
UFO TIMES

Number 12 March 1991

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YUGO UFO RETROSPECTIVE

INSIDE

Milos Krmelj takes an interesting look at the state of ufology in Yugoslavia

Andy Collins presents a critical review.



We bring you a full update on the biggest ever congress to be held in the UK.

And Alex Keul presents an in-depth paper on witness perception

Plus.... Mexico's Zone of Silence, News, Investigations Diary, Skywatcher and more.....

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DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

Stephen Gamble,
16 Southway,
Burgess Hill,
Sussex,
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DIRECTOR OF INVESTIGATIONS

Jenny Randles
37 Heathbank Road,
Cheadle Heath,
Stockport,
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SECRETARY TO NIC

Philip Mantle,
1 Woodhall Drive,
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PRESS OFFICER

Philip Mantle,
1 Woodhall Drive,
Batley,
West Yorkshire,
WF17 7SW.

NEWSCIPPING ARCHIVE

Michael Hudson,
71 Knight Avenue,
Canterbury,
Kent,
CT2 8PY



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1. To encourage, promote and conduct unbiased scientific research of unidentified flying object (UFO) phenomena throughout the United Kingdom.
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EDITOR

Mike Wootten,
103 Hove Avenue,
London,
E17 7NG
U.K.

ASSISTANT EDITORS

John Spencer
Ken Phillips
Onay Faiz

RESEARCH EDITOR

Steve Gamble

FEATURE EDITORS

Jenny Randles
Gary Anthony

OVERSEAS LIAISON

Hilary Evans

ARTIST

Edward Clark

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UFO TIMES

EDITORIAL

A Witness' Paradox

A typical UFO report is only based on witness testimony and once it has reached the ears on an investigator, it's already secondhand information.

Care and objectivity should always reign when interpreting the accounts that are presented to the ufological community by genuine reportees, who are motivated by sheer puzzlement (or terror) of what they have seen.

Urge

The need or urge to report such phenomena is indeed an intriguing area of study. Through the ages there have been a multitude of accounts of an unlimited number of strange things witnessed across a broad spectrum of subjects. With the growth of knowledge, many of these strange testimonies have been deemed explainable and very often shown to be reported inaccurately.

Many UFO witnesses simply report their experiences in the hope that the event can be explained to them in a framework of understanding based on the real world. It is widely acknowledged that 95% of cases can be readily identified, but unfortunately leave the witnesses in many instances unhappy that their story has been solved.

This was typified recently at the February BUFORA London lecture where Hilary Evans gave an intelligent and controversial presentation called, 'Why am I still a ufologist?'.

His main thrust centred around the lack of solid evidence to support the extraterrestrial hypothesis. His convincing thesis almost stretched to

dismiss the whole UFO subject as misinterpretation interwoven with a psychological interplay, cultured from science fiction and the wild assumptions made by the media of the nature of the ufological subject matter.

Unbeknown to Hilary, a number of 'high strangeness' witnesses who had previously attended Ken Phillips' witness support group (which is sponsored by BUFORA) were seated in the audience. At the crux of Hilary's argument a handful of these witnesses walked out of the lecture theatre in disgust. Those who stayed were visibly outraged by his utterances.

My question is why?

The speaker's train of thinking was structured, clear to follow and regularly cemented with evidence to strengthen his dissertation. Even the most staunch supporter of the ETH would have at least been left with food for thought.

But the witnesses were adamant that he was wrong as if they had a strong desire to have mystery surrounding their lives.

Dichotomy

The dichotomy of the need to require answers but at the same time wishing not to be wrong in their interpretation of their experiences, must be the strong driving force behind such rejections of reasonable, down to earth thesis.

The scenario of the witness who is adamant that what he or she saw was not Venus, despite the overwhelming evidence to support the evaluation, is a common experience for investigators. Pride and the human instinct of not wanting to be wrong must add foundation to such behaviour.

However, such a reaction is understandable. Most witnesses are playing high credibility stakes when making UFO reports, irrespective of the level of strangeness. This invariably must also subconsciously colour the judgement and objectivity of the witness to the point of obscuring the true evidence behind the observation.

News

R1 Poised for Replacement

After over a decade, the R1 UFO report questionnaire will be replaced by a new four page document in the summer.

The R1 along with its R2 companion which have been used by UFO organisations across Britain, were considered to be out dated and did not reflect modern investigative techniques.

Much of the basic questions still remain on the new form. But more details about the witness are now included in the yet unnamed replacement. Ken Phillips, who has co-ordinated the project said, "It is very important that we include more information about the witness to compliment the details of the case itself."

A new investigation summary form and a revamped computer database form will also be released in the summer along with a full investigation training programme.

Like the the old R1, the new form will be copyright free, allowing other groups to hopefully benefit from the improvements.

John G Fuller Dies

John G. Fuller, writer of the classic UFO book, 'The Interrupted Journey', died tragically from lung cancer in November.

Mr Fuller had an extensive career in radio and television broadcasting. However, his best known talents lay in writing about the unexplained and related subjects, which included such titles as 'We Almost Lost Detroit' (1975), 'The Ghost of Flight 401' (1976), 'The Airman Who Would Not Die' and 'The Poison That Fell From the Sky' (1978), about the after effects of the chemical plant explosion in 1976 near

the Italian town of Seveso.

His long and fruitful journey through the realms of the unknown started in the early 60's with the publication of books like 'Incident at Exeter' (1966), an account of stories told by people in Exeter, New Hampshire, concerning flying Saucers.

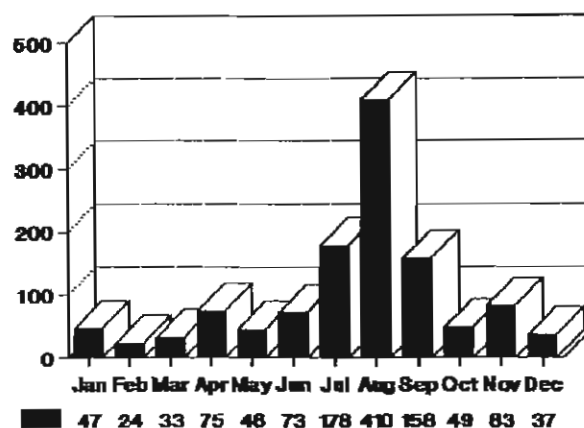
New Hampshire would figure again in his best known title within ufological circles - 'The Interrupted Journey' (1966), which brought the significant Betty and Barney Hill case to the attention of the world and probably changed the course of ufology for good.

Circles Increase Newsclipping Figures

Newsclippings received by BUFORA from its newsclipping agency reached an all time high in 1990, but did not represent an increase in UFO sightings.

The media's craze for crop circle stories peaked in August, leaving UFO stories to languish in the doldrums.

UFO Newsclippings Jan 90 - Dec 90



number include circles clippings

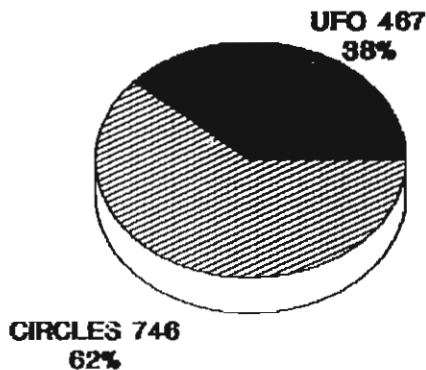
The eagerness of the press to report such stories must lend weight to the suggestion that circle occurrences are not multiplying each year by themselves. With heightened public awareness of the phenomenon, coupled with an increase in people actively searching for circle sets invariably upsets the statistic

claims of a natural increase in numbers.

Circle Cuttings Cancelled

Unfortunately, due to the high influx of expensive newsclippings not directly relating to UFOs, BUFORA will not be receiving crop circle stories from the clipping agency this summer. Most of the cuttings did not yield any new data for research except for the measurement of media activity connected with the subject, which was known to be high anyway.

UFO/crop circle split



As cereologists and UFO groups alike gear up for another season of crop circles, discussions of whether the press will again play an influential role in circlelore can be only speculation - as the press are a law unto themselves.



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Recession One

As recession bites harder into the British economy, signs are that the slump is now reaching ufology too.

