew of investigators led by our own Gloria Dixon, we believe that BUFORA is still the best hope this country has of shedding light on the UFO enigma. I'll hope to keep the magazine and publications sane, open minded and well balanced. While I hope to open up *UFO Times* to a wider audience, we won't go the way as many other publications:

UFO = aliens = sales = \$\$\$\$

The above may generate money and sales, and in theory I'm not against making money out of UFOlogy but I'm not prepared to sell my soul and produce glossy, shallow trash about aliens to do it.



If you think investigating UFOs is about hunting aliens, stop reading right now. I'm not that kind of UFOlogist and *Strange Daze* isn't that kind of magazine. If you want to play *Fantasy UFOlogy*, then go read one of the glossy mags on sale in most of the newsagents. Within those glossy pages, you'll find plenty to entertain you, I'm sure.

I must admit that now I rarely read any of the glossy UFO magazines that have invaded our newsagent's shelves in recent years. I virtually *never* learn anything new from them. Full of lurid tales of UFO abductions, dodgy Mexican UFO footage and ridiculous tales of underground bases with saucers and alien bodies, I find the whole lot depressing. Especially so considering how little evidence there is for any of it. It's very depressing and very American. The Yanks have a saucer crash at Roswell, we do too: Rendlesham Forest. And one in Wales, too, for good measure; The Yanks have cattle mutilations, we do too: Although in our case, they tend to be foxes, badgers or mice; The Yanks have a secret base in Nevada, the mysterious Area 51: We do too, the depressingly named Rudloe Manor. We're playing *so* hard to catch up with the excesses of the American UFO scene, and what for? To sell a few more glossy magazines? So we can pretend we're really living in the X-Files? I'll be very pleased when the X-Files bubble finally goes bust along with most of the UFO mags, because then we might be able to get on with the real job of talking to witnesses and setting up stealth and earthlights observation projects. Right now, the *truth* doesn't mean a thing. If it will keep the X-Files fans, the new entrants to UFOlogy, happy, it will end up in the newsagents.

As if to demonstrate the further degeneration of UFOlogy in this country, a smear campaign was in full operation aimed at Tim Matthews and Eric Morris in the run up to their January conference in Southport. You can read a full review of that conference later in this issue. Luckily, the event was mostly unaffected by the campaign, which has been a cowardly and highly unpleasant affair.

Just how much lower can some ufologists in this country go? To borrow a Colemanball, we seem to be riding on the crest of a slump right now.

I *really* do hope that the only way is up.



+++NEWS+++

Space news:

CASSINI MISSION TO SATURN Cassini Mission Status Report: October 15, 1997, 6 a.m. EDT

The international Cassini spacecraft mission left Earth bound for Saturn this morning atop an Air Force Titan IV/B Centaur rocket in a picture-perfect launch at 4:43 a.m. EDT (1:43 a.m. PDT) from Cape Canaveral, FL.

On time and on schedule for today's launch opportunity, the Titan solid rocket boosters ignited at the opening of today's launch window, setting the Cassini spacecraft on its nearly seven-year journey to the ringed planet. All milestones during the rocket's ascent occurred as planned, culminating with a successful separation of the Centaur upper stage from the Cassini spacecraft at 42 minutes and 40 seconds into flight. Flying on its own for the first time, the Cassini spacecraft opened its communications link with the NASA Deep Space Network communications complex near Canberra, Australia, about 10 minutes later, or about 52 minutes post launch.

With the European Space Agency's Huygens probe onboard and communicating through a high-gain antenna provided by the Italian Space Agency, Cassini will arrive at Saturn July 1, 2004. The JPL-built Cassini orbiter flies a circuitous but necessary route to reach Saturn. The spacecraft will perform two gravity-assist swingbys of Venus, one of Earth and one of Jupiter to gain enough speed to reach Saturn, which is 1.4 billion kilometers (nearly 1 billion miles) from the Sun.

Cassini Mission Status Report: October 15, 1997, 9 a.m. EDT

Extraordinary performance and accuracy have marked the first hours of the Cassini spacecraft's long journey to Saturn. Cassini left Earth in a flawless launch at 4:43 a.m. EDT (1:43 a.m. PDT), rocketed into a moonlit sky above Cape Canaveral, FL. Performance of the launch vehicle, Centaur upper stage and the spacecraft itself were "right on the money," said Cassini program manager Richard J. Spohalski of JPL.

The energy provided to the spacecraft by its Titan IV/B Centaur launch vehicle was accurate to within one part in 5,000. The angular deviation in the trajectory was described as "insignificant" at better than .004 degrees. Mission plans called for an expected adjustment in Cassini's post-launch trajectory of about 26 meters per second, but flight data shows a mere one meter per second correction will be required in Cassini's first scheduled trajectory correction maneuver, Spohalski said. All systems on the spacecraft were operating normally, he reported.

Cassini's 4-meter (13-foot) diameter high-gain antenna is correctly pointed toward the Sun, serving as a parasol to shade the spacecraft during its travels through the inner solar system. The JPL-built orbiter will fly a circuitous route to reach Saturn, performing two gravity-assist swingbys of Venus, one of Earth and one of Jupiter to gain enough speed to reach Saturn, which is 1.4 billion kilometers from the Sun.

Cassini is traveling at a velocity of about 5.05 kilometers per second (about 11,310 miles per hour) relative to Earth. Early activities included the deployment of the Langmuir probe. Scheduled activities include the release of several latches that secured instrument cov-

ers and other deployable devices through the launch phase. In two days, ground controllers at JPL will send to Cassini the sequence of computer commands to control the spacecraft for the following week.

[Information from: PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE, JET PROPULSION LABORATORY, CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY, NASA, PASADENA, CALIFORNIA, 91109. TELEPHONE: (818) 54-5011
<http://www.jpl.nasa.gov>]

CRIPPLED SOLAR PANEL DELAYS MARS SURVEYOR MAP MISSION

"NASA's Mars Surveyor is back on track with a redesigned mission that will cost several million dollars more to complete its goals, scientists said Monday" November 10, 1997.

In October, the Mars Surveyor began its aerobraking maneuvers, "using the planet's atmosphere to slow down and get into the right orbit" when "one of its fragile, winglike solar panels bent too far."

"Managers moved the probe in a higher orbit while they studied the problem."

"Once they decided aerobraking was safe, they had the Surveyor resume the maneuvers to get into a lower orbit." "But the probe will go much slower than planned because managers are concerned that too much atmospheric friction could damage the solar panel, which they think was fractured slightly early in the mission."

"The slower descent will delay the mapping of the Martian surface by a year, NASA said Monday. The two-year mapping mission is now set to begin in March 1999."

"NASA says the redesigned mission will cost 'several million dollars' beyond the \$248 million project cost."

"We will still get global coverage (of Mars)," says Arden Albee, project scientist at the California Institute of Technology. "We are happy that we have not in any way lost the mission." (See USA Today for November 11, 1997, "Mars Surveyor Mission Will Take Longer, Cost More," page A-3)

NASA ENDS PATHFINDER'S MISSION TO MARS

NASA officially halted daily communication with the spacecraft Pathfinder and its robot rover, Sojourner, on Tuesday, November 4, 1997.

"The end of the \$266 million mission comes four months after Pathfinder bounced to a thrilling Independence Day landing in the rocky Ares Vallis region and rolled out Sojourner, the first robot ever to set wheels on another planet."

"But both spacecraft have been silent since Oct. 7, when controllers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif. last locked onto a beacon from the

lander's backup transmitter. It has been longer than that, since Sept. 27, that any data has been sent home from the Martian surface through Pathfinder's main transmitter."

"Managers now have no choice but to conclude that the lander, renamed the Carl Sagan Memorial Station, has succumbed to the onset of the Martian winter. During this time, temperatures plunge to minus 50 degrees and more dust storms shroud the planet."

"'We've been talking about having a wake,' mission manager Richard Cook says, 'But in one sense we really ought to celebrate, not mourn. Pathfinder has been much more of a success than we ever envisioned.'" Pathfinder's data "'will help provide a scientific basis for future Mars missions...for years to come,' says Wesley Huntress, NASA space science chief." (See USA Today for November 4, 1997, page A-3)

Space Highlights for 1998

NASA's series of Discovery Missions continues with the launch of Lunar Prospector, scheduled for January 5th, at 8.31 p.m. EST. In less than a week, it will be in orbit around the Moon. And by February, it will be sending back data from its five instruments. Lunar Prospector will spend at least one year surveying the Moon. One question that the spacecraft may finally answer is whether there is indeed water within the perpetually shadowed craters at the Moon's poles.

Later this month, the Near Earth Asteroid Rendezvous (NEAR) spacecraft returns to Earth for a gravity assist to redirect the spacecraft toward its final destination, minor planet 433 Eros, which it will reach this time next year.

Then, there's the total solar eclipse of the Sun on February 26th, which will be visible from the (hopefully) sunny Caribbean.

July sees the inaugural launch in NASA's New Millennium program, which focuses mainly on tests of advanced technologies. The first probe, Deep Space 1 will fly on a new, lighter version of the Delta rocket using only three strap-on solid-fuel boosters and a smaller third stage. DS 1's key experiment is its propulsion system: solar-electric propulsion, or "ion drive." In 1999 DS 1 will fly past minor planet McAuliffe (named for teacher Christa McAuliffe, who died aboard Space Shuttle Challenger on its way to visit Mars and Comet West-Kohoutek-Ikemura in the year 2000.

In August, NASA will launch the centerpiece of its 1998 space-astronomy program: AXAF, the Advanced X-ray Astrophysics Facility. This revolutionary orbiting telescope will join Hubble and Compton as the third of the agency's Great Observatories. AXAF should produce much sharper pictures than any previous X-ray mission, with resolution comparable to images obtained in visible light by ground-based telescopes. AXAF also carries gratings that disperse the X-rays into a spectrum; it will be the first mission to study the X-ray universe with both sharp images and high spectral resolu-

tion. The observatory will fly into orbit aboard the Space Shuttle Columbia, where it will be released into a circular 300-kilometer-high orbit. Then, two solid rockets will take AXAF 60,000 km from Earth. The satellite's own liquid rockets then take over, and after several days it will orbit Earth between 10,000 and 140,000 km.

In October, the Far Ultraviolet Spectroscopic Explorer (FUSE) will be launched aboard a Delta rocket. Its 64-cm telescope will direct light onto a very high resolution spectrograph to allow astronomers to study the precise composition and temperature of stars and gas clouds, as well as use Doppler shifts to measure line-of-sight velocities accurately.

In November, the Leonid meteor shower could bring us the "meteor storm" astronomers have been waiting three decades to see, which has been much expected in the media for the past couple of years.

At year's end, the Mars Surveyor 1998 lander will be launched. It and a companion orbiter, will reach the red planet in 1999.

[Sources: NASA and Sky and Telescope weekly news bulletins]

UFO News around the world

BRITISH JETLINER SIGHTS GIANT UFO OVER YORKSHIRE

On Monday, December 8, 1997, a Boeing 737, owned by British Midland Airways, took off from London's Heathrow Airport for a flight to Belfast, Northern Ireland.

At 2:15 p.m., the jetliner was flying over Liverpool on a northwesterly heading. Then one of the passengers spotted a very large UFO off the right wingtip at an estimated distance of 150 miles (240 kilometers). According to Miles Johnston of the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA), "It was a very big, black, thin vehicle, with a very bright white tip. It moved at all times very slowly but was of considerable size. Relative width-to-length ratio of 20:1." The UFO was described as "a cigar-shaped object" 2,000 feet (667 meters) long.

The UFO "was seen almost on the horizon (at) approximately the same height as the Boeing 737, 33,000 feet... This would position the UFO approximately over Yorkshire," Johnston reported, "The UFO was observed by a passenger on the plane for 15 minutes." Below the UFO was "heavy thick cloud" cover that made it impossible for the object to be seen from the ground. "After 15 minutes, the object flew slowly into very high clouds over the region." Prior to that, "the object was visible at all times in bright, clear sunlight" (See Filer's Files #51 for December 24, 1997. Many thanks to George A. Filer of MUFON for

this report.)

UFO FLIES OVER A DAM IN CENTRAL WALES

On Friday, December 19, 1997, at 6:30 a.m., a UFO was seen flying over the hydroelectric dam in the Black Mountains by two rangers of the Welsh Forestry Commission.

The men were five miles apart at the time, but were in radio contact with each other. The incident took place in the mountains overlooking Llandoverry, approximately 66 miles (106 kilometers) northwest of Cardiff. "The UFO was going in a north-northeasterly direction," one ranger reported. "It was a very bright ball of light with four sparkly tails and about two miles or so high, about three times the size of a large star. It was over the dam for about 35 seconds, climbing in an upward direction."

The sightings reports were received by the Welsh Forestry Commission office at Tirabads. (Many thanks to Todd Andrews and the Riskers for this report.)

LUMINOUS UFO FLIES OVER A CITY IN CENTRAL ITALY

On Sunday, December 14, 1997, at 6:15 p.m., pedestrians in Terni, a city in the Monti Sabini mountain range approximately 100 kilometers north of Rome, spotted a strange luminous object flying across the evening sky.

The UFO was described as "a luminous white object in the form of a pointed arch." Witnesses said the UFO "made a swift passage" through the sky over Terni "along a horizontal trajectory."

The case is being investigated by ufologist Massimo Valloscuro of the Centro Italiano di Studi Ufologici (CISU) (Grazie a Edoardo Russo di CISU per questo rapporto.)

GIANT METEOR LIGHTS UP THE SKY OVER GREENLAND

On Tuesday, December 9, 1997, at 5:15 a.m., fishermen aboard the motor vessels Halton Trawl and Regina C. cruising off the eastern coast of Greenland heard a faint rumbling sound. Looking west, they spied "a giant flash split the darkness." The bright flash was also seen by fishermen aboard the Timmarut, a Danish motor trawler moored in Greenland's Julianehaab Bay. "The glow lit up the whole ice cap," Jens P., one of the fishermen, said.

A parking lot surveillance camera in Nuuk, the Danish territory's capital on Greenland's west coast, "also recorded a brief illumination at that time."

"According to the accounts, the flash was so huge that we have good reason to believe that this was a giant meteor," said Bjoern Franck Jorgenson of the Tycho Brahe Planetarium in Copenhagen, Denmark.

"Jorgenson said it was probably a 'one-piece, solid meteor' that exploded. Most meteors travel at more than 7,400 miles per hour and explode or break up as they enter the atmosphere," the Reuters report noted. Scientists at the Niels Bohr Institute at the University of Copenhagen and the Tycho Brahe Planetarium estimated that the meteor struck the Greenland ice cap at a point 50 kilometers (30 miles) northeast of Narsarsuaq airport.

The meteor "can be compared to the Kap York meteorite," which fell in "Melville Bay, Sassivik, south of Thule." "The flashes observed with the meteorite were so bright as to turn night into day at a distance of 100 kilometers and can be compared to the light of a nuclear explosion in the atmosphere. However, we stress that there is no reason to believe (the flashes) were other than natural causes."

The institute reported a strange discrepancy in the incident, however.

The "meteor" crashed no later than 5:15 a.m. Greenland time or 8:15 a.m. UTC time. Yet, six minutes later, at 8:21 a.m. UTC, a "seismic disturbance," attributed to the meteor, was recorded at Svalbard, Norway. Two minutes later, at 8:23 a.m. UTC, a second "shock wave" was recorded by the seismic detectors at Finmarca, Norway. The readings were announced by the Norwegian Seismic Agency at Kjeller. Similar readings were taken in Finland and Germany.

Yet, according to the Institute, there were no readings of a "shock wave" or "seismic disturbance" at Danmarkshavn and Sonder Stromfjord, Greenland only 380 miles (608 kilometers) west of the meteor strike zone. Although grounded by a severe blizzard on Monday, December 11, planes of the Danish Air Force continued their search for the meteor crater. It has not yet been found. (Many thanks to the Geophysical Dept. at the Niels Bohr Institute and the Tycho Brahe Planetarium for the news release.)

FOUR CHILDREN KILLED IN COLOMBIA METEOR STRIKE

On Sunday evening, December 14, 1997, a fire broke out in a one-story house five kilometers (2 miles) from Pitalito in Huila province, Colombia, killing four sleeping children, all of whom were under the age of six.

Responding to the call were units of the Pitalito municipal fire department, led by Captain Carlos Augusto Rojas. The children were home alone "in their ramshackle house when the fire broke out, and (Colombian) authorities initially suspected a candle or an electrical short circuit."

Capt. Rojas told the Colombian show Radionet that, as his units were on their way to the fire, they had seen "fireballs raining down from the sky," adding, "We saw three distinct fireballs when we arrived" at the fire.

Fire marshals examined the house after the blaze had been extinguished, noting that "the house had no electricity and other possible causes of the blaze--a candle or a gas lamp--had been ruled out."

"But he said a hole measuring 25 centimeters (10 inches) in diameter was discovered in the zinc roof of the house, along with traces of a sulfur-like substance that was being studied in a local laboratory."

"The hole in the roof had been pushed from the outside, Rojas said, adding that this exactly seemed to indicate that the children were the unwitting victims of a meteorite."

Pitalito is in Colombia's Cordillera Oriental, approximately 633 kilometers (396 miles) southwest of Bogotá. (See the newspaper *El Espectador* for December 16, 1997.)

GLOWING ORANGE FIREBALL STIRS UPPER MIDWEST

On Friday, December 12, 1997, at about 8 p.m., a UFO described as "a glowing orange or red" sphere was seen over Eyota, Minnesota (population 1,448), a town on Interstate Highway 90 about 100 miles (160 kilometers) southeast of Minneapolis.

Within 15 minutes, calls were received in police stations to the south in Wisconsin, Iowa and Missouri, reporting "a mysterious flash of light."

Experts said the flash was "probably caused by a meteor."

"It was a good-sized red ball," said Wylie Peterson of Colfax, Wisconsin (population 1,110), a town on Highway 170 about 20 miles (32 kilometers) northwest of Eau Claire and 261 miles (418 kilometers) northwest of Milwaukee. "It left a pretty good tail behind it. It was too big to be a flare."

In Boyceville, Wisconsin (population 913), a town 20 miles (32 kilometers) west of Colfax, a private plane was reported overdue, and townspeople organized a search of the local woods. The search was suspended after they realized that the glow was "probably from the meteor" and not a crashing aircraft.

