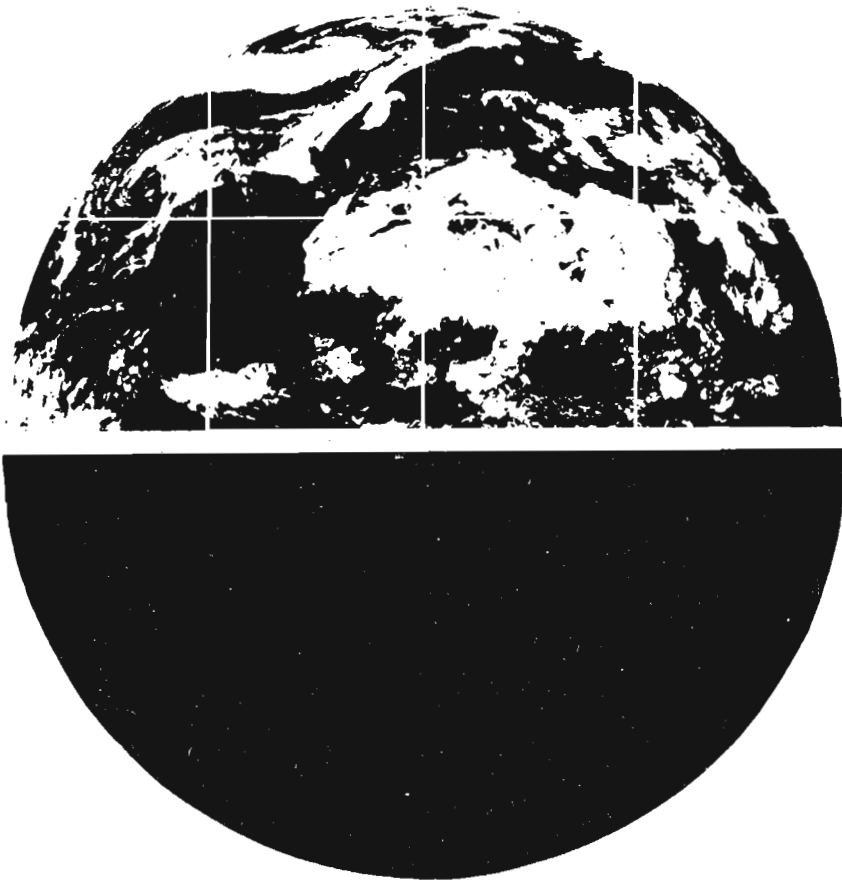


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By J Allen Hynek

FROM HIS LENGTHY INVOLVEMENT IN THE FIELD OF UFO STUDIES, THE WRITER SURVEYS THE PRESENT DISORGANISED AND FRAGMENTED FACE OF UFOLOGY.

A STRONG CALL IS MADE FOR A NEW AND CONCERTED 'PROFESSIONALISM' IN BOTH THE STUDY OF THE UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT PHENOMENA, AND ITS PRESENTATION TO THE SCIENTIFIC ESTABLISHMENT AND THE WORLD AT LARGE.

I am honoured and pleased to have been asked to give an "overview" of our intriguing, perplexing, and above all ...complex subject. The invitation implies, I expect, that I am considered sufficiently old and seasoned to have acquired the perspective necessary for an overview ...in short, that I can view the forest from a sufficient distance so that I can tell the forest from the trees, and not the other way round ...not to be able to see the forest because of the trees.

I expect that I qualify, if for no other reason than that I was literally thrust into the modern UFO scene at the very start ...and what's more, got paid for being thrust into it ...by an invitation to become a part of Project Sign, in 1948. Thus I had a chance to examine the very first UFO reports ever received by the Air Force, and later, to be a part of Project Blue Book from its inception, and thus, as a consequence, to have become an associate member of the rather infamous Robertson Panel and much later, to have been on the side-lines ...but by no means a part of the questionable Condon Committee. My association with the Air Force ended in 1969 with the close of Blue Book, and since then, whatever rumors there might have been to the contrary, I have no connection whatsoever with the government, the military, or the CIA. The Center for UFO Studies, which was founded in 1973 as a serious scientific effort, is funded solely by voluntary contributions (tax deductible!) and by no foundation or organisation, government or otherwise.

So, for the past 33 years I have, largely as an accident of history, at least to begin with, had a chance to view the UFO phenomenon in all its splendor, absurdity, and bafflement, and it has given me an overview. I have had a marvelous view of the passing show ...from the absurdities of Adamski, Bethurum, Menger, the Giant Rock

convention circus atmosphere, the antics of Angelucci and Long John Nebel, to the platitudes of the messages from our "space brothers", on to the serious contactees and abductees (by serious I mean, as far as I can tell from my work with them, those who have unwillingly been thrust into a situation which they didn't understand, which was frightening to them, but which was very, very real to them) and on through the strange admixture of physical and psychic aspects of UFO phenomenon ...cases like that of Dr. X, Betty Andreasson, Sandy Larson, and the many cases discussed by Hopkins in his recent book, "Missing Time", on the "Comfortingly" physical cases. These cases, baffling and outrageous at times to our common sense, are nonetheless comforting because we have tangible sorts of things... like scorched rings on the ground, stopped cars, metallic disks that cavort about on the sky, photographs and radar records. No, we can't explain them, but they do seem to belong to our familiar physical world... at least their effects do! Compared to the stories of teleportation, cars driven without the knowledge of the driver, precognition, telepathic messages, and a host of other paranormal things ...like poltergeist activities ...why, a daylight disc or a simple nocturnal light seems positively comfortable and easy to handle! I said, "seems" because it really isn't, you know. I have had to come to regard them as just a mysterious and ultimately baffling as the purely psychic aspects, so called. Indeed, I think they are simply two sides of the same coin. And just as they physicist has had to accept the paradoxical nature of light ...on the one hand a wave, and on the other a particle... seemingly absolutely irreconcilable ...so we may have to accept the UFO phenomenon as both physical and non-physical, contradictory though it may seem to us at the present stage of our knowledge.

