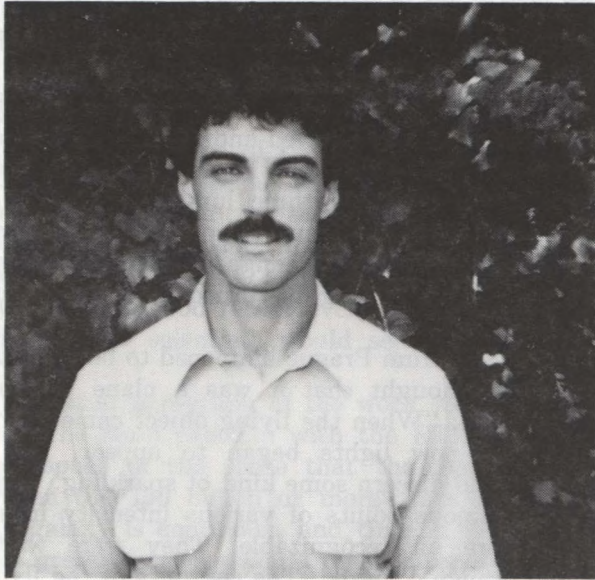


the apro bulletin

WHO IS WATCHING US?



Meet Our Cartoonist

The handsome young man in the photo above is Dave Roeck, who has recently joined the APRO staff and will be contributing his extensive illustrating talent and offering his original cartoons on a regular basis.

Dave, who hails from Florida, has had two impressive sightings of his own which will be featured in the Bulletin in the near future, along with his illustrations of same. The staff feels honored to have the fine work of Mr. Roeck gracing the Bulletin and hopes the membership will enjoy it as much as we do.

* * * * *

1953 RADAR UFO

Mr. Harry Levine, a retired electronics mechanic-technician of over 30 years experience with major electronics firms and the U.S. government, has submitted the following information about his experience in May, 1953 at the U.S. Navy Base at Charleston, N.C.

I was sitting in front of the A scan sweep of the Radar looking for aircraft so that we could check out the automatic tracking system of the radar. On either side there were panels with dials of the various servo systems to give the operator immediate information. It

(See "Radar" - page 3)

*By Milos Krmelj
APRO Representative, Czechoslovakia*

"If extraterrestrial creatures really walk above our heads, we will probably not learn anything about it unless they become so kind as to tell it to us by themselves", these are the words from one of numerous commentaries in Czechoslovakian press on a mysterious flying object that had been spotted by thousands of people.

On Friday evening, when a lot of Czechoslovakians forget the hardworking week and begin to spend their weekend, regardless of the season, was a cool one. The sky was clear and studded with stars. Many left heated rooms: they were tired of industrial smog in town headquarters and of choked air caused by the exhaust - pipe gases. Fresh air really intoxicated.

The streets of Prague, Karlovi Vary, Plzen and other towns were also crowded with pedestrians. People went to theaters, movies and concerts or they simply took a walk.

At 7:45 p.m. their attention was drawn to an unusual flying object whose contours were not easy to make out because of the darkness. Yet the object's lights were unusually intense and of various colours. The miraculous sky ship moved without the least sound from northwest to southeast. From that moment, telephones in editor's offices of newspapers, radio and police stations kept on ringing without stopping.

Thousands of eyewitnesses are very much opposed to the idea that it might have been a plane, a helicopter or anything similar.

UFO — unidentified flying object? A space visit? Or perhaps a meteorological balloon? A group of meteorites or an artificial satellite, falling into pieces? "Mlada Fronta", a Czechoslovakian youth paper, published reports of eyewitnesses with a delay of more than one month. This was the period that they needed for a thorough study of all the letters they received from the witnesses of this unusual phenomenon. Namely, the flying object was spotted on December 2, 1983 but it was only in the second half of this January that all particulars could be collected and pieced together. Some people found themselves on that evening in Czechoslovakian Highland, a place far from the townlights, a spot with a fine view in all directions.