UFO subscription magazines and UFO groups are both experiencing drops in readership and membership levels. However, BUFORA membership figures seem to be rallying after the September membership renewal deadline.

With successful publicity drives and a sound financial footing, BUFORA Council are confident that the Association will be able to ride the possible bumpy fiscal seas ahead.

Recession Two


Another recession of a sightings kind also seems to be gripping the country at present.

Despite high UFO activity in continental Europe, BUFORA investigators and local groups around the United Kingdom are reporting a lull in new cases reaching them.

It is certain that the war in the Gulf will guarantee that UFO sightings will stay out of the headlines and the minds of potential reportees for the foreseeable future.


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Historical Background of Ufology in Yugoslavia

by Milos Krmelj

The report on the UFO situation in Yugoslavia that I would like to present here would be incomplete without giving some facts on the development of Ufology in Yugoslavia.

It was in 1954 - yes, only seven years after the sighting made by Arnold - when the Yugoslav press first began to write on UFOs. More exactly, it was a series of articles (fragments) from the second book by Donald E. Keyhoe, 'Flying Saucers From Outer Space', published by 'Slovenian Weekly TT' (Weekly Tribune), which had at that time an extremely high impression - 100 000 copies - while the total population of Slovenia did not exceed one and a half million. The series excited almost sensational interest among the readers of the weekly. Soon after, other Yugoslav papers also published these articles: Ufology in Yugoslavia was born. This of course means that there were to be more articles published about UFOs which caused people to talk about flying saucers, but they never formed any associations which would concern itself with the investigations of the phenomenon.

Wave

In 1954, as soon as the series of Keyhoe's articles had been published, the well-known wave of UFO sightings over Europe took place, culminating with numerous landings in France. Some of these sightings also took place in Yugoslavia. They were mainly sightings of airborne objects and there were no cases of close encounters which was probably due to the mass media blockade on such cases. Namely, while some papers enthusiastically wrote about UFO visitors from space, other papers took these events for delusions, meteorological phenomena and secret weapons etc. This, of course, is a

polarisation which is known to all of us and which can be found in all parts of the world.

Further, I would like to mention that there have been some letters from eyewitnesses at that time, yet they were not published. These "lost" letters would undoubtedly be an interesting source of information on UFO activity in 1954. As far as we know, there existed a formal debating group of a few Slovene intellectuals who took an interest in UFO events. Probably, these letters, if they still exist, could be found with some of the members of this group. It is quite possible that these letters include some information on early close encounters.

In the following ten years there was not much to be heard on ufological events in Yugoslavia. In that period, papers rarely issued a report or two on UFOs, yet the information on the famous project of American military aviation, Blue Book, was published every year in one of the Slovene newspapers.

As I have already mentioned, things began to move again in the middle of the sixties. In 1966, the above-mentioned weekly TT published a series of extracts from the book of John Fuller, 'Incident at Exeter'. Soon after, 'Tovaris', another weekly magazine, published a series of articles on ufology; information varying from the viewpoints of George Adamski to those of the military aviation of the USA. Other Slovene dailies and weeklies also published some minor articles on UFOs. The same goes for the other Yugoslav

press, yet we have only slight knowledge about what Serbo-Croatian papers wrote on the UFO phenomenon at that time.

Another thing began to occur in our papers at that time. News on UFO sightings in our country began to be published for the first time and that enabled our readers to compare UFO events in Slovenia with those which took place in Europe and in the USA.

In 1967, the first ufological organisation was founded in Slovenia. It was the first such association in Yugoslavia and probably the first one in Eastern Europe. It was the Yugoslav branch of the well-known English organisation, 'Contact UK', known as 'Sky Scouts' at that time. The association was formally registered which, at that time, was of great importance otherwise it would have met with serious trouble. Yet this association, which rarely gathered facts on UFO events, was nothing more than a registered debating club. Though they were pioneers in ufology, they did not practice investigations into UFO sightings, they did not edit any publication nor did they carry out any activities connected with any kind of UFO research. In the debating sense, this association carried out its activities until 1970.

Intensive

In the meantime, the euphoric landing of Aldrin and Armstrong on the Moon took place, thus, in the cosmic sense, the year 1969 was really an active one that, somehow artificially, prolonged the existence of the debating club. Its activities passed away in 1970 which was, to ufology, a rather peaceful year. Then came the year 1971. It started as peacefully as the previous one, but towards its end things began to happen: things that have not been noted in the Yugoslavian chronicles yet: a very intensive and strong wave of UFO sightings, including radar-screen observations and numerous UFO flights over various regions of Yugoslavia. There was a sighting nearly every single day. This wave of sightings, which started towards the end of September 1971, slowly decreased and finally extinguished in December of the same

year.

As I have already mentioned, the 'Sky Scouts' association was finally dissolved, yet some members of this debating club still took an interest in UFO events. As a student and a member of NICAP and APRO, I also continued to take an interest.. Discussing these things with other students during studies in the Central Technical Library in Ljubljana, we came to the idea of forming an ufological association which would be able to edit its own publication and to function much more seriously than the debating club did.



Hilos

As a student, I was a member of an astrophysical association within SOLT (Students Organisation of Popular Technics). So I turned to SOLT and asked them to give us the status of an association within their organisation. After some months of preparation and "paper war" [sic], the UFO (NLP) association ZVEZA SOLT was formally founded on March 10th, 1972. As you can see, there is the international expression for unidentified flying objects in the first part of the name of our association; in the brackets there is the Slovene abbreviation for UFO. The remaining part of the name belongs to the basic organisation to which we are associated. as soon as we became an association we started to publish UFO

(NLP) INFORMATOR which was issued in a cyclostyle form in April 1972.

We began to cooperate with the leading Slovene weekly, Nedeljski Dnevnik, and things began to move for the better. UFO INFORMATOR should have been issued bi-monthly, yet in fact, it was issued every three months. It was published in the Slovene language only and its impression was around 500 copies, which were mainly sold in some selected bookshop.

By the year 1975, we had gathered nearly 100 cases of UFO sightings and, moreover, as the only active organisation of its kind in Yugoslavia, we occasionally appeared in Serbo-Croatian papers also.

Towards the end of 1975, Yugoslavia was taken by another wave of UFO sightings, in some details, quite similar to those of 1971: radar-screen observations and even cases of close encounters. In this period, our association was already active in the mass communications of the press and radio etc.

In 1976, we changed the name of UFO (NLP) INFORMATOR to Odiseja (Odyssey) and extended the range of our activities on other unusual phenomena the journal was still being issued every three months. In 1977 we printed the journal for the first time in Serbo-Croatian and it began to be issued bi-monthly, but due to high printing costs we were forced to return to reproducing cyclostyle copies. In 1978 we edited it again in the Slovene language.

In 1976 and 1977 there were a lot of UFO sightings reported in Slovenia and because of their unusual nature they caused us great sensation. There were some cases of close encounters of the second kind (with traces left behind) and even a case of a close encounter of the third kind.

Slovene Flap

After the year 1978, the number of UFO sightings continually declined and reached its minimum in 1986 and 1987

when it began to rise again. Most surprising was the year 1988 when we were suddenly confronted by a true wave of UFO sightings which, in the summer of that year, extended from one of the Slovene regions to the very vicinity of Ljubljana, the capital of Slovenia.

This last wave of sightings has not yet been treated as a whole, therefore we could not yet reach a final conclusion. Moreover, interesting sightings in that year have already been reported. One should not forget that Slovenia embraces an area of only 20 000 square kilometres while Yugoslavia has an area that is twelve times larger. Besides, relationships between Slovenia and the southern republics are weak which makes it impossible to be informed about UFO sightings in the south of Yugoslavia. We possess some pieces of information which point to the fact that there had been sightings, yet this information is very shallow and inaccurate, preventing us from reaching certain conclusions.

After all that we know so far, it can be said that there have been the following waves of UFO sightings in Slovenia and in Yugoslavia in: 1954, 1967, 1971, 1975, 1979(?) and 1988. Between these years, there were some mini waves in 1973, 1976 and 1977.