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And as a part of my perspective, I have seen UFO organisations come and go ...my what a parade! Each often with a pet theory ... some mystical, some religious, some scientifically oriented ...and many with claims to superiority, often leading to their foundering on the rocks of human nature ...jealousies, competition, in-fighting and out-fighting (if there is such a phrase).

And I have seen, as we all have, the disdain and scorn of the scientific community, in open opposition to the ideals of science. Scientists as Erwin Schroedinger one of the pioneers of quantum mechanics once wrote, "A scientist should be curious and eager to find out". Well, quite the opposite has been the case: the scientific establishment (not necessarily many individual scientists) has held its nose as though carrying a decaying rat to the city dump.

There are good reasons for this disdain... the lack of curiosity can be charged to their lack of knowledge of anything to be curious about! After all, take the typical scientist, busy with his own often single-tracked projects, in competition with his peers for the research dollar, and in a rush to publish new results before someone else does. Knows about UFOs only from the popular press, or some sensationalised TV spot, and what he has been told by the Air Force or has read about the Condon Report.

Further, in the face of stories from people whose intellect he can scarcely respect, about travelling to Venus and the Adamski type stories about cities and water and vegetation on the hidden side of the moon, can a physical scientist take that sort of thing seriously? Obviously not. Coupled with the absolute flood of misidentifications ...the preponderant IFO ...and the reported strange behavior of the true UFOs (which the scientist won't consider as having any substance in the face of the two previous factors). I can tell you no busy scientist will take the time to acquaint himself with the true state of affairs ...it would detract just too much from his other work. I was fortunate in that I was asked ... and paid ...to study the subject, and even then it took me years to change my mind about UFOs. In all fairness, one cannot expect the scientist, with what we have to offer at present, to accept UFOs on our say-so.

This all leads me close to the title of my paper, but there is another reason why the scientific world has eschewed the whole subject of UFOs. And that is the extra-terrestrial hypothesis. Now there is a paradox in itself. Men like Carl Sagan freely admit the strong possibility of extra-terrestrial intelligence, but that UFOs represent this intelligence, no way! And here is the main reason:

Let the thickness of an ordinary playing-card represent the distance from the earth to the moon, the distance man has personally travelled. Now consider how many cards you would have to place back to back (perhaps along the white line in the middle of a straight road) to reach to the nearest star to us (other than the sun, of course). Well, there is no straight road from here in Cambridge heading west, but if there were, you'd have to keep placing card after card along that road until you got to Framingham, Mass. which is some 19 miles from here! Nineteen miles of playing-cards, the thickness of each card representing the distance from earth to the moon. Yes, we've gone the distance of the thickness of one playing-card ...but 19 miles of them?

The practical scientist, contrary to popular opinion, is not a very imaginative fellow. He believes in the science of today, as his predecessors believed in the science of their day but did not even envision the science of today ...why the idea of nuclear energy would have been as laughable to the scientist of the last century as UFOs are to the scientist today! He believes, also, in the restrictions placed upon travel, and upon the million-fold increase in fuel requirements, demanded by Relativity, to even begin to approach speeds comparable to the speed of light. Like his predecessor, he does not speculate or envision what might be known in the 21st and 22nd centuries. At least he is sure that Einstein will ride supreme. He says, flatly, that there "just ain't no way of getting here from there"! And until you can show him how to do it, he won't give you another moment for argument.

Well then, what can we as individuals do about it? The answer is simple: Unite.

Unite, because it is up to us to present the subject of UFOs in a professional manner ...and to treat the subject professionally, not merely to bring it to

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the proper attention of scientists, but more importantly, for our own self-respect. It is my profound and considered judgment that we ourselves will face another thirty years of stumbling, desultory collecting of case after case, not investigating any one of them adequately, until Ufology becomes a profession.

What is a profession? What is a Professional? In athletics a professional ...a pro... is someone who gets paid for what he does. But that is only one definition, and not really the relevant one. Professionalism is an attitude of mind, a serious, structured approach to a subject, following the rules of the given profession, the standards of the profession. Thus we speak of professional ethics, of the professional manner, of professional standards, of professional accreditation, of professional societies etc.

The fact is, the besetting sin of ufology today ...if we can even use the term 'ufology' at present ...is that it presents to the outside world a most fantastic hodge-podge of unprofessional actions, statements, manoeuvres, intrigues and balderdash. The latter often takes the form of fast-buck artists who publish an amazing amount of undigested tripe ...just look at the news-stands and magazine and paperback book stands. I mean it very seriously when I say that to get anywhere in the next decade Ufology must become a profession with accepted standards of action.

And that simply means a housecleaning. And **not** only in this country but internationally. It can be done. In each UFO organisation around the world ...and there are many ... there is, I have found in my travels, a nucleus, a core ...often small to be sure... but it is there ...of individuals who understand the professional approach, who abhor the lunatic fringe, and who want to clean the stables.