Astronomers at the University of Minnesota and Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa said "the phenomenon was best explained by a single meteor entering the Earth's atmosphere." They noted that December 12 is the height of annual Geminid meteor shower.

"We are constantly bombarded by fragments of old comets," said Lawrence Staunton, a physics and astronomy professor at Drake University. "They are mostly not seen."

The orange fireball, however, was also seen in Cresco, Iowa (population 3,669) on Highway 9 about 228 miles (365 kilometers) northeast of Des Moines. (Many thanks to Steve Wilson Sr. and Errol Bruce-Knapp for these reports.)

TRIANGULAR UFO SIGHTED IN WESTERN GEORGIA

On December 5, 1997, at 8:40 p.m., a man living in Franklin, Georgia (population 876), located north of West Fork Lake on Highway 34, about 50 miles (80 kilometers) southwest of Atlanta, spotted a triangle-shaped UFO moving through the night sky.

"The witness observed a formation of five white-to-amber-color lights," John Thompson, MUFON Georgia state director, reported. "A structured object would have made a triangle 50 feet (15 meters) in size. The UFO flew to the southeast at 2,000 feet altitude or lower."

The witness observed the UFO for 20 seconds before losing sight of the object among the trees.

"He said the UFO flew slowly and made no sound," Thompson added. "The lights did not flash, and he is assuming they were on a structured craft he did not see. The sky was clear, with little wind, and the UFO, according to him, was clearly close enough for him to have heard noise, if it had made any."

TRIANGULAR-SHAPED UFO SEEN IN SOUTHERN OREGON

On Thursday, November 13, 1997, at 1 a.m., Katie Caleb was driving on Oregon Highway 66 through Hayden Mountain Pass, heading for Klamath Falls (population 17,737) 20 miles (32 kilometers) to the east when she saw an unusual object in the sky.

"I was driving along, and I stopped for a moment to look up at the stars," Ms. Caleb reported. "I saw an object with three bright lights. The object was shaped somewhat like a boomerang. It hovered over me for a minute, and then, all of a sudden, it shot off (to the north) towards Portland and was gone." (See MUFON Skywatch Investigations #47. Many thanks to George A. Filer of MUFON for this report.)

BRUNEI MEN SPOT A UFO HOVERING OVER THEIR TOWN

A UFO hovered briefly last week over the town of Kilanas in Brunei Darussalam, an Islamic country on the northern coast of Borneo.

Several residents claimed to have seen bright UFOs cavorting in the night sky. "Among them are Cham Rajuto and a colleague, who saw mysterious lights" in the sky above Jalan Tutong Tham street in Kilanas.

"The lights," Cham said, "are moving in a clockwise direction, coming together and then separating out, circling over and over, covering 30 to 45 degrees left and right of the vertical in a large area of the sky." (See the *Toronto Globe and Mail* for December 8, 1997, page D-4. Many thanks to Drew Williamson and Errol Bruce-Knapp for this report.)

TWO BOYS PHOTOGRAPH UFO OVER SIRACUSA

On November 15, 1997, at about 4 p.m., two teenaged boys spotted a UFO over their hometown of Siracusa, a port city in Sicily on the Golfo di Augusta, 224 kilometers (140 miles) southeast of Palermo. Grabbing a 35mm camera, the boys shot several photos "of an object of discoidal form" as it "moved about in an erratic manner through the skies above Siracusa." The UFO also "periodically halted in mid-air" from time to time. They described the object as having the shiny reflective surface "of the glass of a window." (See the Italian newspaper *Giornale di Sicilia* for November 30, 1997. Grazie a Edoardo Russo e Antonio Rapulla per questo rapporto.)

GLOWING UFO FRIGHTENS ONLOOKERS IN TUNISIA

On November 9, 1997, at 10:10 p.m., "a strange phenomenon" appeared in the sky over Sfax, a port city on the south central coast of Tunisia. The UFO was described as "bright orange" and "was a sort of great luminous mass with a dense center but very clear toward the exterior." The object "glowed like fire and even more so like a plasma effect. It was not a reflection of a possible flare." Crowds of onlookers in Sfax watched the UFO for about four minutes. "A strange odor permeated the air, a blend of the smell of sulfuric acid and of dead fish." One witness estimated the size of the UFO as "eight centimeters (four inches) if held at the end of an outstretched hand, and perhaps six kilometers (four miles) away." The orange glow then began to flutter "like a light in another room, when the door begins to close." The UFO zipped away to the southwest, heading for the Chott Fejaj salt desert. Sfax is 320 kilometers (200 miles) south of Tunis. (Merci beaucoup aux Mahmoud el-Mejdoub et Banque OVNI-Tunisie pour ces nouvelles.)

CHUPACABRA STRIKES TWICE IN PUERTO RICO

On November 10, 1997, at about 2 a.m., the Chupacabra or "goatsucker" attacked a livestock pen at Granja Marina farm in the Barrio San Isidro section of Loiza Aldea, Puerto Rico (P.R.) 15 miles (24 kilometers) east of San Juan. According to police reports, two goats were killed, four others "were bled dry" and a baby goat was stolen. Farm worker Jess Betato, an immigrant from the Dominican Republic, "heard what he described as 'a flutter of wings' at that time of night" and "he claims he saw three horses and 58 cows, who were in a fenced area, 'run as if the Devil were in pursuit.' It was then that the cries of the goats could be heard in the tropical darkness."

Betato started towards the goat pen with his dog, a Dalmatian, at his side. Suddenly, his dog "made a sudden 'about face' and broke into a furious run in the opposite direction, tail between its legs. Taking a cue from the animal's behavior, Betato retreated to the farmhouse and waited for daybreak before returning to the site."

When he examined the dead goats, Betato noticed that "the animals had deep 'puncture marks' on the right side of their throats."

Carlos Ortiz, owner of Granja Marina farm, asked Puerto Rican police to "redouble their efforts" to find the slayer. He reportedly lost 30 goats to Chupacabra attacks back in 1995.

One week later, on November 17, 1997, Chupacabra struck again, this time at the Sabana Hoyos prison camp 30 miles (48 kilometers) west of San Juan. "According to a report by Colonel Mariano Aponte, police chief of the Arecibo (P.R.) area, 34 hogs were found dead with strange puncture marks on their necks through which blood was extracted."

"Jesus Rodriguez Rosario, an officer with the Department of Corrections, reported to work at 7 a.m., as was his custom, and came across the 34 slain animals."

News of the incident at Sabana Hoyos "spread like wildfire across the island" of Puerto Rico. One farmer, Roberto Rivera Garcia, told the newspaper *El Vocero*, "Those of us who believed the murderer of our animals--the Chupacabra--had disappeared for good and were therefore more at ease, have been fooled. He only took a protracted vacation." (Many thanks to Scott Corrales, author of *CHUPACABRAS AND OTHER MYSTERIES*, Greenleaf Publications, 1997, for these news stories.)

TWO MORE UFO SIGHTINGS REPORTED IN BRITAIN

On Monday, December 1, 1997, at 8:30 p.m., Bruce B. was outdoors in Rotherham, South Yorkshire when he "looked up through his north-facing arbor" and "saw a flame--a fiery, green-orange thing moving from left to right and downward. He said it had flames on it, and he thought it was going to crash three-quarters of a mile (0.7 kilometers) away." (Many thanks to Colin Brownbill for this report.)

On November 12, 1997, at 5:14 p.m., Harry Price was walking his dog in Bognor Regis, West Sussex, about 70 miles (112 kilometers) southwest of London "on a clear but chilly evening." As he approached the Bognor Regis railroad station, "looking up in a northerly direction, he saw a shining light that split into seven smaller lights and traveled away" to the north. Harry's workmate, who was with him at the time, "also saw the same thing."

A third eyewitness, waiting at the train station, saw the same UFO "from the platform a few minutes before

the arrival of the 5:30 train " (Many thanks to Roger of CompuServe for this report.)

ROD-SHAPED UFOs STARTLE MOTORISTS IN AUSTRALIA

On Sunday, November 23, 1997, at 7:50 p.m., Wayne Banks and his friends were "heading from Doonside near Blacktown to Penrith," New South Wales (N.S.W.), 25 miles (40 kilometers) west of Sydney when they spotted a UFO.

"We stopped at the traffic light at the corner of Phillip Parkway and Eastern Road," Banks reported. "I was looking west at the terrific sunset and commented on this to the people in the car. There was scattered cloud and the sun gave off a reddish glow."

"It was then that I noticed an extremely bright line just to the right of where I was looking. I originally thought it was an aircraft jetstream (condensation trail, or "contrail" for short, here in the USA--J.T.), although it didn't seem high enough. It would've been almost an inch long at arm's length. I then turned to one of my friends, and I pointed it out to him."

"He too thought it was some sort of jetstream, but then it started to move slowly, until it began to rotate from horizontal to almost vertical. By this stage, all six of us in the car were watching. It was then that one of the girls noticed the line to the northwest of us. It was moving towards the other line but very slowly. I also noticed a small red light in the direction of the second line, but this could have been an aircraft. I lost sight of them as we got to the bottom of the hill. Almost a minute later, we had an unobstructed view of the western sky again, but we could not see anything at all." (Many thanks to John Hayes for this report.)

(Round-Up Editor's Note: The Katoomba Valley, west of Penrith, has had numerous UFO sightings since 1942.)

UFO SPOOKS COUPLE IN TAURANGA, NEW ZEALAND

On Saturday, November 15, 1997, at 9:50 p.m., a couple living in Tauranga, New Zealand, a city of the North Island located 130 miles (208 kilometers) south-east of Auckland, spotted a UFO flying slowly over Welcome Bay.

"It appeared approximately 100 metres (330 feet) from where we were standing on a second-storey verandah, looking out to the north," they reported. "It was approximately 15 to 20 metres (50 to 67 feet) wide and appeared almost mist-like. It was round in shape. There was no noise or lights. One of us saw it and asked the second person (if) they could see it. When both acknowledged seeing it, it disappeared, and not in any particular direction. From the first (moment), it was there for almost ten seconds." (Many thanks to Jane S. Derry for this report.)

UFO FOLLOWS BUS IN CENTRAL ARGENTINA

A glowing UFO paced a local transit bus on the highway between Rio Cuarto and Las Higueras in Cordoba province, Argentina, approximately 512 kilometers (320 miles) west of Buenos Aires, the national capital.

The incident took place Tuesday evening, November 25, 1997. Sra. Alicia Ana de Lourenco boarded a transit bus owned by Transportes Rio Cuarto Ltda. for a trip to the nearby town of General Cabrera.

At 8:55 p.m., Sra. de Lourenco looked out the bus window at "a storm front in the south." Suddenly, "a luminous object, bigger than a star and far more brilliant, caught her attention, and she began to observe it with great care."

The OVNI (Spanish acronym for UFO) "had a half-moon shape," and she estimated that its flight path carried it over Carnerillo, southeast of Rio Cuarto.

"To corroborate what she was seeing, she called to a policeman sitting a few rows in front of her. Then, to get a better view of the object, they opened the side window and observed how it zigzagged right and left." As the UFO came closer, the bus passengers saw that it contained "four rows of lights, which Sra. de Lourenco described as 'the lights of a theatre.'" The "luminous OVNI" kept pace with the bus until it reached Las Higueras, about five kilometers (3 miles) northeast of Rio Cuarto" and then it zipped away.

The UFO was seen and videotaped in Las Higueras by a teenager, Valeria Angelini, who used a Panasonic M8000 camcorder "to capture the luminous object on tape."

On Monday, December 1, 1997, Srta. Angelini was interviewed by three ufologists from the Argentine UFO study group COR--Mario Bracamonte, Pablo Odello and Frederico Smaldone. (Muchas gracias a Carlos Lurchuk y Fundacion Argentina de Ovniologia para ese caso.)

UFOs ACTIVE IN ITALY

On Thursday night, November 13, 1997, witnesses in Abruzzo reported seeing "a flying object that emitted a strong violet light." The UFO changed direction overhead and flew out to sea. (See the newspaper Il Centro for November 16, 1997.)

Twenty hours earlier, at 1 a.m. on November 13, an alert was issued in the port city of Teramo when people heard "a sound similar to that of an airplane or a ship in difficulty." The Carabinieri (Italian police--J.T.), the Captain of the Port, and the local Rescue Service were mobilized, and a diligent search was launched. But the source of the aerial disturbance was not found. (See the newspaper Il Messagero for November 15, 1997.)

On Monday, November 24, 1997, at 11 p.m., three motorists driving on a highway near Siena saw "the apparition of a strong light in the sky, emitting a blue luminous glow, before it disappeared." (See the newspaper La Nazione, Siena edition, for November November 26, 1997. Grazie a Edoardo Russo, Marco Bianchini, Panfilo Pagliaro, e Frabrizio Degni di CISU per questi rapporti.)

PERUVIAN GIRL DEVELOPS SUPERMAN'S HEAT VISION

On Saturday, October 25, 1997, Fire Brigade #26 of Chiclayo, capital of the department (state) of Lambayeque, 760 kilometers (456 miles) north of Lima, Peru, was called out at 8:30 a.m. to battle a house fire in the nearby town of Pajaten. Pajaten is 9 kilometers (5 miles) southeast of Chiclayo. By 8:45 a.m., the fire-fighters had "controlled and extinguished the blaze," after rescuing a three-year-old girl from her burning bedroom.

Fire officials conducted an investigation but finally ruled that the blaze was "a fire of unknown origin"

On Monday, October 27, 1997, at 3 a.m. Fire Brigade #26 was again called to Pajaten to battle a house fire. This fire took place less than 100 meters (330 feet) from the location of Saturday's fire.

According to Jorge Pereira, owner of the property, the fire began in the bedroom where Giuliana Gutierrez Peralta, age 13, was having a sleep-over with her friend.

Pereira told fire officials that he "entered the bedroom and turned on the lights. This caused the girl to wake up, with obvious irritation, and she opened her eyes, which seemed to shine in a variety of colors before turning glaring red. It was at this moment she looked at the curtains, which caught fire instantly."

Investigating police did not believe Pereira's story and required him to take "a blood-alcohol test, the results of which proved negative."

Peruvian newspapers ran feature stories on the incident. Giuliana soon became known as "la nina del fuego" (the fire girl) and "la hija del diablo" (the Devil's daughter).

Neighbors in Pajaten reportedly harassed the family, and, as a result, "the girl and her family went to the village of Uycampa," on the eastern side of the Cordillera Central, at the edge of Peru's rain forest, "where they are now living." (Muchas gracias a Raul Rios Centeno of Lima y tambien Scott Corrales para esas noticias.)

(Round-Up Editor's Comment: Cases of young teenagers developing heat vision or "firestarter" powers are rare but not unknown. Here in North America we've had William Brough, age 12, of Turlock, California in October 1886; Jennie Bramwell, age 14, of Beaverton, Ontario in 1891; and Wanet Willey of Ma-

comb, Illinois in August 1948. For more information on these cases, see MYSTERIOUS FIRES AND LIGHTS by Vincent H. Gaddis, Dell Books, New York, NY 1968, pages 166 through 170. Interestingly, Mama Ocllo Huallpa, wife of Manco Capac, the first Inca, is also said to have had these powers. As Garcilaso de la Vega remarked in his COMENTARIOS REALES DE LOS INCAS, "She was a witch, but she helped the poor.")

JUDGE SENDS JOHN FORD TO N.Y. MENTAL HOSPITAL

A Suffolk County Court judge ordered ufologist John Ford, president of the Long Island UFO Network (LIUFON) to be sent to an upstate New York mental hospital on Thursday, November 13, 1997.

Ford, 49, was arrested June 15, 1996 by police of Suffolk County, Long Island, "on charges that he was seeking to kill three officials by putting radium in their cars and lacing their toothpaste with radioactive material."

The grand jury indicted Ford on charges of conspiracy and possession of radioactive materials. Ford has been held in jail without bail bond for the past seventeen months.

"Three psychiatrists and a psychologist, two hired by District Attorney James M. Catterson Jr.'s office, examined John Ford and all four concluded that the former court officer (the defendant--J.T.) isn't competent to stand trial."

"In one report, Robert H. Berger, director of Forensic Psychiatry at Bellevue Hospital Center (in New York City-- J.T.), said that while Ford seemed to understand his legal predicament, he thinks 'the criminal case against him is in reality an intelligence operation being run by the CIA together with the Israeli intelligence agency Mossad.'"

"Ford, 49, of Bellport (N.Y.) is charged with conspiring to kill Suffolk County Republican chairman John Powell, legislator Fred Towle (R-Shirley) and Brookhaven public safety director Anthony Gazzola by putting radium in their cars and toothpaste."

"Ford is expected to be transferred from the Suffolk County jail in Riverhead to the upstate Mid-Hudson Psychiatric Center in New Hampton (N.Y.) next week. He will return to Suffolk to face the criminal charges if doctors there determine he is competent to stand trial." "Ford's lawyer, John Rouse, has maintained that the only reason Catterson brought charges against Ford for the plot (was) that prominent Republicans were the target. "If the threats were against you or I, John (Ford) would be walking the streets like an average citizen," Rouse said."

Ford and LIUFON had conducted an ongoing investigation of doings at the Brookhaven National Laboratory on Long Island since a UFO incident near the lab

back in 1994. Ford reportedly "said he believed that visitors from outer space had crash-landed on Long Island and that government officials were hiding the aliens at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton." (See the Long Island newspaper Newsday for November 14, 1997, "Radiation Suspect is Delusional" Also the Deseret News of Salt Lake City, Utah for November 14, 1997. Many thanks to Janet Russell for the Newsday article.)

UFO SEEN TWICE OVER SMALL TOWN IN SCOTLAND

On October 14, 1997, "a Livingston woman froze with terror after spotting a strange light coming from the sky in Nigel Rise, Dedridge" near Edinburgh. "I've never seen anything like it," said the 31-year-old woman, who prefers not to be named. "People have told me that it must have been a laser light, but you don't see laser lights like this--it lit up the whole side of the house in front of me. It absolutely wasn't lightning, and it came on and went off a couple of times," she added, "Strangely, two planes came over, and when the planes were there, the light went off." (See the Herald & Post for October 16, 1997)

"An Eilburn woman has reported seeing the strange light which was spotted over Dedridge last week." "I was gobsmacked," said the 27-year-old mum, who asked not to be named, "When I read about it in last week's Post, I told my husband, 'That's what I saw.'" "She spotted the light at 4.30 p.m. (October 14) while walking across the footbridge between Ladywell and Craigshill. 'I do a lot of stargazing,' she added, 'And I know for a fact that it wasn't a satellite, although it did look a bit like one. It was very slow-moving in the sky and about the size of a football. It had a very subtle blue light and reminded me of a Trelar mint. It looked like it was straight above Dedridge'" (See the Herald & Post for October 23, 1997. Many thanks to the U.K. UFO Network for sending these news stories.)

