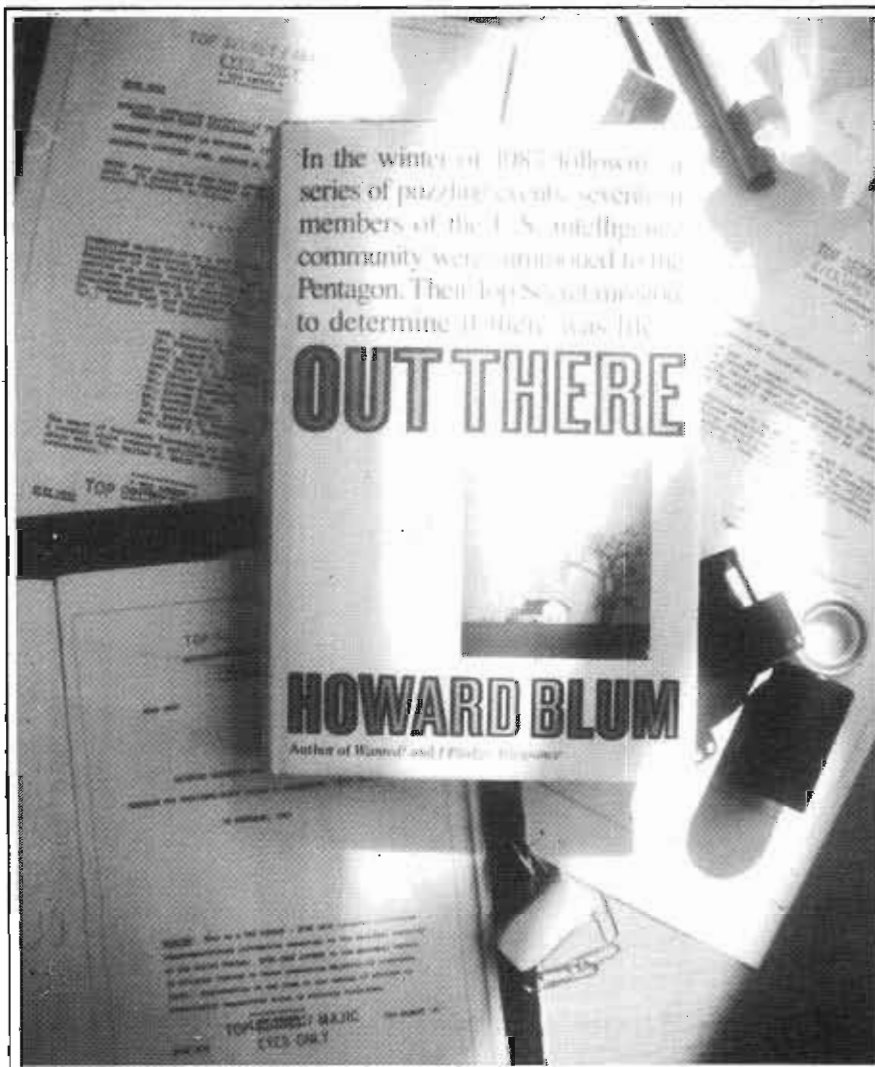

UFO TIMES

Number 9 September 1990

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MAJIC MOMENTS

A BUFORA PUBLICATION

INSIDE

What's really behind MJ-12? Why is the US Government still spending millions of dollars on UFO research? In a UFO Times exclusive interview, Howard Blum, Author of 'Out There' reveals all.

Under the title of Abduction: A Regressional Case in Question, Mike Wootten relates a new abduction case with a thought provoking twist.

Gaynor Wootten critically reviews the new film 'Communion - The Movie .

Plus..... Steve Gamble presents BUFORA's latest research Investigations Diary, Skywatcher, reviews, news and more...

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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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Number 9 September 1990

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Contents

4. **Editorial**
5. **Out There - An exclusive UT Interview**
Mike Wootten
9. **Chairman's Statement**
Steve Gamble
11. **Impossible Radar Returns**
Manfred Cassirer
13. **Research Update**
Steve Gamble
19. **Abduction - A Regressional Case in Question**
Mike Wootten
21. **Reviews**
25. **Investigations Diary**
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26. **Skywatcher**
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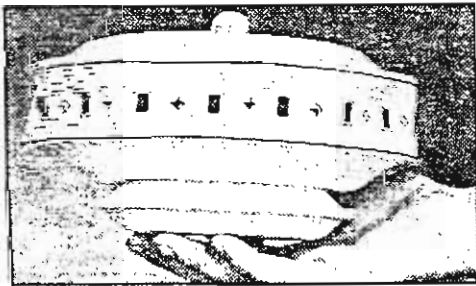
UFO TIMES

EDITORIAL

A Gulf from the Truth

An intriguing development this summer was the alleged discovery of the Gulf Breeze UFO model that was claimed to be used by Ed Walters to fake his amazing pictures. The model had been found behind wall insulation in the previous home of Mr Ed by the new owner. At the time, the whole case was in the balance.

However, after careful study of drafting paper that was used to construct the model and also signed by Ed himself, it was discovered that the drafting paper had been used on a project that post dated Ed's UFO photographic sessions. So how and why was it there in the first place?



The model behind the controversy

The perpetrators seem to be Pensacola News Journal who were the first with the story and wanted to discredit their rival local paper, The Gulf Breeze Sentinel who have stridently supported not only Ed Walters but all the many witnesses who have come forward with corroborative evidence.

The moral of this story is that once again we see the media play a key role in shaping public perception of the UFO subject by confusion and distortion of the facts. Unfortunately, ufology has always been in the pocket of the media and probably will never have the opportunity to escape.

Now Autumn marches on leaving the warm, fair weather and Corn Circles behind for another year. This now begs the question: Have we learned anything from yet another summer of searching the fields and the skies for the answer to the Circles mystery? I have to say no.

Like last year, the circles enigma remains a mystery. We still scratch our heads with puzzlement and some still wildly theorize about 'higher intelligences' being involved who are trying to communicate with man. Well I have to say that these intelligences can't be very intelligent if all they can come up with are circle patterns that mean very little to us except that they are aesthetically pleasing to the eye. After 10 years of popular circle appearances these 'intelligences' would have realised that they were not getting through and changed tack. However, those who still cling on to such fanciful notions would argue that we just haven't cracked the code yet. Time will tell.

As this is a phenomenon that leaves traces that we can touch and see must lead us to the reasonable conclusion that we should be able to capture this effect on film and record it's interactions with nature for analysis. Circle researchers, or cerealologists, as some like to be called have failed to record anything that confirms any of the many theories that have been presented. On the one occasion that the creation of a circle had been captured on film this year, turned out to be an elaborate hoax.

Next year, cerealologists must concentrate on the scientific recording of the phenomenon then we can move on from theorising to stating facts.

One of the problems of the annual circles circus is that UFOs seem to be put on ice for six months and apparently forgotten about. Hundreds of news clippings come to BUFORA from newspapers all over the country and only a tiny proportion of these cuttings cover UFOs. Most are concerned with circles. So now the circles season is over we can all settle down to the riggers of ufology once again.

OUT THERE

An Exclusive Interview
With
Howard Blum

by Mike Wootten

The MJ-12 documents, considered by many to be the ultimate evidence that the United States Government has known all along that UFOs were extraterrestrial in origin has had a bumpy track record since their discovery. Several ufologist have questioned their validity while others have profited from the intrigue these few sheets of paper have generated.

Amongst the ferocity of the MJ-12 argument is a theory that they are simply part of a carefully orchestrated disinformation plot, generated by one of the several Government agencies. A New book which looks at the MJ-12 saga at a different perspective is 'Out There' written by investigative journalist, Howard Blum. A complete newcomer to ufology, Blum relates his fruitful journey through he corridors of power at the Pentagon, where his findings are literally out of this world. The discovery of the never-before-heard-of 'UFO Working Group' which meets regularly in an underground, bug-proof room at the Pentagon called 'The Tank' and the unveiling of secret funding of the SETI project are at the core of his book.

I was able to interview Howard Blum while he was staying in London recently.

MW. What has been your previous UFO interest?

HB. None. Basically, I am a reporter. I trained as a reporter for the New York Times and have won a bunch of awards. By

nature I am a sceptic and a cynic and I would even be wrong at this point to say that I have any UFO interest except for the fact that I am a reporter and a taxpayer and want to know what the US government has been doing. It enraged me when I literally stumbled upon this story when researching something else. The US Government had said it was out of the business of investigating UFOs back in 1969 with the close of Project Blue Book and now this is just not

the case because they are spending hundreds of millions of dollars looking at this possibility - covertly.