And so, speaking for many concerned persons not only in this audience but around the world, and because someone has got to take the bit between his teeth, I issue a manifesto, a call for those in each organisation, as well as those not affiliated with any organisation, who appreciate and are capable of adopting a professional stance, to close ranks and unite ...as individuals ...in a sort of spiritual bond to set up a code of professional standards, a code of ethics for investigators,

researchers, and writers on the subject. A general code of procedures.

This is not a call to disband any existing organisations, or to form a new UFO organisation as such, but to ask for an association of individuals, as individuals, regardless of their present affiliations, who by their common understanding of what is needed, will correspond, meet, or otherwise forge a set of articles which, after acceptance by the majority, can be used as a guide for future behavior.

If one wishes to practice law, one must pass a bar examination. If one wishes to practice medicine, he must be accredited and licensed by the State. In a great many areas of services, goods, and practices the person performing those services, or manufacturing those goods ..e.g., medicines, drugs, foods, etc., must meet certain standards set forth by a society or by the profession to which that person belongs.

We have, as we all know, an intriguing and possibly extremely important phenomenon, the UFO phenomenon, which has been misrepresented to the public and to science alike. Much of this is our fault for letting it happen. Most professions have a professional society which speaks for its members, represents them in court or in Congress, or rises to their defence, or if necessary, censures them if they are guilty of unprofessional behavior. If a lawyer is found guilty of unethical action, he is disbarred and not allowed to practice. If a manufacturer is guilty of false advertising or misrepresentation, he is brought to task.

We have no such mechanism in Ufology either to censure or to defend. When some prominent scientist goes on TV and totally misrepresents our subject, he should be called to task, not by a handful of individuals, but by the profession of Ufology by its constituted representatives. When books unworthy of our subject are published, our profession should make this known to the world.

Certainly this requires funds and the participation of individuals from many organisations around the world. And it cannot be accomplished over-night. BUFORA is already grappling with this problem, as are others. In this country the effort to get the ball rolling must come from professional individuals who are already associated with various organisations.

Ufology as a Profession

There are some among those who will read this ... who know exactly what I am talking about. It is they who must communicate with each other and eventually forge a set of professional standards that can be adopted by the various serious organisations.

We must face up to it; Ufology is today what Chemistry was when it was alchemy ...a grand assortment of superstitions, beliefs, wishful thinking etc. But eventually the science ...and the profession ...of chemistry evolved out of the alchemical mess.

Ufology must become a profession, and the start should be made soon, for unless this

happens we face decades of buffoonery, ridicule, and idle prattle about sightings and useless bickering and unproductive competition among the non-professional dabblers in Ufology. They will continue to cause the UFO phenomenon to be held up to ridicule in the eyes of large parts of the world. I am concerned that support for serious research will come if we can but present ufology to the world in a dignified and professional manner. And then, slowly but surely, if the UFO phenomenon persists as it has over the past three decades, ufology will become a profession.

By Shirley McIver

BEING A PRELIMINARY REPORT OF A SURVEY MADE OF BUFORA MEMBERS SEPTEMBER 1981

Before the above question can be tackled, another must be answered and that is. what kind of UFO group do you mean? Despite the popular image, UFO groups are not all doing the same thing. Of course, those who participate have known this for a long time, but until recently scant information about different types of groups was available to non-members.

As far as sociology is concerned, for instance, most information is about groups centred upon an individual who claims to be in contact with extra-terrestrial entities(1). However, anyone who starts to read magazines produced by UFO groups will very quickly realise that this type of group is not typical of those in Britain.

For example, a follow-up of addresses given in a UFO directory (2) produced copies of 29 different publications which were the product of groups indicating that UFOs were important to them. In only eight of these publications were UFOs explained as the product of spiritually advanced extra-terrestrials who were transmitting messages to human beings. In these publications the messages, which usually took the form of 'teachings', were of primary importance. For the other 21 publications UFOs were an unexplained phenomena, although some explanations were more popular than others, and these publications were mainly concerned with reports of sightings of UFOs.

Those groups which circulated publications of the latter type were usually called research groups by members and although there may well be different types of research group it seemed reasonable, at least initially, to consider them all together since so little is known about them by non-members. It is the 'UFO research group' then, which is the subject of this study. An example is the British UFO Research Association and due to the kind co-operation of its council, it was this group which was chosen for a survey of its members. As BUFORA is one of the oldest and largest of the groups, it was hoped that it was fairly representative of UFO research groups in Britain, but any comments on

whether BUFORA is considered to be a typical research group would be welcome.

Out of about 550 members at the time of the survey (September 1981), 218 replies from Britain were received in time.(3). Comparison with the complete membership on the one variable for which figures were available (gender), indicates that at least as far as this variable is concerned, those who answered the questionnaire are a representative sample.

So, what kind of people join BUFORA? For the sake of clarity, the questionnaire results will be arranged under nine headings which will be considered in turn. Figures will be kept to a minimum, although the complete statistics from which this report has been taken are available for anyone who is interested. (4). A brief summary and discussion will conclude the report but the primary intention is to present the results rather than to discuss them, since the study is part of a larger work on UFO groups in Britain which is still in progress.

1. Social Details

Members of BUFORA are mostly males aged between 21 and 40 years, who are employed. While many different types of employment are represented, the most frequent is engineering. Categorisation following a version of that used by the National Census results in most of the occupations falling into socio-economic classes two, three and four; that is, what are generally known as the lower-middle and middle classes (see Table 1.). The majority of members have attended either a secondary modern or a grammar school and left at either 16 or after 18 years of age and 66% said they had engaged in some kind of further education, with some kind of further education, with most of these having passed exams in connection with it.