The Debunkers

Regarding this situation, I must point out that the so-called true scientists in Slovenia, and likewise in Yugoslavia, show no real interest in ufology. If they do, their position is entirely negative and follow the ideas of Donald H. Menzel and Philip Klass. One of the major opponents of ufology was Dr. Fran Dominko, a Slovenian astronomer. Yet some years before his death, he largely changed his viewpoint on UFOs. This was due to his assistant who had reported a UFO sighting and to other moments [sic] also (studying the relevant literature in his retirement etc.). Another sceptic was the notorious Dr. Tatomir Andzelic, a Serbian astronomer and space expert, who represents a Yugoslav copy of Donald H. Menzel or Philip Klass. His standing is that only drunkards, perverts and deranged persons see UFOs. A few years ago, he talked a lot on this matter

which was later published in the papers. In this way, he has done much harm to serious ufological activities in Yugoslavia. For the time being there is not much to be heard of him.

There exist another person which we must mention, Colonel Stevan Kords, author of an extraordinary explanation of UFO sightings in Yugoslavia. This former military officer and author of numerous articles in the military magazine FRONT, tried from 1971 to 1975 to persuade his readers that UFOs were nothing but automatic gliding balloons, sent to Yugoslavia by NATO forces on spy missions. It did not strike his mind, at least, that it might have been CNES balloons which periodically make observations all over the world. We could never understand his insistence over such explanations as we had already marched into the period of satellites and small automatic, pilotless planes. Unofficially, this was supposed to be the standpoint even of the military aviation of the JLA (Yugoslav Peoples' Army), though JLA has never published an official statement. The JLA is a stiff, bureaucratic and privileged military organisation which has made little contact with the public. We do not doubt that our military aviation possesses a large file of UFO records, yet we do not think we will ever be able to get some information from them.

The Literature

On closing my report, I would like to say something on UFO literature that has been published so far in Yugoslavia.

First of all, there still exists only one ufological publication called BILTEN and edited by our association four times a year. It is issued in the form of Xerox copies in Slovene and Serbo-Croatian languages.

As for books, in 1976, a newspaper man, called Jovan Knezvic, published a sensational book, 'NLP - Sabluda Ili Stvarnost?' (UFO - Delusion or Reality?). The book was written in the Serbo-Croatian language. In 1980, the book of J. Allen Hynek, 'The Hynek UFO Report' came out in Slovene translation. Then in 1987, 'The World's Greatest UFO Mysteries', by Nigel Blundell appeared

in Slovenia, and finally last year, the book of Milos Krmelj, 'Neznani Leteci Predmeti' (UFOs), written in Slovene.

There has been some more books, published in Serbo-Croatian, like, 'Misterij Letecih Tanjira' (The Mystery of Flying Saucers) by Adolf Bele. I would dispose of a limited quantity of these last two books to those of you who would be interested in them.

Among the publications which do not concern themselves with ufology only, but also with other para-scientific phenomena, we must mention the monthly TAJNE (Secrets) and the magazine ARKO. Both magazines are sold freely, but they are issued in Serbo-Croatian only.

Other Associations

As I have already mentioned, our association is the most active, but besides that, we are the only organisation which occupies itself with on-the-spot investigations. Among other associations, if they could be called as such, there exists one in Belgrade. Their model is that of George Adamski; the other organisation is split into two fields of investigation, maritime archaeology and para-scientific phenomena. There exists at least two other associations, but they are probably nothing more than debating clubs.

At the moment, we can say that the mass media in our country is quite favourable to ufology and paranormal phenomena. Yet their interests oscillates according to the editorial policy within the individual medium. For the time being, radio stations in Slovenia are more favourable to ufology than is TV. In other republics, however, there has been quite a few TV transmissions on this matter.

Out of the Stone Age

Finally, I would like to say that in the sense of ufology, Yugoslavia is still in the Stone Age, but we are trying advance out of it.

REVIEWS

The Aveley Abduction: A UFOIN Case Report. Edited by Andrew Walmsley and Philip Mantle, Independent UFO Network, A5 booklet, 40pp, illustrated. £2.25.

Seeing this brand new publication for the first time invoked a strange sense of déjà vu. First of all the cover illustrations and then the text struck bells ringing in my head.

Monetarily I was confused, but then, the realisation came to to me. Yes, I had written every word and supplied every single one of its 'artists impressions'.

A complete and utter rip off!

It's like the Stone Roses whose old record company cashed in on the band's old material and re-issued it without consent. The only difference being, the Stone Roses has their name on the dust cover. I do not seem to have been credited for my hard work.

I was temporarily stunned and then somewhat annoyed that a 100 page report with illustrations has now appeared as someone else's publication without my consent!

The Aveley Abduction is one of the all time classic UFO encounters. It concerned the Avis family; John, Elaine (pseudonym) and their three children. In October 1974, the Avises were travelling home by car through the narrow lanes in Aveley when they spotted a light in the sky. This culminated in the their car being engulfed in a bank of luminous green mist. On returning home they realised that three hours were missing from their lives.

The family contacted me in August 1977. During the investigation, hypnosis

was carried out on the two adults and a full blown abduction was uncovered.

A Change of life

The whole incident was to change the family's way of life dramatically. John became an artist whilst Elaine became a midwife. Pronounced psychic talents and paranormal events surrounded them frequently.

Myself and Barry King, painstakingly recorded every incident and experience over a six month period. In January 1978 I spent an entire week writing the report (which was then professionally typed). A whole series of artist's impressions were drawn and even the Avises own drawings were enhanced for publication purposes.

The finished item was then submitted to the UFO Investigations Network. Then under the control of Jenny Randles, on behalf of Flying Saucer Review, I was paid £70 (which hardly touched the real expenses). Thereafter, it was published in FSR (Vol 25, No 6 and Vol 26, No 1).



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Leech

Unscrupulous authors have, over the years, completely ripped off this 'case report' for their pot boiler or coffee table books, most without any due credit to either FSR, UFOIN or myself. One even refused to use my name because they did not wish to be associated with, "that person". Instead they credited it to John Rimmer who had used the whole case report wholesale earlier in his book 'Alien Abductions'.

Year after year, I have seen my own and other UFO and Paranormal investigator's original material used by Armchair authors, who almost deliberately leech off organisations like BUFORA and UFOIN. They make sure that they are on subscription lists of journals and magazines, which are generally teeming with brand new material, which the original authors have little control over.

The IUN have, we are told, have taken over the custodianship of the UFOIN files. Great, so far.

Andrew Walmsley wrote to me some while back and asked if he could use material on the Aveley Abduction. I gave my consent and thought no more of it. Nice of him to ask.

Then several months later, I am handed a copy of Philip Mantle and Andrew Walmsley's publication of the Aveley Abduction.

The only credit given to me was, "original investigation by Andy Collins", on an inside page. No

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permission was gained to reprint the entire report - words, illustrations et al.

In my opinion this situation is not good enough and I have told the IUN so. The joint copyright clearly stated "Andy Collins/FSR Publications/UFOIN" on the original typed report. I'm surprised this was not noted.

Conclusion

I have had to work very hard in this business to become a full-time writer of my own books. Which are entirely about my work, no one else's. Cashing in on other people's work is inexcusable and unfortunately there are many more examples where the Aveley Abduction came from.

However, it is not unreasonable to publish other researcher's work provided due credit is given.

Finally, I have a little advice for all UFO investigators and editors of small-time, dedicated journals - you are mugs. Whilst you're writing your articles, reports and editing other people's work, the wolves are licking their lips and waiting to take advantage!

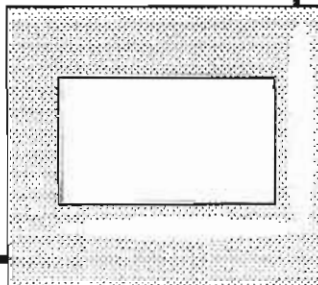
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Mexico's Zone of Silence

by
Henry Tricks

There is a place in Mexico's Mapimi Desert where nothing seems to flourish except tales of the supernatural. Known as the Zone of Silence, it is rumoured throughout Mexico to be an area where a strange force operates, dooming clocks, radios and even cars to failure.

Located on the same latitude as the notorious Bermuda Triangle, the region abounds with stories of UFOs, million-year-old trees, falling meteorites and sea shells turned to stone.

While there are scientific explanations for some of those things, farm workers on the handful of cattle ranches scattered around the area still recount bizarre tales of life in one of the driest regions on Earth.