MW. What were the first pieces of evidence that convinced you that the US Government were hiding something.

HB. While I was researching the Walker Spy Case, people in the National Security Agency, which is the American eavesdropping network, told me that I should really look into this thing, that they are listening to the heavens, they are concerned about extraterrestrial life and that there has been a working group put together to investigate this possibility. The first thing that I did was to contact all the official sources that I had worked with in the past. Everyone denied it, categorically. Not, 'No comment' but just flat out denials. So then I still continued to ask around and when I encountered people who actually were either members of this group or had given presentations to it, the disparity between the truth and the official statements was enough to spur me on. These outright denials which they were so insistent on, so adamantly, were not the case. This encouraged me to find out what they were hiding.

MW. It appears in the book that the details and confirmations of the existence of the UFO Working Group were easily discovered or related to you by your sources. Was it that easy?

HB. I can assure you it was not easy. However I give the impression in the

book that I am telling the entire story of the UFO Working Group. But, what I was able to do was take the areas where I had the facts and describe them in as much detail as possible, trying even to get the colour of the socks that the speaker was wearing. But really I only have the tip of the iceberg of what the UFO Working Group is doing. This is an ongoing investigative body run by the Defence Intelligence Agency based in the Pentagon, investigating the entire collection of areas concerned with the possibility of extraterrestrial life. It involves military, scientific and civilian attempts to look at this. I do not have all the story, I have a start.

I hope that one of the things that my book will do will be to force the American law makers to first question why so much money is being spent covertly - without Congress' and the American taxpayers permission to look into these subjects and secondly what specifically have they found.

MW. Your last book resulted with Congressional hearings taking place. Can you see this happening with 'Out There'?

HB. Yes. I am sure that these agencies are worried and it is probable that Congress will want some reasons why millions of Dollars are being spent on UFO and SETI research. But we will have to see.

MW. I was interested to read in the book that President Reagan had asked for an investigation concerning UFOs, after a spate of sighting had been reported at sensitive military establishments. With a wide presumption from within the UFO community that the MJ-12 documents are genuine evidence that nuts and bolts spaceships have and are visiting us, Reagan would surely have not have needed to ask for such an investigation, he would have known what they were?

HB. To me, as a reporter, it's the facts are what's important. After two years of investigation the FBI couldn't determine the authenticity of MJ-12. I think the true story is that MJ-12 was part of a Government disinformation plot. I think that the Government were so intent on harassing UFO believers, on

manipulating them, on illegally spying on them. Now why were they doing this?

America is an open society. You can go pretty far with a video camera, with the Freedom of Information Act and access to particular documents. I think these people [UFO researchers] were stumbling on to some larger secrets. For example, they would go around to bases in New Mexico and Arizona where the Stealth bomber was being tested. These manoeuvres would be recorded by video camera and the US Government were very concerned that these video tapes would be passed on to reporters or foreign nations. They wanted to do what ever they could to discredit the people who were in possession of these tapes. I think that is why this disinformation campaign started out. I think that the MJ-12 documents are part of this. This is my opinion and not as yet a fact as yet.

MW. To me MJ-12 is like a jigsaw piece that has been forced to fit into the UFO, ET picture. Is this your view?



HB. This is a valid statement. The circumstances of how the MJ-12 documents were delivered raise a lot of questions, but then at the same time, the most you can say in the defence of MJ-12 is that the FBI with all it's resources has not been able to say it is a fraud.

MW. Going back to the specifics of your book. You spend a lot of time discussing the many experiences that the inhabitants of Elmwood, Wisconsin, but brushed aside the events at Gulf Breeze which is a very big case in the United

States. Why was this?

HB. Yes. Again this book is not based on my opinions. The UFO Working Group has paid very little attention to the case. Those who are running the UFO Working Group in the Pentagon believe that the sightings in Gulf Breeze are too similar to various military test flights that are performed in that area. You have to realise that Gulf Breeze is very close to Cuba, so there is a lot going on down there. The UFO Working Group did not pursue the case for what ever reasons they had.

MW. Did the UFO Working Group consider Gulf Breeze to be a hoax?

HB. To the best of My knowledge, they did not look into it. They were very selective of the cases they chose to investigate.

MW. Do you think that Bill Moore's behind-the-scenes cooperation with the intelligence services will damage his credibility within the UFO community?

HB. I Think Bill Moore is a very complex man. If you participate in a programme he admits drove ufologist, Dr Paul Benerwitz to the point of a nervous breakdown, has to give you pause about the man's humanity towards his friends and associates. At the same time this does not necessarily impune his research.

It may be helpful to your readers to differentiate between Bill Moore and myself. Bill Moore is an intelligent man and his associates are quite impressive. They are also UFO believers. I'm still a cynic and a sceptic about most things. What I have done is take a little narrow area. But that narrow area turned out to be rather dramatic and revealing arena where the US Government is looking into questions that Bill Moore thinks he

already has the answer too.

MW. Governments around the world do cover-up the UFO question. But is the cover-up simply because they don't know the answer themselves?

HB. What you say is very key. The attitudes of a government is almost by definition maternalistic and they act as a parent. Parents don't like their children to ask questions when they don't know the answer. The other reason is that governmental administration and the military are by nature secretive, that's how they live their lives.

MW. From your research, did you find any British connection?

HB. Not directly. However, I am sure that there is an information exchange of UFO material between governments.

MW. I understand that you and your book have the backing of MUFON. However, do you think you are going to have a hard time convincing those hardliners who strongly believe that the MJ-12 panel actually existed?

HB. My role in relation to UFO groups is that I am a spectator not necessarily



Howard Blum

a believer. I am a reporter who is covering and investigating a Government programme set up to look into the UFO phenomenon. This is the first substantiated evidence of Government involvement in these UFO activities, looking into the possibility of UFOs and extraterrestrial life since Project Blue Book. I can offer this to various groups and to various people who already believe and they can shrug their shoulders and say I didn't look hard enough. In this particular situation, I am the man in the middle. The people who don't believe say by book supports their case because I showed no smoking gun. Those who want to believe, I've given them something in the sense that I have shown that the Government are spending hundreds of millions of dollars because they have large doubts. There are generals in the US Air Force who are deeply concerned with the territorial integrity of the United States. If they are fearful then maybe we should be too.

MW. What is the UFO Working Group working on at the moment?

HB. I wouldn't like to reveal too much at this time, but all I will say is that they are looking at the alien abduction question right now. But that doesn't mean that they say it is for real though.

MW. From what you have shown in the book, do you think there will be a final admission?

HB. I actually do. I think with Congressional outcry, I hope that this illegal disinformation programme will attract attention and criticism. I also think that the media in the US will focus on this because as I have said before what is being done is illegal and unethical. Taking advantage of people's beliefs is wrong.

This is a true story. This is a continuing story. I am hoping that this will bring out more information about the UFO Working Group and to force Congress to grapple with the question and to get to the bottom of it all.

MW. Will there be an 'Out There II'?

HB. Whether there will be an 'Out There II' will depend on whether people like 'Out There I'!

Sectioned into six parts 'Out There' dramatises the goings on within the Defence Intelligence Agency's UFO Working Group, their undercover investigation of sightings in Elmwood, Wisconsin and a long detailed chronology of the Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence project which makes for interesting reading. Blum also describes in great depth the scandalous behaviour of Bill Moore and his four year double life as a 'deep throat' informer for the Air Force Office of Special Intelligence which left fellow UFO researcher Paul Bennewitz a broken man.


But where was the startling new evidence that was going to rock ufology?

As I got closer to the end of this 300 page tome I expected a crescendo of facts and supporting


Continued on page 24

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Chairman's Statement

The Way Ahead
Number 2

Steve Gamble

In issue 3 of UFO Times (September 1989, pages 9-10) a short article was published which explained how I, and the BUFORA Council, saw the development of the Association over the next couple of years. This short statement is an update on the previous item.

We are coming up the start of our new financial year and I think I am giving away no secrets in telling you that the Council have been discussing the subscription rate for the next season. There have been a couple of exceptional factors in the last year which have meant that the budgeting has had to be tight (see below) so the discussions have been long and considered. As you will remember last summer Council fixed the annual subscription as being £18 per annum. (As a one off for last year only existing members who renewed early were invited to pay only £16-50). Council has decided to hold the subscription rate at £18 for the time being. It considerably helps BUFORA if members renew early, for a majority of members a renewal advice will be included with this magazine. For future years Simon Rose is investigating the possibility of making a Direct Debit facility available, although BUFORA might be too small for this to be of interest to the bank.

