

British UFO Research Association

? What have these in common ?

Edenhurst

Rhos-y-bol

Herbrandston

Broad Haven

? Or these ?

A.52

A.520

A.523

Report Extra holds the answers

bufo
journal

Vol 6 No 1 May/June 1977

Council 1976/7

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This remains very true, even—perhaps especially—were the 'contactee' actually to be a UFO society leader!

Should any such person suddenly become 'a channel of cosmic intelligence', or even suggest the possibility of some form of alien direction, he or she will rapidly find themselves isolated from the mainstream of UFO research, perhaps just surrounded by a small band of active adherents.

Harsh, perhaps, but understandable. Ufologists the world over resent the idea of any form of 'take-over'—and justly so. Add the suggestion of an alien influence and their reaction is doubly certain.

It sometimes happens that a UFO researcher 'discovers' he or she is being 'guided' along a certain path with the carrot of complete ufological revelation dangled temptingly as bait! World-wide there have been half a dozen such over the last few years alone. Unfortunately the result is invariably the same—ultimate confusion and disillusionment. Would it not be better for anyone believing themselves 'alien-inspired' to agree to investigation and surveillance by their fellow-ufologists? Particularly should they hold a position of some ufological influence, where their decisions may affect the future path of ufology.

Any volunteers?

Norman Oliver.

Editorial

Warning to 'Aliens'!

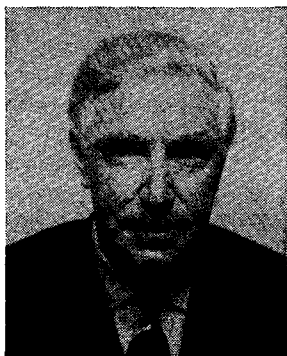
Back in 1969 in the magazine *COSMOS*, I published an article from Janet Gregory (now Janet Bord), entitled *Warning to UFOlogists* from which the following is an extract: ". . . . Even if one of you reading this were to meet a UFO occupant who told you why the UFOs were here, do you expect that, when you passed on the news, the leaders of the hundreds of UFO societies throughout the world would fold their arms and say, 'Well, that's that then. No point in carrying on,' and disband their societies? Of course not!"

NOTICE TO ALL GROUPS

If you have notices of any forthcoming meetings, or other information you would like publicised in the *Bufora Journal*, please let me know and I will be happy to oblige. Please note, though, that this should be two months in advance to allow for printing and distribution time—Ed.

Presidential Profile

C A E O'Brien, CBE, CT, MA(Cantab), FGS, FRAS



C A E ('Tim') O'Brien, well-known to many members for his popular, informative lectures and for his contributions to Bufora's Research programme, has agreed to succeed Dr G G ('Geoff') Doel (who now becomes a Vice-President) as President of Bufora. 'Tim,' now resident at Thaxted in Essex gives the following biographical details.

Born 1914 in London, he was educated at Tiffin School, Kingston-upon-Thames and Christ's College, Cambridge, where he read Natural Sciences—Geology, Mineralogy and Physics.

1936: Joined the Anglo-Iranian Oil Co. (now BP) and spent three years in Persia on geological surveys.

1939-1946: In the Royal Engineers in North Africa, Italy and Austria.

1946-1958: Regional Geologist for BP responsible for Australia and New Guinea, Canada and the Caribbean. Undertook geological surveys of the Rocky Mountains of Canada, jungles of New Guinea and interior of Australia.

1959-1962: General Manager for BP in Libya.

1962-1965: President of Triad Oil Co in Calgary, Canada.

1966-1970: Chairman of the Boards and General Managing Director of the Iranian Oil Operating Companies in Tehran, Iran.

On retirement, in June 1970, 'Tim' was decorated (i) by the Shah of Iran with the Order of Taj. (ii) by the Queen with the Order of the British Empire. His retirement was specifically to return to Science, with particular interests in Archeo-Astronomy, Anthropology and Ufology—amongst a spread of wider interests. In 1976, he published the treatise *An Integrated Astronomical Complex of Earthworks at Wandlebury and Hatfield Forest*.

Concerning Bufora 'Tim' writes:

"I believe that Bufora has two roles to play:

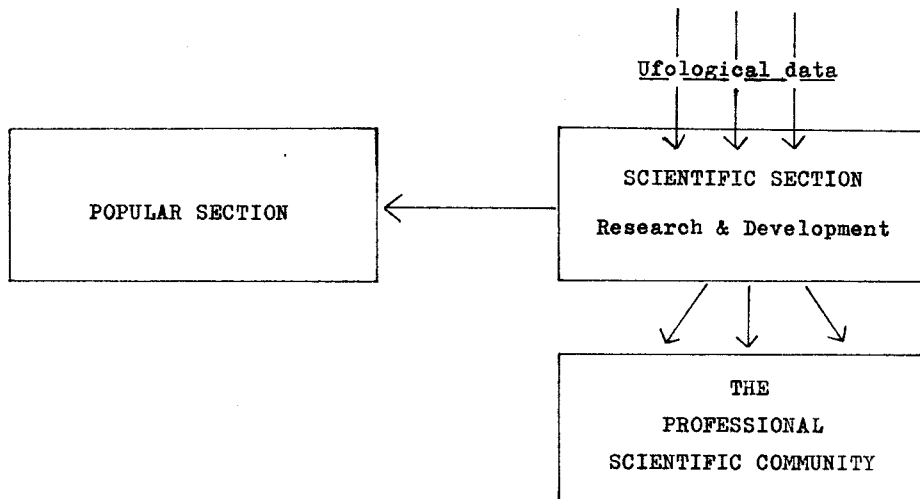
(i) To satisfy the non-scientific interests of seriously minded people who find themselves drawn to the problems of the UFO. By 'satisfy,' I mean keeping them informed of the more important developments, and discussing with them the pitfalls of popular hypotheses and theories which have no rational evidence for support. I believe that Bufora has a duty to present and discuss, in a simple form, the various scientific options which are open to consideration, and to provide factual material and scientific background which will allow members to reach their own, hopefully, carefully considered conclusions.

(ii) To carry out research into ufological material from which carefully prepared scientific papers can be presented to the scientific community, so

that interest may be stimulated and prejudices removed.

I hope to see Bufora develop into an Association with two strong comple-

mentary sections, through which information would be received, digested and dispersed as shown in the diagram below."



Controversy

I would like to claim the right to reply to criticism of my *Controversy* article, made by Ian Grant in the Jan/Feb '77 issue.

Grant scoffed at the claim that the nearest advanced technological civilisation is at least 100 light-years away, and claims that it is based on the assumption that 'if they were nearer we would have heard from them.' This belief is in fact based on calculations concerning the number of planets and more particularly the number of advanced technological civilisations in our Galaxy. I refer him to the work of Shklovskii and Sagan, who have calculated that there are about 1.5 million such civilisations in the Galaxy. Since the number of stars in the Galaxy, and the distance between them, is known, reasonable assumptions can be made regarding the *average* distance between advanced technological civilisations.

They state that this distance is between a few hundred light-years and about one thousand light-years. (*Intelligent Life in the Universe* p 418). Grant's belief that the distance is smaller appears to be founded on the assumption that we have already been visited—a circular argument of the type he attributes to me.

Regarding the question of races more advanced than us, it is all a question of degree. I implied that it was improbable that other civilisations were so much more advanced than us as to be able to visit Earth. This assumption is based on the fact that the very oldest stars in the Galaxy (the Population 11 stars) are unlikely either to have produced planets or life due to the lack of essential elements such as oxygen, carbon, etc. (*See Cade, Other Worlds,*

continued overleaf

p 87). It is the Population 1 stars (such as our Sun) which will have produced planets and life, using the heavier elements created by dying Population 11 stars. The essential question is how long it could have taken the first Population 1 star to evolve planets, and how quickly life could have evolved. The Sun is about 5 Aeons (an Aeon being 1000 million years) old, half the age of the universe, and I do not believe it likely that many Population 1 stars will have developed planets and life substantially in advance of Earth. If there are such civilisations, the vast distances even within the Galaxy will have prevented them from travelling very far. I cannot agree that it is 'likely' that the oldest civilisations have developed one or two Aeons ago. If it is thought that Earth-life is fairly typical, ie, not extraordinary, it might also be argued that the speed with which it has evolved is also not exceptional. The likelihood is that there are many advanced technological civilisations at much the same stage of development, with only a few more noticeably more advanced.

In addition, one might note the conclusion of Shklovskii and Sagan that the average age (ie lifetime) of a communicating technological civilisation is only 10 million years (*Ibid pp 410-412*). This time, only one hundredth of an Aeon, may be insufficient to allow such a civilisation to fully explore the Galaxy. A civilisation that developed 1 Aeon ago would have become extinct 990 million years ago.

I have no comment to make on the remainder of Grant's rambling expedition through 6D space, deadly danger, failure of electricity, witchcraft, etc—all without a shred of evidence, except to state that I am not a scientist and was not putting forward a scientific theory. I was making a proposal, and a reasonable one under the circum-

stances, involving the phenomenon called ball-lightning, which for convenience has been described by others as a 'plasma,' although it cannot be a plasma in the accepted sense. Grant must be aware of this and his disingenuous attempt to undermine my views is not impressive. It is he who is in deadly danger—from his own bizarre prejudices.