"We were", they wrote in their letters, "overflown by a phantom that emitted absolutely no sound. The

(See "Who?" - page 2)

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 RESEARCH ORGANIZATION, INC.
 3910 E. Kleindale Road
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 Phone: 602-323-1825 and 323-7363
 Coral R. Lorenzen, Editor
 Richard Heiden, Assistant Editor
 Norah Bazzurro, David Roeck, Artists

A.P.R.O. STAFF

International Director L.J. Lorenzen
 Deputy Director Robert Marsland
 Secretary-Treasurer Coral E. Lorenzen
 Membership Secretary Maxine McCoy

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Published August, 1984

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“Who?”

(continued from page one)

flying object was equipped with some lights in the front and in the rear part. It was really a curious airship, its diameter being between 30 and 40 meters. It flew at a height of some 300 meters. We are convinced we observed its flight for more than one minute. We were most excited by the absolute silence of its flight”.

A group of soldiers from Karlovi Vary sent the following report of this extraordinary phenomenon: “An illuminated point suddenly turned up in the western horizon. It was about 7:30 p.m. At a certain height, it separated into two lights, one of them being followed by a luminous tail which was very similar to the one produced when launching a rocket. The other luminous point slowly began to turn into a triangular shape, while the whole object kept on its mysterious flight at the same speed towards the east. The intensity of individual luminous points on the airship was superior to the brightest stars and did not change. Below these lights, something that could not be exactly determined, regularly moved along the object,

something that resembled the comet's tail. The entire flight lasted for one and a half minutes. The object moved without the least sound”.

An interesting report came from a certain P. B. from Plave: “It was exactly 7:50 p.m. when a body came flying from northwest to southeast. My wife and I first took it for a helicopter. There were three clear lights in the front part of the flying object that formed a triangle, while its rear part had only one light. We thought it to be flying at an approximate height of 200 meters which enabled us to calculate its diameter to be some 30 meters”.

Engineer L. K. says that “only the front part of the flying object was clearly viewed and the object covered occulted stars during its flight. In the “invisible” part of the object, there were three luminous sources of minor intensity, white coloured and vertically positioned. The object did not change its height or direction, while the roundish lights turned their shape into an elliptic one”.

Engineer J. V. from Prague happened to be in Krkonosi. He first thought that it was a plane with its lights turned on: “When the flying object came over a certain brook, new lights began to appear. For a moment, I could discern some kind of sparkling. There were nine luminous points of various intensity in all, but they were all recognizable. They were white, yellow and orange coloured. The contours of the flying object were not distinct and it seemed to me from time to time that I saw stars through this “pear”. The “pear” was followed by a kind of a luminous trail; one was shorter and clearer, the other one was less distinct”.

The mysterious phenomenon in the Czechoslovakian sky had the following common characteristics:

—The unidentified flying object was spotted by people throughout the entire territory of the Czechoslovakian republic. Eyewitnesses were found even on the borders with Poland and East Germany.

—The unusual event lasted from some ten seconds to mostly three minutes.

People who had the opportunity to view the entire flight state that they first saw a single light, then they spotted dazzling brightness, followed by a few luminous points of various colours, sometimes glittering. The most frequent colours were yellow, white and orange.

Newspapermen turned to scientists and experts of various profiles, but they could not get a satisfactory answer. The flying object remained a mystery even after a period of two months and it is very probable that it will never be identified.

Some presumed that it was a sighting of an American rocket booster from the orbital station of “Spacelab”, yet their presumptions were soon discarded because the American object flew over the Czechoslovakian territory at 4:47 p.m. on the same day. For the same reason, they also discarded the

presumption that the luminous effects were reflections of the artificial polar light that was supposed to be experimentally made by the above-mentioned American flying plane. Czechoslovakian scientists exclude the possibility that it might have been a meteorite. "It's out of the question", says the Astronomical Center of Czechoslovakian Academy of Science. "Our instruments did not register one single case of a meteorite that night". The same goes for the British Research Center that concerns itself with flights of artificial satellites. On that day, they did not register one single fall of these bodies, neither did they spot a disintegrating rocket. There are some 5000 little "waste substances" from various satellites and rocket carriers whose density is to be reported once every three months. For the time being, there has been no such confirmation from the reporters.

One of the experts thinks that the unusual flying object moved at a very great height which explains the fact that the object was spotted from the whole territory of Czechoslovakia.