Get Those Members!

The only way BUFORA is able to maintain its subscription rate at this level is by expanding the membership and increasing our income from other sources. I believe that the number of members is increasing, although we will only really know when we have the final number at 31st August. Please help us to help you by obtaining new members. Most of the increase in members we have had is not so much in more people applying to join but in losing fewer of our

existing members. Our turnover of members is similar to that of other organisations I have been an officer of.

Our rate of loss of members is about a third less than it was several years ago, although we should look to improve on this further.

Promote

Apart from promoting membership of BUFORA you can help by promoting our other activities such as meetings, UFOCALL and other publications. In addition to the monthly lectures in London, BUFORA is promoting again in the next year regional meetings. These have proved fairly popular and further details will be available on the Lecture card, in UFO Times and on UFOCALL. This was one of the objectives I put forward in the previous Chairman's statement.

But what of the other objectives? Well Council have been following up the problem of establishing a central headquarters. We have been in touch with a number of government and regional agencies to see what practical help or advice would be available to us. So far very little has been forthcoming, but they won't get rid of us that easily!! You will see towards the end of this article information that might cause the postponement of this project.

Following the previous article a member who had experience in the legal

profession came forward to offer help with applying for charitable status for BUFORA. As you will see below we have had to postpone moves in this direction as all our legal expertise and much of Council's time has been diverted to deal with a more urgent problem.

Legal Action

I must finish on a somewhat unhappy note. In my Chairman's AGM Report (UFO Times 5, January 1990, pages 17 & 19) it was my duty to inform members of a legal action against the Association. We had hoped at that time that the matter could be settled reasonably and amicably without vast expense, unfortunately this has not proved to be the case. Large amounts of your officers, and a number of other members time, which should have been devoted to UFO research, has been wasted protecting the Association against this attack. This has also severely damaged the reserve fund which BUFORA was building to finance future projects. It appears that the law is there to protect the rich, not the innocent.

At the time of the AGM Report I did not reveal the names of the parties involved as we hoped for a quick settlement. Since David Langford in his column in the computer magazine "8000 PLUS" (June 1990, page 67) has 'blown the gaff' it can do no harm to inform members of the parties involved. Stanton Friedman has issued a writ against the Manchester Evening News (MEN), Jenny Randles and BUFORA. The writ claims that

the MEN published, as part of an article on UFOs, which included an interview with Jenny, defamatory statements. The article mentioned amongst other things that Jenny is an officer of BUFORA, at no point does it claim that she was acting on behalf of BUFORA or as a spokesman. The claim against BUFORA is that Jenny must have been acting on BUFORA's behalf. Jenny denies making any defamatory statements, and since BUFORA does not hold corporate opinions on the subject BUFORA maintains any views expressed in the article could not have been those of the Association.

I must close this update now before the Editor starts muttering about needing extra pages in the UFO Times (the treasurer would never wear it!). Hopefully, in the next Chairman's statement I will be able to bring better news.

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF
BUFORA LTD.**

The **SIXTEENTH** Annual General Meeting of BUFORA Ltd will be held at **THE LONDON BUSINESS SCHOOL, REGENTS PARK, LONDON NW1**. in the **LECTURE THEATRE** at 6-30pm on **SATURDAY 6th April 1991** to receive the **Chairman's Report, the Report of the Council of Management, the Accounts of the Treasurer, and to appoint the Auditor according to the Articles of the Association.**

Steve Gamble, Chairman

Bargain clearance of surplus magazine stock

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Impossible Radar Returns

by Manfred Cassirer

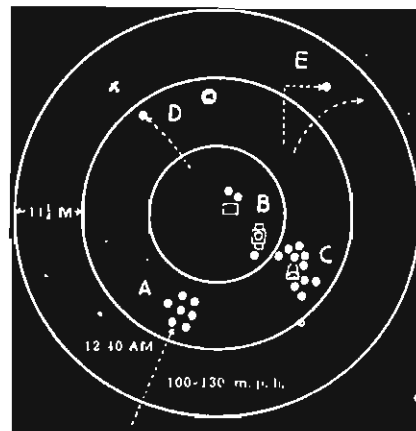
Everything mechanical is liable to malfunction, but malfunctioning is often symptomatic of anomalies (1). In the present context it is reasonable to revert to the perennial subject of vehicle interference, which is generally attributed to EM effects or "rays" coming from the UFO or its occupants. At least this gives the subject an appropriate contemporary "scientific" veneer. My main objection to this is that it fails to account for related problems experienced by owners of horse-drawn carts and waggons (2).

Dr. Robert Morris, Koestler Professor of parapsychology at Edinburgh, tells me that he is currently investigating computers that simply go haywire in the presence of certain individuals. But what about radar?

Ruppelt, one-time head of Project Blue Book, recorded good cases of UFOs tracked on radar, sometimes with simultaneous visual sightings (3). But how is one to assess those showing ostensibly ridiculous returns lacking any visual contact whatever?

During the famous Washington scare the reality of the UFO seemed to be strongly supported since "people were seeing the same target that the radar was picking up, and not just in Washington" (4). However, it should be noted that prior to this episode it had rarely happened that UFO targets were in view at the same time as the returns on the radar screen. An example is connected with the big flap in the States on June 1st 1952 (i.e., in the same year as the Washington sightings). At a distance of only ten miles from a radar site near Riverside, California, nothing was to be seen; yet the tracking device was working perfectly and painted a presence after it had been carefully checked. Temperature inversion had also been ruled out as a causative factor. In Condon's Case No21,5 the target is reported by operators of two separate airports while nothing is seen from the

control tower. It was concluded that there was no adequate explanation other than a radar "artifact"; the alternative "reflector hypothesis" was dismissed as unsatisfactory.



JULY 20, 1952 WASH., D.C. RADAR SCOPE

- A - Approaching UFO's.
- B - UFO's over the White House and Capitol.
- C - UFO's over Andrew's Air Base.
- D - UFO follows a airliner.
- E - UFO makes abrupt 90 turn.

There remains one other hypothesis to account for uncoordinated targets: psychokinetic energy emanating from the operator himself, corresponding to the now familiar process known as the "observer effect", which has the unfortunate side-effect of virtually vitiating control-experiments in parapsychology (6). It is a possibility that was most unlikely to suggest itself to the United States Air Force.

So far as I know, it has never been

envisaged by any member of the ufological fraternity, and least of all in the present context. It represents a plausible way-out of a serious dilemma, and goes a long way towards accounting for certain intractable instances in apparent contradiction of the assumption of "real" solid objects in the sky as popularly conceived. And let's face it: we still have little idea of the true nature of the UFO; a concept largely negatively defined as an "unknown". "The UFO...", says Hilary Evans (7), "...is not a single phenomenon." He postulates "[There are] no less than four sources of UFO reports", and of course there may be more.

Ignored

The United States Air Force vacillated over the years (Project Grudge - Blue Book) between a simplistically naive belief in spacecraft from whatever extraterrestrial source and the even less reasonable dismissal of the phenomenon on a variety of grounds, each valid in itself but ruled out by other data. Captain Ruppelt's excellent positive report was tuned down to the point of extinction when pressure had possibly been applied by the authorities. Anomalous and obscure, barely understood, atmospheric celestial displays in the wilds of Scandinavia and geophysical influences have been added to the list, but the findings of psychical research (parapsychology) are unjustifiably ignored in the overall study of the syndrome.

References

1] Cassirer, M., Parapsychology & the UFO. M. Cassirer, London 1988, ch 5.

2] Cassirer, M., "Electromagnetic Effects", BUFORA BULLETIN 3 (1982). P.12f.; "Vehicle Interference Ancient & Modern", BUFORA BULLETIN 25 (1987). P.6f. (It may, of course, be argued that the mechanism that stalls motor-cars etc. in conjunction with alleged radiation effects is of a different order.

3] Ruppelt, E.J., Report on Unidentified Flying Objects. Ace Books, New York 1956. P.221.

4] *Ib.*, P.189.

5] Condon E.U., Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects. Bantam Books, New York 1969. P.310.

6] Wolman, B.B., Handbook of Parapsychology. Reinhold Co., New York 1977. *Passim*.