"In 1984 there were four of us here when a flying saucer came over and lit up the whole farm," said Lucian Lucero, a 36-year-old ranch hand.

Close to the farm where he and some fellow workers were taking shade from the scorching desert sun, a patch of ground lay littered with chestnut-sized chunks of iron.

Scientists say they are naturally-formed but local people claim they are remnants of meteorites - known as aerolites - that seem to drop routinely on to a patch of desert the size of a football field.

"They fall like a very thin rain and you can see them shining in the light of the moon," said Jose Trinidad Solis, a government worker who guides visitors to the desert.

The desolate zone, which crosses the borders of the three northern states of Durango, Coahuila and Chihuahua and reaches into the southwestern United

States, has little to recommend it beyond its eerie reputation.

However, the Zone of Silence, whose total area has never been defined, is fast becoming a new type of battleground for the conflicting interests of scientists and supernaturalists.

Workers at a laboratory devoted to the study of some of the Mapimi Desert's unique flora and fauna say the superstition surrounding the zone is nothing but a crude attempt to attract tourists.

"Many people who accept the fantastic ideas go to the place and destroy what the scientists are trying to study," said Dr. Alejandro Peschard, director of Durango's general hospital and a student of the region's ecology.

The government-funded laboratory houses its own natural wonders that Peschard says are more impressive than any tales. They include a tree - estimated to be millions of years old - which has been fossilized into stone, incubated eggs of an almost-extinct desert turtle and fossilized sea shells left over from an era when oceans covered this part of Earth.

He said that studies had found that the so-called zone had characteristics found in the entire Mapimi Desert. The level of magnetism in the region, he said, has been found to be normal.

When a US rocket crashed into the Zone of Silence in July 1970, he says, investigators sealed off the site for months, apparently because the rocket carried secret radioactive or nuclear material.

When asked, the US embassy in Mexico City had no immediate comment on the crash. Peschard and local people say US officials laid a railway line to remove the remains of the rocket and much of the earth where it had fallen. The place has not been the same since, Peschard said.

"The crash of that rocket under mysterious circumstances," he says, "was where the fantasies of the Zone of Silence started."



6th INTERNATIONAL UFO CONGRESS
 16, 17 & 18 AUGUST, 1991
 CENTRAL LIBRARY THEATRE
 SHEFFIELD, SOUTH YORKSHIRE

Over the weekend of August 16th, 17th & 18th, 1991, the International Committee for UFO Research (ICUR), the British UFO Research Association (BUFORA), the Independent UFO Network (IUN) and the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) will be staging what has been described as probably Britain's largest ever UFO congress.

The following speakers have already confirmed, however the congress organisers will be inviting several more well known ufologists to present papers.

Dr. Thomas E. Bullard	U S A
Betty Cash & Vickie Landrum	U S A
Judith Magee	Australia
Catherine Howard	U S A
Paul Norman	Australia
Enrique Vicenti	Spain
Charles Hickson	U S A
John Spencer	U K
Bertil Kuhlemann	Sweden
Budd Hopkins	U S A
Bertrand Meheust	France
Jenny Randles	U K
Odd - Gunnar Roed	Norway
Walt Andrus	U S A
Cynthia Hind	Zimbabwe
Steven Gamble	U K

All speakers subject to change.

The 6th International UFO Congress, entitled, 'UFOs: THE GLOBAL VIEW', will literally see a host of speakers from around the world present a variety of topical, but relevant papers.

Official Opening

The congress will be officially opened by BUFORA's president Major Sir Patrick Wall and a gala congress dinner has been arranged for Friday the 16th of August at the Rutland Hotel in Sheffield. A cocktail party has also been organised for Thursday 15th August at the hotel. This will give congress delegates time to meet the speakers on an informal basis.

Special reduced room rates have been negotiated with the Rutland Hotel in Sheffield, exclusively for congress delegates.

The Speakers

The plethora of speakers are a mixture of contemporary researchers, who will be discussing their latest studies of the UFO phenomenon and close encounter witnesses who will be relating their own, sometimes unnerving experiences.

Charles Hickson, abductee from the Pasagoula incident, will be speaking for the very first time in the UK along with contactee, Catherine Howard. Betty Cash & Vickie Landrum will be relating their frightening 1980 encounter in Texas and their 10 year battle with the US Government for compensation after contracting radiation sickness which was attributed to the close encounter.

Thomas E. Bullard will also be speaking in Britain for the very first time. His intensive study of folklore and its connection with ufology is compelling and important to the understanding of the UFO subject.

Budd Hopkins will be returning to British shores again to give the congress a full updated report of his continuing work on abductions. It is hoped that Budd will bring Kathie Davies (the hub witness in the book 'Intruders') along with him.

Continental Europe will be impressively represented, with key speakers from Spain, Norway, France and Sweden.

Cynthia Hind will be presenting a fascinating paper which will reveal some new African cases along with commentary on the alleged South African crash/retrieval case.

The congress will be fortunate in receiving two leading ufologist from Australia. Paul Norman and Judith Magee, who will present the very latest in Australian investigation and research.

Last, but not least. The British congress contingent will include Jenny Randles, John Spencer and Steve Gamble.

The final list of speakers has yet to be finalised and we shall keep you updated as more confirmations are received.

Rock IV the Congress

A new dimension will be added to Congress '91. The rock band CEIV will be playing live on the Saturday night.

The four piece Scottish band will be playing south of the boarder for the first time. Although some past rock bands have chosen to dabble in the subject with the odd song, CEIV are very much committed to what they do and have sustained this over the years. They believe there is a definite message to put across: no, not of doom and gloom, just an awareness of a baffling mystery and very probably an important message for the future. Music is just another medium to put this across.

Bring along a camera to the CEIV concert, the visuals are very interesting: a backdrop 'alien' on stage and fine artwork is used to great effect.

The material is varied, and there is something to suit most tastes. Reviews on CEIV have appeared in the music press and all have been favourable. Original and something new - CEIV are different.



Band member Brian McMullan said, "Sheffield to us it IT. Playing to our own people. They'll understand every lyric, feel every sound, they'll know exactly what's happening." So, go along and see them.

Congress Prices

One of the advantages of staging the congress in Sheffield is that we can radically reduce ticket prices. The entrance fee has therefore been set at £6-00 per day, or £15-00 for all three days. An additional charge of £2-00 is required to watch the rock band CEIV and the congress dinner (limited numbers only) is £9-75.

Tickets are on sale now and you should find a congress booking form elsewhere in this magazine. Booking forms are also available only from:

**Andy Roberts,
84 Elland Road, Brighouse,
West Yorkshire,
HD6-2QR,**

Please make all cheques, postal orders and international money orders payable to BUFORA Ltd. Tickets are on sale, so to avoid disappointment, order yours now.

Full congress details will regularly appear in UFO TIMES and on UFO-CALL 0898 12 18 86 (44p peak 33p standard).

Investigations DIARY

The Regular UFO report update of cases investigated by the NIC and local groups from around the British Isles
Edited by Jenny Randles

1990 generated some well over 1000 press cuttings (see News elsewhere in this issue), easily a record in the ten years I have been keeping score. Whilst most of these referred to crop circles (still the topic gets attention even in mid winter) the occasional UFO was seen. As is the way of things the vast majority were explained. There were no outstanding cases in 1990, eg CE 3s, car stops. So where have they gone?