SPINNING UFO, WEIRD FLASHES VIDEOTAPED IN SCOTLAND

Bonnybridge, the center of Scotland's UFO flap during 1995 and 1996, was the site of a new encounter at the end of October 1997

On October 21, 1997, the Malcolm family, who lives near a hillside Roman fort overlooking Bonnybridge, saw "a spinning UFO" hovering outdoors at 7:25 p.m. Aiming his videocamera at the object, Mr. Malcolm caught it on tape. Two minutes later, the sky was filled with "hyper-jumping, laser-like bursts."

On October 23, 1997, at 6:48 p.m., the same "pulsing, erratic, hyper-jumping lights" again appeared. A friend of the Malcolm family, who declined to be identified, was driving from Bonnybridge to Larbert when she saw "two large orbs of light and a smaller

probe-like orb. They merged together into one large mass. She drove fast to get to the Malcolms' house to alert them, but Mrs. Malcolm had seen the event from the front of her house and was pumping the horn of a parked car to alert" her husband.

At 6:51 p.m., videocamera in hand, Mr. Malcolm taped the "large mass of light." On the video, "in slow motion, it can clearly be seen to spin and can be compared to the streetlights below."

At 6:53 p.m., "the object moved to the right, in relation to the streetlights, and as the object was being filmed, a big red double-decker bus drives through the frame, as the object spins in the background."

At 6:54 p.m., the spinning UFO "moves away behind the hill and is lost from view."

At 7:11 p.m., the mysterious flashes again lit up the sky over Bonnybridge. (Many thanks to Neil Cunningham and CSETI for this story.)

DAYLIGHT UFOs SPOTTED IN CHRISTCHURCH, NEW ZEALAND

On Wednesday, November 12, 1997, at 7:40 a.m., a few dozen witnesses in the Port Hills section of Christchurch, South Island, New Zealand reported seeing "two eye-shaped objects traveling from south to north" over the seaport city "at approximately 80 to 100 miles per hour at an approximate altitude of 3,500 feet."

The condition of the sky at the time was mostly clear with some light clouds and wind gusts of up to 80 knots. "The objects appeared to be 12-plus feet (4 meters) across in size." The UFOs "appeared to be shaped like human eyes. In the center was a silver ball, and the outer areas were black and tapered off to a point. The objects traveled above light cloud in blue sky, and there were heavy gusts of wind at the time." (Many thanks to Ross Dowe and his New Zealand National UFO Hotline. New Zealand readers wishing to report a UFO can reach Ross Dowe at PH 090 05 8367.)

SPINNING UFO SEEN IN ITALY

On October 16, 1997, a city official in San Nicolo Comelico, Belluno province, Italy and his family watched a hovering UFO for four hours. He described the object as "a pale luminous light at first" and "it left at 8:30 that evening, rapidly taking off, changing its form to that of a spinning top that seemed to emit a blue smoke from its underside." (See the Italian newspaper Liberta for October 31, 1997. Grazie a Stefano Cappucciati e Edoardo Russo di CISU per questo rapporto.)

TWO NATO JETS PURSUE UFO OVER FRANCE

Two NATO jet interceptors, described as "the F-16 type," chased a UFO over France's Eure-et-Loire de-

partment at 4 p.m. on Monday, October 27, 1997. Eyewitness Marie Franck reported, "I was at my country home in Sainville, a village 40 kilometers (24 miles) east of Chartres. I was in the garden when I heard a progressive rumbling originating from the north, behind the house. It was then that I saw, to the west of the village, at 45 degrees above the horizon and about 2,000 meters (6,600 feet or just over a mile--J.T.) away a flying tube without wings but with fire coming out of the stern, which moved in horizontal flight from the north-northeast to the south-southwest."

Mme. Franck watched the UFO for "five seconds" before it disappeared "behind a neighboring rooftop." "Its speed was around 1,400 kilometers per hour," she reported. "I was astonished at not hearing a sonic boom, and I thought I might have been mistaken in my calculations." She estimated that the UFO traveled two kilometers during the five seconds.

"At the same time, I got the idea that it might be a missile (perhaps nuclear?) and that it was going to explode in the distance," she added. "Sudden terror! My sole reflex was to hurl myself to the ground, all the while counting the seconds to estimate the distance from the object."

"I was at 50 seconds when a new rumbling sound made its approach, but it was coming from the southeast. I then observed passing from south to north a military plane of the F-16 type, which made a very tight turn north of the village (Sainville) in order to get on the north-northeasterly trajectory of the object."

A few seconds later, "a new rumbling" was heard, and a second F-16 appeared, flying in the same direction as the first. Mme. Franck gathered her children from the pavilion very quickly and brought them indoors to safety.

Sainville is located on L'Autoroute A 10-E 05, the main highway between Paris and Orleans. The Armee de l'Air, France's air force, has a base at Chateaudrun, 55 kilometers (33 miles) south of Sainville. (Merci beaucoup a Marie Franck et Banque OVNI pour ces nouvelles.)

IRISH UFOLOGISTS QUESTION BOYLE SAUCER CRASH EYEWITNESSES

Researchers from IUFOPRA, a UFO study group in Eire, are busily interviewing witnesses to a saucer crash in the Curliou Mountains north of Boyle, County Roscommon, that reportedly took place in May 1996.

According to Irish ufologist Rory Thornton, the saucer crashlanded on a mountain just north of Boyle, slicing off a few treetops and touching down in the lake. The saucer, alleged to be from "the planet Sunas," contained several occupants who were allegedly taken into custody by a retrieval team.

Dave Walsh, publisher of the online newsletter Nua

Blather, wrote, "New information has recently come to light that leads us to believe that despite earlier reports the incident is a hoax, that something did happen in the Curliou Mountains."

"The site of the alleged crash has been sealed off for months now, and even the locals have been denied access."

Six months after the alleged crash, a new asphalt road was constructed, leading to the site, and "two (Quonset) huts were erected," IUFOPRA reported, "and no one was prepared to give any explanation as to why they were there. One of the huts is located close to the crash site with a lot of antennae protruding from it."

"One thing is clear...the Irish and foreign military are involved in some type of covert operations," IUFOPRA was quoted by Walsh. "A lot of helicopters have been observed flying around the area, and, according to one witness, he was woken by the sound of 'rescue' helicopters, which hovered very close to the windows of his house, causing them to rattle." (Many thanks to Dave Walsh for this news story.)

UFOs SEEN IN MANY TOWNS OF BRAZIL'S BAHIA STATE

The focus of UFO action in Brazil has shifted from Sao Paulo state to the state of Bahia in the "Sertao" region of northeastern Brazil. From Friday, October 17, through Sunday night, October 19, 1997, UFOs were reported in the skies of western Bahia state, about 320 kilometers (200 miles) west of the state capital of Salvador.

A UFO described as "an enormous flying apparition" was first seen in Dom Basilio. The object then flew west to Livramento do Brumado, where it "flew slowly over the city and was seen by several residents."

"According to the witnesses, the object was round, covered with lights, and flew very low over the region," the newspaper O Jornal da Tarde reported.

"In Riachao da Jacupe, residents sighted mysterious flying objects for 12 consecutive days. The Sociedade de Estudos Ufologicos de Lauro de Freitas (SEULF) is investigating the matter."

"According to Emanuel Paranhos, the group has also received information about mysterious explosions in Dias Davra" that may be related to the UFO sightings. (See the Brazilian newspaper O Jornal da Tarde for October 23, 1997. Mutio obrigado a Pedro Cunha por eso caso.)

MYSTERY BOOM SHAKES UP IMMINGHAM, ENGLAND

On Tuesday, November 25, 1997, at 10:35 p.m., a very loud mystery boom or "skyquake" sounded east of Immingham on the river Humber in northern England.

Dozens of residents reported the same event-- a loud BANG accompanied by a vivid "flash of white, possibly bluish-white light in the east," over the North Sea. "People in homes facing west only heard the bang," resident Paul H. reported. "While those who, like us, were in a house facing the North Sea, also saw the flash of light." He estimated that the source was "probably in an area over the North Sea itself." (Email Interview)

PULSATING LIGHTS SEEN OVER IMMINGHAM, LINCOLNSHIRE

Anomalous pulsating and flashing lights were seen in the night sky over Immingham on the river Humber, in northeastern Lincolnshire, UK. The city is 80 miles (128 kilometers) northeast of Sheffield, the site of last week's UFO incident. According to eyewitness Paul H., "At 12:05 a.m. (on Wednesday, October 22, 1997) I was alerted to two blinking lights in the western sky by my Mum, who had seen them earlier (9:30 p.m. on Tuesday, October 21). The two objects flew over our house from the east. We are on an incoming commercial flight path to Humberside Airport and are getting air traffic all the time, and it is audible. However, on this night, the lights were not audible at all, and anyway were too far away to be normal aeroplane lights. We opened the windows to try and hear them better but we could not. We were both convinced that these were not 'planes or choppers'."

"Both (lights) seemed to be pulsating about three times per second (an intense blue-white light) and were slightly brighter than a very bright star," Paul added.

"In fact, the night was clear, and they both appeared against a background of real stars."

"One object/light was flying in a higher but parallel corridor than the other, its light was slightly stronger than the object at lower altitude. This seemed to be the lead object."

"When both objects were well into the western sky, the higher/brighter object emitted what resembled an electrical discharge to the lower object. This incident was brief, like a bolt of lightning. This was not an optical illusion."

"Shortly after that, to the left of my field of view, a third (similar) object 'blinked' on from out of nowhere and joined the other two. Then all three of these silent lights 'danced' around each other in an aerial display, the like of which I have never seen before."

"At about 12:10 (a.m.), the lead object broke formation and flew into the west, while the 'pair' flew away quickly to the east. In flight, I detected a slight bobbing motion" (Email Interview)

STARLIKE UFO SEEN FLYING OVER SHEFFIELD

On Saturday, October 18, 1997, at 9 p.m., Bert Bromley was "returning from the local store" in the

south end of the industrial city of Sheffield in the UK "when I noticed a red light in the sky at roughly 45 degrees from my point of view (the horizon being 0)."

"The brightness of the light was three or four times that of a typical airplane," Bert reported. "It appeared to be traveling on a south-southwest to north-northeast course." The UFO "seemed to flicker in intensity (not the rhythmic flashing of an airplane beacon), the exact colour being a warm red/orange. It was bright enough to look 'starlike,' like the special FX filter on camera." "I could see no shape within the flashing. I cannot comment on its size, other than 'a point of light.' After watching for about four minutes (the light passing overhead, now at about 110 degrees), I noticed a change in course, veering more directly north. By this time, the light got dimmer and appeared to be fading. For another five minutes, the light either hovered (over Sheffield--J.T.) or continued north-northwest until it disappeared. The light seemed to have a slight wobble as it moved" and remained "eerily perceptible" in a clear night sky with few stars." (Email Interview)

ANOMALOUS LIGHTS REPORTED OVER CENTRAL WALES

In recent weeks, residents of Maesiocyn, near Tywlch Llanidloes in central Wales, about 90 miles (144 kilometers) north of Cardiff, have reported sighting "lights resembling large stars" in the eastern sky, "which move to the right and left and up and down." Eyewitness Margaret M. said, "Definitely not planes. When looked at through the binoculars, they flash red and green and orange."

"One night I saw what looked like an orange tennis ball fall in an arc towards Earth and disappear," Margaret said. "I can only reiterate that these are DEFINITELY not planes. Also, regular loud rumbling noises--like thunder or heavy guns--but nowhere near a (an artillery) range."

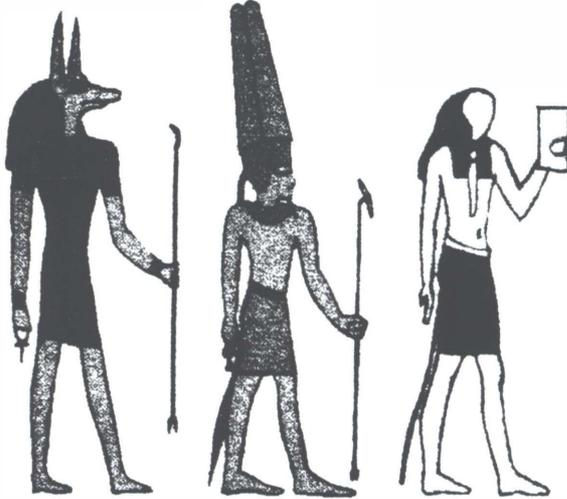
Residents have also reported lights above the nearby Halfren Forest. (Email Interview)

NEARLY TWO DOZEN FOXES FOUND MUTILATED IN BARNESLEY

On Friday, October 24, 1997, a strange news report aired on the BBC program "Look North" and also on BBC-1's "Calendar" program. According to the report, the bodies of 26 foxes were discovered mutilated in Barnesley, Lincs., about 50 miles (80 kilometers) south-east of Immingham. The culprits have not been found. (Many thanks to P.H. for this news story.)

Weekly updates are available from the superb UFO Roundup web site at <http://www.digiserve.com/ufoinfo/roundup/index.shtml> - Ed

Colin the Clip Art



Anubis - Guardian of the dead
 Amon Ra - God of the Sun
 Colin - Adorner of the unread papyrus

Clip art through history #1: Ancient Egypt

RUBBER STAMPING

by Christopher Davies BSc

Sadly the UFO community has become so eager to produce undisputed proof that UFOs are real to the media and the masses, that they are all too ready to authenticate much of the material that comes their way without proper investigation first. I am of the opinion that this may derive in some respect when a ufologist is presented with evidence by newspapers, magazines and the like, then put on the spot for an immediate response for accreditation or rejection. The inclination in the euphoria of the moment might lend itself to give an approving thumbs up, which when looked back upon does nothing to enhance the credibility of Ufology.

I would like to bring to the attention of all those who would like to see an end to this relegating circumstance, facts, to correct a misconception of authenticity of a now much aired sighting. Many of you will have seen the video clip of what appears to be a self illuminating UFO gliding over trees and roof tops, and hearing the cameraman who appears to be of German origin, shouting UFO, whilst gasping for breath

and jogging along to maintain a view. I presented a clip of this to Mr Mike Slater a fellow Bristol Ufologist, and, who has video screen grabbing capabilities on his computer. He was able to show some areas that were not clearly visible on the video clip. What became apparent was the existence of a gondola, some tail fins and a tail light. This then should make it quite clear that this was nothing more than an airship, which I must confess, was my personal opinion upon viewing the video.

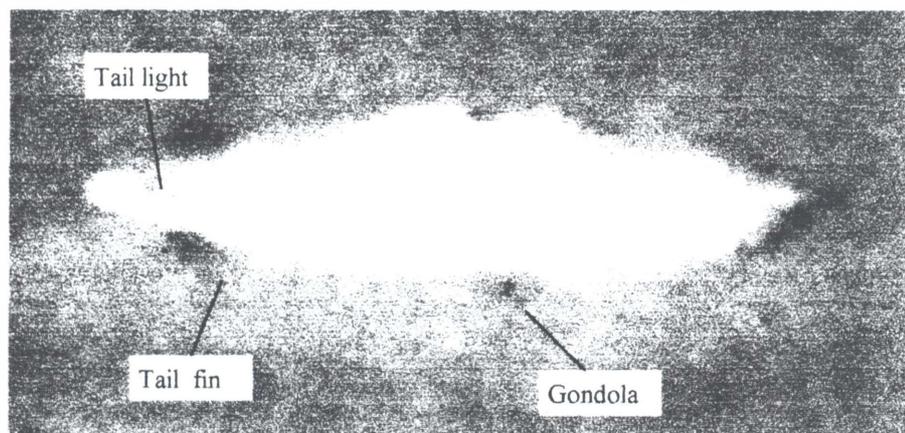
I recently saw this video clip being presented on GMTV along with other clips suggesting that this was a genuine extra terrestrial UFO, but as you can see when looked at more closely the evidence suggests the contrary. The UFO community must ensure its integrity with thorough analysis of all evidence presented to them, my opinion is, that there is nothing wrong in starting from a more sceptical viewpoint, in fact it is probably more beneficial to Ufology in the long term.

My points of contention are: -

1. That the object displays no unusual movements or high speeds usually associated with UFOs;
2. Why is there no supporting evidence from the investigators, such as responses from a local aviation authority etc.?

All this missing information along with what we can see from the still picture only goes to substantiate the theory of terrestrial origin.

I am an avid believer in the existence of UFOs, but I would like to see the evidence backed also by more methodical, reliable and scientific means. My message to Ufologists is, let's not allow ourselves to be overtaken by our own egotism, and eagerness to prove. No matter how disappointing the answers, let us do a thorough job and tell it as it is, not how we would like it to be. One point to remember, is that newspapers, magazines and the media are out to make a profit by selling, and if you look around at much of today's advertising, you will see that UFOs are a good selling point. If alleged authentic evidence turns out to be proven wrong, it is the UFO fraternity that has to take the backlash.



MAN... OR ASTROMAN?

TELL ALL

In our last issue we promised an interview with popular beat combo Man... or Astroman? who have been featuring regularly on Radio One's John Peel Show. We diverted our ace reporter and NUFORI secret agent Y. Axl Cyderblent (sometimes known as Adam) from his usual mission of remote sensing in the upper atmosphere to Leeds, to interview the band at the Duchess of York. Y. managed to get hold of bandmember Birdstuff for a few minutes: Enjoy...

Interview Part I

Y. Axl Cyderblent: I been hearing lots of strange things about you!

Birdstuff: Oh yeah? 'Cause I've been hearing strange things about you!

Y: About me?

B: Yes!

Y: In particular?

B: Just that there's this very strange, peculiar guy that always has a quizzical look on his face, that carries around a Sony tape recorder and tries to find out weird things about aliens and abductions!

Y: Could be!

B: So I think I've heard more strange stuff about you than you have about us!

Y: Cool! Thank you for agreeing to do this interview for Strange Daze.....

