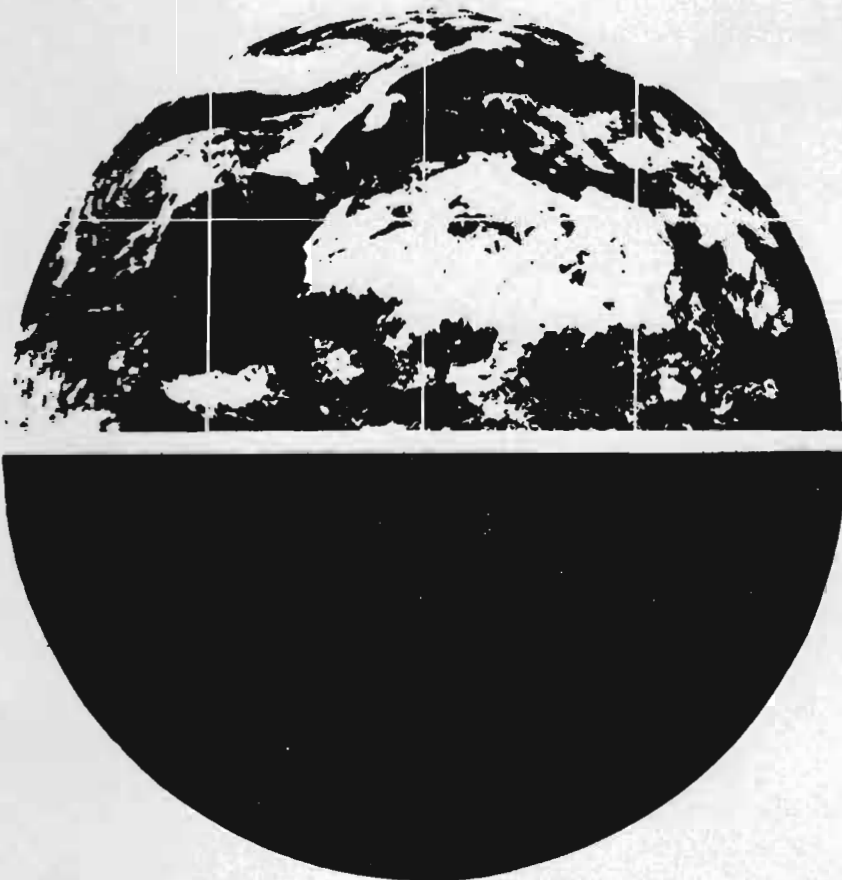


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EDITORIAL

THE THREADS START TO PULL TOGETHER

S.J.Gamble, Director of Research.

It is unusual for JTAP to carry an editorial. Normally journals use an editorial to highlight some significant advance or to amplify a warning. In this respect JTAP is no different from any other journal and it will be the purpose of this editorial to both highlight some recent advances and to issue some warnings.

The first edition of JTAP carried an editorial by the then Director of Research, Anthony Pace (1). He stated that one of the objectives of the Journal was to publish research articles. This still remains one of the central objectives of the Journal. After six years of publication of the Journal it would be worth reviewing what, if any, progress has been made in the field of UFO research that the Journal was designed to support.

A second objective of the JTAP board was to encourage the application of scientific method to the study of UFO phenomena. JTAP was born against a background where a majority of people believed that there was only one answer to all UFO reports and that was that all UFOs were extraterrestrial spacecraft. Many of these people did not even ask themselves what evidence there was to support this view - after all they KNEW the answer - why confuse the issue with facts?

Soon after the first issue of JTAP was published, the first

meeting of the International Committee for UFO Research was held. One of the first tasks undertaken by the Committee was to work on a standard set of definitions. As part of this work it was agreed that rather than studying UFOs what was actually studied was really the report made by the UFO witness. This definition established the principle that the witness should be closely studied. To a certain extent this has been supported in JTAP by publishing articles on subjects such as witness reliability (2), on the work of Keul and Phillips (3) on witness anamnesis and the controversial views of Rudy De Grotte on the Hill abduction.

Another area where JTAP has contributed has been to consider theories other than a simple extraterrestrial hypothesis. It is now widely accepted that there is no one simple answer to the cause of UFO phenomena. I have identified elsewhere (4) that at least four different classes of explanation can be put forward to account for UFO phenomena. JTAP has provided a platform for the consideration of natural phenomena (5,6) as

Editorial

an alternative explanation for UFO phenomena. More recently we have published the work of Manfred Cassirer on the PSI/UFO Interface (7). In addition to considering different agents as the cause of UFO phenomena, JTAP has tried to promote an interest in other areas of transient aerial phenomena, because UFOs are but a small part of this wide area (8,9).

In a normal scientific study, one researcher may propose a theory which is then added to by other researchers who might have additional experience in a particular aspect considered by the original theory. This is now beginning to happen in the field of UFO research. As mentioned above, Manfred Cassirer has proposed a theory about the PSI/UFO interface. Part of his thesis concerned the subject of Angel hair. This part of the thesis is questioned by Bob Morrell (10) who has made a special study of Angel hair and who is able to add further information to Manfred's ideas. Only by putting up an idea like this and considering additional evidence, modifying the original concept if necessary, will we make any progress.

My original theme for this editorial was how the threads were starting to come together. As shown by the correspondence on Angel hair, we are starting to consider, as researchers, evidence more objectively. But are there other ways in which the threads are coming together? I believe there are. Cassirer's hypothesis states that there should be a great

deal of overlap between UFO and psychic research. In this issue of JTAP we quote the preliminary results of Keul and Phillips on their UFO Anamnesis work (11). This seems to be independent evidence to support a previously published theory.

Also in this issue we publish preliminary results of Paul Fuller's survey of computer usage in UFO research. Only a very small number of replies have been received as yet. This is extremely disappointing. The good work of the few real researchers is being undermined by the apathy of the mass of members. A recent government survey found that between 11 and 12% of homes in the UK had a microcomputer and that this was growing at a rate of 3 to 4 percent per annum. By my calculations that means that there must be between 30 and 40 members that have home computers. Paul received FIVE replies from members with computers, to echo Paul's own words this is pathetic. Where are the other 30 replies? Are the members of BUFORA really this uninterested? A frequently heard complaint is that BUFORA does not do enough research, yet when a member makes the effort to set up a project this is what greets him - total apathy. An alternative explanation might be, of course that BUFORA members as a group are too stupid to use things like computers. For those members who are neither too lazy or too stupid we reprint the survey form in this issue. There is still time to respond.

(continued page 46)

COMPUTERS AND UFOLOGY

PAUL FULLER, Research Officer

83, Alresford Road, Winchester, Hampshire, SO23 8JZ.

ABSTRACT

Both the September 1985 issue of JTAP and the November 1985 issue of the BUFORA Bulletin contained forms for a survey about the use of home computers amongst readers. The author examines the very small number of responses and discusses ways in which computers may be used to further the work of BUFORA.

In addition to being an active member of the Research Department, Paul has been a field investigator on behalf of BUFORA for several years. As well as holding a BSc degree he has undertaken post-graduate studies in statistics.

Recent editions of the BUFORA Bulletin and JTAP carried a questionnaire appealing to BUFORA members to inform the Research Department about their access to computing facilities. The aim of the survey was to allow BUFORA the opportunity to plan for the future in the knowledge that there exists a reasonable level of computing expertise amongst its membership. How can the use of computers help a society such like BUFORA ?

I recognise at least four advantages to BUFORA in developing its own computing strategy. Firstly, it is administratively efficient to record standard information such as membership records. This way, standard letters (e.g. membership renewals) and sticky address labels can be produced at the touch of a button, saving the scarce time of the membership secretary. In addition, fluctuations in membership levels can be more easily monitored than at present - is BUFORA's falling membership a

result of a lack of new members, or is it due to old established members failing to renew their membership? For a society as desperate for members and their spare time as BUFORA, we should record a variety of information about our members - their age, qualifications, willingness to undertake investigations, and so on. This way new members can be encouraged to take part in the society's activities, to take an interest in their own local UFO reports rather than expect us to travel hundreds of miles for relatively uninteresting reports.

