

New Bufora Journal

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Extraterrestrial Intelligence
Zen & The Art of Debunkery
Investigations Diary
From Here and There

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October 2003 Edition

Editorial



There are some jobs in life that are like painting the Forth rail bridge. Just as you finish at one end, you need to start again at the other. In UFOlogy editing the magazine is a little like that! Before the Post Office have collected the proofs of one issue from the pillar box, you have to be well into the production of the next.

After launching the New BUFORA Journal and editing the first nine issues Norman Oliver has decided to stand down as editor. I was going to say that Norman was getting a well deserved rest but he is undertaking other jobs on behalf of BUFORA, so it may be a while before he gets chance to relax! Anyway, thanks for all the hard work Norman (and the nice write-up in NBJ9).

Unexpectedly I find myself back in the editor's chair, having done previous stints as editor of the Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena, two stints as editor of the BUFORA Bulletin and various other editing jobs in between. As I said at the beginning, editing the Journal can be a continuous job. Therefore I have offered only to do it for around eight issues, which will give the Council time to recruit a new editor. I have already started writing my farewell Editorial!

Although over time I may introduce changes, broadly speaking the Journal will continue in format as it has been established by Norman and his team. As well as new material I plan to include reprints of some earlier articles from BUFORA publications, reprint key material from other journals and perhaps take some retrospective looks at earlier events.

The Journal relies on members not only for

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Articles, but also for other items like newspaper clippings, readers letters and details of meetings and other events. Please send your contributions either to the BUFORA office or to the Journal email address as shown inside the front cover.

Although the extraterrestrial hypothesis still seems to be very popular, it has to be said that it is only one of many different theories that have been put forward to explain UFO reports. I hope to publish articles that explore these many theories in the coming issues, but that depends upon you the readers providing me with suitable material to publish.

Unfortunately it has taken me longer than anticipated to put this issue together, hence its lateness, for which I apologise. Hopefully in this case the NBJ will be like London busses – you wait ages for one then another comes along immediately behind.

Steve Gamble

Where Are We At?

Steve Gamble

Recently I was asked by my friend Gary just what have UFO groups contributed to the study of UFOs. A fair enough question I suppose. But it did provoke the thought that perhaps we should go back to basics and just look at what we do know.

Before I leave Gary altogether, perhaps I should just say a few words about him. Gary is a UFO experimenter, perhaps what some people would call an abductee or a contactee. Over the years Gary has seen a number of strange objects with his main report being of something around 25 years ago. Following on from his UFO sightings he has had a number of other strange experiences which as a short-hand I will describe as paranormal and in some respects religious. In a later issue of the Journal I hope to write something describing more fully something about his reports, and perhaps invite Gary to write a little in his own words.

Anyway back to basics!

As a working definition of a UFO I use :

A UFO is something seen in the sky, or on land or exceptionally in the water, but which the witness thought to be capable of flight, which the witness could not identify and felt was sufficiently strange that they reported it to an official (e.g. the police or the MOD) or unofficial (e.g. BUFORA) investigating body.

It can be seen that there are three important aspects to the UFO, namely the UFO itself which is the stimulus, which is observed by the WITNESS, who then records those observations in a REPORT.

Of course, coming back to my friend Gary, one of the great things that UFO groups have

done is to provide witnesses somewhere where they can report whatever they have seen, where the witnesses will be given a sympathetic ear and where an attempt will be made, within the limited resources available, to identify what was seen.

Averaged out over time, BUFORA probably receives around 200 reports per year. Of these roughly 10% mention nothing that could be classed as a UFO by my definition, but do contain information about other aspects of the paranormal, for example poltergeist or ghost activity.

Perhaps another 10% of reports received contain insufficient information to be of any value in analysis. The sort of report I am thinking of here are the ones that maybe consist of four or five lines of vague data. For example : 'About 20 years ago I saw a UFO, I think it may have been during the summer perhaps in the evening. It might have been white (or perhaps yellow). I lived in Surrey at the time so I guess it was near where I lived'.

So that leaves us with just 80% of what we started with which may be suitable for further investigation as UFOs.

Following careful investigation, a definite explanation can be given for around 30% of the remaining reports. For around another 10% of reports no explanation can be offered. That is not to say that they are definite evidence of some new phenomenon, or extraterrestrial spacecraft, or anything else. They merely remain unidentified. At some point in the future additional evidence may come to light which may allow them to be explained. I like to think of the raw reports received from witnesses as being Level 1 UFOs, and those still unexplained after investigation as being Level 2 UFOs.

What about the rest?

Following investigation it is possible to suggest identification for the objects in these reports. The suggestions range from highly probable down to just possible. It is an area

of dispute not only between researchers but also between researchers and witnesses.

Technically an object could be considered to remain unidentified if only a probable or possible explanation can be offered. However, if you are trying to build a theory explaining UFO reports as a whole you need to work with the best data available. In the case of UFOs that is generally the 10% of reports for which no explanation can be given. Often researchers will say that 90% of UFO reports can be explained. This 90% includes not only those with a definite explanation but also those with possible and probable explanations which are unsuitable for further analysis.

The raw reports could be thought of as a Level 1 unidentified object, and those remaining unidentified after investigation as a sort of Level 2 unidentified. It should always be held in mind that if new techniques or further evidence becomes available that it may well be possible to identify previously unsolved cases. A parallel example of this might be the area of DNA testing where the introduction of this new technique has allowed the police authorities to clear up a number of previously unsolved crimes.

Now we have agreed that UFO means merely an unidentified object we can speculate about the possible origins of these UFOs. There have been at least forty theories put forward to explain the unexplained reports. I do not propose to go into all of them in detail here, but perhaps, we can visit some of them in later issues.

Basically all the theories can be grouped together into four main groups.

The first of these groups is that UFOs are the result of advanced technology. This group would include the idea that UFOs are all the result of misidentification of manmade objects. But it could also include theories such as UFOs are secret weapons or that UFOs are extraterrestrial craft or time travellers.

The second group is that UFOs are natural phenomena. There have been a number of theories that have been forward that would fall into the group. They include the idea that UFO reports may be caused by ball lightning, or earthlights or mirages.

The third group is that UFOs may be the result of physiological or psychological effects. One idea held by a few sceptics seems to be that all UFO witnesses are mad. It is not an idea I subscribe to. Indeed a number of witnesses have been assessed by psychiatrists or psychologists and no problems have been identified. But these theories would include, for example, Albert Budden's work that shows some witnesses are susceptible to strong electric fields. Or that some other temporary imbalance in their physiology either causes them to see UFOs or causes a change in their senses that allows them to see normally unseen UFOs.

The final group is that UFOs may be some form of psychic phenomenon. By this I mean something a kin to apparitions or materialisations. A number of researchers have remarked on the similarities between some aspects of UFO phenomena such as abductions and other aspects of the paranormal.

I am not sure that I favour any particular theory over any other. I believe that where there is more than two or three possible explanations for something what we really mean is we do not know.

Obviously this is just a brief overview and can not do full justice to the subject. However, I am of the view that researchers and witnesses need to work together and to build on each others experience. I am sure there is a famous quotation by Sir Issac Newton that goes something along the lines that to make progress we need to build on the shoulders of giants.

Extraterrestrial Intelligence?

Geoff Falla

Geoff has been an active member of both BUFORA's Research and Investigation teams for many years. He was a member of the original working party looking at cases of vehicle interference and put together the final report – the Vehicle Interference Report, which he has recently updated. Here Geoff examines some of the evidence for extraterrestrial intelligence.

The search for extraterrestrial radio signals - the SETI project, has not yet announced any definite results. At the beginning of 2003, about 150 promising signals had been identified, and these were to be checked more thoroughly. Plans were also in hand to widen and improve the search, with a new observatory at Harvard University, Massachusetts, also starting a search for laser signals.

When Dr Frank Drake of Cornell University started the original project, in 1959, the estimate arrived at in discussion with scientific colleagues was that the existence of extraterrestrial civilizations was almost certain. Scientific opinion was also expressed that given the rate at which technology can be developed, any such civilizations could have already explored through the Milky Way galaxy, including our own solar system. Dr Carl Sagan, a member of the original discussion panel, agreed with this virtual certainty of other life in the Universe. He confirmed that there seemed to be no physical reasons why interstellar exploration could not have been achieved.

Given this level of probability, is there evidence that the existence of extraterrestrial intelligence may perhaps be not that far away? Could Earth have already been visited in the past, or in present times? Although there are historical records involving sightings of unexplained objects, or strange phenomena, it is not certain how well these were investigated, or what natural

explanations could have been considered at the time.

Professor Peter Sturrock, who was Director of the Centre for Space Science and Astrophysics at Stanford University, California, conducted a survey of more than a thousand members of the American Astronomical Society in 1976. The survey asked whether the astronomers had experienced any unusual observations which they had been unable to explain. The response was that some of the astronomers, amounting to a few per cent, had in fact observed objects which they were completely unable to explain, in the category of unidentified flying objects. A more substantial number of the astronomers thought that the subject of UFOs deserved more serious scientific study.

In 1982, Professor Sturrock established the Society for Scientific Exploration, for the unbiased investigation of these and other anomalous experiences, and in 1997 he went further by setting up a panel of scientists to study a selection of UFO reports which included some kind of physical evidence. The study included photographs, radar-visual cases, interference effects involving vehicles and aircraft, and physical traces.

The conclusions of this study were that there was unlikely to be a simple answer to UFO reports, that scientists could learn something new from the study of these unexplained observations, and that studies should concentrate on reports which include as much independent physical evidence as possible.

Photographic evidence of what may be unexplained objects is not always reliable, for several reasons, unless supported by visual observation. There are, however, a number of photographs which appear to confirm the reality of unknown objects.

More reliable cases include radar-visual incidents, sometimes confirming the observation of objects travelling at high speeds, and with sharp turns, considered to

be well beyond the capabilities of any aircraft. It has been found that many of these radar-visual reports cannot be explained in any conventional way.

Interference effects involving vehicles, and aircraft, are another type of unexplained event. Of all the physical effects claimed to be associated with UFO reports, these interference effects are perhaps the most puzzling. In several hundred cases of this type, vehicle engines and lights lose power, or fail completely, while an unknown object is seen nearby, and do not return to normal until the unknown object has moved away again. Aircraft crews have also reported magnetic and other effects in similar incidents.

There may not be much awareness of this evidence, unless the subject has been studied in some U'etai'L. When opinion polls have been carried out, the general opinion seems to be that UFOs do exist. This opinion seems to have strengthened with recently reported cases, but the interpretation of the reports, and whether they really are evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence, has been more debatable. As long ago as 1948, however, soon after the first wave of reports came to public attention, a secret 'estimate of the situation', prepared by the U.S. Air Force Technical Intelligence Centre, concluded that UFOs were interplanetary. The report was not accepted, on the orders of the Chief of Staff.

The French Minister of Defence, when interviewed on the subject in 1974, emphasized that it was necessary to adopt an extremely open attitude of mind, and that the subject of UFOs was not at all understood. There were no definite conclusions, but he admitted that he had taken a particular interest in apparent correlations between UFO reports and magnetic field changes. A network of research stations in France had already established that major disturbances of the magnetic field coincided with UFO reports in the same locality.

Reports of UFO incidents in France are investigated first by the local Gendarmerie,

before being passed on to a Department of the French National Space Centre in Toulouse for more detailed study. The Centre had come to several conclusions. It had been established that magnetic compasses were affected in about two per cent of the cases, and that vehicle engine failures occurred where there was electric ignition. It was thought that the apparent brightness of the reported objects could perhaps be produced by ionization of the atmosphere. Objects seen on the ground were also noted in a proportion of cases. The same pattern of events was apparent in other countries, and it seemed evident that there was some intelligence behind the phenomena.

In 1999, a study carried out in France by the Institute of Higher Studies for National Defence (COMETA) reached the conclusion that the physical reality of UFOs under intelligent control was almost certain, and that the only hypothesis which took into account all of the available data was that they were of extraterrestrial origin.