B: Oh no! Oh, I was forced to...John at {One Louder} has extreme, that's the new hype marketing term isn't it, extreme?, has extreme mind control powers over us!

Y: Has he?

B: I had no choice. I mean. I would probably, if I was under my own accord would like to do it regardless, but right now I'm totally on direct neural remote control!

Y: Well he is a Geordie, isn't he? They do have strange powers!

B: He's a Geordie in that sense, and he's a Geordie in the same sense of Star Trek The Next Generation you know he wears this little muffler looking visor!

Y: So...your name is Birdstuff?

B: That is true, and don't poke fun at it, my parents were space hippies, you know it was just a very great timing error in the greater time matrix, so I can't be blamed for my own name!

Y: Who are the other band members?

B: Well, in present time co-ordinates, which there really is no such a thing with a band from the future, but you will be perceiving StarCrunch, Coco the Electronic Monkey Wizard, and Dexter X {Man from Planet Q}, those are the other three, but they have very minor roles as compared to me, so you've got the hottest interview, that's basically what I'm letting you in on!

Y: If Dexter X is from the planet Q, where do the rest of you come from?

B: Oh, we don't come from a planet, we come from a grid sector called 23-B61!

Y: So!...what is sector 23-B61?

B: It's a spatially functioning grid of living co-ordinates for gaseous beings such as ourselves, you know, you take the spatial surface area content of a planet and it's a very ill used system to actually erm you know, people to inhabit, the denizens of the planet earth long ago should have, you know, which we're gonna do, is

dismantle the earth and kind of smooth out the crinkles, is what we'd like to call it, a kind of cosmic smoothing of the crinkles!

Y: So how long have you all been together?

B: Well we've done the Math on this many times, and come up with certain formulas of what you perceive Man or Astroman to have existed on the planet earth for 5 years, but the American government currently, and various European agencies as well as certain secretive covert clandestine groups of the UK, are denying that we exist and actually tearing down our flyers, pulling our

records from stores, and it's really hurt distribution of our records because it's been very difficult because people at this point don't want Man or Astroman to exist, it's just gotten too big Adam!

Y: The news is spreading?

B: Yes! Indeed!

Y: So why the name Man or Astroman?

B: Well there's various stories as to the origin of that, it's basically based around the gaseous properties that we inhabit. You know, on earth we're solid, based on liquid like yourselves, on some planets we're hyper-solids, we're even denser than we are now, but err in our state in Grid Sector 23-B61 we are gaseous, but when we got to this planet we were very disillusioned



and you know, sure we created great physiques for ourselves, I mean obviously you can tell by looking at the four of us that err, but we were unsure exactly where we were, it was an identity crisis of sorts, so we were wondering are we Man or Astroman? It's a dilemma of sorts you know it was a very schizoid time for us!

Y: But it's not schizophrenia?

B: No! More of simple personal crisis I would say!

Y: Do you have a mission?

B: Our mission at first was that of not having a mission, we basically came to this planet on a great interstellar joy-ride and we crash landed in, well they call them states in the US, we call them planets, but we crash landed on the planet Alabama, which is in the Dixie sector, and erm our mission was just to retrieve the parts of the crash and try to rebuild what brought us here, but we've had absolutely had no luck and at this point we've been talking about actually Astro terra-forming the planet and turning this, as I said dismantling the planet turning it into a grid sector where gaseous beings can inhabit, so if you can evolve yourself into a gaseous being in about 3 years you might have a chance, but I have a serious doubt that that's going to happen!

Y: Well I'll have to work on that! You said you crash landed? What happened?

B: Well we can't relay that piece of the story, erm it's too much for humans to comprehend, it has to do with the state of matter, and that was an endeavour in liquid dispersion, from one Coco the Electronic Monkey Wizard and I'll leave it at that, we'll leave it in a somewhat vague sense, but I think people know, they've been out there on the roads, you know you're out there on the A4 or whatever, and you

know there's none of those nice little Granada service stations and sometimes you have to be rather creative!

Y: Don't you think it quite strange humans naming a road after a size of paper?

B: Well it is! And I don't think humans have ever really thought about logistics of this and that's why were kind of re-thinking this whole planet earth thing for them!

Y: So what kind of music do you perform?

B: Well we've never actually heard the music, and there's no conductivity in space, I mean we're in a vacuum on stage, so we're only sensing vibrations of sorts so we haven't heard it, but I don't know, I think judging by the oscilloscope patterns of this last record, I don't know, it's somewhere in between Gizmo and

Gadget Rock I would say!

Y: You've got a new album out.....

B: Supposedly that's what it is, we call it a by-product, you call it an album!

Y: Its title erm, Technetium, is that how you pronounce it?

B: Technetium! We actually, we had a friend, that was a robot, that we got to speak at the beginning of the record for us, to actually pronounce that correctly, but I think just being a robot voice a lot of people still can't pick up on the inflection of Technetium!

Y: What exactly is Technetium?

B: Well it was...actually a lot of people have credited us for the creation of Technetium, but it is not so, it was more of the fact that it was the first man-made synthesised element that came from various sub-critical bombardment of like Uranium fission, and erm they got a nice little package of Technetium, and this record for us, being that we did it all via satellite from our various laboratories in the planet of Northern Georgia, that erm it was a very synthetic record for us to create, so we thought you know hey we'll name it to something that people can relate to, but the sad thing is people are very uneducated on this planet and very few people actually know what Technetium is, or a periodic table for that matter!



Y: I've heard a lot about your live show and I can see some guitars set up on stage....

B: That's what they look like, it's a very clever disguise!

Y: Do you use any other sort of instruments?

B: Well, we have various like, constructs that represent a guitar, represent drums represent a bass, that serve somewhat to make it more digestible to

the human mind, to give them a point of relation, a focus, but it's all being directed asynchronous orbit from the mother ship, the mother ship is circling above, we just can't get up there or send a signal back, so nightly, when we play, we try to send a signal back but it's only at this point one way communication, so all the guitars...{long pause!}...it's kind of like Air band but on a vast more cosmic level!

Y: Is it Ozone friendly?

B: Yes! Well actually it is Ozone friendly because Coco has a device called the Tesla coil, you guys had one great mind of this century named Nicola Tesla who had a device that was named after himself, the Tesla Coil, and it does actually create Ozone, so the air will be a lot fresher for you after the show!

Y: Do you think Tesla has been underrated as a

scientist?

B: He actually created Man or Astroman! I'm letting you in, right now, on a piece of knowledge, this whole alien scam is not true, it's been a sham, and we've been lying for five years, but the American government has tried to suppress various Tesla technologies, like a lot of studies that he did on anti-gravitational forces and broadcasting electricity and what not, and erm we are the end product we are the result. we come from a store of Nicola Tesla's semen, and they bred it with some of the greatest female minds of the last century and the four of us are spawned from the loins of Tesla! Not the band mind you!

{The other members of the band start to sound check}

B: See this is a really.....you're getting to capture a very interesting portion of the show, it's the point where we simulate a sound check!

Y: But it's not really a sound check?

B: It's not actually a sound check but just because you're here.....if no-one else was here we would just totally by-pass this whole process, but since you're here we have to make it authentic!

Y: To keep up the impression?

B: Exactly, the lengths we go to, to make you, the human feel comfortable are amazing!

{Birdstuff is called over to join in by the 'Sound man'}

B: Oh! Yes! Do you want me to hit the drums! See we even like get the Sound man to play along! I'm going to make some noise, but I'll tell you what, can we do the part 'beta' of this after the sound check?

Y: Sure!

{Birdstuff goes off to do the sound check}

{Band play the Miracle of Genuine Pyrex and a few other songs in sound check}

gotten a little too hot and might spontaneously combust and we have to dowse them in CO2, so, sometimes when there's a fire extinguisher device it's cost us lots of money, erm that has hampered us from funding our space program!

Y: When the crowd gets too excited?

B: Yes exactly, we have to bring them down, what we call a Matter Notch! So we usually hit them with the 'Man Made of Fire Extinguisher Device'!

Y: 'Breathing Iron Oxide'. What's that all about?

B: That's about a common little joke about what man will have to do on Mars which he can't but we can, you know they're having to send all these rovers and robots drifting around aimlessly on the great red sands but alas he can't do it, and its kinda like poking fun at someone, you know, it's a disability that you guys have of sorts, you can't breathe it!

Y: But the song that gives me.....

B: It gives you the willies? Can we say that?

Y: Well, I think it does! It's 'The Miracle of Genuine Pyrex'!

B: Yes! It's about cooking in outer space, Pyrex is a very revolutionary concept and we have made a lot of the Man or Astroman interior of the spaceship and the core of the engine is made of Pyrex and you can cook anywhere in the space ship that we have, that we are rebuilding right now! but alas the one fatal flaw to this is we have no parts for it yet, its all a concept, its all theoretical design but we are moving to make it tangible at this point

Y: Now the song 'Saucerful of Sucrets'? Are you just poking fun at an English band?

B: Well, in a certain sense I mean nothing can be sillier than Pink Floyd themselves obviously, so to attempt to make a joke at them

would not be as funny as them, you know, drooling over themselves at Pompeii regardless! But Sucrets are throat lozenges like erm in the United States, but yeah it just kind of fancied me at the time to think of this distant alien race that came to the planet for nothing else except throat lozenge's, and just have this huge flying saucer full of cough drops basically, you know?

Y: So who writes the songs in the band???

B: Well there are different creative filters that go through our direct neural mind link between the three, we're all tied together, so that we all have a great amount of data that's inputted into the Man or Astroman by-product, but a lot of the melodious riffs and various phrases you hear that could be filed under the



Interview Part II

Y. Axl Cyderblent: Where did we leave off?

Birdstuff: I think it was question 18!

Y: You remember?

B: I was looking at your cheat sheet! Nothing escapes us!

Y: These are Mission Control Headquarters questions!

B: So what is 18?

Y: Songs about gases! You talked about being Gaseous beings....

B: Gaseous forms from Grid Sector 23-B61! So we have a song entitled 'The Man Made of Carbon Dioxide', which happens occasionally when the crowd has

category of music come from the mind and genius of StarCrunch who has honed his crown on a holographically stored information device that holds terra bytes of guitar riff information on the most digital computer generated guitar and then Coco has a lot to do with the live performance extravaganza where the mind control takes place where the spontaneous combustion's occur, where sometimes actual abduction does take place, a lot of people notice that they don't end up at home with their friends a lot people wind up in bed nude shaking because they've been struck by the Coil!

Y: And this happens during the gig?

B: Yes, but you know what they all have? They all have hundreds of pounds of Man or Astroman merchandise. {one of the bar staff comes over and give Birdstuff some food}

B: Thank you! That was another earth service technician that we have, it's so..., science is a key word for Man or Astroman, and we do have this down to a science that he actually brought me food like I would actually...{Pauses}...I'll go ahead and start.....It's all running on program you see, this is actually variety number thirty seven, we have various programs of sound checking etc.....

Y: This is just to fool the humans that are around you at the time?

B: Exactly! {tries food} Wow this is interesting!

Y: So you talked about being Gaseous beings, what exactly does that mean?

B: Are you trying to instigate the fact that we could be just mere excretions from outer space? Because I'm very offended with that you know, personally!

Y: Not at all! I'm just trying to understand!

B: Well you know it basically means, for example tonight, Duchess of York, we're here, nobody's here at the club when we show up, everything's locked up, but can we get in? Yes in gaseous form, there's various cracks I mean you should see what's put up against a solid object like this {points to door} how many actual spaces there are that aren't fully sewn together by matter, and we can squeeze through them, that's just one example of something that we can do. we can also smell very badly and that's one of the down sides to this, is that we do like have greater foul feted odours than any other band, we're the worst smelling band ever!

Y: Putting it another way, your peculiar powers, I mean if you ever got locked up you'd have no problem walking out?

B: Exactly! Bars cannot...{Pauses}...and you know its

true that Man or Astroman cannot be stopped, we can only be contained momentarily!

Y: Doesn't the digital voice on your latest album sound a bit like Stephen Hawking's?

B: A lot of people have asked us this and we can't comment on that as far as if it is actually Stephen Hawking's or not!

Y: Are you in with the Earth Based Scientists?

B: Well we try to give them little hints! We've got him off in the wrong direction a few times but you know we try to give little crumbs here and there, we're given him a few, okay he repaid us, he gave a little piece of thanks back, because he's highly respected down here, while we go vastly un-respected and we're giving him the theories and the equations that he's using!

Y: You're too humble for all that, aren't you?

B: Well it's just so hard to even translate this whole process of speaking with you is, it's so primitive that it's very difficult being of such extreme high intelligence to communicate in this format!

Y: So were you behind the theories of black holes that he presented?

Was that you're work?

B: Well, in all honesty we did that together! Have you ever seen the movie the Black Hole, the Disney movie? Stephen came over and we went and got that on video and we sat and

watched and we're like what happened to Maximillian? What happens when they go into the black hole? and that started the whole conversation and we talked about various other equations and theories of ever expanding space and the universe is a crumpled structure and I don't know I taught him a thing or two about worm-holes and then he fell asleep, Stephen does that often!

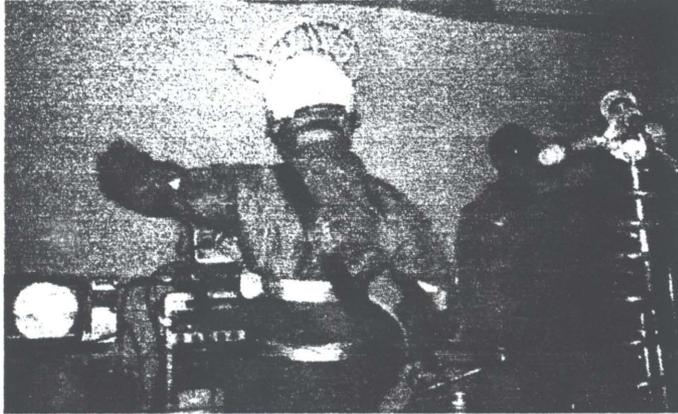
Y: I notice you use a lot of samples on your albums!

B: Yes samples to us are little eight second bits of our songs!

Y: Where exactly are these taken from. B movies?

B: Woah Woah Woah!!!! A movies! Why are they B movies, they're far better than the normal Hollywood slop. You know, but a lot of people don't know that, but like a lot of classic films, Gone with the Wind, Gigi the musical...are Sci-Fi films, it's just working on an allegorical basis a lot of people don't realise these things.

Y: What about Star Trek, the Invaders and other Sci-Fi TV shows? Have these had any influence on you in any



way?

B: Well, the closer you get back to a time period known as the nineteen fifties the more accurate the Sci-Fi was, I mean you have stuff like, oh I don't know, Contact or Event Horizon, stuff like this, these new Sci-Fi movies, they're so far removed from the reality of outer space that I have to go back and watch like 'I married a monster from outer space', or 'Santa Claus meets the Martians' 'It came from Outer Space' 'Zontar the Thing from Venus' I mean stuff like that is so much more, people cared about the science more and about portraying science as fact, but also a very very accurate art form in what they did in that and they were so amazingly close in so many circumstances, the attention to detail it was insane, you know when the Monster comes out of in 'It Conquered the World', I mean that's amazing what they did with rubber suits, so accurate to how space monsters really are, I mean this whole Carl Sagan new Age-ee crap is very hard for us to stomach, not that we stomach anything, not that I'm even stomaching this food in front of me, that I'm running a simulation program to make you think I'm actually eating!

Y: It's all for my benefit?

B: Well, do you feel more comfortable?

Y: I think so?

B: Do you like this, I'm wearing like a band T shirt and blue jeans.

Y: Brilliant, but what exactly are your thoughts on UFOs?

B: Have you ever heard of the Whammo?

Y: The big Whammo?

B: I like the big Whammo! Because there is a device in the United States known as the Whammo that very nearly simulates the action of an Unidentified Flying Object and it's basically a Frisbee type device, so these are just kind of play things for us in outer space, I mean, which I think is one of the biggest desecration's of outer space technology of our kind, of the kind from Grid Sector 23-B61 of that variety, it's when we see a dog jumping up in the air and grabbing a Frisbee because it is very symbolic of what earth people think, they think that for some reason they got the cosmic stamp of approval to be the highest species ever, above animals, above all powers of the complete universe and you are such small Pions on this planet in the grand scheme of interstellar communities and it's really offensive, and if I ever see a dog pull that manoeuvre again I'm gonna totally pull a mars attacks on their ass, I just can't take it!

Y: So humans thought they were cool until you guys showed up?

B: Well.... but many are still ignorant, they are!

Y: So what thoughts do you have about things that have happened on earth such as the Roswell incident, abductions, cattle mutilations, earthlights? Can you

shed any light on these topics?

B: I've got to tell you, I had a bad experience with a probe-like device once and the dues we've paid on this planet, not over the last five years, I mean because that's only in one dimension, we've gone in all nine dimensions, you know the ninth dimension is just like the dimension we're perceiving now except 'gummy bears' don't exist, that's the only difference that we've found I mean there may be others but in theory that's the only one we've found, and the popularisation of aliens and alien images is grossly based on us and you know how many royalties we receive for all those alien T shirts all those big eyed you know stickers rings paraphernalia, do you know how much we receive for that?

Y: Zilch?

B: Zilch is correct! That is the mathematical term I was looking for! So we're having a major licensing dispute at this moment, so I'm not even gonna start talking about Roswell, but I've got one word to say..... 'PAY-UP!'

Y: Are there other forms of aliens out there?

B: Well you know, I'll tell you, a basic theorem of approval, for someone who claims to be of alien origin, is that if they have immigrated and integrated through the planet of Alabama at some point, Sun Ra for example, and us as well, then I think there's probably some validity to it.

Y: Sun Ra!!! You know about Sun Ra? Do you know where he is now?

B: Well a lot of people don't know that he was building his own spaceship, that a lot of his last shows he performed in a wheel chair and what people don't realise, is the great power, mysticism and love for creation that was embodied in the spirit of Sun Ra, took off in the form of that wheel chair and went to dimensions so far beyond, and is creating music not just for the planet earth this time but for all interstellar galaxies and I'm proud to say that he sold more records than any other artist in the entire universe. now people say you know that he put out hundreds of records on earth none of them sold in mass quantities but in outer space he is the most respected and the most selling artist!