The breakdown of BUFORA members by socio-economic class is shown in Table 1.

Table 1 Socio-economic Class (from occupation)

<u>Socio-economic Class</u>	<u>Descriptive Definition</u>	<u>BUFORA Members</u>	
			%
1	Professional	12	(5.5)
2	Employers and Managers	25	(11.5)
3	Intermediate and Junior non-manual	74	(33.9)
4	Skilled manual (with own account non-professional)	38	(17.4)
5	Semi-skilled manual and personal service	9	(4.1)
6	Unskilled manual	4	(1.8)

(The scale is a collapsed version of that used by the Registrar General and is frequently used in Government Research, particularly the General Household Survey. It is taken from Ivan Reid "Social Class Differences in Britain", Open Books Publishing, 1977).

Finally, just over half of members are married, widowed or divorced and 43% are single - a rather large proportion of single people when compared with the general population.

2. Origin of interest in UFOs

The majority became interested in UFOs over five years ago and many over 15 years ago. The number of years of interest increases steadily with age and it looks highly likely that most members became interested in UFOs in their teens. A book was the most frequently mentioned source of interest, although this was often said to have been the culmination of a long interest in either space research or psychic research, sometimes both. The most frequent author mentioned was George Adamski who was well ahead of Erich von Daniken and Arthur Shuttlewood who followed in second and third place, respectively.

3. UFO and psychic experiences

Most members (61%) have seen something which they consider to be a UFO, although the majority of these experiences involved lights in the sky. Only a few indicated that they had experienced a close encounter and even less, a contact with aliens. A

large proportion of members report having had some kind of psychic experience (57%) but the two types of experience do not appear to be strongly correlated since those who report having had a psychic experience than those who have never seen a UFO. Although figures for these types of experiences among the general population are difficult to find, the occurrence among BUFORA members seems high. For instance, a Gallup Poll in the USA in 1973 found that 11% of the population claimed to have seen a UFO.

4. Opinions about what UFOs might be

The most popular explanation is that they are extra-terrestrial spacecraft, in fact 44% chose this first and another 11% put it in either second or third position. The second most popular suggestion is that they could be an unknown kind of natural phenomena with 19% choosing this first and 29% placing it either second or third. This is followed by the idea that they could be psychic events with 12% placing this in first place and another 23% choosing it for either second or third position. The least popular suggestions are misperceptions, spiritual beings, secret weapons and evil entities, in descending order of preference. A few people suggested other possibilities

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such as holograms and time travellers and 8% said they had no idea what UFOs might be.

5. Activities connected with interest in UFOs

The most frequently mentioned activity is that of reading UFO literature, indeed reading seems to be a major activity with most members likely to read one or two books a week on UFOs or one of their other interests. When asked to choose between a number of interests, members select space research, astronomy and psychic research most frequently as being of particular interest. The second most popular activity is that of skywatching with 37% of members choosing this as one of their first three activities. Research is in third place, closely followed by interviewing UFO witnesses. Few people attend local meetings and in fact very few are members of local groups or of groups other than BUFORA.

6. Important aspects of Ufology

'Collecting data and formulating hypotheses' is considered to be the most important aspect of ufology with 58% choosing it as one of their first three aspects, but it is only slightly more popular than 'getting the research procedure correct' and also 'working out the right theory of what UFOs are from the existing data', both of which are considered important by many people. 'Transmitting the messages obtained by contactees' is considered to be the least important with only 7% choosing this as one of their first three important aspects. A few other suggestions were made, such as 'making the importance of UFOs widely understood', 'being aware of the public', 'getting worldwide co-operation', 'altering consciousness', 'noticing how the phenomena reflects social changes' and the like.

7. Themes in UFO literature

Most members agree that when Man finally solves the UFO mystery it will cause a revolution in his current understanding of the world (71%)(5). However, although popular books and films suggest that the governments of the world are in contact with aliens and are withholding this information from the general public, only 23% of members agree with this and a large number disagree (48%). Also, although the majority think

UFOs are likely to be extra-terrestrial spacecraft, they are divided over whether aliens are living on the Earth and mixing with human beings with 38% in agreement, 38% unsure and 24% in disagreement.

The majority of members consider that some of those interested in UFOs have been visited by Men in Black (55%), but they are less certain about whether cattle mutilations are associated with UFOs as nearly half chose the 'unsure' category.

Erich von Daniken's theory that Man was created by the genetic engineering of extra-terrestrials, sells a large number of books but BUFORA members are in conflict over this theory with 31% in agreement, 39% unsure and 27% in disagreement. The popular idea that Man once inhabited a lost continent called Atlantis also divided members with 39% in agreement, 31% unsure and 30% in disagreement.

8. Religious beliefs

Slightly more members consider that they belong to a religion than those who do not, with the Church of England being the main category. However, the figure for lack of church membership is 40% which is higher for members of BUFORA than it is for the general population where it is 8% and the figure for those members who never attend church is also higher than that for the general public. This seems to indicate that BUFORA members are more likely to break with traditional religious establishments than are the general public(6).

The majority of members believe in a God (61%) and of these, 45% believe in an impersonal spirit or life force and 26% in a personal God. These figures are not unusual compared with the general population. However, most members believe in life after death (68%) and just under half believe in reincarnation (45%) and these percentages are much higher than those for the general public(7). Belief in an impersonal spirit or life force and reincarnation are usually associated with mystical religion and when another element of mysticism is examined - the statement that every human being is travelling on a path of spiritual evolution which will end in union with God - it seems 41% agree with this which might imply that about a third tend towards mystical rather than orthodox religious beliefs (8).