Many contrary explanations for the various unexplained reports have been put forward by government officials, astronomers, and scientists. Some of the explanations may seem at first to be plausible, but in many cases they do not take into account most of the evidence, and are then found to be just not possible when further investigated. These explanations, however, do perhaps have the desired effect of reducing public interest until the whole matter is quietly forgotten.

Are there other unexplained phenomena which may also be considered as possible evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence? There are many reports of phys4@cal traces 4in the form of ground markings, and vegetation effects relating to UFO incidents, but even more controversial are the mysterious crop circles. Given the possible reality of UFOs as being of extraterrestrial origin, it has been thought that the circles may be evidence of landing sites. That was in the earliest, and more simple form of the crop circles, but other explanations have become more obvious.

The crop circles have been appearing mostly in the South of England, but also in other countries. The circles, which began to appear around 1980 in precise forms, have become more frequent, with complex patterns.

At first, it was thought that the crop circles were the result of whirlwinds. Efforts were made to pursue this theory, even as more complex shapes began to appear. It seemed clear, however, that there were several reasons why whirlwinds could not be responsible for these shapes. Not least of these reasons was that the formations always had very clear cut edges. A whirlwind would not always remain completely stationary while the shape was being formed. The crop was flat on the ground, not lifted, and the circles appeared overnight. It was also difficult to understand how any kind of natural phenomenon could be a recent development.

It became more obvious that many of the circles, and particularly the more complex patterns, must be hoax formations. But even here, there were claimed to be unexplained features. The formations were often found in inaccessible areas, sometimes only discovered from the air. It has also been found that the crop is often undamaged, and with the stalks bent flat at right angles to the ground, but without being broken. Some of the shapes are slightly oval on sloping ground, depending on the angle of slope. More surprisingly, there is also claimed to be evidence of heating effects, and of magnetic effects when compared with the surrounding area.

There have always been occasional reports of unexplained luminous objects in areas where crop circle patterns have appeared, but another apparent link with UFO reports has been found, in association with the study of the reported interference effect cases. When the locations of the vehicle interference effect incidents were checked in the British cases, some concentration of these reports was noted in one particular area - the adjoining counties of Wiltshire and Hampshire. These are the same counties

where the great majority of the crop circles and patterns have also been appearing. This could perhaps be dismissed as just a coincidence, but it goes further than that. The more precise locations of many of these events are also the same in both cases. It is beginning to look as if there is a definite link, but the reasons for such a link may not become apparent until the incidents are studied in more detail.

It seems that the crop circle formations have been a developing phenomenon, however they are formed. One of the most complex patterns, the 'Arecibo Message', appeared near Winchester in July 2001. This was similar to the message transmitted in November 1974 to the Hercules star cluster M 13, from the radio telescope in Puerto Rico.

Whether these crop circles patterns are largely produced by hoaxing, conceivably by some kind of experiment from the air, or by something else, it will be interesting to see if this development continues, or if it will diminish if the novelty of design begins to fade.

There are occasional reports which suggest that there is more to these unexplained phenomena than we may realize. It has been revealed that governments around the world have kept much of the information secret, but exchange information in some cases. As long ago as 1959, when the NASA organization was first formed, and was considering its plans for space research, it received advice from Washington's long established Brookings Institution. Part of that advice was that if evidence of extraterrestrial intelligence was discovered, NASA should give serious consideration to not saying anything about it. Perhaps this is the reason for some of the secrecy.

Astronauts have sometimes reported unexplained objects in space, with many firmly believing in the existence of other intelligences. When we also read that the Ukrainian National Academy of Sciences has

actually been conducting a search for alien artifacts on the Moon's surface, it really gives us cause to wonder whether there may indeed be much more to all of this than may at first seem evident.

Sightings of Unknown Objects, and reported effects.

(The following selection of reports are mostly shortened summaries, which do not include all of the original details.)

August 18, 1783. From the terrace of Windsor Castle, four witnesses - including a founder of the Royal Academy, observed a strange oblong shaped cloud. Below this, a brilliantly lit object became stationary before moving again eastwards, and changing direction. The sighting was recorded in the Philosophical Transactions of the Royal-Society.

January 12, 1836. At 6 a.m. in St Martins, Guernsey, a very bright object was seen, stationary for a while before it moved away westwards at speed. On the same day in Cherbourg, Normandy, a luminous object was seen which had a dark cavity at the centre, and seemed to spin on its axis. The sighting in France was recorded in the Report of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, 1860.

December 6, 1952. Over the Gulf of Mexico the crew of a B 29 aircraft observed on radar, and later visually, several formations of disc-shaped objects passing the aircraft at speeds of between 5,000 and 9,000 m.p.h. Some of the objects, which were blue in colour, manoeuvred to avoid the aircraft. On the radarscope the objects were seen to converge towards a large spot, where they disappeared.

November, 1957. In Texas and New Mexico, there was a series of more than a dozen incidents over a four day period, involving sightings of unknown luminous objects, and the reported failure of vehicle engines and

lights while the objects were nearby. A U.S. Air Force investigator explained the incidents as the result of a severe electrical storm, causing exaggeration of what was seen, but some years later atmospheric physicist Dr James McDonald established that there were no storms at the times of the sightings.

November 6, 1967. Between Avon and Sopley in Hampshire, a large luminous object was seen to pass slowly between a car and a lorry. The car lights and engine failed, and the lights of the diesel engined lorry. The engine and lights would not operate again until the object began to move farther away, accelerating and disappearing in seconds.

March 10, 1969. At about 10.30 a.m. near Lancaster, Missouri, a motorist saw a light beam on the road, and looked up to see a grey disc-shaped object with a dome, which was emitting the light beam from underneath. As the beam touched the car, its speed dropped from 50 m.p.h. to 8 m.p.h. When it had passed through the beam, the car functioned normally again. On the evening of the same day, a police chief driving near Westhope, North Dakota, observed a similar object, also emitting a light beam. The object hovered nearby for about ten minutes before it moved away at speed. He also reported that his hand radio had been affected by heavy static interference while the-object was nearby;.

September 17, 1976. At Wingen, Australia, a motor mechanic driving on the New England Highway found his car engine and lights failing suddenly. He could not find any faults, but his torch would not turn on, and its magnetic clamp would not hold on to the car body. A large blue ball of light was then seen, passing low overhead before it disappeared over a mountain range. After a while the car engine could be restarted.

December 28, 1980. Personnel from Woodbridge Air Base, Suffolk, went to investigate lights seen moving through the trees nearby in Rendlesham Forest, and reported seeing a triangular metallic-looking

object on the ground before it left the area. Later investigation found depressions at the site, and radiation traces. A memorandum was sent to the Ministry of Defence, but the incident was not revealed until more than two years later, under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act in the U.S.A. January 8, 1981. At Trans-en-Provence, in the South of France, the reported brief landing of an unknown object was investigated. The object, shaped like two saucers face to face, had made a slight whistling sound. Scientific analysis under the direction of a department of the French National Space Centre at Toulouse found strange effects on plants at the site, evidence of heating, and of a powerful electromagnetic field in the microwave frequency range.

September 25, 1988. In Lorraine County, Ohio, a motorist was travelling along Route 113 on a clear night when his car stalled. He was surprised to find two other cars stalled at the side of the road. He got out of his car, and had been talking to the four other people for a few minutes when they realized that there were lights in the nearby woods, coming from a silvery triangular object with a rim, and a rounded base. The treetops over the object seemed to be moving, although it was a calm night. After about fifteen minutes the object rose at an angle, slowly and silently, passing overhead. The object seemed wider than the road, and from the centre of its base there was a white light like a fluorescent lamp.

July 31, 1995.-At San Carlos de Bariloche Airport, Argentina, an airliner was about to land when an unknown flying object appeared in its path, approaching at speed. The object halted in front of the aircraft, then moved on to a parallel course. The airport lights then failed. The chief official at the airport confirmed the incident, and reported that apart from the power failure, the control tower instruments were also affected. November 28, 2002. In Buenos Aires, Argentina, two policemen in a patrol car saw a large light manoeuvring in the sky before it approached the car. As the light then reversed its course, the car engine and lights failed. About half an

hour later, when the object had disappeared, the police car siren suddenly came on, and the engine restarted. A total of five police officers were involved in the incident.

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FROM HERE AND THERE

At a recent Council meeting it was decided to examine the possibility of holding additional lectures outside London. As they say – watch this space.

At the same Council meeting there was a reshuffle of jobs. I am pleased to announce that Tony Eccles has rejoined the Council and will be taking over as Director of Research. Existing Director of Research John Spencer recently became vice-chairman and will be sharing his time between this role and being deputy Director of Research.

It looks as if the number of UFO reports are picking up again. Over the summer there were a number of sightings around the midlands in the UK including at least one incident which was videoed, more information next issue. The number of sightings worldwide also seems on the increase. Of particular note is that there has been a wave of reports from the Ontario region of Canada.

From UFO Roundup –
**SILVER SPHERE UFO SEEN IN
LINCOLNSHIRE, UK**

On Friday, July 18, 2003, at 4 p.m., Kevin M. reported, "My father saw a bright silver round object, travelling from the northeast to the southwest" over Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, UK. "The object was very high in a clear blue sky, small amount of cloud, no engine noise. Real bright silver, very high, no contrails, a lot faster than a military fighter, almost instant speed." (Email Form Report)

As we closed for press reports are coming in of the death of long-time BUFORA council member Manfred Cassirer. Hopefully, we can give a full report in the next issue.

Continued on page 13

Mindfields

A brief examination into how electromagnetic fields and systematic childhood abuse may contribute to CEIV encounters and other paranormal events.

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The following article has been adapted from an essay written for EJUFOAS, (The European Journal of UFO and Abduction Studies) with the permission of the author Albert Budden. A respected researcher, Budden has produced a viable explanation for a variety of phenomena hitherto deemed as paranormal. His conclusions are based on existing and fully corroborated scientific data and information obtained in controlled laboratory conditions. The subject matter of this article also raises many pertinent questions regarding the nature of consciousness and mind

There have been many reasons posited for the bizarre and unwelcome phenomenon of alien abduction; everything from actual kidnapping by extraterrestrials to plain attention seeking by the person(s) involved. However, one of the most thought provoking and readily provable explanations is the hypothesis that the abduction scenario is the product of two factors: electrochemical imbalances and common neural hardwiring in the human brain. This concept has been pioneered for many years by researcher Albert Budden who has experienced a largely uphill struggle against die-hard believers in the ETH (Extraterrestrial Hypothesis), and others, who for a variety of reasons flatly refuse to accept that this is a viable, alternative explanation. The electromagnetic approach to alien abduction developed out of Buddens earlier research into the related phenomena of ghost and poltergeist manifestations.

The work of researchers like Dr. Michael Persinger, professor of neuroscience at the Laurentian University in the USA and Professor Kenneth Ring (among others),

have positively identified that exposure to relatively weak electromagnetic (EM) fields has a pronounced effect on human neurophysiology. Based on this research, it is clear that a range of hallucinations can be induced artificially by introducing EM fields (in most cases using small permanent magnets external to the skull) into the close vicinity of specific areas in the brain (i.e. the temporal lobes, the hippocampus and the amygdala, all components of the limbic system). The temporal lobes (one of the most electrically unstable areas of the brain) are particularly relevant here, because it is this area that appears to be central in a number of paranormal encounters. There are many reports where people have woken from sleep, unable to move and convinced that there is a frightening, invisible presence in the room with them. This is almost certainly due to electrical malfunctions in the temporal lobes induced by the presence of EM fields from a variety of sources.

During a recent neurosurgical procedure conducted during 2002 in Sweden, the surgeons discovered that that when specific areas of the brain surface were touched with electrodes carrying a very weak electrical charge, the recipient experienced a range of odd sensory impressions. These included out of body experiences (OBE's), where the patient (in this instance a woman), felt herself floating near the ceiling of the operating theatre looking down at both her body and the surgical team. As well as having the strong impression that an invisible presence was watching her, she also experienced the almost obligatory sensation of a being drawn towards a tunnel of light. While falling within the parameters of other, similar reported incidents, as we shall see there may be more than the influence of electrical neural stimulation at work here.