This, however, leads to another conclusion, namely, that the unknown flying object had enormous dimensions. "Mlada Fronta", the only Czechoslovakian news that published what had happened on December 2, 1983, invited its readers to cooperate in the future. Citizens were asked to state the exact time and give precise descriptions of a flying object if it happens to appear again in the Czechoslovakian sky. They were also asked to state the exact flight direction, height at which the flying object moves and everything else that could help in unveiling the secret.

This call proves that this episode was not taken for a flat joke by some individuals. Besides, thousands of people are not likely to make a joke in an identical manner. "If extraterrestrial creatures really walk above our heads, we will probably not learn anything about it unless they become so kind as to tell it to us by themselves", wrote one of the commentators. He used a Shakespeare thought that it is not possible to learn all that is hidden in our Earth.

Earth or space? Readers are wondering. If the unusual flying object does not belong to our Earth, who is watching us from the sky anyway? Why doesn't he announce himself to us?

Experts are much more restrained. They simply shake their heads and try to explain the event by various natural phenomenon. People who experienced this event are not so sure about it!

Source: *Weekly ARENA*, dated 22nd February 1984.

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Radar

(continued from page one)

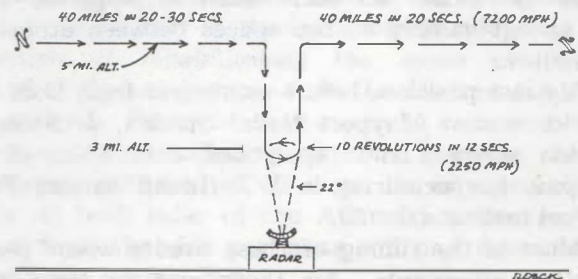
was, however, necessary to place a gate under the target to go into the automatic tracking of locking on

a target. But all of the instrumentation is within view of the operator except the J scope which is an expanded view of the target inside the gate range which is only a small portion of the complete range of the A type scan.

"I noticed the UFO almost immediately by the extremely rapid change of range of the target. The dials started spinning like mad and noisy-- not normal.

"I'd heard about UFOs from newspaper articles. I called out to the others that I had an extremely unusual moving object, much too fast to be an aircraft and managed to lock on to the target in automatic tracking mode. The information of bearing and height showed that the target had come in at "low level" from the horizon line of sight where the radar was able to detect it and approached our van in about 20 seconds but not more than 30. I only had time to call out and look at the information dials. Someone else then came into the van.

"I locked on, and went outside. The radar antenna dish was making a circling movement pointing about 22° away from vertical. I should mention that while on the A scope scan, and trying to watch the J scope (which would give a more accurate calibration of velocity) I had lost the target and, when I looked again for it on the A scan and only *afterwards* I realized what had happened. The target had changed altitude so rapidly that it "disappeared" from one place on the scope and "reappeared" in another.



"The best I could make out from the dials-- like from five miles altitude to about three miles as fast as you snap your fingers-- is the reason the radar did *not* break lock (automatic tracking) with the target. Because it was directly over the van! There, it was making huge circles, the antenna dish inclined from the vertical about 22°-- about 12 seconds for each revolution and revolving about ten times during which time one of the field engineers climbed on top of the van and held himself to the pedestal while he crouched and looked through the telescope which is mounted axially with the antenna. This telescope has cross hairs across the lens so that an observer can determine how accurately steady the servo system is tracking a target, but he never saw anything! And I ran back into the van and watched as this target once again "disappeared" and "reappeared" from about two miles to five miles (our instruments couldn't keep up to these fast changes and only the fact that the target

was circling directly overhead and that the range gate itself is about one mile wide is what kept the radar still locked on target.) Then it "streaked off" in a line of sight direction away from its approach and disappeared at the horizon in less than 20 seconds.

"None would admit it was a UFO. We didn't discuss it with others. They'd think we're crazy. I left Charleston about two months later and did not keep the names or addresses of the other three men.

"But, I did read an article in the New York Times about five years later (perhaps only four) when we were living in Baltimore and I was working for Westinghouse Engineering LAB--from London-- describing the exact same maneuvers and also picked up by radar.

"In my opinion, these sightings are related to high power radar energy started towards the middle or end of World War II (I was in tanks in Europe)-- not to the atom bomb dropping. It seems as if the energy of the radar beam is attractive-- and is being sampled-- nothing else! Perhaps, like a nourishment, or stimulation--.