7] Evans, H., The Evidence for UFOs. Aquarian Press, Wellingborough 1983. P.148.

A Critic Responds.....

After reading Manfred Cassirer's 'Impossible Radar Returns', I would like to point out that some of his assumptions are simply not correct.

Since the ANAMNESIS & MICIS protocols have studied the psychic experiences of UFO witnesses in some depth. You might further recall that both these witness study programmes have been running since the early to mid-eighties covering the psychic traits of witnesses, any bona-fide researcher can inspect the documentation pertaining to this type of study.

For those with a more passive interest in ufology, one can refer to the reportage of the witness study in JTAP, or obtain a copy of the 'Congress '87' proceedings, wherein is contained Dr. Keul's paper: EVALUATION OF THE BRITISH ANAMNESIS PROJECT. An inspection of these results will show that almost all of the CE witnesses have had a history of personal ESP experiences, in stark contrast to the control section where it was virtually absent. Moreover, and what Manfred would not know at this time, is that ANAMNESIS results now coming in from Austria, Argentina and W. Germany show that the same ESP trait belongs to their CE witnesses too.

Ken Phillips.

RESEARCH UPDATE Steve Gamble

The report of the Director of Research appears every year as part of the reports for the AGM. The very nature of these reports and limitations of space mean that they tend to be very short and to the point. I intend as part of my roles as Director of Research and as Research Editor of UFO Times to expand on some of the projects being carried out in a number of short articles for UFO Times in the Research Update series. Some of the work of the Research Department has recently been discussed by Nigel Smith in his two part discussion of Photographic cases (UFO Times numbers 3 and 4).

As well as giving a more detailed description of particular research projects, I will use these articles to provide the case report numbers which correspond to case histories previously published in UFO Times. This will make for easier cross referencing should anybody wish to further research a particular case in the future. For example the Benefield, Northants case of February 1978 published in UFO Times Number 5 (page 29) has a case number of 78-445, and the Leicestershire case of August 1988 published in UFO Times Number 6 (pages 21 to 24) has a case number of 88-014.

Computerisation

This would be an appropriate time to give a brief update on one of our ongoing projects - the computerisation of the report index. Work on making the case index started using the Masterfile database system on a Sinclair Spectrum computer. This data was stored on a device called the Microdrive which was specific to the Sinclair range of computers. Unfortunately the Microdrive device now appears to be out of production and it is becoming difficult to obtain the special tape cartridges for it. For some time I have been intending to see how this could be transferred to another type of computer using a more conventional storage

medium. I am pleased to be able to report that I have now been able to transfer the data to Masterfile 8000 running on an Amstrad PCW. This is a much improved version of Masterfile and should serve our needs for several years to come. I hope to be able to discuss this project in greater detail in the, not too distant, future.

Northamptonshire Case Studies

One of the other projects mentioned in my last AGM report (UFO Times Number 5, January 1990 page 23) was the joint cataloguing project being organised with the Northamptonshire UFO Research Centre (NUFORC). The rest of this article will be devoted to a discussion of the project. A preliminary analysis of some of the data from the Northamptonshire reports has previously been published (Ernest Still "An Analysis of Northamptonshire UFO Reports 1950-1988" Journal of Transient Aerial Phenomena Volume 5 Number 4 March 1989 pages 99 to 106). This article will include mention of some of the cases we have discovered.

The main aim of the project is to make an intensive study of UFO reports for the county of Northamptonshire. This involves not only a study of the case files held by both BUFORA and NUFORC but also examining the files of as many of the local newspapers as possible.

The outcome of the project will be a catalogue of all known events between 1950 and the present day. There are, of course, some reports earlier than 1950. Also over the years the county of Northamptonshire has undergone some boundary changes. Would one, for example, include the report of police constable Kettle who on 23rd March 1909 reported the sighting of a strange object over the Cromwell Road area of Peterborough. In 1909 Peterborough was part of Northamptonshire, but since that time there have been at least three boundary changes none of which have placed Peterborough in Northamptonshire.

My role in the project is to collate the information as it is collected. The field work is carried out by Ernest Still (who as well as being a BUFORA Investigator is also Secretary of NUFORC) together with Cassie Pollock, Ray Shaw and Paul Edwards. At the time of writing we have discovered in the region of 200 reports. Over the years the newspaper clippings include a number of references to BUFORA and NUFORC as well as references to other local UFO groups which have since disappeared.

Supporting Evidence

A number of the clippings relate to reports that were already known to us. Others provide additional supporting evidence for previously known cases or provide pointers to other cases. To a certain extent an attempt will be made to reinvestigate cases where there is little or confusing information. In addition to the press cuttings a number of UFO journals and books have been checked for cases. In addition to the BUFORA publications back issues of Spacelink, Gemini, FSR and some other periodicals have been examined. This project has also been helped by the project to catalogue BUFORA case reports.

This research has shown up an area which might be a local UFO "hotspot". This is around the villages of Little and Great Houghton. These two villages are about two thirds of a mile apart on either side of the main Northampton to Bedford road, the A428. In Jenny Randles book Abduction (Headline Books 1989,

pages 60 & 63) she mentions two incidents involving round white lights in this area. We have been able to find several others.

Also we have been able to add a small amount of additional information on the earlier two cases. The first of Jenny's cases concerns a young man driving home to Bedford from a dance in Northampton. To quote from Abduction "He had been approaching the village of Little Houghton, noticed the time on the village clock, 2 am, and then inexplicably found himself wandering on foot at Bromham Bridge just outside Bedford - at 7 am." The witnesses last memory was of a brilliant white light rushing head on towards his car.

Little Houghton is about quarter of a mile off of the A428 and is on a small hill. The clock is on the front of the church and is not directly visible from the A428. In some places the A428 has been straightened over the last few years so it would be important to check if in 1973 the road ran through the village. However the road through the village seems too narrow to have ever been the main road. It appears anyway that to have seen the clock the driver would have had to have passed through the village and may have taken a more northerly route.

Similarly in the second case (BUFORA case number 83-035) we are attempting to make contact with the witness because it is possible that he was nearer Great Houghton rather than Little Houghton, ie some two thirds of a mile from where the encounter was originally thought to have taken place. Unfortunately this was not very clear from part of Ken Phillips original report. Again the witness would have been marginally more northerly than original thought.

Globe

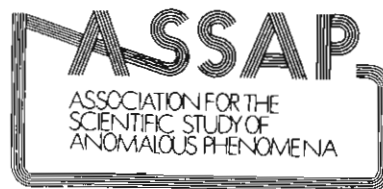
The witness states "I noticed a outstanding bright white globe in the sky - very low about 3FT off the adjoining field - about 9inches wide and just hovering, then swaying from side to side like a pendulum". There is at least one other report of strange light phenomena from the area from around the

same time. Of course there are many of these small round white lights to be found in the UFO literature, for example, Jacques and Janine Vallee (Challenge to Science, Tandem, 1967, page 118) describe such a light chased by the pilot of a Mustang F-51 near Fargo, North Dakota on 1st October 1948. This ball of intense white light did not exceed 30 centimetres diameter.

What of the other Little/Great Houghton and A428 reports? In August 1960 Geoffrey Gayton of Little Houghton reported seeing from his back garden a yellow round object coming from the west (Northampton Chronicle & Echo, 22nd August 1960). Mr and Mrs Brown travelling along the A428 (not A824 as originally published) towards Bedford were followed by a round object on 8th October 1972 (BUFORA Journal Winter 72/73 page 25). On 13th May 1962 Mr Robert Deacon reported a blue-white light passing over Little Houghton (Chronicle & Echo 14th May 1962). Mr Gayton (see above) reported seeing a bright reddish orange object over Little Houghton on 11th October 1966 (Chronicle & Echo 12th October 1966, see BUFORA case 66-118). On 2nd March 1971 schoolboy Timothy Bird and Mrs Rudman independently reported a green object over the Great Houghton area (Chronicle & Echo, 9th March 1971).

On the Rails

Without further investigation it is not possible to identify a cause of these light phenomena. The reports, at least at first glance, all seem to show round objects travelling along a west-north-west to east-south-east path. A number of years ago Roy Dutton did some work which seemed to show that a number of UFOs followed powerlines, railway lines and rivers. The remains of the old Northampton to Bedford railway run parallel to the A428, passing through Great Houghton. Although it lost its passenger service in 1962 the line was still used, until recently, beyond Great Houghton for occasional freight traffic. Slightly north of here, before Great Houghton the railway from Northampton to Wellingborough branched off. This lost its passenger service in May 1964 and appears to have been lifted prior to



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1980. This passed close to Little Houghton. At this point both the River Nene and overhead power cables follow a similar course.