It is particularly important to realise that it is not only artificial EM fields that can cause sightings of ghosts and aliens. Prior to the creation of this type of radiation, the main source of EM energy derived from naturally occurring geological elements like magnetic ores and other factors including random

lightening strikes etc. It is often the case that when accounts of long standing 'haunted' sites are examined there is evidence of geological faulting below the area. These faults give rise to slight tectonic movements, which in turn generate EM energy. Factors like this played a vital role in certain sightings predating the arrival of man-made radiation and tended to affect the perceptions of people who were sensitive to electrical fields. On the other hand, accounts of modern hauntings etc. often reveal the presence of artificial EM 'hotspots'. These are created by the proximity of a variety of sources including high tension power lines, radar both civilian and military, Cellphones and Cellphone masts, radio antennae, domestic appliances, faulty household wiring, geomagnetism and even microwave emissions from satellites etc. and sometimes a combination of them all.

In terms of the abduction scenario other factors have become apparent in cases of CEIV, or close encounters of the fourth kind. This term refers to people who not only have seen extraterrestrials, but also have physically been abducted by them, either by persuasion, coercion or physical force. The late UFO researcher Dr Allen Hynek devised the CE (close encounter) 'scale' to cover a spectrum of ET experiences ranging from CEI, (close encounter of the first kind) which encompasses basic sightings of UFO's through CEII and III to CEIV. Each classification describes an increasing level of involvement with both ET's and their craft.

Many examples of apparent evidence are produced to substantiate claimed ET encounters that include, but are not confined to, marks on the body, often in areas not easily reached by the subject, and the insertion of 'implants' beneath the skin. One likely explanation for the marks, which it has to be admitted are quite real, are allergic reactions, which 'contactees' experience when exposed to EM radiation. The subject is usually unaware that they are allergic and therefore attribute the lesions to reasons that best fit into their individual encounter scenarios. The implants, which are assumed

to be used for tracking, monitoring or controlling the recipient and sometimes all three, are often secreted by their captors inside the nasal cavity. Proof of this is claimed when small hard objects (the 'implants') are expelled from the nose when sneezing and also during the appearance of random nosebleeds caused by the enforced surgical procedures.

The EM explanation suggests that small particles of cellular magnetite called 'magnetosomes' become lodged in the human body, especially in the sinus cavity where it gathers in larger quantities. This substance becomes magnetised during exposure to accidental electrical traumas creating a small, permanent magnet, which when in the sinus cavity, is situated immediately below the already electrically unstable temporal lobes. The reason for the nosebleeds is also attributable to the small clumps of magnetite. When exposed to external EM fields, the magnetite rotates, thereby creating a phenomenon called a 'gyromagnetic disturbance'. This is similar to the rotation of the shaft in an electric motor and the result is tissue can be torn releasing blood, which in turn flows from the nose. While it is likely that various subcutaneous means of 'tagging' people by the intelligence community has been successfully attempted, it has to be stated that all so-called 'alien implants' so far scientifically examined have been revealed as small pellets of compacted, human, organic material.

Aside from allergic reactions to EM fields and their affects of on certain areas of the brain, there is another, more worrying factor involved. In the mid 1990's Professor Ring, whilst attached to the psychology dept of Connecticut University, conducted a series of in-depth examinations into the lives of CEIV experiencers. Prof. Ring's investigations built upon earlier evidence suggesting that many people who claim to have experienced CEIV encounters; in addition to being unusually sensitive to EM fields have also been victims of systematic childhood abuse. His findings were published in the book, 'The Omega Project' [pub William Morrow, USA, 1992].

This evidence is particularly interesting for several reasons; the child, as a reaction to continual stress creates a discrete, self-contained, inner fantasy life.

The result of this self-conditioning creates a subjective, virtual reality, defence mechanism that can be accessed as an automatic process that is analogous to changing the channel on a TV set when the programme is unsuitable. The difference in this case is the viewer/experiencer is totally immersed in, and is part of, the new programme. It has to be stressed that the people affected by repeated alien abduction encounters and paranormal episodes have already been sensitised to EM radiation and in many cases go on to become 'serial abductees'. This condition does not affect the vast majority of persons who are not sensitised. Incidentally, this process of abuse is deliberately exploited as a component in a 'brain washing' technique called 'compartmentalisation', which is used by intelligence and other agencies to induce mind control through trauma. The subject is brutally and repeatedly traumatised until the mind, in an act of self-preservation, creates a haven to protect itself from further abuse. Once in this condition, by means of a signal, often key words or phrases, the abuser/controller then effectively programmes the subject to carry out whatever actions are required of them. The process is particularly effective on the very young. The subject while in the altered state will carry out their instructions with no memory of having done so.

Another factor recently discovered in the neuro-biological makeup of abductees, are physical differences in the brain structure brought about by the childhood abuse. The continued stress during the formative years releases a neuro-transmitter called 'cortisol,' which sculpts the brain, producing observable physical differences in an especially electrically irritable limbic system capable of producing a wide range of hallucinations when under stress.

Corroboration for these findings comes from research conducted by an American

neurobiologist Dr. Martin Teicher who measured brain-wave activity in 115 consecutive admissions to a child and psychiatric hospital. 'We found significant brain-wave abnormalities in 54% of patients with a history of early trauma, but only 27% of non-abused patients'. ['The Scars That Won't Heal: The Neurobiology of Child Abuse' Martin H. Teicher, Scientific American, March 2002, pp. 54-61] Also significant is the following comment from the same article 'We observed EEH abnormalities in 72% of those who had documented histories of serious physical and sexual abuse. The irregularities arose in frontal and temporal brain regions and to our surprise, specifically involved the left hemisphere rather than both sides as one would expect.' [Ibid.] Teicher was also able to corroborate his own work: 'Subsequent work by other investigators using magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technology has confirmed an association between early maltreatment and reductions in the size of the adult hippocampus. The amygdala may be smaller as well' [Ibid.] Also quoting previous investigations he states: 'Our findings dovetailed with a 1978 EEG (electroencephalogram) study of adults who were victims of incest. The study's author, Robert W. Davies of the Yale University School of Medicine and his team found that 77% exhibited EEG abnormalities and 27% experienced seizures' [Ibid.].

It is clear that in addition to temporal lobe epilepsy, a significant factor in CEIV experience may be directly attributable to malfunctions within specific areas of the brains of those experiencing both CEIV and paranormal encounters. Having said that, it is also likely that people who are electrically hypersensitive (EH) have elevated psychic abilities as well. It is difficult to say precisely why this should be the case, but it is possible that some latent ability within the human brain is triggered, i.e. 'switched on' by EM irradiation and remains this way. Whilst extremely difficult if not impossible to prove, there are many accounts indicating that mediums and psychics are in fact EH. In cases where EH is not obviously present,

perhaps the person involved was born with the latent ability already fully functional and therefore did not require to be 'jump started'. While many will argue that all PSI talents are non-existent, it appears logical that since the human brain is an organic electrochemical device then, if as has been suggested that we are surrounded by oceans of information, (the '*Morphogenetic fields*' proposed by Prof. Rupert Sheldrake), then perhaps in certain circumstances we can sample this information in various forms. Serious researchers freely admit that there are numerous instances where conventional science fails to explain some PSI manifestations like clairvoyance, mediumship, apparitions and some classes of poltergeist phenomena etc. Therefore, interaction at a non-physical level between the mind and the electromagnetic universe cannot be ruled out and is more likely than not, presumably a mixture of quantum science and metaphysics can supply some of the answers.

FROM HERE AND THERE

Continued from Page 9

I understand that BUFORA vice-president Lionel Beer has recently published a new book on one of his other interests – The Hampton Waterworks Railway. Details from Lionel (see his advert on back page)

Two more items from UFO ROUNDUP

UFO SIGHTED BY TEEN IN SOUTHWESTERN TURKEY

On Wednesday, August 13, 2003, at 11:30 p.m., eyewitness Arzum, 18, "was listening to my Walkman tape on my balcony" in Denizli, a city in southwestern Turkey about 310 kilometers (186 miles) from Ankara, the national capital, when he spotted a UFO.

Arzum reported, "I was gazing at the sky. All of a sudden, an ellipse-shaped object that

was bigger than a star and very bright passed me by. I got so excited I stood up at once. My relatives noticed my sudden ascent."

"The object was huge. It could not be compared to the stars. It was the size of a 50 Turkish lira coin (The same as a quarter or a 25-cent USA coin--J.T.) But it looked like an oval or ellipse shape. It sped by on a diagonal line very quickly. It did not leave any physical marks behind. It was too high for me to smell, hear or feel any heat waves. I have never seen anything like this. The object I have seen was not an asteroid, meteor, star, comet or a planet. That I am sure of." (Email Form Report)

CROP CIRCLES DISCOVERED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

An unusual crop formation, shaped like Neptune's trident, was found near Abbotsford in Canada's western province of British Columbia on Tuesday, August 26, 2003, "along with other circles and a half-circle in corn, approximately 55 meters (180 feet) long."

The formation was "first seen by Mike Black while flying over the area. Abbotsford, B.C. (population 105,403) is located "about 70 kilometers (46 miles) east of Vancouver and a few miles west of the Agassiz, B.C. formation," which was found two weeks ago. (Many thanks to Paul Anderson of Canadian Crop Circle Research Network for this report.)

INVESTIGATIONS DIARY

After a rather long absence from an update on investigations, I want to give our members a summary of what has been happening with investigations, beginning with the investigators training course and some relevant comments regarding this course and investigation in general

POSTAL TRAINING COURSE AND INVESTIGATION

On behalf of the BUFORA NIC, I would like to congratulate Malcolm Stroud, who completed and passed the Postal Training Course to an excellent standard. Welcome to the BUFORA National Investigations Committee Malcolm!

We have ten other PTC trainees who have been on the course, some since 2001. Unfortunately many of them have not completed the course as yet and have left it at varying stages of the modules. However there are two members in the initial stages of the course at the present time and I hope they will hold out until the examination module!

This brings me to make a significant comment. UFO investigation is not a glamorous ride to the idea of abduction investigation. It is a far more mundane journey of exploration and knowledge of what can be seen by someone as a UFO and which so often has a rational explanation when examined with accurate and objective information. The fundamental idea of this training course is to encourage potential investigators to look very specifically at the options that encompass working towards identifying an object or light in the sky that has been reported as a UFO. How to follow up claims of UFO photographic evidence and high strangeness reports are incorporated as separate modules. Active investigation after passing this course is the ultimate guide to the flaws and complications that arise when 'out in the field'. All is not always as it seems in UFO investigation, in fact it is often not at all as it appears, with

witnesses' beliefs and perceptions influencing how they record their sighting, thereby creating misleading information. The investigator has to take this into account when trying to identify a sighting, and even more seriously when being asked to investigate a claim of an experience which involves high strangeness events. Here we are knee deep in muddied waters and investigators need to be acutely aware of the wide-ranging areas that should be studied in order to help a witness understand and possibly come to terms with an experience for which they have no known way to define in terms of the models and images accessible to them. It is unfortunate perhaps that because of the pervading imagery surrounding us, witnesses so often use alien imagery to interpret their experience. This is just one of the reasons that the BUFORA National Investigations Committee (NIC) hold a moratorium on the use of hypnosis to gain an objective account of what occurred during a high strangeness experience. To gain an insight into some of the problems that can arise when investigating high strangeness cases, I would recommend that potential and accredited investigators read an interview which Judy Jaafar (BUFORA Vice-Chairman, AI and secretary to the NIC) did two years ago for *Strange Times* magazine. For readers on email, I would be happy to send this to them as an attachment. My email address is stheatherd77@aol.com.

To conclude on this section, there are enormous difficulties with the whole area of UFO investigation with the exception of sightings reported within twenty-four hours with reasonably accurate information. Trained investigators can then often identify the cause of the sighting by recognising the salient points contained within the completed BUFORA Questionnaire, such as observation time, movement, shape etc.