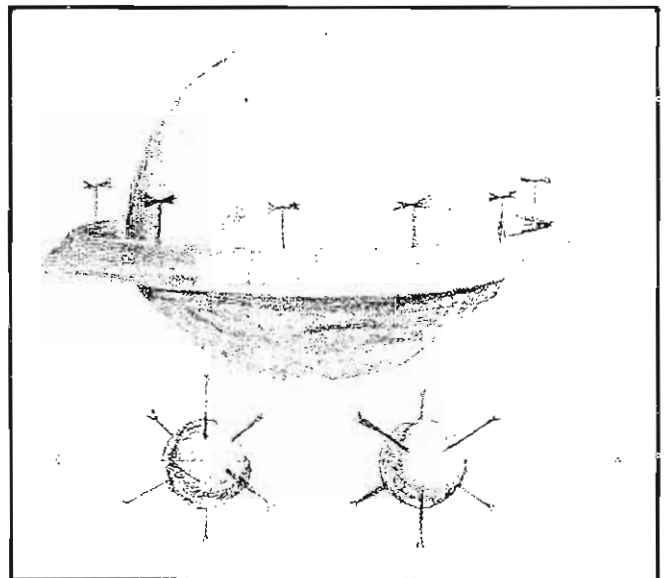
We had a number of spectacular space debris re-entries at the end of the year - including one that created a furore all over Europe on 5 Nov. Sightings by a British aircraft crew from Italy were splashed in several tabloids. Luckily I was able to get the truth across thanks to an unusually lucid story from the Weekly News (8 December) which must have helped BUFORA's image as a serious investigative group. Mind you I noted that in the Jan-Feb issue of the British CSICOP team's; 'The Skeptic' they mention the case and its evaluation but give no praise to BUFORA for having publicly exposed the truth so fast. I think the skeptical community have a responsibility to play fair. They criticise us (often rightly) when we do something wrong. It should work in reverse on the frequent occasions that we get it right.

I hope they are reading this.

Clarke Plaque

In fact, after carrying extracts from 'Phenomenon' the highly popular Weekly News (circulation 670, 000) have been treating UFOs extremely well and coming to BUFORA for a definitive line. In January they did a good report on the work by Ken Higgins and SPI (Ken is also Scottish coordinator of investigations for us, with Malcolm Robinson at SPI having now developed his interest into more overtly paranormal fields). This focussed on the plaque to be placed at the Livingston site of the the famous 1978 landing and the debate (which both SPI and BUFORA spokespeople have

entered) on the wording it will carry. The Livingston Development Council insist on plugging Arthur C Clarke and not even mentioning the witness - which given Clarke's anti-hero role in UFOlogy is - to say the least - a bit of a liberty. If you disagree with their plans on this why not urgently let Ken know so he can pass them on to what appears to be an intransigent development council. We'll let you know if it has any effect.



You might even tell Esther Rantzen at That's Life and suggest the L.D.C. for one of their special council department awards!

Finally, I was interested by the note from Onay Faiz in her report on John Spencer's Sheffield lecture (see UFO Times, January). She commented on a very curious aside concerning myself and the Elsie Oakensen case, without really spelling out what happened. Here it is.

After delving into the original detailed files on the case compiled back in 1978 when it first happened, I contacted Elsie and we discussed a number of ways of approaching her hazy memory of the 'time lapse'. A very fruitful and friendly rapport developed, which I am pleased to say Elsie and I have continued on a number of TV shows in the past couple of years.

I wrote a detailed account into my book 'Abduction' in 1988 and noted that her dim recollection of the missing time via hypnosis included the image of being selected, scanned, promised a return visit and rejected. This was no minor matter. I made a fairly big deal of it in the book.

Imagine my surprise when Elsie asked me where she had said that she had been promised a return visit. I simply replied, its in the notes of the hypnosis session as I was 100% certain that it was. My memory on such things is usually good and I wrote the book from the notes so I was convinced of my ground. But I was wrong. I sought high and low for this statement. The rest is there but there was nothing about being promised a return visit.

When I checked my original version of the script I found I had added this bit on later editing for some reason. I had done it completely unconsciously (probably when in half a trance after a long day at the word processor!) Yet to this day I cannot recall doing it or even begin to guess why I should. I have two parallel memories, one of which contains the story as I KNOW I knew it... the other as I wrote it with this

odd addition.

Perhaps there is a very simple explanation for this, but Elsie has told me she feels there might be more to it... That maybe this is a genuine promise... and who knows? I don't really have a better answer.

The point of mentioning it here is to ask other investigators if they have ever faced a similar situation where their association with a contact or close encounter case seems to have stepped beyond the bounds of the role of outside reporter and to have actually changed the nature of the case, if only in some small fashion.

If you have - go on, own up. Write and tell UFO Times. Who knows it may prove very significant. Perhaps we all just crave a piece of the action and psychologically manipulate facts... or perhaps... well, think about it!

INVESTIGATORS REQUIRED

BUFORA investigation require members to join an ever growing team of dedicated investigators to deal with UFO reports received by the Association.

Once accredited all new investigators receive a **membership discount of 50%**

**Write to: Jenny Randlee,
37 Heathbank Rd, Cheadle Heath,
Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 0UP**

CASEFILECASEFILECASEFILE

70-503 Shoreditch, London Unknown 1970 Inv: Ken Phillips

Multiple experiences of lights and other low definition UFOs over many years and possibly associated poltergeist effects around the house involving strange noises and feelings. Highly anecdotal and difficult to evaluate.

72-204 Montsorrel, Leics. Nov. 1972 Inv: Gordon Perkins

Disc shaped object with 'windows' and a short flame emerging from one side seen by a

woman and child. Woman fled indoors frightened.

77-624 Hyde Park, London 20 July 1977 Inv: Mike Lewis

Person with psychic background got a 'feeling' to go into park and saw a cigar shaped UFO appear in gap in clouds. Many subsequent low definition sightings in Watford area.

80-123 Hinkley, Leics. 26 March 1980 Inv: Reg Burton

A disc shaped object with windows, making a slight humming noise, glided across the sky.

84-029 Hinkley, Leics. Nov. 1984 Inv: Reg Burton

Men in signalbox in early hours saw lozenge shaped object surrounded by lights, which was visible for many minutes. It shot off when aircraft flew over. Case not considered of high credibility value by investigator.

85-022 Dartford, Kent 17 Sept. 1985 Inv: Ken Phillips

Man with many 'visual' experiences of various types had many close encounters of a complex kind with UFOs in the air and landed. Also seen aliens wearing breathing equipment. A highly complicated, rambling and anecdotal case of classic 'psychic contactee' nature.

86-021 Bournemouth, Dorset 1986 onward Inv: Ken Phillips

Another witness who came to us in the wake of Strieber, having written his life story to the man after reading his books. A whole series of way-out CEIV experiences of purely anecdotal nature, including 'alien pellets', tapes given to the US embassy and vivid UFO dreams. Seems to feel that aliens are trying to take over the world and has written many letters trying to show this.

87-027 Rockbeare, Devon 11 June 1987 Inv: Doug Cooper

Woman in car during afternoon, saw thunderclouds and a 'big, green, fluorescent marrow' drifting with them. Curtain of light below. Investigation suggested this was a thundercloud with sun filtering through via the effects of a tinted windscreen of the car.

88-023 Limpsfield, Surrey 8 Feb. 1988 Inv: Gordon Millington

Couple saw two discs side by side in sky, drifting towards Gatwick Airport and pulsating.

88-024 Tamworth, Staffs. 21 May 1988 Inv: Ashley Jones

Multiple lights in the sky, well witnessed and investigated. Shown to be almost certainly an in-flight refuelling exercise by the air force.

88-025 Castlewells, N. Ireland Unknown 1988 No follow-up

RI describing very brief red flash that was clearly a meteor.

88-026 Rainham, Kent ?? Feb 1988 No follow-up

RI describing silver object high in daylight sky drifting into cloud. No date known and almost certainly a toy balloon from the description.

88-027 Bargoed, S. Wales 17 July 1988 No follow-up

Witness report of white light stationary over TV mast. Could be anything.

88-028 Mutford, Suffolk 24 Oct. 1988 Inv: John Copsey

Flashing lights drifted over village shown to be military aircraft and helicopter activity so investigation abandoned.

88-029 Hemel Hempstead, Herts. 29 Oct. 1988 Inv: Michael Lewis

Minor case but best witness description in ages - "three half-sucked Smarties" drifted across the sky at 03.00 covered in orange haze. In V-shape and could well be geese reflecting street lamps from description.

88-030 Hurtwood, Surrey 5 Nov. 1988 Inv: Gordon Millington

Object with lights and searchlight pointing at clouds drifted past couple. Mild Oz Factor 'silence' effects noted.

89-014 Stanage Moor, Derbys. 4 April 1989 Inv: Dave Clarke/Dave Kelly

Excellent in-depth report on couple who chased spinning-top-shaped object with ring of lights over Pennines. Seemed to land at one point and illuminate the ground. No obvious explanation found.

