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### The Armchair Ufologist - Issue 3

From: [ej77@dial.pipex.com](mailto:ej77@dial.pipex.com) (Mike Wootten)  
Date: Sun, 26 Apr 1998 20:15:16 GMT  
Fwd Date: Sun, 26 Apr 1998 18:01:25 -0400  
Subject: The Armchair Ufologist - Issue 3

Tough on Ufology - Tough on the Causes of Ufology

The Armchair Ufologist

issue three

Those whom the gods wish to destroy they first make ufologists

Countdown to Ecstasy?

Newbie watchers will have noted the emergence, over the past year or so, of one 'Max Burns' onto the scene. Hailing from the Yorkshire's very own Rotherham Triangle, Max is an out and out ET believer. By some quirk of strangeness he caught the wave at the right time and ended up writing quite a lot (of rubbish) for Alien Encounters magazine. But they liked him and he fitted in well with that 'zine's uncritical viewpoint and make-money-at-any(one's)-expense ethos.

Indeed, last year at the BUFORA disaster in Sheffield when it was mooted that Alien Encounters magazine form some kind of union with BUFORA, using A.E. as BUFORAs house zine I suggested to editor Ninny Penny dreadful that this would only take place if Maxy boy was dropped. 'Can't do that' she replied.

Alien Encounters' sales figures suggest they are now reaping what they sow.  
Fairysnuff.

Time passed and Max and I duly insulted each other at the opening night of The Unexplained exhibition in Bradford. He was so insulted that he later 'phoned me up and told me that he was 'having a spot of bother with the police'. This spot of bother, according to Max, and all the other ufologists who have told me since, was that he'd been lifted in possession of 1000 tabs of ecstasy and had been charged with possession with intent to supply same.

This would all be just tough cookies if it wasn't for the reasons Max gives. Which are:

Max says it's all a fit up, and believes he is being 'got at' by The Establishment. Why? Because he's an ace ufologist and knows secrets so terrible has to be silenced. Lawdy. Worse still other ufologists such as Miles Johnstone agree with him! Mad as lorries the lot of 'em.

When I spoke to Max he confidently assured me that he was going to call Tim Good as a witness (because 'everybody knows he's a government agent') and therefore the case would collapse.

That's Max Logic for you.

Let's see if that really happens pilgrims, or if it's just another fantasy.

Several seasoned ufologists have wondered if his real name isn't Max Boyce (actually it's not even Max Burns, can you guess what it is?). Whatever his paranoid ramblings about fit ups and cover ups, the forces of lawn order seem to think otherwise and he has been committed to Crown Court. And the charge of Ecstasy 'dropped' to amphetamine, which raises another problem - if Max is found guilty was he ripped off or was he going to rip someone else off? It's a murky world out there kids.

I have to say here that ecstasy and any amphetamine derivative, these days, in my opinion is a crap drug anyway only suitable for dumb clubbers - but each to his own I suppose.

Can't buy a thrill eh?

We'd say Happy Trials to Max but I suspect it won't be and that we may have to wait quite some time before Max can enlighten me as to the nature of the alien base under the Midland bank at Chapletown, Sheffield, not to mention how I'll just never get to know about the Tornado jet which was taken by a UFO last year in the infamous 'Peak District Crash' scenario.

Speaking of which. Ace researcher (and soon to be 'Dr', courtesy of a PhD) Dave Clarke has wrapped up the aforementioned South Yorkshire UFO crash and in a rare feat of good research (rare for ufology not for Wavy Davy) he has proved conclusively that it was all caused by military aircraft breaking the sound barrier and covering it up. Long story but you'll be able to read about it in the Brothers' Grimm 'UFO' zine shortly.

'Political Dynamite' as Graham used to say in the heady days of Quest International.

Anyway the also aforementioned Max thought he had the vaguest inkling of what had gone on with this case and got a right strop on when he found Dave wasn't playing at ufology and had actually solved it.

Cue the Max Factor.

Max took to making abusive 'phone calls to Dave at work and used 'bad boys language' to boot.

Sad really but there y'go. I'm afraid Max just can't accept that his beloved case is a complexity of mundanities which caused and not aliens blah blah blah blah.

In his best defence of the nonsense he believes Max took to alleging that anyone who disbelieved in his theories was working for 'Intel'. We presume he meant the intelligence services and not the people who make computer chips.

My how we laughed - but only after we'd been given permission to do so by MI5 of course.

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The Miles Files

Miles Johnstone anybody? Long time BUFORA member, used to be big in an Irish UFO group, works for SKY TV, used to be sensible, has a penchant for hard co.....ooops can't penetrate that one any further, but we have the evidence. Anyway we discovered that Miles was in league with Maxy baby. Miles had been up to Sheffield to do some filming for something to do with the alleged 'crash' which was to be presented to the BUFORA AGM meeting. Now BUFORA look pretty stupid as it is, how they could think to put on - totally uncritically - a video conjured up by Messers Johnstone and Burns - god only knows.

So I emailed Miles J and told him that research had been done which made any ET interpretation somewhat invalid. I also asked him to contact Dave to check things out so a more balanced view could be offered at the AGM.

Oh dear!Miles replied:

I asked Dave to contact me, as I was going to Sheffield on Friday. He has not returned my call.

When I ask someone to contact me, as I am in his area, and he cannot even return the call:- obviously they have nothing to say.

So please do not ask me to contact someone who is so rude as to avoid me in the first place.

When you are constructing a cover story, be so prudent as to avoid making so many holes in the first place.

The problem with unknown craft is, that they have the troublesome problem of not doing what they are told to do, i.e. not exist.

When coming up with cover stories, it is also advisable to come up with definitions which are correct.

If a Bollide had been over Sheffield, then most of middle England would not exist, as a Bollide IMPACTS, i.e. is not an air burst.

Suggest you talk to the witnesses and tell them they did not see the bodies being taken from the water, because, they were not supposed to. But then we are not SUPPOSED to see anything are we? As

nothing is happening, and we are all happy little johnnies.

Obviously the expression of a point of view is a crime in BUFORA.

I am sure your contacts in "intel" will be informing you of my status in these affairs by now anyway.

I shall expect the knock at dawn... or do they do it remotely these days... heard someone's house went up not too recently, for asking too many questions.

The bottom line is that you lot have blown it, and it is time, if ever there was, a more professional lot will take over, which I am sure will happen, as sure as day becomes night.

MJ

The above is 'sic', if not 'sick'. But you get the idea where Miles is coming from? Yeah, a small galaxy just to the right of Zeta Reticulli. Wounded by this paranoid nonsense I asked him what he meant in the last paragraph, all that stuff about people's houses 'going up'. Tell me who these people are/were Miles, tell me where their house is/was. I guaranteed him I could prove he was talking what Father Ted would call 'shite'.

Needless to say I didn't get a reply to that one.

Another scattershot email from Miles came across my bows later. Apropos of nothing it went:

received your threatening email.