Y: How did you get involved with One Louder Records, a Newcastle based label?

B: You know, we really wanted to harness the power of the Lambton Worm, do you know the Lambton worm? and John {at One Louder Records} has the secret to that power, so he has technology based right there in Newcastle, so we're hoping that using some internal digestive juices of the Lambton Worm that we may use that as what you determine as rocket fuel to get back to outer space!

Y. Axl Cyderblent: Any final comments for our readers?

Birdstuff: Well, the time to align yourself with Man or

Astroman is NOW, and a lot of people don't know this but there is impending doom on earth, that is for sure, I mean you see it as the Millennium nears and the fact is right now you may have a chance hitching a ride by buying a Man or Astroman product and supporting the Man or Astroman space program cause we're the only hope the earth has, but Adam you may have a seat. it's not a window seat but.....it'll have to do, and unfortunately I think you'll probably be sitting next to Coco so bring a clothes peg to put on your nose! {Birdstuff finishes food} Do I have lettuce on my face?

+++ AND a reminder to all of our readers that **Man or Astroman's** latest LP, **Made from Technetium** is available now on Newcastle label **One Louder Records** +++



Below: Man or Astroman.



HEART OF DARKNESS PART II

Notes Towards the Deconstruction of a Myth by David Sivier

One of the more enduring rumours concerning the origins of Flying Saucers is that they are, or are derived from, Nazi experimental craft developed during World War II. The rumour first started with speculation in the closing years of the War that the mysterious 'foo fighters' seen by Allied airmen were German aircraft of some kind. These rumours coalesced into alleged fact with statements to the German press in 1952 by Rudolph Schriever, a former Luftwaffe engineer and flugkapitan, that he had designed such a vehicle in 1941. A prototype had been test flown on 1st June 1942, and an advanced model was under construction at the former BMW plant near Prague with the assistance of Walter Miethel, Klaus Habermohl and Giuseppe Belluzzo. Schriever claimed that this latter machine had

"It's not much of a posthumous insult, but it's a start"
TV presenter Jonathan Meades on the use of a prestigious Nazi architectural project as a car park, "Jerry Building", BBC TV.

been ready for testing in 1944, but the tests were cancelled following the Allied advance, and the machine destroyed to prevent its acquisition by the Allies. The plans were then mislaid or stolen. With the appearance of saucer-shaped craft near the Canadian border following Kenneth Arnold's sighting, the rumour developed that the technology for constructing such vehicles had not been lost, but had fallen into Russian and American hands with Operation Paperclip, the American governmental operation by which former Nazi scientists, such as those working on the V2 under Von Braun, emigrated to continue their work in the USA. These rumours appeared to have been borne out with the design of various saucer-shaped experimental aircraft, such as the V-173 Flying Flapjack and the Avrocar manufactured by A. V. Roe of Canada. Admiral Byrd's expedition to Antarctica under Operation Highjump in 1947 fuelled speculation about the possibility of a Nazi UFO base in the frozen wastes, especially as there were stories of 'enemy fighters which came from the Polar regions' which could 'fly from one pole to the other with devastating speed'.¹ This secret UFO base had been constructed following the annexation of part of Queen Maud Land as Neu Schwabenland by U-boat captain Rischter in 1938. During the War, men and materiel had been ferried out to the base, which had been constructed by the massive use of slave labour.

The myth has further mutated with the addition of several element involving Nazi occultism. In the view of such material as the questionable 'UFO Secrets of the Third Reich' the Nazi saucers were constructed by the SS departments U13 and SSE4 according to Viktor Schauberger's strange theories on implosion. These theories were derived in turn from mediumistic messages received from an alien civilisation around Aldebaran by Maria Ortisch and Sigrun of the neopagan Vrill society.

A further twist has entered the convoluted story with rise of the Abduction phenomenon in the 80s. Building on the infamous genetic experiments of the Reich and more recent biological experiments on direct man-machine interaction, authors such as W. A. Harbinson have come to believe that the alien creatures piloting the craft are 'cyborgs: half man, half machine - the result of decades of secret prosthetic experiments'.² Those unfortunate enough to be abducted by such creatures may 'undergo brain implantation and returned to the real world as remote controlled

slaves ... to be used as living subjects for even more advanced

surgical, psychological and genetic experiments of the kind that would be morally unacceptable

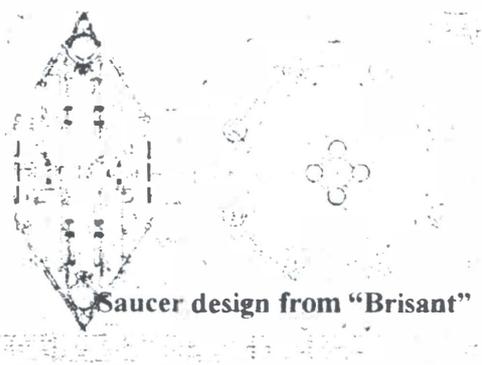
in normal society, or to be killed and used as a source of spare bodily parts for the cyborgs.'³

Although this theory is remarkably persistent, it is also intensely controversial. Much of the material comes from untrustworthy sources such as the Nazi Vril and Thule societies, and neo-Nazi apologists such as *Brisant* magazine, Wilhelm Landig and Ernst Zundl. Although the theory's been around for some time, it's recently come to the fore with the recent publication in *Sightings* volume 2, number 7 of an article by Tim Matthews on the subject, and another article on the alleged American saucers, like the Avrocar, based on Nazi technology in John Locker's article in issue no. 21 of *Alien Encounters*. Some researchers, such as Kevin McClure, have moral objections to any discussion of the theory because of the 'slave labour, starvation and murder'⁴ which were used in Nazi scientific projects such as the V2, and that, though it 'isn't specifically 'abduction' material, it does involve the same elements of human helplessness and submission'.⁵

My own view is that this is precisely the reason why it should be investigated, sceptically and with due concern for the issues involved. Moral repugnance to this matter is not a reason for its rejection as a subject for research. Unfortunately the moral bankruptcy of the Third Reich did not prevent it from building such engineering feats such as the V2. If there is a factual basis for the belief that flying saucers had their origins in Nazi flying discs, then surely that possibility has to be investigated. Furthermore, if elements of Nazi technology are being used, then people have a right to know about it, just as they have a right to know about the suffering involved in the construction of the V2 and the use after the War by the Allies of scientific material gained through human experimentation. Note that I stress that such investigation should be sceptical. An uncritical acceptance of these claims can very easily lead to approval for the Reich Technological projects such as the V2 were designed to impress Germany and her allies and enemies with her alleged scientific superiority, which would lead to enthusiasm for the regime at home and fear abroad. Nazi ufologists of the stripe of Landig and Zundl, who were responsible for spreading the present mythology of Nazi Antarctic bases, still have this agenda. Any discussion of Nazi flying discs has to take into account that much of it is based on propaganda, with all the dangers that entails. It also needs stressing, unnecessarily to most readers of this magazine, that the Reich's technical feats were built at a cost of millions of innocent lives and untold suffering, and that this far outweighs any scientific benefits which may have been developed by the regime. With these

caveats in place, it should be possible to move to a proper discussion of the subject. It'll be all right as long as we're careful.

First, let's start with some of the more exotic rumours. We can discount the possibility that the flying discs were built according to spiritual messages from Aldebaran. The Nazis were indeed fascinated by the occult and bizarre mysticism, and the rocket pioneer, Willy Ley, who emigrated to America in 1935, alleged that a bizarre sect called the Vril society had existed. This sect, however, was devoted to meditative practices designed to harness the Vril force which was believed to flow through the human body. The Vril society itself seems to have been an organisation of little consequence, and Pauwels and Bergier's statement that it was called the Luminous Lodge seems to have been a confusion with the Viennese Lumenclub. Vril, far from being an occult force introduced by Aldebaran technology, was the product of the inventive mind of Bulwer-Lytton in his novel *The Coming Race*, from which the idea was plagiarised by Madame Blavatsky and the Theosophists. As for the



Thule society from whence the Vril society is alleged to have sprung, it was dissolved in 1925 after a decline in membership. Neither organisation played much of a role in the Reich, let alone financing the construction of alien spacecraft under Hermann Goering. Aldebaran is a red giant star of spectral type K5, which means the zone around the star in which life might develop is very close, within that of captured rotation. Any hypothetical planet within that zone thus would present the same face to the star, making life extremely difficult. One side would be perpetually baked by the sun, the other would remain in perpetual freezing night. At a distance of 68 years, it's within our electromagnetic wave front, which currently stands at about 70 light years, and so detection of any signals from such a civilisation is not unlikely. No signals have been detected, and the star's proper motion - its movement through space as it orbits the Galaxy - has not been perturbed by the gravitational attraction of any planets. It is therefore unlikely that there is a civilisation at the star, and the possibility that the Nazis were in touch with one may be discounted.

One of the saucers was allegedly given the name 'Haunebu', which UFO Secrets of the Third Reich considered 'mysterious', perhaps hinting that this was a sign of the craft's origins in Aldebaran technology. My own feeling is that if it ever existed, it was derived from an entirely terrestrial source. 'Bu' is quite a common element in Danish place names, corresponding to the

English -by, which comes from the same root in old Norse. It's probably derived, then, from a place in Denmark, which is quite plausible considering the statements that many were built, or test flown, in the Baltic.

Then there's the myth that Schauberger's saucer was driven by an implosive energy source derived from antimatter and the Black Sun. From a casual glance at some of the material on Schauberger, such as the series of articles in Nexus, 7 it does seem that he was indeed involved in finding an implosive motive force. Antimatter was discovered in 1931 after Dirac discussed the possibility the existence of the positron, a positive electron, and the first pictures were taken that year using a positron cloud chamber. Antimatter, however, is an extremely expensive substance to manufacture. At present massive cyclotrons such as the CERN device on the Swiss/French border are required to produce only tiny amounts of particles, and the present cost of antimatter today stands at about \$100 billion per milligram. 8 As for the Black Sun, which is alleged to have been a beam of black light, this seems to be a confusion of certain Nazi mystical ideas with modern ideas on Black Holes. Black Holes, remember, are stars which have imploded, crushing themselves out of existence under their own gravity, perhaps to form tunnels through space and time connecting parts of the universe. Although John Michell, the rector of Thornhill Church in Yorkshire, first realised that a suitably massive star would be so heavy that the force of its gravity would prevent its light from escaping as far back as the 18th century, the first correct mathematical description of such an object was only first described in a paper written by the German astronomer Karl Schwarzschild in 1916. It is unlikely that his ideas would have found favour with the Nazis, however, for Schwarzschild based his theories very firmly on the theory of relativity, and it was Einstein himself who read Schwarzschild's paper to the Prussian Academy of Sciences. The Nazis rejected Einstein and his theory of relativity because he was a Jew, and so would not have been receptive to any theory based on his ideas. There are suggestions that an artificial worm hole, like a Black Hole, could be produced utilising the Casimir effect, but this too would demand massive amounts of mass and power which are far beyond our present capabilities. For a wormhole one meter in diameter to be created, two objects the size of Jupiter would have to be brought into close proximity. 9 Apart from this, the Casimir effect was itself only demonstrated by the Dutch physicist Hendrik Casimir in 1948. The idea that black holes could be used by advanced civilisations as cosmic subways also only appeared in the 60s with Carl Sagan. 10 In short, the idea that the Nazis were scooting about the Earth in prototype spacecraft powered by miniature Black Holes is absolute rubbish.

Other claims that don't really stand up include the statement that the Nazi saucers possessed a klystron

electron gun that could make the aircraft vanish from allied Radar, interrupt their engines and could even act as a death ray, punching through four inches of armour. 11 First of all, there is nothing inherently ridiculous about Axis aircraft carrying a klystron tube. It's a form of electron tube which allows the beam of electrons to be modulated to produce microwaves. As such it is a vital component of Radar and was discovered by the American scientists Russel and Sigurd Varian in 1937. The Germans also possessed Radar during the War, while the Bristol Beaufighter carried Radar for detecting enemy planes at night. Similarly, the British interfered with the Germans' radio vectoring of their bombers using beam bending techniques. A friend of mine who's an aircraft engineer with BAe told me that a klystron tube could be used to diminish, perhaps even remove, a Radar trace by rotating it through 360°. There would, however, be no advantage in this. The ionisation produced by the electrons would still show up on RADAR, however, and the energy requirements for the device would be massive, measured in gigawatts. This was far beyond the capability of the aircraft's engine. In short, as soon as it was turned on, it would drop out of the sky. There was also no need for it. Aircraft can reduce their presence on Radar by simply reducing the amount of metal used in their construction. A largely wooden aircraft like the Mosquito, in which the use of metal was restricted to the engine and other essential parts, and which was capable of flying underneath Radar, would be virtually undetectable anyway. As for using it as Laser, this is frankly impossible for the same reasons. The energy requirements would again be far too large. Thus, any aircraft which tried to use a klystron tube to that effect would be an expensive white elephant. This does not mean that such a craft wasn't built. Hitler had a flair for developing daft super weapons, such as the Karl mortar, which could fire a shell four kilometres and which weighed 64,500 kg. 12 It does, however, mean that the device would be useless if built.

In support of his contention that the Nazis were using the foo fighters to disrupt allied aircraft, Harbinson notes that in the Black Forest the Germans were experimenting with a liquid gas which, when blown over the aircraft, would ignite on contact with the vehicle's exhaust. He also claims that the existence of this gas was confirmed when the ALSOS American mission to investigate Nazi technology interrogated an organic chemist, Dr. Rosenstein, in Paris in 1944. Rosenstein allegedly stated that his compatriots had perfected a new gas that would produce strong vibrations and even breakages in aircraft engines through repeated self-ignition. Papers written by one Dr. Hans Friedrich Gold at Volkenrode also apparently noted that a certain amount of myrol, when mixed with air, would interrupt or cease detonation in internal combustion engines.

Lusar makes similar allegations when he states that the 12th Army group on the 12th April 1945 at the Hillersleben testing ground just outside Berlin found remains of cannons that shot gas instead of shells, the contents one of which becoming an incandescent ball. Harbinson also claims that by 1945 a Luftwaffe experimental institute in Bavaria, the OBF, had completed their research into a device that would disrupt the ignition system of another aircraft at a distance of 100 yards. These claims lend credibility to the theory that the foo fighters were a Nazi weapon as the Allied pilots who came in contact with them noted that their engines began to misfire. In examination of these claims, first of all it should be noted that even if the gas cannons, the Windkanone and Wirbelringkanone, did exist, the fact that they were still being tested in 1945 meant that they were not yet employed as a weapon by the troops. Secondly, merely because a nation has a weapon, it doesn't mean that it will necessarily use it. Contrary to expectations, the Nazis did not use gas in their attacks on Britain during the War, preferring instead to use it on the hapless inmates in their concentration camps. The use of the gases to obstruct the operation of the allied engines may have been perfected, but that does not mean that an effective way of employing it had been found. The indiscriminate nature of gas and, presumably, likewise the electrical field, would mean that the user's planes were just as vulnerable as his opponent's. As with the claims regarding the klystron tubes, there is the question of just how much power would have been required by such an electrical field to disrupt engine transmission. It may be that these devices did exist, but that they were impractical.

Similarly questionable is the statement that the kugelblitz foo fighters were remotely controlled using a form of television created by a Dr. Fernseh. Again, there's nothing actually preposterous in the idea of the Nazis possessing a primitive form of television. John Logie Baird had carried out his pioneering experiments in the 20s, and a more primitive version of the device had been invented by a Russian Dr. Zworykin in 1924. The first commercial television broadcasts began in New York in the 30s by Hugo Gernsbach's own radio station. Gernsbach was, you will recall, the publishing magnate responsible for many of the early SF pulp magazines. Unfortunately, the venture was not a success, and bankrupted him. The assertions that the Nazis were using it are suspicious, however, because it was not known on any of their other aircraft or even widely used in Germany, though it's possible that the principle was known to their scientists. Furthermore, Fernseh sounds suspiciously like a pun on the German word for television, Fernseher, or Fernsehapparat, from fern, far, and sehen, to see, a more or less straight translation of the Greek and Latin terms which form the basis of the English word. Dr. Fernseh thus appears to me to be a

fiction designed to give plausibility to the idea through the similarity between his name and that of his supposed creation.

Then you come to the question of Nazi bases in the Antarctic. In fact Hitler had sent Captain Alfred Rischter to claim Queen Maud Land for the Germans in 1938, and throughout the War German raiders did harry shipping in the region. Possibly there may have been some ideological purpose behind this annexation, perhaps even to find a suitably Arctic environment for the new Nazi civilisation. On the other hand, it may well have more obvious aims as part of the general scramble for the continent among countries as diverse as Argentina, Chile, America, Australia, Norway, Sweden, South Africa, France and Britain, who all claimed parts of the continent between 1902 and 1942. During the War the activities of the Germans seems to have been to disrupt allied shipping through the strategically important Drake's Passage. There is a genuine mystery as to what precisely Captain Hans Schaeffer was doing for those four months in 1945 after his U-boat left its Baltic base and ended up in the Argentine port of Mar del Plata. Schaeffer maintained, however, that fearing harsh treatment by the victorious allies, he was merely escaping to Argentina with his crew. In answer to the rumours that he had ferried Hitler or Bormann out of Germany, Schaeffer denied that anyone of 'political importance' had been aboard the ship, despite lengthy interrogation by British and American officers.

As for Operation Highjump - that was merely the last in a series of four expeditions made by Rear-Admiral Byrd to the Antarctic between 1929 and 1947. It's possible that he may have been looking for a Nazi base in the Antarctic in 1947, but that does not mean that one was actually there. More likely he was simply using the men and materiel recently released from the War to assert American claims on the Continent against the new force of Stalin's Russia. Such an expedition would show that American power now reached from pole to pole, thus impressing a potentially aggressive Soviet Union. It also had the advantage of occupying the time and energies of potentially restless conscripts awaiting demobilisation, thus averting possible disorder in the ranks.

As for Nazi bases in the continent, Harbinson draws parallels between such a base and the construction of massive underground complexes such as Peenemunde and the Russian installation at Semipalatinsk to demonstrate that such a thing is entirely possible for a totalitarian society which can call on ample reserves of slave labour. What is forgotten, however, is that these installations were created and sustained by the infrastructure of the Nazi and Soviet states, which continued to supply them with food and materials. It's hard to imagine these places surviving once the support of the state had been removed and the base isolated, which any hypothetical Nazi base in Antarctica would have been after

the end of the War. Peenemunde and Semipalatinsk, although impressive installations, are not self-sufficient, and so when Nazi Germany fell, so did Peenemunde. If a Nazi base had been built, then it would have survived only as long as its stores of food held out before either succumbing to starvation, or, more likely, surrendering to the Allies or seeing its personnel make their escape to South America.