89-015 Corby, Northants. 4 July 1989 Inv: Ernie Still

Silvery light seen in the sky for well over an hour. Probably astronomical.

89-016 Dublin, Eire 30 July 1989 Inv: Pat Delaney/Ann Griffin

Orange disc of light emitted some 100 'baby' lights over many minutes which drifted across the sky in waves. Quite unusual and hard to figure out.

89-017 Potters Bar, Herts. 26 Aug. 1989 Inv: Michael Lewis

Family and friends in garden having a party saw a dark object slowly spinning. Saucer-like with a red band and a ridged dome on under-side. Made a soft whooshing noise as it rotated. Family's dogs barked and one animal sat looking up at it. Hard to explain.

89-018 Icklingham, Suffolk 9 Feb. 1989 Inv: Sandra Amiss/M. Lewis

A mass of lights emitting a loud screeching noise was seen to descend into a wooded area from a car. Much military activity in the area, but none traced for this date and time.

The NIC and the UFO Times editorial board invite any investigator or group to submit material for inclusion in **Investigations Diary**. Full acknowledgement will be given to contributors. All submissions should be sent to the Diary's editor, Jenny Randles, 37 Heathbank Close, Stockport, Cheshire, SK3 0UP.

Evaluation of the GEP-CENAP Perception Experiment

by Dr Alex Keul

At the end of 1988, I received nine data-packs containing the results of perception tests carried out jointly by the two groups, GEP and CENAP. Altogether, there were 128 test sheets, of which 4 larger experiments to 25 persons respectively. The procedure was simple but effective: a colour slide of a rising hot-air balloon (the like of which in the past had provided many UFO reports) was projected in front of a large group of people for a duration of 10 seconds, or, a paper copy of the same colour photograph was placed before the subjects for exactly the same duration. The initiation was kept as a surprise or, in any case, what the nature of the image was in the slide projector cartridge. Following the showing of the slide, the observer was allowed some time to think and to complete a short questionnaire as well as rendering a sketch of the object seen; in some productions, the subjects were given some coloured pencils.

What was the target of these field experiments? It should have been one of confirming previous findings therefore of a span of emphatic 'witness' statements; e.g. for the 10-second duration, there appeared some subjective estimates of 5 seconds and some of 20 seconds; examination of these estimates in the larger groups show better estimates.

The evaluation of such data is relatively easy, but time consuming. The interpretation depends strongly on the experimental conditions. I always only found 'occasional' moments for the analysis and first dealt with the material after over a year had elapsed when this material was compiled. Nevertheless, though changes in the handicap conditions precipitated further effects to the data, I concentrated on following up those four attempts which took place using the slide projection method under the same observer preconditions and which yielded 97 data questionnaires.

On the 21st May 1988, Walter conducted such an attempt in Laupheim (n=28). on the 21st March 1988, Kelch led an experiment in Koala (n=23), on the 16th April 1988 an attempt took place in the 'Mysteria' (Peiniger, n=22) and, on the 15th July 1988, Wunder projected a slide according to a critical report (n=24).

SUBJECTS

The Walter group amounted to 24 men and only 4 women in the age range of 10 - 52 years old (mean age 20.2, s = 8.0). 13 were school children, 4 students, 3 scientists/technicians and 2 businessmen.

The Kelch group was composed of 22 men and only one woman in the age range of 20 - 29 years (mean: 22.7). They came from various professions.

The Peiniger took place in front of 18 men and only 2 women (+2 gender specification missing) in the age range of 23 - 66 years (mean 35.9; s = 12.7) various profession were given.

Finally the Wunder group amounted to 14 men and 9 women (+1 specification missing). The range lay between 11 and 19, therefore, they were all school children.

TIME ESTIMATIONS:-

The real projection time was 10 seconds. The following table tabulates the range of estimates given by each group:-

Walter-group:	range 4 - 20 secs,	mean: 9.8	s = 5.0
Kelch-group:	range 4 - 30 secs,	mean:12.0	s = 6.2
Peiniger-group	range 1.5 - 30 secs,	mean:13.7	s = 9.2
Wunder-group:	range 2 - 30 secs,	mean: 7.5*	s = 5.5

* surprise effect [before slide show] was lacking here

It can be shown in all four experimental groups a considerably similar effect - a time duration misreckoning of a fraction up to treble the actual duration with relatively good mean values. Cautiously, one can say that if a large enough group estimates together, then one can take the mean value as being near the truth. However, few single estimates are but in vain.

CONTENT ANALYSIS OF THE OBJECT SKETCHES:-

These verbal descriptions of the objects seen were the same as demanded of the colour sketches. The Walter and Peiniger groups delivered black and white sketches, the Kelch and Wunder groups colour sketches.

QUALITY OF THE VERBAL DESCRIPTIONS:-

So as not to lose myself in the qualitative analysis, as what happens in the social sciences at times, I evaluated according to a simple rating scale - quality (therefore agreement with the real picture) of the verbal version very good = 1, good 2, neutral (therefore "wishi-washi") = 3, moderate with omissions [of details] = 4 and unequivocally wrong = 5.

This rating gives us the following rating-result for the groups:-

		mean*	s
Walter group:	0 x 1, 10 x 2, 17 x 3,	0 x 4, 0 x 5: 2.6	0.5
Kelch group:	0 x 1, 8 x 2, 14 x 3,	1 x 4, 0 x 5: 2.7	0.6
Peiniger group:	2 x 1, 6 x 2, 5 x 3,	5 x 4, 3 x 5: 3.0	1.2
Wunder group:	0 x 1, 2 x 2, 17 x 3,	2 x 4, 0 x 5: 3.0	0.5

* actually, this was statistically 'forbidden' because of rank-scaling, but it is done in the training manual, so why not here?

This rough (and naturally subjective since one does meet with many guesses!) estimations show that the verbal descriptions of the objects rarely yield very good descriptions, just as there were few completely false ones; most lay within 'good' to 'wishi-washi'.

QUALITY OF THE OBJECT SKETCHES:-

The colour or the black & white sketches were ordered according to their own rating system; i.e. very good with best details given = 1, wishi-washi = 3, completely false = 5. Here, we must put up with non-colour reproductions since they are not present in two of the four groups [as stated at the beginning].

		mean	s
Walter group:	0 x 1, 8 x 2, 9 x 3, 7 x 4, 4 x 5	3.3	1.0
Kelch group:	2 x 1, 9 x 2, 8 x 3, 4 x 4, 0 x 5	2.6	0.9
Peiniger group:	1 x 1, 5 x 2, 9 x 3, 5 x 4, 1 x 5	3.0	0.9
Wunder group:	0 x 1, 9 x 2, 8 x 3, 4 x 4, 0 x 5	2.6	0.9

I must add that, with the quality of the outline of the objects as with the object details, the artists of the Walter group all showed better object details from their memories prompted by the slide. They showed, in comparison to the verbal descriptions, not a considerable difference - few top performances, few total failures; i.e. most sketches were in between, good to meaningless.

Calculating for the verbal descriptions and sketches the percentages of the 'good' to 'very good' reproductions, one comes up with the following group values:-

Walter group:	text: 10, sketch: 8	thus 37% bzw 29%
Kelch group:	text: 8, sketch: 11	" 35% " 48%
Peiniger gr:	text: 8, sketch: 6	" 38% " 29%
Wunder group:	text: 2, sketch: 2	" 10% " 10%*

* these results are not surprising since all the subjects were school children.

In the partition, a third to a maximum of a half of the verbal descriptions and sketches are 'exact' (very good to good reproductions) and it thus questions field material, that is without real comparison values each time, which description was directly to hand!!

EXPLANATIONS

The questionnaire requested an explanation to be given for that just seen:-

Walter group:	16 x traditional/technical, 3 x trick photo, 3 x didn't know.
Kelch group:	9 x traditional/technical, 5 x didn't know, 4 x UFO & 2 natural phenomenon.
Peiniger gr:	8 x traditional/technical [of those 1 gave a hot-air balloon], 4 x didn't know, 5 x natural phenomenon & 3 x UFO.
Wunder group:	18 x traditional/technical [of which: 1 x balloon] & 2 x natural phenomenon.

Quantitatively then we have a predominance of 'being on the right track', through to a traditional solution.