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Most members believe in neither Heaven nor Hell, which is typical of people in Britain. Also very few believe in the Devil, although the percentage is slightly higher than that for the general population but this is probably because some members deliberately altered the wording of the question to read 'evil' before replying and so slightly changed the meaning.

As far as belief in Jesus Christ is concerned, the suggestion that he is a human teacher is the most popular and the idea that he is a myth the least so. These views are difficult to compare with the general population since different questions are used in the Gallup surveys, but BUFORA members seem to favour the human over the religious interpretation slightly more than do the general public (9).

9. Others (science and politics)

Like most of the general population, the majority of members think that science will never explain all of life's mysteries (71%) (10).

Ten percent more members of BUFORA than the general public indicate that they do not support a political party (49%), but those who do are more likely than average to support liberal (probably due to current events concerning the liberal/SDP Alliance) and also minority parties. This could indicate that they are more dissatisfied than most with traditional politics (11).

SUMMARY

It is clear that BUFORA members are not social drop-outs or religious cranks. Actually, the bias toward non-manual occupations is to be expected because those who join organisations in general are mainly in the non-manual and professional occupations. The predominance of males (about four times as many as females) can be explained by the technological orientation of ufology which, due to sex stereotypes in our society, deters females. Also studies show that more men join clubs than women in general (except religious organisation (12)). The age distribution seems interesting because there appears to be no real age bias in club and association joining and so there should be fairly equal numbers of all ages. So why are the majority of members in the 21-40 age range? Interestingly, science fiction readers are also mainly in this age range,

mainly males and became interested in their teens (13). Although only 32% of members said they had a special interest in science fiction, space related topics such as astronomy and space research were popular. So was psychic research, of course, but this appears to be closely related anyway in that it has become a popular theme in modern science fiction. This is not to say that science fiction fans and members of UFO research groups are the same, only that they have features in common.

As far as marital status is concerned, the figure of 43% for the number of single people seems rather a high proportion. The census for 1971 showed that 83% of males and 88% of females over 19 were married, widowed or divorced; but against that must be put the fact that the manual working class marry earlier and the class majority of this sample are both middle and in the young adult age range and so the figure is probably not all that unusual.

Independence from religious institutions and in political support was implied and the fact that BUFORA members have formulated different views from those of the general public on the existence of UFOs and the various ideas connected with phenomena, in itself suggests a certain independence of thought.

The indication that a proportion of members seem to subscribe to mystical beliefs might be confirmation to those who consider that interest in UFOs is similar to interest in the occult, but it is difficult to draw inferences from this kind of data. There are a number of problems involved in interpretation, not only because comparable figures for the general population are lacking, but also because mystical beliefs are not necessarily incompatible with scientific practice (14).

In conclusion, it can be said that the kind of people who belong to a UFO research group, are generally young men who have had a keen interest in space exploration since their teens and for whom UFOs are part of this interest, as may be other subjects such as psychic research. They are employed members of the lower middle and middle classes who spend much of their spare time reading and as a consequence have formulated their own views on a number of subjects, particularly those connected with UFOs.

REFERENCES

- 1) See for instance: R Balch and D Taylor (1977) "Seekers and Saucers" in American Behavioural Scientist, 20,6,(July/Aug), p.839-860; L Festinger, Reicken and Schachter (1964) When Prophecy Fails, Harper Torchbooks; D Stuppel and W McNeece (1979) "Contactees, Cults and Culture" MUFON Symposium Proceedings, USA; R Wallis (1974) "The Aetherius Society" in Sociological Review, 22,p.27-44;
- 2) The UFO directory, which is advertised in UFO magazines such as Flying Saucer Review, is available from: UFO Network, 39 Birkbeck Road, London NW7. The publications were obtained by writing to addresses under the heading UFO and Associated Publications (England) and UFO Societies and Groups (England) and to other addresses advertised in these publications. From the many different Publications received only those which included material on UFOs and which were produced by organisations were included in the analysis, of which only a summary is given in this report.
- 3) A number of replies were received from overseas members as well and although they were not included in the analysis they may be useful in a consideration of BUFORA members in other countries. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who returned completed questionnaires; not only were the vast majority meticulously completed and sent within a few weeks, but many people also included helpful comments and in some cases, letters as well. All the letters will be answered in due course and those who have not yet received a reply should not give up hope!
- *4) Anyone who would like a copy of the figures for the complete list of questions should send a Postal Order/ Cheque/ Stamps for 60 pence (to cover photocopy and postage expenses) and their name and address to me at : Shirley McIver 21 Lindley Street, Holgate, York YO2 4JG.
- 5) For the purpose of this analysis of popular themes in UFO literature, the categories of 'strongly agree' and 'agree' have been collapsed to indicate 'agreement' and those of 'strongly disagree' and 'disagree' to form 'disagreement'.
- 6) The source of figures for the general population (unless otherwise stated) is the Gallup Poll of March 1979.
- 7) It should perhaps be mentioned that responses to the type of questions asked by Gallup are notoriously difficult to interpret (but are retained because of their simplicity) and although I was aware of this when I included the questions, I needed to ask them in a fairly similar way so that I could compare the results. A number of members queried my inclusion of the questions about religious belief, putting forward the view that this was unconnected with an interest in UFOs. Members of BUFORA may feel this but it is in no way 'self evident' and since previous studies have focussed on religious oriented UFO groups, it was necessary to put part of this study in a similar context for comparison purposes.
- 8) For an analysis of mystical religion and its connection with esoteric culture and occultism, see E Tiryakian (ed) (1974) On the Margin of the Visible, John Wiley & Sons, N.Y.
- 9) Gallup's questions were slightly different to mine in that the choices they gave were 'Son of God', 'Just a Man', 'Just a Story' and 'don't know'. If the Gallup categories of 'Son of God' and 'Just a Man' are compared with my categories of 'Son of God' and 'A human teacher', BUFORA members are more likely to choose the human interpretation.
- 10) This question was taken from a survey of European Values being conducted from Leeds University.
- 11) These figures are taken from Ivan Reid "Social Class Differences in Britain", Open Books Publishing, 1977.
- 12) These figures are taken from Reid, ibid. To get some idea of the sex stereotyping in our society just think about the different roles of men and women in the film 'Close Encounters...'. The officials and technicians were men and