The idea of Nazi bases in the Antarctic really only appeared with Ernst Zundl's Nazi fantasies *UFO: Nazi Secret Weapons and Secret Nazi Polar Expeditions*, written under his pseudonyms of Mattern and Christof Friedrich. Zundl is a neo-Nazi who runs his Samizdat organisation, specialising in Nazi merchandising, from Canada after being deported from the US. Zundl in turn got his ideas from the Nazi SF novel *Gotzen Gegen Thule (Idols Against Thule)* of Wilhelm Landig, who located his secret Nazi UFO base in Point 103 in the Canadian arctic. It would appear that recent settlements and development of the Arctic make it unconvincing as the site of feared Aryan warriors, and so the Nazis need to place their fantasies elsewhere, in the still largely unexplored wilderness of Antarctica, to give them verisimilitude. Landig's novel only appeared in 1971, so it's hardly an old story, something which also suggests that the mythology of Nazi polar bases is actually a recent invention, rather than old fact.

The frequent statements that the saucers were built in Breslau, now Wroclaw, in Poland, and Czechoslovakia, are, on the other hand, quite plausible. Before the assassination of Reinhard Heydrich, Czechoslovakia was treated relatively lightly because of the importance of the mineral resources of the Kutna Hora and the Skoda armaments works. The country was strategically important because it was too distant to be reached by allied bombers. Thus the Nazis did site a number of industries there.

As for the theory that the ufonauts are really cyborgs, again this doesn't stand careful examination. Of course, the Nazis used mechanical prostheses to replace shattered limbs like everyone else, but the concept of the cyborg, again, was the product of NASA scientists in the 60s. Electronically controlled artificial limbs which pick up signals from nerves in the victim's stump were only developed in the early 70s, and remain quite crude even today. Research into this area is expensive, and it's doubtful that any Nazi base could afford the funds necessary to purchase or acquire the materials necessary for such research. The ufonauts may be described as being robots, but this, like much else of the UFO phenomenon, seems to have been taken from popular Science Fiction. Furthermore, the neurological origin of the Abduction phenomenon as demonstrated in the works of Persinger, Devereux et al seems unassailable. It thus seems to me, at least, that there are no Nazi bases in Antarctica, sending cyborg pilots out to terrorise anyone.

At the heart of the myth of Nazi UFOs lies the terrifying image of the Nazi super scientist, who, quite without mercy, gains terrible forbidden knowledge from the violated bodies of his human victims. It's an image compounded from the figures of Wernher Von Braun, the rocket pioneer, and Joseph Mengele, the infamous Nazi surgeon who experimented on Jews and other persons considered inferior by the Reich. In fact scientific research was hampered in the Reich by the aggressive anti-intellectualism of the Nazi elite. Far from being examples of science's essentially amoral nature, as some of the more recent antiscientific literature coming largely from the Left would have it, these scientists were intensely politicised and conditioned to reject any scientific detachment. Although Hitler stated that 'research must remain free and unfettered by any restriction',¹³ he also condemned free scientific inquiry as absurd, and stated quite firmly that science was 'devastating' because 'it leads away from instinct'.¹⁴ Nazi attitudes to science were 'always opportunistic, and scientific planning suffered from the varying whims imposed at different levels by the leadership principle.'¹⁵ The Messerschmidt 262 fighter, although designed in 1938, was, fortunately for the Allies, a victim of Hitler's ignorance as the Fuehrer confused its role and Goering's production plans for the Luftwaffe did not include it. It was therefore only built until 1945 when Germany desperately needed a new form of aircraft. The German atom bomb project similarly did not progress beyond a fairly primitive level, due to Hitler's reliance on conventional weaponry, and the attempts by Himmler to divert the scientists efforts into areas more favoured politically. The V2, that symbol of German technological terror, was built in spite of Hitler, not because of him. Hitler originally wanted to cancel the project, but it was supported by Walter Dornberger, who managed to convince the Fuehrer of the value of the work through an exposition of the technology by scientists working on the project. It must also be noted that German science suffered through the expulsion of Jews and politically suspect gentile staff from their university posts, many of whom, like Ley, fled abroad to help the Americans. A number of leading German specialist scientists, to their credit, refused to swear the oath of allegiance. Thus, from a position of scientific excellence before the Nazi seizure of power, German science experienced only 'impoverishment and stagnation' that the regime's retardation of the military sciences was 'not the least among the factors that helped to seal its fate. The anti-intellectualism that played a leading part in its rise was equally important among the causes of its downfall'.¹⁶ A message there for Paul Johnson. For all the obscenity of his experiments, Mengele was a 'medical mediocrity' and 'no information of medical value is known to have emerged from the tor-

tures inflicted on those (he) still called his patients' 17 Not that it would have made him one whit better if there had. Nevertheless, there is an issue here. Some Nazi experiments have been used in the post-War era, such as film of person walking taken by X-rays. According to a Times article of circa 1990, this film was still being used as teaching material at one of the London hospitals, even though the level of radiation used in the photograph would have killed the subject in a matter of hours. The myth of Nazi saucers masks a real and justified concern over the morality of using personnel and material involved in so much suffering, such as the V2 scientists brought over in Paperclip and other Nazi staff, who may be lurking elsewhere within the respectable scientific establishment.

Of those involved in the Nazi UFO projects, several are quite obscure. There is, according to Harbinson, 'no information on the background and fate of the Italian, Giuseppe Belluzzo'. 18 For all the alliance with Mussolini, the Nazis viewed Italians as inferior Latins, and treated them accordingly. It's therefore unlikely, though not impossible, that an Italian physicist was co-opted into a Nazi project. Fascist Italy did possess a noted aircraft engineer in a Giuseppe Belluzzo, who was a professor of engineering from the Milan Polytechnical Institute. This Belluzzo was the author of several treatises on engine construction. During the First World War he served on the war resources and industrial mobilisation boards. At the 1924 elections he became an MP, and then was appointed minister of national resources the following year. In July 1928 he was transferred to the Ministry of Public Instruction, became a state minister in 1929 and a senator in 1934. It's possible that there were two Giuseppe Belluzzos in the Italian aeronautical industry, but seems more likely that the Belluzzo mentioned in connection with the Nazi saucer was intended to be the same as the senator, or that the two men had sufficiently similar names for the physicist to become confused with the senator. It appears to me that Belluzzo was an invention designed to give verisimilitude to the stories of the craft, while also shoring up the increasingly worn fiction that the Italians were somehow valued partners as the Fascist regime came increasingly under German control.

Habermohl similarly is an obscure figure. Harbinson again states that 'nothing is known of (him), other than what can be gleaned from the many unsubstantiated reports claiming that he worked on the saucer project in Breslau before being captured by the Russians'. 19 Georg Klein, who allegedly witnessed one of the saucer's flights, is an equally nebulous character. He appears to have been a member of Speer's Ministry for Armament and Ammunition before moving to Zurich after the War, where he continued to work in engineering. Miethe, another of the technicians working on the saucer, was an engineer at Peenemunde. After the War

he followed Von Braun and Dornberger to America, where he was then hired by A. V. Roe to work on the disc-shaped Avrocar. Schriever himself apparently fled back to Bremerhaven in advance of the Russians after the factory was taken by the advancing Russian and Czechoslovak patriots in 1945.

Aside from the stories of Klein and Schriever, there is the statement in 1980 by Heinrich Fleissner of Dasing in the *Neu Magazin* for the Second of May that he had been part of the team building the craft at Peenemunde under the patronage of Goering. After the War the device and important notes were destroyed by the Wehrmacht. Fleissner's flying saucer plans were assigned to Trans-Oceanic in Los Angeles in 1955 after being registered in German in 1954. They were finally registered with the US patent office, according to Harbinson, on 7th June 1960.

Apart from these stories, other engineers were allegedly experimenting with disc-shaped craft, the idea of which had first been developed in the 19th century by the mathematician Wilhelm Zachariae. These included Arthur Sack, of Machern, who tried several experiments with models, and then piloted versions in 1939 and 1944. His model aircraft fared exceptionally badly, and the piloted version failed to take off on its first test flight. Although it did become airborne at the second test flight, it performed extremely poorly. His research was then ended by the advance of the Allies. Even Messerschmidt got in on the act, supposedly testing the circular wing of their Me 163 in Augsburg, a statement which possibly accounts for the statement in *UFO Secrets of the Third Reich* that the SS under the Vril society were developing saucers there.

Schauberger's first flying saucer was a remote controlled model test flown in 1943. This went through the factory ceiling but was otherwise unviable. He tried to develop the project in occupied Czechoslovakia, but this, like the other stories of saucer research, was similarly stopped by the Russian advance. He also claimed that he was invited to America to assist their attempts to build a flying saucer, but this project, too, was a disappointment and he returned to Germany in 1958. Another scientist, Hermann Klaas from Muhlheim, also claimed to have worked on various remote controlled saucers during the War. On the other hand, the Avrocar certainly existed, but was a major disappointment. Instead of the superb feats of which it was thought capable, the craft rose barely 30 feet into the air at its test flight in 1959. The project was cancelled soon after, and the plane put in a museum. John Frost, who developed the craft, is supposed to have got the idea from former Nazi technicians, both according to the CIA and Georg Klein. The CIA report, date 18th August 1953, stated that 'flying saucers' have been known to be an actuality since the possibility of the construction was proven in plans drawn up by German engineers toward the end of World War II' 20 Miethe in particular is sup-

posed to have been brought over in connection with Paperclip. Clifford J. Hurtak, one of the talking heads on the Nazi UFO video, claimed that through his long association with one of the generals involved in Paperclip he was aware of Nazi technology hidden from the public. Later on in the same video, he contradicts himself by stating that the aforementioned military gentleman never mentioned any Nazi saucer technology, thus bearing out the quote at the beginning of the video: 'those who know do not speak, and those who speak do not know'. Von Braun's team comprised about 200 or so scientists. Miethe could very well have been one of them, though for his work on the V2 rather than involvement in any secret saucer projects. In any case, his existence should be relatively easy to trace, for those with sufficient time and interest. The major sources for information on the Nazis' Project Saucer are Major Rudolph Luser's *German Secret Weapons of World War II*, published in 1959, and Renate Vesco's *Intercettali Senza Sparare*, which appeared first as an article in the magazine *Argosy*, and then in book form, being translated into English as *Intercept But Don't Shoot*, and *Intercept UFO*, in 1969 - 1971. More recently it's been reissued as part of a work on Nazi UFOs by V. Gordon Childress, an American author specialising in sensational claims. Vesco's book in particular has been the subject of increasing scepticism as to the validity of its claims, with Kevin McClure in particular stating that he 'may not be what he is made to seem'.²¹ Certainly the failure of so many of the Germany flying disc experiments cast grave doubts on his assertion that the devices could climb to a safe altitude above the Allied aircraft when hit, let alone the height of 40,000 alleged by Georg Klein.²² Similarly, official patronage of these projects by Goering, Hess, Hitler and possibly Belluzzo are also unlikely. Goering's plans for the Luftwaffe, as we've seen, did not envisage even relatively conventional craft such as the Me 262, because he didn't believe in jet power, so it seems unlikely he would have supported the development of flying saucers except, perhaps, towards the very end of the War. Schauburger's son, in an interview in *UFO Secrets of the Third Reich*, claims that his father had an interview with Hitler at the Fuehrer's Eagle's Nest, in which the Fuehrer enthused about the possibility of developing the new technology and instructed him to carry on his research. Hitler's table talk was extensively documented between 1941 and 1944 by Martin Bormann, and the result is a revealing, though unedifying, portrait of the dictator's mind. Hitler sounded off about a number of things, including technology. He discussed the necessity of air-cooled engines with Dr. Porsche, and the desirability of finding alternative power sources, such as wind, for when the oil supplies were exhausted. Nowhere, however, does he mention Schauburger, implosion or any similar concepts. This doesn't necessarily

mean that he was unaware of them - he doesn't mention the V1 or V2 in his table talk either, but it does suggest that at the most such projects were not a very pressing concern. Even if Hitler had met Schauburger, which does not seem likely, the silence suggests that at the most Schauburger's was only one of a number of projects in which the Fuehrer had no special interest.

There's a similar problem with Belluzzo. If the Italian physicist and aircraft engineer are one and the same, then the interest of such an important person as the senator on the project would surely have left a far more extensive amount of corroborative evidence. There's none, bar the statement by Schriever. Italian aviation anyway suffered from the same handicaps as the German aircraft industry, though far more acutely. The Regia Aeronautica was riven by conflict between chiefs of staff and squabbles with the army and navy. An Italian jet aircraft, the Camproni-Campini N.1., had flown in 1940, but the initial successes of the FIAT biplane delayed development of modern fighters, as did the decision to continue using radial engines instead of the more effect liquid-cooled in-line engines used elsewhere. Furthermore, the Italian airforce did not, unlike the Germans or the British, develop strategic bombers, adequate ground attack aircraft nor dive bombers, and even neglected to use Whitehead aerial torpedoes despite their availability and use by the Navy. Given this poor performance in conventional air warfare, it's unlikely that the Germans would have invited aid from the Italians in the development of so radical an aircraft as their alleged saucers.

There's also a problem of evidence. All the accounts so far state that the devices were destroyed to prevent them from falling into the hands of the Allies. On the other hand, it's claimed that several of the scientists working on the projects went to work for the Americans and that the devices played an important part in harrying an allied raid over Wiener Neustadt, an industrial suburb of Vienna. If these devices were sufficiently numerous to attack Allied aircraft, then some, at least, should have survived the attempts at destruction. The V1 and V2 were another Nazi secret project which was horrifyingly revealed during the closing years of the War. Yet they too survived the end of the Reich and were shown publicly after the War in military parades as the Allies showed off some of the spoils of their opponents. They clearly existed. If the saucers had existed in anything like the same numbers, they too, presumably, would have made an appearance before the curious eyes of the civilian public. But they didn't.

One of the other problems of the accounts of the development of the saucers is that all the accounts of their construction date from 1950, at the earliest. They appeared at least three years into the flap generated by Kenneth Arnold's own sighting in '47. This presents several possibilities. The first is that there really were

such projects being developed in Germany, but they were secret and the immediate post-War situation made it advisable for those involved to remain silent, if only because of a sense of guilt from their complicity in the regime's crimes. The sudden spate of interest in such craft may have suddenly made it respectable to talk about such projects with the coming of the saucers. Secondly, that a number of scientists working on other unconventional German aircraft, such as the Horten brothers' flying wing design, confused these projects with the new saucer-shaped craft seen in the sky, and began recounting these confabulated fantasies as fact. Or, lastly, that the appearance of the modern flying saucer allowed Nazi apologists to retail stories of Nazi flying saucers as fact in persuasion of Nazi propaganda aims during the War. This seems to be the aim of Landig and Zundl, and may also be behind Vesco's accounts. 1969 - the year that Vesco's article first appeared in *Argosy* - was a time of renewed activity by the extreme Right in Italy. In that year alone there were 145 terrorist attacks carried out by the Far Right, 23 including a number of bomb attacks in Milan and Padua. This state of tension continued until 1975 with waves of bombings, attempted coups and mass uprisings, until the total number of violent attacks between these years 4334, 83 per cent of which was ascribed to Fascist groups. 24 Vesco could be using Italian involvement in the construction of a Nazi super weapon as a propaganda tool to win support for Fascism, just as Landig and Zundl were trying to do in their later account of Nazi polar bases. On the other hand, it could be that Vesco simply took the opportunity supplied by renewed Fascist actions and the fading atmosphere of Hippy speculation into the paranormal to sell a story without really having any extremist political motive.

If the foo fighters were not Nazi craft, then what could they be? First of all, it should be noted that the observers were men flying in conditions of extreme cold, exhaustion and fear. Hynek noted in the 70s that pilots, contrary to expectations, were not particularly good observers. There is therefore the distinct possibility that the Allied air commanders were correct in dismissing them as mass hallucination. The extreme psychological states thrown up by war tend to produce paranormal experiences anyway. It's possible that the same psychic process which caused British pilots to see foo fighters also caused the visions of cities in the desert and the flights of angels allegedly seen during the First World War. Perhaps if the religious feelings of the combatants had been stronger, as in the previous conflict, the pilots would have seen spectral hordes too among the clouds, rather than glowing balls of light.

It also must be noted that earthlights of the type investigated by Paul Devereux also disrupt power lines and electrical transmission. At present, the explanation for them is that they are produced by piezo-electricity

deep in the Earth's crust along fault lines. These lights, seen in the Peak District, Marfa, Texas, and in New Mexico were around long before the rise of the Nazis. There therefore exists an entirely natural phenomenon which explains some of their effects without recourse to extravagant claims about secret German military technology.

Before this article becomes a book, I'll content myself with saying only a few things more. To get to the bottom of this subject needs extensive investigation of the claims of Lusar and Vesco, with the necessary research into any surviving documents which might bear out their claims. *UFO Secrets of the Third Reich*, for example, showed a number of photographs and documents from the Reich showing such craft. The question is whether these have ever been analysed for authenticity. It isn't particularly difficult to fake a photo, and there is always a market for any kind of material from the Nazi state, even if its authenticity is dubious. I'm not aware if these documents have been investigated and their authenticity proven. The most dubious documents of all are the unsigned flying saucer designs which appeared in the neo-Nazi magazine *Brisant*. These were unviable, and the authors alleged the designs had been deliberately altered to render them safe for publication. Given the contents and political motivation of the magazine, this is almost unquestionably dissimulation designed to make the rest of the propaganda contained in the magazine more plausible. If we allow that some of the earlier material may have been genuine, then for the moment it does seem that the Germans probably were investigating using disc-shape aircraft, though these proved unworkable and arrived too late to be effective weapons. Timothy Good, in that text book of Abductionist paranoia, *Alien Liaison*, states that German development of disc-shaped vehicles during the War 'is undisputed, yet the available records suggest that they did not get very far - probably no further than the Avrocar.' 25 He then goes on to discuss the possibility that sightings of flying saucers were really those of the Avrocar, or more advanced craft based on it. He then claims that the development of the Avrocar was to provide a terrestrial cover for the testing of a genuine alien flying saucer. Considering the weakness of the stories surrounding the Roswell crash, as demonstrated by Vallee and others, this is impossible. There is also the possibility, claimed elsewhere, that the Avrocar project was initiated to provide a plausible explanation for the UFO phenomenon which remained unexplained despite the efforts of the American military and whose effects still continued to disturb the public. This actually seems far more likely. A similar propagandistic need indubitably lies behind the modern myth of Nazi saucers. Fest, in his earlier book on Adolf Hitler, noted that up until the very last moments of the War there were still those who believed that Hitler possessed some secret weapon

which would rescue Germany from the advancing Allies. Nazi saucers are clearly providing that function, at least for a proportion of those Nazis left over from the end of the Reich. The little research into disc-shaped craft the Reich may have conducted has become confused with spurious claims regarding Nazi occultism and Antarctic exploration, and has seized on the modern myth of flying saucers to perpetuate the frustrated desires for a Nazi super weapon. Investigation into the truth of the stories will probably relegate the saucers, if they ever existed, to a brief mention in history books on World War II aircraft. The rest is a nasty, propaganda myth. Please ignore it as such.