KNOWN UFO INTEREST, UFO LITERATURE

Interest in UFOs was strong to 'mainly not': 1 to 4 quantitatively. Outside of these, I counted how many gave a UFO-literature response

	Interest average	s	UFO-lit.	
Walter group:	2.2	1.0	9	(32%)
Kelch group:	2.4	0.8	4	(17%)
Peiniger gr:	1.5	0.8	10	(45%)
Wunder group	1.6	0.6	0	(0%)!

The school children in the Wunder group responded negatively to the UFO literature exposure question even though their interests in UFO subjects are as strong as the other examination groups. It seems then that - which was not surprising - interest themes are relevant to such an organisation and not complete disinterest.

THE NECESSITY OF UFO RESEARCH

Herewith a short summary of a yes-vote with or without ridiculing the UFO hypothesis (ETH):-

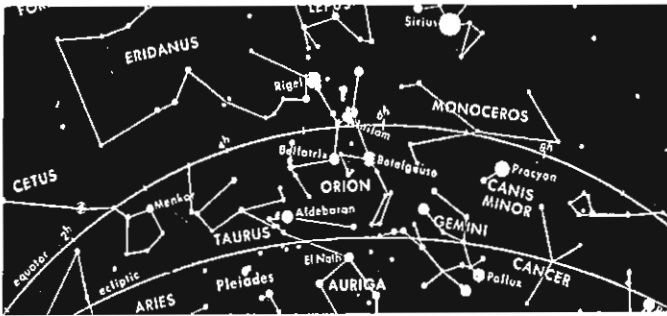
Walter:	'yes' 18x	'ETH' 3x	%'yes': 64
Kelch:	" 20x	" 11x!	" : 87
Peiniger:	" 20x	" 3x	" : 91
Wunder:	" 19x	" 4x	" : 79

The argument that UFO research needs - from the foreseen matter of finance - to have such a rate of funding so as not to be squeezed out of existence: the largest majority organisations hold that funding is necessary and should be an entitlement; certainly this view is even found amongst those who aren't necessarily UFO proponents.

There is very much more (variation analysis, factor analysis or other powerful tools) that I could and should do with the data, but due to time and cost factors, I cannot. The praiseworthy efforts of GEP and CENAP their public surveys for the examination of good witness evidence is useful to have and altogether, confirms earlier English, American and Austrian working results. Therefore, here once again we have significant knowledge for critical field investigations:-

Groups of people ought to give a widely scattered response in estimations: only the average figure is really useful.

Verbal descriptions and sketches are mainly good to 'wishi-washi': a third to a maximum of a half - but what data is this? Here the 'good' lies only in the statistical evaluation of the larger groups: not in the single unit.



Skywatcher

Edited by Gary Anthony

Introduction

Skywatcher is back this issue, after a short vacation, with all the regular features. News includes the spectacular re-entry of Salyut 7, updates on both the Ulysses and Hipparcos ESA projects. Plus why the European Space Agency needs astronauts!

The Planets

VENUS - March. The planet is at magnitude -4.0 in the evening sky, southwest to west, setting some 3 hours after the sun by the end of the month. Moon nearby on the 18th.

April - Is still bright and moving eastwards through Taurus, setting some 4 hours after the sun by the 30th. Moon nearby on the 17th.

MARS - March. The planet is moving through Taurus towards Gemini at 1.0 magnitude, setting at 02hrs by the 31st. The Moon occultates Mars on the 22nd at 17hrs.

April. The planet moves eastwards through Gemini at magnitude 1.4. Moon nearby on the 19th/20th.

JUPITER - March. Reaches a stationary point on the 30th, after which the planet will move eastwards towards the Presepe star cluster in Cancer, at magnitude -2.6. Moon nearby on the 25th.

April. Jupiter is moving through the Presepe star cluster, setting by 02hrs late in April. The Moon passes 2 degrees south of Jupiter on the 21st.

SATURN - March. Rises at approximately 03.30hrs by the 30th at 0.7 magnitude. Moon is nearby on the 12th.

April. Saturn rises before 02hrs at the end of the month. The planet is moving eastwards on the Sagittarius/Capricorn border at magnitude 0.7. Moon nearby on the 9th.

skydata

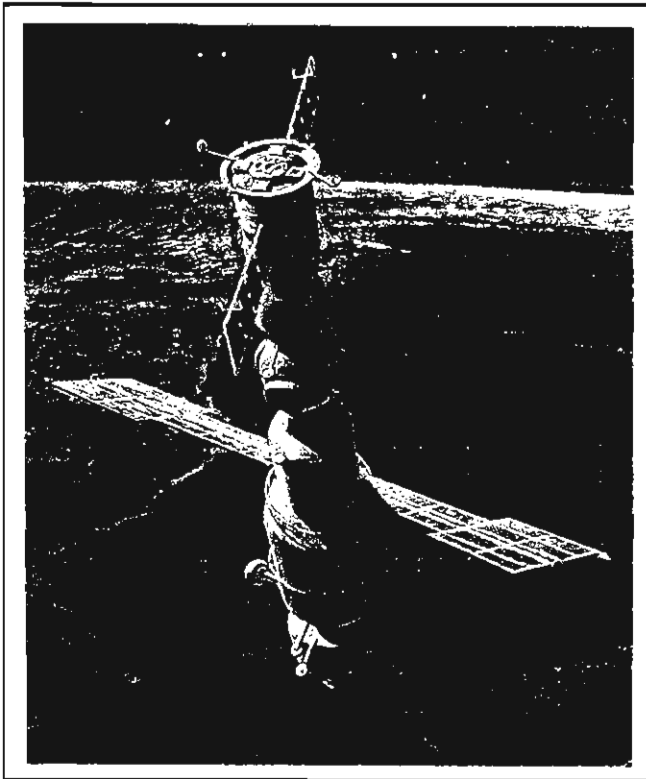
MARCH				1991				APRIL			
8th	11h			Last Quarter		7th	07h				
16th	08h			New Moon		14th	20h				
23th	06h			First Quarter		21st	13h				
30th	07h			Full Moon		28th	21h				
RA		Dec		Venus		RA		Dec			
--South-West	>	West--		--South-West	>	West--					
03h > 06h	+10°	> +30°		Mars	06h > 08h	+10°	> +30°				
08h > 09h	+10°	> +30°		Jupiter	08h 37m	+20.2°					
18h > 20h	-10°	> -30°		Saturn	19h > 21h	-10°	> -30°				
Meteor Showers											
Name	Begins	Maximum	Ends	Max ZHR	Radiant Coordinates						
Virginids	Mar 5	Mar 20	Apr 5	5	190° RA	00° Dec					
Lyrids	Apr 19	Apr 21	Apr 24	10	272° RA	+32° Dec					

Note: All co-ordinates refer to the 'equatorial system'.

SPACE NEWS

Salyut Re-entry Spectacle

Salyut-7, the Soviet space station launched in 1982, joined the fate of Kosmos-1686 re-entered the Earth's atmosphere on the evening and morning of the 6th/7th February 1991.



With a combined mass of 40 tonnes, Salyut's re-entry occurred over the South American continent and gave a spectacular display to many Argentinian observers before fragmenting over a northern mountain range, spreading debris over a wide area. Russian space scientists have visited the re-entry site to assess damage on a spacecraft which was constructed to withstand a battering.

Ulysses: Fully Operational

Ulysses, the European's second deep-space probe to become the first spacecraft to fly over the poles of the sun in May 1994 and 1995, is now reported to be fully operational 127 million km from Earth.

Encouraging radio signals from the probe are taking over 6 minutes to reach the NASA Deep Space Network ground

stations (see UT5):

Astronauts Wanted: Apply Within

The European Space Agency are on the hunt for astronauts. A recruiting procedure is underway in ESA member states to find candidates.

The lucky few who may eventually qualify, will make regular flights on the ESA's forthcoming space-plane 'Hermes', to visit the international space-station and service the proposed free-flying laboratory 'Columbus'. More news in a later edition of 'Skywatcher'.

Hipparcos Exceeds Expectations

The High Precision Parallax Collecting Satellite, Hipparcos (acronym) is exceeding everyone's expectations and is providing fundamental astronomical data.