Piezo-electric

If these round UFOs were some form of charged atmospheric phenomenon, for example generated by Paul Devereux's Piezo-electric effect or the charged vortices Terence Meaden proposes as the agent causing crop field circles (see G.T. Meaden "The Circles Effect and its Mysteries", Artetech Publishing, 1989) then the above mentioned features might cause enough variation in the local electrical field to make the area 'attractive' to this type of phenomenon. George Wingfield (page 80, In: "The UFO Report 1990", Sidgwick Softbacks, Editor Timothy Good), for example, shows a number of Cornfield Circles laid down either side of an overhead powercable which is suggestive of these charged spheres being cable followers. I believe George Wingfield does not particularly favour Terence Meaden's hypothesis, however much of the evidence he presents appears to support Meaden's ideas rather than find any shortcomings.

As a slight digression, Meaden's theory concerning charged atmospheric

vortices sounds very similar to a longer duration of the ball lightning explanation for UFO reports. The particular explanation was explored extensively by Stuart Campbell in the early 1980's.

There are other reports of UFOs following powerlines, for example, the Chronicle & Echo of 23rd April 1980 carried an item concerning a man who saw a round black object during the day near Long Buckby. The object was described as following the line of electricity pylons. It is unlikely that charged spheres could account for all the sightings in Northamptonshire. It is, however, possible that they are responsible at least in part for this particular subset of the reports.

Another Northamptonshire report worthy of mention is the experience of Mrs Elsie Oakensen. Those readers who were present at the 1989 ICUR Congress in London may have heard Mrs Oakensen give a short summary of her case at one of the sessions. A report of this case appeared in the BUFORA Journal (Vol 8, Number 2, pages 15-18). In brief, Mrs Oakensen was driving home to Church Stowe at about 17:15 on Wednesday 22nd November 1978. She observed a dumb-bell shaped object, which she drove underneath. A little further up the road her car engine stopped and the car was surrounded by flashing lights. There are a number of other reports from around the area the same week.

Corroboration?

The project has found at least one other dumb-bell shaped object which was reported over Corby in August 1966. This will need further investigation. There may be other reports of dumb-bell shaped objects around that period of 1978, for example case 78-504. This was a report of a red 'H' (?dumb-bell) shaped object seen at 19:00 on 26 September 1978 over Leyton, London. This case was investigated by Mike Wootten.

Acknowledgements should be expressed to both the Northampton Chronicle and Echo and to the (Kettering based) Evening Telegraph who have allowed us access to their files. Also thanks are due to Ken

Phillips who has provided details of some of the cases he has investigated in Northamptonshire plus a number of newclippings he has passed on. Thanks are also due all the other investigators who have over the years placed reports in the BUFORA archives which have been extracted for this study.

One of my favourite cuttings discovered as part of the project was not a case report but an item by reporter Chris Hilsden in the Northampton Chronicle and Echo for 27th September 1985. The text of this is reproduced below :

LANDING LIGHTS OF UFO BRING IT DOWN TO EARTH

A giant purple alien swept into Wellingborough almost at the end of an intergalactic tour - and nearly fell foul of the boys in blue.

He was gliding along the A45 near Wellingborough when a strange whining sound and an eerie blue light brought him shuddering to a halt.

He was brought down to earth with a bump as a patrolling police sergeant's voice inquired "Hello, hello, what's all this then? Did you know your huge furry paw is obscuring your rear brake light?"

The purple people eater from outer space humbled himself before the greater being and was allowed to continue on his way to intrigue the population of Wellingborough with a walkabout in the town centre.

A Wellingborough police spokesman said "If persons from outside our area drive round in UFOs they must make sure they are in proper working order and landing lights are not obscured."

The being, with no name, was at the end of a four week tour of several thousand miles which took him all over Britain and several other galaxies. He is now set to return to another dimension - Yorkshire.

Continued on back page

ABDUCTION

A REGRESSIONAL CASE IN QUESTION by Mike Wootten

After careful study, I am now able to present a new, never before published, report of an alleged abduction experience that 'occurred' in Essex several years ago.

I shall first present a full description of the reported event (gleaned from hypnotic regression) and then discuss this single incident in relation to the witness' life experiences and possible dream recall of similar and much earlier UFO events.

To furnish conclusions is often difficult - if not impossible, when dealing with the UFO phenomenon, but I am confident that conclusions can be drawn from this material. It is my opinion that all ufologists who are immersed in the abduction enigma should take heed of this case and the ramifications of the presented scenario.

Event Abstract - The Hypnosis Session

The witness, who we shall call M, was driving between Sewardstone and Epping on a cold November night. At approximately 8.45pm, M noticed a bright light to his right apparently keeping pace with the car. The witness thought nothing more of it except that it was probably just an aircraft. The journey continued along a dark and secluded narrow road that was unlit. On turning a bend, M saw the light again. The object was now brighter and had a more spheroid shape to it, rather than a single point of light as seen previously. With a sense of puzzlement the witness watched as the object kept pace with the car and then suddenly disappeared.

At that point the witness' car, a 1981

Ford Escort, started to misfire and loose power. Gradually the the ignition failed and the headlights and dashboard dimmed and M was sitting in a car shrouded in utter darkness. Cursing, M tried to restart the car. The ignition was completely dead. M sat back in his seat resigned to a long walk to a telephone to summon help. Looking to his right he noticed a brightening light piercing through the hedgerow which ran the length of the road. The light continued to grow and a sense of uneasiness struck the witness. Watching the intense beams of light lashing through the dark, visceral anxieties pulsed through the witness' body. His instincts told him to lock the doors and not to venture outside into uncertain and dangerous surroundings. But these instincts were overwhelmed by an urge, an uncontrollable urge to follow the light - to see what was behind it. This compulsion was not from within - external forces were pulling him. Coaxing him.

M opened his car door. It was like walking into daylight. He came to an opening in the hedge and saw a domed disc sitting motionless in the corner of a grassy field.

This was the source of the light.

A further, stronger sense of fear shot through him. He started to turn back to the car only to be pulled again towards this unearthly object. As he walked to the middle of the field he was aware of entities converging on to him from all



sides. His fear and the impulse to go to the object were unbearable.

Suddenly the scene had suddenly changed. M was no longer in the field but inside the craft, lying on what seemed to be a doctors examination couch. The triangular shaped room was strange, light bathed the whole area but he could find no source for it - it was just there. He could see shadowy figures milling about him, but showing no distinct features. His arm was then grabbed and a powerful electrical sensation surged through his body making his muscles twitch and shake. An incision was then made into the other arm. M prayed for this nightmare to end. The four foot high figures, humanoid in shape, left the room, leaving M with what still seemed to be electricity pulsing through him.

Suddenly, as quickly as he had entered the craft, he was back in his car and earthly surroundings. He again looked to his right but nothing was to be seen. And although he searched the skies the witness could not find the object that

had impounded him against his will.

He slowly turned the ignition key - and the car came to life first time. Glancing at the clock by the rear view mirror he found he had been gone for an hour.

Regression Discussion

During the hypnosis session, the witness not only related a vivid account but also showed signs of physical pain and anxiety. Perspiration soaked his cloths. Bringing the witness out of the hypnotic state was relatively easy. However, he did suffer from exhaustion and was not able to drive home for several hours.

Past Experiences

Looking back through the witness' past, a series of recurring dreams were discovered that may present a connection with his later abduction experience.

When he was approximately 8 years old, M went through a stage of experiencing dreams involving entities chasing after him. Two dreams are particularly memorable:

Dream 1: He was in the back garden. Looking over a fence he saw what was perceived to be a large pile of hay or dry grass cuttings. The mound seemed to move. An 'alien' grey/green in colour emerged and started to run after M. The witness then made a frightened dash for the house, running through the back door, up the stairs and locking himself in the bathroom. The dream always stopped as the bathroom door re-opened.

Dream 2: M was on holiday with his parents. A storm, raging outside, was making sleep impossible. M looked through the window from his bed, lightning flashing with increasing repetitiveness. After several flashes he noticed what appeared to be a head and shoulders of someone looking at him. The witness turned away to see a shadow of someone entering the open doorway of his bedroom. The dream ended abruptly.