Notes

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21. McClure, K. Abduction Watch, no. 5, p. 2.
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For more on this subject, see Tim Matthews' letter later this issue - Ed



Book Review:

"Beyond Roswell" by Michael Hese-mann and Philip Mantle. Published in the UK by Michael O'Mara Books Ltd. Price: £15.99 (hardback).

If you're one of those people who can't get enough of that cracked hall of mirrors sometimes called the Roswell event, then this is the book for you.

All the usual suspects are trotted out for the umpteenth time, giving us all their usual stories upon which there are so many disagreements (1 crash or two; differing dates; occupants - yes or no; appearance of occupants: big eyes or small round eyes, height - anywhere between 3.5 ft and 5 ft; clothing -

blue/brown overalls, silvery tight metallic costumes; military presence; presence of archaeology students; where and when the wreckage was flown to and by whom; etc.). The authors (rightly) trash the cover-up by General Ramey et al. We can all have a laugh Army Air Force's (as it was then) pathetic show of a weather balloon someone had taken round the back and stomped on!

We are all treated (at great length) to the story of Bill Moore and his aviary of former military intelligence (is there any such thing?) agents with bird code names. Then we are treated at even greater length to the ins and outs of the MJ-12 briefing papers. The authors go into great detail about typewriters, date styling, code words, signatures, etc., finally coming out on the reality of the MJ-12 documents as genuine government papers. Do you know, there's always been something about the actual text of the MJ-12 documents that worried me, but it took a previously unpublished UFO researcher Edward Ashpole [1] who also happens to be a biology teacher to point it out: the text mentions that the EBE's bodies found beside the downed UFO in New Mexico were not in pristine condition, "due to the action of the weather and predators". Ashpole mentions in his interesting book that any predator taking a bite out of our EBE friends would either be dead or one very sick predator.

If we reverse the scenario it's so obvious, if sometime in the future human beings land on an alien planet, then everything on that planet would be alien and most probably toxic; thorough checks would have to be done on all alien fauna and flora to find out if we could touch them, let alone eat them! Not to mention the cultural reactions of any sentient beings inhabiting that planet! It would be "ships rations" for the crew of our imaginary earth ship for quite some time.

I digress however, the authors' ability to believe in MJ-12 allows them to go on to the next sections of their book, the chapters "Blue Room", "Dream Land" and "Secrets of the Black World". Any reader familiar with the stories put about by Bob Lazar, John Lear, William Cooper and former USAF Colonel Wendelle Stevens (whose credentials would seem to lend him credibility, but who is now proselytising for the Swiss contactee and armed ubermensch Billy Meier) will be familiar with the "darkside ufology" coined by Peter Brookesmith to encompass the dangerous, cult like world view put about by the above named.

How a former director of BUFORA can swallow this lot says a lot about how easy it is to fall for the dubious pleasures and paranoia of Darkside ufology. Oh yes, they also manage to get the assassination of JFK and the "murder" of Marilyn Monroe in there too. I must say, the research they have gone to is amazing, they must have read every tabloid for years to come up with this lot. Yet despite the "detailed research" they manage to call the U2 aircraft a bomber, when every other designation I've ever come across describes the

U2 as a high altitude reconnaissance aircraft, or more plainly, a "spy plane". After all, Gary Powers, the single crewman of a U2, was shot down over Soviet territory in 1962 and was then exchanged for some cold war Soviet star. The one thing I did learn about "Dreamland" was that the name Area 51 came about because someone (who) reckoned it was the 51st State of the Union where the usual laws of the U.S. (and perhaps physics, who knows?) do not apply.

The last few chapters contain an apologia for the notorious "Santilli Autopsy Film" first shown on British TV on Channel 4's Equinox programme in 1995. Against practically everyone who's ever seen it they produce a cameraman whose dates of service in the USAF seem to coincide with the Roswell Event time line. Santilli and his coterie are of course the only persons to have met this man (pseudonym Jack) and Santilli et al will not release the necessary 50 cm of film to Kodak for verification, "merely to satisfy the curiosity of the public". We know however that the film contains symbols identifying it as produced in either 1927, 47 or 67. To me one of the main questions I would like to ask this Jack is why he decided to allow his precious film to be presented to the public by a man whose great claim to fame is that he is the sole UK distributor for Walt Disney Audio Productions. Why not some respectable institution or scientist - even one with UFO connections - MUFON, Jacques Vallee, Jerome Clark, etc.

Perhaps Santilli is the one to answer that anyway. So, on the whole this is a book for true believers and those who enjoy having their credulity stretched. However at the bottom of it all there are some basic questions that need answering about that stormy night in the Roswell area all those years ago.

Despite witness testimony, which now must amount to tens of thousands of pages, despite the toothless Freedom of Information Act in the US, despite the many, many person hours spent on Roswell and its related topics and despite the many books on the subject from differing view points, can we honestly say we are closer to finding out the truth of those events? But then, we are up against the masters of disinformation who virtually ran the US foreign policy during the cold war. Men and women who are trained from a young age in the arcane arts of "national security" and "government policy".

Beneath all the bull**** though there is a very important event. One which has caused generations of US officials to deceive the people of the world. We must keep on digging away at the mountain of lies that has been carefully erected to keep us away from the truth. Unfortunately this book will do very little except create another layer of myth on top of that mountain.

[1] UFO Phenomena (1995) by Edward Ashpole.
- Review by John McDonald, with thanks to P. Newman.

Fear and Loathing in Southport: A Conference Review - Lancashire UFO Society - 24th January 1997

This conference had seen a build up like no other, with several anonymous leaflets and a fax being circulated in an attempt to smear Tim Matthews of LUFOS and Eric Morris of BUFOSC (the British UFO Studies Centre). The weekend promised to be a classic, and that's just what it turned out to be. Thus it was with a certain amount of trepidation that I journeyed down to Southport. I eventually stayed at the hotel opposite the venue, which had staff I can only think were trained by Basil and Sybil Fawley. They even managed to run out of ice, which must take some doing in January, but never mind.

The first speaker of the day was Sandra Grundy, a LUFOS member who had been on holiday to Area 51 and Gulf Breeze and *hadn't* managed to see any UFOs, which must be something of a first. Her talk was a gentle introduction to the day's UFOlogy and Eric Morris's slide projector manipulation. I guess there must have been a hitch with the real projector and the fully manual "I'm going to jam at any moment" substitute model had to be employed. This didn't detract from the enjoyment of the event though, as there were some top class speakers. Jenny Randles gave a well presented and logical talk on the Rendlesham Forest incident, certainly the most clear analysis of what happened there I've heard. Jenny's talk may have lacked the dramatic appeal of the Warren and Robbins "Left at East Gate" double act that we saw last year, but I feel that Jenny is much, much closer to what actually occurred in the woods back in 1980.

Also giving talks on the day were Peter Brookesmith and Kevin McClure. Brookesmith is the author of numerous heavyweight UFO books (most recently "UFOs and UFOlogy - The first 50 years" with Paul Devereux) and was editor of the ever popular part work *The Unexplained*. Readers of *Magonia* will be familiar with Brookesmith's logical and critical stance on UFOs and the abduction phenomenon, and his talk on the day was true to form. While he can come across as being over skeptical, he takes a very useful position in UFOlogy, going some way to balancing the over gullible end of the subject. Intellectual heavyweights usually stick out like sore thumbs at UFO conferences, so having the chance to listen to Brookesmith and then Kevin McClure talk at a UFO conf came as a refreshing change. McClure gave an impassioned talk on the very human and social effects that abduction (and animal mutilation) research can have. Full marks have to go to Kevin for being possibly the only person in this country who not only cares about what happens to witnesses, but is actively prepared to name names and pull up the bad investigators and methods in his newsletter *Abduction Watch*.

Having listened to some great research by Randles

et al, we then had the pleasure of listening to Quest's David Caton and Manchester solicitor and UFOlogist Harry Harris, once described by Joe Dormer of the LAPIS group as "a s*** stain on the underpants of UFOlogy". Harris quickly engaged in a sharp (and unnecessary) exchange of words with Kevin McClure over the qualifications of the hypnotists used in some of his regressions. The case that was presented, which consisted of a video of a light in the sky and a period of missing time, had so many holes in it that I was reminded more of a string vest than a pair of underpants, although thanks to Joe Dormer the latter was never far from my mind.

It was a great pity that Paulinne Delcour-Min, sitting a couple of rows in front of me in the audience, did not speak at the conference. On a scale of UFOlogical beliefs from 1 to 10, Paulinne rates somewhere about a billion. Readers of this magazine will know of my opinion on Ms Min, formed at the 1996 Day of Abductions in Sheffield. However, you can't say that she isn't entertaining up on the podium and it seems to me a great shame that she didn't voice her own, equally valid, opinion this day, when so many other viewpoints were being expressed.

Late in the afternoon it came to the turn of the Big Man himself - Tim Matthews. With the lights out in the big church hall, and the major illumination being the harsh upward beam from Tim's overhead projector, Matthews launched into his quick paced and at times wickedly funny lecture on man made UFOs and why most UFOlogists are completely wrong. Trashing the work of such names as Tony Dodd, Tim Good and Nick Pope (who I'm sure are all big enough to take it in good part), Matthews showed that the major air powers (most notably the USAF) have been experimenting with and flying some mighty unusual aircraft over the years, including enormous triangular dirigibles and circular aeroplanes. While I'm not totally convinced that you can trace the development of working circular aeroplanes back to the German war effort, it is fair to say that these days, they (i.e. the engineers at NASA and the Lockheed skunk works etc.) can get pretty much *anything* into the air and keep it there for a while. One of the common misperceptions about Tim is that he's saying *all* UFO sightings are of secret aircraft; not true. He's also interested in the earthlights theory, and doesn't rule out the extraterrestrial hypothesis entirely. But after 50 years of modern UFOlogy, there's so little evidence for extraterrestrial visitors that Tim is right to see what "stealthchasing" can offer us as an explanation for UFO sightings.

It's easy to see why Tim's approach would rub some people - in fact a lot of people - up the wrong way. Especially the alien believers. But in the run up to this conference things became very ugly indeed, with a series of anonymous leaflets being mailed out. The first one was called *Specs, Lies and Video Capers*. "Tim Matthews," the first leaflet read, "the new expert on

earthlights. Eric Morris, the expert on ill fitting spectacles". OK, that *might* be a funny line, but it's the only thing that is in the first leaflet. There were two more. Oh, and a five page fax that was sent out anonymously (the fax machine was fixed so as not to print the sender's number on the top) detailing Tim Matthews' political background in an attempt to smear him. Whatever his background, an anonymous smear campaign is just plain out of order. Who has the time and the money to send out hundreds of leaflets and five page faxes at four in the morning? If I was doing such a lot of work, I'd want everyone to know who I was. Not so here. The only name given on the leaflet is "S.H.A.D.O.W. - Exposing the megalomaniacs within Ufology". Well, I understand that Tim's a fit guy and does plenty of shadow boxing, so I think they had better watch out. The really worrying question is this: Who's next for this treatment?

The excitement for the evening occurred just as the "great abduction debate" was opened. Gloria Dixon spoke briefly about the type of questions we should be asking in the investigation of close encounter experiences, and then Tim posed the question: "Does the close encounter experience provide good evidence for aliens/extraterrestrials?" (or something along those lines, as is typical in UFOlogy, by the end of the debate we were arguing about exactly what the term "alien" means, and I can't even recall exactly what we were supposed to be debating.) "Who would like to start?" asked Tim. A smartly dressed man with wild eyes stood up a few rows behind me. "My name is Larry O'Hara, and I've been..." He didn't really get much further than that before Tim and Linda Matthews and Eric Morris, with some sensible guidance from Kevin McClure descended upon him and he was ejected from the venue with reasonable swiftness. It was pleasing to see that this matter didn't degenerate into a full blown brawl, which it could have so easily done. And at least Larry O'Hara, a figure from Tim's political past, had the bottle to stand up and tell everyone who he was and why he was there. Of the UFOlogists involved in the SHADOW leaflets there was no sign. Cowards. There may be old scores still to settle from Tim's past - I don't know what happened back then and since it doesn't involve UFOs I'm really not interested - but a UFO conference in a church hall isn't the place to do it.

After this minor delay the debate reopened with Tim Matthews giving a brief apology for the disruption and a little background information for the many confused people in the audience. And then the argument continued about close encounters. By now it was getting late and people were drifting away, but the smaller group made for a more accessible debate. At the end of the night, not much had been decided but a show of hands revealed that not many people there were believers in aliens - in fact zero, if memory serves.

All in all, this was an excellent day of UFOlogy with variety and drama, and has to be one of the best conferences I've ever been to. (The drama and excitement wasn't even over, later on that evening I had dinner with Tim and Linda Matthews, Peter Brookesmith and a few other delegates and sparks were flying there, too. But that's another story.) Whatever you may think of their credentials as UFOlogists, full marks have to be awarded to Eric Morris and Tim Matthews for organising a great day under difficult circumstances. Thank you.

- Dave Newton.



Letters.

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

Tim Matthews bites back

Dear Dave,

I hope you're OK and I look forward to hearing something about the new UT - lots of interesting material on Nazi UFOs - the latest target for skeptical attack. Interesting how the ground shifts when new evidence emerges. Firstly the skeptics argue that there were no flying discs in Germany - just plans. Nonsense.

The German-language Luftfahrt International ("Air Travel International") of 4/1980 goes into quite some detail about a circular-wing aircraft built by the Messerschmidt Company and designed by Alexander Lippisch - whose work on radical triangular designs using rocket motors was unparalleled in Germany, or anywhere else for that matter. His work at the Göttingen Institute is legendary and was years ahead of the allies..... Anyway, the aircraft in question was the AS 6 V1 and I spoke to several aviation experts who confirmed that this was a real aircraft and used a modified ME undercarriage. The first photograph of this prototype was released by Wolfgang Spate in 1977. My research indicates that Spate was involved in numerous secret and advanced technology aircraft projects and I recently got hold of his rare English-language "Top Secret Bird - The Luftwaffe's Me-163 Komet" a hardback published in 1989 by Pictorial Histories Publishing of Missoula, Missouri and distributed by a company in the UK. This version was based upon the original 1983 German edition "Der Streng Geheime-Vogel Me 163".

Spate himself was the Commander of Test Unit 16 and had an impressive War record - depending upon one's point of view.

Nevertheless, he is an acknowledge expert and his book makes for interesting reading. He is therefore a

credible source. I think some people are expecting to read about Bob Lazar-like saucers zipping around the skies in the 1939-45 period although the only person to claim this is Renate Vesco.

The AS6 aircraft in question, was circular with control flaps at the back. It used a conventional engine and seems very similar to the "flying flapjack" designed by Zimmerman designed for the US Navy and first flown in 1942. Up until recently it was thought that the flapjack - designated XF5U-1 - only existed in a propeller-driven form and that it had not been tested anywhere except at the Chance-Vought facilities in Connecticut. Diligent research by aviation and astronomy writer Bill Rose indicates that a jet-powered version was constructed, built and tested at Muroc Field in 1947. Note that July 8th saw several very credible sightings of a circular aircraft ("UFO") over Muroc Field as reported to higher headquarters. The UFO performed no unusual manoeuvres and flew at speeds well within the technological capability of the time

What is even more interesting is that Northrop's XB35 flying wing flew at Muroc in 1946. Muroc, now Edwards AFB, was a huge place and there have been many "UFO" sightings there over 50 years. In addition, Edwards is the home to the Air Force Flight Test Centre (Det 1) and we know that Groom Lake houses Detachment 3, AFFTC.

Freedom Of Information Act requests by Rose resulted in several technical documents about jet-powered circular aircraft emerging from the black. Considering that the prop-driven flapjack could ascend vertically and travel as slowly as 40 mph with ease then we are into interesting territory.

Then there is Project Silverbug - known to exist in prototype form and to have been taken further. This aircraft was a VTOL radial-flow version of the circular wing was developed by a UK-US-Canadian team. All the documents are available from Wright-Patterson Technical Library or via me!

Silverbug was probably developed in conjunction with Dr. Walter Miethé, head of Germany's fledgling saucer programme and colleague of a certain Von Braun. A photograph in Bill Rose's possession shows Miethé in a group photograph with Von Braun...

In May/June 1945 Miethé did a deal with US Intelligence whereby he, like other Paperclip scientists, was transported via Fort Bliss, Texas, to facilities in California, Canada, Alabama and New Mexico (White Sands). There is a wealth of material on Paperclip and the Germans gave the US a technological lead in several fields. Even Jack Northrop in a 1947 lecture given in the UK, mentioned the work of the Horten Brothers, Walter and Reimar.

Former AVRO workers employed at the facilities in Malton, Ontario are tight-lipped about Silverbug - forty years later.....Wonder why?

I bet you that Stephan Michalak came across a version

of a US-UK-Canadian disc back in 1967 - his description of the venting on the craft he saw is very similar to that described in the Silverbug papers and also similar to other reports released about German disc technologies including Major Lusars' standard 1959 work on various advanced projects.

There is little doubt that Silverbug flew and that it was but one of several disc projects. The covert use of these in post-war years is the reason for the secrecy.