Secondly, BUFORA can begin to record information about books and journals dealing with UFOs. The UFO movement has generated a vast amount of literature over the past four decades - how can we hope to introduce potential researchers to the few quality articles when there is so much sub-standard speculation in our literature? We need a database that allows us to specify a keyword and

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produce a list of articles or books which deal with researchers' interests; to pick out the well investigated cases, the conclusions of seasoned investigators and the theories of the few academics involved in the study of UFOlogy. Each record should contain keywords, date of publication, author, title, journal name and number, and a short review of the contents. The record should attempt to cover all BUFORA articles and eventually all articles written in English.

I cannot stress too highly the importance of this application, scientists always begin studying by reviewing the existing literature (this saves them a great deal of donkeywork!) - we need to be able to immediately point interested researchers in the right direction, and impress them with our professionalism at the same time.

A third important use of computer technology is word processing. There are numerous software packages available that allow users to edit and store text and graphics. I suggest that BUFORA's journals would be more efficiently produced in this way than typing a draft in the ordinary way. Personal computers allow greater flexibility of layout, automatic spelling checks and easy correcting compared with ordinary methods. In addition, the documents can be stored away on floppy disk and re-used in a different format years later, authors do not have to search for sub-standard master copies and the retype whole articles.

This application has obvious advantages to BUFORA as it allows us to reduce the time taken by production and it reduces unnecessary costs of production.

My fourth computing application is possibly the most important. BUFORA exists to undertake RESEARCH into UFO reports. Currently, Mike Wootten is recording index information for reports, namely the where, when and what of each report. Eventually, we MUST record research oriented data for every report we have, in this way we can instantly make UFO data available to any researcher, data that at present just is not available. Currently, any researcher needs to examine hundreds of dirty R1 reports, many of which fail to provide enough information for an honest evaluation, some of which are illegible, a few of which are duplicates of other reports, and a majority of which were never fully investigated. This fact alone is enough to deter all but the most dedicated researchers.

If BUFORA had a database of UFO and IFO reports, complete with a large range of relevant parameters, we would have a far easier task when trying to persuade our detractors to take a closer look at our reports. We would be able to undertake full statistical analysis of reports at a moments notice, and discover true characteristics of our reports - rather than make meaningless statements like "1977 was a good year for UFO reports". Without proper, planned research, research that so far

Computers and UFOlogy

has not taken place. BUFORA might as well not exist.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESULTS

You might think that a society as short of resources as BUFORA is would welcome any opportunity to cut costs, improve efficiency, provide new services to its members and carry out exciting new research. Unfortunately you would be wrong! I have only received six replies from a membership of over three hundred. This is pathetic, but rather predictable. I can only assume that this apathetic response means that BUFORA members are either too dim to use computers, or else they just are not interested in finding out what UFOs are. How do you think our critics will react when they read this? They will say "even the UFOlogists doubt their own claims". I know this is untrue, but I cannot hide my disappointment in such a response, and hope that some members may still respond in a positive way to our appeal.

Firstly, I would like to thank those members who bothered to reply,

Mr K Carroll (Campbeltown)
Mr J Danby (Preston)
Mr H Evans (London)
Mr S Gamble (Northampton)
Mr H Kapherbeek
(the Netherlands)
Mr N Mortimer (Ilkley)

Of the six respondents, five owned computers (Never mind Hilary, age has many blessings!) None of these respondents had access to computers at work or college which could be

used for UFO research, but five were willing to take part in any future recording of UFO data. Currently, three stated that they had tried to record UFO data on their computers.

The five respondents who owned computers themselves had four different types of home computer:- an Apple II, a BBC model B, a Commodore 64 and two had the Spectrum Plus. The total amount of storage available was only 320Kbytes - the IBM XT I use at work has more than this! Four of the respondents' home computers had ports to allow, in theory, communication with other computers; only three owned modems - devices that allow communication along standard telephone lines.

Three respondents owned elementary statistical packages, but none of the respondents had any formal qualification in statistics. Two respondents had undertaken higher education studies in computing. As you can see from the above list, the respondents all live a long way from each other, making communication difficult and expensive. These members can not possibly take on all the tasks I have described above, and consequently BUFORA must take a policy decision on our commitment to computing in the next few years. If we do not make any decisions, the existing enthusiasm will not survive.

Computers and UFOlogy

Computers have the potential to revolutionise the way BUFORA operates and thinks, they offer us the chance to save effort and money which can then be concentrated on investigations and research. The major problem with the existing hardware is that the computers may not be compatible with each other, data recorded on one may not be usable on any of the others. Consequently, BUFORA should plan its computing strategy to make the most efficient and reliable use of existing expertise, remember that some of the above members may not be members in five years time!

I suggest that we should record report data on our own computer, this way we will always have access to our own records, and at the same time we can build up a level of expertise for a single product. The remaining applications can be given a lower priority, what matters most is that at present BUFORA cannot respond quickly to requests about UFOs - we cannot tell the media how many reports there were for each of the last ten years, and how many were explicable. Researchers must be disappointed by our inability to give them basic reported characteristics about UFO reports, yet it is these people we need most of all.

BUFORA must begin examining the personal computer market with a view to purchasing its own computer, in this way we can effectively plan our priorities for the future, financial or otherwise. The alternative to a computing policy is to allow the five

existing users to carry on without knowing what BUFORA needs from them, to duplicate eachothers' work, and to suffocate all interest in computing and the very real advantages computers offer BUFORA.

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Editorial note

BUFORA Council are aware of the real advantages in developing a firm computing policy. At the December 1985 Council meeting it was agreed we should investigate the possibility of purchasing our own computing equipment.

COMPUTING SURVEY

The survey form on the next page has been previously published in both the BUFORA Bulletin and in JTAP. Unfortunately only a very poor response has been received. We are, therefore, printing it again in the hope that members will not miss this opportunity to take an active part in research.

ALL responses would be valid, for example if we got three hundred replies that said members did not intend to own computers and would not get involved in recording UFO data, we would have to think of a different research program. Even if you do not own a computer it is possible that you could still be involved in recording data (question 12) or possibly you have relevant qualifications (question 13).

Photocopies and additional notes are acceptable.

HOME COMPUTER QUESTIONNAIRE

Part of BUFORA's Research plans involve the computerisation of UFO reports. To allow adequate planning for computerisation it would be very helpful if members who own or have access to a computer could complete the following questionnaire and return it to BUFORA's Research Officer - PAUL FULLER, 83 Alresford Road, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8JZ (Tel: Winchester (0962) 65513.

- | | | |
|--|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1. Do you own or intend to own a home computer? | OWN | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | INTEND | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | DON'T OWN | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Do you have access to any other computer which you might be able to use for UFO research? If so please describe | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. What model/make of computer do you own? | | |
| 4. What size memory does your computer have? | 16K | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 32K | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 48K | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 64K | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | 128K | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Other | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. What operating system does your computer use? (Consult your Users' Manual if you are unsure) | | |
| 6. What method of data storage does your computer use? | DISK | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | CASSETTE | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | OTHER | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Does your computer have an "RS232" or "RS423" Port? | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. Does your computer have some means of communicating with other computers e.g. a modem? | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. What data-base do you use? | | |
| 10. Do you use any statistical programs on your computer? | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. Have you attempted to store UFO data on your computer? | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. Would you like to be involved in any future recording of UFO data on your computer? | YES | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | NO | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 13. Please describe any technical/professional/academic qualifications you have | | |

FINALLY, please give your name and address on the reverse side of this questionnaire. Thank you for your co-operation.

A PHOTO-COPY OF THIS FORM MAY BE USED IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO REMOVE THE PAGE FROM YOUR JOURNAL

ANAMNESIS AS A METHOD OF ASSESSING WITNESS RELIABILITY

Introduction by Stephen Gamble, Director of Research.

ABSTRACT

The Anamnesis test was developed by psychologist Dr Keul as a method of assessing the reliability of reports of UFO events. Two short papers describe the thinking behind and recent results from the anamnesis test.

Introduction

In the September 1985 issue of JTAP, I proposed that the witness in UFO cases should be regarded as a recording instrument such as that used in any other scientific experiment and, therefore, we need some method of calibrating a witnesses' abilities and limitations. As pointed out by Hendry (2) we only get to study UFO reports, we do not get the chance to study UFOs themselves.

