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AIMS :

1. To encourage and promote unbiased scientific investigation and research into Unidentified Flying Object phenomena.
2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to Unidentified Flying Objects.
3. To co-ordinate UFO Research on a nation-wide scale and co-operate with persons and organisations engaged upon similar research in all parts of the world.

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EDITORIAL

It is often suggested, and indeed on occasion I have wondered myself whether it might be the case, that radio and television programmes featuring UFOs and their protagonists, newspaper articles on ufology, etc., are biased against the serious research association: are poking fun or are "out to get us": but is this really so?

We have to remember that we—not unnaturally—have a vested interest in the way a programme is put out: the way in which an article is written. To the producer, reporter or feature writer, BUFORA or any other society or magazine is just one facet of the UFO "scene." In radio and television shows particularly the producer is interested—as with features on many other subjects—in obtaining what he regards as a "balanced programme." To him this will include such varied representatives of "opinion" as BUFORA, THE AETHERIUS SOCIETY, THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, AUNTY AGGIE, who's just seen a funny looking light wobbling around, an AIRCRAFT EXPERT who tells us saucers can't exist because they aren't aerodynamic and an 11-year-old SCHOOLBOY who thinks we're in imminent danger of a Martian invasion! Small wonder that in the midst of this set-up we are a still small voice crying in the wilderness, *but*, it is not, in my opinion, a deliberate attempt to denigrate serious UFO research.

Nor do I believe that more ufologists are struck down in their prime than researchers of any other persuasion, and it is my contention that we are prone to read more into casualties amongst our ranks than is there to read: I feel it would be interesting to compile and compare a "casualty list" of ufologists with one of any research activity group of similar numbers: my bet is that the result would be the same to within one per cent!

The post too—letters don't get delivered—they arrive too late—who or what is responsible? Having given considerable thought to this my conclusion is—the Post Office! Here too you will find that the percentage of mail going astray sent to ufologists is near enough the same as that which is sent to everyone else!

Let us stop imagining and complaining that we are deliberately being singled out for special "anti-us" treatment by THEM, whoever THEM may be, and instead exert all our energies into channels that will show the authorities and media we are a body to be consulted and respected in the field of ufology: better coverage and presentation by the media will then surely follow.

NORMAN OLIVER.

The British UFO Research Association does not hold or express corporate views on UFO phenomena. The Editor and his contributors are solely responsible for views advanced over their names in this Journal.

Articles and items for inclusion in the Journal must be sent direct to the Editor and not to other BUFORA officers. Requests for permission to reproduce material from the Journal should also be addressed to the Editor.

LET'S LOOK AROUND . . .

This proved to be a popular feature in our last issue, so it will now have a regular 'slot' in this and future journals, albeit its length will vary according to space available. For the first items I have selected two Zambian reports which readers of GEMINI 2 may find familiar: both are from Gregory Vlahakis.

No. 1

THE ZAMBESI VALLEY INCIDENT

Date : July 6th, 1971. *Place* : 30 miles from the border town of Chirundu.

Time : 8.30 p.m. *Duration* : One minute.

"I had left my wife in hospital and was returning home: as I approached a bend in the road (this was a very hilly place just before entering the Zambesi valley), I saw the glow of a very bright light coming from the bend. I slowed down thinking it must be some stupid twit who didn't want to dip his headlamps. I stopped immediately after taking the bend: the light was far too bright for a car and it hovered just above the hilltop a hundred yards from where I stopped.

I got out of the car and as I tried shading my eyes with my hands, the object tilted to a forty-five degree angle and slowly the light dimmed. It was shaped like the planet Saturn with its rings and produced a high-pitched sound like that of an electric motor. The light brightened once more and this time there was an explosion and the object vanished. It just disappeared. I found myself about twenty yards in front of the car: I do not know how I got there. Anyway, I returned to my car still in a daze and then drove home with the object still in my mind."

No. 2

ABOVE THE CINEMA

Date : July 22nd, 1967. *Place* : The Drive-in-Cinema in Lusaka, Zambia.

Time : Between 8 and 9 p.m. *Duration* : Three minutes.

"The film that night was a comedy, and I had just returned from the box-office where I had been working with my cousin. He stayed on duty and I went to watch the film.

Twenty minutes went by with a few laughs when suddenly a bright light obscured the film on the screen. At first I thought that someone had left their spot light on whilst entering the cinema, but the light went off suddenly and then came on again. This time people started blowing their hooters and a lot of curses went by before I got out of the car. There above us was this object with a bright light on the underside. Several people came out of their cars to watch the object which looked like an overturned soup plate with a cup (minus handle) on the top. It had port-holes on the dome which let out a yellowish type of light as bright as a magnesium flare: then it made a sound like a swarm of bees but with a higher pitch.

I have heard of UFOs before, but seeing this one really brought out the whole story and as people say, "Seeing is believing." Well, there it was above us performing the greatest balancing act in the world. It seemed about 30 feet in diameter and about 10 feet in height, that is to the base of the dome which was some 3 feet high. The under part of the object had a shallow bottom with three ball-like objects fixed to it as well as the bright light. I watched this object for three minutes and then suddenly the light intensified followed by a whooshing sound and it was gone. During the three minutes everyone forgot about watching the film, this was something that left everybody puzzled. Two days later there was an article in the local paper."

* * * * *

The following artist's impression of the scene 'Above the Cinema' is by Ed. Blandford.

* * * * *



In our last issue an Air Traffic Control Officer employed at Heathrow gave us his opinion on a sighting from Blackheath: however, he himself has had some experience of UFO sightings: so, to complete our 'African Safari'

Experiences of Unidentified Aerial Phenomena in Libya.

1. "During 1968 I was employed as an Air Traffic Control Officer at Tripoli Airport in Libya. On the night in question (date not available), I was on duty in the control tower. In the Tower at Tripoli Airport is a control position known as Tripoli Control which is the Area Control responsible for all airspace roughly within 100 miles of Tripoli. The Unit provided an Approach Control service for the USAF base at Wheelus some 15 miles north of Tripoli Airport on the Mediterranean coast. At Wheelus Air Base at the time there was an Area Radar Control Unit manned by British Controllers. They worked as a team with the Controllers at the Area Unit at Tripoli Airport. For this reason the two units were connected by direct telephone lines. Also, the Area Control Unit at the Airport was connected by direct telephone lines to the Control Tower at Wheelus and the Radar Unit at Wheelus known as Wheelus GCA which was operated by USAF personnel.

Aviation activity in Tripoli was so restricted that the ATC Unit at Tripoli Airport was fully aware at all times of the exact location of every aeroplane airborne. Also, because of the lack of any form of private aviation activity, all movements were restricted to either commercial airliners or USAF aircraft at Wheelus. After about 2300 hrs. just about every aircraft movement had ceased. The city of Tripoli was so small that by midnight life was just about at a standstill.

At approximately 3 a.m. the telephones from Tripoli Radar, Wheelus Tower and Wheelus GCA rang simultaneously. At Tripoli Radar, one of the USAF airmen had seen a radar target approaching Tripoli from a westerly direction at great speed and had summoned the Controller on duty. At Wheelus Tower the staff had seen a bright light moving at great speed across the airfield from west to east. At Wheelus GCA the radar controllers had seen what appeared to be the radar echo of an aircraft flying at great speed along the approach path to runway 27. All three Units telephoned Tripoli Area Control Unit to ask if there were any aircraft in the vicinity. There were none and the target disappeared in an easterly direction. Wheelus Tower reported that the object made no noise as it crossed the airfield. This occurred at least five years ago and so some details may be slightly inaccurate but the basic details are that a target was tracked on two separate radars flying at great speed and also seen by Air Traffic Control at Wheelus Tower. There was no logical or rational explanation for the occurrence."

2. "On either Sunday 7th September or Sunday 14th September 1969, I was the Air Traffic Control Officer on watch at Tripoli Airport during the night from 2000 hrs until 0800 next morning. The Airport had been closed for some days following the political upheaval and, when it reopened, traffic was so restricted that only one Controller was needed at any one time. When I arrived in the Tower there were two British pilots there who were employed by Autair of Luton to operate a Mystere XX executive jet aircraft for VIP conveyance for the Libyan Government.

The pilots had been waiting for some hours to fly Colonel Gaddafi from Tripoli to Benghazi. At around 2 a.m. Col. Gaddafi and his entourage arrived in the Tower and told the pilots to get the aircraft ready.