"I've never submitted this information to any publication or organization. The New York and London Times of '57 could substantiate this event.

"These maneuvers are like vector motions. An angle and range and because it is a sampling of the radar beam would only reflect its radiation. A detailed explanation involves the impedance field, called "refractive index" for each radiation frequency which has an equivalency in the spaces between atoms and molecules.

"My last position, before retirement from U.S. Civil Service was at Mayport Naval Station, Jacksonville, Florida where I did repair and calibration of test equipment, specializing in IFF (Identification, Friend or Foe) test sets, in '79.

"Most of the timing of these events were "pieced" together afterwards-- for there was no time to jot anything down."

* * * * *

BOOK REVIEW

By Richard W. Heiden

George Adamski/ The Untold Story, by Lou Zinsstag and Timothy Good. Ceti Publications, 247 High St., Beckenham, Kent BR3 1AB, England. 1983. 208 pages, quality softbound. Available from the publisher (co-author Good's company) for \$12.00 post-paid (\$18.00 via airmail) (£6.95 in Great Britain), or from Arcturus Book Service, 263 N. Ballston Ave., Scotia, N.Y. 12302.

Few, if any, APRO members will need to be told

that George Adamski was the most controversial contactee of all time. *George Adamski/ The Untold Story* is a puzzling book. Regardless of your point of view, you might either love it or hate it, depending on which parts you pick out. Many parts are very pro-Adamski, not so much because they contain any proof that he was telling the truth, but because they present, in a straightforward manner, loads of material on Adamski's claims, not to mention information on his life from boyhood to death, and personal anecdotes related by co-author Lou Zinsstag. In contrast to this are other parts critical of Adamski, even devastatingly so.

The book is divided into two sections. The first, by Miss Lou Zinsstag--who died of cancer in January 1984--is called "The Man I Knew." It consists primarily of the straightforward claims and the personal stories, drawn from correspondence with Adamski, his publications, and his visits to Europe (she lived in Basle, Switzerland).

Miss Zinsstag's quotation from Henk Hinfelaar might well describe her own attitude, and probably Good's as well. After publishing Adamski's account of a visit to Saturn (March 1962), which was hard to swallow even for hard-core Adamskians, Hinfelaar stated, "Despite several doubts about various points, we gave credence to it on the basis of his previous good record of reliability.... He is not a fraud--he told the truth as he experienced it, and because of his sincerity and determination to tell the world, he became a target for the subtle destroyers who are adept at finding the weak spot in a man's armour." (P. 71)

However, Miss Zinsstag also explains her disaffection with Adamski for a time, and includes some really "juicy" revelations. These include:

--The 1963 California newspaper ads, reading "Space People Need Contacts. Can you qualify? Write for free particulars," with Adamski's box number. (P. 75)

--Adamski's later "far out" articles on voodoo, witchcraft, and worse. (Pp. 79-80)

--Despite Adamski's denials, he was a trance medium, which may have been how he made a couple of his contacts. (Pp. 19, 55, 70, 79, 81 and 92)

Timothy Good's section, "The Investigation," is an attempt at independent corroboration of Adamski's claims. In three chapters he compares Adamski's statements about conditions on the Moon, Mars and Venus, with the latest scientific knowledge about these heavenly bodies. Unfortunately, Good's sources include the mass media and such individuals as Fred Steckling of the George Adamski Foundation, who wrote the imaginative *We Discovered Alien Bases on the Moon*. Admittedly, Good is skeptical of many of these statements, but he includes them anyway. Sometimes Good seems to be grasping at straws, but to his credit he doesn't hesitate to acknowledge where Adamski was wrong, and concludes, "either he was

simply lying about it--or his hosts were." (P. 119; and see p. 144) However, later Good writes that Adamski had told co-worker Mr. Carol Honey "that the names Venus, Mars, Saturn, were names given to certain locations in *other* solar systems--like a code so you could tell which they were." (P. 192)

Good has other confirmations and endorsements of Adamski's claims, including the overrated "firefly" effect, photos by Adamski and others (particularly the Silver Spring film, which is dealt with in depth), and the presentation of his claims and pictures to certain Congressional leaders and their aides, and to military officials.