The investigation of a UFO report could be considered to be similar to a criminal investigation. A wide range of investigative tools and methods need to be used to find who or what caused the events leading up to a UFO report. Whilst the study of physical evidence (3), like forensic science results, can provide interesting information about a given event, it can only be considered as secondary to the testimony of the witness. Whilst considering the secondary nature of physical evidence, Hendry (4) highlights some of the problems involved. Commenting on a catalogue of trace cases produced by Ted Phillips (5), Hendry states that of the 715 cases in the catalogue, 154 are cases where mysterious traces were found on the

ground but no UFO was witnessed to have caused them. Clearly in these cases study of the 'witness' is of prime importance, just what made them think these traces were part of UFO phenomena?

One of the many methods that have been proposed for studying UFO witnesses is the UFO Anamnesis test. This has been developed by an Austrian psychologist, Alexander Keul. Keul has been working with Ken Phillips on a number of projects applying his technique to the study of UFO witnesses in Austria and the United Kingdom (6,7).

On the following pages two abstracts are reproduced describing further the anamnesis test and the work of Keul and Phillips. The first of these abstracts is the text of Keul's address to ASSAP investigators for their meeting held in Sheffield in November 1985. The second describes some of the preliminary results of their studies. It is hoped to publish further results from these studies in later editions of JTAP.

The authors retain the copyright of these two papers. Requests to reprint should be sent directly to the authors.

Anamnesis and witness reliability

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- 1) Gamble, S.J. (1985) The assesment of witness reliability. JTAP 4, pp 16-19. (numbered pp 202-207)
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- 6) Keul, A.G. (1985) Five selected cases. JTAP 4, pp 10-14. (numbered pp 198-202).
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MESSAGE TO ASSAP INVESTIGATORS
SHEFFIELD, NOVEMBER 1985

Alexander Keul.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

"All paths of knowledge start in the dark and lead into the light" said Hippocrates. The study of human effects around UFOs (and other transient phenomena) has NOT been a focus of research in the past. By human effects, I mean the following: Mr. XY sees and reports a UFO. Who is Mr. XY ?

Where does he live ? What work does he do ? What is his marital status ? Is he a member of a social in- or out-group ? Is he openly religious or an agnostic ? Where does he come from ? Where is his place of birth, his cultural origin ? What does he remember about his early life ? and so on and so on. The Greek word for remembrance is Anamnesis.

UFO research - and not only UFO research - has neglected that her main source of information is the human being, not video recorders or books. In 1984, Stephen Gamble, an editor in chief of BUFORA's "Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena", proposed the establishment of a special section to study psychological and physiological explanations of UFO origin(1). In a talk with ASSAP and BUFORA members at London in February 1985, I found that all were openminded and interested in further research towards a better understanding of human effects in UFO phenomena.

To make it clear from the beginning, personally I am NOT convinced that ALL layers of what we label "UFO phenomena" have only a physical or psychic explanations. This would be utterly reductionistic in the face of a most complex phenomenon that seems to stretch out into the natural and social sciences, not to forget philosophy and religious science. At the moment - November 1985 - only North American and a couple of European cases have been studied with up to

Anamnesis and witness reliability

date methods of the human sciences. Sprinkle, Schwartz and other US researchers hold the position that UFO sighters are "normal average citizens" whereas Ken Phillips and I from our Austrian and English pilot projects (and from a short message by Scott) are inclined to see UFO witnesses as more complex than average. ESP-orientated people in comparison to the general population. One thing seems certain: UFO reporters are not "just cranks" or "aberrant" minds. Psychopathology is not the approach for a final solution, but tends to blur the picture with implicit "normal versus abnormal" ideology. After all, what is normal? Just the safe centre of statistical function, it seems.....

Back to the state of the art. There has never been an organised attempt on a large scale to record psychosocial variables together with physical UFO features by a civilian UFO or paranormal research group. I was happy to hear in October that ASSAP was preparing the latest version of our "UFO Witness Anamnesis" as a standard investigation sheet. The BUFORA Research department is supporting Ken's control experiments with a grant, so it is justified to speak of a joint effort of British groups to do this pioneering work. Because the Anamnesis is a self explaining technique - try one with a witness and you will find out yourself where its values and limits are - I will not waste your time at Sheffield with

endless instructions. You as investigators of the paranormal are spending a lot of your free time and budget to take a look into data that (official) science has excluded, to give the reported phenomena a honest chance to unfold or collapse in the investigative process. Every single case is valuable for us, not only the "hits". So if you walk out with the Anamnesis in your field kit, do not think of it as an extra only for the best cases, but use it whenever there is an hour or so of interview time left. We need a sample of all possible cases and I am sure that the new recording technique for the personal dimension of the phenomenon will only improve through practical application.

We are not launching another hypothesis about what UFOs are, but are trying to understand who UFO witnesses are. By inclusion of this down to earth information we believe progress may be possible in our understanding of what are the constituents of the process called "UFO experience". There is a lot of grey theory, but few empirical facts at the moment. UFO experiences could be ESP events, could be unconscious processes taking control over perception in the course of stressful life events in a family or group, could be strange psychic occurrences happening around a physically present, unknown object, could be planned or accidental events etc, etc. Without help from the human sciences covering medical, psychological, social, religious and other salient

Anamnesis and witness reliability

data we cannot discuss hypotheses, but must play "believe it or not" instead of science. I am glad you have come to the Sheffield meeting to gather information on the additional method and I am ready to discuss with you all new insights or problems arising through the field application of it. Ken will distribute my address to you. I will do the evaluation for ASSAP of forms coming in from you and will answer questions briefly in writing or personally at another meeting in 1986. To get the interest of the scientific community, it is also advisable to combine the Anamnesis approach with a short, classical, standardised psychological test. Karl Fischer and I selected the E.P.I (Eysenck Personality Inventory) for that purpose. So, whenever you have applied the Anamnesis and the witness is cooperative, please let him/her fill in the E.P.I. questionnaire as well.

I wish you a nice stay at Sheffield and lots of productive discussions!

Good luck for the new start and thank you for your interest.

Dr. Alexander Keul, Salzburg.

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Reference.

1) Gamble, S. J. (1984) The future of research. BUFORA Bulletin August 1984, pp 24-27.

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THE UNIDENTIFIED WITNESS
UFO WITNESS PSYCHOLOGY RESULTS

Alexander Keul and Ken Phillips

(This item has been previously submitted to the ASSAP NEWS.)

INTRODUCTION

After a 1980 pilot project around Vienna, Austria, the authors studied more than fifty Austrian and British UFO witnesses from 1981 up to date. As ASSAP decided to support this research idea by issuing our new version of the "UFO Witness Anamnesis", which is a compendium of human science questions for UFO field investigations, ASSAP News is the right forum for a short report on first results after five pretty complicated years of study.

ANAMNESIS RESULTS

Twenty one Austrian witnesses of unidentified phenomena (8 close encounters, 13 distant events) with a full physical investigation, and twenty six British witnesses (10 close encounters, 16 distant events) gave demographic and biographical details according to the first, experimental, versions of our UFO Witness Anamnesis. The main question was whether there were any significant differences of certain psychosocial details (e.g. unemployment) between reporters in Austria and Britain compared with the general population. Results would answer the old question about UFO sighters - average citizen or not ?

Anamnesis and Witness Reliability

Fourteen items yielded sufficient data for statistical comparisons between the reporter groups. Eight of the items could be checked against general population data, these were sex, age, profession, marital status, siblings, ESP, myopia and unemployment. Statistically significant differences (Chi square, Fisher-Yates) were only found in the age and ESP categories. There was a prevalence of old people reporting distant events in Austria compared to the average age distribution. British witnesses reported significantly more ESP occurrences in their anamneses than people in a general population survey at Bristol by Blackmore in 1981 (J.S.P.R. Feb 1984). Most ESP events had happened before the UFO sighting. Witnesses of distant events reported precognition, apparitions and telepathy. Close encounter witnesses gave double the amount of phenomena with precognition, PK, telepathy, OBEs, healing, apparitions and automatic writing, and all but one had had these phenomena repeatedly. Thus, CE witnesses seem to have a higher "ESP potential" than distant event reporters.

RORSCHACH RESULTS.