A short while later the aircraft taxied to the holding point of runway 36, i.e. for take off towards the north. I cleared the aircraft for take off and it started to roll along the runway. Just as it lifted off I saw a bright orange light appear in the sky at very low altitude to the north-east of the airport. The light itself appeared to be of small dimension but, of course, the size would have depended on how far away it was. I took the highly irregular step of telling the aircraft about the light—one does not talk to an aeroplane in the critical stage of take-off. About twenty seconds later the light disappeared, the aircraft turned right and nothing more was said. The following week when I went to work the same crew were in the Tower and I asked the co-pilot if he remembered the strange light. He said that indeed he did and at the time it had ‘frightened the daylights out of him and the Captain.’ Their view after take-off had been of an orange lighted object flying towards them at great speed, at low level, from a NE direction. They lost sight of it as they climbed straight ahead having taken this action to avoid collision with the object.

At the time of the incident there were no aircraft flying in Libya—let alone Tripoli—and the whole country was under strict curfew from about 1900 hrs until 0800 hrs. At the time we had Libyan Air Force personnel in the Tower for security reasons and one officer nearly had a fit and felt sure that it was an Israeli helicopter raid!!! No radar was available at the time to check for a target. The Libyan military contacted the appropriate quarter to check on the object and were unable to arrive at an explanation. The movement and speed of the object were inconsistent with those of any form of flare. Also, the area over which the object flew was—probably and still is—open rough country of desert type. I am convinced that this was indeed a true UFO and would dearly love to have seen it in daylight. However, nothing more could be found out about it.

* * * * *

The following incident was related in Vol. 2 No. 4 of CANADIAN UFO REPORT—a magazine that ranks without question amongst the world’s best UFO periodicals.

ROADSIDE VISITORS.

Although Drumheller and Rosedale are located in the ‘badlands’ of Alberta, the implication that they are surrounded by ugliness is misleading. Like other such areas around the world that were scarred by escaping seas as the earth’s crust buckled, this part of Alberta has the bleak, timeless look of a lunar landscape. But, just as men on the moon have discovered, it has a raw beauty of its own, a fascinating one that seems etched forever in the hollow of the coulees and the colored layers of stratified rock.

It was here on the night of June 7, 1971, that three small strange visitors came to call in a box-like craft that seemed to arrive from nowhere and leave the same way. The witness to this startling event was Miss Esther Clappison who for many years has shared a house on the outskirts of Rosedale with her brother Bill.

“It was the night of a full moon,” she recalled, “when I noticed a light coming through one of our windows. I couldn’t see what it was all about so I went around to the front of the house where there is a porch. With me was my old yellow dog called George.”

“I was surprised when I got there to see a rectangular-lighted object down on the ground near an intersection of two roads.” (The intersection of these two small dirt roads is about 200 feet from the house).

Although startled and uneasy, Miss Clappison quickly began taking in details of the unexpected scene. The end of the object facing her appeared to be wide open, exposing some of the interior and allowing a white opaque light to illuminate the road. In its glow she could see three human-like figures, all appearing to be under five feet in height. Two were inside the object and the third was busy with something across the road.

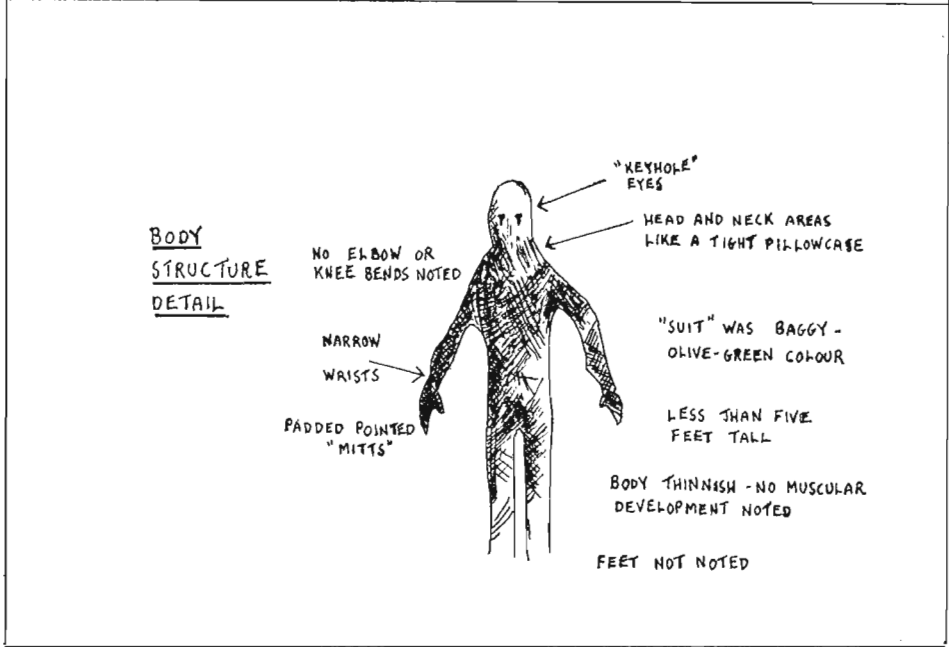
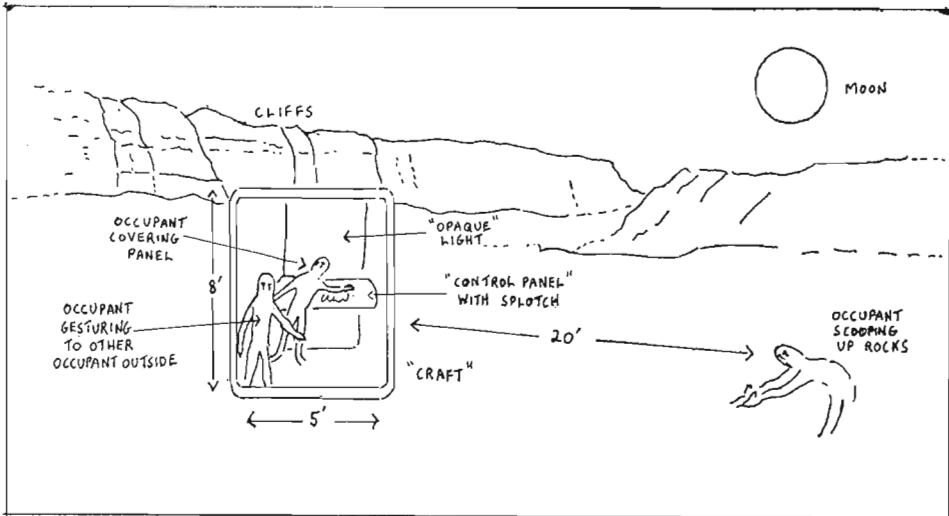
Sensing the object had indeed come literally from the blue, she remembered in the same instant one of Bill Allan’s UFO broadcasts in which he urged witnesses to look for the instrument panel.

“So the first thing I did was look for one,” she said, “and I saw something that looked like a panel at the far end of the object. But one of the men, if that’s what they were, seemed to have realized someone was looking at them and he had covered as much of the panel as he could by standing with his back against it and stretching out his arm. He continually kept looking backwards to see that his arm was covering whatever was in front of that craft.”

As Miss Clappison watched, not daring at first to move, she saw this crew member (Allan later suggested he may have been grasping one of the controls, ready for a quick take-off) motion to the second one inside the craft who was standing to the right of the entrance, leaning out slightly as if to catch the attention of their colleague across the road.

“The man out there was obviously picking up samples,” Miss Clappison continued. “I guessed it was rock, not dirt, because he was picking, not scooping. After a moment I tried to get closer and have a real eye-full but the old dog wouldn’t let me. He was scared to death and he pushed me right back. That was quite a push, you’ve got to admit. Well then, I came in but to be honest I wasn’t that fussy about getting much closer to that thing.

Anyway, I came in to attract my brother’s attention. Then I looked through the window to see the object again, and what they were doing, but there wasn’t even the light. When I returned with my brother there was nothing there, and so help me I hadn’t been drinking. I’m not a drinking woman.”



"ROADSIDE VISITORS"

(Illustration slightly adapted from Canadian UFO Report)

But there WAS something there. Next day when Miss Clappison and her brother walked over to examine the area, they discovered a scorched imprint at the edge of the road where the object had been. Twenty feet long, the blackened imprint on the roadside weeds had a narrow rectangular shape as if the object had been only partly off the road.

Four months later the mark was still plain enough for Allan to make an exact measurement, and three weeks after that we saw it for ourselves.

As for the other dimensions of the craft, Miss Clappison estimated it was eight feet high and five feet wide. The panel in front seemed to occupy the full width of the interior.

Of special interest, of course, were the three occupants. According to the witness, they wore a close-fitting uniform of olive or drab green and snugly shaped headgear of the same material. Their faces were also covered but apparently by some sort of fabric through which they could see (a detail of dress noted in other occupant sightings).

Miss Clappison particularly noticed the occupants' wrists which she said were thin and flexible. She thought they were wearing a kind of "pointed mitten" with a long, slender thumb.