But, like Miss Zinsstag, Good also includes significant evidence against Adamski, notably that much of his flying saucer writings, particularly the "Space Brother" philosophy, was adapted from his *Wisdom of the Masters of the Far East* (The Royal Order of Tibet, 1936) and *Pioneers of Space* (acknowledged fiction, 1949). A page from the former is reproduced, with Adamski's handwritten notes to update it for the "flying saucer era." (Pp. 188-191) However, Good totally overlooks the story that Adamski had submitted to *Amazing Stories* magazine circa 1943 (according to Ray Palmer), which later turned up, with modifications, as his 1952 contact. Good wrote me that he knew of Palmer's statement, but did not include it in the book because he could not uncover a copy of the manuscript itself, and Carol Honey had never seen it either.

Few of Adamski's claims can be checked, though the appropriate authorities do deny his alleged meetings with President John F. Kennedy and Pope John XXIII. Good prints his reply from the Vatican, where he wrote after *Flying Saucer Review* forwarded to him my letter mentioning what they told me. Speaking of the Papal audience, Miss Zinsstag once wrote me (June 11, 1981), "My dear pen-friend: you can't be that naive as to think that the Vatican would tell a complete stranger, in a letter, how many visitors the Pope is receiving through the years and give away their names and purposes." Apparently she considered it less naive to believe what Adamski told her he was doing while she waited outside St. Peter's.

This might be the appropriate place to reveal something that I uncovered about George Adamski. At one point during his April 22, 1953, contact in Los Angeles, he said that "it was a blustery night." He did not specify the time, except that it was following dinner, which started after 7:15, and "we had lingered over our meal while Firkon talked."¹ It so happens that it was *not* blustery. The hourly wind-speed readings (taken between 1 and 15 minutes before the hour), and obtained from the Weather Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, were starting at 8:00 p.m., which is probably too early) just 8, 4, 2, 3 and 4 mph (13, 6, 3, 5 and 6 km/hr). (8-12 mph is considered a gentle breeze, 4-7 mph a light breeze, and 1-3 mph, light air.) The fastest wind all day was 14 mph (23

km/hr) ("moderate breeze"), at 1:46 p.m.

I should also take this opportunity to correct my own involvement with the Blue Book record of the Salton Sea (Cal.) USAF pilot sighting of Nov. 20, 1952. (Pp. 146-148) This was the same day as Adamski's initial contact with Orthon near Desert Center, which was six hours earlier and 55 km. away (in the opposite direction from which the pilot was looking). The pilot's sighting was officially explained as a balloon (though the book leaves out the explanation). Nevertheless, based on what little information was publicly known about the incident back in the 1950's, the pilot had been claimed as another witness to the contact. Barry Greenwood sent me his transcription of the report from the Blue Book microfilm records, and I sent a copy to Miss Zinsstag back in May 1980. So proper credit should go to Barry, not to me.

The book is aided by a comprehensive index, as well as a great many footnotes. Unfortunately, the latter generally omit the specific page numbers, which is a handicap.

From the above, it might correctly be inferred that though I am by no means an "Adamskian," my main interest in *George Adamski/ The Untold Story* was the parts critical of Adamski, so I liked it. Though I had previously heard of many of the revelations about him, I was not familiar with all the details included in the book. The rest of the book was also interesting, though at times the authors' naivete was exasperating. However, inasmuch as the book was written with the "intention of rehabilitating the name of George Adamski," (p. ix) I guess that the authors failed, at least with me. However, they are to be commended for their integrity in including as much material that is unfavorable to Adamski. It is an important book for people on both sides of the Adamski controversy to read. I hope that his partisans will pay attention to the evidence against him.

¹George Adamski, *Inside the Space Ships*, Abelard-Schuman, Inc., New York, 1955, p. 117.

* * * * *

I Was an Innocent Abroad

by Robert F. Creegan, Ph.D.

My trip to France and Great Britain in May and June 1984 was less productive in some respects than others I have taken. When my pocket was picked I lost only a little cash, but some identification material which had been useful in earlier UFO enquiries. More important, some of the people from whom one might expect to hear fascinating anecdotes (even if little or no technical instruction) were involved in the entertainment of far more important visitors on the entourages of certain public figures. Nevertheless I

was able to place a few questions.