Stuart Campbell,
Buforia, Edinburgh.

* * * *

I feel comment must be made on the content of Ian Grant's letter (*Buforia Journal 5 (5), 5/6, 1977 Jan/Feb*). I think I can claim a little knowledge of the phenomenon of ball lightning, having been closely involved in work investigating it at London University, and having published a letter in *Nature* (260 596, 7, 1976, April 15) on the subject.

Mr Grant is clearly uninformed about reported ball lightning events. In fact, the descriptions of ball lightning he doubts have occasionally been reported. Whether or not such reports should be taken at face value may be another matter, but Grant seems to have no difficulty in accepting reports of UFO phenomena landing and 'disgorging occupants.' Why, therefore, does he doubt these less exotic descriptions of ball lightning?

The antimatter theory of ball lightning is not consistent with more recent work and many objections to this admittedly appealing hypothesis exist (*see, for example, Wooding, E R, Nature 262, 379-80, 1976, July 29*). While there are also severe difficulties with simple plasma models for ball lightning, as all the literature acknowledges, nonetheless these hypotheses have been discussed in the framework of proper science, not introduced, as Mr Grant

puts it, as 'a conveniently vague, pseudo-scientific excuse for ignoring fearful facts.' Plasma models should be considered, along with any others, until ball lightning is satisfactorily accounted for although they will likely need to be extensively modified or eventually rejected.

Mr Grant quite correctly states that 'all too often scientists, when they stray from the safe confines of what they learn at school and university, abandon the rigours of scientific proof for half-baked arguments which would disgrace the third-rate science-fiction from which so many of their ideas seem to originate.'

However, one feels that Grant's own 'wide ranging survey of contemporary belief,' which incorporates such diverse fields as '6-dimensional space' (whatever he thinks he means by that), formation and chemistry of planetary systems, general principles of formation of life and evolution, psychology of intelligent life, violent and non-violent psychology (?), subliminal advertising, witchcraft (!!!), etc, etc, must at some point fall outside the confines of what he learned at school and university? Might his criticisms not be applied to himself?

Mark Stenhoff,
Dept of Physics,
Royal Holloway Coll.

* * * *

I am pleased to note Stuart Campbell's agreement that ball lightning, whatever else it may be, cannot possibly be plasma. To avoid confusion, could we use some other term to describe these luminous balls? The only polite alternative which springs to mind is 'miasma,' a term of respectable antiquity which has been employed historically to cloak abysmal ignorance. Ball lightning is a fascinating subject. These ghostly ghostly globes may float demurely, or fizz and sparkle like a

damp squib. They may pass through doors without bothering to open them, or whimsically squeeze through the keyhole; funnel into electrical equipment like water sucked down a plug-hole, or wink out silently, or disappear in a deafening explosion. In short, they are quite ridiculous, and were generally disbelieved until a well-known scientist saw one floating politely up the gangway of the plane in which he was travelling. It was spherical, some 40cm in diameter, self-luminous (a 'pale electric blue'), and slightly darker towards the edges. Not one single passenger mistook it for a flying saucer.

As for the likely distance to the nearest technological civilisations, I have the greatest respect for Carl Sagan and I S Shklovsky, but it must be remembered that they are eminent scientists, with a reputation to maintain: Sagan has already been miscalled a 'UFO buff,' while Shklovsky belongs to the Soviet Academy of Science, that body which was at the beginning of 1968 'about to publish proof that UFOs are extraterrestrial,' and then, on February 7, abruptly denounced them as 'sensational and unscientific.' Moreover, Sagan and Shklovsky have an axe to grind, in that they are seeking funds for certain lines of research, which can best be justified if it is assumed that aliens are not now visiting our planet, but may well do so in the near future. So it is not surprising if they choose to overlook the question 'if only one habitable planet in 10,000 has an advanced civilisation, why don't they colonise the other 9999?' (Nevertheless, Carl Sagan has an open mind on the subject—see for instance *Other Worlds*, where he discusses colonisation and suggests 'perhaps they are here already, but we are too dumb to realise it.').

continued overleaf

NASA scientists are already planning trips to the stars: ships capable of some 40% of the speed of light can already be designed (though not yet built). 'Time dilation' is more speculative: we cannot begin to say whether the fantastic energy requirements (let alone the problem of the odd speck of interstellar dust, which would have at relativistic speeds the impact of a freight train) can ever be overcome. Realistically, we should plan at least 11 years to reach Alpha Centauri, 30 years to the next three likely stars (Tau Ceti, Epsilon Eridani and Epsilon Indi), and 50 years to such stars as Eta Cassiopeiae and Sigma Draconis. Can anyone seriously believe that after such a voyage, intrepid cosmonauts will simply turn round and head for a home they will never see? Such journeys will be strictly one-way affairs, to set up colonies on planets which automatic probes have already shown to be habitable.

Earth's population is presently doubling every 30 years, which corresponds to a millionfold increase in six centuries. At this rate, a handful of colonists could easily expand to a worldwide civilisation in 500 to 1000 years. Now if each colonised planet after 1000 years colonises just two more a simple calculation will show that 100,000 years is ample to colonise every habitable planet in the Galaxy. But we are evidently not colonised: either we have been granted exemption as sitting tenants, or else there is something wrong with our basic assumptions. For instance, if (as certain gloomy scientists suggest), every single technological civilisation which has ever risen on any one of the 10,000,000,000 habitable planets of our Galaxy inevitably vaporised themselves and their planet within decades of discovering nuclear fission, then clearly there can be nobody left to colonise us.

Not that it matters much, if we are inescapably bound to destroy ourselves in the near future (a prospect which might justifiably be described as 'deadly danger?').

What about 'faster-than-light' travel? Impossible, of course. More accurately a body cannot be accelerated past the speed of light in Einstein space—a mathematical abstraction which happens to describe rather well the observed universe (particularly if we ignore conflicting observations as 'obviously impossible'). Einstein, however, never claimed to have uncovered the ultimate secrets of the universe, and those who laugh too loudly at unfamiliar ideas such as 6-dimensional space, might just find themselves in a similar position to that Astronomer Royal who declared at the time of the first sputnik 'Space travel is utter bilge.' Those who seek scientific references might like to consult the *Soviet Journal of Experimental and Theoretical Physics*, 59 (1970), in which Sakharov and Novikov suggest that 'our space is much more complicated than it seems . . . infinite multitudes of spaces . . . possibility of covering infinitely larger distances in finite times.'

How much more advanced than ourselves can we expect extraterrestrial civilisations to be? The heavy elements were not all created at once, in some mass suicide of Type 2 stars, but continuously. Born some 1,500,000,000 years earlier, our planet would have been some 10% smaller, with 15% lower gravity and 30% less mass—not surely too small for life? But even if all life throughout the Galaxy came into being one sunny afternoon in 3,500,000,000 BC, a mere 1% acceleration of evolution on some other planet would give a civilisation 35,000,000 years ahead of ours.

Our world has changed out of all

recognition in just 40 years: how can we begin to imagine the changes which could occur in 25 thousand times as long? Science-fiction writer Arthur C Clarke said, 'Any sufficiently advanced technology must be indistinguishable from magic.' Yet visitors from the stars are likely to be not one, but many millions of years ahead of us. The alternative is to suppose that on 10,000,000,000 planets life evolves for 3,500,000,000 years, only to be snuffed out in less than 0.1% of that timespan. Can we predict the likely behaviour of such visitors? I have attempted to analyse this question logically, and

come up with an answer very different from our naive science-fiction beliefs.

The logical argument is far too lengthy to give here, and without it, readers may reasonably treat my conclusions with scepticism. But to dismiss my ideas out of hand, without even looking at the underlying logic, surely smacks of superstition rather than science?

Ian Grant,
Solihull.

With apologies to all protagonists, correspondence on this particular Controversy is now closed!—Ed.

Book Review

Betty Wood

HOW TO BE KIDNAPPED BY UFOs (and other escapes)

by Dan Clements

It's not often that books about UFOs are written in a humorous vein—except unintentionally, of course, and I must admit that when I first began to read this book I thought it would just be a general send-up of the whole subject. Well, so it is in a way, but it literally *does* give solid advice on what to do if you are lucky (or unlucky!) enough to be captured by UFOs. In fact, I think it ought to be compulsory reading for all interested in the subject. It cuts the whole crazy UFO scene down to size, puts all the freaky fun-folk occupants in their correct perspective and generally keeps our feet on the ground while our heads are literally in the sky!

'Should one or several UFOs zero in on you for a ride of indeterminate length, destination or purpose' breezily advises Mr Clements, 'try not to pass out . . . you'll be missing much of the fun and excitement.' 'Your new friends, possibly self-luminous and floating, will levitate you off the ground . . . drag your feet and you'll just ruin your shoes.' You see—it's all very practical advice!

Mr Clements suggests a detached, co-operative attitude towards UFOs so that as much information as possible can be assimilated about their craft and themselves. We must not be put off by their appearance—a study of our own animal life on this planet will soon condition us to weird physical peculiarities. A quick run-down of the various types likely to be encountered, together with their different lines of approach, soon makes the whole UFO scene appear almost normal. Once you're prepared in this way, being captured by a UFO weirdie will seem no worse than going to the dentist's and probably less painful.