While the stones and small rocks at the roadside were of a common variety, our guess is that those humanoids believed they were gathering something considerably more important than a random assortment of rubble. The area around Drumheller is one of the great preserves of nature's relics and scientists have dug there for some of the finest fossil discoveries ever made. So it is not as a joke that the town features giant relics of ancient mammals as a tourist attraction.

Evidently our UFO visitors have also discovered the area's scientific value, and, just as our astronauts have sought out the lunar highlands, so these visitors focus attention on "badlands" like Drumheller's to learn more of this planet's natural history. Perhaps after examining those stones from Rosedale, the members of that particular craft will, like our astronauts, find it necessary to come back for more and dig deeper . . . or maybe they know how to obtain all their information from surface residue.

* * * * *

Drumheller is referred to as UFOs were reporting "escorting cars" in the area in 1967.—Ed. CANADIAN UFO REPORT is obtainable from Box 758, Duncan, B.C. Canada. Price—\$6 for 6 issues.

* * * * *

Finally, let me turn to a translation by Richard Farrow of reports from Namsen Fiord, Norway, in 1972 which may or may not have a ufological connection but are, nevertheless, food for speculation

RADIO-ACTIVE PRINTS IN NAMSEN FIORD

Verdans Gang. 29th June 1972.

Large imprints on the shore of an uninhabited island in the Namsen Fiord, Kjolsoya (64°25'N. 11°20'E.), have got UFO specialists and people in Namdalen wondering. Who could have made the marks? No-one knows the answer.

The police are interested, military authorities are no doubt also interested and last, but not least, the UFO society in Trondelag is interested. Samples of the giant prints are now being studied at a laboratory.

One thing that everyone agrees on: the prints, several metres in diameter, cannot have come from the sea. They cannot have come from the land either. Could they have come from the air?

On the little island there are four summer-houses. It was one of the summer-house owners, Ola Dahl from Bangsund, who found the marks fourteen days ago.

“ I can't understand it. We were on the shore at Whitsun, but there were no marks there then. No boat could bring such a heavy object so far onto the land. It's impossible; the highest tide in the area where the prints are can't be more than one metre. On the land it is not possible to drive with anything as heavy as that which made the imprints,” said Dahl.

Dahl found the prints when he was on a Sunday trip to his summer-house a fortnight ago. On the Friday before the prints were found there was a lot of interference on televisions in Bangsurd. Finally the local transformer cut out. Television engineers in Namsos have not received any reports of the transformer failing at that time. On Saturday it was working again.

Most of the prints on the shore are triangular: some are round: there are many similar prints within a definite area. The impressions are up to 30cm (1 foot) deep. They are rock-hard on the bottom. It is clear that the earth has been compressed and pushed up—and it must have been done by heavy objects.

Verdans Gang. 6th July 1972.

Giant prints found on the shore in various places in the Lyngen Fiord and Namsen Fiord are radio-active. Research which Norwegian UFO-centre in Trondheim have carried out in conjunction with experts from N.T.H. (Norwegian Technical High School) show that the prints contain radioactive particles.

Only soil samples from the giant prints themselves are radio-active. Samples taken from other places in the area show no radio-activity.

The experts from N.T.H. were able to confirm immediately that they were dealing with strange radio-active particles. Supermodern measuring instruments were used. The readings on the instruments were well above that of normal background radiation but were, nevertheless, weak.

The chairman of Norwegian UFO-centre, Kolbjorn Steen Odegard, thinks that the weakness of the radiation is due to the readings being taken so late. He said that it is the first time radio-activity has been detected on such prints in Norway. The length of the prints in the Lyngen Fiord is about 1.60 metres.

Verdans Gang. 17th August 1972.

The mysterious radio-active prints in the Namsen Fiord are becoming even more interesting. In the cliffs, marks have been found which could have been the result of an explosion. A number of chunks, which could consist of clay burnt under high temperature, have been sent for analysis.

Kolbjorn Steen Odegard explained that in the near future they will drag the fiord with an echo-sounder and later divers will be used in the search. Ufologists have connected the prints with an observation of a lighted object which fell into the fiord in 1959. The main witness thinks that the object fell into the fiord nearer the land. Several witnesses heard a loud noise just before the object disappeared. It could be that it hit the cliff face and was wrecked. Ufologists think that the prints could have originated from a UFO which had come to investigate the earlier UFO's fate.

In a letter dated 7th August '73, Richard Farrow brings us up to date on the above report with further details culled from the Danish Magazine UFO-nyt. ". . . The date that the televisions cut out was Friday, 9th June, 1972. Ola Dahl found the radio-active prints on Sunday, 11th June. The prints lie between the high and low tide marks, i.e. they are exposed at low tide and covered at high tide . . . The Verdans Gang (V.G.) reports said that he was last on the island at Whitsun, which was May 21st, but the UFO-nyt report says he was there on Sunday, June 4th—take your pick. Similar prints were also found on beaches at Lokkaren (an inlet in the Namsen fiord) and Sundsoya (an island in the Namsen fiord).

Apparently over a week after the geiger readings were taken NUFOC (Norwegian UFO Centre, from Trondheim) set up cameras by the prints to do some camera analyses of the radio-activity. The radio-activity was by then so weak that they were unable to read the necessary data. They believe this was due to the radiation having a very short half-life.

Ola Dahl found about 9 prints close together in an area of 25 metres radius. There are some good photos of the prints in the Danish magazine and they show clearly that they have a smooth base, but outside the prints the ground looks rough I can also see that they have deep vertical sides that appear to have been forced up above the level of the surrounding sand"

Presentation by **Norman Oliver**

The following article appeared in the magazine of the Australian Flying Saucer Research Society of Adelaide, being brought to my attention by Colin Norris : it is here reprinted with full acknowledgements Ed.

OBJECTIVELY

Most UFO research groups seem to have a fair idea of the sort of things they want to know, which they subsequently place on forms produced for the purpose of enquiring into UFO phenomena. The particular piece of UFO phenomena may already have been identified or known about long before any research is carried out by the various groups. When it comes to the rare occasions when the UFO is alleged to have landed and there could perhaps be some evidence of it left on the ground, investigators well-versed in the problems involved can do much to show what may actually have taken place. Sightings are usually so transient little evidence which is of a concrete nature can be collected: unfortunately, so often nothing is gained, save one or more for the statistics. Landings are perhaps the only means by which at present an offering of material evidence as against statistical evidence can be given to us. No effort should therefore be spared in investigating or researching into alleged landings. I have prepared for the uninitiated some notes to the sort of things which are likely to be required.

Sample material and other data can be forwarded to the appropriate laboratory for thorough investigation. As material may have to be handled, passed on, split up or undergo tests in other laboratories, as much material as possible should be collected from the alleged landing site, even though a minute amount only may be all that is required for the analysis.

When first presented, qualified personnel can usually produce enough information on the material to satisfy most requirements: further testing or actual site visiting can be a follow-up by trained personnel. It is most important that the items listed hereunder be adhered to if one is going to gain something worthwhile from the investigations:—

1. The date.
2. The time of day.
3. The day of the week—for quick reference and to jolt one's memory: sometimes the number of people around at the time or the day of the week might be significant.
4. The weather: prior to, at the time of and after the event. Most important, check papers and all weather bureaux for this.
5. Make a map or mark exact location on a survey map.
6. Use your compass, not only for navigation, but also for anything you feel unusual magnetically.
7. Diplomatically question, using tape-recorder, the people concerned. Take a note of everything, especially the things which can cause, or may cause, the event.

8. Visit the actual site: take note by eye: make sketch or detailed drawing.
9. Photograph the site from at least two different angles—high and low—using two different lighting conditions: sun high, sun low: four photos minimum.
10. Metal detectors: these are probably the first things to use if there is any suspicion that metal may be buried.
11. Atomic radiation. Of the many instruments which can be used in connection with UFOs, the Geiger Counter is probably the one which comes second on the list in the thoughts of most UFO researchers, the magnetic UFO detector being the first. The Geiger tube device can detect Alpha, Beta, Gamma. You need to know how much of each your detector is capable of detecting: some common counters can only detect Beta with relative insensibility to the others. You may be trying to use an instrument which is incapable of detecting the radiation which may or may not be present at the time you are there.
12. Magnetic Survey. This is very useful if certain conditions are met, and it can be used as a very powerful tool in any case where there is a likelihood of electric or magnetic phenomena acting on rock or soil.
13. Chemical Analysis. Gases, liquids, soils in general should be placed in airtight containers—for example, bottles, pipes. Gases should be collected by diffusion of the gas into the bottle: this may take some time depending on weather conditions. The bottle may be placed on the ground with the mouth facing the wind (not too strong). Plastic, glass or rubber seals should be used to stop up the bottle. Methane gas, Marsh gas, can be found above a few parts per million in most soils: it will show up most of all in marshy or swampy ground. If you find a report of lights at night in areas like this you can bet marsh gas was the cause of it. However, take a sample, send it to the laboratory: you may come up with something different than one would expect, or you may be looking at a natural gas field. It could be an important clue to the never-ending and fascinating research into UFO phenomena.