In an earlier article in *The APRO Bulletin* I mentioned the concern of some computer designers in Silicon Valley that anomalous sources of energy might scramble computer functions. I heard more along the same line when I gave a talk in 1981 to a chapter of The Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers meeting in western Massachusetts. Some of the latter group were impressed with powers of self correction in ultra-sophisticated guidance systems and other computer-aided controls. Naturally, I had wanted European opinions on such questions, and what I got was not very reassuring. For example, a computer which will reject the "information" that a target has two different positions (distinct sets of coordinates) may signal "error" by aiming at random or more likely by not "painting" any target at all. These crude examples illustrate that anomalies affect "correction functions" as much as any other. In France, especially, there is considerable skepticism in regard to vaunted control systems, especially those in the realm of strategic arms. Perhaps this should not be taken too seriously as on this question I did not get any responses on "command levels" this summer, but was confined to almost random academic contacts.

In Great Britain I was told in both official and amateur circles that the thesis "once an official, always an official", is pretty much taken for granted in regard to American visitors. That such a visitor continues some contact with the so called "Intelligence community" is the working assumption. Gordon Creighton of *The Flying Saucer Review*, for example, advised me that one should consider the status of people such as J. Allen Hynek. This, of course, represented no criticism on Creighton's part, as he himself has served in the British consular service, and otherwise. The point is that in regard to getting and communicating truth, official connections have advantages which Creighton wanted to stress while indicating that certain constraints might also be assumed. This writer deeply appreciates the fundamental honesty of Creighton and has his circle in the United Kingdom.

A false sense of security in regard to UFO problems is encouraged in the public by the myth that there is an entirely objective and "unbossed" scientist who knows all there is to be known about the field, keeps an eye on developments, and gives his public the truth the whole truth and nothing but the truth. The deliberate cultivation of that myth has done tremendous harm to the field of UFO intelligence, that is, synoptic intelligence rather than biased releases of "information." I think that *The Flying Saucer Review* and *APRO* will be allies in opposition to all such myths.

In both France and Britain there is recaption of many UFO reports this year. As usual only a small percentage are from trained or otherwise "serious" types of source. Official follow-up is the exception and

seldom fully publicised when it occurs.

This "innocent abroad" must conclude with an admittedly political observation. There is every indication that West European sources with official connections, no less than those currently in places of power, do accept U.S. guidance in regard to release of information even in such apparently non-political areas as UFO investigations and conclusions. All this is increasingly irksome, however, partly because of declining faith in those whose policies have suffered reverses in various parts of the world because of egregious errors in information analysis. It is altogether possible that evidences, some of which have been withheld for decades, may be released not because of a policy shift in Washington, but rather because of a change in heart in Whitehall or on the Quai d'Orsay.

* * * * *

THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL HYPOTHESIS

By Vincent-Juan Ballester Olmos and Miguel Guasp

Taken from their book, *Los OVNI's y la ciencia/ Introducción a la ufología científica*, pp. 336-349. Published by Plaza & Janés, S.A., Editores, Esplugas de Llobregat, Barcelona, Spain, 1981. Translated by Richard W. Heiden. Used by permission. Corrected and edited.

After many years' study, dominated by a healthy skepticism, we have acquired the impression that *the answer to the UFO enigma lies in the interaction with an extraterrestrial intelligence*. This impression is reached, first, by *exclusion* of other hypotheses. In the second place, the accumulated body of evidence, from examining each of the strangest observations by themselves, or evaluating them as a group, points, in our opinion, directly to that hypothesis.

If the phenomenon is how the eyewitnesses describe it - and we tend to that possibility--only the model of a *piloted machine* that shares with its observers the four dimensions of space and time, and whose origin was outside of this planet, could explain the totality of the phenomenon, as it is reported, and also in accord with the statistical characteristics derived from the case records.

We thus postulate the *viability of the extraterrestrial hypothesis (ETH)* as the most logical framework to encompass the anomalous events we call UFOs. We next propose to review some of the criticisms put forth to discredit the ETH, as we think that the difficulties that the ETH theoretically runs into should be considered as a starting point in any serious analysis

of the hypothesis, since in order for it to be successful, it must be capable of explaining each and every one of these problems. In this sense, we think that it is possible to satisfactorily explain each one of the objections that are commonly presented, which are the fruit of unilateral approaches and of inexact appraisals, and fully validate the extraterrestrial theory.