The book doesn't exactly fill me with a great desire to meet up with the average UFO occupant, but on the other hand, the experience would not now be so nerve-wracking—I think! At least one would be prepared for everything. I sincerely hope a copy reaches the UFO HQ wherever or whatever that is—it might do their egos some good to know we don't take their activities

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Points from the Press

Valerie Martin

The *Daily Express* of 6 January and several provincial newspapers record the lecture and interview given by Dr J Allen Hynek, director of the Center for UFO Studies, when he passed through London. Dr Hynek, former consultant to the USAF Project on UFOs, is dissatisfied with official attitudes which suppress evidence, and intends re-opening the Blue Book report with his own analysis. Investigations were divided into 3 categories of encounters with UFOs, sightings, physical traces left on earth and human contact with alien beings. *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, is the title of the partly factual film on which Dr Hynek is advising and has a walk-on rôle. Originally a sceptic, he has found a nucleus of unexplained phenomena and similarity in incidents from people in all walks of life. Believing in a vast source of untapped information and to encourage the right kind of research, Dr Hynek has started a monthly magazine called *International UFO Reporter*.

* * *

The *Daily Mirror* of 31 January carried a double page serious article on UFOs, describing several cases including the Bowles-Pratt humanoid encounter, and pin-pointing sighting areas on an illustrated map. A strip of film taken by a TV film crew of a UFO over Banbury was also reproduced.

* * *

The *South Wales Evening Post* of 20 November had a column of UFO sightings investigated by R Jones-Pugh, Bufora RIC and retired veterinary surgeon. The *Western Mail* of 5 January had a long article on UFOs with photographs, mentioning Ken Phillips, Bufora's NIC, but giving

prominence to Mr Jones Pugh, who outlined several theories on the origin of UFOs but retained a dispassionate and technical approach. An interesting case which had not previously come to the *Journal's* notice, as the sightings table instituted in the last issue was not then in force, was given in detail. Mr Jones-Pugh interviewed two young men from Dyfed, scene of many sightings, who on a clear night in January 1975 found some cattle they had gone to collect by tractor, huddled in a tight group at the bottom of the field. They saw a light shining through a hedge, which rose, moved in their direction hovering briefly 30 feet away and 3 feet above ground. Shaped like a rugby ball 18 inches long, it moved slowly away at an angle. Increased UFO activity has meant a busy time for indefatigable Mr Jones-Pugh who covers a large area. More recently he has been investigating reports of a saucer shaped object with a revolving top, over Milford Haven, and 3 silver-coloured craft with wings pointing downwards and without tailplanes, seen also in other parts of the world. He now wants to establish a Bufora branch in South Wales.

* * *

In the *West Somerset Free Press* of 26 November and 21 January, bumps in the night continue to make news, some being accompanied by UFO sightings. Large cigar shape craft have been seen over the Bristol Channel by a squadron leader, and dazzling white hovering lights and a fast moving orange red ball above the Brendon and Mendip Hills. Bufora branch secretary Jean Cox said the group, with RI Ian Vinten, is trying to find a possible connection by charting the sightings and recording the noises.

The *Liverpool Echo* of 5 January had a short item on the Liverpool-based International UFO Research Council. This organisation which has no connection with Bufora, aims to get a Government grant for research programmes by lobbying MPs and starting petitions.

* * *

The *Daily Telegraph* of 18 December, the *Evening Sentinel* of 16 January and other newspapers mentioned the Flying Grapefruit seen over North Staffs by several people including an AA patrol man and a pilot. According to Bufora RI Derek James, the brightly glowing object was about 40 feet long, 15 feet high and had a set of 5 lights inter-linked like the Olympic rings symbol.

* * *

The *Liverpool Daily Post* of 4 January also had a report on UFOs in North Staffs. Bufora's research director Tony Pace explained the pattern of UFO visits which tend to occur around Christmas time at 10 year intervals, the latest sightings being anticipated by experts.

* * *

The *Guardian* of 14 January described the newly formed American-based Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, whose members include Carl Sagan, Isaac Asimov, and Chris Evans from Britain's National Physical Laboratory. It purposes to find the truth behind claims involving the unusual, including UFOs, but the first issue of its magazine, *The Zetetic*, is firmly in line with orthodox scientific opinion in ridiculing the Ancient Astronaut theory.

* * *

The *Peterborough Evening Telegraph* of 7 January in an article on the paranormal, featured para-psychologist Oliver Cambren of Warwickshire, who originally was uninterested in UFOs,

but has been surprised by the information now available. He concludes from the large amount of mail he receives, that there may be an intelligent force at work on and/or dimensionally near the earth, which is possibly hoaxing us at times.

* * *

The *Gravesend Reporter* of 3 December has an account of a star-sized flashing object seen at 2 am, manoeuvring up and down with a ray coming from it. After 45 minutes the police were called and 4 members arrived to witness the event.

* * *

Finally, the *Evening Standard* of 13 January and *Daily Mail* of 15 January tell the story of Dorothy McCarthy's duckpond in New Hampshire being the centre of national attention by American TV film crews, reporters, police and hordes of sightseers. The reason? Reports that something big and black had flown into it from the sky. Mrs McCarthy and others were warned to keep quiet by officials, but some witnesses said that through a 3 feet wide hole in the ice they could see an object settling in the mud. Preliminary radiation readings were very high, but normal later.

Book Review

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too seriously. This fun but factual little book is doing an excellent job in keeping the somewhat over-serious subject of Ufology on an even keel and is thoroughly recommended, especially to those who feel that maybe they are letting their interest in the subject get out of hand.

*Obtainable from: Clemco, Box 1362
Manhattan Beach, CA 90266, USA—
Price \$3.95.*

Report—Extra!

Presented by Norman Oliver

Items included in this section—to be a regular Journal feature—will be of high-interest reports we feel members would like to know about: reports, indeed, that should be published. The feature will be distinct from Sighting Summaries which will be retained as a representative cross-section of reports listed. Some—the Broad Haven case investigated by Mr Jones-Pugh is one—will be capable of a much more detailed presentation than is possible in these pages, and it is hoped that such investigated reports will be presented in depth from time to time, either by way of a Journal supplement or a separate Newsletter from Research.

Time-lapse Extraordinary!

Investigator: Derek James

The time of this report was during the 'Mystery Helicopter' event in mid-January 1974. A student teacher and his fiancée had an encounter with what at first they thought was a helicopter in the area of Werrington, Stoke-on-Trent. Whilst motoring, at around 9.30 pm, they saw a faint, but very large, green light pass over the A52 (see Fig A) from their right to their left, and because of its apparent large size, they took it to be a 'copter. The object appeared to swing down the A52 as if pacing the car, but always staying ahead of it. The witnesses followed to the traffic lights at the junction with the A520 where it veered off to the left towards Leek.

Still following and keeping the object (light) under observation for about 3 miles nearly to the outskirts of Leek, they realised what a waste of time it all was unless the UFO landed: so they gave up and turned back! Driving back along the A520 towards the same traffic lights, however, they reached a point about one mile south of Cheddleton Village where there was a hill to their left, when both had an overpowering feeling they were being watched. The lady ('J') was so upset that she turned to look in the rear of the 1100 they were in! Both witnesses felt this simultaneously!

No-one was there, but, very shaken, the

driver ('Jeff') stopped the car right by the hill. The feeling grew stronger till the hair on their necks 'stood up.' Once out of the car—and this is a quiet road—they stood whispering in the silence, wondering what the feeling was caused by, and Jeff went as far as looking in the boot, but found nothing.

As he stood up, closing the boot lid, Jeff noticed the sky was about twenty to thirty per cent cloud covered, with a Full Moon lighting up the clouds quite brilliantly: between the clouds the stars stood out clearly. Jeff then looked directly upward: there in the sky was a black rectangular 'hole': no stars could be seen—just blackness. He whispered to J that whatever it was up there was no 'copter: no noise could be heard in the still country air. Suddenly without warning, two lights, one at either end, shone down onto the surface of the road. One was green and cast a faint round light in front of the car: the other was blue and shone on the road to the rear. Slowly the lights drew in together, seemingly in order to locate the car! At this point, J and Jeff leapt into the car and drove at high speed towards the traffic lights.

At the lights, the object was again slightly in front of the car. It then moved to the left towards Ashbourne and Jeff had another strange feeling. This time he felt compelled to follow

the UFO, though both were very scared. J said she remembered thinking 'I wonder why I don't scream,' but I didn't. Then, as they turned at the junction, they found themselves going over a bumpy noisy patch.

This turned out to be a cattle grid at Ilam, near Dovedale, Derbyshire, some 15 miles away, although it took Jeff a good ten minutes to find his location! They had arrived suddenly at Ilam in total darkness, no house lights to be seen. He checked his watch by the dash lights: it was now 1.30 am, this representing a total time loss of about 3¼ hours. 'What the hell am I doing out there?' he recalled was his first reaction. (*Dovedale is a picturesque village in a beauty spot surrounded by high hills, a river—the Dove—running in the valley*).