With thirty three British and twenty six Austrian UFO sighters as well as twenty five Austrian non-UFO sighters a projective (depth psychological) personality test was taken. This was the Rorschach test. Diffuse inkblot tables are presented to the examinee who tells what he or she sees. The replies are evaluated as

symbols of conscious and unconscious processes. We confined our first analysis of 1777 Rorschach replies to UFO related symbols - space vehicles, astronomy and science fiction themes, UFOs and UFOonauts. Witnesses were not asked to give such answers which makes the appearance of UFO material in the Rorschach an indicator for its emotional (unconscious) importance. Our hypothesis was that UFO sighters would "see" more UFO symbols in the test than non sighters. This was not the case. The rate of UFO symbol replies versus total replies was 1:13 for the British witness group, but 1:73 for Austrian sighters and 1:33 for Austrian non-sighters. Thus, the Austrian non-sighters were more similar to the British sighters in that respect than the Austrian witness group! The difference between Austrian and British UFO sighters was highly significant (Chi square, 1% level). Also, the number of UFO related replies in all three groups significantly correlated (Kendall's tau) with fear symbols in the Rorschach. Analysis is continuing.

PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS.

ESP seems to be the most promising psychic variable out of our old UFO Witness Anamnesis for further studies. A tendency "the more intense the ESP potential, the more intense the (later) UFO case" seems likely. Unconscious prevalence of symbolic UFO material is no discriminator at all between sighters and non-sighters.

Anamnesis and Witness Reliability

SOME QUESTIONS ANSWERED.

As with any new technique, anamnesis raises a number of questions. Some of the more common ones can be answered by consulting the guidance notes given to investigators.

1) Why carry out anamnesis ?
In investigating high strangeness UFO reports, it is desirable to make an assessment of the witness, in addition to an examination of the environmental circumstances of the alleged event. One method of doing this is the UFO Witness Anamnesis.

2) What is anamnesis ?
Chambers Technical Dictionary (1940) defines Anamnesis as the recollection of past things; the past history of all matters relating to the patient's health.

3) How is the Anamnesis carried out ?
A series of questions concerning the circumstances surrounding the UFO experience are put to the witness, together with questions regarding their life history and health. A recording is made of the interview and submitted to a qualified independent assessor for evaluation.

4) How confidential is the information gained using anamnesis ?
All information obtained in the anamnesis interview is confidential and no publication or disclosure of such information is permitted.

The tapes are sent to the assessor with only a note of the case number. The assessors evaluation is only identified by the report number. No copies of the tape should be made by either the investigator or the assessor. All tapes should be completely erased immediately after evaluation has taken place, tapes must not be made available for re-use with the original recording intact.

5) Why replace traditional investigation with this psychological test ?
The anamnesis test does not replace traditional investigation. As can be seen from question 1, anamnesis is an additional technique which attempts to find extra information about a UFO event. Just as when we take a photograph we need to know what shutter speed and which lens were used, so with a UFO witness, their experience is like a "snap-shot" of the event.

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BUFORA INFORMATION ON PRESTEL

For several years, BUFORA has provided information about UFOs to EASTEL Services. These have been displayed as part of EASTEL's section on PRESTEL. This has been the source of a number of enquiries over the years about BUFORA and it's work.

Unfortunately EASTEL have withdrawn from PRESTEL from the 28th February 1986, so the BUFORA pages are no longer available. Our thanks go to EASTEL for all there help over the years.

Unfortunately, past experience leads me to believe that poor response to a simple request such as the survey is due not to inability but just unwillingness to help. Over a number of issues of both JTAP and the BUFORA Bulletin I have published items requesting help with specific projects and jobs. As an example, in the last issue of JTAP, I published an item about assessing witness reliability and invited members to send written comments or to join a team studying this area. To and that was from a non-member from overseas! I am still willing to receive offers of help on this and other projects. In the BUFORA News section of this Journal several requests for help are listed. Do not miss this chance to contribute something to research.

If we stop to consider how many people are involved in actively working for BUFORA the figures might be alarming. There are about twenty field investigators, about ten people involved in research and twelve members of council. However of this apparent forty people many have jobs in two or even all three categories. This makes the number of active members between 25 and 30 or put another way less than 10%. No wonder we make slow progress, what are the rest of you doing? Perhaps you just belong to BUFORA for entertainment. Fine, but if you are going to treat BUFORA as if it were the BBC possibly we should be charging you a

similar fee of around £50, that way we could afford to employ people to do the work our members seem so uninterested in doing.

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CLOSE ENCOUNTER IN SCOTLAND - A FOLLOW UP.

REPORT ON THE STUDY OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE

Carried out by Midlands UFO Research Organisation.
Address: 5 The Ridgeway, Farnsfield, Newark, Notts.

Introduction by S.J. Gamble, BUFORA Director of Research.

ABSTRACT.

In November 1979 a forester, Robert Taylor, had a close encounter with a UFO at Livingston in West Lothian. During the course of this encounter his trousers became damaged. The results of a study of these trousers are presented here.

INTRODUCTION.

On 9th November 1979, Robert Taylor had a close encounter with an 'object' close to his home in West Lothian, where Mr Taylor, then aged 61, worked as a forester. This object was hovering a few feet above the ground. The sighting had many interesting features in that in addition to effects on Mr Taylor also there were ground markings and his clothing became damaged. In the terminology adopted by Allen Hynek (1) this was a fine example of a close encounter of the second kind.

This incident has been reported in great detail elsewhere (2,3) so only an outline will be presented here to remind readers of the key facts.

Mr Taylor left his home at 10.00 GMT to inspect young forests to the north of Livingston, close to the M8 motorway, which runs from Edinburgh towards Glasgow. He was accompanied on this journey by his dog. They turned off of the main road along a forest track. It was

not possible to drive his van all the way along the track, so he left the van and started to walk the rest of the way with his dog.

As he rounded a corner in the track he came upon a large domed object hovering stationary above the ground. The time was now about 10.15 and the object was only 100 metres from, but not in sight of the M8.

He watched the large object for about 30 seconds before two small mine like objects appeared, apparently from underneath the larger object. These smaller objects approached Robert Taylor and attached themselves, one either side, to his trouser legs, just below the pockets. These small mines emitted a strong acrid smell. Robert felt himself being pulled towards the larger object by these mines, this was just before he lost consciousness.

When he recovered consciousness the objects were gone. He found he was unable to stand, and

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when he tried to call his dog, found that he had also lost his voice. Eventually he was able to crawl back to his van. Unfortunately when he tried to drive the van he reversed into soft ground and was unable to move it. He managed to stagger across the fields to his house which is some 1600 metres from the site of the incident.

When he arrived home his wife assumed that he had been attacked and wanted to call the police. Robert would not allow this, but did allow her to contact his superior, Mr Malcolm Drummond at the Forestry Department of the Livingston Development Corporation. His wife also noticed that Robert's trousers were torn. Later Robert was persuaded by his doctor to visit the nearby Bangour Hospital for X-rays. On the basis that he had been attacked by 'aliens' the police were called.

Robert Taylor's clothing including the trousers were taken away by the police for forensic examination. The forensic report on Taylor's clothing is reproduced in full as pages 39 to 42 of Campbell's detailed report (3). When the clothing was returned some time later, investigator Stuart Campbell was able to obtain the torn trousers on behalf of BUFORA.

At that time Charles Lockwood was Research Projects Officer for BUFORA and Charles, in collaboration with the other members of his local group, the Midlands UFO Research

Organisation (MURD), kindly offered to make a detailed study of the trousers. Their report is reproduced in full on the following pages.

BUFORA Research would like to acknowledge the work of MURD on our behalf and would particularly like to thank Charles Lockwood for setting up this collaboration.

For those people that would be interested in studying this particular case in more detail, there are a limited number of copies of the detailed report on the case still available, this is quoted below as reference 3. In 1982, BUFORA held a special seminar on this case in Edinburgh. Cassette recordings of the presentations are available from the tape librarian, Robin Lindsey, who should be contacted for costs and other details.

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THE MURO REPORT.

SUMMARY

The following comments were made collectively by members of the Midlands UFO Research Organisation. We were very grateful to receive the trousers from the BUFORA Research department and we hoped that we might make some contribution to this case, which is one of the most unusual and best reported to date. We have not found anything in our examination of the trousers which would offer answers to the key question in this case, namely, was a natural terrestrial event, such as an atmospheric or physiological phenomenon, the cause of this sighting? However, if anyone is still reading and analysing the data in this case, it is possible that what we say may spark off some further studies in this or future cases.