V. E. RENDALL, Chemical Engineering Dept., University of Adelaide, South Australia.

“A GUIDE TO U.F.O. PHENOMENA.”

The first of a series of BUFORA information booklets is available at 42p (inc. P.P.) from A. West, 49 Mill Road, Burgess Hill, Sussex.

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A Pot-Pourri of Association News, Notes, Quotes and Comment

Association News

Betty Wood

To pick up the threads of where I left off in the Summer issue, that is, my request for further light on the comet supposed to collide with Earth in 10 years' time, a reader writes to ask if I obtained this information from a book about Jeanne Dixon, the American seeress, who apparently has foretold this happening. Actually I heard it from the other end of the information spectrum—a supposedly scientific source!

Whilst on the subject of comets, as they are in the news anyway, my correspondent has drawn my attention to a few great comets of the past such as the Great Comet of 1811, which attracted a lot of attention as it was so huge and threatening, with a tail some 130,000,000 miles long—second only in length to the Great Comet of 1843 which had a 200,000,000 mile long tail reaching from horizon to zenith, and another which appeared in 344 B.C. was so fearsome it was likened to a Flaming Torch in the sky. The Great Comet of 1528 was so terrifying—“so horrible was it, so terrible, so great a fright did it engender, that some died of fear, others fell sick . . . this comet was the colour of blood; at its extremity, we saw an arm holding a great sword as if about to strike us down . . .” I trust that none of our members will suffer such reactions when beholding the Great Comet Kohoutek when it displays itself in December and January—or, even worse, mistake it for a UFO!

* * * * *

Every schoolboy in Britain appears to be reading the Larry Kettlekamp book on UFOs, judging by the number of enquiries that we have had, together with stern demands for “complete information going back to the beginning!” One enthusiast writes that he is “convinced they are a grave threat to earth” and asks to be sent a BUFORA form immediately.

* * * * *

I see from an article in NEW SCIENTIST by Drs. Simon Mitton and Roger Lewin, that two eminent molecular biologists, Francis Crick and Leslie Orgel have hypothesised that thousands of millions of years ago, an intelligent civilisation decided to seed other nearby planets with primitive forms of life in the hope that more advanced civilisations might develop. They claim that their proposal is as tenable as any other theory that aims to explain the origin of life on Earth. Other less scientifically qualified people have, of course, put forward this idea before in perhaps rather more colourful terms.

If we are descendants of certain molecular structures originating far away in this or another more distant galaxy, it raises some interesting questions. Were we

a bargain bumper bundle? Or were we chosen carefully, with a pinch of this and a dash of that from thoughtfully worked out genetic recipes?

Would the originators of life on this planet, ask the authors, still have any interest in their experiments after so long? It is possible by now, they surmise, that any such civilisation would be so far advanced technologically and mentally for any contact between us to be most unlikely.

Or perhaps the explanation for our lack of contact so far, they suggest, is as a Harvard student, John Ball, proposes. He pictures Earth as a galactic Zoo, packed with interesting specimens, in the same way that we have safari parks and conservation areas. Mr. Ball also considers that the whole of our solar system may have been set aside as a "wilderness" and, as the perfect zoo keeper does not make himself known to his charges, we are thus unaware of their presence.

As none of these gentlemen appears to have studied the evidence for UFOs, the possibility does not rise in their minds that we may well be aware of the presence of, if not our actual keepers, some of the curious visitors to the zoo . . . and that maybe, if we persevere, we might even be able to lure some of these latter to within bun-throwing distance, at least!

* * * * *

Can anyone speak or read Japanese? I have received a most enthusiastic letter of greeting from our Japanese contemporaries, together with their Journal—the latter, however, being completely unreadable so far as I am concerned!

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Kensington Central Library, Campden Hill Road, London, W.8

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Saturday, 3rd November 1973, 7 p.m. | *THE EVERLASTING SUBJECT . . .
Lecture by Brinsley Le Poer Trench. |
| Saturday, 1st December 1973, 7 p.m. | TO CONTACT A SPACEMAN . . . ?
Lecture by Norman Oliver. |
| Saturday, 5th January 1974, 7 p.m. | UFO PHENOMENA OR
MALICE THROUGH THE LOOK-
ING GLASS
Lecture by Tim O'Brien, CBE, BA, FRAS. |
| Saturday, 2nd February 1974, 7 p.m. | GUIDE LINES IN THE SEARCH
TO SOLVE THE UFO MYSTERY . .
Lecture by Charles Bowen. |

*Will members please note that this lecture replaces the advertised talk ISLANDERS IN SPACE by Andrew Tomas.

Staffordshire Branch, BUFORA

- | | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Tuesday, 13th November 1973 | UFO FORUM
An open forum on the UFO phenomenon |
| Tuesday, 11th December, 1973 | CHRISTMAS STORY
A Star or UFO ? |

Round & About

Vice-Chairman's Notes

MAN THE CRUSH BARRIERS

One thing is certain, even if there is a lack of hard news during the summer 'silly season,' there is no lack of interest in UFOs at present. During August BUFORA received at least 100 enquiries and we haven't even been running any special exhibitions or conferences.

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

I supplied a lot of details and statistics over the telephone for a whole page article on UFOs in MISS LONDON WEEKLY (30 July 1973). What finally appeared, and printed in bold type too, was:

"The Government is only running a publicity exercise—to explain it all away."
Lionel Beer, Vice-Chairman, etc. and

"Do they really investigate those curious events and the unusual objects that litter the sky? The British U.F.O. Research Association doesn't think so."

Did I really say that? Anyway I have stopped looking over my shoulder as no one has come forward to deny the allegation. On the other hand, I wonder who that letter bomb was really intended for that we received last week? MISS LONDON is a trendy paper for temp/job seekers and the publishers claim to give away up to 100,000 copies in the London area every week.

BARIUM CLOUD EXPERIMENT

Readers of LIONEL'S LITTER may recall that I told them to look out for this last May, since an earlier experiment in September 1971 produced a spectacular display, accompanied by much speculation in the press. Well, perhaps the authorities decided to play safe this time, since the launchings took place on 15 and 16 May from South Uist, in what Andrew Good of Edinburgh University Astronomical Society described as poor sky conditions. The first launching took them by surprise and appeared as a pale yellow disc about magnitude minus 8. The second cloud although seen by more observers was disappointing and did not exceed magnitude minus 1.

HELP!

I badly need a copy of Lynn Catoe's Annotated Bibliography on UFOs for my own personal use. Will pay a generous sum to anyone willing to supply.

UFOLOGY

Following my success in persuading BRITISH RATE AND DATA, the advertisers' monthly bible of rates, to include a section headed 'Ufology,' I have had a similar success with a leading press directory. Benn's NEWSPAPER PRESS DIRECTORY now includes 'Ufology' as a heading in the periodicals section. Editors of dictionaries and encyclopaediae please note, and pull your fingers out!

NB. *The Vice-Chairman will be representing BUFORA on 3-4 November at the Festival of Science Fiction and Space Exploration when the UFO Symposium is held. See NOTES AND QUOTES Ed.*

Round & About

Lionel Beer

Round & About

Notes and Quotes

THAT'S IT FOLKS!

Mr. Ron Markwick of Ilford has "completely solved" the UFO mystery,—no Spacemen, no Inner Earth People, no Interdimensional Beings, no Time-travellers, no Keelisms. It's *all* in our radiation-affected minds! Questioned closely, Mr. Markwick, who has written a book (no publisher as yet) which "covers everything" did admit, however, that there might actually be one or two spacecraft about. On it being pointed out that in that case it was NOT "all in the mind," Mr. Markwick became evasive. He too, it would seem, has been "radiation affected" as he admits to a sighting of a cigar-shaped UFO which was a figment of his imagination.

MOON BUGS

BUFORA member Mr. Adams tells me he was watching the Apollo Moon landing on TV (live) when one of the astronauts, looking closely at part of a large boulder around here." He watched subsequent film of the landing, but this part had been edited out. Does anyone else recall this or have further information?

SELECTIVE SKYWATCH

The suggestion has been put to me that rather than sky-watching from any old hill, regular sky-watches at selected spots of the "Mysterious Britain" type might pay dividends. For example, Stonehenge, Avebury, Glastonbury Tor, Hay Tor and the various "White Horse" sites would qualify in the South of England and I am quite sure our Northern members can come up with equally appropriate ideas for sites elsewhere in the country.