SIGHTINGS

Sighting have fluctuated during this year, but appear to be increasing. Again there is the problem of email related sightings, which

often do not generate a response after the initial email has been dealt with. A prime example here would be an email sent to BUFORA on 14 February 2003 documenting an incident in Iceland in 1994 from someone who served in the RAF. In the email he states the following...

In 1994, I was in the R.A.F employed as a movement controller with the mobile air movement squadron based at R.A.F Lyneham. In April that year, I got an order to fly at very short notice with two other military personnel to an air base in Iceland in a C 130 Hercules to pick up and return to R.A.F Mildenhall a class 'A' cargo. When we arrived in Iceland, I was amazed at the amount of security on base. I served in the R.A.F for 12 years and was in the Gulf war but I have never seen security like this, even for royalty. After the C 130 had come to a standstill no fewer than 8 armed military police bordered the aircraft. As you may well know, an aircraft is sovereign territory so this break with protocol was very unusual to say the least. The MPs secured the C130 and we were escorted by bus to a small hanger while the C130 was re-fuelled. In the hanger I was briefed as to what I had to do which again is very unusual as normally all work detail is handed over at the beginning of the shift. There, waiting for me and two Icelandic movers, was a standard Hercules pallet with a wooden crate on top. What I could not understand was the level of security that surrounded the movement of a wooden crate into the back of a C130. Once I had secured the crate into the aircraft four military policemen armed with SMGs and Browning 9mm weapons guarded the crate on the return trip to England. Once we had landed the military police shadowed my every move until the crate was safe in a hanger. Waiting in the hanger were ten staff of U.S.A.F to take charge of the crate and this is where you could have knocked me down with a feather. In the exchange of paperwork with my American counterpart, I asked what was all security about and he told me in such a matter of fact way that we are transporting "Non – terrestrial material." As in a crashed satellite I asked. No he said

satellites originate on Earth, the material in that crate does not come from this planet he said.

Any other time I would have thought it was a joke but not this time, it was a very bizarre trip and not one I ever repeated in all the days I was in the R.A.F.

I responded to this email and gave my telephone number and also asked BUFORA investigator Malcolm Stroud to become involved if a response to my email was forthcoming, but no further contact was resumed.

There are obviously many problems with this report, which have to be taken into consideration, the most significant of which I will list below and will be apparent anyway to readers.

Why did he decide to report this incident now, nine years later and what was the trigger for him to do this?

Why would he take the risk of reporting classified information to a UFO organisation particularly via email?

Why has there been no response?

This report has a high probability of being a hoax, but a response was required by BUFORA initially to ascertain whether there was anything genuinely being reported. Therefore as we have received no further information from this email address, there is no real credibility or substance to this report and therefore it can only be logged with the limited information it contains.

Just as a footnote here I presume the military base he refers to in Iceland was Keflavik, the NATO rapid response unit.

Sighting from an aircraft returning from Tenerife to Bristol

An interesting report reached BUFORA this year from JR in Wales. He records the following...

Whilst on the 7am return flight from Tenerife to Bristol on 31st January 2003 and at approximately 36,000 ft, about 30 minutes from crossing the south coast of England, I observed through the left hand window close to where I sat a strangely shaped dense black object that appeared to resemble a cloud of smoke. I recall thinking if this was indeed a cloud of black smoke, it was completely out of place at that altitude, where the air was totally clear and the visible cloud layer was some 30,000 feet below. As I watched the object drifting slowly past the left side of the aircraft, it began to change shape into what I initially took to be the wings of a hand glider, slowly rotating in an anti-clockwise direction. In an instant the diamond shaped 'wing' changed into a straight flat line, orange/yellow in colour. At this point it did very much resemble other distant strands of high altitude cloud. The flat line then disappeared from view with the forward motion of the plane

At this point I clearly heard other passengers, some three or four rows in front of me, also remarking on having seen something strange.

On his Questionnaire JR records the time of his sighting as 10.15am and length of observation time as 30/40 seconds. For a visual impression please see witness drawing

I contacted JR about his sighting and enquired whether he had asked any of the aircrew about this sighting. His response was that it was a Spanish Airline and he had problems understanding what they said over the intercom to the passengers, so he felt that it would be pointless trying to explain the details of the object he, his partner and other passengers had observed.

Isle of Wight

In October of last year we received a report from CT who lives on the Isle of Wight. He reports that in April of 2000 he and his girlfriend had gone for a walk during the early hours of the morning in order to see wild rabbits behind his house. Whilst returning

over the golf course they stopped to admire a clear night sky when they both observed many light in what he describes as an 'invisible rectangle'. They watched these very bright star-like lights darting around at great speed (see drawing).

Although this sighting was two and half years ago, it seems very likely they were observing a meteor shower. The witness does not have a date for the sighting, but states it was April. If this sighting was around April 21st, this would be the date for one of the major meteor showers. His drawing indicates this possibility and the 'invisible rectangle' he describes is just that... actually not there. This is a common feature when witness try to describe lights in the sky, which they feel do not have an explanation. This has occurred with many witnesses, who have observed laser light displays. They often talk of an object from which the lights are emanating. This, of course, if not the case at all, but laser light displays can look very unusual when seen in remote areas particularly when the observer is a far distance from the actual source of the display.

Video Footage taken of an unusual light in a field

In a recent letter to BUFORA from Hampshire, KL describes both she and a friend observing a gold ball of light in a field, which then changed shape to become two balls with a violet coloured bar bell connecting them. It then became diamond shaped and then hexagon shaped. Apparently she has fifteen minutes of video footage of this light and describes it as 'really amazing and close' In her letter to BUFORA she states that her friend's face suffered burns, which were evident the following day. This may be completely independent of their sighting.

I talked with KL by telephone and also sent her a report form to complete. She mentions several strange incidents in her life, which include a poltergeist activity, a disappearing pregnancy and a friend with an implant. When I receive a completed report form

together with details of the other incidents she mentions, I will try to ascertain whether this report should be investigated further.

Barry, Wales

On 11th December 2002 at 10pms, PO describes observing an object from her back garden whilst out having a cigarette. Her garden faces West and she observed some lights coming from the south east. There were three white lights and a red centre pulsing light. These lights came straight towards her and started to turn east. She ran to the front of her house and looked up. It was a black triangular shape with a white light at each point and a red pulsing light in the middle. It flew straight over the top of her and made a roaring sound and turned to the east towards the Welsh Valleys and flew over RAF St. Athan. Her height estimation was 150-200 feet (see witness drawing).

It seems very possible that PO observed a military aircraft or UAV, which was similar to many aircraft seen with these particular navigational lights.

A339 between Hackwood House and Ellisfield.

On Friday 15th November 2002 at 7.40pm KH was heading towards Basingstoke on the A339 and noticed blue flashes in the sky. As she turned the bend and came down a hill she observed the area appeared to be floodlit. There was a wooded patch in the road and hanging above the edge of the road was a large white sphere. She describes this sphere as being larger than a full moon because it hung so low in an easterly direction. All the cars slowed down to observe the sphere, so she turned off the radio and opened the window of her car, but there was no noise only the sound of the car engine. As the traffic moved, she headed home, but the sphere remained static. She describes the weather as foggy in place with some cloud cover, cold and dray with a breeze. She also states that she noticed the moon in her rear view mirror and that another

friend driving on the Alton side of the A339 has observed the blue flashes. It should be noted here that her sighting took place on 15th November. The blue flashes may well have been due to a major meteor shower, which occurs at this time and may be totally independent of the white sphere. Should any readers recall being in this area at that time and observing this white sphere, please email me (address above).

To conclude this diary and give some definition to my comments regarding the wide-ranging possibilities that investigators should be aware of when entering into UFO investigation, I have added thoughts taken from an article I wrote last year for *Strange Times* magazine.

Alternatives to the Extra-terrestrial Hypothesis (ETH)

So what could be the possibilities in extending our thinking beyond the idea of nuts and bolts spaceships visiting our planet. There are of course many real alternatives and explanations beginning with unidentified atmospheric phenomena (UAP), such as ball lightning, a controversial, but very real possibility in a small percentage of cases and which have certainly been recorded by some UFO organisations as being a real possibility to explain an event. These translucent balls have been known to find their way through solid matter creating problems and physiological effects for those in their path. In fact in one report to BUFORA from the 1950s, the teenager felt the sense of a presence before he observed the ball of light moving slowly up his staircase. We then have the well documented area of earthlights sometimes reported prior to seismic activity and a prime example of these lights have occurred in the Hessdalen Valley in Norway. Researcher, Paul Devereux has conducted long term research into this area and written several books on the subject. The Longendale Valley in the Peak District has certainly many recordings of these lights.

Powerful electromagnetic fields (EM) are most certainly responsible in some cases for

some claims of inexplicable events. These EM fields are so powerful in certain areas that they interact with the brain causing hallucinatory effects creating perceptions of 'missing time' and many visual images that are internally generated when the brain is 'scrambled' and unable to code and present the correct visual images of the events that are occurring. Researcher Albert Budden has conducted long term research at the cutting edge of this particular area and I highly recommend his books, which will give the reader a real insight into the ramifications of electromagnetic fields and their possible effects. In fact Judy Jaafar investigated a case several years ago where she felt these EM fields were a strong possibility for the strange events which occurred to a family of four.

Some high strangeness UFO cases very possibly lie within the paranormal field of study and have been misunderstood or misinterpreted by the witness to be associated with UFO/alien encounters. Sleep disorders such as hypnagogia, the altered state of consciousness between waking and sleeping can cause incorrect interpretation of an event, as this 'altered state' can allow visions or the sense of a presence, which appear very real indeed to the person who is having them. Another disorder is 'sleep paralysis', which occurs during sleep in order to prevent the person acting out their dreams and having a nasty accident. Unfortunately this condition can sometimes transcend into 'waking time' in some reasonably rare cases and this can cause severe panic for the person. Then there are what are known as 'awakening dreams' where people are convinced that their 'dream' has actually been a real event and it is difficult for them to accept that this has been a dream.. This is quite a common occurrence. The above alternatives to the ETH hypothesis give an idea of the extent of how wide-ranging the other alternatives could be.

In Conclusion – the questions that remain

Is there any evidence that we are being visited by aliens from 'out there'? Well there

is certainly no definitive proof in the form of artifacts or crashed saucers or any captured extraterrestrial entities, beyond rumour and speculation. There is however mounting anecdotal evidence from people across the world, who claim they have had a UFO encounter or experienced something not of this world and which they perceive maybe visitors from outer space. What do we make of these claims particularly those being reported by pilots, astronauts and sane, rational people? Could there be any truth in the idea of nuts and bolts spaceships and alien visitation? What proof in any form is there? Could some of these claims be the result of the alternatives to the ETH mentioned above and interpreted incorrectly? There are many questions without answers and that is if we are even asking the right questions. Without the researchers and people who report these sightings and experiences, there would be no UFO subject for articles, books or media coverage. The subject has extended way beyond what were understood to be the original parameters of the UFO field of study and as it has extended far beyond the threshold of this framework, so the resulting complexities have created a minefield of speculative thinking on what the reality of UFOs maybe. ? There are many mysteries for mankind to explore and possibly define in the future whether these are created by alien visitation from outer space or something else from 'inner space' and the enormous unexplored potential of the human consciousness. We need mysteries to lie on the periphery of our lives in order give meaning to our existence and the nature of reality. And as we embrace our limited understanding of who we are and why we are, we reach out to a vast universe to develop and widen that understanding and hope that we are not alone. In the end that is all we can do.

END
Gloria Heather Dixon

BOOK REVIEWS

The Talk of the Galaxy

Author: Paul La Violette

Publisher: Starlane Publications

ISBN: 0-9642025-3-0

Price: \$16

Reviewer: Brian Allan

This is the third book in a trilogy written by Paul La Violette dealing with the repercussions of phenomena that he has named '*Galactic Superwaves*'. These, according to the author, are bursts of high velocity, high intensity cosmic rays emanating from cyclic and catastrophic events at the very core of our galaxy. In the previous books, the author sets out his account of the proof of these cataclysmic happenings in several ways; he draws on accounts and legends written in antiquity by various civilisations ranging from native Americans and the Aztecs to the Norsemen and the almost ubiquitous Egyptians. In each case the accounts are couched in terms of a variety of sky gods visiting all sorts of disasters upon hapless humanity in retaliation for perceived wrongdoing.