*These figures will be published in a future issue of J-TAP.

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the two main women spent most of their time in tears! They were associated with caring for children and took a secondary role right to the end where it was the woman who said "I don't think I'm quite ready for this - you go on" (or words to that effect).

- 13) See Albert Berger (1977) "Science Fiction Fans in Socio-economic perspective" in Science Fiction Studies, Vol 4, (November), p.232-246.
- 14) A number of sociologists have argued that although church religion has declined, mystical religion is in fact increasing, at least among educated people. See, for instance C Campbell (1978) "The Secret Religion of the Educated Classes" in Sociological

Analysis, 39.2, p.146-156; Also, although it may be thought that mysticism is, by its nature, a rejection of science, E Troeltsch in his book The Social Teaching of the Christian Churches, vol.2, (Halley Stewart Publications, 1931), points out that there is a certain affinity with science because mysticism shares its critique of religious doctrine. Other factors such as the conception of a universal non-changing immediate presence of God and the view that the spirit must be redeemed through the intellect, are in harmony with scientific thought. However, the question of whether certain practices classed as occult (such as astrology for instance) are scientific or not, is of a different kind.

THE INTERFACE BETWEEN THE UFO REPORT AND
NEW INFORMATION

By Peter A Hill

THIS PAPER WAS FIRST GIVEN IN APRIL 1982 IN LONDON

ONE CLOUDY DAY IN THE EARLY 1920s, TWO AERONAUTS IN A BALLON EMERGED FROM A LONG BANK OF LOW CLOUD AND HAD SOME DIFFICULTY IN DEFINING THEIR POSITION. ON DESCENDING LOWER, THEY SUDDENLY FOUND THEMSELVES IN HAILING DISTANCE OF A MAN, WALKING HIS DOG ON THE HILLS.

ONE BALLOONIST HAILED THE MAN, CALLING OUT "CAN YOU TEL US WHERE WE ARE?" AND, TO HIS ANNOYANCE, RECEIVED THE MONOSYLLABIC REPLY "YES".

TURNING FRUSTRATEDLY TO HIS COMPANION, OUR INTREPID AERONAUT GRIPPED THE BASKET WITH BOTH HANDS AS HE SAID " JUST MY LUCK THAT, OF ALL PEOPLE, I HAVE TO ASK A STATISTICIAN". "AND PRAY, WHAT MAKES YOU THINK HE WAS A STATISTICIAN?" CAME THE CURIOUS REPLY.

"WHAT ELSE COULD HE BE?" SAID THE OTHER, "HE ANSWERED MY QUESTION WITH EXTRAORDINARY PRECISION, HE WAS ACCURATE TO A FAULT AND HIS INFORMATION WAS BLOODY USELESS".

That cautionary tale illustrates the futility of seeking answers prior to ensuring that we are asking the right questions. Philosophical speculation of imprecisely formed questions, such as 'Where do they come from?' is worse than useless. They are a positive obstacle to objective thought as they tend to channel the problems into restricted thought processes, albeit unconsciously, which introduce bias, reduce objectivity and make it very difficult to be open-minded.

The UFO enigma has been with us long enough by any standard. Had we tackled it correctly over the past thirty years we would, by now, have a detailed index controlled by micro-processor, of the attributes, characteristics and behaviour of both UFO and IFO, which would provide us with a data base for research projects.

The photographic evidence goes back at least some thirty-seven years to the 'foo fighters' of the second world war. These were reported by Luftwaffe, RAF and USAF during the later years of the war. Intelligence of each side thought them to be a secret device of the other. The issue remains unresolved.

There is circumstantial evidence that the phenomenon has been with us for hundreds, or even thousands, of years. Irrespective of the varying interpretations of early reports, such as that of Ezekiel, the post 1945 era

alone is sufficient for us to have made substantial progress in analysis of UFO attributes and of IFO stimuli of false reports.

Ministry of Defence figures of IFO stimuli of UFO reports, in a sample from 1959 - 1970, a total of 1497 reports, show 36% aircraft, 22% satellites and space debris, 10% celestial objects, 9% unexplained, 8% balloons, 8% miscellaneous, including hoaxes and 7% meteorological and natural phenomena.

Why have we made so little progress that we have not much more in documented, hard fact than we had when BUFORA was founded in 1964. The answer is complex and multi-factorial. These factors include the inevitable use of enthusiastic volunteers who are unaware of the scientific method of enquiry, a gross lack of resources in The Research Department, both manpower and finance, an apparent lack of confidence, preventing a major commitment akin to Marie Curie labouring through tons of pitchblende to isolate a minute amount of radium and, possibly, a futile search for a shortcut to avoid the extensive labour and rigorous methods of classical, Baconian scientific method. There are no shortcuts.