During the taping of the report... a simple report on a UFO,

I have had quite sufficient attention thank you.

exposing yourself in this manner is quite pathetic.

usual measures are in effect.

Max has no email address, as he is unemployed, and due to be remanded until November.

He made every effort to get his side of the story across.

A simple video of someone's report is such a

threat!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Be happy I have such patience.

But do they?

Miles . J

Again I present it in all its sic-ness. Note the expression 'usual measures are in place'. This comes hot from the Barry King phrasebook as anyone who gets THE VOICE will know. Miles is a King acolyte and the two often discuss tunnels of an evening over a cup of Ovaltine.

Keeping one eye on the door of course in case 'they' come for them.

Natch.

Miles then forwarded Max Burns' replies to David's latest findings. This was more of the same unsubstantiated garbage he has come out with before. But Miles added his own little coda which went:

ETH is a well out of date 70s concept anyway. As you have clearly not noticed things have moved along since. It was 4 years ago that I showed an interview with a senior engineer who actually works with the Greys and Reptilians, and the other types, in making our versions of their craft. But then you probably missed that.

The unusual use of the Queen's English is again all Miles'.

So, the ETH is an outdated concept? I'll go for that one Miles. And

because you've talked to a crazy who spun you a yarn we're supposed to believe it? I think not.

There's more.

Miles wasn't going to be put off by anyone doing research which produced results when speculation was to be had. Another extract from the Miles Files delivered the killer blow:

Whilst editing the brief video report for BUFORA, who I was livid about, for NOT showing I was visited by 2 transdimensional entities, one of whom chose to sit on my right knee, and observe the edit.

Lap-dancing transdimensionals eh. Conjure for yourselves readers the thought of Miles trying to edit a video with a trans-dimensional entity' sat on his knee. It's an enduring image and let's face it, we've all been there.  
But Miles has it all under control.....

'I have already been told that the usual sources which deal with the cover for such events have made a right mess of the Sheffield case, including the drugs charges on Max, and the subsequent police who have dealt with the case. '

Note well readers this is the level of ufology, and of ufological debate, which the literalists think actually counts for something.

I could barely get this issue of TAU to the printers because Miles kept bombarding me with stupidity. His last long email - so far - rambled on about pirate radio stations, abducted DJs, the checking of SKY TV personnel by intelligence agents and so on and on. His crowning moment was some idiocy about secret messages encoded in music:

If you are not aware of the encoding being used in music, and its influence in society, then I imagine you will not see the link between the drug scene, certain pirate radio, and how it is manipulated, then I suggest you start finding out.

No, this isn't Gordon Creaking writing, it's still Miles. But I think we know where he's heading children, don't we? I don't think we've heard the last of the Sheffield UFO 'crash', or Max, or Miles. We'll keep you updated.

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#### Paranoia Strikes Deep- Into Your Heart It Will Creep

Paranoia, as you have seen, is at its worst ever at the moment on the UK UFO scene. Everyone you speak to accuses everyone else of being an agent of disinformation or a debunker or whatever. None of these charges are ever proven and it seems to me that when the subject is in meltdown with no real research being done then that's when the witch hunts start.

The Internet, whilst being a fantastic research tool has exacerbated the loony tendencies ufologists have and rumours can now be spread ten times faster than ever before.

Where once the slow transmission of information by post and telephone led to consideration and reflection, things are now radically different. If someone has an ill-advised thought it has become a theory by tea-time, a fact before bedtime and is in a magazine or book within months. It is then irrefutable and anyone who does attempts criticism is working for the.....and round and round and round and round we go.

Take the Rendlesham Forest case. In recent months new details have come forward which strongly suggests that the whole series of events over two night was - like the Sheffield crash case- a complex series of misidentifications and misperceptions.

Even its principal investigator Jenny Randles has been quoted as saying 'Rendlesham is at best half the case it was and may turn out to have been little of any substance after all.' But I bet she changes her mind!

Researcher James Easton has done terrific in depth research on this case and come up with original statements from Rendlesham witnesses. I won't go into the details here - it will be all over the UFO press soon enough. I suggest that those of you with Internet connections have a look at Easton's spiffy homepage at:

<http://ourworld.compuserve.com/homepages/pulsar/>

Of course this sort of real research was too much for many and without thinking or considering the evidence (or in fact without many of the goons actually having read much about the original case) people leapt to the defence. Elder statesman of ufology (i.e. old bloke with a lot of books) Richard Hall just couldn't hack it at all and bleated and baa'd in an arrogant fashion, as did others from across the waters.

James Easton responded delicately but firmly by re-iterating what he had discovered, comparing it with what was know and drawing the inevitable conclusions.

No.

Still didn't work.

It seems that a great many ufologists are so narrow minded that they cannot conceive of any other explanation than the exotic. Moreover they haven't the faintest idea about the nature of misidentification, misperception, the workings of the human brain, transmission of folklore or probably what day it is.

Of course Easton was immediately denounced as a debunker, despite him once being a staunch supporter of the case. The people who denounced him just cannot accept that any of their military personnel could be subject to a massive misperception, the corpse of which has been picked over by ufologists ever since.

Joined up thinking is as new a concept to some of our American colleagues as it is to the believing bunch here I'm afraid. The UK backlash hasn't really kicked in yet - but it will. Look out for Matthew Williams et al on their high horse about it and I predict a Jenny Randles 'well, the case isn't as bad as we first thought because there are still unexplained factors' damage limitation exercise - followed by a book, of course!

And that's how it goes. Even if Col. Halt signed a statement in Larry Warren's blood saying he had misidentified the lighthouse no-one would now believe him because, well because Rendlesham begins with an 'R' like Roswell, and therefore an alien craft must have crashed there.

Halt has apparently written a book on the incident, due later this spring. Rendlesham groupies will no doubt seize on its every full stop. Quite frankly I think whatever he writes is redundant now that the original witness statements are available. All else is conjecture. It will also depend on whether Halt is seduced by the lure of money as to what he writes. Of course if he does explain the incident in terms of misidentification and misperception the believers will say he's been 'got at' and if he says it was exotic and unexplained it goes against the witnesses statements.

We are still awaiting the book penned by the Lighthouse about the strange lights and Americans with tape recorders it saw in the forest in December 1981.

If you want a good example of how ufologists think check out the UFO UpDates mailing list (you can find the archives via the UFOMIND site). It's a constant babble of half formed speculation, pseudo-truth and pseudo-religious yearning. But well worth a look nevertheless.

You will:

SEE famous ufologists dodge the issue. THRILL as they ignore facts.  
WONDER at what nonsense they will come out with next.

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Apocalypse Maiow

Everyones favourite ufologist, Harry Harris, has been in the news recently. Older readers will recall that Mr Harris, a solicitor by trade, is keen to defend his views and opinions.

So much so that several ufologists have been threatened with legal action by him for merely disagreeing with some of the strange claims he has made.

Like Alan Godfrey was abducted by aliens - yeah, as if.