AVEBURY APPARITION

About three years ago, my wife, son and myself were wandering around the stones of Avebury, when we all saw a figure dressed in top hat and cape with absolutely slate-grey skin walking robot-like across the road. "He" went out of our line of sight and we couldn't locate "him" again. Anyone any comments or ideas?

AS OTHERS SEE US

Brian Grist, writing in the July '73 Warminster News points out that "... anyone who sits all night on a bleak hilltop MUST hold—to those not involved in UFO research—an opinion that borders on BELIEF to behave in a manner that many regard eccentric. When people are confronted with activities that defect from what is considered normal, they are apt to look at them in a sinister light and are likely to label such activities 'cultish' (a word that frequently appears when one is dealing with 'unknown' groups)." I can confirm this is so as when in Sussex recently I was told that the villagers of Washington firmly believed UFO enthusiasts sky-watching on nearby Chanctonbury Ring to be Devil-worshippers!

Round & About

Norman Oliver

CHAIR OF THE GODS?

In recent years there have been many UFO sightings in South Australia over or near one line of hills, the highest of which is known, because of its shape, as The Camel's Hump. Near the peak of the hump, in an area strewn with outcrops of volcanic rock is a giant 'chair.' Its seat is made from three rectangular rock slabs which fit together as though precision made. One arm only of the 'chair' remains, but this too is made up of three separate close-fitting stone slabs. There are two other similar 'chairs' on nearby hilltops.

BEYOND THIS HORIZON This is the title of "A Festival of Science Fiction and Space Exploration" at the Sunderland Arts Centre from October 23rd to November 25th—open daily Tuesdays to Sundays 10 a.m.—7 p.m. Presentations will include:—

- | | | |
|---------------|------------|---|
| October 24th, | 7 p.m. | LANDSCAPES IN SPACE: A combined talk and painting demonstration by David Hardy. |
| October 26th, | 8 p.m. | H. G. WELLS SYMPOSIUM: Guest speaker Professor B. Bergonzi of Warwick University. |
| October 27th, | 11 a.m. | } SCIENCE FICTION FILMS introduced by Philip Strick. |
| October 28th, | 11 a.m. | |
| November 3rd, | 10 a.m. | THE MOON: A lecture by Prof. Runcorn of Newcastle University. |
| | 11 a.m. | THE INTERIOR STRUCTURE OF PLANETS: A lecture by Dr. Tozer of Newcastle University. |
| | 12.30 p.m. | MAN'S EXPANDING IDEAS OF SPACE: a lecture by Colin Ronan. |
| | 4.45 p.m. | BLACK HOLES—THE END OF THE UNIVERSE. Lecture by Professor John Taylor, King's College, London. |
| | 8.30 p.m. | U.F.O.s. A major symposium including film sequences and tape recordings. Guest speakers will include W. Raymond Drake. |
| November 4th, | 11 a.m. | COMPUTER SYMPOSIUM: Guest speakers to include Stephen Oakey and Dr. Chris Evans. |
| | 2.30 p.m. | ARE WE ALONE? A Forum on the possibility of life elsewhere. Guest speakers will include Professor Kopak of Manchester University and Duncan A. Lunan. |

The above items are only a sample of the 'fare' offered and for full details of speakers and admission prices, readers should write to BEYOND THIS HORIZON, SUNDERLAND ARTS CENTRE, 17, Grange Terrace, Stockton Road, Sunderland Co. Durham. Telephone 78543. Please enclose a large S.A.E.

"MANY MANSIONS"

There are many abodes of intelligent life in the Universe and many of them are inhabited by organisms with intelligence far higher than ours." Dr. Lewis W. Beck, University of Rochester, Mass., U.S.

Letters To The Editor

Soon after the last Journal had been sent out I received two letters, one anonymous, the other from a reader expressing a preference for non-publication. Normally I would have thrown the first into the W.P.B. and filed the other : both, in my opinion, however, were of a high standard and made good and valid points. For this reason I print them here, but PLEASE, when you write, supply your name and address—these will not be published if you do not wish it and the letter will remain on my personal file. As for future anonymous missives, the W.P.B. (commonly known as File 13!) it will have to be. The name and address of the writer of the second letter I have on file, but in view of the expressed preference these are not published and any reference that might identify the writer has been omitted or amended. ED.

. what is required is a recognition that no type of approach can be ruled out, since if we knew what we were researching we wouldn't be researching to discover it . . .

NORMAN OLIVER.

I have enjoyed my membership of this Association, but never felt at home among so many earnest scientists when at heart I am a confessed Romantic. The preface by the Editor, however, gave me fresh cause for hope. It was a gauntlet thrown down that no one has troubled to pick up. So may I, apologetically, suggest a few possibilities. In offering these generally unoriginal thoughts I trust I do not cause the hardline scientifics to bristle: however, we are in the realm of conjecture and I submit that in such an area fantasy has as much weight and validity as logic.

I have had several experiences of our beloved phenomenon and inwardly have always subscribed to the feeling that MOST people can dredge up at least one event in their lives that is outside the normal. It does not require much sensitivity—or special faculty—to recognise this, thus, I make no claim to be anything beyond the common run.

The only point on which I am completely adamant is that the phenomenon occurs. Beyond that single datum there is only speculation. You may make of my speculations what you will but I offer them to provide a springboard. Firstly, the Historical approach. Observed since the first recording of man's sojourn on earth, will you accept the possibility that all time being one we are being visited by the Future? Secondly, that the visitations are self-projections. We know so little of the power of the human mind.

Mr. Editor, you have dug your little furrow. I have respectfully contributed two tiny seeds. Does the Association contain any other "gardeners"?

ANON.

Dear Sir,

You asked for members' opinions on possible explanations for UFO phenomena. I am not a member, but am related to one, so as someone on the outside looking in, I would rather you did not consider this for publication, but you may be interested in the kind of picture the rest of us get about UFOs.*

Having been through, first, a phase of believing all UFOs were capable of an "ordinary" explanation, then through a phase of lapping up Adamski, Kolosimo, etc., then personally experiencing a similar quasi-religious(?) episode at one of the most famous UFO nests in England and thus rejecting all "hardware" explanations, I finally accept that a mixture of solutions is probable. I believe there is basic truth, in, for example, the Von Daniken type theories and those of the (para) psychological researchers.

I was rather surprised that BUFORA should pronounce the Ardern case "an extraordinary event" as I had been under the (evidently mistaken) impression that an organisation like BUFORA would be familiar with this type of occurrence. Perhaps it is because BUFORA is believed to deal only with nuts and bolts and invisible nuts and bolts (electric clouds, etc.) and that the (para) psychological reports are channelled into the (spurious?) "light centres." If this is so, it seems to me to be most unfortunate. How is anyone having Ardern-like experiences going to tell which are genuine of the UFO/religious groups? Is BUFORA going to be poorer for not receiving more Ardern-like reports? Are non-ufologists going to scoff even more?

I can now understand what Mr. A. R. Pace means by not placing all UFO phenomena under one umbrella and that people should specialise. Perhaps there should be a recognised, but unadvertised, centre attached to BUFORA for the purpose of giving simple reassurance to those having UFO/religious experiences—that they are not alone, not going mad, their experience will be noted if they wish—and their accounts filed for research by those (like the Religious Research team at Manchester College) who are specialising in this field. This procedure would leave the ET experts, astronomers, etc., free to specialise, at the same time knowing which of the other specialist groups to contact if their work overlapped.

Perhaps if this happened the (Un**F**ortunate?) tag UFO will be replaced by a word that means "beyond our scientific/astronomical knowledge at the moment and/or probably extra-terrestrial" (or something similar), and so will not tend to continue inviting ridicule. (UFO will naturally be shortened from "You-EF-OH" to "you-foe" but unless the latter is followed by "?", in which case it represents a commendable initial element of doubt, it seems to represent an instant primitive hostility on our part towards any extra-terrestrials).

On further reflection re the Ardern case, it would seem that something may be learnt from the scientific manner it has been diagnosed in the BUFORA Journal—that it has been viewed initially by an inappropriate group—the negative evidence is there, (partly in the form of relating the account under a false surname and one false 'christian' name and then reproducing a page of 'Mr. Ardern's' diary complete with true names?). There has been negative evidence enough in the UFO field that unless knowledge is coupled with a certain moral code (the strength of the latter equal to the height of the former) the lines of communication break down,

often seemingly inexplicably. (This is perhaps the reason that BUFORA should have received few reports of such occurrences). Perhaps this is one natural law that should preferably be looked at firstly, by those of the para/psychological or religious reserach groups and secondly, perhaps much later, by scientists of the nuts-and-bolts way of thinking.

Name and address supplied.

Dear Mr. Oliver,

In reply to your request for observation on Mr. D. Shelton's ETH theories (Vol. 3, No. 11). Although I myself would like to believe that these visitations are from other worlds, I cannot subscribe to the fact that this is necessarily so.