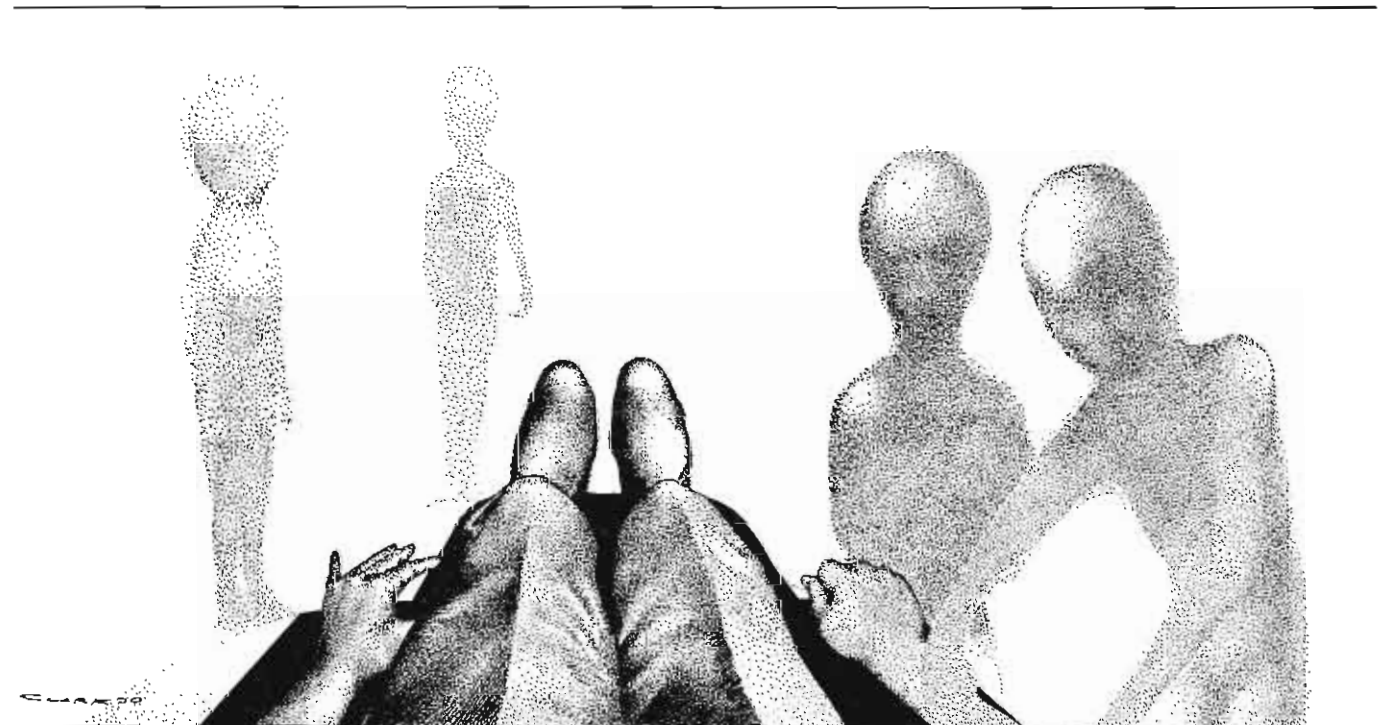
Dream 1 continued to re-occur over several nights, eventually evolving to a scene where his parents kill the 'alien'.

What can we deduce from these dream experiences? is there a connection between them and the related abduction?

In a usual abduction investigation, this would have been interpreted as corroborative evidence that the witness had been abducted and on several occasions during his life. In his research Budd Hopkins has unearthed a wealth of such cases, not only involving one witness but a succession of members of his or her family - especially those who are blood related. His general conclusion is that entities - not of this earth - are systematically conducting genetic research on humans. At face value this seems to be the case. But I can assure you that with the case of M this assumption would have been completely wrong and potentially damaging to the witness.

We are now at the point of no return. Witnesses are coming forward with an increasing regularity with reports of abductions. Running through each and every case are veins of confirmatory evidence that link these witnesses to a one all encompassing source.

But despite the evidence, it is my opinion that the source has not been confirmed. There is much more work that



has to be done. Ufology has not reached a watershed as far as the abduction experience is concerned.

Bringing the Case into Perspective

In 1987, a small group of interested individuals gathered to study the nebulous and fascinating realms of hypnosis. A practising hypnotist was part of the group and members took it in turn to be placed into a relaxed state and be sent to other spheres of restful make-believe like walking amongst the trees and flowers of a Monet landscape or returning to a much treasured holiday. Being part of this group, I also enjoyed these experiences and was able to learn and begin to understand the power of hypnosis.

On one particular night the rules were to be changed. Instead of discussing the topic of interest first, I was placed under hypnosis not knowing where the journey would lead me. The hypnotist started to explain to me in relaxing tones that I was driving my car along a familiar country road at night and that I could see a bright light in the sky ahead. From that point I took up the scenario, I did not need any further prompting.

As you probably may already realise, the witness behind this regressional case in question is me, I am M. I should apologise now for presenting misleading information at the beginning of this paper. However, to relay the full impact of my experiences and the inherent dangers surrounding them, I felt it necessary to publish these details in this way.

Every detail of my hypnosis session is accurate, I can remember them very vividly and at the time felt as if it was really happening. Colleagues who were present at the time of the 'regression' will testify that I showed what seemed to be genuine fear and anguish. The physical effects were obvious and very powerful. It is an experience that I shall never forget. My dream recall is also genuine. I have no idea where the source of these dream images came from. All I can say about them is that at the time they disturbed me at such a young age.

I must firmly state that I am very certain that I have never been abducted, or in fact ever seen a UFO and I do not believe that the regression revealed any forgotten memories, as I do not remember driving down that particular road at the time in question. It is obvious that the scenario that I related under hypnosis was gleaned from my studies of the UFO and abduction phenomena which is the pivot of this paper.

Conclusion

Can we draw conclusions from this experience? In my opinion I think we can. The most contentious conclusion is the fact that if I was not known as a ufologist, but had studied the phenomenon, I could have easily faked the whole event in front of the UFO fraternity. Although it is my belief that the vast majority of abduction witnesses are sincere and are not lying. However, the possibility is still there.



The Strieber Entity

UFOs and now the abduction experience are well known topics amongst a vast majority of the world's population. More specifically the Hopkins entities are

Continued on page 24

REVIEWS

COMMUNION

THE MOVIE

Directed by Philippe Mora and Written by Whitley Strieber. On general release on October 12th 1990. Certificate 15.

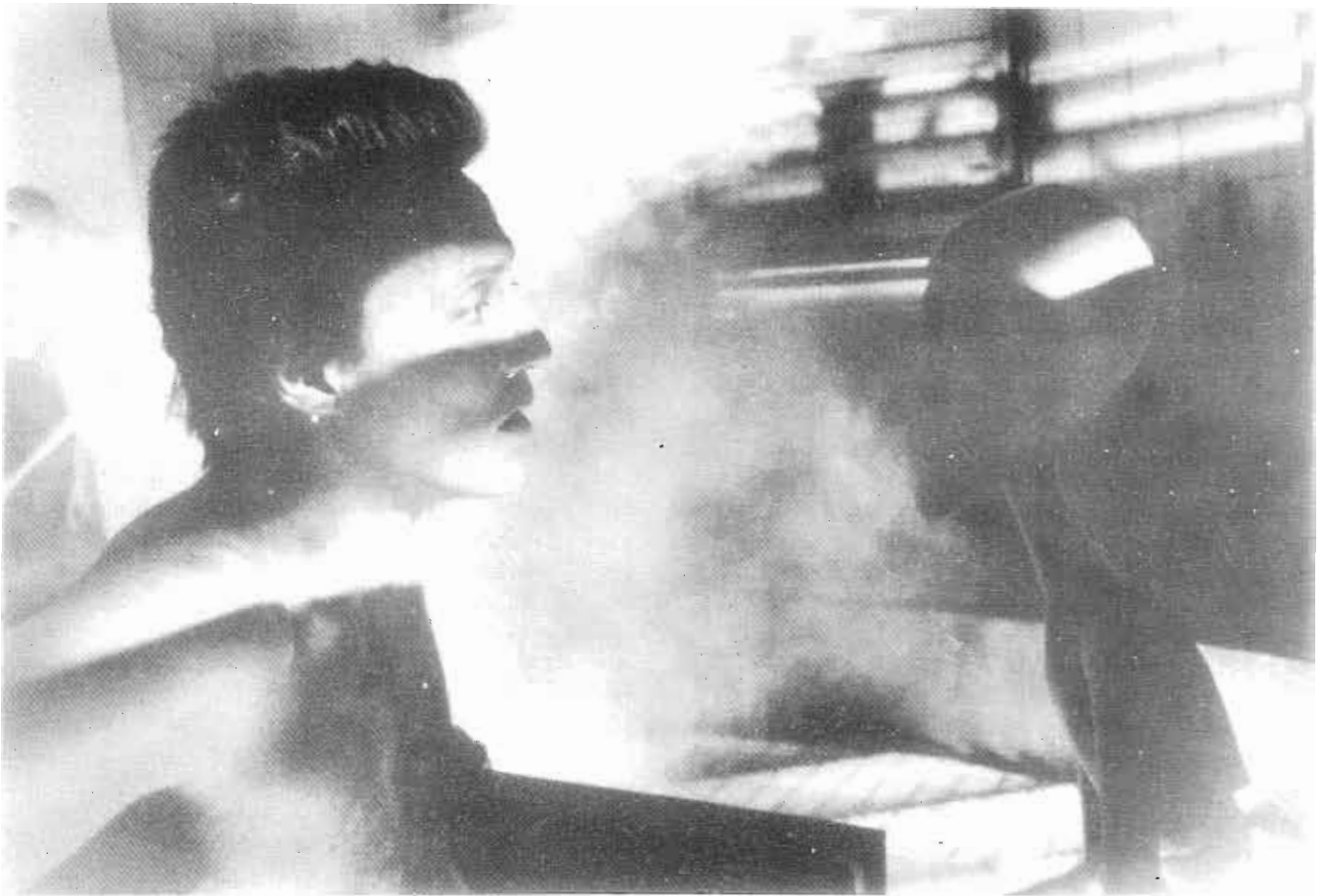
A group of ASSAP and BUFORA members, including myself, were recently invited to attend a preview of Whitley Strieber's film of the book 'Communion'. The screenplay was written by Strieber himself and was supposedly based on his book of his alleged abductions in 1987.