Of course legal action and belief in aliens are Harry's prerogative. But it does seem a little odd to defend one's opinions via the law courts and not in open debate. Anyway.....

Harry was also instrumental in the legal action that Stanton Freidman, once an Unclear Physicist and now a ufologist by tirade, took against Jenny Randles in 1989 simply because she disagreed with Freidman's claims and alleged he was a fanatic. The fact that this was in private correspondence to a journalist who blabbed and then refused to back Jenny up makes things all the more seedy. But then journalists are all partakers of Satans semen so we shouldn't be at all surprised.

This cost Jenny a lot of money, as the UK libel laws are fundamentally corrupt and date from another time forgotten place and class system.

Basically if you've got the money and the time you will invariably win.

It's also always puzzled me how Harry could write legal letters using himself as his own solicitor - thus saving money whilst the people he threatens action against have to fund their own defence. The legal profession serves only itself I'm afraid.

I too have my Harry file where his threatening legal letters are lovingly stored for when the social history of ufology is written.

Anyway we digress, but suffice it to say many ufologists have a place in their hearts for Harry. So imagine my surprise when the February 3rd issue of the Manchester Evening News ran a short piece entitled Lawyers Pet Threat which reported that Harry was to appear before magistrates on charges of making threats to kill and possessing a firearm with intent to cause fear. According to the article Harry had allegedly threatened to shoot a pensioner's dog which had chased his cat up a tree.

Obviously this case has not yet come to court. We are merely reporting the Manchester Evening News account of the charges and offer no comment or opinion.

As we go to press the M.E.N. ran another piece, stating that Harry had been bailed until May 5th for Crown Court committal proceedings.

As Harry is a well known ufologist we merely note the facts of the matter as reported by the M.E.N.

A posse - should that be pussy - of northern ufologists will be in attendance at the May 5th hearing.

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#### North Of The Border News

Scottish councillor and UFO fancier Billy Buchanan has been banned from every committee and sub-committee until the local government elections there in 1999. Moreover he can now only communicate with council staff by fax or letter! The furore all stems from Buchanan's general behaviour and he has been accused of:

\*Calling chief officers 'a band of vagabonds who are like leeches'  
\*Accusing the chief executive of racist behaviour merely because they didn't want a Kraut Kamara Krew filming in the council building.....

And so on. Typical behaviour for an aggrieved ufologist whatever their profession I'm sure you'll agree. It's nice to know those involved in the democratic political process have such a firm grip on reality.

After losing the vote Billy questioned whether he was 'living in Bonnybridge or Baghdad'. Geography, along with politics, is obviously not a strongpoint among some of our Scottish brethren.

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Lights, Camera, Action

Now, some real ufology!

February 2nd 1998. Several hundred people saw two bright lights fly slowly from west to east across the Pennines. Aeroplanes! No, they flew too slow, too low and too together. Airports said they had nothing on their screens. The press received hundreds of reports and

two videos of the objects were taken. Should be easily solved then eh?

Er, no.

Of course ufologists in the area seized on this as a UFO, which strictly speaking it was. UFO magazine determined it was the best sighting since, oooo, since the last one. Their special report hasn't appeared yet but I'm told it will be comprehensive and may even include facts!

Usually anything witnessed by more than two men and a dog almost certainly has a mundane explanation - but what could it be?

BUFORA's NIC's (National Investigations Committee) John Heptonstall has studied this case sensibly and in depth. By viewing the videos and collating the testimony of over 30 witnesses he was able to plot a flight path and determine various characteristics. It seems that the two objects were almost certainly helicopters or RPVs of some sort.

OK, so why the fuss? Why should all official sources deny any knowledge? Because it was a secret operation? What - over the major conurbations of northern England? Not likely! And anyway, if it was a 'secret' why were the craft flying with huge lights on them?

Well how about this.....

Whatever agency was flying these craft sent them over built up areas and with lights on intentionally. They then monitor public opinion via the press, which then gives them the feedback they need.

You can imagine the conversation as Bert and Sid, the MODs top men, discuss the incident:

"How's it hanging Bert. What's new?"

"Well we flew the two X14%'^s over northern England in February as planned Sid"

"Did anyone see the structure Bert?"

"No the lights completely obliterated it Sid"

"Any problems Bert?"

"Nah Sid"

"What did people think they were Bert?"

"UFOs Sid."

"Suckers, Bert."

"Yeah suckers, Sid."

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A Hypothesis Too Far?

This is just an extension of the Federal Hypothesis, which has it that a government will use the UFO mythos for their own ends. The F.H. receives all too little attention in my opinion. Far too complicated several people have said. But it's not at all.

The beauty of the Federal Hypothesis from the official point of view is that the public create and nurture it. They do the majority of the work for them. No secret departments necessary, no hidden files needed. No one has to be employed to work for the government because ufologists unknowingly volunteer to do it for free.

The press is happy to go along with any silly season nonsense because it means they get 'good' copy without having to do any work and all government departments have to do is to answer any questions which are posed.

Any problems here are got over by semantic gymnastics and usually by answering exactly what is asked within the standard AS2a party line about 'no defence significance'.

Or is that just my imagination, running away with me?

Anyone who has seen the bloke at Leeds/Bradford airport on TV denying he knew what these things were immediately knows he's lying as he smirks something about extraterrestrials. These things were meant to be seen. Anyone who believes they were anything other than terrestrial craft is a sap. Simple as that.

Back to life, but not necessarily back to reality.....

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We've Got To Page 7 And Not Mentioned BUFORA So We'd Better Do So Now

As usual a great deal of this newsletter concerns itself with the petty minutiae, in-fighting and squabbles from a very tiny little bit of the ufological political scene.

Why, you ask. Well, quite simply because I feel that people have a right to know about how ufology runs itself, about what ufologists say and do to prevent freedom of ideas, opinions and change. And it has always been my opinion that certainly in BUFORA there are factions at work which have actively prevented any change or progression.

Some of these people are on council, some just council hangers on. They've been around since the 70s and before and really need dealing with.

Why does any of this matter? isn't it just petty political in-fighting?

Yes.

But.

Because.

BUFORA for all their faults - and they are many - are well established, with a good world wide reputation and an infra structure for actually being a major force in ufology.

Pity its not maximised.

They produce nothing and live on their reputation, taking =A320 a year from people, offering a scratty magazine in return which is so out of date by the time the member reads it, it was hardly worth the bother. I've paid my =A320 and that gives me - and all the other members- the right to criticise until something happens.

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The Law Of The Bungle

BUFORAs totally fantastic web site has as many of you know its own private members area where sage ufologists probe the mysteries of the universe.

But what's this? Some nasty, rough, boys hijacked the site for their own uses. Thus we were treated to the 'wit' of one 'Bert Buttock' - which would have been fine he had been even just a little bit funny. Anyway instead of just ignoring this nonsense until things got back to normal the old dears at BUFORA got 'em in a twist somewhat and terminated the site.

Guerrilla hackers soon brought it back to life.