As a trainee manager for a finance company I was involved in a considerable amount of travelling about within Hampshire. One evening whilst travelling home about 3 miles south of Basingstoke I observed a rather large aeroplane pass over the roadway (West to East) just ahead of me: it appeared to skim over a low hill and descend into a field.

The next morning back in Basingstoke I made enquiries as to the whereabouts of the nearest airfield and was told that this would be RAF ODIHAM, but this is quite some considerable distance away to the East. The following week involved seeing two more planes and making further enquiries to no avail. Nearly one month later the Hampshire magazine reported the closing of America's last air base in England, one which was known to only a very few people.

I have to say therefore, that if something as large as an airfield can exist for any period of time and still be unknown to people less than 3 miles away, I can find no reason why something considerably smaller such as a UFO possibly built by some terrestrial power could not go similarly unknown to the majority.

M. HANDLEY,
BUFORA & W.A.T.S.U.P. Investigator,
Southsea, Hants.

Dear Sir,

Regarding possible explanations for UFO phenomena, I find it most odd that so many people who study them seem fixated on a particular cause and reluctant, to say the least, to contemplate others with any degree of objectivity. Given the bewildering variety of reports it is obvious that the only thing UFOs have in common is the fact that they are unidentified. Some are not seen to fly: some do not even appear to be objects. They are classed together more by their method of reporting and by their comparative strangeness.

By what curious mental process do some people attempt to explain all of them as part of a single phenomenon, be it plasma effects or parapsychology? And to say that all UFOs are a result of ETVs is rather like saying that all dark things glimpsed in the sea are haddocks.

MISS P. F. HANNAFORD
London, S.W.11.

ear Edi to r,

In reply to your request for ideas and suggestions for the Journal, may I suggest that a crossword or quiz be included. This idea is not solely for entertainment but, as questions and clues could cover many ufological aspects, a wider background of a general nature would be given to ufologists. Wishing you good luck as the new editor.

COLIN RANDALL,
Dursley, Glos.

As a matter of fact, Colin, I do have one crossword ready. However, they take time to prepare and I would like to be sure I had several in hand before embarking on a series crossword compilers welcomed.—Ed.

Dear Sir,

On comparing a diagram of the markings on Windmill Hill (known as Causeway-ed Camp—1½ miles N.W. of Avebury) with a diagram of the markings made by an alleged UFO at Wimborne, Dorset, I saw an interesting similarity.

There may, of course, be no real connection between the two, but I am only showing you the similarity as I found the coincidence rather interesting. (Surrounding the Windmill "Kidney" shaped mark are two concentric lines) . . . Judging from photographs of the UFO

WINDMILL HILL MARKS. UFO MARKS-WIMBORNE



DIAGRAM FROM BOOKLET "STONEHENGE & AVEBURY" P.55. VOL. 17 No. 6. P.30

ground marks and those of Causeway-ed Camp, it is quite obvious that the Windmill Hill marks are very much larger. I hope this will be of interest.

MISS LORRAINE McDONALD,
Banstead, Surrey.

* See also comment in Notes and Quotes—Ed.

KENSINGTON LECTURES

At a recent very popular lecture, many persons, both members and guests could not be admitted as all seats were taken. Will members therefore make a point of arriving early to ensure admission.

It is my intention in future journals to include reviews of as many lectures as possible from our 1973/74 series at Kensington Library. A high proportion of BUFORA members can only attend these rarely, if at all and I feel they will appreciate being "put in the picture." With this in mind I am pleased to present here the following review of one of the more technical talks from the last meetings series ED.

“ UFO TECHNICALITIES ” review by Mark Stenhoff

On Saturday May 5th, BUFORA enjoyed an interesting talk by Professor Bryan Winder, a Vice-President and member of long standing.

Professor Winder’s lecture concerned the theory he has developed to explain certain phenomena and effects observed in connection with UFOs, assuming them to be vehicles of an advanced technology. This theory was published in his booklet “Design for a Flying Saucer” and has since been further developed. He has lectured to many learned and scientific societies on this subject.

He began his lecture by outlining some simple physical phenomena, namely ionisation and electromagnetic induction. He also described the plasma state of matter, particularly its inclination to move parallel to, rather than across, a magnetic field. Thus a coil of wire has a “ducting” effect on plasma, and so a kind of “hovercraft” might be designed from this principle. This is the basis of the theory.

He then considered the “side-effects” of such an application, describing how the ionisation producing the plasma would glow in different colours depending upon the energy used. Indeed, a wide spectrum of colours would be produced. The ionized oxygen would be converted into ozone, an acrid and potentially harmful gas. Ufologists can call to mind many cases where acrid smells, or smells of electrical burning have been described (e.g., Hook, Hants, 1967).

Another effect accounted for by the Winder theory is that of automobile inhibition. According to Winder, this is not a purely magnetic effect, but is also due to the effect of ionized air on the ignition system.

Professor Winder considered the effect of his UFO upon human beings. He pointed out that a magnetic field of the magnitude involved here would affect the nervous system of human beings in close proximity, and described several cases of paralysis (e.g., the Valensole case, 1954). He had for some time been concerned that his theory did not fit cases of “healing” by UFOs (see Gordon Creighton’s articles in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW). However, recent research has shown that ionisation in a magnetic field may have applications in cures for cancer and sleeping sickness.

Specifications of Winder "saucer"

Hypothetical diameter: 100ft (33m approx.)
Current required: 250 MA. For take-off 500 MA.
Mass of superconducting coil required: 250 ton (2.5×10^5 Kg.)
Magnetic flux density required: in the region of 10T
Magnetic field would be effective within a range of 250ft (in the region of 80m) so long as air-pressure was less than $\frac{1}{2}$ lb in² (3.4×10^3 Pa)
Acceleration on take-off using above current: in the region of 300 ms⁻².
Consequent force: 9×10^7 N approx.
Power required for system: 1200MW (equivalent to about 12 modern power stations). Therefore thermo-nuclear source of energy required.
System pulsed at $\frac{1}{2}$ Hz, thus producing flashes of ionizing radiation.

Because of the high current required a superconducting coil would be essential. The ideal shape for such a craft would be circular. (The power required would be less at lower altitudes than that stated).

One snag pointed out by Professor Winder was that the magnetic field of the craft would interact with that of the Earth, and so the craft would tend to tilt. A correction would be required each time it changed direction. Every time it was "pulsed" the craft would tend to kick, and so one might observe a skipping motion like that of Kenneth Arnold's "saucers" in 1947.

In Question Time, Mr. David Viewing pointed out that a craft of the type Winder had described would be detectable by a magnetic observatory within a range of about 100 to 300 miles, and it would not be possible to be more than 100 miles from such an observatory in the British Isles. He pointed out the same objection to Mr. Alan Watts when he lectured on his UFO propulsion theory. Professor Winder suggested that we might examine the observatory records, as he understood they picked up a lot of "noise." However, he admitted, "You may be right, I may be quite wrong!"

At the Brains Trust on June 6th, Viewing commented that the Winder saucer was not a practicable theory, as certain factors Professor Winder had assumed at the time he formulated it had since been disproved. However, Mr. Viewing and his associates have used many of the Winder ideas in the design of their station for detection of the disruption of the environment, for some time situated near Warminster, and in that sense the theory had been valuable.

We thank Mr. Winder for a most enjoyable and ably-presented lecture aimed at a scientifically-lay audience, and hope he will comment on the plausibility of his theory in the light of recent research in a future issue of the Journal

HOAX AT WARMINSTER

As watchers of "Nationwide" will be aware, a hoax was perpetrated at Warminster on the night of 25/26 August 1973, this bore a strong resemblance to some previous events. The committee of BUFORA deprecate these activities most strongly, and would emphasise that such activities do nothing to assist the study of unusual phenomenon at Warminster or elsewhere. The identity of some persons concerned is known to members of the committee.

BOOK REVIEW

"UFO's—A SCIENTIFIC DEBATE." Edited by Carl Sagan and Thornton Page. Pub: Cornell University Press. pp 310: Illus. £5.65.

This excellently-presented book incorporates the proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Symposium on UFOs, held in December 1969.

Fifteen scientists from a wide range of disciplines examine different aspects of the UFO problem and come to very different conclusions. The book, which includes contributions by Dr. J. Allen Hynek, Dr. William Hartman, Dr. Donald Menzel, Walter Sullivan and Dr. James E. McDonald, is presented in such a way as to give the impression of a pendulum swinging to and fro between belief and scepticism. Although rather dizzying, this does show admirably that there are two sides to every controversy. Scientists of equal academic qualification reach quite different conclusions as a result of examining the same data. Maybe this indicates that extent of belief in UFOs is very much a personal thing, rather like religion. This brings to mind the rather interesting question: could one establish a "Scientific Study of GOD"? If such a study were set up, its conclusions might well be as negative as those of Dr. Edward Condon's "Scientific Study of UFOs," but these conclusions would not convince the believers.