Oscar Winner

Strieber and his wife Anne were played by Christopher Walken with an Oscar winning performance in the 'Deer Hunter' and Lindsay Crouse who has played many film and theatre parts. Their acting was as good as it could have been considering the script that they were faced with. The only truly good part of this film was the photography, which was quite superb.

The film starts in the Strieber town house with Whitley experiencing what appears to be strange dreams, although





it is difficult to tell if it is meant to be a dream or reality, but this may of course be the effect trying to be gained. Something that absolutely amazed me were the scenes showing Whitley at his writing. Apparently he films himself at work while simultaneously watching himself on a TV screen. This to me shows a very egotistical personality.

The first really "strange" happening occurs when the Strieber family with two friends take off to the family country house for a few days in up-state New York. In a night time bedroom scene Strieber sees the 'aliens' for the first time. His son also has contact with these creatures, although when Whitley rushes down to see his distraught son it is assumed to be a nightmare. The friends are also aware that something out of the ordinary has happened and the next day insist on being driven back home.

The story continues to unfold whereby Whitley suffers from dreams of these little blue guys dragging him off, and physical symptoms such as the needle

mark behind his ear manifest.

The family return to the country home for Christmas and the horrors start all over again resulting in Whitley almost blowing his wife's head off with a shotgun and Anne thinking (as she has done for a couple of months) that her husband is completely off his trolley.

She persuades him to seek medical help and so Strieber goes off to the family doctor and tells his tale of little 'Blues' and long thin 'Greys'. The doctor is so clued up on these things that he packs Strieber off to a woman who runs a UFO abductees help group. This lady persuades Whitley to be hypnotised. Under hypnosis he begins to tell his tale of abductions (walking round the room whilst he does so) and becomes so terrified he snaps out of the hypnosis. Whitley storms off convinced that this cannot be true.

To cut a long story short, after many medical tests Strieber is persuaded to return to the hypnotist with Anne and this time fully relives his experience (rectal probe and all). He then joins

the abductees group who all take being abducted as easily as having breakfast and ask questions like "Was it the little blue guys who took you?" Not surprisingly Whitley walks off completely bewildered.

After eventually coming to terms with what has happened Strieber drives back for a final scene with the aliens. This scene, as far as I am concerned, has set the cause of witnesses back at least a decade. Here the aliens are disco dancing and the funny little blue guys resort to blowing raspberries at him.

In on the Joke?

I really cannot tell if Strieber was supposed to present this story as a serious one or if he's done it as some very expensive private joke. The strongest impression I was left with after this film was "I'm Whitley Strieber, aren't I fantastic."

I suppose one must recommend this film for researchers to watch, if only for them to gain a new insight into this case. However I do not think that it will go down well with the general public, and most certainly will not go

down well with witnesses.

Review by Gaynor Wootten

Communion Fact

According to the 'Authors and Artists Yearbook 1990', Communion was the 45th bestselling book in the country.

Hitting the unexplained phenomena streets is a new tri-yearly publication called 'The Cereologist - The Journal for Crop Circle Studies'. This 20 pager is billed as a magazine that, "...stands aloof from the quarrels of certainty-mongers" and is "...receptive to the news, views and theories of any group or individual who is engaged in these [circle] studies."

Included in this nicely typeset inagrual issue, edited by John Michel is two monographs from George Wingfield discussing this years circle events with some wishful thinking thrown in. Ralph Noyes presents a tongue-in-cheek (I hope) article that concerns the apparent penchant of circles for towns beginning with the letter 'W'. No prizes for

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Review by Mike Wootten

Just as we go to print another circles magazine has come hot of the Emjay press.

Crop Watcher, edited by Paul Fuller, is billed as the 'Private Eye' of circles research. This new addition to the circle publishing scene will be a 28 page no holds barred look at the facts, fictions, rumours and evidence as it happens.

Single issues cost £1.25, with subscription at £7.00 for six issues. A bagain!

Review by Jenny Randles

Out There... Continued from page

documentation to confirm that MJ-12 was indeed a disinformation plot and a very good one at that. In the end it seems that we have to trust Howard Blum that all the details are correct and are genuine. His conclusion is not original, but I am sure that 'Out There' will bring us closer to the real reasons for existence of MJ-12.

Despite some short comings, 'Out There' is a book that every ufologist should read. And an extra plus for Blum is that he is not a ufologist and has no interest in UFOs making his reporting of this story dispassionate reporting. Will 'Out There' force Congress to investigate? We will have to see. But if they do put MJ-12 on trial we can certainly look forward to 'majical' times ahead.

Abduction... Continued from page 17

well known characters too. In the publicity for Strieber's 'Communion'

posters of his 'Grey' were plastered on hoardings in many places and now with the release of the film in the UK. The movie 'Close Encounters of the Third Kind' portrayed similar entities. The media have played the key role in sending these images around the globe and are in the minds of mother earth's population.

This was typified recently in a ITN news report concerning the recent crop circles enigma. When asked by a reporter what the aliens looked like, a nine year old on looker described a typical 'grey' with large head, black eyes, tiny ears and slit mouth.

Modern Myth

One has to ask the question: If that little girl was to be regressed would she be able to relate an abduction 'memory'? Is there something developing within the minds of many people, a modern myth or legend of alien abduction generated and inseminated by a rapid media machine?

Before we decide that the abduction scenario is of alien origin we must be certain that these questions are answered satisfactorily. With my knowledge of abductions, I was able to relate a fully cohesive story that typified other cases, minor corroborative details were also included. With a small, but measurable amount of abduction knowledge and an over keen investigator (who may unknowingly lead the witness), a witness may well be able to describe a technically corroborative story and dangerously be instilled (by hypnosis) a painful and misleading memory for the rest of his or her life.

We have a very important duty to these very special people who come to us as ufologists for help not to instill further confusion by saying 'It's probably aliens'. In my view this is the last thing we should say to the growing number of Abductees.

c Mike Wootten 1990.