Jeff turned the car and started off uphill to the main Ashbourne-Leek road. As the main A523 was reached, a right turn was made into it which should have been in total darkness—no lamps visible. But—our two witnesses jumped again, for they found themselves surrounded by street lights, terraced houses, etc. It took several minutes of driving before they found someone to direct them to the police station: once there, they asked where they were, and were told 'Macclesfield!' (*Macclesfield in fact being 20 miles or more from the point they turned back on to the A523!*). The time was now 3.30 am. Jeff explained that his fiancee's parents would be very upset, having expected her back around midnight. They couldn't tell the police what had happened since they didn't know! After a short while the police arranged for a local police car in Stoke to call and explain that the couple were all right and would be back in an hour or so.

Bufora RIC Derek James who, with T Shotton investigated the case, adds: Checks were made with the police and they confirmed what the couple had said. Both witnesses were still very scared several days after the event and spoke in lowered voices and with other signs of tension—very convincing: I have never doubted the story and though it could have been a hoax I doubt it. Both witnesses were emphatic they wanted no publicity and till now the story has never been released.

The couple concerned have, I understand, now moved away 'address unknown.' It seems that here is a case where regressive hypnosis might prove of great help, and we can only hope that—even at this late stage—they will again get in touch. All the above details were provided by Derek James who also told me that the petrol consumption was consistent with the known mileage of the car—not taking the 'jumps' into account.

Schools 'singled out'

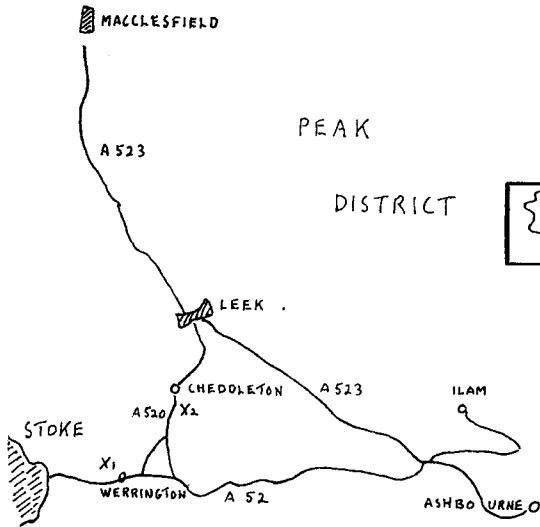
An unusual feature of the recent UFO scene has been the number of reports made by groups of young school-children. Several of these have come from Wales, two being investigated by RIC Mr Jones Pugh: I received details of another in Anglesey myself and this is now being further checked out by Victor Parry. There have been rumours of a similar incident at Llandudno Junction, but so far, no firm details. In addition, another case was investigated by Derek James in the Midlands. Here they are:

The Broad Haven School Sighting

Inv. R Jones Pugh

It is hoped a fully detailed report of this occurrence will be published later: certainly I cannot do full justice to the

continued overleaf



X1: FIRST ENCOUNTER
 X2: CAR STOPPED HERE

FIG. A. SEE 'TIME-LAPSE EXTRAORDINARY'

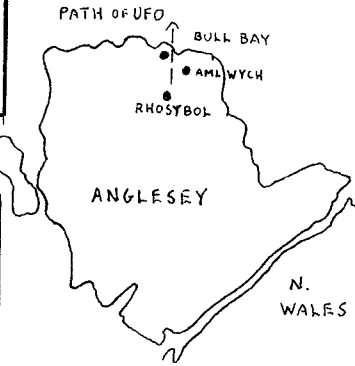


FIG. C. 'THE RHOSYBOL SIGHTING'

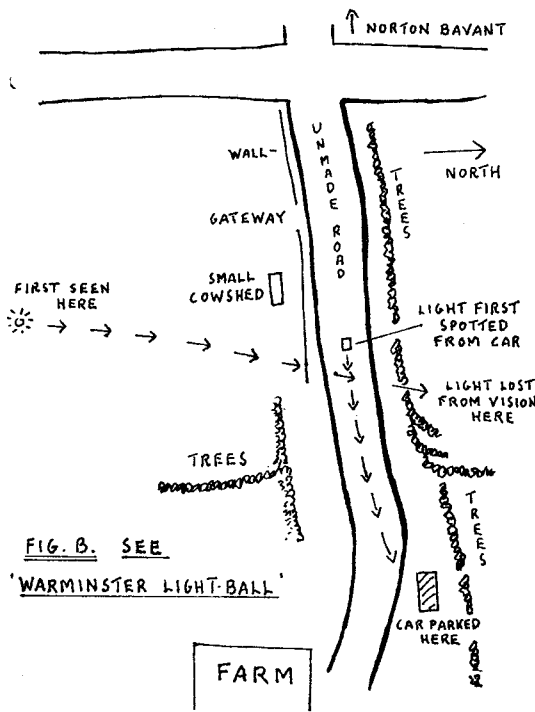


FIG. B. SEE 'WARMINSTER LIGHT-BALL'

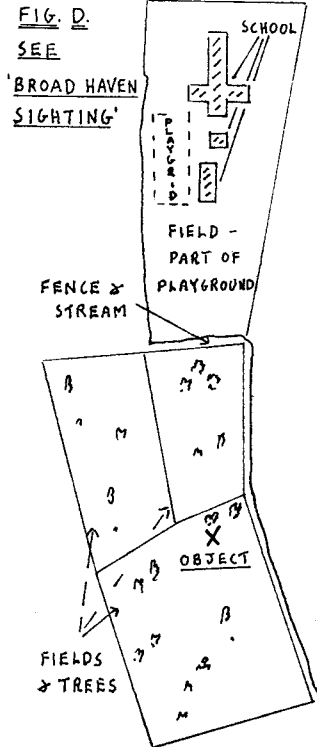


FIG. D. SEE 'BROAD HAVEN SIGHTING'

case here and must admit to being somewhat bemused by the volume of reports involved. Briefly, up to 14 children at Broad Haven County Primary School near Pembroke stated that, between 1 pm and 3.45 pm on Friday, 4 February, they had seen a silvery metallic object on the ground within a quarter of a mile of the school (see Figs 1 to 4 and Fig D), several of them also claiming a silver-suited figure was nearby.

Some described the object as a cigar-shape partly behind bushes, but it was also said that the object first seemed to be 'stuck,' then tried to take off before going behind the bushes. One of the more detailed descriptions was by 9-year-old Jeremy Passmore, who described it as '*silvery-green with a yellow-orange to red light. It had a disc at the bottom and a sort of dome on top of this with the light on top. I saw a person in a silverish-green suit about 350 yards away. The sighting lasted up to 20 minutes when the craft moved and vanished.*'

* * *

The Herbrandston School

Sighting

Inv. R Jones Pugh

On Thursday, 7 February at about 1.15 pm, about 20 schoolchildren, watching from their playground, saw a silver-white cigar shape flying noiselessly over the school at an estimated height of 500 feet: there was no noise and the object disappeared into a cloud. Herbrandston School is at Hakin, Milford Haven.

* * *

The Edenhurst School

Sighting

Inv. Derek James

On Monday, 7 February, Staffordshire was the scene of yet another report when most of the Prep II form at Edenhurst School, Newcastle, Staffs claimed to have seen what was variously des-

cribed as '*a silvery-blue cigar-shaped object,*' '*a cigar shape of silvery-grey colour,*' and '*a circular sausage-shape with a sort of round dome on top changing colours from brilliant white to orange, blue and red.*' There was again no noise. The object was seen for about ten minutes before disappearing into cloud. It was claimed this re-appeared later, being visible at various times between 11.50 am and 2 pm.

* * *

The Rhos-y-bol School

Sighting

This occurred on Wednesday, 16 February at the Rhos-y-bol County Primary School, Anglesey, (see Fig C), the object being seen by 9 girls aged 8 to 11 and one teacher from the school yard. Gwawr Jones, aged 10, described it as follows: '*3.20 pm Wednesday, 16 February, 1977, we were playing netball with Mrs Williams in the yard. She was showing us how to throw the ball in the net when I saw an object high up in the sky. I shouted to the others and they all looked up and saw it. It had a black dome on top and a silver cigar-shaped base. It was travelling smoothly across the sky in a northerly direction . . . it went behind the only cloud in the sky and re-appeared again, then disappeared. Mrs Williams took us inside and without conferring, we all got a piece of paper and drew what we saw . . .*' Gwawr gives the sighting duration as about four minutes, but Mrs Williams considers it to have been only one or two at most.