INITIAL COMMENTS

We noted that there may have been further damage to the trousers after the incident and before they reached us. The fact that they were taken in a non-sterile bag for forensic examination is a cause for concern, as we were aware from discussions with Stuart Campbell. (see page 19 of report, the trousers were taken away for examination in a plastic shopping bag which resulted in them becoming contaminated with flour -Ed).

Our initial impression on looking at the tears on each side of the trousers was that

they were consistent with the description of events given by the witness, Robert Taylor.

VISUAL OBSERVATIONS

The trousers are described on pages 17,18 and 19 of the published report (1). The material is a heavy duty black serge. The tears were made on the outside and we looked at the pockets within. The left hip pocket is rectangular and is marked with the figures 119, but shows no damage.

We noted that the tears on both sides had parallel sections, and on the left leg the angles made by the offset tears to the main tears, which led to the seams, were equal. This was presumably the line of weakness of the fibres. We were puzzled by the small puncture on the left about 40mm from the tear and about 80mm from the seam. It suggested that if punctures had started the tears, the fibres had not been pulled at every puncture. A small cut appeared to have occurred on the left side lower edge, and we wondered whether any fibre samples had been taken.

We also noted numerous dog hairs, and the mud patches referred to in the report. We wondered whether it had been possible to test any of the mud on the trousers for comparison with the other samples.

When we looked at the right leg we noted that on the money pocket there was no apparent damage, nor on the rectangular right hand hip pocket. However, the trucheon pocket was more

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interesting. (Robert Taylor's trousers are surplus police trousers -Ed). Two marks were obvious, both having material raised in direction pointing outwards, i.e. towards the apparent point of entry. However, we were not sure how easy it would be for this to occur as a result of investigators poking at the material. The lower hole had a maximum diameter of 3mm when the fibres were opened to their natural extent. The upper hole had some discolouration around it, but again this could have been introduced by an investigator. As noted by Steuart Campbell the outer marks correspond to puncture marks on the tracheon pocket.

We thought that it could be argued that the spacings of the punctures on both the left and right trouser legs were of the same size. If this were true then one is inclined to wonder what is the probability that the marks were caused by ball lightning or barbed wire. We wondered what would be the normal spacing between the barbs on barbed wire. It has not been established that barbed wire could be the cause. It is also indicated in the report that Steuart Campbell could not find anywhere along the journey that would account for the tears.

PRACTICAL TESTS.

In order to consider the best explanation for the tears we examined some similar blue serge material of the type issued to the fire services.

We had a tunic of cloth thickness approximately 0.86mm, compared with the trousers which had an approximate thickness of 0.79mm. The test material and micrometer were provided by Roy Davidson.

The test material ripped at about 6.35 kg when placed on a hook of cross sectional diameter 3.7mm. However, it would not rip up to a weight of 14.5 kg when gripped in a vice over a 9.5mm diameter circular surface. With a double hole made by a full hook rethreaded we noted that tearing just began at 15.9 kg applied.

These rather simple tests suggested that tearing depended on the nature of the puncture as well as the area of support. While this may seem obvious we still felt that we had not fully established the conditions under which damage to the trousers could occur. For example, a sudden jerk might be expected to initiate a tear more easily than slowly applied weight. There are, of course, other physical factors which could alter the results, such as temperature, moisture and others. Once tearing had begun it seemed unlikely that it would stop (as it had) if pulling forces were still being applied, with sufficient strength to move a man weighing 73 kg. We noted that the grass had probably been quite wet, considering the humidity figures and the possibility of a sleet shower during the previous hour, as suggested by the meteorological report in the data listed by Steuart Campbell.

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SUGGESTED FURTHER WORK.

Further tests suggested by Roy Davidson, but not attempted by us, include the use of a dummy weighted to match the witness, and dragged in a similar series of tests. This suggestion did make us think that duplication of reported events could probably be done more often than has been tried in the past, and that these procedures could improve our whole technique of sighting simulation.

Further ideas which were discussed were the possibility that after being dragged the witness may have been lifted. We did not look for any evidence on the trousers for such lifting, nor did there seem to be anything in the witness's account which would corroborate this suggestion. However, the process of looking for new data could be assisted whenever we have a useful working hypothesis to test in addition to random searches.

We also wondered whether any more information was available on any scuff marks that would presumably have occurred to the witness's boots or scrape marks on the ground.

CONCLUSIONS

The evidence so far, therefore does support the theory that Robert Taylor lay on the ground unconscious not far from the point of contact with the reported spheres. We have no data to suggest that abduction occurred, but we were

interested in the fact that hypnotic regression may have been attempted. It be interesting to know whether any such hypnosis had produced data corroborating the ground marks or the other physical traces, including the trousers.

In other tests which we carried out we used a microscope, provided by John Gibson and an ultraviolet light belonging to Roy Davidson.

We feel that use of a microscope was of limited value, and that only low power magnification was useable by our group. This is not to say that microscopes are not important, simply that we did not have the expertise in this field that would be appropriate. Perhaps some photomicrographs of the torn areas should be taken for future reference.

Under ultraviolet light the only fluorescence observed was the expected glow from some stitching cotton on the pockets, and a great deal of small flecks of dust and fibres which fluoresced also. These are typical of ordinary clothing and lint. This is another field which requires more investigation.

Roy Davidson wondered whether infrared spectrometry might show additional data.

Although no positive results had been obtained, we felt that the studies had clarified a

(continued on page 54)

Stephen Gamble, Director of Research

ABSTRACT

This short paper will present some preliminary results of a small research project based upon a study of BUFORA case reports.

In two previous articles (1,2) a project to design and construct a comprehensive computer based index of all case reports has been described. The index, which contains information such as BUFORA case reference number, the date, location and basic details of the object reported, runs on Sinclair Spectrum (3) computers using the Masterfile Database system (4). One major use of the index is to identify individual cases or groups of cases suitable for further research. This report illustrates the latter use of the index.

Whilst entering data into my version of the system, I noticed that there were two reports on the same day which had previously been evaluated as bright meteoric fireballs. These were 76-118 and 76-119 and they had a number of other features in common: they were both from the Herne Bay area, both reported time as 22:40 and both were investigated by V. Martin. Armed with this information I was able to search my database to see if there were any other supporting cases.

Before explaining the results of this search I should stress that these are preliminary results and that I still have to study the original case

reports before a final evaluation can be made. I carried out a search of the database for reports for the 6th June 1976. This produced a total of ten reports for that day which are shown in table 1. Of these eight were reported to have occurred between 22:30 and 22:40. I consider these within the limits of reporting error to be the same time and these eight will form the basis of further study. Two reports, 76-409 (at 20:30) and 76-156 (at 10:15) were eliminated from further study because they were at the incorrect time.

A brief description of the remaining eight cases is shown in table 2. As can be seen from the table, seven of the reported objects are described as bright lights with trails. It would be very unlikely that seven reports of entirely different objects would agree so well in both time and description. Mike Wootten (1) shows the hourly distribution of UFO reports (including IFO's) to be 10.95% for cases between 22:00 and 22:59. Here we have, however, 80% of the cases reported for this particular day occurring within a ten minute time span. Wootten's data relates to the early 1980s and we are dealing with a single day in the mid-1970s so caution should be

(text continued on page 54.)

TABLE 1.
CASE REPORTS FOR 6TH JUNE 1976.

BUFDRA Code	Time	Location	Investigator
76-114	22:30	Whitstable, Kent	V.Martin
76-118	22:40	Herne Bay, Kent	V.Martin
76-119	22:40	Herne Bay, Kent	V.Martin
76-156	10:15	Colchester	A.Collins
76-169	22:40	Kidsgrove, Staffs	C.Bourne
76-179	22:40	Kidsgrove, Staffs	C.Bourne
76-180	22:30	Longton, Staffs	?
76-364	22:30	Crooklands, Cumbria	N.Stephenson
76-408	22:30	Stroud, Glos	T.Hooper, BFSB
76-409	20:30	Stroud, Glos	T.Hooper, BFSB

TABLE 2.
DESCRIPTION OF REPORTED OBJECTS

Case No.	Description	Evaluation
76-114	LITS with trail	
76-118	light with burning trail	fireball
76-119	light with burning trail	fireball
76-169	orange star-like object with sparks and tail	
76-179	bright spot changing shape	
76-180	bright object with trail	
76-364	bright ball, moving with tail	
76-408	blue, white object with tail	

June 1976 Fireball

(continued from page 52)

exercised in making any comparison, however it is unlikely that hourly distribution has altered significantly between the 1970s and 1980s. At this point in time, I have no figures with which to compare the shape with the general distribution of reported shapes.