Professor John Taylor, in a lecture at The University of Southampton, said "When investigating the paranormal, don't throw away your lab. coat". It is imperative that we use scientific method in the most rigorous way, with the necessary training,

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quality control, study of the work of others in this and other countries, proper literature searches and catalogues of relevant work and the use of controls by comparison with similar work elsewhere.

A start has been made with the planning of a pilot study, to compare attributes of one year of UFO reports with the UFO reports from the other countries taking part for the same year.

To borrow Jenny Randles' analogy of the caveman collecting descriptions of other sightings of rainbows, I propose to name the pilot study Project Rainbow.

It is interesting that, when I proposed 1977 to Hynek as a peak year in England and Wales, and the year which is best documented on our manual punched cards, Hynek was surprised that we had greater numbers of reports in 1977 than he had in The Center for UFO Studies.

It is of considerable interest and value that leading researchers from various countries know each other well personally and understand each other's problems and methods. Commencing from the first London International UFO Congress and the Working Party which was a part of that Congress, these close relationships have been extended by correspondence and personal visits.

Haisell, Hynek and Kuhlemann have made visits to Britain, while Kuhlemann and I have visited Denmark. On such visits we have stayed in each other's homes and the result is that we now work together exceptionally well as we know each other as individual persons. It would be hard to over-estimate the value of such close relationships.

It was, therefore, no great surprise that, shortly after I had suggested the concept to Hynek, who showed much interest, Haisell asked if he could take part and that this request was followed closely by a similar plea from Kuhlemann.

The input from Canada would be of especial value, since their more serious groups are linked in UFOCAN.

To enable the BUFORA Research work to

be carried out effectively, the entire Department is being restructured with several more members and with an enhanced degree of specialisation.

As one of the principal constraints previously was lack of enough people, I am anxious to make it clear that no adverse criticism is intended or implied of those previously responsible. But it is my view that this work should be spread amongst a larger number of workers.

A further advantage of having additional manpower working on research is that it makes possible further specialisation, using the individual aptitudes, skills and expertise of each member. There is a need for each research worker to take responsibility for a specific discipline. The inclusion of members specialising in aeronautics, astronomy, chemistry, cosmology, metallurgy, meteorology, physics, psychology, satellites and statistics would imply increasing the size of the department by a factor of about three.

This would enable more than one project to be undertaken simultaneously. There has in the past been inadequate feedback from research to investigators. It is a thankless task to carry out investigations and get nothing in return. This resembles a black hole, for everything goes in and nothing comes out. This situation must end. Investigators must receive an analysed feedback.

The way in which the reports submitted by our network of investigators will be used to discover new information is that there will be two main uses made of each report submitted. Firstly, with those cases where high strangeness is linked with high credibility, an exhaustive examination will be carried out, as is still being done with the 1979 close encounter by Taylor, at Livingston.

However, I do not believe that much can be discovered in this way in the vast majority of cases. These cases, both UFO and IFO reports, will be analysed statistically. To use an analogy from clinical epidemiology not very much new is learned about the aetiology of disease in man by the study of the individual patient. Exceptionally, intuition combined with acute observation may throw out a question which demands an answer, as with an alert practitioner who

saw a couple of cases of the tragic results of thalidomide. Such observations are the exception and have to be confirmed by seeking cases to see whether there is a real correlation.

Having found a correlation or a pattern amongst a number of cases, larger numbers of case records are examined and processed by computer, with proper controls. Where ethics permit, double blind trials are conducted and the findings published in the professional press for other workers to examine.

For those whose statistics ended at school, may I remind you that a correlation is not necessarily the same as a causative relationship. In parts of Scandinavia, there is a correlation between the number of storks' nests and the birthrate. I am assured by my obstetric colleagues that they lost no sleep by wondering if the old story was true, despite all they had been taught at medical school. There is a third factor, common to storks' nests and infants delivered, namely the frequency of chimneys.

It is important to remember this when endeavouring to interpret figures. A correlation between UFO and another factor, say solar activity, does not imply that one necessarily causes the other. It could do; UFO could cause solar activity or vice versa. However, there could be a third concomitant factor giving rise to both UFO and solar activity. Numerical findings need professional interpretation; this is essential to avoid the barb that anything can be proved with statistics. The fact is that figures do not lie but liars figure.

What can be discovered by this approach? Initially, numerous small clues which are, like the title of Cramp's book pieces of the jigsaw. You will be familiar with the pressure marks with a clear directional effect, which have been reported from the Isle of Wight and Australia. They indicate the direction of an assumed spin.

Spin is also an attribute of many UFO reports. Is the direction of spin in the same ratio in UFO reports and the ground marks?

Do the directions have a relation with

whether the report is in the Northern and Southern hemisphere? Statistical analysis could readily answer such a question.

Unlike a lunar landing module, which endeavours to touch down vertically; UFO are often reported to descend by a motion pattern known as 'falling leaf' motion. I am puzzled by this term as I have yet to see a leaf fall in a 'falling leaf' motion. A more appropriate term would, perhaps, be pendulum motion. It has been reported from all over the world. Yet, I have searched in vain for an analysis of the speed of swing, the number of movements before coming to rest or any other quantitative details. We must learn that science is measurement. Without measurement, we do nothing about a phenomenon; measure its variables and we immediately begin to know something about it.

At what height does the swing commence? I can find less in the UFO literature than I can in the spiritual 'swing low, sweet literature, coming for to carry me home'.