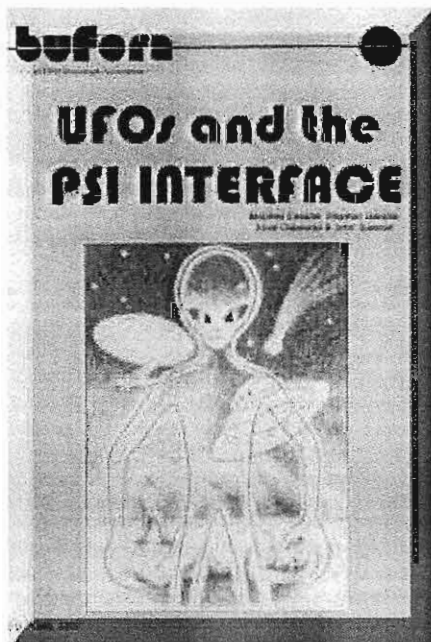
He then uses a unique interpretation of both the zodiac and tarot cards in which he claims to have discovered a cipher hidden in their symbolism. In the case of the zodiac, he claims that the ancients created the signs to represent unchanging sentinels in the night sky, i.e. the mighty star constellations. If there is one problem with this book it is that it presents an embarrassment of information to the point that it could be used as a reference book rather than a method of conveying an idea. Like its two predecessors, because of the considerable use of diagrams and graphs, the book is difficult to engage with quickly and therefore is not immediately accessible. However, unlike the previous two

books, in this case the author posits that some of the signals received by radio telescopes here on earth are the work of various extraterrestrial civilisations attempting to communicate with other sentient beings in the galaxy. He uses phenomena demonstrated by the uncannily regular radio emissions from pulsars to illustrate his hypothesis and suggests that they may be used by other spacefaring civilisations to serve as 'lighthouses' warning of galactic superwaves. Another possible use explored is as radio beacons serving as direction finding triangulation points for spacecraft. One of the factors giving this particular book an edge over others in this field is the thoughtful and intelligent use of available data gathered from universities and research establishments around the world. Another factor is the inclusion of cutting edge and almost certainly classified technologies from here on Earth. We find mention of pioneering work conducted by both Nikola Tesla and Thomas Townsend Brown into the use of microwave transmissions that appear to mimic the force of gravity rather than conventional radio transmissions. T.T. Brown even suggested that his experiment indicated the possibility of faster than light communications.

This hypothesis has now been proved by experiments carried out in initially 1991 when microwaves were transmitted at superluminal velocities and again in 1995 when scientists from Cologne University succeeded in transmitting Mozart's 40th symphony through an 11cm microwave waveguide at a speed 4.7 times greater than light. The book also explores forcefield beaming technology and suggests that many so called UFO sightings are examples of glowing 'plasmoids' created during covert tests this technology. Moreover, the author also suggests that a possible power source for highly advanced 'black' aircraft is based on the same technology and there is also a very clear nod towards UFO power plants too. The author, who along with others founded the '*Starburst Foundation*' which is dedicated to researching the enigma of superwaves, appears to have very strong links to another, similar organisation called

the 'Integrity Research Unit', particularly in his comments on highly classified propulsion units. Anyone familiar with this organisation and one of its founders, Tom Valone, will see immediate similarities in terms of research priorities between the two organisations, it's a fair bet that both men know one another well.

Finally, this book, although not designed for the casual reader is ultimately very rewarding for anyone willing to sit and study what is on offer here. As well as presenting a well thought out explanation of the function of pulsars in our galaxy, it also raises the curtain slightly allowing a peek into technologies that are awesome in their potential. I recommend this book to the serious researcher who, like me, will find links to other strands and possible explanations of the entire UFO enigma.



UFOs and the PSI Interface

By Manfred Cassirer,
Stephen Gamble,
Elsie Oakensen and
John Spencer

In this publication, (shown left) four contributors – all of whom have different backgrounds and viewpoints into the subject – have assembled current ideas on the possible interaction/crossover between UFO reports and PSI experiences.

- Manfred Cassirer presents a research paper – UFOs and the PSI Interface - in which examines the main theories revolving around the subjects.
- Stephen Gamble (who has carried out many roles for BUFORA) compares UFO and Psychic Entities.
- Elsie Oakensen (a fellow experiencer) describes Life After a UFO Close Encounter – and this includes life-changing events.
- John Spencer (Renowned author, and BUFORA's Director of Research) examines and discusses UFOs and the Paranormal Interface.

Copies are available at £7.50 inc p&p.

Send cheques, postal orders or IMCs

(payable to "BUFORA Ltd")

In Memoriam

In this issue we have to mark the sad passing of two more of our colleagues in British UFOlogy.

The first of these is Gordon Creighton who amongst his many achievements in the study of UFOs was at one time, in the late 1960s into the early 70s, BUFORA President. Gordon was the master of several languages and was able to use these to great effect in his study of cases from South America and from the Far East. He translated a great deal of material from these regions and brought it to an English speaking audience through the pages of the Flying Saucer Review and other publications.

The second person to whom we must pay tribute in this issue is Graham Birsall, editor of UFO Magazine.

This section starts with a tribute to both individuals from BUFORA Chair Judith Jaafar, which is then followed by two further tributes to Graham by Norman Oliver and Roy Rowlands.

Sad days indeed in the world of ufology. The editors of two of the most influential journals in British ufology have recently passed on, leaving us with a gaping hole, a void which will be immensely difficult to fill.

Gordon Creighton, editor of Flying Saucer Review, died at the grand old age of 95 on July 16th 2003, after many years at the helm of this compelling, if sometimes controversial publication. I remember waiting in excited anticipation for my copy of FSR to thud through the letter box, the only UFO/paranormal magazine to date that could evince that response in me. FSR has been around as long as BUFORA, over 40 years. I did not know Gordon personally, but was aware of his scholarly attributes and his mastery of many languages, including Arabic and Chinese. He served many years with the Foreign Office in the Diplomatic Corps. It was evident from his writings that he had a love

and fascination for the Arab culture and language, and indeed interpreted the entity contact phenomenon as a manifestation of the "djinn" of Arab folklore. From one Arabic speaker to another, "Allah maak, Gordon".

Graham Birsall, editor of UFO Magazine (UK), died after surgery for a cerebral haemorrhage on 19 September. This was particularly poignant for me as my own ex-husband suffered the same appalling catastrophe (aneurism and grade four haemorrhage) only six weeks ago in Beirut, but thankfully has pulled through, undoubtedly due to the skill of the surgeon in Lebanon and God's good grace.

I did not know Graham either, other than a brief handshake many years ago at a UFO Magazine conference in London. I cannot pretend that Graham and BUFORA had a close relationship - we didn't. We occupy two very different niches in the ufological world, ours (hopefully) as an objective, scientifically-oriented group who investigate rigorously and publish to our membership, and his as a vehicle of dissemination of ufological research to the public at large in a newsstand magazine. Of necessity, the two approaches have been very different and at times have clashed. But perhaps now Graham, the luckiest one of all of us, knows the truth of all things.

It is a tribute to Graham and his team that UFO magazine has survived as strongly as it has, after the welter of ufological publications that surged up in the 90s, and then just as quickly died away. UFO Magazine is the sole survivor, as far as I know. I hope that his team carries on undaunted, for I'm sure this is what Graham wants. I wish UFO Magazine every good luck for the future - the public needs to be informed about this very intriguing subject of UFOs. And I wish Graham the same grace that I wish Gordon, "Allah maak, Graham". (God be with you).

Judy Jaafar
BUFORA chair

GRAHAM BIRDSALL – An Appreciation
Norman Oliver

As I am sure by now you all know, Graham Birdsall, editor of *UFO MAGAZINE* since its inception, died on September 19th last, operations he'd had for a brain haemorrhage being followed by heart failure.

Soon after I retired back in 1987, I contacted the Yorkshire UFO Society, run by Graham and his brother Mark and for a while became that Society's Lincolnshire representative. At the time they produced the magazine *QUEST INTERNATIONAL*, soon to be renamed *UFO MAGAZINE*, the forerunner of what is surely now the world's most popular and widely respected publication.

In April 1989 the First UFO Conference at Eureka Springs in Arkansas was inaugurated – the event having been held annually since then, and I recall Graham asking me to take over copies of *UFO MAGAZINE* (Before it was in the public domain) for sale and distribution, since at that time it was not known in the U.S – as compared to today when it has a world-wide circulation. In between 1989 and 1992, before I left this country for several years to live in Thailand, I contributed a number of articles to *UFO MAGAZINE* commencing with a full report of that 1989 Conference. On my return, I found that Graham's dream of a news-stand magazine had become a reality and it was well and truly in the public realm, a position it had taken many years of hard groundwork by Graham and Mark to achieve. Indeed, Graham had told me on a number of occasions they were waiting for exactly the right time and climate before a public launching. It is clear today that this is precisely what was accomplished.

I always enjoyed my meetings with Graham, whether in connection with the magazine or when speaking at YUFOS Conferences – he was a mine of information about all things ufological. I found him too, to be great to work with: patient, genial and smiling even when things weren't going quite right, and

never once did I hear him criticise his fellow-researchers. He certainly had his own opinions – amongst them being that he then considered WW2 wartime experimental craft and their successors may well have had a prominent role in a number of UFO reports and incidents. He was, always, though, open to all points of view and would not reject any suggestion or viewpoint out of hand.

I think of Graham with the greatest respect. His personality, drive and enthusiasm will always remain in my memory. He died – at far too early an age, one of the best known Ufologists in this country, if not THE best known. Worldwide, he was one of the foremost and most-liked figures in present-day Ufology. He was also a gentleman.

Graham, you will be long-remembered and very sadly missed.

GRAHAM W. BIRDSALL

I was quite shocked and saddened to learn of the untimely death of Graham W. Birdsall in September this year, at the comparatively young age of 49.

I can hardly imagine what a terrible shock this must have been to all of Graham's friends and Family, especially his Wife, Christine and his Brother Mark and their two Daughters. The repercussions of this are bound to be felt, not only in the United Kingdom but also throughout Europe, the USA, Brazil, Mexico and many other parts of the World.

Graham was dedicated to making people aware of the reality of the UFO Phenomenon. He worked very hard to keep his *UFO Magazine* 'alive' and interesting, and also the International UFO Conferences in Leeds each year.

He had some good ideas when it came to getting the message across to people. The Conferences have always been very well attended, and they are a tribute to Graham and all that he stood for. Those of us who

knew Graham personally and who attended the Conferences each year and were readers of the UFO Magazine are going to miss him very much indeed. I sincerely hope that someone will be able to continue with the work that Graham has set in motion. I am quite sure that this is what Graham would have wanted.

I will remember Graham as a man who had a great interest in the UFO Phenomenon, who enjoyed talking to people about the subject, and who could always find the time to answer questions during the coffee breaks at the Conferences, no matter how busy or how much in demand he was.

As with most conferences, there were times when technical problems would occur with either the microphones or the projector or some other piece of equipment. Fortunately it didn't happen very often, but when it did, Graham always managed to 'keep his cool' and keep the audience informed of the problems, and at those times in particular, his sense of humour was always paramount and he would usually tell the audience a funny story or at least something to hold their interest while the problem was being put right.

It goes without saying that Graham will definitely be 'A Very Hard Act To Follow.'

Roy Rowlands.
BUFORA Member.

TEMS. Travel and Earth Mysteries Society (Founded 1992)

The Travel and Earth Mysteries Society is for people with an enquiring mind and an interest in unexplained phenomena and historical arm of study loosely labelled earth mysteries. TEMS is a social and study group for people in *West and South-West London, Middlesex & Surrey. (Berks, Essex, Herts & Sussex are also represented)

A programme of speakers, social events and field trips is arranged covering such things as ancient sites, crop circles, dowsing, folklore, ghosts, healing, ley lines, old churches, sacred wells, UFOS, anomalous animals and challenging issues. Meetings, for which there is a modest charge, are usually held on a Sunday afternoon, and include a social tea-break.