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

UFO Formation Over Dublin 30th July 1989 22.00hrs The two witnesses were an elderly couple who are considered sincere and credible by the investigators. Mrs D was resting in her bedroom in the Naven Road area of Dublin, Eire, when she looked out of the window (as was her custom). By the local operative power station towers, she saw a rising orange ball of the size of the sun, followed by a second. She called her husband and they observed many more (usually in twos) emerge from a single larger object and drift across the sky. They seemed to move from the sea and disappear towards Clontarf. Over the next 90 minutes about 100 UFOs flew past! Finally they all glided away, silently over the horizon. The investigators checked aircraft and balloon launches without any success. They are baffled by this - especially as no one else appears to have seen anything. Any ideas? **Inv: Anne Griffin and Pat Delaney (BUFORA).**

Crackling UFO Scared My Cat 24th October 1989 22.05hrs North Arbury, Cambridge Mr P, aged 15 was on his doorstep with his friend. Two white lights appeared on top of each other. Only the lower one flashed. They discussed the possibility of aircraft, but concluded it was moving too slowly. His friend had to go home, so he went to his bedroom and followed it with binoculars for another two minutes. Eventually, it just disappeared. The boys had already seen the light briefly earlier in the night and claimed that their radio started to crackle during its presence. They tape recorded the crackling, which sounds like normal static. Reputedly the family cat seemed scared at the point as well. The same light was seen the next night between 19.26 and 19.32 (by Mr P alone). Later that night whilst in bed (but awake listening to his walkman personal stereo) a shaft of white light came through the closed curtains and struck the wall opposite the bed. It flickered off to a new position on the wall and then grew larger. It then hit the ceiling and remained stationary. By this point, it was 60cm in width and was extremely bright. Mr P is short sighted but had time to put his spectacles on for a sharper view before the light vanished. Of course, there may be a combination of normal circumstances here, all linked together (aircraft, ordinary radio static, playful antics by the cat and a car headlight beam) but Mr P is insistent they were all strange.

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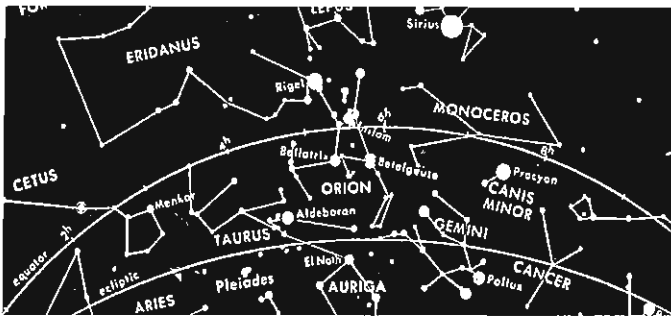
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SKYWATCHER

Edited by Gary Anthony

Introduction

All the usual features, plus in Space News - a glimpse at the space industry machine, going green! At last, a space mission to planet Earth.

The Planets

VENUS - September. Remains a morning object at magnitude -3.9. Rising less than two hours before the Sun on the 1st and only one hour before the 30th. Between the 14th/15th, Mercury will pass only 3 degrees south of Venus at magnitude -1.0 the best opportunity to see this planet this year

October. Continues to be a morning

object throughout the month, rising a few minutes before the Sun by the 31st.

MARS - September. Mars is now in Taurus 'the bull' near the Pleiades open star cluster, and will attain magnitude -1.0 by the 30th, when it rises around 20.00hrs. The moon is to the north on the 10th.

October. Mars reaches a stationary point in Taurus on the 20th, changing to a westward motion after that date. Rising at 20.00hrs on the 1st and soon after 18.00hrs by the 31st at magnitude -1.6. Moon to the north on the 8th.

JUPITER - September. Is in Cancer, slightly to the east of the Praesepe star cluster (M44). The planet rises by 02.00hrs on the 1st and soon after midnight by the 30th at magnitude -1.9. Moon very close and to the west of Jupiter on the morning of the 15th.

October. Remains in Cancer at magnitude -2.1, rising soon after midnight on the 1st and by 23.00hrs at the end of October. Moon near on the 12th/13th.

SATURN - September. Is stationary on the 23rd, then moving eastwards again among the Sagittarian stars, setting before midnight at the end of the month. Moon 2 degrees south of Saturn on the 1st and 28th.

October. will set at 21.00hrs by the end of the month. Moon passes very close

skydata

| J U L Y | | | | 1 9 9 0 | | | | A U G U S T | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|---------|--------|---------------|----------------|-------------|--------|-------------|-----|--|--|
| | 5th | 02 h | | Full Moon | | 4th | 12 h | | | | |
| | 11th | 22 h | | Last Quarter | | 11th | 04 h | | | | |
| | 19th | 01 h | | New Moon | | 18th | 16 h | | | | |
| | 27th | 02 h | | First Quarter | | 26th | 20 h | | | | |
| RA | | | Dec | | | RA | | | Dec | | |
| -----East----- | | | | Venus | -----East----- | | | | | | |
| 02h > | 04h | 00° > | +25° | Mars | 02h > | 05h | +00° > | +25° | | | |
| 08h > | 10h | +10° > | +30° | Jupiter | 08h > | 10h | +10° > | +30° | | | |
| 18h > | 20h | -15° > | -30° | Saturn | 18h > | 20h | -15° > | -30° | | | |
| Meteor Showers | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Name | Begins | Maximum | Ends | Max ZHR | Radiant | Coordinates | | | | | |
| Orionids | Oct 18 | Oct 21 | Oct 26 | 20+ | 95° RA | +15° Dec | | | | | |

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

(1 degree) to the south on the evening of the 25th.

SPACE NEWS

A Mission to Earth

The first European Remote Sensing satellite (ERS 1) is due to be launched sometime in the next few months. ERS 1 is part of a new generation of international missions planned for this decade, all set to take a closer look at the Earth.

In past decade, we have seen an increase in environmental disasters, some of which are obviously caused by our ill treatment of the planet we live on. Yet, some other disasters still remain a mystery to science. Various space agencies have altered their policy thus, effectively, instead of looking outwardly into space, now they must take a closer and inward look at our planet Earth. ERS 1 is prepared to help us unravel some of these baffling and dramatic global climatic changes.

For the 1990s, space agencies are planning a fleet of advanced spacecraft for the international 'Mission to Earth' project. This project is the largest cooperative space effort to date. Together with eleven member states from the ESA the United States, the Soviet Union, Japan, China, Australia, Brazil, Argentina and Pakistan are participating to monitor the intricate links between the atmosphere, ocean and land. Data from the survey will help reveal the complex interactions between natural and human factors affecting the planetary environment.

Ocean circulation is an important factor in predicting what may happen to the Earth's climate. So, during the past ten years, oceanographers along with other scientific experts have been planning the World Ocean Circulation Experiment (WOCE), established in 1990 with ERS 1. The whole operation will undoubtedly involve many ships and hundreds of ocean current monitors. ERS 1 will be joined later by

TOPEX/Poseidon, a Franco-American mission.

The European Space Agency is also planning a polar platform to be launched around 1997, This unmanned platform together with an American and Japanese polar platform will be part of the international space station programme, carrying highly sophisticated environmental monitoring and remote sensing instruments.

Future remote sensing satellites may provide scientists with data that could change the way we live, in order to make certain our restless planet retains it's life sustaining stability.

All information courtesy of ESA and NASA.

If any investigator requires astronomical information to help with the evaluation of case investigations please write to the new BUFORA ARP address: **Gary Anthony, BUFORA ARP, 119 Askew Avenue, Hull, North Humberside, HU4 6LT**

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DIARY

6th Oct

BUFORA London Lecture **Incident at Wotton**
Speaker Manfred Cassirer

13th Oct

ASSAP Tea Party and Lecture
Speaker Alan Cleaver plus crop circle slide show.
Starts 3pm, contact Lionel Beer on 081-979 3148 for more details

20th Oct

BUFORA Regional Meeting - Birmingham
Speaker John Spencer. Further details from Philip Mantle: 1 Woodhall Drive, Batley, West Yorkshire, WF17 7SW.

3rd Nov

BUFORA London Lecture **Sacred Sites, Crop Circles and Guardians**
Speaker Michael Green

BUFORA London lectures are held every first Saturday of the month at the 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 **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.

Research... Continued from page 16

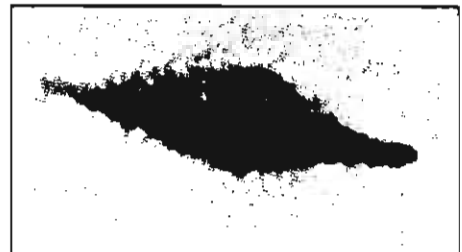
He has been promoting a book, *Battlefield Earth*, by fiction writer L. Ron Hubbard which the cover says is "soon to be two major motion pictures."

At the end of the project it is intended to prepare a report which is a catalogue of all the UFO reports with an indication to the source. As far as possible this will be cross referenced to the BUFORA and NUFORC case archives.

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