But then it all happened again. Without any warning or a by-your-leave they just discontinued the web site leaving hundreds of BUFORA members totally mystified as to what had happened.

You pays yer money and no have no choice.

More BUFORA stuff in a bit.

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Oi, Redfern -NO!

Nick Redfern's book A Covert Agenda is among us. A far more sensible version of the tripe Tim Good comes out with but still failing to deliver a killer blow to those nasty sceptics. I reviewed Agenda for F.T. and admire Nick's dogged research into the facts - such as they are.

But!

I spoke to Nick, saying 'There's one particular chapter I have a problem with'. 'Is it 'The 'Copter and the Crash', he asked 'I thought it might be that.' And indeed it was.

Irrespective of the pros and cons of A Covert Agenda generally it was nice to find a chapter which I am my co-researcher Dave Clarke knew something about.

'The 'Copter and the Crash dealt with a slew of sightings in 1973 and early 74 of what became known as the Phantom Helicopter. Ancient or

more erudite readers will remember this as being a well publicised flap in the Peak District, Staffordshire, Cheshire and North Wales.

No Copter was ever found to be the source of these sightings and indeed the sightings were largely of light sources, NOT helicopters.

Therein lies the central mystery of ufology but we must press on.

'The crash' part of Nick's chapter refers to an event which took place on January 23rd 1974 in the Berwyn Mountains area of mid north Wales. Over the years this case has been resurrected reshuffled and misquoted by Dodd, Randles, Fry, Redfern etc and is on the brink of turning into the desperately longed for 'British Roswell'.

Unless we can stop it!

The case as it is presented in any of the available sources is a mish mash of fact and fiction. In an attempt to redress the balance and prevent the case mutating further I am reinvestigating it (Dave C. and I first mentioned it in our 1990 book Phantoms of the Sky). This reinvestigation will culminate in a fully referenced booklet later this year and lectures for several UFO groups including with one at Madam Bott's Staffordshire Dominatrix Club, the November LAPIS conference and various others.

If any readers have information or views on this case please get in contact. I have a great deal of material on this case but anything is welcome and will be credited.

Two months work on the case has already shown that all researchers who have so far looked at the case have merely repeated earlier errors in a way they should be ashamed of. Research actually involves doing something original not just copying what others have copied from sources they didn't check thoroughly in the first place..

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The Column 'They' Tried To Ban!

As some of you may be aware I write an occasional column on the murkier side of ufology for Fortean Times. A piece I submitted last autumn was -shock!- turned down. I guess they just thought it didn't fit. So you can have it here instead. I can't remember what it was called so we'll call it Elsie.....

'Well, that's the 50th anniversary of UFOs over with, thank god. Fifty years since Ken Arnold's seminal Mt Rainier vision which unknowingly begat the psychic circus called ufology. But where has it left us, this year of reflection and reckoning? Publishers have made a fortune from recycling the usual tripe about UFOs to an X File sensitised public whilst the frenzied rumours as to what would be revealed by the authorities have waxed and waned without substance, as they have done annually since the '50s. Otherwise it seems the best the UFO community can come up with is some tatty second hand crash retrieval stories and a few bits of metal, provenance unknown, but hardly off-planet artefacts. Oh, and thirty nine people went through Heaven's Gate because they thought a spaceship lay in the tail of Hale-Bopp. I hope the people who fed the media with that idea are able to sleep soundly. Do I sound cynical? That's because I am.

Ufology is at crisis point - again. Its promises are as unfulfilled as its fantasies are lurid. A few people, mainly publishers, authors and organisation leaders dry-hump the subject for all it's worth while the numbers of genuine researchers are few - maybe 50 people in the UK maximum. The rest, the shock troops and the rubes just come and go as their belief systems are processed through the ufological mill. For most the subject doesn't come up with the demonstrable proof they obviously crave and so they seek it elsewhere, drifting into ever-woollier belief systems. Others join UFO groups hoping for guidance and revelation. They soon discover that those bastions of truth-seeking and lid-blowing, whilst they exist aplenty, do so not for any research or investigation purposes, but simply to stroke egos and supply endless shoals of fish for the UFO aquarium.

Put simply, if it wasn't for ufologists there would be no UFO subject today, period. It's a self-perpetuating, hermetically sealed system. Others attempt to justify the subject's many failings by insisting the breakthrough will surely come if only scientists would get involved. Wrong! Any professional worth their salt takes one look at the subject and instantly recoils, fearful for their sanity and reputation. True, many scientists hold a sincere interest and would like to get

involved, but just cannot see anything on offer either in the way of evidence, proof, methodology or integrity.

The key player in this annus horribilis for ufology has been the British UFO Research Association. Founded in 1956 and one of the oldest UFO study groups in the world it has, until recently, weathered the storm and led the field in a number of ways. Now BUFORA is in disarray, another victim of the moral bankruptcy which pervading the UFO subject. For instance, BUFORA one had a fairly tight Code of Practice which protected witness confidentiality. In this BUFORA led the world. But then the rot set in. Witness details were passed onto gentlemen of the press without permission or consultation, causing considerable distress to people who had experienced - whatever the stimuli - some pretty bizarre incidents.

Where once BUFORA shied away from the glare of press attention by 1995 they had weakened and allowed themselves to be a publicity vehicle for the universally derided Santilli 'alien autopsy' film. Bad enough, but by 1997 they were allowing the ufological equivalent of snake oil barkers to speak, unchallenged, at their conference. Tabloid ufology had finally penetrated the inner sanctum of reason. It got worse. BUFORA's sensible and unique moratorium on hypnotic regression was blithely broken by those investigators who claimed to practise it as part of their membership of other UFO groups. As though that made it all ok. If any of these acts had been committed in a multi-national then appropriate steps would have been taken to discipline the offenders. But not in BUFORA. All pretence of it being a membership driven organisation went out of the window. Like the mushrooms of adage its members were kept in the dark and fed bullshit (hey, even bullshit was hard to come by as Council members failed to respond to any 'difficult' queries put to them via e or snail mail) and despite repeated requests from within the membership and their own Council of Management no effective action was taken. Eventually in the summer of 1997 BUFORA couldn't paper over its crackpots any longer and called a high level meeting at which charges of breaching witness confidentiality were laid at the feet of their Press Officer, Philip Mantle. Astonishingly, despite these breaches being conclusively proven, Mantle was supported by two thirds of Council, including the Director of Investigations. This means anyone in BUFORA can ride rough shod over witness confidentiality at will. And sell the story for profit if they wish. Sure this boosts sales of books and gets investigators in the newspapers. But what does it do to the poor witness who unburdens themselves of a psychic apocalypse and expects to be taken seriously?

In the end it barely matters that the subject matter we are dealing with is that of UFOs and, by cultural inference, aliens. That's the fantasy. The reality is that as ufologists we deal solely with human beings, people who have perhaps had powerful experiences and who should be offered trust and support. It's the least we can do and is the key to any serious understanding of the forces - inner or outer - they have come into contact with.