This proposed fireball occurred just before the quoted dates for the June Lyrid meteor shower. Norton's Star Atlas (5) quotes these as being June 10th to June 21st, although meteors and fireballs associated with this shower may be seen a few days either side of these dates. The June Lyrids are characterised by blue white meteors, which fits well with the description here, especially the description of 76-40B from Stroud.

FURTHER WORK

Obviously further work need to be carried out using the case reports. The first stage must be to examine the original case reports. This will fill in some of the data which is currently missing from my database such as the colour of all the reported objects and angular size. These reports should be easy to extract because we have the case numbers which were identified in the original computer search rather than having to examine all the case reports looking for cases from the same date. In addition, other case reports from the same day

between 22:00 and 23:00 from both the U.K. and Europe should be examined. If any readers know of reports other than those mentioned, I would be grateful to hear about them. Once all this data is collected it might be possible to work out the track of this proposed fireball. In conclusion I would like to thank the investigators mentioned in Table 1 who's work made this possible.

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(continued from page 51)

number of points, and that we would benefit in future investigations.

Members of MURD involved in this study were:
Roy Davidson,
John Gibson,
Charles Lockwood,
Allen Stevens,
Jean Stevens,
and Ann Walker

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MAKING PROGRESS IN RESEARCH

Stephen Gamble, Director of Research.

One of the intentions of my earlier paper on the future of research (1) was to encourage the view that scientific methodology should be used to study UFO and other related transient aerial phenomena. I was certainly not the first to advocate this, for example both Hynek (2) and Hondry (3) have also proposed similar application of scientific methodology. Similar opinions have been widely expressed by former director of research, Peter Hill (4,5).

One common question asked is why are professional scientists not interested in UFO's? I think that professional scientists would be interested in conducting serious research into UFO phenomena, however many of the basic requirements for successful research do not exist. To pose a question asked by Hill (4) "Why have we made so little progress that we have not much more documented, hard fact than we had when BUFORA was founded in 1964? The answer is complex and multifactorial." I agree with Peter Hill, the answer is truly complex and multifactorial, and like him I believe one of the factors is the inevitable use of enthusiastic volunteers who are unaware of the scientific method of enquiry. The only way to make significant steps forward is to attract professional scientists with the required skills and these will not be attracted unless a suitable research environment exists.

What would be a suitable research environment?

There are two things necessary to create a suitable research environment. These are firstly a suitable attitude from those with whom

you would be working, perhaps better called the research climate, and secondly providing adequate backup facilities to enable research to take place. This second area could be referred to as the infrastructure of research. I will concentrate more on the second of these as it is an area in which I feel we can exert most influence. However, before moving on I will discuss briefly the first option, the research climate.

Research is based upon three basic principles, objectives, testable hypotheses and facts. The objective is a clearly defined target, put another way what do you wish to get out of your research? I am sure, if asked, many people would say that their objective is something like to solve the UFO enigma. This is unreasonable, at least in the short term, no single research project is likely to solve the UFO problem by itself. All projects should have obtainable objectives. A clearly defined objective might be, for example, to produce a catalogue of all UFO sightings recorded in the U.K. Once you have successfully achieved this objective you can then define the next objective. You might be able to formulate a hypothesis which you can test,

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the testing of the hypothesis could be the objective of the second project. To illustrate this a little further let us follow a simple sequence through.

Our first objective can be to establish a catalogue of all sightings recorded by BUFORA which occurred between and including, say, the first of January 1970 and 31st December 1979. To make it easy to use this catalogue we will use a simple computer system to store our data. After several months work we may have entered details of all the sightings into our computer system so that our objective has been reached. Next we can consider how we can use the results (i.e. the catalogue) from this project to aid further research.

Having successfully completed one project, we can start to think about a new project which might follow on from the first in easy stages. One of my other interests is astronomy and I am particularly interested in the study of meteors. Let us construct a hypothesis for our second project, my hypothesis is that some UFO reports are caused by misidentification of meteors. So the objective for the second project is to examine the catalogue, produced as a result of our first project, to see if any cases have been evaluated as meteors. We ask the computer to carry out this search of the catalogue and after a couple of minutes it comes back with a list of several cases that have been evaluated

as definite meteors. To recap we have :-

- 1) Defined a hypothesis i.e. some UFO reports are meteors
- 2) Set an objective i.e. attempted to test the hypothesis
- 3) Established a fact i.e. some UFO reports are definitely misidentified meteors.

We could then define a third project which built upon the second, say out of eight meteor reports identified in the second project, two related to an extremely bright fireball seen on the same night at the same time by two independent groups of witnesses. We could form a hypothesis that if this fireball was so bright then it might have been seen by other witnesses who reported as a UFO therefore there should be other reports of it that, perhaps have not been evaluated as a fireball. Again a search of our database might reveal ten cases for that particular day of which eight including the original two are reported to have occurred between 22:30 and 22:40 and all are described as being a bright light with a trail. It would be necessary, of course, at this stage to examine in detail the original case reports before reclassifying these cases to be meteors.

As a fourth project it might be possible to determine the track of this fireball over the U.K. using the data from the original case reports, or to search newsclippings for additional data or to compare

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it with similar data from, say, the British Astronomical Association meteor section. At each stage we have had clear obtainable objectives, we have built and tested hypotheses based on the evidence we have previously obtained and we have documented each stage we have gone through so that other researchers can see exactly what we have done and if necessary they can repeat the same exercise.

What we have not done is set unobtainable objectives e.g. to solve completely the UFO problem. If something is clearly unobtainable a professional in any field will not waste any time on it. Another thing that we have not done is to decide on the result of a study without considering the evidence, for example even though the results of our third study revealed eight cases which could be meteors we could not reclassify them without considering the original case reports. Again if you cannot present evidence to support a given idea it is not worth wasting time on.

To sum up, the correct research climate is one in which clear obtainable objectives can be set and in which conclusions are only drawn after full consideration of the evidence. This also means that people have to be allowed to present their evidence however strange their ideas. Supporters of the UFOs are natural phenomena theory should not dismiss out of hand the people who think that UFOs are extraterrestrial vehicles,

in the same way ETH supporters should not dismiss those who favour a psychic explanation. Let each present their evidence, only dismiss them if they have no evidence to present. It is no longer good enough to proclaim I support this theory or that theory because I know it is right - you now have to prove it.

The Infrastructure of Research.

Having established a viable research climate what else is necessary to produce a suitable research environment? The modern researcher has come to expect a number of basic facilities to support his research, he just does not have the time to re-invent the wheel each time he carries out an experiment. The majority of research in the United Kingdom is done on short term contracts of two or three years. It is only possible for a researcher to carry out his research program by attaching himself to a University or other research institute which provides basic facilities such as laboratory and library facilities. It is exactly this type of facility that is lacking in the field of UFOlogy.

When starting any new study a researcher normally starts by reviewing the literature. One method of doing this is to find several papers about the subject you are interested in, then find associated papers by studying the quoted references in these papers. This is one area where the UFOlogical press has been seriously lacking, many articles and papers do quote the sources of

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information used. BUFORA has tried to improve this in its own publications, but it is not something BUFORA alone can do. Many otherwise superb books on the subject lack even the most basic of facilities, an index.

One other way a researcher might find papers about a subject in which he is interested would be to consult one of the journals listing papers in the current editions of other learned journals. Probably the best known of these are the Current Contents series of journals. This type of journal picks a particular field for example biology then lists the contents of all the journals in the field that have been published in the last month. By going through this one book a researcher is able to find any papers likely to be of use in his research. I am not aware of any similar publication in the field of UFOlogy. This is clearly something that BUFORA could do using the large number of exchange journals we receive.