Note the lack of waffle about antigravity systems - these discs used a radial flow (jet) engine, several of which were built by BMW during the War. It may well be that the propulsion system was what the US was really interested in and it seems that Klaus Habermohl designed it in 1943/4. Habermohl worked with Schriever and Bellonzo under Miethé.

Things are getting very interesting and the new material has no link with Vesco, Harbinson, Friedrich/Zundel et al. I agree that Vesco is a dodgy character and that Harbinson gives too much credence to Nazi sources. Nevertheless, the technology existed and so did the craft

Bill Rose was shown footage of Wartime discs on a trip to Germany and he was convinced, based upon his expert photo-technical background, that the material was genuine.

This debate is very important and it seems that some UFOs at least are man-made - I can certainly think of several reasons to cover this up.

Given this conclusion it is not surprising to find Ufologists still getting overexcited about so-called "strange phenomena", the paranormal etc. But then who wants to talk about something sensible like man-made UFOs? Given this reluctance then no wonder that there is an attempt to pass all man-made UFO research off as "Nazi". There are sources, it's just you have to take the blinkers off.....

Thinking about all the latest smears against me, one wonders whether this research is unpopular with somebody? But that's just paranoia, isn't it???????

If you want to know anything about Ernst Zundel's nazi saucer work then you should ask me, as I have spoken to him. You'd think that people writing about nazi UFOs might ask me - but no, I learn that a "web search" has been initiated instead! Actually, when having the great misfortune to speak to Zundel at one point many years ago he told me that the flying saucers thing was just a money-making scam. Whether this is true or not, he made a lot of money out of it - big market in Nazi memorabilia and related fantasy you know. Unfortunately, we seem to be dealing with technological reality here and perhaps it would do to remember that (regarding foo fighters) remote-control aircraft were flying in the 1930s.....

By the way, it is NOT true that all "foo fighter" sightings were made by aircraft pilots. Several ground sightings were made including an especially good one in the

vicinity of the underground factories at Wiener-Neustadt where several intelligently-controlled and autonomous circular devices descended into a thickly-wooded forest near allied positions.....

Sounds man-made to me but no doubt somebody will say it was "natural phenomena".

Hope that the new "Strange Daze" mentions all this and doesn't write off the work of a few decent researchers - of which I may be one.

All power to the moderates! Yours for a little sanity,
Tim Matthews.

The ARSE end of the magazine: More from Mr Karma Nips

Dear David, (I think we've moved beyond the "Sir" stage)

I trust that the money from the sale of your remarkable "Einstein with flying saucer" photograph as seen in Strange Daze 13 has provided you with a high quality holiday this past Summer. I'll send along my fee for services rendered so, hey! ease up on that spending! (As from today, please.)

Well, those UFOs keep us all busy, including my investigative group ARSE (Armchair Researchers Study of the Extraordinary). The highlight of the Summer was, of course, LWT's "Strange but it's all True and Live!" TV spectacular hosted by the suave and urbane Bob Holness. I suspect that, like us, your group "NUFOAROIIOI" were moist with anticipation. My wife Kitty said that I was like a caged beast that Friday, waiting for the show to begin. And she was right. I couldn't eat, couldn't sit, couldn't stand properly. I ended up reclining on our sun lounger, squeezing tension balls and being served light snacks throughout the day. It was terrible.

But the pressure ceased as the show began and what a show it was! Here at last was the chance for people like us - serious, fair minded, civilised Ufologists - to witness an unbiased discussion on UFOs. After all, those three fat, academic, arrogant, pompous tw*ts sitting on the "against" panel didn't stand a chance!

The "For" panel of Stanton Friedman ("Beefy Spice" to use a popular metaphor), Timothy Good ("Brainy Spice") and Nick Pope ("Squeaky Spice") looked lean and hungry for a result. We even had a secret weapon tactically deployed in the form of Jenny Randles ("Scary Spice").

Those debunkers had obviously come bent on creating havoc by asking witnesses such trick questions as "Please tell us exactly what you saw". Incensed by their tactics I immediately sent my wife Kitty out to the telephone in the hall where she was under orders to repeatedly phone in ARSE's vote on the "Yes, I believe in Aliens, please Bob" number. (Only later did she confess to having spent the entire 90 minutes mistakenly ring-

ing the "No, Aliens are a load of rubbish, please Bob" number.) Her membership privileges were temporarily suspended.

After it was all over and feeling exhausted, the group wound down with tea, a selection from the cheese board, (red/white) and a tray of Ritz Crackers. As I ate, I suddenly announced that we would have our own "Live!" debate the following Friday and that I was quite prepared to be in charge of everything. There was a rewarding silence of agreement from the entire ARSE membership.

Our "For" panel consisted of Mr Smethwick (ARSE treasurer), his wife Mabel (Keeper of the Forbidden Knowledge of Craal*) and young Rick "Fox" Richardson (Tesco produce arranger and "heavy" X-Files fan).

Our "Against" panel was Vince Smethwick, son of Mr Smethwick, (ARSE Treasurer). I am sorry to say that Vince would not be out of place calling Philip Klass "friend" and would make a happy bedfellow with the likes of Patrick Moore and Heather Couper, so to speak.

I opened the proceedings with a wish for a lengthy, good natured debate, but the shouting and bitter recriminations began almost at once and the whole thing was over in minutes. The photographs say it all.

"What about Roswell?" began young Rick "Fox".
"Bollocks", retorted Vince.

"What about Socorro?" shouted Mabel.

"Plays for Middlesbrough and he's bollocks", Vince laughed.

"What about Rendlesham Forest or Travis Walton?" shouted Mr Smethwick (ARSE treasurer)

"Bollocks an` a bag of sh*te ...er, dad".

The evening had pitched friend against friend and father against son. Mr Smethwick Senior, visibly shaking with fury at his son's behaviour, left quickly with his wife.

Rick "Fox" asked Vince if he "fancied a pint and a look at his copy of Gillian Anderson's "hot new music video", to which Vince said "yeah" and off they went. My wife Kitty and I were left alone with the buffet - a selection of Cheeses of the World and egg filled baguettes cut into the shapes of flying saucers. The evening was not judged to be a great success and I went to bed with the new Nick Pope.

So my aim in writing to you is to warn people that if this can happen to us, a well run and stable UFO group, just think of the effects such an evening would have on the less stable, smaller fish of Ufology, such as yourselves at NUFOAROIIOI/Strange Ways.

ARSE's scars will take time to heal and trusts broken will have to be repaired. After all, wasn't it Deep Tongue on the X-Files who said, "Keep your friends close, Mr Scully, and your enemies will take care of themselves".

Mind you, he got shot.

Yours gloomily, Karma Nips.



Above: Vince Smethwick, abusive debunker
Right: Shocked and appalled - ARSE treasurer, Mr Smethwick



* The Forbidden Knowledge of Craal is only available to those members who pay the extra £30 surcharge fee

Editor's comment: Sounds to me as though young Vince Smethwick is secretly an agent of disinformation working for MI5, the CIA, the Masons, the Illuminati, the Greys and Department S. Ask Mr Smethwick Snr (ARSE Treasurer) if he has noticed any suspicious looking scoop marks or implants in the back of his son's neck and "I Love Rudloe Manor" badges on his jackets. Here at NUFORI we have taken steps to prevent such disruptions ever occurring. We make sure that more than two members never step into the same room at the same time.

X-Files Conundrum

Sir/

Is there someone out there who can explain to me the logic behind the basic premise of the X-Files? Anyone who knows the history of the UFO phenomenon reported in the USA since the 40s knows that the FBI - along with all the other initialled organisations of the American intelligence community (CIA, NSA, DIA, AFOSI, ATIC, NORAD and the others) - did their best to cover up cases and hamper investigations.

The FBI's special niche in this history of disinformation and deception was the harassment of witnesses and keeping tabs on the fledgling UFO research organisations such as NICAP and APRO and of course their members (private citizens, of course). What a delicious irony though that two loyal members of the FBI (Mulder and Scully) aided by Assistant Director Walter Skinner (whose real life character in Hoover's day was Clyde Tolson) are now doing the lonely job that hoards of unsung UFO researchers have been doing for donkey's years.

The only concession that genuine conspiracy buffs, UFO researchers and paranormal investigators get are the highly non-photogenic "Lone Gunmen" who seem to live the kind of paranoid half-life - with their computers, internet connections and shadowy whistle blowers - which must be familiar to many of our American UFOlogical colleagues. The poor souls seem to spend their time in their grungy gizmo filled apartment or

making midnight assignments with other bizarre characters or with Mulder and Scully. Naturally the nerdiest of the Gunmen has got a hopeless crush on Scully (who would cross the street to avoid someone like him the viewer feels).

My (unnamed of course) sources tell me that since the X-Files hit the airwaves of America and has become mainstream entertainment, recruitment to the FBI has gone up many, many times and Chris Carter is a multi-millionaire. You know, someone less balanced than me might see the dark hand of the "secret government" in all this but of course it is only a TV show, isn't it?

I think an excellent ending for the series would be that Scully, after all the Fortean she's seen, becomes a true believer, marries the nerdy Lone Gunman and they go off to do some channelling and crystal therapy in a California gestalt community.

Mulder, disillusioned at last by never finding a crashed UFO that he can hang on to long enough to get NBC to put on the 6 o'clock news, leaves the FBI and gets a job as a broker on Wall Street where he makes a killing and moves into the nuclear power industry. Years later, when the aliens finally arrive his organisation does its best to quash the pollution free, cheap and long lasting power source the aliens bring to humanity as a gift.

A bit far fetched you say? Well, have you seen the stuff they put on TV these days?

Yours, John McDonald.

Ed's comment: What do you mean about the Lone Gunmen's "grungy, gizmo filled apartment"? You haven't been around my house yet. I think they should make the next series of the X-Files as a musical, to lighten it up a bit. Why is it always dark and raining? Do they film it in Manchester for Heaven's sake?

Research requests

Dear colleagues,

I wonder, can you help me obtain information on the following areas of UFO research:

1. UFO LANDING CASES.
2. UFO SIGHTINGS BY YOUNG PEOPLE (under 18)

Any help in obtaining information on either of these topics would be greatly appreciated. Confidentiality of any witness details is guaranteed and credit will be given for any material published.

Yours Sincerely, Philip Mantle.

Philip Mantle: 1 Woodhall Drive, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 7SW, UK. Telephone/fax: 01924 444049.

E-mail: e151@dial.pipex.com

Technician in aeronautics in search of UFOs seen by pilots in France or anywhere in the world. Any reports would be very much appreciated. Please reply to Mr Jean Bastide, 5 Avenue Maurice Blondel, 13100 Aix-en-Provence, France.

UFO researcher looking to contact anyone who used to be a member of the Tyneside UFO Society - please write to Chris Holton at 97 Lichfield Road, Stafford, ST17 4LP.

AND FINALLY... A plug for **Kevin McClure's** excellent newsletter **Abduction Watch**. £5 for 5 issues or £10 for a year (12 issues) . Please make payments out to Kevin McClure and send to 3 Claremont Grove, Leeds, LS3 1AX. If you *really* want the low down on the abduction scene in this country, if you're not getting AW then you're missing out. Abduction Watch is highly recommended.

COMING IN STRANGE DAZE 16...

FLYING SAUCERS? WHERE?

IN STRANGE DAZE
OF COURSE, KENNETH!



Part Three of David Sivier's Heart of Darkness series
News and Reviews
Unidentified Flying Benkers - the Ivy House Connection*

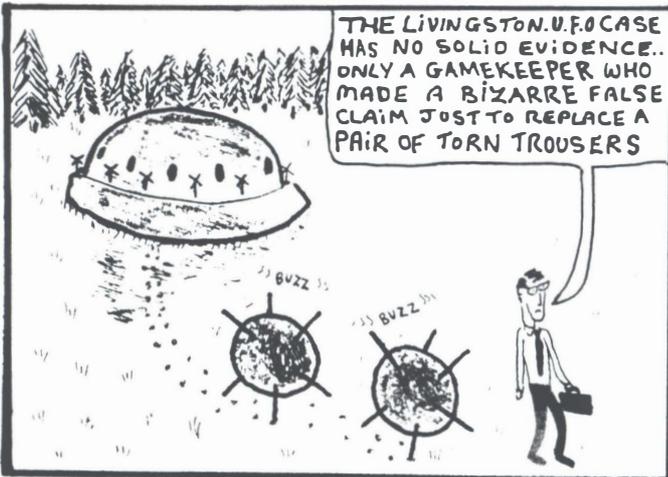


* This may not be a serious article

THE THEORIES OF STAN. T. SKEPTIC

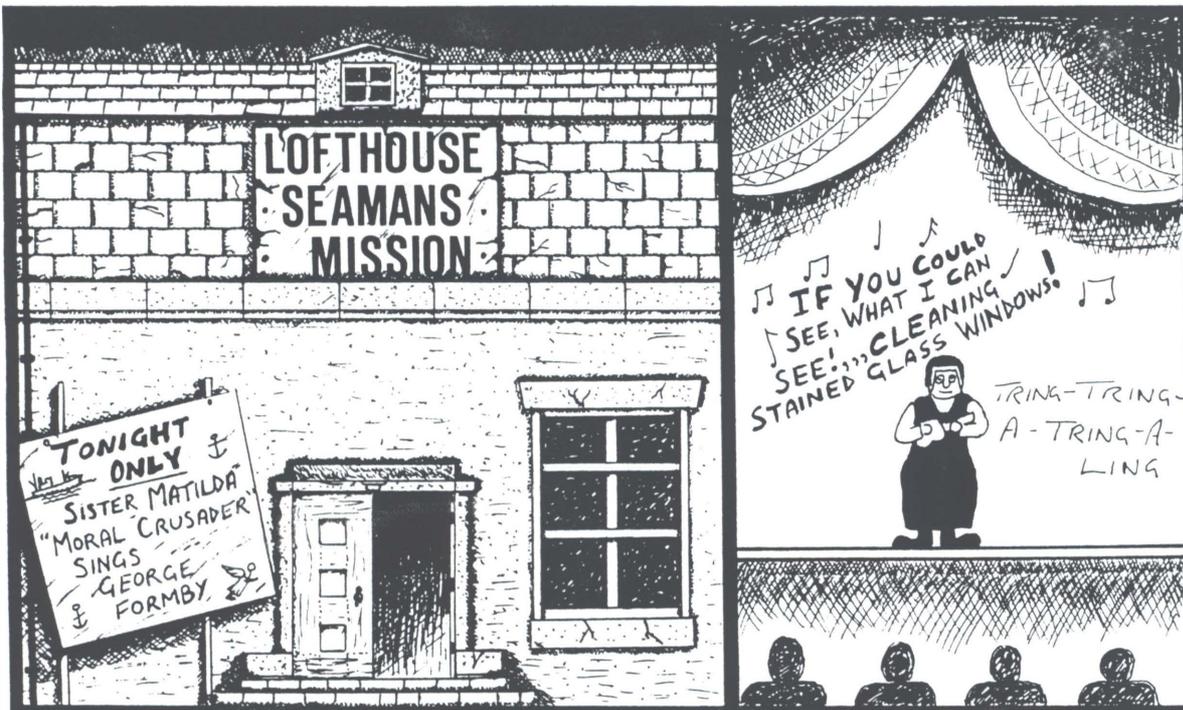
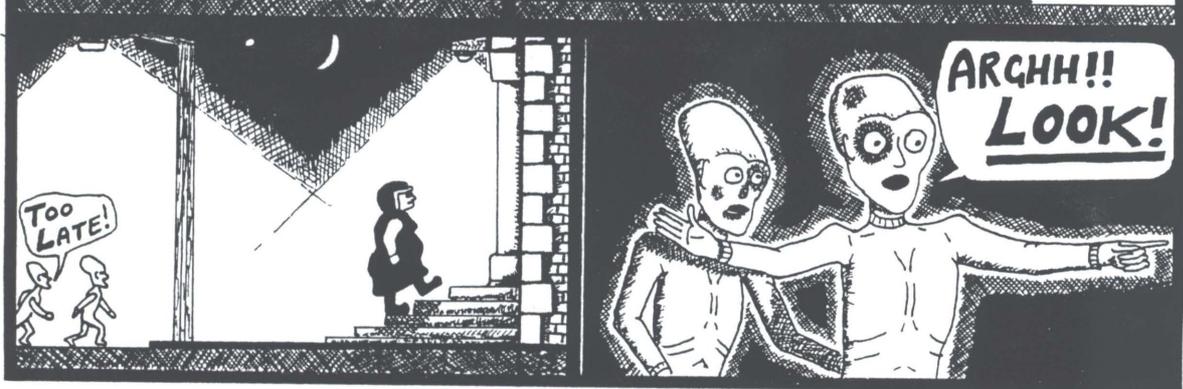
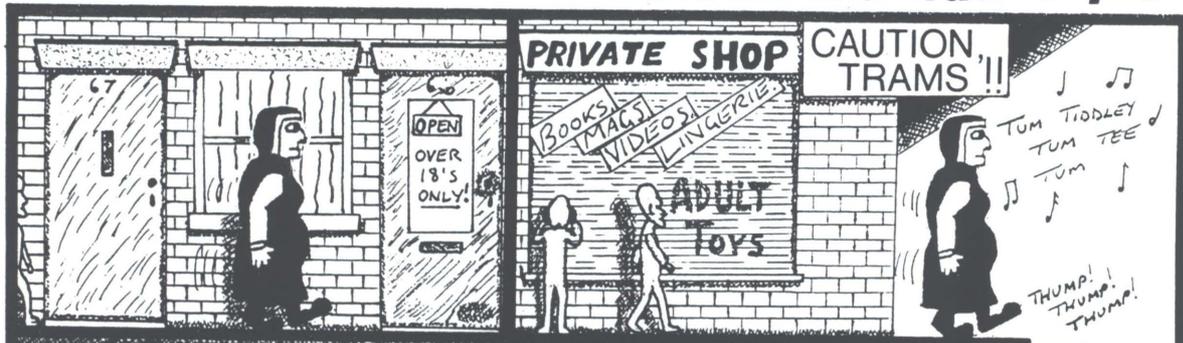


MY RESEARCH INTO THE PARANORMAL IS OBJECTIVE AND UNBIASED.. THESE ARE THE FINDINGS ON MY VISIT TO SCOTLAND.



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Sister Matilda « 4 »



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