Information obtained by letter and drawings (see Figs 5, 6, 7), from Mrs Williams, Gwawr Jones and others in the class. (Congratulations on your writing and spelling, Gwawr, particularly so as Welsh is as much your language as English). The case is

continued on page 15

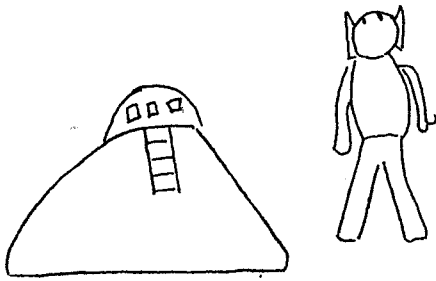


FIG. 1



FIG. 2

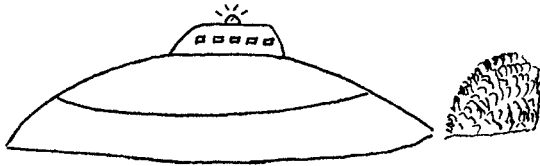


FIG. 3

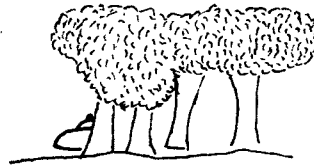


FIG. 4



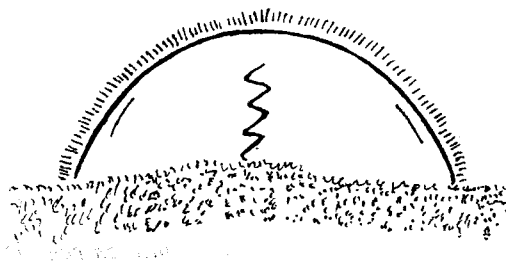
FIG. 5



FIG. 6



FIG. 7

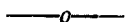


FIGS. 1,2,3,4:
IMPRESSIONS FROM
CHILDREN AT BROAD
HAVEN SCHOOL.

FIGS. 5,6,7:
DRAWINGS BY RHOS-
Y-BOL CHILDREN.

FIG. 8
MRS CALE'S SIGHTING

being further followed up by Victor Parry.



Warminster Light-Ball

This incident was witnessed by four members of the Dagenham Paranormal Research Group: Andy Collins, Steven King, Alan Denham and Barry King, who submitted the report. I am frequently asked if phenomena are continuing at Warminster and am therefore glad to be able to include this occurrence. From Warminster, of course, comes such a mixture of claimed sightings, close encounters, hoaxes misidentifications, etc, that one is always chary of printing anything in case a misidentification or hoax is the actual answer. In this instance, however, I feel reasonably secure, and in all fairness I should add that Warminster is the only place I have ever seen anything I could not identify! But to return to the report

The four witnesses arrived in Warminster about 3 am on 9 October 1976. Intending sleeping in the car, they sought a suitable spot, and, reaching a crossroads about three miles north of Warminster, where Norton Bavant was to their left and an unmade road to their right, they decided to try the unmade road and proceeded cautiously along it as it was quite close to Imber in the Army training-area and there was also some fog about.

As the car moved down the road, they caught sight of a very bright light source about 90° to their right, some 100 yards away and an estimated 4 feet off the ground: it seemed to be coming their way, jogging up and down: it was round, perhaps 8 inches in diameter and a brilliant white. They carried on, keeping the light in sight, then speeded up a little, finally stopping above a field where the light was to be seen.

This now appeared to be behind a row of trees they had passed travelling up the road. After watching for about a minute, it was either blocked out or it discontinued in the trees on the other side of the road about 120 yards away. At this time the general opinion was that it might have been a moped or similar.

However, after breakfast, they moved off to the area where the light had been seen, but there were no tyre marks at all, and there seemed to have been only one place where anything could have joined the road, this being a gateway some 15 feet across: the rest of the border was surrounded by a 3 foot high wall. The field was very muddy, but no tyre marks were visible on the road. Later, after reading in Arthur Shuttlewood's book *The Flying Saucerers* of a phenomenon—the phantom motorcyclist—seen on a number of occasions, and which very nearly fitted their own 'sighting,' they decided it was worthy to record. (*See Fig B*).

* * *

Again Broad Haven

Inv. R Jones-Pugh

On the evening of 9 December 1976, Mrs Dorothy Cale was travelling from Broad Haven to Milford Haven with her 10-year-old son in a friend's car. It was a cold dry night with no moon. As they drove along the road between Walton West and Rosepool—a long lonely road—there appeared, very suddenly, a very bright flashing light above the left hand hedge. It was vaguely dome-shaped and as it flashed there seemed to be a zig-zag nucleus rather like an electric bulb filament (*See Fig 8*). It gave a yellowish-white light which was so bright that it lit up the whole of the surrounding area and the sky above it. The driver stopped suddenly thinking they were going to

continued overleaf

run into something, but after it had flashed four times it disappeared. During the short time in which it was observed, the witnesses had the impression it was the top of something obscured by the hedge, which at this point was quite high. The size of the flashing object was estimated at about 5 or 6 feet across and 3 feet high and the distance above ground level at around 15-20 feet.

* * *

California School Encounter

This report, featured in the *Concord Transcript* of California on 2 February 1977, would normally appear in *Points from the Press*: I include it here, however, in view of the situation of the alleged craft, which seems to echo the Broad Haven School occurrence.

A 24-year-old Concord man claimed that shortly after 4 am he left a restaurant and was confronted by two short grey-skinned 'men' with enlarged skulls, no hair and black pupils.

He next realised he had been trans-

ported to a field at Willow Creek Elementary School where, facing him, was a circular craft with ladder extended. Suddenly, he found he was inside the craft, and had telepathic communication with the 'aliens' who 'were on a mission to study life habits on Earth.' The craft, apparently, was from a larger one outside the Earth's atmosphere.

Next thing he knew he was outside an apartment block and, after being unable to move for a quarter of an hour, he called the police.

* * * * *

Report Extra, though in the main concentrating on reports received via our own investigators, will, from time to time, also include items from other sources. In the next issue we'll be having a special look at some of the more recent contact reports from the USA as well as keeping you informed on the British scene.

* * * * *

People

We extend a welcome to the following who have recently been admitted to membership of Bufora:—

London : R Blackburn, Mrs C Crinnan, D L Factor, R T Gandy, Mrs R Hall, Miss J M Lewis, Mrs E Quarman, L C Sherrington, C J R Strevens.

Home Counties : Miss P M Barefoot, S J Bateman, A Borg, Miss S Bradshaw, T W Clark, P N Daniel, J C Davis, J J Dingle, M R J Hall, R Harris, J G Hesketh, G W Holman, S Huison, G F Long, M Peach, K Prettyjohns, K Prockter, R K Reynolds, R P Schoppler, Miss A E Smith, Miss H Strojek, S J Turrell.

National : R Ball, R G Brawn, R Brayshaw, P Brierley, D F Bryan, S H Bryant, S Burnett, W G Cale, S Chetwynd, T Clare, T A Corboy, H Cross, B Cunningham, A E Currey, N J Daly, Mrs L Davies, Mrs P Deacon, J A

Dearden, A Dougan, J Dougan, Miss A Downey, M Dyson, C E Edwards, R P Ellwood, A Farrell, C Farey, W Foley, Mrs Fradgley, J Gunn, P Guy, R T Hadfield, F R Hendry, G Hinchliffe, J Holland, M Holliday, R L Hooper, J Jones, A C Lakin, T Lee, Miss C E Leggott, A Lesser, G Linaker, B Littleford, A Lockyer, R C Matthews, C O Morris, Miss J Norman, T O'Neill, P C Owen, Mrs P M Palmer, N Parkinson, V H Parry, R Peters, M Pritchard, Miss S Ralton, J B Ratcliffe, D Ray, G M Rowe, P T Saint, J Saunders, G W Sawyer, Mrs P Simms, J Stephenson, T J Taylor, Mrs M D Thorpe, G F Turner, C Valaydon, Miss S E Wayne, Miss H Welsh, J E Whitlam, A C Williams, M D Williams, Mrs M G Willmott, F B Wood, J C Worsley.

Overseas : Z Blania, T Bloecher, Eugenides Planetarium, S Gerceksever, S Kyriakos.

Bufora Lecture Recordings

Robin Lindsey has written to me making the following offer to members, and, considering the time involved, it's a very generous one which I'm pleased to publicise. With one exception, all the recordings are of Kensington lectures (those marked with a 'C' were lectures to the former society Cos-Mos), and I would just add that copy recordings I have received from Robin in the past have been of first-class quality—Ed.