This way of dealing with people is an ethical one. Sadly most ufologists believe ethics to be adjacent to Sussex and about as boring. BUFORA - and the majority of other UFO research groups and investigators have celebrated the anniversary of the subject well by behaving like pack animals, scrabbling for press attention at any cost and reducing the witness experience to a currency whose only value is its weight in publicity. The truth? Well it's still out there, but the current crop of Mulder's and Scully's are lost in a hall of mirrors where all they can see is their own reflection.

And they like it that way.

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#### Aftermath

So that was that. Fortean Times wouldn't run it, but it's all true and few people in BUFORA actually disagree with its comments. Especially many who were at the fateful council meeting. BUFORA are rarely able to deal with the truth though and one of their Vice Presidents, Lionel Beer, (he likes steam engines you know) freaked and 'phoned Bob Rickard up to suggest they didn't print it as they might 'lose readers'. Yeah, like any of the less than 500 BUFORA members are going to stop buying FT because of an article that tells the truth!

BUFORA's D of I Gloria 'zeroG' Dixon told various people that she 'wanted my balls in a bag' (hardly worth the bother, my partner assures me) and I had lots of 'lively' email from the likes of

Robert Moore and Dave Newton who for some reason thought they had a clue what was going on.

Like I cared.

Obviously I did because I resigned from UFO Times leaving Dave 'Sensible' Newton in full command. Big mistake.

The resulting issue of UFO Times was an execrable mess that a nine year old on tartrazine with a John Bull printing kit could have done.

As regards journal editing pilgrims, it's not just about having articles and putting them altogether, it's about knowing the scene, the people, the trends, and being able to catch just the right mood for the time the zine comes out.

In the meantime a crack BUFOONA cash retrieval team was issued to Mike Wootten's palatial North Wales residence where anything which looked as though BUFORA had remotely paid for was wrenched from his grasping hands as his wife and children looked on in astonishment.

Whoever gets the scanner next will notice tear stains and finger nail marks from the savage doorstep tussle that took place.

Mike loved that scanner you know.

The Highland Clearances had nothing on this!

Of course in their tasteless eagerness to 'get what is theirs' BUFORA omitted to consider, and weigh off, the freebies which Mike had provided for them over the years and which had saved them hundreds if not thousands of pounds.

But then you never expected BUFORA to be grateful did you?

Good, because they weren't and didn't even thank Mike for his years of service (read 'donkey work') on Council.

One funny part of this incident was when the balaclava clad hit men (and let's face it Arnold West and Robin Lindsay look pretty funny in SAS get up) suggested that they might have the review books back.

Mike sent them away with a stinging 'no!'. Any fule no that review books and zines go to the editor of a journal, don't they? Well no actually because BUFORA are so tight that as a result of this they've actually gone so far as to change the company's Articles of Association so that it's THE LAW that all review books become the property of BUFORA.

You're a member of BUFORA aren't you? - is it good to know that the company rules can be changed to suit the suits by them just, well, just changing them. They don't have to actually bother the membership with such details.

It just IS.

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You Can't Come In Here Thinking Like That

Speaking of BUFORA membership. My moles in the Star Chamber informed me that my membership was to be 'looked at' when it came up for renewal in February '98. And so it was. At the March Council meeting certain people - and this is another example of BUFORAs patheticness because no-one will say exactly who raised the issue - certain people decided that they couldn't hack the constant criticism I heap on the way BUFORA is run.

Note that.

The way BUFORA is run. I have a lot of time for BUFORA's aims and objectives and do a lot of work for the org. But.

There is a small group of people who effectively control BUFORA and who can't hack criticism because it exposes them for the conservative charlatans they are.

Anyway it was decided that the only thing they could 'get' me on was the fact that I'd told their printer that they couldn't afford to pay him and he shouldn't do anything until he received money. Seemed reasonable to me but not to 'certain people'.

As an aside here it's worth noting that over the years BUFORA members have got away with and are getting away with: using hypnosis against the Code Of Practice, giving witnesses names to the press, selling photographs that belonged to other people, writing abusive notes to other BUFORA members, accusing BUFORA members of illegal activities and so on. Of course this is acceptable behaviour, but criticise the way the aims and objectives are interpreted, the process by which BUFORA runs and claims to be founded on, prevent someone getting ripped off and actually ask what some Council members do to justify their existence on Council and it's suddenly a hanging matter.

Tish and fipsy.

An argument ensued about this on Council and the action was to be that Steve 'I don't' Gamble was to send a stiffly worded letter to me (eek!) pointing out the error of my ways and inviting a reply. Sensing a trap here, i.e. they thought I would just give them a load of nonsense so they could refuse my renewal instead I argued my point valiantly and bugger me if I didn't get renewed. Still didn't find out who the gutless bastards who opposed me were -at least not officially- but we're working on it and there will be a reckoning.

BUFORA Captain?  
Illogical -  
Does Not Compute

The current logic in BUFORA seems to run that:

- a) BUFORA is in a mess financially and ethically.
- b) We will therefore hide our heads in the sand in the hope it will go away
- c) If anyone criticises us we will
  - i) Ignore them
  - ii) If that doesn't work we will try to get rid of them
- d) Then it will all go back to normal, same people same tired old organisation

Or, to misquote Henry Ford, "You can have any kind of BUFORA you want. As long as it's crap."

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Can Go - Won't Go!

BUFORA has been in this situation on and off for years. Everyone who knows anything about either the structure of UFO orgs generally or BUFORA specifically knows what needs to be done. Simply, the coterie of chums and ET believers who run it need to go and let fresh blood in, people who know what's going on and are active in the field. But they won't and in fact my remote viewing bot tells me that this group of individuals have even considered winding BUFORA (a limited company) up rather than relinquish their positions and let others take over. No doubt now I will face further 'action' because I refuse to let them carry this farce on in secret.

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Mmmmm, NIC(e)

However there is some light at the end of the tunnel. the National Investigations Committee, comprised of active researchers and investigators have come up with some monkey gland to inject into the corpse. At an excellent meeting in March several hours of ufology were discussed and resolutions made.

These include a regular flow of good research and case reports from the NIC, one or two lectures a year organised by the NIC, an NIC email list and one or two other things. Things were happening.

Of course BUFORA council immediately threw up their hands when they heard about this and thought insurrection was afoot and that people were tunnelling beneath them. Following the NIC and as a result of criticism made by John Heptonstall, chairman Steve Gamble resigned. Ooops, in true BUFORA style he unresigned a day or two later. This is a popular BUFORA Officers game which several have played out over the years.

Here's how to play.

You are a BUFORA Council member. You bask in power and reflected glory. Someone criticises you. Oh golly! You resign, hurt. But then

all your pals persuade you to unresign in case one of the 'outsiders' gets on Council and upsets things.

I was always under the illusion that - and this certainly applies in my professional sphere - that if you resign then that's it baby, you're history. Of course we all know BUFORA is above history - but certainly not above histrionics.