In a normal scientific investigation it is usual to scan a literature database such as BLAISE to check if any similar work has been carried out. BLAISE is the British Library Automated Information Service, which is a computer database (6) which research institutes can access via the academic computer network. This system contains information on a wide variety of books and other publications in English and for many of the items there are abstracts of the

information contained in the article. If an article is of interest there is a means of borrowing the original journal or of receiving a photocopy of the appropriate pages. To find out about a given subject you supply a keyword or group of keywords about the subject. In most college and research institute libraries there is even someone to carry out the search for you, so you do not even have to learn how to work BLAISE. The researcher receives back from BLAISE a list of the titles, and if asked for abstracts, of all the articles that relate to the given keywords. From this a researcher can decide what is worth reading in detail.

There is a lack of a similar facility in UFOlogy. This is, however, something which we can correct. Since November I have been working on an index for all the issues of JTAP, this can be expanded. We should produce a UFOlogical index similar to BLAISE. This can be done as a number of individual projects. Firstly a catalogue can be produced of all books and journals in the English language. Secondly, a detailed index can be produced of all the journals and special reports produced by BUFORA and its constituent groups. A third stage in this process would be to extend the detailed index to cover other selected periodicals. These might have to be limited at least initially to those we receive as exchange publications.

A second line of attack would be to produce the raw data in a form suitable for use in

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research. The first stage in this process is the production of a comprehensive index recording basic data on all cases. This allows the rapid identification of groups of cases for further study. If a researcher is interested in red lights over Essex in January 1977 he does not want to wade through a whole year's reports just to extract the ten or so cases that are of interest. (There were several hundred reports in 1977). Mike Wooten has been working with several other members on a basic index of case reports. A second stage to this process would be the recording of more detailed information on specific groups of cases. To supplement this, together with John Shaw, I have drawn up the basic specification for a photographic database.

Once we have all this information we should use it. All these projects presented so far, are based upon the use of microcomputer databases. A recent survey, carried out by Paul Fuller, of computers used by BUFORA members has shown that a wide variety of different computers were in use. It is difficult to exchange data between the different types of computers used so a different solution need to be found. One way to overcome this problem is to have all the data stored on a larger computer which can be accessed by a number of people. This could be done for example by storing all the information on a large micro-computer such as an IBM AT with 60 Mbytes of disk storage. Such a machine would,

cost between £4000 and £5000. A machine like this would need to be situated at some central office, and if a full time member of staff was on hand searches could be carried out on behalf of researchers. With members spread throughout the U.K. some way would need to be found for everyone to access the data. Individual members could use their own microcomputers to access this larger computer. If the computer is connected to a telephone line then members from all over the country could access the data from their home computers using a modem and a simple terminal emulation program.

Once the researcher had identified which cases they were interested in from the database, the office assistant could provide photocopies. If we had such an office it could house the BUFORA library and would be available at all times as a base from which people could work.

Paul Fuller (7) has recently highlighted the importance of statistics in the modern scientific method. Researchers in most branches of science consider statistical computer packages to be everyday tools. Most of these packages are too large to run on normal home computers. If BUFORA invests in the appropriate computing equipment for all the above projects, this can also be used for statistical analysis. Obviously all this will be expensive in both manpower and monetary resources, but will be necessary if BUFORA wishes to do serious research instead of

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instead of just playing with science. How such an objective can be obtained is of course a different question. It is possible we could get a research grant either from one of the government research councils to cover the basic cost of the machinery. We might also qualify for a grant from one of the job creation schemes at least in the short term to employ someone to staff the office. All these need further investigation.

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- 6) Hammond, R (1984) The Online Handbook, pp 136-139. Fontana.
- 7) Fuller, P. (1986) A significant breakthrough. BUFORA Bulletin January 1986 p31.

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BUFORA NEWS

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NEW TECHNOLOGY HITS JTAP.

Together with the Fleet Street publications JTAP has moved into the 1990's. As an experiment the masters for this issue were prepared using a microcomputer. Unfortunately this resulted in losing a few days on our deadline. We hope to improve this before the next issue.

ERROR.

The last issue of JTAP was the first of volume 4. Therefore, the page numbers should have started with number 1 again. The page numbers should have been 1 to 32 not 189 to 220 as printed. Sorry.

RESEARCH OPPORTUNITIES.

In line with two previous articles (1,2) published by the research department, we are interested in expanding the number of people involved in research and extending our range of activities. A range of different theories of UFO origin are under consideration by individual study groups. In addition, other groups are looking at the application of specific techniques to the study of UFO phenomena. If you have an idea for a research project of your own, or would be interested in taking part in existing projects, please write to me at the research headquarters.

Please give as much detail of the type of project you would be interested in and information about your qualifications and experience.

BUFORA NEWS

For some projects twenty years serious study of UFO phenomena could be worth more than a PhD in astrophysics, so every member should have some experience which can be of use.

Steve Gamble, Director of Research.

References

- 1) Hill, P.A. (1983) The interface between the UFO report and new information. JTAP 2, pp 71-74.
- 2) Gamble, S.J. (1984) The future of research. BUFORA Bulletin no 14, pp 24-27.

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PRODUCTION ASSISTANT.

We are seeking help in the production of JTAP. Initially the production assistant would be involved in sending submitted material to referees and in retyping material into an acceptable form for publication. As the job develops there might be scope for involvement in other aspects of production.

Unfortunately this job is common with all others offered by the research department is entirely honorary. There is, however, a small budget to help offset out of pocket expenses.

S.J.Gamble, Research Director.

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ADDITIONAL REFEREES REQUIRED.

Since its inception in 1979

it has been the policy that papers submitted to JTAP may be subject to review by referees. These referees have been drawn from the members of the editorial board and a small number of external referees.

The referees study a paper in detail and assess its suitability for publication. The referees advise the editorial board to accept, seek revision of or to reject each paper.

It is now our wish to expand the number and range of qualification of our panel of referees. Only a small number of papers are received each year for consideration, so it is unlikely that any individual would have an excessive workload. If you feel that you would like to be considered, please write to me giving details of your experience and qualifications.

Steve Gamble, Dir. of Research.
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RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS.

The following two vacancies still exist within the research department. Both are honorary, although research has a small budget to help offset expenses.

1) Head of research section to consider "UFOs are psychological or physiological phenomena". Details can be found in JTAP 3, p170 (March 1985).

2) Research membership officer. Details can be found inside back cover BUFORA Bulletin 17.

Interested members should contact Steve Gamble.

CORRESPONDENCE

TOWARDS A PSI/UFO INTERFACE.

Sir,

I would like to make some brief comments upon part of Manfred Cassirer's paper, "Towards a PSI/UFO Interface" which appears in JTAF (1984) vol 3, part 3, pages 143-155, specifically his comments upon angel hair (p.151).

Cassirer argues that J.S. Accetta in his paper, "Angels Hair Revisited" (Journal of UFO Studies, 1980 (although undated), 1, part 1, pp 32-34) acknowledges angel hair to be "supposedly quite unstable". This is not so, for what he points out is that there was once a belief in it being unstable, his actual words being, "In the past, Angels Hair specimens were alleged to be quite unstable". Deliberately distorting the view of another writer in order to make it appear as though his statement supports ideas he approves of is something that Cassirer should avoid, otherwise doubts must arise as to the accuracy of many of his other claims. Incidentally, another error, Accetta's paper is by no means the "latest study of the subject", indeed, it is a study of one case not the subject as a whole.

It is suggested that the vanishing angel hair in the 1957 (?) Florida case is of a character which must raise doubts about the "wholesale attribution to mundane causes", in this instance that angel hair is spiders web. But had Cassirer read up the Puente, California, angel hair case of

1954, he would have found reference to it being electrically charged (I, too, have experienced an electric shock from drifting spiders web). This suggests that angel hair can be a conglomerate of material held together by static electricity, so if this was so with the Florida material the effect of placing it in a container may have earthed it and led to it falling apart, so on opening the container the collector would not have seen what he expected. We see, then, a perfectly conventional explanation which accords with mundane causes is possible.