Consequently, let's begin by reviewing the objections to the ETH mentioned in the article that J. Richard Greenwell wrote on "theories, UFO," in *The Encyclopedia of UFOs*, edited by Ronald Story.¹ This publication is a true landmark in the UFO bibliography. There it tells us: "The real point of the debate concerns the 'volume of traffic.' That is, most scientists find it very difficult to accept the idea of extraterrestrial visitation *on the scale implied by UFO reports*; that, to them, tends to invalidate *all* UFO reports. In fact, if UFO sightings were not so common (say, just one good report every three or four years), perhaps more scientists would seriously consider the ETH."

In another paragraph of the work, Greenwell writes that "The main problem with the ETH is space and time—space in the sense that the average distance between the 130 billion or more stars in our Milky Way galaxy is enormous, and time in the sense that these great distances would make interstellar voyages very long, not to mention the economic, engineering, and motivational aspects of such an enterprise."

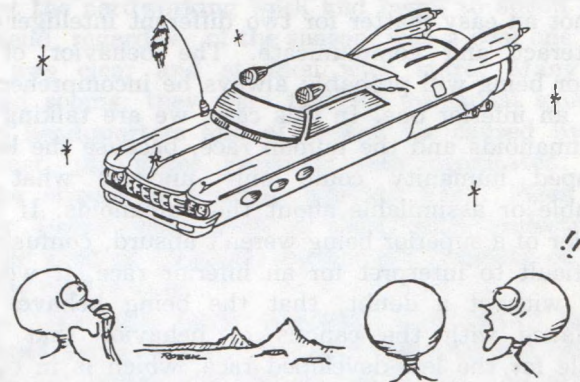
Now, then, for Richard Greenwell, the consensus on the most serious objections to the ETH had to do with space and time, and as a corollary to these, the fact that the number of UFO sightings is much greater than what would probably be recorded if they were authentic trips through outer space. This critical situation is made even more acute if we take into account the suspicions of some researchers that the true number of sightings is much greater than the ones we know about.²

Actually, the relation between the number of sightings and a possible interstellar trip is a very controversial question, and subject to different points of view. The number of possible arrivals to Earth does not depend on the number of possible technologically-advanced civilizations in the Galaxy, but on the number of flights that sociable civilizations dedicate to cosmic contact. For us, everything depends on the feasibility or economy with which these trips can be realized. If the trips are viable and economical, we should expect numerous visits. The opposite happens if they are not practicable. The evaluation of these factors is presently totally speculative and enormously weak, from the explanatory point of view, so, on fact, they lack any basis to be considered as arguments against the ETH.

It is a difficult job to resolve the objections posed by the great interstellar distances, the speed of light,

and the length of the interstellar trip—that is, the problems of space and time. The authors concluded that we still lack any indisputable elements to correctly evaluate this question, but guess that the spectrum of possibilities is exceedingly broad. For the time being it is enough to interject this key thought: *what cannot be demonstrated with exactitude, cannot be considered as a strong objection to any matter or theory, as it cannot serve to construct another theory, different from and contrary to the first.* In summary, this is the sad situation in which such objections to the ETH find themselves.

In our judgement, the questions that we have put forth here reflect on the consensus of the true state of the question about the ETH, from the scientific point of view, even though other unknowns have been posed at different levels, perhaps more speculative, but no less disquieting ones, which we will try to analyze next.



U.F.O.'s on Other Planets

Thus, another of the most common objections posed to the extraterrestrial hypothesis is the one that refers to the *excessive variety of shapes*, both of the objects and of their supposed crew. It is reasoned that such differentiation contradicts a possible extraterrestrial origin.