Where were we.....oh, So you see what I've been getting at - suggest innovation and change and the suits try to stamp it out at source. But we'll get there in the sweet by and by, we've all been camped outside the city for too long to acquiesce to now.

Of course this criticism of BUFORA has led to even the most sensible in their ranks concluding that it's an orchestrated effort on behalf of 'them' to destroy UK ufology. I'm afraid the only person orchestrated is myself following their D of I's request. One leading council member has noted in correspondence to BUFORA's chairman Steve Gamble

"If there is a force at work behind the scenes determined to destroy the only voice of reason and sanity in ufology in this country, then it has succeeded admirably by putting us all at odds with each other."

There y'go again - paranoia. No, you're at odds with each other because few of you know why you are there or what you are doing. And now you are eating yourselves.

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Left, Right, Left Right

The saga of Tim Matthews goes on apace. See earlier issues for the facts so far but basically quite a few incy wincy ufologists don't like him 'cos he's a bit in your face and well, perhaps because he does some research and publishes it and well you know, just because.

Yeah, they haven't got a reason.  
But someone had.  
Oh yes indeedy.

The Winter '97 issue of Lobster, a conspiracy journal edited by a man who still lives with his mum, alleged many things about Tim. In an uncredited story - but our guess is Armen Victorian/Henry Halfdazed was behind it - a riveting tale unfolded. This is how it went.....if you believe it!

Tim Matthews had once been a 'well-in' member of the British National Party and possibly other far right orgs. He had been very active at all levels and was possibly implicated in the sort of criminal things that far right groups do.

He then changed sides at some point and worked undercover for the anti-facist 'zine Searchlight, before exposing the BNP on a World In Action prog, then went into extreme Green politics before finally washing up on the shores of ufology.

Left, right, left, right. Whose tune was he really marching to? A guy called Larry O'Hara whose obsession in life is rooting about in the dusty corners of extreme politics alleges that Tim Matthews - real name Tim Hepple - is really working for the UK military in an intelligence deep cover situation and that his 'job' is one of agent provocateur, spreading disinformation among ufologists.

Crikey.

Challenged about this Tim vigorously denied the UK military bit but freely admits he was in the BNP and most of the other affiliations. Except a particularly nasty one about his alleged involvement in a far right white supremacist pseudo-religious organisation called The Church of The Creator.

The thin skinny on this stuff can be found in other zines, or in one of the three (count 'em) booklets which people have written about his alleged activities. Type 'Tim Hepple' into an Internet search engine and see what happens.

These allegations, some ufologists claimed, justified what they had said about Tim all along.

These deeds were all quite a few years ago now. Are people not allowed to have a past? And if we are talking political extremists how about

Patrick Harrington who used to print BUFORAs magazine -he is involved in some seriously deep and murky far right political shit. Or maybe George Sturgeon, former BUFORA witness support group member who filled their 'newsletter' with racist nonsense?

There's a lot of it about and I suspect if you scratched a few well known ufologists, whom I'd rather not name for legal reasons, you'd find a strange political smell coming from them.

But what's Tim up to in ufology with a background such as this? Who knows, but it does seem as if he's been involved in more plots than a gravedigger. Ideal for ufology I hear you say, yes and that's why he's comes so far so quick. The inter group politicking he can do whilst eating his Shreddies and his grass roots activist background make research and investigation a cinch. He draws people into his lectures and gives them some of what they want and a lot of what he wants.

Hey, just like real politics!

Let's just have a break now and turn our attentions back (I know, it's tedious but it's got to come out, like drawing a boil) to BUFORA. We'll have another look at Tim in a while. You'll see what happens.

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Even Mushrooms Don't Get Treated This Way!

BUFORA carried on its implementation of the darkness/bullshit equation when Chairman Steve 'I don't' Gamble announced he was to be chairman of the new Thousand Year Wretch,...no, sorry, just for the next three years. Yup, no voting, no consultation, just there y'go. It will all get ratified at the AGM in April. On the nod. Gamble sent out a missive which covered the whole debacle up as usual.

Instead of actually telling the little people what had taken place, that they were skint and gooks were on the wire the spin doctors had been at work. No mention of any of the various challenges or upsets, no mention of the hideous financial mess BUFORA is in. No mention of how they are unable to service the members with the six magazines they paid for (the last one was out in autumn '97). And so on.

Which all reminds me of the joke:

Q: How many BUFORA members does it take to change a lightbulb?

A: None - they just form a support group called 'Coping With Darkness.'

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View Halloo!

And then, simply because I won't stop criticising the stupid things they do BUFORA started an Andy Roberts backlash. About bloody time too, sport has been thin on the ground recently.

Dave 'Sensible' Newton attended a super secret meeting on the astral, where old men with rolled up trouser legs and rolled down imaginations blew up each others noses to see whose turn it was in the barrel.

Dave was it - 'cos he's The Chosen One - and he was despatched to start wittering about some subs which went awry when the IUN collapsed in 1992.

Merely resting in my account I assure you.

I won't bore you with the details - the full text of thrust and riposte was on the BUFORA members page (loads of picture of BUFORA people's members - it's disgusting). You can't see it now because the site's shut down. But you can imagine just how tedious it was.

Anyway in traditional ufologist fashion Sensible twisted whatever 'evidence' was available to his own ends, misquoting letters from Jenny Randles, being vague about facts, times and dates and generally making himself and his masters look stupid.

This sort of propaghandi just won't do and in the end Jenny found out what he'd been up. As a result Sensible got a rather stiffly worded letter accusing him of having 'callously misled' all those he was prittle prattling to by email, about something he knew nothing about.

When we squeezed his melons and got the 'facts' out of him it turned out he was able to supply two names and address of people who didn't get what was owed to them.

Which when you consider the end of the IUN came amidst the death of one founder member, a marriage break up of another and the profound disinterest of a third I don't think that's bad at all.

But Sensible did. and he's in charge of UFO Times and he's one baaaaad mo'fer.

Sensible also runs a parish magazine called Strange Daze which is weak version of UFO Brigantia. Brigantia-lite, if you like. Wags are suggesting that he changes the name to Strange Dave and writes all about his rum old adventures in UFO-land.

But then it would just be a weak copy of The Armchair Ufologist - oops, deja vu Dave!

Sensible ceased his witterings then and went off to seethe quietly. Game over.

And after all that I still got my membership renewed. Which was nice.

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I Had Too Much To Dream Last Night

The scene: A flat somewhere in Southport.

The cast: Tim Matthews and Eric Morris.

Tim and Eric stand at the side of a large table marked out into a map of the north. Small counters with pictures of ufologists dot the map. Eric surreptitiously slides one with a picture of him on it across into Wales. Tim notices and slaps his hand sharply.....

'No Eric', I do the pushing about in this game.'

'But you said.....'

'Never mind what I said, I've said lots of things.'

'But.'

'Never mind the buts Morris, you're mine now and you'll do as I say, or the photographs go public. What haf you put in zis schnapps Morris? I'm feeling quite ill.....'