Whose conclusions should one accept—those of the moderates (such as Hynek), those of the militantly negative (such as Menzel), or those of the militant believers (such as McDonald)? You pays your money and you takes your choice! After all, it's very much a personal thing, isn't it?

Mark Stenhoff 1973 July 18.

BOOKS FOR SALE

UFOs—A Scientific Debate —edited by Drs. Carl Sagan and Thornton Page	£5.85
Scientific Study of UFOs —directed by Dr. Edward Condon at Colorado University. 1,080 pages plus 30 pages of photos	£4.50
The UFO Experience —A Scientific Enquiry by Dr. Allen Hynek	£2.65
The Eternal Subject by Brinsley Le Poer Trench. 200 pages	£2.65
Gold Of The Gods by Erich von Daniken, incl. colour plates	£2.35
Our Haunted Planet by John Keel. 208 pages, strange events	£2.25
The Search For Morag (Scottish Loch Monster) by E. Campbell.	£2.00
The Warminster Mystery by Arthur Shuttlewood (paperback)	42p
Flying Saucers, Here and Now by Frank Edwards (paperback)	33p
Investigating UFOs by Larry Kettlekamp. UFO primer (paperback)	30p
Book Of The Damned by Charles Fort (strange facts). (Paperback)	70p

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Crawford Street, London W1H 1HS.**

BRITISH REPORTS

It is Editorial—and Committee—policy that investigated, evaluated British UFO reports should be a feature in these pages: none, however, have been available for publication recently. This does NOT mean that no reports of UFO sightings are being made and we will endeavour to rectify this omission in future issues. .ED.

The following report was made to me personally and I publish it because it is typical of a number of sighting reports in various parts of the country—including Warminster—in recent months. Comments from our evaluation panel in the next issue.

LOCATION : Between Bontddu and Barmouth, Merioneth, N. Wales.

DATE : June 30th, 1973. *TIME* : 23.00 — 23.30 GMT.

WITNESSES : Reyna Rushton, 23 and Timothy Tunnicliffe.

DETAILS : Six whitish-yellow lights were seen travelling above a river estuary towards the CADER IDRIS range of mountains: the lights in fact traversed the sky from N.W. to S.E., disappearing in the approximate position of Jupiter low in the south-east. They were around first magnitude and appeared singly at roughly five-minute intervals except for two which seemed rather brighter and travelled closer together. Brightness was constant: each light moved at approximately the same speed—an apparently slow movement as each was in view for several minutes. The lights seemed to move in a straight line. In this particular report the lights were seen against a clear sky hence height estimation was difficult, but reports of similar lights below cloud level have been made elsewhere.

National Investigations Co-ordinator Richard Colbourne is no longer able to continue in this position, though he will still be assisting the Investigations Section when time permits. Until a new co-ordinator is appointed reports should be sent to the appropriate Regional Co-ordinator as under:

(Please refer to Spring 1973 Journal for map of regions).

Mrs. PAT BARNES . . . "Windon," 43, Gladstone St., Bourne, Lincs. PE10 9AY.

NORMAN BEHARRELL . . . 21, Brent Ave., Longhill Estate, Hull, East Yorks.

GORDON CLEGG . . . 107, Hoylake Road, Sale, Cheshire, M33 2XJ.

IAN SANDERSON . . . "Sandon," 69, High Street, Ryton-on-Dunsmore, Coventry, Warwicks, CV8 3FJ.

RODNEY LLOYDS . . . 17, Digby Way, Newbury, Berkshire.

OMAR FOWLER . . . 149, Mytchett Road, Mytchett, Camberley, Surrey.

TREVOR WHITAKER . . . "Sheraleigh," 8, Central Park, Well Head, Halifax, Yorks.

IAN MACKINLEY . . . 29, Maes Trane, Beddau, Pontypridd, Glam.

GRAHAM KNEWSTUB . . . 27, Station Road, Shirehampton, Bristol BS11 9TU.

TERRY W. COX . . . "Ashram," Redmoor, Bodmin, Cornwall.

RICHARD NASH . . . "Ker House," 12, Southwick Road, Cosham, Portsmouth, Hants.

Back in 1969, the magazine UFO CHRONOLOG, edited by Joseph M. Erhardt of Virginia, USA, listed about a hundred different answers to the questions "What are UFOs?" These were given alphabetically and ranged from "A-Bomb Simulations" to "Weather Balloons" via such varied suggested answers as "Ants glowing with static electricity," "Clay pigeons" (!), "Foreign secret devices," "Inner Earth Craft," "Interdimensional Craft," "Mass hysteria," "Sunspots" and "Time-travellers' vehicles." Let me now, assuming that our study does not turn out to be anything so mundane as ants or clay pigeons, take a look at some possibilities of origin, together with a comment or two on each. This is not intended as a detailed examination and evaluation of the various theories, but rather as an item to provoke thought and comment—favourable or unfavourable—from its readers, so

- - - - TAKE YOUR PICK - - - -

Against each listed item is entered what I consider might well be the reaction of the 'average ufologist'—if such there be—to that particular theory. This is purely an estimation on my part and does not necessarily indicate how favourably or otherwise I view it myself—I'm usually with minorities anyway! ECR—Estimated Credibility Rating. Marks out of 10.

1. INTERDIMENSIONAL CRAFT. Here we have the possibility of practically "N" dimensions from which saucers could suddenly materialise: the possibility of almost countless universes existing of which we are totally unaware, except for those occasional flashes of "insight" or "vision" on the part of a favoured few who might be "tuned in" slightly differently to the rest of us.

ECR 1.5 (Except amongst Science Fiction fans which includes me!)

2. TIME-TRAVELLERS' VEHICLES.—all right, so long as one accepts the inherent possibility of time-travel! And if one does, just a few thoughts. It could be that no-one could themselves travel back physically through time, but might nevertheless be able to send back "monitors" to enable us to be seen on the future equivalent of TV screens. It might be that living creatures *could* travel back through time but not be able to touch or interfere with anyone or anything in the era in which they materialised, and only be able to observe. And whilst on the subject, why *back* through time? Surely *forward* is a possibility as well? Might not some, hopeful of surviving an impending natural or man-made catastrophe in the past, endeavour to escape by travelling into and living in the future?

ECR 0.5 (But with same comment as in 1!).

3. SPACE CRAFT (A) FROM SOLAR SYSTEM. Glossing over the arguments for and against intelligent indigenous life existing on any other of the major planets, there is always the possibility that bases of extra-solar life-forms exist on some of them—or indeed on some satellites of the superior planets: after all, a Moon base is well within our own sights and this would not be so vastly different—albeit smaller and more primitive than such bases.

ECR 6.

(B) FROM BEYOND THE SOLAR SYSTEM. Large question-marks against this theory include of course, time and distance (nearest star about $4\frac{1}{2}$ light years away), propulsion and "why come to us?" The first two though are question-marks only if viewed by our terrestrial present-day developments and extrapolation from them. The "light-barrier" might well prove to be no barrier at all even a century or so hence, and I do not think there are very many who believe alien craft would use our own "steam-radio" form of propulsion! Why come to us? Indeed, why? Though this could well be answered by possibility No. 11. There is also a point "agin" which has been emphasised on occasion by C. Maxwell Cade, namely that whilst the probability of numerous abodes of extra-terrestrial life is considerable, the likelihood of such life even approximating to our own stage of development is comparatively small.

ECR 4.

4. INNER EARTH VEHICLES. Though this theory has found favour in some quarters, and I would by no means dismiss the possibility of hitherto unknown troglodytic races, I cannot somehow visualise an advanced technology being present, nor do I think the "holes at the poles" idea can be taken too seriously.

ECR 0-5.

5. CO-EXISTENT INTELLIGENCIES. This idea, maybe to the surprise of some, I can take quite seriously. It is different from the multi-dimensional proposition inasmuch as with the latter, complete solar systems and civilisations can be conceived as existing "once or more removed," so to speak: whereas with a co-existent intelligence, a being or beings would be actually present here, on our planet, NOT "removed" at all, but of a different structure: on a different "vibration": non-material to our own senses—call it what you will. Whether or not—assuming their existence—such entities could or do control our thought processes is entirely another question, probably one which no-one is competent to answer, since if we were being controlled, then the answer would also presumably be controlled. Such entities *might* be able to project into our much-greater materialistic world objects which are on occasion visible to us in order to attempt communication or, if "control" is the operative criterion, to confuse us by means of all sorts of mental manipulations. Why? Your guess is as good as mine.

ECR 2-5.