But a great deal can be said about this matter. In the first place, let's consider that if the UFO phenomenon has an extraterrestrial root, it would mean that there exists in the Galaxy at least one technological civilization apart from ours; then there would not be any reason to deny the possibility of the existence of many more exogenous civilizations. Under these circumstances it would be abnormal for only one humanoid species to have visited the Earth. Consequently, it would seem more logical that the UFO phenomenon was the result of a variety of visits by beings from diverse civilizations, which is perfectly congruent with the cases. More than difficulty, the diversification of shapes constitutes strong support for the ETH. Aime Michel once remarked³ that the diversification of shapes observed in the anatomy of the humanoids would require a multiplicity of origins,

a statement with which authors fully agree.

But there is even more, because it should be emphasized that, in many cases, the multiplicity of shapes attributed to the objects can only be apparent. The UFO shapes seen can often be the result of the witness's perspective, and, consequently, the shapes might not be as varied as is usually thought.

The *absurd behavior of the humanoids* is another well-established characteristic in UFO manifestations. We ourselves have established it in the course of the many interviews that we have had with observers of the phenomenon, and we have often asked ourselves about it. But it is a mistake to infer from this behavior that the UFO occupants give signs lacking concrete objectives or of behaving unintelligently, and, consequently, to assume that the ETH should be rejected, as this is not compatible with the notion of a super-technological civilization. In our judgement, the most objective reasoning consists of recognizing that we understand neither their behavior nor their plans. It is not an easy matter for two different intelligences to interact and communicate. The behavior of a superior being will probably always be incomprehensible to an inferior one. In this case, we are talking of the humanoids and the human race, because the less-developed humanity could only uncover what is knowable or assimilable about the humanoids. If the behavior of a superior being weren't absurd, confusing, or difficult to interpret for an inferior race, it would mean, without a doubt, that the being behaves in accordance with the canons of behavior that are suitable for the less-developed race, which is in open contradiction with the original hypothesis of their superiority.

On the other hand, the reception of apparently absurd sensorial information in close encounters, or the lack of intelligible contact between the "UFO" species and human beings, could be explained in the light of future discoveries by Science.

Thus, investigators who study the human brain have found that each of the two hemispheres of the brain plays a specific role in the context of understanding. The left lobe contains the cognitive abilities, while the right lobe has the gestalt or imagery abilities. Dr. Harold Puthoff⁴ has offered an interesting analogy in this area, which could convincingly explain the supposedly absurd character of many UFO manifestations: in the same way that a child, when he is born, has no prior learning in the cognitive abilities, such as speaking or writing, and is therefore incapable of putting into an identification framework the abundance of images that the gestalt hemisphere of his brain continually receives, adults who suddenly become eyewitnesses to a close encounter with a UFO will find themselves in the same situation if the rich "pictorial" content and imagery of an observation of a UFO landing with its occupants were somehow directed straight to the right lobe of the witness'

brain, not providing the left hemisphere with any elements by which to interpret or structure what was seen. This imagery transfer could even be a sophisticated way in which the UFO intelligence tried to communicate with the rudimentary terrestrial specimen.

Man, in the still elementary evolutionary stage in which he presumably finds himself, has still not developed certain forms of advanced perception as would be involved in imagery transfer; hence the succession of unusual and absurd memories that witnesses refer to, which would then be the result of a frustrated communication.

In accordance with this idea, the subject would think that he is seeing something that truly does not fit reality, that is, even though the sighting has an objective origin, what the witness sees is the result of the impact or stream of "graphic" stimuli from the UFO, when the latter are distorted by his mind on account of the lack of a paradigm or conceptual structure by which it would gain significance. Therefore, in our judgment, some observers claim to have watched scenes as physically aberrant as the interpretation of two different flying objects until they became a single one having the same characteristics as the previous ones, such as in the now famous case of "Doctor X," studied exhaustively by Aimé Michel.⁵

The emission of images from UFOs, as a supposed attempt at communication, has already been suggested by some ufologists. Jacques Vallée even said: "The best explanation we have thought of so far is that somebody is systematically exposing human witnesses to certain scenes, carefully designed to convey certain images."⁶

Another possible explanation for the inability of our brains to comprehend the sensory input from UFOs would not lie in the lack of training by the brain, but in a conditioning of it at a generic level, if, as it is not too rash to suppose, there exists a tremendous psychic distance between terrestrial and extraterrestrial intelligences, a distance that would principally be determined by the superior degree of biological development that the civilization that presumably visits us has with respect to us.

(continued in the next issue)

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