SUMMARY

- 1 Investigation is, necessarily, being improved in BUFORA;
- 2 the investigation and research departments are keeping the closest links, including cross-representation at each others' Committees, to ensure that we are thinking on compatible lines;
- 3 the BUFORA research department is being enlarged by a factor of three and increasing specialisation;
- 4 ways are being considered of ensuring that Investigators have a feedback of their work, to which they are entitled;
- 5 the Research Department is commencing pilot studies, with international collaboration, to identify and quantify the attributes of the UFO;
- 6 numerical data will be subject to statistical analysis, including tests of statistical significance, assisted by computing facilities;
- 7 findings will be analysed, with professional advice, to identify new facts, patterns and correlations;

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- 8 where such patterns are found, hypotheses will be developed which may, potentially, explain them;
- 9 ways must be found of testing hypotheses, leading eventually to the discovery of currently unknown laws of UFO behaviour.

We must not let undue enthusiasm cloud our objectivity; feet must be kept on the ground. We must never forget that the universe is not merely stranger than we imagine, it is stranger than we can imagine.

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By Stuart Campbell

THE LATEST REPORTS AND INFORMED COMMENT

On Tuesday August 03 (1982), around 1600 BST famous Cavendish Laboratory in the University of Cambridge was struck by lightning several times during an exceptionally intense storm. Immediately after one of the discharges a very bright blue-white ball of light was seen by several people. It was accompanied by a luminous haze at least to first floor level. The BL was about the size of a grapefruit when first seen, but appeared to be expanding, and lasted for 4-5 seconds before suddenly vanishing. Reporting the incident in a letter to Nature (Vol 298; Aug 19; p 702), Sir Brian Pippard, who himself did not see the phenomenon, added that it was also reported to him that 'a bright sparkling object' had entered a ground floor window narrowly missing an assistant in the duplicating room.

This must have been an embarrassing event for the Cavendish physicists, who, as far as I know, do not interest themselves in BL. But they cannot have been as sceptical as The Sunday Times, who referred to it as 'the fanciful creation of elderly widows' (Aug 22). Elsewhere in the same issue of that newspaper, Eric Korn described BL as 'an exotic, mysterious and infrequent occurrence, sometimes dismissed as optical illusion, hysteria or travellers' tales'. This

brought a letter from Fred Uhlmann of London NW3 (published in The Sunday Times of Sept 05) describing a BL witnessed by himself and his father just before the First World War in the Black Forest near Freudenstadt. 'It was a hot, sultry day in August, the sky Italian blue, interspersed with a few white clouds. Suddenly we saw a ball light the size of a ping-pong ball dancing and weaving a few yards in front of us, nearly touching a pine tree. Some 10 seconds later, there was a tremendous thunderstroke and der kugelblitz had disappeared'.

Earlier this year (1982), a BL event in Innerleithen (near Peebles in the Scottish Borders) was reported to me. Zbigniew Lezczynski was walking along the bank of the Tweed near Innerleithen Bridge about 2245 BST on 30 July (1981), 'a very hot day' but without thunder. Suddenly he saw an orange BL about 300 m away as it emerged from a wood at a height of about 50 m. It seemed to have a diameter of about 0.5 m and had a long tail formed by lines of light coming from the ball. The tail tapered to a point about 4 diameters from the ball. The object, which was silent, descended at an angle of about 20°, but seemed to disintegrate before it reached trees on the other bank of the river.

NOTICES

UNITED KINGDOM 3rd INTERNATIONAL UFO CONGRESS

27 - 28 - 29 AUGUST 1983

HIGH WYCOMBE - BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Organised and staged by BUFORA Ltd. this prestigious event is attracting some of the worlds leading researchers in the field of UFO Phenomena.

Amongst those who are expected to be presenting papers at the Congress are;

From the USA and Canada,

Dr J Allen Hynek, Stanton T Friedman, and Dr Harley Rutledge.

From Europe,

Dr Alexander Keul, Bertil Kuhleman, and Per Anderson.

From the UK,

Jenny Randles, Hilary Evans, and Paul Devereux.

The venue for this event is the Lorch Foundation, Lane End, near High Wycombe. Buckinghamshire. Residential facilities will be at the nearby, newly completed Wycombe Crest Hotel. For delegates who will not be bringing their own transport, a courtsey coach service will operate between the Hotel and the venue.

Admission to the congress will be by ticket only. Tickets will be on sale from 8 April 1983. Various levels of attendance will be offered, this will range from a single days admission only, to three day fully residential. Applications to be placed on the priority mailing list for booking forms are now being taken. For booking forms, and a provisional timetable of events, please send a stamped addressed envelope to;

The Congress Secretariat, 5 Vardens Road, London, SW11 1RQ. United Kingdom.

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KENSINGTON LECTURES 1983

Sat 5 Feb. 1900 hrs "To Ride Pegasus". Speaker Richard Beet.

Sat 5 March. 1900 hrs. "Hypnotic Regression, and Where Now!" Speaker Harry Harris.

Sat 9 April. 1900 hrs. "The Genius of The Few". Speaker C.A.E. O'Brien.

Sat 7 May. 1900 hrs. "The Seven Day Wonder at Cergy-Pontoise!" Speaker Hilary Evans.

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INTERNATIONAL UFO DIRECTORY - compiled by PICUR. The first section, listing over 200 individuals is available from - Peter A Hill, 47A Easter Bankton, Murieston, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 9BD. Scotland. price 75p (£1 Overseas).

Aims and scope of the Journal

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

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

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

Notes for contributors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Book reviews and letters for publication will also be considered.

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

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