6. SOLAR/SPACE RADIATION. In "Notes and Quotes" I have referred to a projected book in which Mr. R. Markwick places the blame—not only for the existence of flying saucers, but for many other mysteries as well—on our senses being radiation affected. This idea, despite my dislike of it, cannot, I feel, be altogether ruled out, though I will be the first to admit to lack of scientific background on the types of radiation involved, and what could be done to prove or disprove this idea scientifically. Mr. Markwick would though, I feel sure, be happy to deal with any points readers might like to raise on this idea.

ECR 1-5.

7. PSYCHIC PHENOMENA. As readers will be aware, there are many parallels in Ufology with various types of psychic phenomena—far too many to deal with individually in this particular article, and I think it quite likely that a proportion of sightings, particularly of the “small, coloured lights” and “balls in the sky” variety may be of this persuasion. In this connection may I suggest that in some cases “elementals” are responsible. These could be closely associated with the rather more scientific “ball-lightning” which, on occasion, has been known to behave in an intelligently-controlled manner. Elementals, I can assure you, DO exist, or rather are created for a specific purpose from “elementary force”—and what better description could be given to ball lightning than an “elementary force?”

ECR 5.

8. HOAXES—DELIBERATE. It has to be admitted that many saucer reports, particularly of the landing and contact variety—and certainly photographs, are wide open to a hoax classification. In quite a number of cases I feel “hoax” is the only answer, but I also feel that a quite likely explanation for its perpetration is that the hoaxer wishes to “test out” the investigator: this can then snowball to a point where the perpetrator(s) find it difficult to acknowledge the hoax. Photographs, in my opinion, should only be given credibility when accompanied by a full detailed report from two or more witnesses.

ECR 7.

HOAXES—INDUCED. This is really an impossible angle to cover as how are we able—even if we have proved a report to be a hoax—to show it was induced by space or other intelligences? My personal inclination veers, and always has, to “man-made” hoaxes, but in view of my first sentence I feel the possibility has to be given equal credence.

ECR 7.

9. IMAGE PROJECTIONS (a) EXTERNAL. Yes, but from where? And again, unless the “image” is also capable of sending back information to its projectors, the only possible reason for this that I can see is to give us poor mortals something else to puzzle over. Though not quite the same thing, this recalls to mind Arthur C. Clarke’s book CHILDHOOD’S END, where the image of one saucer was projected over the capital cities of the world to create the illusion of a fleet.

ECR 2.

IMAGE PROJECTIONS (b) INTERNAL, where the person(s) concerned may see saucers when there is nothing there. Probable source could be No. 5—Co-Existent Intelligences, which see.

ECR 2.5.

10. LIVING ENTITIES CAPABLE OF INTERSTELLAR TRAVEL.

Have you ever thought of the Earth as a living entity? Alive beneath the odd ten or twenty miles or so of "surface dirt"? Arthur Conan Doyle did when he wrote the short story, "The Day the Earth Screamed." Even though if one accepts the—laughable to most—possibility, it is not quite the same as visualising saucers as living entities. However, if one accepts the existence of "out-of-the-body" experiences and astral travel—and I have so many friends with experiences of this nature that I cannot do anything else—why not visible astral bodies of extra-terrestrial entities?

ECR 2.

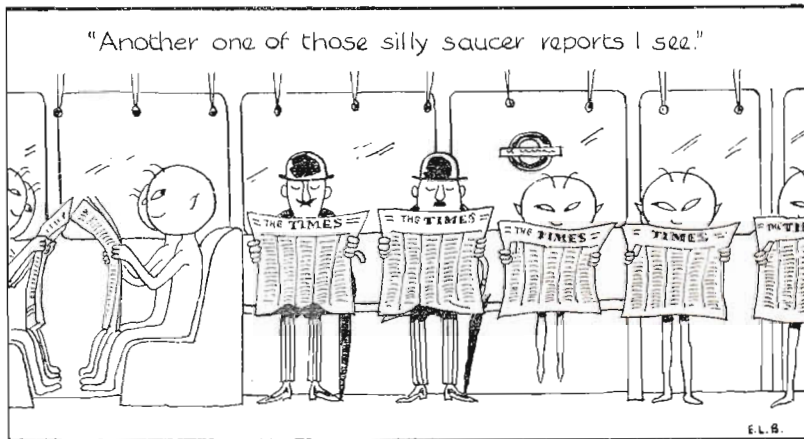
11. "WE ARE PROPERTY." To my mind this is the most telling argument against the "why have they been coming here so long and we still don't know who they are" question. Further, could not just we, but the entire planet and its tremendous varieties of life-forms be but experiments on the part of our owners? A recent book—THE HEAVEN MAKERS—even postulated that we are not experiments, but entertainments manipulated by our external controllers. ("All the world's a stage")!

ECR 8.

The foregoing has not been intended as a comprehensive coverage and detailed examination of all possibilities of saucer origins—it obviously is not, and in any case to do this would take a book, not an article. If it serves to stimulate thought however, it will have served its purpose.

I would emphasise again that the credibility ratings I have appended are entirely my own estimation: these will obviously vary according to the ideas of the individual, so let me have your ideas and thoughts on points raised in this article, even if your considered conclusion is "The man's an idiot!"

NORMAN OLIVER.



It is an unfortunate fact that whilst BUFORA is the *British* UFO Research Association, of necessity it has largely to be London-based. This tends to give a totally incorrect and parochial impression, for the majority of its members reside in other parts of the country, many devoting much of their time and energies to the furtherance of BUFORA's aims. Two such members are Doreen and Trevor Whitaker of the Yorkshire (formerly Halifax) branch of BUFORA, and I am doubly pleased to present them in our 'Personality' series as it is seldom one finds that husband and wife both share a common interest in UFO research: so—

DOREEN and TREVOR WHITAKER

Doreen. Born in Leeds, Yorkshire. Educated at Crossley and Porter Girls' Grammar School, Halifax. Qualified State Registered Nurse after training at the Halifax General Hospital in 1953.

Trevor. Born Sowerby Bridge, Yorkshire. Educated at Heath Grammar School, Halifax. National Service 1947-49, spent most of service on the staff of the Medical Directorate, G.H.Q., Egypt, promoted to rank of sergeant. Qualified Ophthalmic Optician in 1952. Fellow of British Optical Association and of Worshipful Company of Spectacle Makers. Studied at Northampton Polytechnic, London and the London Refraction Hospital. Has been in private Ophthalmic Practice ever since. Was for thirteen years visiting lecturer in Clinical Ophthalmic Optics at the University of Bradford and is now an examiner in the subject for the British Optical Association.

Both had a fringe interest in UFOs having read *FLYING SAUCERS HAVE LANDED* when first published and in 1962 Doreen answered an advertisement in the local paper inserted by Malcolm Bull, a friend of Nigel Stephenson and a member of LUFORO (the London UFO Research Organisation). As a result of this advertisement six people met at their house in May 1963 and the Halifax branch of LUFORO was formed. Trevor, who had not attended the first meeting, joined the following month. On the formation of BUFORA, branch membership was transferred to this body: Malcolm Bull was the first secretary but Trevor succeeded him in 1965 when Malcolm Bull became chairman. Of the five Northern Regional BUFORA Conferences which have been held, the Halifax branch organised the three in 1966, 1969 and 1973. These conferences were the suggestion of Trevor as a means of giving greater contact between the Executive of BUFORA and members in the north.

Trevor has made four T.V. appearances during the past two years, also having been interviewed by Radio Leeds as a representative of the Association: to date, several local newspapers in the north have published feature articles about them both and the work of the branch and the Association.

Trevor writes: "We differ slightly in our views on the origins of the UFO phenomenon and I am far more sceptical over the claims of contactees than Doreen.

We both feel that we are dealing with a complex phenomenon which has no simple, single explanation and that if extra-terrestrial activity is involved, it is only a very small percentage of the unexplained reports. We also both feel that this is a subject which should not be taken lightly and, although we cannot agree with much of what John Keel says, we think his warnings should be heeded.

It is our opinion that the lack of progress in solving the UFO problem over the past twenty years could very well be due to our taking a far too negative attitude to the subject.

Much of our personal efforts and those of the branch have been aimed at improving the public image of BUFORA so as to improve relationships with public bodies as a first step to being able to obtain a more rapid receipt of sighting reports, in the hope that someday we may get a good proportion in time to be able to investigate a sighting and not just a report of one. Most of the reports the Association receives are useless as they are too late or because they are made by people who are unable to report accurately what they saw."



By the time this is read, members will have had an opportunity to hear Trevor enlarge on his views at the Annual General Meeting, and BUFORA can indeed count themselves fortunate in being represented by two such consistently dedicated members in a part of England where I personally have always felt 'at home,' but where the 'far-flung' nature of the area does not always make things easy for the researcher.

NORMAN OLIVER.

1950 WORLD UFO WAVE

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