As a service to Bufora members, I am prepared to make copies of the following lectures available:

4.4.70	Surrey UFO Sightings	Omar Fowler
5.12.70	Alien Beings	Anthony Durham, BA
9.1.71C	I Consider—A Symposium	Mike Holt, BA/Mollie Thompson/ J Cleary-Baker, PHD/Dr Christopher Evans, PHD
6.2.71	UFOs & The Bible	Rev N J Cockburn, MA, BD, PHD
27.2.71C	Aliens Anonymous, Abductions & Re-productions	John Rimmer/Norman Oliver
6.3.71	UFO Hypotheses—10 years of Change	Charles Bowen
27.3.71C	Contact Forum	Andrew Tomas/Lionel Beer/ Norman Oliver/D Oakley-Hill
3.4.71	Saucer Miscellany	Charles H Gibbs-Smith, MA, FMA, FRSA
1.5.71	Brains Trust	Bufora Committee Members
4.9.71	First Capture Your UFO—by Instrumentation	David Viewing
2.10.71	Scene Through Northern Eyes	Trevor Whitaker
6.11.71	No Time for Saucers?	Norman Oliver
4.12.71	The Substance & The Shadow	Dr G G Doel, MRCS, LRCP, DMRE
5.2.72	Warminster—7 Years of Change	J Cleary-Baker, PHD
4.3.72	UFOs and Documentation	Charles Gibbs-Smith, MA, FMA, FRSA
8.4.72	UFOs, Communications & Semantics	C Maxwell Cade, MIEE, MIERE, AFRAES, FRAS
6.5.72	Investigation of Landing Cases	Roger Stanway, MBA, FRAS
3.6.72	Brains Trust	Anthony Pace, FRAS/Richard Farrow/ J Cleary-Baker, PHD/Norman Oliver
2.9.72	The 'Never-Never Land' of Saucers	J Cleary-Baker, PHD
4.11.72	Sounds From the Sky	Dr G G Doel, MRCS, LRCP, DMRE
3.2.73	Do UFOs Exist?	Dennis Bardens
7.4.73	Fatima	Sir Gilbert Inglefield, TD, MA, ARIBA, AA(DIP)
5.5.73	UFO Technicalities	Prof Bryan Winder, BSC, AMIMECHE
2.6.73	Brains Trust	'Tim' O'Brien, CBE, CT, MA, FGS, FRAS/Arnold West/ Robin Lindsey/Betty Wood/ Lionel Beer
1.9.73	The UFO on Cine-Film—Evaluating the Evidence	Roger Stanway, MBA, FRAS
1.12.73	To Contact a Spaceman?	Norman Oliver
5.1.74	UFO Phenomena or Malice Thro' the Looking Glass	'Tim' O'Brien, CBE, CT, MA, FGS, FRAS
2.2.74	Guide Line in the Search to Solve the UFO Mystery	Charles Bowen
2.3.74	Where are the Documents?	Charles Gibbs-Smith, MA, FMA, FRSA
6.4.74	Widening Vistas in UFO Research	J Cleary-Baker, PHD
7.9.74	Some Paranormal UFO Aspects	Dr G G Doel, MRCS, LRCP, DMRE
2.11.74	UFOs over Staffordshire in the 1950s	Roger Stanway, MBA, FRAS/Wilfred Daniels
7.12.74	Extra-terrestrial Life— Little Green Men or Large Red Herring?	'Tim' O'Brien, CBE, CT, MA, FGS, FRAS
4.1.75	Some Singular Cases	Lionel Beer
1.2.75	Great Balls of Fire	Norman Oliver
1.3.75	UFOs Overseas—the Changing World of UFOs	Charles Bowen
5.4.75	Satellite Tracking	Tim Childerhouse
3.5.75	Wilder Shores of Ufology	Betty Wood
	UFO Tracking & Ranging	Peter Thurgood
7.6.75	UFO Research in Britain	Tony Pace, FRAS
6.9.75	UFOs: Whence and Why?	Bernard Delair, BSC
4.10.75	Ufology as Fringe Science	I Grattan Guinness, MA, MSC, PHD

continued overleaf

1.11.75	UFO Scene in Belgium and the EEC	Rudy de Groot
7.2.76	Research Evening	A Pace, FRAS/C Lockwood, MA/ Mark Rodriguez
3.4.76	Extra-terrestrial Probabilities	A R Martin, BSC, PHD, FBIS
1.5.76	Contactee Controversies	Timothy Good
2.10.76	The Police & UFOs	Margaret Westwood/Norman Oliver
8.1.77	The Role and Contribution of Local UFO Groups (Manchester Meeting)	Papers from Midland & Northern Groups
5.2.77	Betty & Barney Hill & the 'Fish' Map	Stephen Smith, MA
	Further Developments in the Bowles Winchester Case	Norman Oliver, FRAS

Members should note that each meeting (270) £4.

lasts about 2½ hours. Recordings of the following kind can be made: (a) Philip's cassette. (b) Conventional tape, 19, 9.5 or 4.7 cm/sec: 2 or 4 track: up to 18cm spools. (Dolly if required).

Members can send me their tapes for recording, or I can supply tapes at the following cost, including inland postage Cassettes (2 x C120) £4. Conventional tape, 9.5cm/sec, 2 Tk Mono (540m) £5: 9.5cm/sec, 4 Tk Mono

I must make it quite clear that the above costs are simply to cover materials and postage, and as I shall be making recordings in my own time, it may take a week or two for the tapes to be recorded and dispatched.

Robin J Lindsey

Address: Montague Villas, 87 Station Road, Whittlesey, Peterborough PE7 1UE.

Logic and the 'Scientific Method'—part 1

Lawrence W Dale

Last July, Larry Dale, Bufora Logistics Adviser & RIC wrote to me concerning my Editorial in Vol 5 No 2, in which I asked for suggestions re methods of enquiry into the UFO phenomenon and mentioned 'scientific method'. Larry wondered how many readers were aware of what 'scientific method' involves and referred to three major categories of enquiry: Random Choice: Intuition and Logic. This the first of a three-part article, begins an exposition of that latter category—Ed.

How often has one heard, '... no, I'm sure there must be some logical explanation?' In using the phrase the speaker often means 'mundane,' or that Logic belongs only to the realm of human comprehension. A fallacy. Many who use this phrase have little knowledge of its implications.

Aristotle (384-322BC) appears to be responsible for the term Logic, which then meant 'discourse.' At present Logic has a wider definition, including propositional reasoning and mathematics. I will have more to say about this point in part 2.

Those who disagree with the logical

approach may argue that those with a 'scientific mind' have a 'closed mind,' and often use assumptions which they consider relevant. One may also argue that scientists are trained in Logic and yet many scientists almost ignore strange phenomena. In fact, not all scientists have had formal training in Logic and may be unaware of the notation and processes used for evaluating complexed propositions. Not all syllabuses have a compulsory section on Logic. For example, how many at BSc standard could write a formal 'proof' on the following elementary Predicate Calculus form:

- 1 $(x) (Fx \rightarrow Gx), (\exists x) Fx, \therefore (\exists x) Gx$
 or translate an elementary formula:
 2 $(x) (y) (z) (xRz \cdot yRz \rightarrow x=y)$

Yet what the above represent would have been used in elementary study. Mathematicians would probably have little difficulty with 1 or 2. If scientists have not had the above-mentioned training, the role of assumptions may depend on how and by whom they were trained.

Logic embraces all subjects, but evaluating each step in a given argument may be very difficult for human beings, but some formal training will be very useful. However, one may be logical and yet reach an incorrect conclusion, due to the original assumption, which may have been incorrect through someone else's inaccuracy or misunderstanding. Most of us are experienced in testing assumptions. How many people check their car thoroughly before trying to start it? Usually the assumption involved is something like: that the car was in working condition previously and should function on the next trial. How many occasions has this assumption proved to be incorrect? Progress would be slow (for human beings at least) if we had to continually return to the 'beginning,' and thus we assume that previous situations were correct. Another factor is the time allowed to examine two or more assumptions.

Logicians comprise one group that try to calculate under what conditions assumptions and arguments are valid: others will try to construct those conditions (in general) to demonstrate.

However, when dealing with the UFO phenomena we rarely (if at all) have the opportunity to test our assumptions. With our organisation, money is an all-important factor.

Examine the following (hypothetical) argument:

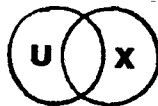
3—

If all UFO reports have x in common, and some UFO reports have y in common, then some UFO reports have x and y in common. We can abbreviate this to: If A then B. B is called the Consequent, which is here what we are concerned with. Using the values TRUE and FALSE and assigning these to A and B in turn, we would find that the only condition where the argument is false is where FALSE is assigned only to B. The condition where both A and B are assigned FALSE will render a valid proposition, but explanation is beyond scope here). In assigning values we *assume* these conditions. I will now pass on to another elementary principle. I will use a modification of 3.

4—

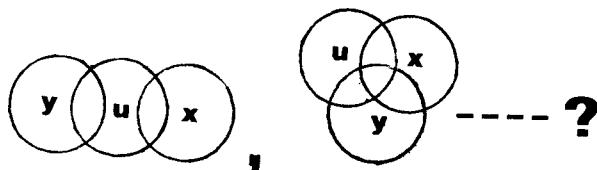
Some UFO reports have x in common
 ... 4a
 Some UFO reports have y in common
 ... 4b
 Therefore
 Some UFO reports have x and y in
 common ... con.

I will not write a formal 'proof,' but illustrate it by a method which most of us use, though the name given to the method may be unfamiliar. 4a tells us that some of one class of objects (U's) have something belonging to another class (x's). 4b tells us that some of one class (U's) have something belonging to another class. We have 3 classes and we can represent these by 3 circles, one circle representing all of one class. 4a tells us that the U circle overlaps with the x circle, some U's will be on the left side and some in the overlap, thus:



continued overleaf

4b tells us that the U circle overlaps with the y circle, but we do not know where the overlap is to be . . .



The conclusion is therefore invalid, because it cannot be shown that x and y overlap definitely, on a common point on U. If 'all' had been used in 4a instead of 'some,' all U's would have been in the overlap, since all U's would be confined to one part of the circle.

This is the beginning of an extensive subject belonging to both maths and logic, and is known as the Theory of Classes or Set Theory. 2 above belongs to this topic and I shall have more to say about Set Theory in part 3.