The Society covers similar subject areas to those of ASSAP. It is not a cult group, and advocates a balanced approach between the intuitive and analytical faculties. This leaves ample scope for exploring new ideas.

The Society is non-profit, non-political and non-sectarian. For 2003, the subscription is f,8.00. This goes towards calls and correspondence in connection with producing and posting the programme, and publishing TEMS NEWS. The Newsletter is issued three or four times a year and contains summaries of talks, field trips, club news, current news items, articles, book and magazine reviews, cartoons and illustrations.

For a copy of the programme or further information, please contact: Ann Hopkins:
020-8542 3110 Lionel Beer: 020-8979
3148

Co-ordinator: 115 Hollybush Lane, Hampton,
Middlesex, TW12 2QY.

Zen . . .

And the Art of Debunkery

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This is a revised and expanded edition of an essay that has previously appeared in various publications between 1991 and 1997.

INTRODUCTION

So you've had a close encounter with a UFO. Or a serious interest in the subject of extramundane life. Or a passion for following clues that seem to point toward the existence of a greater reality. Mention any of these things to most working scientists and be prepared for anything from patronizing skepticism to merciless ridicule. After all, science is supposed to be a purely hardnosed enterprise with little patience for "expanded" notions of reality. Right?

Wrong.

Like all systems of truth seeking, science, properly conducted, has a profoundly expansive, liberating impulse at its core. This "Zen" in the heart of science is revealed when the practitioner sets aside arbitrary beliefs and cultural preconceptions, and approaches the nature of things with "beginner's mind." When this is done, reality can speak freshly and freely, and can be heard more clearly. Appropriate testing and objective validation can--indeed, *must*--come later.

Seeing with humility, curiosity and fresh eyes was once the main point of science. But today it is often a different story. As the scientific enterprise has been bent toward exploitation, institutionalization, hyperspecialization and new orthodoxy, it has increasingly preoccupied itself with disconnected facts in a psychological, social and ecological vacuum. So disconnected has official science become from the greater scheme of things, that it tends to deny or disregard entire domains of reality and to satisfy itself with reducing all of life and consciousness to a dead physics.

As the millennium turns, science seems in many ways to be treading the weary path of the religions it presumed to replace. Where free, dispassionate inquiry once reigned, emotions now run high in the defense of a fundamentalized "scientific truth." As anomalies mount up beneath a sea of denial, defenders of the Faith and the Kingdom cling with increasing self-righteousness to the hull of a sinking paradigm. Faced with provocative evidence of things undreamt of in their philosophy, many otherwise mature scientists revert to a kind of skeptical infantilism characterized by blind faith in the absoluteness of the familiar. Small wonder, then, that so many promising fields of inquiry remain shrouded in superstition, ignorance, denial, disinformation, taboo . . . and debunkery.

What is "debunkery?" Essentially it is the attempt to *debunk* (invalidate) new information and insight by substituting scient*istic* propaganda for the scient*ific* method.

To throw this kind of pseudoscientific behavior into bold--if somewhat comic--relief, I have composed a useful "how-to" guide for aspiring debunkers, with a special section devoted to debunking extraterrestrial intelligence--perhaps the most aggressively debunked subject in the whole of modern history. As will be obvious to the reader, I have carried a few of these debunking strategies over the threshold of absurdity for the sake of making a point. As for the rest,

their inherently fallacious reasoning, twisted logic and sheer goofiness will sound frustratingly familiar to those who have dared explore beneath the ocean of denial and attempted in good faith to report back about what they found there.

So without further ado . . .

HOW TO DEBUNK JUST ABOUT ANYTHING

Part 1: General Debunkery

<> Before commencing to debunk, prepare your equipment. Equipment needed: one armchair.

<> Put on the right face. Cultivate a condescending air that suggests that your personal opinions are backed by the full faith and credit of God. Employ vague, subjective, dismissive terms such as "ridiculous" or "trivial" in a manner that suggests they have the full force of scientific authority.

<> Portray science not as an open-ended process of discovery but as a holy war against unruly hordes of quackery-worshipping infidels. Since in war the ends justify the means, you may fudge, stretch or violate the scientific method, or even omit it entirely, in the name of defending the scientific method.

<> Keep your arguments as abstract and theoretical as possible. This will "send the message" that accepted theory overrides any actual evidence that might challenge it--and that therefore no such evidence is worth examining.

<> Reinforce the popular misconception that certain subjects are inherently unscientific. In other words, deliberately confuse the "process" of science with the "content" of science. (Someone may, of course, object that since science is a universal approach to truth-seeking it must be neutral to subject matter; hence, only the investigative "process" can be scientifically responsible or irresponsible. If that happens, dismiss such objections using a method employed successfully by generations of politicians: simply reassure everyone that "there is no contradiction here!")

<> Arrange to have your message echoed by persons of authority. The degree to which you can stretch the truth is directly proportional to the prestige of your mouthpiece.

<> Always refer to unorthodox statements as "claims," which are "touted," and to your own assertions as "facts," which are "stated."

<> Avoid examining the actual evidence. This allows you to say with impunity, "I have seen absolutely no evidence to support such ridiculous claims!" (Note that this technique has withstood the test of time, and dates back at least to the age of Galileo. By simply refusing to look through his telescope, the ecclesiastical authorities bought the Church over three centuries' worth of denial free and clear!)

<> If examining the evidence becomes unavoidable, report back that "there is nothing new here!" If confronted by a watertight body of evidence that has survived the most rigorous tests, simply dismiss it as being "too pat."

<> Equate the necessary skeptical component of science with "all" of science. Emphasize the narrow, stringent, rigorous and critical elements of science to the exclusion of intuition, inspiration, exploration and integration. If anyone objects, accuse them of viewing science in exclusively fuzzy, subjective or metaphysical terms.

<> Insist that the progress of science depends on explaining the unknown in terms of the known. In other words, science equals reductionism. You can apply the reductionist approach in any situation by discarding more and more and more evidence until what little is left can finally be explained entirely in terms of established knowledge.

<> Downplay the fact that free inquiry and legitimate disagreement are a normal part of science.

<> Make yourself available to media producers who seek "balanced reporting" of unorthodox views. However, agree to participate in only those presentations whose time constraints and a-priori bias preclude such luxuries as discussion, debate and cross-examination.

<> At every opportunity reinforce the notion that what is familiar is necessarily rational. The unfamiliar is therefore irrational, and consequently inadmissible as evidence.

<> State categorically that the unconventional may be dismissed as, at best, an honest misinterpretation of the conventional.

<> Characterize your opponents as "uncritical believers." Summarily dismiss the notion that debunkery itself betrays uncritical belief, albeit in the status quo.

<> Maintain that in investigations of unconventional phenomena, a single flaw invalidates the whole. In conventional contexts, however, you may sagely remind the world that, "after all, situations are complex and human beings are imperfect."

<> "Occam's Razor," or the "principle of parsimony," says the correct explanation of a mystery will usually involve the simplest fundamental principles. Insist, therefore, that the most familiar explanation is by definition the simplest! Imply strongly that Occam's Razor is not merely a philosophical rule of thumb but an immutable law.

<> Discourage any study of history that may reveal today's dogma as yesterday's heresy. Likewise, avoid discussing the many historical, philosophical and spiritual parallels between science and democracy.

<> Since the public tends to be unclear about the distinction between evidence and proof, do your best to help maintain this murkiness. If absolute proof is lacking, state categorically that "there is no evidence!"

<> If sufficient evidence has been presented to warrant further investigation of an unusual phenomenon, argue that "evidence alone proves nothing!" Ignore the fact that preliminary evidence is not supposed to prove "any"thing.

<> In any case, imply that proof precedes evidence. This will eliminate the possibility of initiating any meaningful process of investigation--particularly if no criteria of proof have yet been established for the phenomenon in question.

<> Insist that criteria of proof cannot possibly be established for phenomena that do not exist!

<> Although science is not supposed to tolerate vague or double standards, always insist that unconventional phenomena must be judged by a separate, yet ill-defined, set of scientific rules. Do this by declaring that "extraordinary claims demand extraordinary evidence"-- but take care never to define where the "ordinary" ends and the "extraordinary" begins. This will allow you to manufacture an infinitely receding evidential horizon; i.e., to define "extraordinary" evidence as that which lies just out of reach at any point in time.

<> In the same manner, insist on classes of evidence that are impossible to obtain. For example, declare that unidentified aerial phenomena may be considered real only if we can bring them into laboratories to strike them with hammers and analyze their physical properties. Disregard the

accomplishments of the inferential sciences-- astronomy, for example, which gets on just fine without bringing actual planets, stars, galaxies and black holes into its labs and striking them with hammers.

<> Practice debunkery-by-association. Lump together all phenomena popularly deemed paranormal and suggest that their proponents and researchers speak with a single voice. In this way you can indiscriminately drag material across disciplinary lines or from one case to another to support your views as needed. For example, if a claim having some superficial similarity to the one at hand has been (or is popularly assumed to have been) exposed as fraudulent, cite it as if it were an appropriate example. Then put on a gloating smile, lean back in your armchair and just say "I rest my case."

<> Use the word "imagination" as an epithet that applies only to seeing what's *not* there, and not to denying what *is* there.

<> If a significant number of people agree that they have observed something that violates the consensus reality, simply ascribe it to "mass hallucination." Avoid addressing the possibility that the consensus reality might itself constitute a mass hallucination.

<> Ridicule, ridicule, ridicule. It is far and away the single most chillingly effective weapon in the war against discovery and innovation. Ridicule has the unique power to make people of virtually any persuasion go completely unconscious in a twinkling. It fails to sway only those few who are of sufficiently independent mind not to buy into the kind of emotional consensus that ridicule provides.

<> By appropriate innuendo and example, imply that ridicule constitutes an essential feature of the scientific method that can raise the level of objectivity and dispassionateness with which any investigation is conducted.

<> If pressed about your novel interpretations of the scientific method, declare that "intellectual integrity is a subtle issue."

<> Imply that investigators of the unorthodox are zealots. Suggest that in order to investigate the existence of something one must first believe in it absolutely. Then demand that all such "true believers" know all the answers to their most puzzling questions in complete detail ahead of time. Convince people of your own sincerity by reassuring them that you yourself would "love to believe in these fantastic phenomena." Carefully sidestep the fact that science is not about believing or disbelieving, but about finding out.

<> Use "smoke and mirrors," i.e., obfuscation and illusion. Never forget that a slippery mixture of fact, opinion, innuendo, out-of-context information and outright lies will fool most of the people most of the time. As little as one part fact to ten parts B.S. will usually do the trick. (Some veteran debunkers use homeopathic dilutions of fact with remarkable success!) Cultivate the art of slipping back and forth between fact and fiction so undetectably that the flimsiest foundation of truth will always appear to firmly support your entire edifice of opinion.

<> Employ "TCP": Technically Correct Pseudo-refutation. Example: if someone remarks that all great truths began as blasphemies, respond immediately that not all blasphemies have become great truths. Because your response was technically correct, no one will notice that it did not really refute the original remark.

<> Trivialize the case by trivializing the entire field in question. Characterize the study of orthodox phenomena as deep and time-consuming, while deeming that of unorthodox phenomena so insubstantial as to demand nothing more than a scan of the tabloids. If pressed on this, simply say "but there's nothing there to study!" Characterize any serious investigator of the unorthodox as a "buff" or "freak," or as "self-styled"-- the media's favorite code-word for "bogus."

<> Remember that most people do not have sufficient time or expertise for careful

discrimination, and tend to accept or reject the whole of an unfamiliar situation. So discredit the whole story by attempting to discredit *part* of the story. Here's how: a) take one element of a case completely out of context; b) find something prosaic that hypothetically could explain it; c) declare that therefore that one element has been explained; d) call a press conference and announce to the world that the entire case has been explained!

<> Engage the services of a professional stage magician who can mimic the phenomenon in question; for example, ESP, psychokinesis or levitation. This will convince the public that the original claimants or witnesses to such phenomena must themselves have been (or been fooled by) talented stage magicians who hoaxed the original phenomenon in precisely the same way.