Two teams of astronomers are responsible for analysing the Hipparcos data, both using different techniques to check the validity of each other's efforts. One team 'NDAC' has fully reduced observations of 6,000 stars, resulting in a catalogue of their positions - surpassing all previous catalogues by an accuracy value of 50X.

The other team called 'FAST' has determined the brightness of over 30,000 stars, with unprecedented accuracy (and discovering several hundred new double stars in the process).

Despite many initial setbacks in the Hipparcos project, the satellite is still functional - sending back excellent data and has already proved its worth as a major breakthrough in astronomy.

All information courtesy of ESA and NASA.

If any investigator requires astronomical information to help with the evaluation of case investigations please write to:

Gary Anthony, BUFORA ARP, 119 Askew Avenue, Hull, North Humberside, HU4 6LT

LETTERS

If you want to air your views on the UFO subject, then send your correspondence to:

The Editor,
UFO Times,
103 Hove Avenue,
London,
E17 7NG

Circles Duo

Dear Editor,

After seeing Jenny Randles and Paul Fuller present their interesting talk on the CORN CIRCLES and after reading the first issue of the CROP WATCHER I would like to raise an issue which I am sure is in a lot of peoples' minds.

As regards the MEADEN VORTEX, which has been put forward to explain all of the circular, rectangular and even triangular formations in fields, I wonder, would it be at all possible in the future for Dr. Meaden to publish for us a very simple explanation of the known mechanics involved in a way that us lay-persons could easily understand. The eyewitness accounts put forward by Ms. Randles and Mr. Fuller add weight to their argument, but most of us have only seen swirling circular or elliptical dust clouds, I ask has anyone seen rectangular or triangular ones? I also find it very hard to accept that most UFO cases could be atmospheric effects. Surely, there are so many 'nuts and bolts' cases of definite metallic objects being seen, as opposed to to clouds of dust flying through the air.

I must state that I am neither a supporter of the 'vortex' nor the 'visitors' theory, yet, this aspect of the meteorologist's side must be clarified if we are to understand and accept it. It is just as mystifying to me as any other force unknown to science until it is put into terms that can be seen to fit in with present scientific laws.

Dr. Meaden, please come up with your results soon. I am sure many will do their best to understand them, like myself.

Daniel Manning.
London

Editors comment: Paul and Jenny would probably be the first to accept that they do not completely understand Meaden's equations and calculations and I know that I certainly don't. But equally a simplification would also be difficult, as we are dealing with a complex phenomenon, however I do accept your point.

Meaden does seem to stretch his hypothesis too far to account for all circle sets and the UFO subject in general - which is a criticism that many have quite rightly voiced.

Dear Editor,

I would like to take issue with some points contained in Jenny Randles' letter (UT 10) concerning crop circles.

The danger with enthusiastically promoting theories is acceptance of facts which seem to fit and discarding facts that do not, in order to expand the rationale. This is familiar ground in ufology. We have recently been offered "projections of the mind," and earthlights as the definitive answers - now it is the Meaden vortex theory. Any rationale that may be acceptable to orthodox science is grasped like the proverbial straw. Scientists are not Gods and are frequently wrong. They are currently revising all their ideas about the universe as space probes have blown the fuses of astronomical knowledge.

If you intend to court the scientific establishment you must be able to meet scientific standards of concerning proof of a claimed discovery. Until then it is only a theory, and you should not use the word "discovery" as Jenny has in her letter and presumably, lecture material.

Perhaps there is an unknown vortex, but if it is genuinely gaining in complexity and frequency we must

question its origin and nature in an open minded way and anyone wishing to discard "the old school" of ufology, must do so on the basis of evidential proof only, which in all fairness should come from the proponents of the vortex theory. The retention of all possibilities until the elimination on the basis of testable evidence is surely the basis of true scientific research and would be more acceptable to the scientific establishment.

Terry Cox
Redmoor, Bodmin.

Editor's comment: The scientific establishment is warming to the vortex theory. Many professional meteorologists are in support of Meaden's theories, which is in stark contrast to the sensational 'pop' cereologists whose 'intelligent something' theories have little or no backing at all (except from other cereologists in the same club). As I stated in reply to Jenny's letter, the Meaden Vortex theory is the best we have got at present, although not completely convincing we have to use that as a firm grounding to progress to an answer to this strange phenomenon.

Entire Agreement

Dear Editor,

May I, through the medium of UT's pages, first of all apologise to those attending the meeting at the London Business School on February 2nd expecting to hear a lecture by me. That my absence was due to the unfortunate and unanticipated entry of my wife into hospital was, I am sure conveyed to those present. I hope I may have the pleasure of delivering this talk on a future occasion.

Whilst writing, however, I would also like to comment on your editorial in UT10. In previous correspondence it has been clear that we do not quite share to the same emphasis in our approach to solving the UFO enigma. However, I have to say that on reading the editorial 'Beware the Satanist', I am in entire agreement with every word and would commend you for having the courage to print what some will inevitable regard as an anti-Christian incursion

Wanted

UFO/Flying Saucer models and kits, both new and second-hand. Plus ufological memorabilia of all types (badges, stickers, T-shirts and videos etc).

Reasonable prices paid. Overseas items especially required.



*Contact: Philip Mantle,
1 Woodhall Drive, Batley,
West Yorkshire, WF17 7SW*

into a subject that they consider it has nothing to do with. But it HAS!

I agree. Your worry that 'fundamentalists will eventually turn to Ufology and claim that it too is evil and satanic' is fully justified - some already do! 'Satanism' is far too often used as a 'blanket' term for any pagan or occult religion or religious practice, when, it is an inverse Christianity - itself arguably the most occult of all.

The basic meaning of 'occult' is 'hidden' or 'mysterious'. Much of Christian lore is 'hidden' and 'mysterious'. 'God moves in mysterious ways....' Come to think of it - so do UFO's! Or does that constitute blasphemy?

Norman Oliver.
Lincoln.

Editor's comment: We were all sorry to hear about your wife's admittance to hospital and please pass on our good wishes to her. I understand that our lecture organiser has put your name down for inclusion in the 91/92 lecture programme.

Thank you for your words of support. I was hoping to stir up some controversial discussion, but alas none seems forthcoming. I must have struck an agreeable cord instead!

- 2nd Mar National Investigations Committee Meeting
BUFORA London Lecture **Thoughtography - Or?**
Speaker Maurice Grosse
- 6th Apr BUFORA London Lecture **BUFORA A.G.M** followed by **Hypnotic Regression or Hypnotic Suggestion**
Speaker Paul Bew
- 23rd Apr **Special London Lecture at the LBS**
As part of his UK tour **Dr Frank Stranges** will give a talk along with his **Venusian Arch Angel - Valiant Thor** at the LBS. Starts 7pm. Ticket prices £3.00 members, £5.00 non-members. More details on UFOCALL.
- 4th May BUFORA London Lecture **Abduction and Afterwards: A Personal Experience**
Speaker Elsie Oakensen

BUFORA London lectures are held every first Saturday of the month at the new lecture theatre complex, London Business School, Sussex Place, Outer Circle, Regents Park, London, NW1. The LBS is only a five minute walk from Baker Street tube. Lectures start at 6.30pm. Entrance £1.00 members, £2.50 non-members. The new theatre has wheelchair access and facilities for the disabled. **All are welcome.** Full lecture programmes are available from BUFORA (LP), 16 Southway, Burgess Hill, Sussex, RH15 9ST.

If you have an event that you wish to publicise on this page **free of charge** then write to the editorial address (page 2) with your request, three months in advance.

Some late news on Congress '91. Linda Malton Howe, leading expert on cattle mutilations and producer of the film 'Strange Harvest' will be speaking at the Congress.

Special Congress ties and T-shirts embossed with the congress logo are now available.

Ties are priced at £6.50 each (inc. p&p) in a multitude of colours and are available from: **Philip Mantle, 1 Woodhall Drive, Batley, W. Yorkshire, WF17 7SW.** Cheques payable to P Mantle. T-shirts that fit all sizes cost £6.25 and can be obtained from: **Rodney Howarth, 37 Sandiway Drive, Harle Syke, Burnley, Lancashire.** Cheques payable to R Howarth. Only a limited number available, so send your orders now.

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