The 'Scientific Method' is an attempt

to use the principles of Logic in a practical sense, and formulations such as the Method of Agreement, of Difference and Statistics are examples: I shall outline these in part 2. One should remember that, logically, the study of UFO phenomena will prove to be, some time, a matter of consequence of some other situations, another step in our advancement, whether the phenomena be 'alien' products or natural effects. Logic reacts on human beings by stimulating discussions and producing results (from conclusions). This has been, in part, my intention.

Uforum

Dear Sir

One of the most frustrating things about the subject of ufology is the total lack of regard that at least half the authors of UFO books have for their subject and their readers. Has it ever crossed their minds that these books may hold a clue, a piece of the jig-saw puzzle? But what hope have we, scientist or layman, of constructing a picture if they persist in neglecting a good index system and a comprehensive bibliography?

The subject of ufology is difficult enough to understand without man adding confusion, so come on authors, leaving out an index is not going to help!

*A Dougan,
Glasgow.*

Dear Sir

It has been observed (eg Vallee 1966: Hynek & Vallee 1977) that UFO close encounters are more likely to occur in less densely populated areas. Taken to extremes we would then expect the most sparsely populated areas of the world to produce the most UFO close encounters. However effects begin to cancel out—there may be no-one to observe the UFOs! The number of people travelling through less populated regions, related to the mobility of the population as a whole, has an important effect.

On these assumptions, then, we would conclude that a country with a large sparsely populated area and yet a highly mobile population would produce the most UFO close encounters. This

description of course most nearly fits the USA. As evidence of Americans' high mobility note that the total mileage covered by all cars in the USA is 10 times the comparable figure for the UK (1970 figures). Note also that the population density of the USA is one-tenth that of the UK.

The obvious fact that most travel in small groups, or alone, is done by car brings to mind the fact that a high proportion of UFO close encounters are witnessed from inside a car, or in the vicinity of one.

Thus it can be seen that with these simple assumptions the puzzling discrepancy in frequency of close encounters in this country as compared with the USA has a simple explanation.

*Philip B Taylor,
London N10.*

*Refs: Challenge to Science, J & J Vallee 1966.
The Edge of Reality, J A Hynes & J Vallee 1975.*

Dear Sir

I must confess to some amusement at the vehemence of some of the statements and indeed, at some of the opinions expressed in the Jan/Feb '77 *Journal*. But please, let me add, most emphatically, that in the ufological world of statistical, computerisational and technological know-how, I am as a new-born child, and would hesitate to decry the hypotheses, the views and the guesses of my intellectual superiors.

However, and in the nicest possible way, I would ask Jenny Randles what she means by a 'pseudo-religious fanatic?' Can she enumerate the symptomatology of such a condition, and is her differential diagnosis such that she can spot one from, say a 'pseudo-ufological fanatic?' May I gently suggest to Jenny that in our combined efforts to separate the wheat from the chaff, the theological influence should, and must,

merit as much consideration as does the scientific one.

Then Valerie Martin considers that psychiatry might be of some use in this respect. This might indeed apply to all of us, but I would certainly concur with her when she refers to 'deep hypnosis effects.' The Bloxham Tapes are a classical example of what can be achieved by hypnotic therapy.

And finally, Ian Grant asks readers 'not to accept the final conclusions, which, without the supporting logic, are quite incomprehensible.'

In our present state of ufological knowledge, I can only wonder how we can possibly apply 'logic' to the modus operandi, of which we know absolutely nothing, to the completely and utterly impossible—in terms of current terrestrial scientific knowledge—capabilities of the various phenomena being witnessed in all parts of the world.

By all means let us apply whatever criteria we have at our disposal to our combined ufological investigational efforts, but at the same time, I do feel that in our search for the truth, no avenues of investigation should be excepted, whether they be astro-physical, geophysical, statistical, meteorological, logical, mystical, ephemeral or even theological. And certainly not the latter in spite of its apparent unpopularity.

*R Jones Pugh,
Haverfordwest.*

Dear Sir

Much as I sympathise with Mark Stenhoff's concern (*Controversy Vol 5, No 5*) that UFO research in general, and Bufora's contribution in particular, should become scientifically respectable, the situation is somewhat more complicated than has been suggested. I will try to show the faults are not all Bufora's.

continued overleaf

Of course, an emotional commitment to a particular concept often leads to wrong conclusions being drawn, and it should not be surprising to anyone that, usually, scientists shy away from emotionally-charged public debates. But scientists are only human. Although trained to be objective and detached, they are as prone as any to become committed to a particular concept or line of research. This has been amply demonstrated by recent lively public exchanges, on the subject of research into the paranormal, for example.

In view of the persistence of UFO events, it is surprising and disappointing that the phenomena have not been regarded as being worthy of serious scientific study, despite the intense public interest and journalistic licence. Indeed, such popular enthusiasm is often regarded as an aid to funding in other fields of research. One can only conclude that the apparent indifference of the scientific community is as irrational as the naive belief in extra-terrestrial saviours and demons. The latter, at least, is based on some evidence, whereas the former attitude seems to dismiss all the evidence without any consideration.

Those of us who have taken the trouble to spend many long hours of tedium listing, processing and analysing countless reports, know we are dealing with a very complex problem. One is able to recognise that there may be a number of different phenomena involved, but, after eliminating those events that might be identified as natural or man-made objects, one is left with much evidence for alien interference that often outrages common-sense. All our preconceptions on the nature of physical reality are challenged, and without doubt, that challenge is worthy of the attention of the greatest scientific thinkers alive today. So, why the

reluctance to become involved?

I believe that when Mark Stenhoff writes, '*It will naturally not be practicable to make a frontal assault on the scientific community with claims of extra-terrestrial visitation,*' he is highlighting the real reason for scientists' disinterest. Although it is scientifically acceptable to search for 'quarks' and 'black holes': to send out a space capsule with a cryptic message for the benefit of 'anybody out there,' and to set up a chain of radio telescopes to search for intelligently transmitted signals from outer space, the idea that aliens have already discovered Earth and are visiting frequently is unthinkable in terms of current scientific dogma. Could there be a more blatant example of Science in blinkers?

As viewers of a recent BBC TV documentary will know, theoretical physicists are currently in a quandary—they are finding it increasingly difficult to understand the nature of matter, and are particularly troubled by their lack of success in uniting Quantum Mechanics and General Relativity. As I understand the situation, the theory used to explain the behaviour of atoms is in some ways incompatible with that used to explain the nature of the Universe. Why then, one is entitled to ask, are scientists not prepared to admit in public that their current preconceptions may not be adequate to explain the strangest UFO events? Could it be, I wonder, that they have an emotional attachment to the status quo, and the very human fear of ostracism?

Since the pursuit of science is not my livelihood, I have no such inhibitions. At the end of my paper to the Bufora Conference, in November last, I gave the following forthright assessment of almost a decade of diligent spare time research:

continued on inside back cover

Sighting Summaries

Code No.	Date	Time	Place	Report	Class	Investigator/ Credit
Uncoded	June '48	App 2200	Pontypool, S Wales	Steely-blue sphere		R JONES PUGH
Uncoded	Autumn 1964	1600	Burry Port, S Wales	Silver Cigar		R JONES PUGH
75-245	30.6.75	2210-2220	Basingstoke, Hants	Flashing Lits	C4b	—
75-246	28.12.75	2105	Not given	' Classical flying saucer' flashing lights	C3b	IAN CRESSWELL
75-252	Aug. '75	2000	Nr Holmfirth, Yorks	Elongated ' egg ', ground level	C3c	P WARRINGTON J PORTER
75-255	28.12.75	2105-2107	Gateshead, Co Durham	Flattened spherical object	C3b	W MUIR— NUFON
75-257	10.10.75	2130	St Saviours, Jersey	Disc-shape flashing lights	C4c	NEIL VAUTIER
76-242	22.8.76	2112	Trentham, Staffs	Triangular Hovering object	C4b	D JAMES
76-254	16.8.76	0245	Skegness, Lincs	Glowing dome-shaped object	C4b	P R HUDSON
76-256	24.9.76	1705	Chelmsford, Essex	' Rod joining 3 balls '	C3b	BOB EASTON
76-257	29.8.76	2125	Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire	Cigar-shape, flashing lights	A3b	DESMOND MERCER
76-258	5.8.76	2245-2300	Nr Colchester, Essex	Lights with dome above	C3c	BOB EASTON
76-259	1.6.76	2310	Arnold, Notts	Revolving cone-shape	C4b	SPRING
76-293	11.8.76	2130-2145	Ballymena, N Ireland	Large egg-shaped object	C2b	MILES JOHNSTON
76-316 (a)	22.8.76	2000-2130	Gateshead, Co Durham	Blue-green pulsating 'star'	C4c	W MUIR
„ (b)	„	0000	„	' Dark shape ' flashing red	C4c	-
„ (c)	„	0040	„	Orange ' airship '	C4c	NUFON
76-317	4.10.76	2045	Kidsgrove, Staffs	Lits	C4b	D JAMES
76-318 (a)	4.10.76	2130	Norton, Staffs	Lits following plane	C4b	D JAMES
76-318 (b)	4.10.76	2140 (?)	Norton, Staffs	„	C4b	
76-319 (a)	11.10.76	1940	Ilam, Astonfield	Hovering triangle, flashing blue	C4a	
76-219 (b)	15.10.76	1940	Staffs/Derby	„	C4a	D JAMES
76-319 (c)	15.10.76	1945	„	„	C4a	
76-320	30.10.76	2147	Nr Maidenhead, Berks	Glowing white light with halo	C4b	
76-322	6.12.76	1750-1808	Wickford, Essex	Spinning white disc—red lights	C3b	ANDY COLLINS
76-325	12.10.76	2115	Dudley, Worcs	Bright manoeuvring object	C4a	M PRITCHARD
76-326	27.8.76	App 0000	Nr Lichfield, Staffs	Spinning lits	B3b	M PRITCHARD
76-328	21.12.76	1700-1720	Barking, Essex	Manoeuvring lits	C4b	BOB EASTON
76-330	4.12.76	1715-1723	Vange, Essex	Hovering delta flashing lights	C3b	ANDY COLLINS
76-331	23.11.76	2145	Chalvedon, Essex	Silvery-yellow egg shape	C3c	ANDY COLLINS