<> Find a prosaic phenomenon that, to the uninitiated, resembles the claimed phenomenon. Then suggest that the existence of the commonplace look-alike somehow forbids the existence of the genuine article. For example, imply that since people often see "faces" in rocks and clouds, the enigmatic Face on Mars must be a similar illusion and therefore cannot possibly be artificial.

<> When an unexplained phenomenon demonstrates evidence of intelligence (as in the case of the mysterious crop circles) focus exclusively on the mechanism that might have been wielded by the intelligence rather than the intelligence that might have wielded the mechanism. The more attention you devote to the mechanism, the more easily you can distract people from considering the possibility of non-ordinary intelligence.

<> Accuse investigators of unusual phenomena of believing in "invisible forces and extrasensory realities." If they should point out that the physical sciences have *always* dealt with invisible forces and extrasensory realities (gravity?

electromagnetism? . . .) respond with a condescending chuckle that this is "a naive interpretation of the facts."

<> Insist that western science is completely objective, and is based on no untestable assumptions, covert beliefs or ideological interests. If an unfamiliar or inexplicable phenomenon happens to be considered true and/or useful by a nonwestern or other traditional society, you may dismiss it out of hand as "ignorant misconception," "medieval superstition" or "fairy lore."

<> Label any poorly-understood phenomenon "occult," "fringe," "paranormal," "metaphysical," "mystical," "supernatural," or "new-age." This will get most mainstream scientists off the case immediately on purely emotional grounds. If you're lucky, this may delay any responsible investigation of such phenomena by decades or even centuries!

<> Ask questions that appear to contain generally-assumed knowledge that supports your views; for example, "why do no police officers, military pilots, air traffic controllers or psychiatrists report UFOs?" (If someone points out that they do, insist that those who do must be mentally unstable.)

<> Ask unanswerable questions based on arbitrary criteria of proof. For example, "if this claim were true, why haven't we seen it on TV?" or "in this or that scientific journal?" Never forget the mother of all such questions: "If UFOs are extraterrestrial, why haven't they landed on the White House lawn?"

<> Similarly, reinforce the popular fiction that our scientific knowledge is complete and finished. Do this by asserting that "if such-and-such were true, we would already know about it!"

<> Remember that you can easily appear to refute anyone's claims by building "straw men" to demolish. One way to do this is to misquote them while preserving that convincing grain of truth; for example, by acting as if they have intended the extreme of

any position they've taken. Another effective strategy with a long history of success is simply to mis- replicate their experiments--or to avoid replicating them at all on grounds that "to do so would be ridiculous or fruitless." To make the whole process even easier, respond not to their actual claims but to their claims as reported by the media, or as propagated in popular myth.

<> Insist that such-and-such unorthodox claim is not scientifically testable because no self-respecting grantmaking organization would fund such ridiculous tests.

<> Be selective. For example, if an unorthodox healing practice has failed to reverse a case of terminal illness you may deem it worthless--while taking care to avoid mentioning any of the shortcomings of conventional medicine.

<> Hold claimants responsible for the production values and editorial policies of any media or press that reports their claim. If an unusual or inexplicable event is reported in a sensationalized manner, hold this as proof that the event itself must have been without substance or worth.

<> When a witness or claimant states something in a manner that is scientifically imperfect, treat this as if it were not scientific at all. If the claimant is not a credentialed scientist, argue that his or her perceptions cannot possibly be objective.

<> If you're unable to attack the facts of the case, attack the participants--or the journalists who reported the case. *Ad-hominem* arguments, or personality attacks, are among the most powerful ways of swaying the public and avoiding the issue. For example, if investigators of the unorthodox have profited financially from activities connected with their research, accuse them of "profiting financially from activities connected with their research!" If their research, publishing, speaking tours and so forth, constitute their normal line of work or sole means of support, hold that fact as

"conclusive proof that income is being realized from such activities!" If they have labored to achieve public recognition for their work, you may safely characterize them as "publicity seekers."

<> Fabricate supportive expertise as needed by quoting the opinions of those in fields popularly assumed to include the necessary knowledge. Astronomers, for example, may be trotted out as experts on the UFO question, although course credits in ufology have never been a prerequisite for a degree in astronomy.

<> Fabricate confessions. If a phenomenon stubbornly refuses to go away, set up a couple of colorful old geezers to claim they hoaxed it. The press and the public will always tend to view confessions as sincerely motivated, and will promptly abandon their critical faculties. After all, nobody wants to appear to lack compassion for self-confessed sinners.

<> Fabricate sources of disinformation. Claim that you've "found the person who started the rumor that such a phenomenon exists!"

<> Fabricate entire research projects. Declare that "these claims have been thoroughly discredited by the top experts in the field!" Do this whether or not such experts have ever actually studied the claims, or, for that matter, even exist.

Part 2: Debunking Extraterrestrial Intelligence

<> Point out that an "unidentified" flying object is just that, and cannot be automatically assumed to be extraterrestrial. Do this whether or not anyone involved *has* assumed it to be extraterrestrial.

<> Equate nature's laws with our current understanding of nature's laws. Then label all concepts such as antigravity or interdimensional mobility as mere flights of fancy "because what present-day science cannot explain cannot possibly exist." Then if an anomalous craft is reported to have hovered silently, made right-angle turns at supersonic speeds or appeared and disappeared instantly, you may summarily dismiss the report.

<> Declare that there is no proof that life can exist in outer space. Since most people still behave as if the Earth were the center of the universe, you may safely ignore the fact that Earth, which is already in outer space, has abundant life.

<> Point out that the official SETI program assumes in advance that extraterrestrial intelligence can only exist light-years away from Earth. Equate this a-priori assumption with conclusive proof; then insist that this invalidates all terrestrial reports of ET contact.

<> If compelling evidence is presented for a UFO crash or some similar event, provide thousands of pages of detailed information about a formerly secret military project that might conceivably account for it. The more voluminous the information, the less the need to demonstrate any actual connection between the reported event and the military project.

<> When someone produces purported physical evidence of alien technology, point out that no analysis can prove that its origin was extraterrestrial; after all, it might be the product of some perfectly ordinary, ultra-secret underground government lab. The only exception would be evidence obtained from a landing on the White House lawn--the sole circumstance universally agreed upon by generations of skeptics as conclusively certifying extraterrestrial origin!

<> If photographs or other visual media depicting anomalous aerial phenomena have

been presented, argue that since images can now be digitally manipulated they prove nothing. Assert this regardless of the vintage of the material or the circumstances of its acquisition. Insist that the better the quality of a UFO photo, the greater the likelihood of fraud. Photos that have passed every known test may therefore be held to be the most perfectly fraudulent of all!

<> Argue that all reports of humanoid extraterrestrials must be bogus because the evolution of the humanoid form on Earth is the result of an infinite number of accidents in a genetically isolated environment. Avoid addressing the logical proposition that if interstellar visitations have occurred, Earth cannot be considered genetically isolated in the first place.

<> Argue that extraterrestrials would or wouldn't, should or shouldn't, can or can't behave in certain ways because such behavior would or wouldn't be logical. Base your notions of logic on how terrestrials would or wouldn't behave. Since terrestrials behave in all kinds of ways you can theorize whatever kind of behavior suits your arguments.

<> Stereotype contact claims according to simplistic scenarios already well established in the collective imagination. If a reported ET contact appears to have had no negative consequences, sarcastically accuse the claimant of believing devoutly that "benevolent ETs have come to magically save us from destroying ourselves!" If someone claims to have been traumatized by an alien contact, brush it aside as "a classic case of hysteria." If contactees stress the essential humanness and limitations of certain ETs they claim to have met, ask "why haven't these omnipotent beings offered to solve all our problems for us?"

<> When reluctant encounter witnesses step forward, accuse them indiscriminately of "seeking the limelight" with their outlandish stories.

<> Ask why alleged contactees and abductees haven't received alien infections. Reject as "preposterous" all medical evidence suggesting that such may in fact have occurred. Categorize as "pure science-fiction" the notion that alien understandings of immunology might be in advance of our own, or that sufficiently alien microorganisms might be limited in their ability to interact with our biological systems. Above all, dismiss anything that might result in an actual investigation of the matter.

<> Travel to China. Upon your return, report that "nobody there told me they had seen any UFOs." Insist that this proves that no UFOs are reported outside countries whose populations are overexposed to science fiction.

<> Where hypnotic regression has yielded consistent contactee testimony in widespread and completely independent cases, argue that hypnosis is probably unreliable, and is always worthless in the hands of non-credentialed practitioners. Be sure to add that the subjects must have been steeped in the ET-contact literature, and that, whatever their credentials, the hypnotists involved must have been asking leading questions.

<> If someone claims to have been emotionally impacted by a contact experience, point out that strong emotions can alter perceptions. Therefore, the claimant's recollections must be entirely untrustworthy.

<> Maintain that there cannot possibly be a government coverup of the ET question . . . but that it exists for legitimate reasons of national security!

<> Accuse conspiracy theorists of being conspiracy theorists and of believing in conspiracies! Insist that only "accidentalists" theories can possibly account for repeated, organized patterns of suppression, denial and disinformational activity.

<> In the event of a worst-case scenario--for example, one in which extraterrestrial intelligence is suddenly acknowledged as a global mystery of millennial proportions--just remember that the public has a short memory. Simply hail this as a "victory for the scientific method" and say dismissively, "Well, everyone knows this is a monumentally significant issue. As a matter of fact, my colleagues and I have been remarking on it for years!"

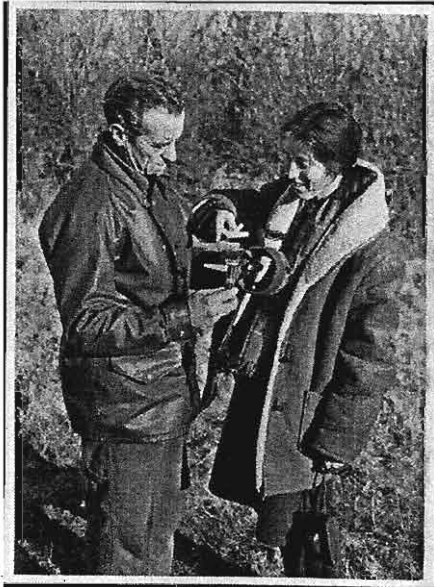
Daniel Drasin is a writer and media producer based in the San Francisco Bay Area.

★ ★ ★ Tell ★ ★ ★ your friends about ★ ★ ★ Bufora ★ ★ ★

The Warminster Events Steve Gamble

BUFORA has recently celebrated its 40th Anniversary. At about the time BUFORA was formed there were a major range of events going on in the area around Warminster in Wiltshire.

The Warminster reports of the 1960s also included the famous Scorton case where a witness, Arthur Bryant, had an encounter with UFO entities. BUFORA's Norman Oliver was one of the principle investigators of this complex case and I hope to get him to review it in a later edition of the NBJ.



Above: Arthur Bryant with investigator Eillen Buckle (photo :Norman Oliver)

By pure coincidence, one of the early reports from Warminster involved the family of the vicar of Heytesbury. The vicar and the rest of his family saw a UFO one evening. Soon after they moved away. Several years later I became interested in UFOs and on reading Arthur Shuttleworth's "The Warminster

Mystery" found that my local vicar in London had been one of the early Warminster witnesses, and he had moved again only a couple of months earlier. Even more coincidentally, the article below mentions Roger Hooton. Roger also moved to London and lived around 100 yards from where the Rev Phillips lived. Roger must have moved to London just as the Phillips's moved on.

Several years ago when I was Director of Research I published an article in BUFORA's then Journal "UFO TIMES" talking about a project I was trying to get started. That project was taken on by Robin Lindsey, but unfortunately ill health meant that he was not able to pursue the project. To mark the 40th anniversary of the Warminster events I reproduce the UFO TIMES article below.

UFO Times article :

One of the projects the BUFORA Research team are starting work on is the Warminster Project. BUFORA has run studies in the past which have looked at the Warminster area, so why another Warminster project?