Zo, vif LAPIS und NLUFOIG cringing vif terror und vif BUFORA in disarray it's time to cement our redoubt.'

'What's a redoubt Tim?'

'Zey are things I don't haf Eric. Ze final solution is a conference in Southport, one like they haf nefer seen before. One vich vil elevate me - put that counter of Irene Bott down Morris, you'll make it sticky - still higher.'

'Wow Tim, you're great.'

'I know but remember who's in charge Morris.'

'Can't I be in charge as well Tim.'

'No Morris. Anyway virst ve take Lancashire unt zen ve reich, sorry reach, for the stars.'

'But you don't think they come from the stars Tim.'

'Shuttit unterufologist, I've told you about the buts.'

'But Tim, Tim, if they don't come from the stars, and Tony says they do and so do we, where do they come from.'

'Haven't you been listening Morris? Zis year ve zink ze government makes them.'

'No ET then Tim?'

'No Eric, you're a debunker this year.'

'What's a debunker Tim?'

'Debunker? That's where it all ends Eric.'

and then I woke up, got out of bed.....  
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Southport Uber Alles

So there we were at Tim Matthews' conference on 24th January.

I've written about the conference in Fortean Times and it was a very, very, good day.....but as usual at these events conspiracy was lurking in the minds of some of those present.

Harry Harris was there, having taken time off from big game hunting. He arrived with the secret intention of reading out a screed which told of how he simply hated Joe Dormer of LAPIS who had called Harry a nasty rough boys name at the '96 LAPIS conference. See how the science of ufology is advanced?

But Tim Matthews found out and they held heated council in one of the corridors. A psychic game of paper, water, stone was played intensely for half an hour and Harris lost. In the end all he had to offer from the stage was some old tosh about an advertising balloon and the girl wot seen it 'avin 'ad a bit 'o missing time, knowwarramean?

People were openly sniggering at the suggestion that this balloon had 'panels' and was capable of creating missing time in a witness who was clearly miles away. Hypnotic regression had been used and Harris sniffed an abduction. We were less than thrilled.

Throughout the talk delivered by Harry and sidekick David ('I'm a nuts and bolts man') Caton, Kevin McClure was on top form, challenging Harry's every utterance. Hearing that Harry used a 'homeopathic psychologist' McClure quipped, 'Does that mean he uses psychology in very small doses?'. Harris was not amused and retorted, quite inappropriately, 'I'm not a charlatan you know'.

What?

Had we suggested that Harry was a member of the '60s San Franciscan psychedelic band? Or indeed the much later 'baggy' group hailing from Northwich in Cheshire. No - so what are you on about Harry?

We thought a while.....

Ahhhh, surely Harry you didn't mean anyone could possibly think your research methods were crap, your claims highly questionable and your attitude aggressive? Because no-one there said that. We just think you exhibit a startling naivet=E9 in the light of the available evidence. That's all.

Of course Harry has since been telling people he thought the conference was a debunker's outing and he wasn't at all impressed. He'll probably threaten to sue me for telling other people what he said and what I thought of it.

If you want to know more about the conference read my piece in F.T. or in NARO's zine. We're running out of time now and the best bit is yet to come.

It's eight o'clock. We've all been sat there for a long time now and it's the abduction debate. Graceful Glo from BUFORA has just delivered her keynote speech (by now readers she has my balls in a bag to treasure for all time - ask her to show you) and we are just about ready to have a good old chin wag when.....

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Here's Laaaarrrry

It was Laaaaaarrrrrrry.

Yes, the fabled Larry O'Hara, scourge of the right, in the flesh. Right there before us in casual schoolteacher threads and gurlly scarf. The guy has got bottle you have to admit. As he started denouncing Tim for his crimes against everyone who wasn't Laaaaaarrrrry Tim narrowed his eyes, flared his nostrils (very popular fashion in the 70s, flared nostrils), turned a light shade of puce and propelled himself down the aisle toward Laaaary.

You should have seen the looks on people's faces! Thinking they had come to learn the truth behind the X Files, instead they found themselves in the centre of a near drubbing incident.

What did O'Hara and his running hamsters of the far left hope to achieve? Did they think that ufologists would be overawed by his revelations and spew forth onto the streets, march to London and present a petition to Tony Blair demanding something they would have forgotten about by the time they got there?

Hey Larry, these are ufologists we're talking about. Most of them can't understand the letter for today in Sesame Street, never mind the bonkers nonsense of a man who clearly needs a life, a hobby and a good shag.

The whole thing was surreal. Kevin McClure tried to act as intermediary (O'Hara subs. to Abduction Watch so Kevin thought he may have influence). To no avail and this flurry of unexplained paranormal phenomena evoked the base nature of those involved and what can only be described as 'shouting and pointing' took place (I have the photos).

Larry was duly shuffled outside whereupon Eric 'I've been a sailor, me' Morris allegedly kicked him in the research department. Other, less politically aware, souls demonstrated their profound ignorance of the dialectic process and simply told him to fuck off.

Either he would or he wouldn't and this disturbance of the either led to a strange ringing noise that resolved into the formation of a small cop circle which swirled him right outta town.

Prior to that, as O'Hara was 'escorted from the premises' some weird beards in the audience started handing out leaflets about Tim's badness. Another videod the proceedings. Tim's father in law assisted one beardy bloke away in fine style and peace descended once more.

Great stuff. We should book Tim'n'Laaary for every UFO conference as a floor show. But Tim's equilibrium was visibly shaken. Was this, people whispered, because he'd been exposed as left-talkin-right-walking-ufologically-infiltratin' government asset?

Or simply because he was being hounded by a nutter for enthusiastic discretions in his (hitler) youth?

God knows. And God, as everyone knows, is mit uns.

But consider how the UFO community deals with this problem. Do governments put people in the subject to disrupt and disorganise? Would they be as obvious as Tim? Or maybe his obviousness is a cover in itself. Any permutation is possible on the Rubik Cube of paranoia.

If Tim really is in soft cover, working for the Dark Forces at MFI, B&Q or any other furniture manufacturer then we are pleased to welcome them to a game they won't forget in a hurry.

But Tim does seem to have plans for world domination. His past is perturbing - what if we all gave him our support and he did turn out to be what people accuse him of?

Let's look at the Timrise from two different alignments.