Code No.	Date	Time	Place	Report	Class	Investigator/ Credit
76-344	Sep/Oct	pm	Burry Port, S Wales	Silver hovering object		R JONES PUGH
76-346	3.12.76	1230	Penarth, Carmarthen	Ball-shape: Aura and light beams	C4b	R JONES PUGH
77-001	1.1.77	0815	Leigh-on-Sea, Essex	Noiseless yellow cigar	B4a	ANDY COLLINS
77-003	3.2.77	1540	Glasgow	Silvery cigar shape	C4c	T O'NEILL (<i>own sighting</i>)
77-004	10.1.77	2000	Bettus, S Wales	Plate or star-shape emitting colours	C4b	R JONES PUGH
77-005 (a)	11.1.77	2000'	"	"	C4a	R JONES PUGH
77-005 (b)	12.1.77	1830	"	"	C4a	
77-006	20.1.77	1930	Poole, Dorset	Dome-shaped white light cluster	C4c	J STEPHENSON

75-252 August 1975. 20.00.
Yorkshire.

Witness was driving his mini-van westwards along the A635 in Yorkshire; when out of Holmfirth, he drove into some mist and reduced speed. After driving several miles through the mist, he noticed a white light about a hundred yards ahead, in the shape of an elongated egg, or barrage balloon without fins, it being observed as though through a tunnel in the mist—i.e. no mist was visible between the car and the object. After about half a minute, the object, which was at ground level, began to move towards the now stationary car in which the witness was sitting. About twenty yards from the car, it turned slightly to cross the road, passing over a reflector post. The object did not emit light but was bright enough to create persistence of vision. Two sheep were following the object, which was travelling at less than walking pace. It then went to the rear left of the car, and last position being SE 085065. At this point the witness's ears 'popped' and he was also aware that he was holding a screwdriver which he did not remember picking up.

Inv. Messrs Warrington & Porter

76-258 5 August 1976. 22.45/23.00.
Aldham, Nr Colchester, Essex.

Witness has been suffering from an anxiety state and headaches since observing a row of lights surmounted by a dome, hovering in the sky.

The incident occurred when travelling along the Halstead Road. He noticed the object about a quarter of a mile ahead and about a hundred yards above the ground. After glancing at the object a second time, the witness was seized by a feeling of dread and took refuge in a nearby driveway. On emerging two minutes later, the object had disappeared.

Inv. Bob Easton

76-325 12 October 1976. 21.15.
Dudley, Worcs.

Witnesses Mr and Mrs Hughes were locking up the school where Mr Hughes is a caretaker. It was cold but clear with no wind or clouds. The lights in the main foyer of the school had just been turned off, when Mr Hughes saw a bright intense light through the large glass windows. He then called his wife, who had already seen it, although neither had observed its arrival. Both went outside and the object, emitting an intense light, then moved very fast across their field of vision from left to right, to a position almost ahead of them, where it lowered slightly, stopped, then moved up and down. On walking to the centre of the playground, they met two men from the Dudley Football Club, who described it as 'awe-inspiring.'

As the witnesses watched, the object shot off at tremendous speed to a further position, stopped where it could be seen through a clump of elm trees, then moved slowly up and down diagonally behind the trees until it dimmed and finally disappeared. The witnesses felt it was a solid object.

Shortly afterwards, Mr Hughes' digital watch 'went haywire' giving out readings without being touched, but reverted to normal when removed from his wrist.

Inv. M Pritchard

76-256 24 September 1976. 17.05.
Chelmsford, Essex.

The witness, Mrs Stearn, and some neighbours noticed an unusual object which seemed to float low across the sky. It was observed as three balls joined by a rod, was a light grey colour and not self-luminous. It did not emit any sound as it drifted towards the south east, disappearing behind some houses.

Inv. Bob Easton

Witness observed a flattened spherical craft hovering just above rooftop level, a street or so away. Halfway down it was a revolving band with small round lights set in or behind it, which flashed on and off irregularly, changing from 'cold' to 'warm' colours. The dome of the craft began to vibrate and pulsate and the whole craft made small very sudden movements to the left and right. The witness's brother-in-law also saw the object, which appeared to be approximately thirty feet in diameter; the duration of sighting was a quarter of a minute, during which time there was no noise, but the object did seem to produce a 'hypnotic, calming effect.'

Inv. N Muir, NUFON

Uforum—contd from p22

'Even when the inadequacies of the available data are fully recognised, there is much circumstantial evidence, from eye-witness reports gathered throughout the world, to suggest that artificial devices of unknown origin are visiting the Earth (continually).'

'This being the case, it must next be concluded that the nature of the objects described is unknown in the terms of present-day science and technology.'

Surely it is not impertinent to suggest that the burden of disproof, in depth, rests on the professional sceptics.

*T R Dutton,
CEng, MIMechE, MR Ae S,
Poynton, Cheshire.*

Third Winchester Claim

Mrs Bowles, whose 'alien encounters' were reported in the last issue, claims a third experience.

About 10 am on 7.3.77, she was driving with Ann Stickland to Nether Wallop to visit Mr & Mrs Pratt (Mr Pratt was a previous 'co-witness' and this was his birthday). A mile from Nether Wallop the engine spluttered: a humming noise was heard and a bright, glowing oval object was seen. They stopped, alighted, and a 'man,' like the earlier visitants but with longer hair, walked towards them. He clasped Mrs Bowles hands (she says his own felt warm and human), spoke in a foreign language, then gave her a message she understood but will not divulge. He then returned to the craft which, took off, whistling and humming, moving parallel to the ground whilst gathering speed. They then decided not to continue on and returned to Winchester.

Details from Dr G G Doel following a phone call to Mrs Bowles after the report appeared in the News of the World of 17.4.77.

AWARENESS—the Journal of Contact UK. For details write to J B Delair, 19 Cumnor Road, Wootton, Boar's Hill, Cumnor, Nr Oxford.

Bufora Edinburgh* would appreciate receiving reports of UFO phenomena—particularly from Edinburgh and Lothian: privacy will be respected. A public meeting will be held in Room 3, 18 David Hume Tower, Edinburgh University on Saturday, 18 June '77 at 1500 hours. Title: *Science and the Unidentified Flying Object (illustrated)*. *Address inside front cover.

UFION (formerly UKIA). At their last meeting, Bufora Council unanimously agreed that, *subject to there being no restriction on publication rights on investigated cases*, co-operation could be extended to this newly-formed network. Official confirmation that UFION accept this proviso is awaited.

Personal Column

SKYWATCH UFO DETECTOR: Successful magnetic needle type detector incorporating latching circuit and audio alarm, battery operated. £9.00. Stamped Addressed Envelope for explanatory literature. Malcolm Jay, 102 Nelson Road, Chingford, E4 9AS.

(The use of the word 'successful' should not be taken to mean you will automatically see a UFO, but Malcolm's literature DOES quote names of purchasers who have—Ed.).

CASSETTE TAPES: *Skyquest* cassettes available as follows: UFOs & YOU £2.65 (\$4.50); UFOs OVER ENGLAND £2.65 (\$4.50); SKY EXPLORING—AROUND POLARIS £2.50 (\$4.25); OUR SOLAR SYSTEM £2.50 (\$4.25). All inc P & P. If ordering two tapes deduct 20p: four tapes deduct 50p. Norman Oliver, FRAS, *Skyquest* (Bf), 95 Taunton Road, London SE12 8PA.

Erratum: The date shown in our last issue for the Vange Delta sighting should have been 4.12.76 and not 12.12.76.

The Prime Minister of Grenada, Sir Eric Gairy, has called on the United Nations to set up an agency to monitor 'alien activity from outer space.'

Books and Leaflets

Title	members	non-members <i>(all post free)</i>
Guide to the UFO Phenomenon	45p	65p
The Use of Analytical Instruments in the Search for Extra-terrestrial Spacecraft <i>David Viewing</i>	30p	50p
Investigation Procedures <i>Trevor Whitaker</i>	30p	50p
An Engineer's Look at UFO's <i>Leonard Cramp, ARAS, MSIA</i>	30p	50p
Articles of Association	£1.25 (members only)	
Journals as available	35p	50p

(In some cases, only photocopies of Journals can be supplied, at cost, plus handling and P & P).

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