As I have stated previously (Gamble, 1988) it is important to study repeated phenomena. These repeated phenomena may take the form of a witness who has repeat experiences or similar experiences which occur to different witnesses at different times or locations where there are many reports over a period of time. The Warminster area fits into this last category. From the mid-1960s onward there have been many reports from the area around Warminster in Wiltshire. These have been widely discussed elsewhere (for example see Chapman (1969); Paget(1980); Rogers(1994) or Shuttlewood (1967)), so will not be discussed in detail here.

Nigel Stephenson (1966) states "Investigations at Warminster showed that the whole thing had been greatly exaggerated. Even so, there have been more interesting reports in the area of Warminster and Westbury than in other towns of similar population, though this might be accounted

for by the excessive publicity to the Warminster "Thing" and the inhabitants' knowledge of the great interest in it taken by the local paper's news editor resulting in so many witnesses, as well as hoaxers, coming forward". I think Nigel's words are as true today as they were in 1966, there are a lot of reports from Warminster, some exaggerated, some hoaxes but also many interesting reports.

The main events at Warminster started on Christmas eve 1964. These started with a number of incidents of rattling roof tiles and other aerial noises. Recently Robert Bull researching reports from Cambridgeshire has come across a similar report from a similar time period, and I have found another case from the Norfolk area. A wide spectrum of UFOs were reported from Warminster during the rest of the 1960s and throughout the 1970s.

Some of the reports from the area are the result of military exercises which are conducted around Warminster. For example, Ken Phillips investigated a report from the 2nd August 1984 of strange multicoloured lights seen hanging in the sky at around 11pm. These were traced to most probably being due to paracute flares connected with an exercise.

The 'Thing' on Film

Perhaps the most famous of all the reports from the Warminster area is the photograph taken by Gordon Faulkner in 1965 of the so-called "Warminster Thing". Faulkner said he was leaving the back door of his house at 8:30pm on 29th August 1965 to visit his mother's house. He had a camera, which he was to give to his sister, with him and was able to take a single picture of the object. This picture was originally published in the local "Warminster Journal" in 1965, was published a few days later in the "Daily Mirror" and subsequently has been widely published in the UFOlogical literature, for example see Spencer (1992) or Rogers (1994).

Stephenson (1966) informs us that "The well-publicised photograph of a domed circular object in the daytime is the only report of this type of object over Warminster, but the rumour that it was a schoolgirl's hat has not been verified". This was also a theory subscribed to by Norman Oliver in his 1992 lecture mentioned below. So it can be seen that doubts have been expressed about Faulkner's photo from early days.

Early in 1992 a gentleman called Roger Hooton came forward and said that he had been involved in faking the photograph (Spencer, 1992). Hooton had moved to Australia a couple of years after the photograph had been taken, but was surprised to find that it was still doing the rounds when he returned to the UK some 25 years later. Hooton said he had contacted John Spencer so he could put the record straight.

In 1994 (Spencer, 1994) John Spencer managed to track down Gordon Faulkner and arranged an interview. Faulkner maintained that he had not faked the photograph and furthermore he did not know Hooton. So the story became even more curious! Over the past year I have been in contact with Stephen Dewey who has recently published the results of his findings on the Faulkner photograph (Dewey, 1995). Dewey tells us that the photograph was faked by Faulkner with help from Bill Newton. He specifically points out that in the story he was told by his informant no mention is made of the involvement of Hooton. In August 1995 Dewey spoke to Faulkner who again denied it was a hoax.

So once more doubt is focussed on the Faulkner photograph. But there are very many more reports from the Warminster area which should not be overshadowed by the truth or otherwise of Gordon Faulkner's picture. As Norman Oliver said in his lecture at the BUFORA 30th Anniversary Conference in September 1992 "A lot of nonsense has been talked about Warminster, an awful lot of nonsense has been reported from there, but one of the biggest pieces of nonsense is that one faked photograph disproves the whole thing".

The Warminster project will clearly have overlaps with other parts of the BUFORA Research programme. Some of the reports previously collected have aspects which are similar to poltergeist phenomena. There are also reports of vehicle interference and of strange Ball-Of-Light (BOL) UFOs. If we can establish teams to undertake sky observation, then the Warminster area could be a prime target. In the early 1970s the Bedford UFO Society (later renamed the Extra-Terrestrial Society) maintained an instrumented observation station near Warminster. BUFORA is working on establishing instrumented observation stations. Given the number of reports in the past from the Warminster area, this might be a productive place to establish such a instrumented station.

Yet again I have completely blown the word limit the editor gave me, so I better leave things there. If you feel you can contribute to this, or any other, BUFORA project please contact me.

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UFOs over Baku

In early June I found an article of the Ananova news service which lead me to an article on the Baku Today website. Then I remembered that BUFORA investigator Rob Bull told me that he was going to Baku on business – so I asked him to see if he could find out more. Unfortunately he was unable to find out much more, so I reproduce the Baku Today article below. If you are wondering where Baku is it is Azerbaijan.

Below news article titled "UFO's Found to Be Active over the Caspian Sea", taken from "Baku Today" Online Magazine

By Emin Allahverdiyev

As Baku Today already reported last month, on May 19 at 17:00 the inhabitants of Baku witnessed an unusual flying object in the sky.

It did not look like a plane or other type of vehicle. It appeared right in the center of the city. According to witnesses, the flying object was "hanging" in the sky for over two hours, it was white and stretched.

Never before had alien flying objects appear at such an early time and never before were they observed with by so many people.

This appearance of the UFO had a great impact on the city and rumors began to spread all over. Some of these rumors say that it was not a UFO, but something else... but what exactly, nobody could tell.

The head of the space seismology sector and member-correspondent of International energy-informational academy for the UN, Fuad Gasimov, commented on this recently in a local newspaper. Mr. Gasimov confirmed the fact, that the flying object that appeared

in the sky on May 19 was truly an apparatus from another planet. "This fact is not surprising. For a long period of time, all facts about UFO's were being denied," he said. "As usual, they were denied at the authoritative level, by famous scientists, who, by the way, were not scientists in fields relating ufology."

According to Mr. Gasimov, all data concerning UFO's were kept secret by the country, over which they appeared. In spite of that, it's hard to conceal the obvious. By 1969 American scientists had published the "Blue book", in which they maintain that the civilization on earth is not the only civilization. Many facts, proving the existence of alien civilizations were espoused in the book. During Soviet times, there existed a special organization for UFO research under the direction of the famous cosmonaut Popovich. A lot of rumors spread about the activity of that organization. The results of the research, as well as facts about UFOs, were labeled "top secret" – this disappointed the cosmonaut. As the result, Popovich refused to cooperate further with the organization.

"Today it's not a secret that the USA and other countries have special hangars, where they keep downed UFOs. Americans using modern technology, now have unique knowledge and are keeping it secret," Mr. Gasimov says. UFO specialists suggest that Azerbaijan create special hangars and begin research on our own.

"Currently, it is known that there are three alien bases on Azerbaijan territory," Mr. Gasimov continues. It is also known that in 1999 a UFO fell in the Caspian Sea. At that time, Iran, Russia and the U.S. were arguing over who would get the remains of the object for research purposes. In the end, the alien ship was transferred to Russia.

"This happened because Azerbaijan didn't have the resources to hide the ship," he said. Hangars in the U.S. today are housing up to 120 UFOs. Leading the research efforts are the famous scientists, Edward Teller (the creator of the hydrogen bomb for the U.S.) and Bob Laser (engineering specialist). A

group of ufologists are working along side them in the secret hangar-cities.

Question is, what do the UFOs look like and from what are they made? Fuad Gasimov responded that the shapes and sizes vary from tiny to 300 km in length. Usually such giant ships are called "mother ships", inside of which you can find a number of smaller multi-functional flying devices. The material is kept secret. It's impossible for an ordinary man to get into the alien bases, because of the powerful gravitational fields surrounding them. A UFO, based of the bottom of the Caspian Sea, is "charging" from its tectonic structure. UFOs have the ability to teleport- to disappear in the moment of need.

"That's why the residents of Baku thought that after hanging in the air for the two hours, the UFO went back into space," Mr. Gasimov said. "In reality, due to their hyper-speed capabilities, teleportation took place." The aliens can attain speeds exceeding that of the speed of light and can cover distances of hundreds of light years in a few days. After Fuad Gasimov reported that bodies of aliens were found in the ship, the obvious next question was – what do they look like?

Gasimov said that a few species were found. For example, some aliens were short, with extended vast eyes, and were dressed in silver-colored suits. Other types of aliens were also discovered. They resemble Anglo-Saxons- tall, with light eyes and hair.

Also Gasimov said that worldwide, up to 1 million people are kidnapped annually. In Azerbaijan alone, the number of people kidnapped is 184. Their names and the places from which they were kidnapped are known. Why are they kidnapping earthlings? Mr. Gasimov thinks that they are researching ...it is only known that all of the people kidnapped are younger than 35.

BUFORA MEETINGS

As we closed for press the next programme of BUFORA meetings was being put together. At the moment the only information I have is the planned dates. I will bring you more information as it becomes available

Saturday March 13 -

speaker : Steven Jones

"A Journey of Discovery"

Saturday May 15 - speaker TBA

Saturday July 10 - speaker TBA

Saturday Sept 11 - speaker TBA

Saturday Nov 13 - speaker TBA

All lectures are held in the 1st floor function suite of the Sols Arms public house, 65-68 Hampstead Road, Euston, London NW1 2PN - 3:00pm till 6:30pm. Nearest Tube is Warren Street, and Euston Tube and mainline are a few minutes walk. Tickets, which can be purchased at the door and include a mid-lecture buffet, are £5 for members, and £7 for all others.

For more, or updated information on any of these lectures, call Judy Jaafar on 020 8998 4936, email: judy@gaia66.freemove.co.uk or email John Wickham on jw_ufo@yahoo.com

BUFORA cannot be held responsible for a speaker cancelling, but should this occur, we will endeavour to provide a suitable alternative lecturer. Views expressed by any speaker are his/hers alone, and do not necessarily reflect the views of BUFORA, nor any individual director of BUFORA Ltd.

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About BUFORA

BUFORA was founded in 1962, as a federation of regional UFO groups throughout the UK. Many of these groups were formed in the 1950s. These included the British Flying Saucer Bureau, founded in 1952 (which is believed to be the UK's oldest UFO group), and the London UFO Research Organisation formed in 1959 and the largest UK organisation at the time. In 1962 the group was known as the British UFO Association, changing its name in 1964 to the present British UFO Research Association. BUFORA became a company limited by guarantee in 1975. This means that in the event of BUFORA being wound up each members undertaking to cover any outstanding debts is limited to £1. It was intended to be a prelude to seeking charity status. BUFORA is registered under the U.K. Data Protection Act, and amongst other things membership records are held on a computer database. (It is the policy of BUFORA NOT to release membership records to third parties.)

BUFORA is run entirely by volunteers, relying solely on its members to fund and carry out its investigation, research and educational activities. The day to day running of BUFORA is in the hands of a Council of Management drawn from the members.

Membership of BUFORA is open to all who support the aims of the association, and whose application is approved by the Council of Management.

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AIMS OF BUFORA

The three aims of BUFORA are:-

- To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom
- To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to unidentified flying objects
- To co-ordinate UFO research throughout the United Kingdom and to co-operate with others engaged in such research throughout the world.

ACTIVITIES OF BUFORA

BUFORA organises a regular programme of lectures on a variety of UFO related topics. As dates, times and locations can vary it is best to enquire about the current programme.

Members receive free of charge, six issues per year, of its regular publication 'New Bufora Journal', which carries details of investigated reports and results of research projects.

BUFORA operates the 'UFOCALL' information service which carries information about reports and updates on events (phone: 09068 121 886; Charge, currently 60p per minute.) These pre-recorded messages are updated regularly.

PUBLICATIONS OF BUFORA

Details of publications currently available (including back issues of Journals) can be obtained from the registered office (enclose S.A.E. please).

Some BUFORA publications are also available through Spacelink Books, 115 Hollybush Lane, Hampton, TW12 2QY England

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