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#### If It's Tuesday It Must Be Poland

Fresh from his triumphs as a state asset in the left and right his paymasters launch him from nowhere into ufology. Why? Well ufologists are interested in military craft and establishments, one good infiltrator could put them on the wrong track totally, and set the subject back thirty years and be gone before the dust settles. First get your power - Quest, no good, too well organised, soon falls out. Pisses off the local Lancashire groups, no future there, attaches himself to BUFORA with high hopes of power and status until BUFORAs legendary apathy and southerncentricism slowed him down too much, formed an alphabet soup of orgs, planned a supergroup involving that other outcast of UK ufology Philip Mantle, takes over the subject feeds it with whatever info he wishes, intimidates those who would oppose him and when his masters call him off he just disappears leaving the whole ball game in a big mess.....

or

#### We'll Fight Them On The Beaches

In which Tim, a bright lad, rebels in his youth and gets involved with big boys with bad ideas. It could happen to any of us. Has a road to domestos experience and dobs the baddies in to the goodies but errs too far left. Wrong map. You can take the boy out of politics but you can't take politics out of the boy. Discovers ufology relatively late, realises most 'research' is a bag of shite and that there is a good case for secret terrestrial craft being misperceived as UFOs, which the gov are happy to go along with, annoys everyone because he has 'presence' and isn't afraid to tell people when they are being stupid, realises local groups, Quest and BUFORA are a waste of time and that by moving fast and light he can move across the enemies' heartland in his panze...sorry, by not burdening himself with structure he can get things done, gets a book contract on the strength of his new and vigorous ideas and suddenly finds earlier 'enthusiasms' catching up with him, ufologist being paranoids take it all too seriously, forges ahead despite this and acts as a badly needed purgative to an egg bound subject, ufology moves forward in leaps and bounds and people erect golden statues of Tim in their gardens.

See what I mean?

Let's ask Max for a comment, he'll know;

"Tim Matthews? He's Intel."

Yeah, right Max.

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Hey, Wait A Minute Mr Postman

As Tim rose so did his enemies. Several 'anonymous' leaflets were sent out being very cruel to him indeed. Run by an anonymous group called SHADO they were straight to the point and upset a lot of people. Which is presumably what they were intended to do.

As usual in ufology everyone accused everyone else but and they were all wrong - at least about the first two. I have my suspicions but in this instance, just for once, I'm not telling you.

As for the third one, which dealt largely with the activities of Eric Morris, Matthew 'Just' Williams, a Truthseeker, used a scrying machine to ferret out the base art of this hoaxer. 'Just' has claimed that the results of his investigations have revealed it to be none other than the aforementioned Eric 'kicker' Morris, who it seems has been sending out anonymous screeds about himself.

Narcissistic or just plain 'ol sad?  
You decide.

Eric of course vigorously denies this but the simple facts are that no two photocopier 'signatures' are the same and unless someone had sneaked into Eric's orifice and used his copier then he done it!

Weird one eh?

Eric, Tim's ahem, 'right hand man' has also been heard to say everything is rosy in their garden because 'Andy Roberts is behind (us)').

Only in the pantomime sense of the expression Eric old chap.

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Beyond Our Ken (our kid)

And then there's the mysterious case of Tony 'Ken' Dodd. Dodd, who was a mainstay of what used to be YUFOS before Graham Birdsall got a jumper transplant and UFO magazine went bigtime. Dodd was always the wild card in the pack. Whilst the Brothers Grimm at least pretended they were sceptical and level headed, even if their writings showed otherwise, Tony was free of such petty restrictions. Animal mutes, abductions, MIBs, death threats, crash retrievals were just obstacles to the truth, sorry THE TRUTH, in Tony's day to day life.

Anyway the point is that he has now resigned from UFO magazine to pursue investigations privately. I'm sure that he will be publishing the results of all these and that we will soon know the true nature of the alien menace which besets us.

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Dodd Watch

Where was it all going Dodd-watch wanted to know. The answer came soon enough and it was as we had feared. Omar Fowler's newsletter OVNI published a letter from the Doddman which read:

"March 10th 1998

Dear Omar,

Thank you for your letter and the very interesting report attached. I have no doubt whatsoever that some of the flying triangles witnessed over the past few years are of terrestrial origin. I am fairly certain also that some of the huge triangular craft seen in Scotland and in the Arctic Circle both entering and leaving the sea are extra-terrestrial.

My information from highly place sources indicates that there is without doubt liaison going on between a race of ETs and our own people. There is also substantial information that another race of ET with malevolent intent is visiting us. It would appear that we are being given advanced technology by the friendly ET. to enable us to defend against the unfriendly, hence the new generation of triangular aircraft. The weapons in use appear to be highly advanced particle beam weapons which have been used with great success.

This also confirms the reason why so many huge underground facilities have been appearing all over the globe when we are supposed to be living in a peace time environment. Of course the animal and human mutilation situation is all part of this.

With regard to your request for the verses which I received

telepathically. As I said this was one of many messages I received. I have put some of these on tape with background music for easy listening and enclose a copy of the tape for your interest. These messages truly came to me and I hope you find them interesting.

Yours sincerely,

Tony Dodd,

'Easy listening'! Like, crazy man. I must get a tape for those relaxed evenings at home. Groove on down to the harmonious sounds of Tony and the Aliens backed by Joe 'Time' Loss and the Paranormal Orchestra. It's trad ufology dad.

Tony's capacity for belief clearly rivals even that of the queen in Alice in Wonderland, who could believe six impossible things before breakfast. Hell, I bet Tony doesn't even eat breakfast. That way there's more time for those impossible things!

Doddwise things got much (oh yes they could) worse in late March with the publication of *Abducted* by Ann Andrews and Jean Ritchie. Based on the alleged abduction of a child from Essex which Doddy had written about in UFO zine, this book is one heap of unadulterated rubbish. If it were a fish it would be a bottom feeder. No doubt others will pull it limb from limb (look out for Kevin McClure's FT piece for starters), so we won't bother here.

The only 'good' thing in the book is that thankfully no regression hypnosis was used. But despite the wonga which will come the poor kids' way, how will this affect him? He's a child and if we have one responsibility in life it is to children. For the sake of a few pieces of gold Ritchie, Dodd and his parents have changed this poor little sod's life forever. I just hope someone keeps a track of how it all works out for him and that one day he is able to realise he has been hoodwinked by the really evil twin forces of belief and commercialism. Able to realise that, and filled with the desire to speak out against the people - not aliens- who have abused him and his right to a peaceful childhood.

All I can say about the book is don't waste your money. Besides the alleged abduction which is risible, there is some terminal nonsense about Doddy and t'ing but the real meat comes on page 80 near the bottom.

"Quest came into being when Graham Birdsall, who set it up, found himself wondering who to turn to about his own abduction experiences."

So Graham has been abducted eh? Answers a lot of questions. I immediately emailed the Greyster to get to the, er, 'bottom' of this abduction allegation. He replied thusly:

'Appreciate your letting me know that I'm supposed to have been whisked away. Yes, it's news to me as well. I have been so busy I've not had time to fully read the book as yet, just leafed through some of the chapters, so I guess I'd better say something in the next issue of the mag. Trouble is, someone is bound to write-in and suggest I undergo hypnotic regression - just in case....'

If we were predictin' kinds of folks our guess is that it's squirm city at Kastle Kwest. We'd also predict a Tony Tome on the horizon, possibly co-authored by Jean Ritchie and featuring nonsense a-go-go, and hopefully maybe a free tape with some alien messages for that all-important easy listening.

Tough on Ufology - Tough on the Causes of Ufology  
Ufology: Delicious Hot - Disgusting Cold

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