The only other case mentioned is a fall of angel hair at Evora, Portugal, I failed to see the point Cassirer was seeking to make by including this case, unless it be that the description of the material as being a "white gelatinous substance" suggests a similarity with ectoplasm and a marked contrast with spiders web. But web made by species of the spider genus, Tegenaria, and also certain cribellate spiders does accord with the material as described. One might add that the "apparently unknown microbe" also mentioned by Cassirer, has disintegrated. Perhaps there is no significance in this, yet it happens that in order to preserve the remains of spiders one must put them in alcohol otherwise they dry out and eventually fall to pieces. There has been no proper scientific report concerning the Evora case, although one was promised, nor has the "microbe" been described in any detail, but what little detail there is available suggests the organism

Correspondence

PSI/UFO Interface, cont...

could have been a species of immature Linyphidae.

There are major problems in the study of angel hair, some of which I have discussed elsewhere (The Angel Hair Problem in Ufology. NUFODIS Press, Nottingham, 1981 and "Some observations on Angel Hair", OSEAP Journal (1983) 1, 2, pp 5-10). Most relate to the unsatisfactory nature of the various reports, but there is one fact which really does stand out, there is no need to introduce mystification or the paranormal in the manner Cassirer attempts to.

R.W.Morrell,
Nottingham UFO Investigation Society,
Nottingham,
May 1985.

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SOLAR AND EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE - A NEW HYPOTHESIS

Dear Sir,

Ali F. Abutaha proposes that there is intelligent life on the Sun! Why does he propose this 'new hypothesis'? What data is the hypothesis trying to explain? Absolutely none. Even the UFO data are to him merely minor confirmation of his notion (in fact UFO data are useless to him or anyone else). He is certainly not attempting to explain any curious solar phenomena. Nor can his hypothesis be scient-

ific, since it is not capable of being falsified. It does not even make any testable predictions. If there is a solar intelligence and it has chosen to ignore us we shall never discover it.

Central to his hypothesis is the idea that the relatively few neutral atoms of the molecules necessary for life have, in the solar convection zone, come together to form active associations. He states that there are mechanisms which can bring them together, but he does not state what these mechanisms are (although he suggests that pressure, density magnetic fields and gravity are involved!). Noting the differentiation evident on Earth (without which life could not have evolved), he implies that such differentiation has occurred on the Sun. Of course there is no justification for this idea: solar temperatures are far too high for the chemical combinations necessary for differentiation to occur. If the Earth was heated to the solar temperature all terrestrial elements would merge into an undifferentiated plasma in which no life could survive. He writes that 'there is no reason to believe that the Sun, and the stars, lack organic molecules, or the requirements for their development'. On the contrary; there is no reason to believe that stars contain such molecules. He argues that since water can remain liquid at high temperatures (given high pressure) liquid water can form in the Sun. This assumes that you can collect enough of the water molecules (supposing that

Correspondence

Solar Life, cont....

there are any) together in one place against the laws of entropy. Since the molecules must be electrically neutral the collection process cannot be magnetic (as he implies).

There is a seemingly unrelated argument for a solid core to the Sun (even though the core is not adjacent to the convection zone). In fact there is no evidence for a solid core and the solar temperature is too high to permit matter in the solid state. The Sun's differential rotation (which suggests a slower rotating core not a faster rotating one) is no evidence for a solid core, nor is the fact that the Sun has only 0.5% of the angular momentum of the Solar System.

The effect of high magnetic fields on paramagnetic, diamagnetic and ferromagnetic materials is irrelevant; few of these materials are involved in biological processes (they are nearly all metals and could not be in a solid state in the Sun).

Abutaha proposes that something like the process involved in the famous experiment by Urey and Miller occurred in the Sun to form complex molecules. In the experiment the energy source was an electric discharge (modelling lightning on the proto-Earth), but there can be neither such discharges nor an electric field in the solar plasma.

Abutaha knows far too much for his own good. Much of his article consists of discourses on well-known data which have no bearing on his hypothesis and which serve to conceal the paucity of real evidence for it. The few data which are relevant have either been misunderstood or mishandled, and the data essential to support his hypothesis are entirely lacking. He even misunderstands the verses he quotes from The Bible and The Koran!

Steuart Campbell,
Edinburgh,
November 1985.

BUFORA LECTURES

Unless otherwise stated, lectures will be held at London Business School, Sussex Place, London NW1 on Saturday evenings at 6.30pm. Lectures end at approximately 9.30pm. Entrance fees are £1 for BUFORA members and £2.50 for non-members.

The programme for the rest of the 1985-86 season is :-

3rd May, 1986

Lecture by Mark Birdsall
of Yorkshire UFO Society
YUFOS.

7th June 1986

Lecture on the Marian
events in Ballinspittle.
Lionel Beer

Aims and scope of the Journal

Research and investigation into unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena has progressed from the early days of wild speculation into an area where scientific analysis and evaluation methods can be applied to a number of specified areas.

It is realised that ufological research is subject to a great deal of speculative comment, much of which lies on the boundaries of current scientific thought. Many existing scientific institutions accept limited discussion of UFOs and related phenomena where it has some bearing on their discipline. The Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena (Journal TAP) offers a forum for scientists and researchers to present ideas for further discussion, results of investigations and analysis of statistics and other pertinent information.

Journal TAP aims to meet a wide range of discussion by incorporating an approach with breadth of scope, clear and topical comment conducted with scientific rigour. It intends to offer a truly international forum enabling researchers throughout the world to publish results in an authoritative publication which should serve to further knowledge of the cosmos and benefit mankind in so doing.

Notes for contributors

The Editorial Board will be pleased to receive contributions from all parts of the world. Manuscripts, preferably in English, should be submitted in the first instance, to the Editor-in-chief, 40 Jones Drove, Whittlesey, Peterborough, PE7 1UE, United Kingdom.

Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced on one side of A4 size paper with wide margins and submitted in duplicate. While no maximum length of contributions is prescribed, authors are encouraged to write concisely.

The author's name should be typed on the line below the title. The affiliation (if any) and address should follow on the next line. The body of the manuscript should be preceded by an abstract of around 100 words giving the main conclusions drawn.

All mathematical symbols may be either hand-written or typewritten, but no ambiguities should arise.

Illustrations should be restricted to the minimum necessary. They should accompany the script and should be included in manuscript pages. Line drawings should include all relevant details and should be drawn in black ink on plain white drawing paper. Good photoprints are acceptable but blueprints or dyeline prints cannot be used. Drawings and diagrams should allow for a 20 per cent reduction. Lettering should be clear, open, and sufficiently large to permit the necessary reduction of size for publication. Photographs should be sent as glossy prints, preferably full or half plate size. Captions to any submitted photograph or illustration should be appended and clearly marked.

In the interests of economy and to reduce errors, tables will, where possible, be reproduced by photo-offset using the author's typed manuscript. Tables should therefore be submitted in a form suitable for direct reproduction. Page size used should be A4 and width of table should be either 10.5 cm or 22 cm. Large or long tables should be typed on continuing sheets but identifying numbers should be placed on the upper right-hand corner of each sheet of tabular material.

Reference to published literature should be quoted in the text in brackets and grouped together at the end of the paper in numerical order. A separate sheet of paper should be used. Double spacing must be used throughout. Journal TAP references should be arranged thus :

- (1) Jacques Vallee: 1965. *Anatomy of a Phenomenon*, vii, Henry Regnery, Chicago.
- (2) David Haisell: 1980. Working Party Report, *Journal TAP* 1/2, pp36-40

With the exception of dates which should be presented in the astronomical convention viz : 1977 August 06, no rigid rules concerning notation or abbreviation need be observed by authors, but each paper should be self-consistent as to symbols and units, which should all be properly defined. Times however should be presented in astronomical form using the 24 hour clock and Universal Time (UT) where possible. If local time is used, this should be specified viz 19h 15 GMT.

The Editorial Board shall have the right to seek advice from referees on suitability for publication and may, on their recommendation, accept, seek revision of or reject manuscripts. If considered unsuitable for Journal TAP, the Editor-in-chief reserves the right to forward manuscripts to the Editor of *Bufo* Journal for consideration. The Editor-in-chief's decision will be final.

Book reviews and letters for publication will also be considered.

Where permission is needed for publication of material included in an article, it is the responsibility of the author to acquire this prior to submission. All opinions expressed in articles will be those of the contributor and unless otherwise stated, will not reflect the views of *Bufo*, its Council or the Editor-in-chief.

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