

the apro bulletin

1977 DISC IN INDIANA

NOCTURNAL LIGHTS

By Dr. Michael D. Swords

The UFO phenomenon of "Nocturnal Lights" has become so confused due to the large number of possible alternative causes, that most ufologists are ready to ignore the whole category unless something very special about a given case makes it worth notice. Now a somewhat old, somewhat new phenomenon seems to be emerging into the borders of "establishment science" that promises to confuse the issue further: glow balls.

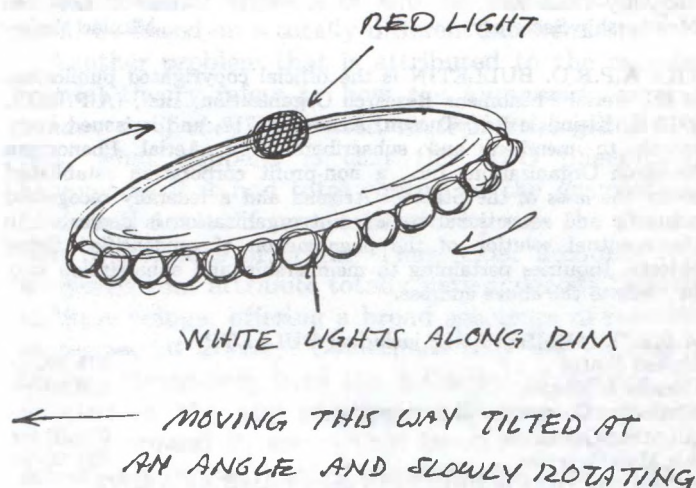
These spheres of very intense light have been reported, and dismissed by scientists as legend, for some time. But now, with greater surveillance in the coastal Rockies due to the eruptions of Mt. St. Helens, geological and forestry professionals are the ones making the reports. These objects pose one more problem for the ufologists trying to dissect reports of campers, mountain travellers and people seeing NLs near the notorious "fault lines" of geological stress.

At the 1984 meeting of the American Geophysical Union, members of the U.S. Geological Survey discussed sightings of "luminous phenomena" in the region of the Yakima Indian Reservation of Washington state. A quote expresses the general experience:

A very strong white light about the size of a baseball was floating along just north of me down the slope. . . Really looked like someone could have been out for an evening stroll with a light in their hand. But nothing to stroll on but air. . . No noise at all. All quiet.

The geologists feel that these lights are not typical "earthquake lights" involving larger glows and flashes, but may be associated with very small earth tremors (less than 1 on the Richter Scale). They also do not seem to be "ball lightning", as they appear in weather conditions which would seem to preclude such phenomena. Nevertheless photographs indicate at least a strong superficial resemblance to "ball lightning."

The geologists do not know the composition of these somewhat rare glow balls, and cannot formulate much



by David Roeck

I was staying in a motel in Anderson, Indiana, in the month of July of 1977, when my travelling companion burst in through the door to summon me outside. Once in the parking lot, I gazed up above the rooftop to witness a great disc gliding gently across our field of view, moving slowly and tilted at an angle. It was slowly rotating clockwise and at so low an altitude (my guess is less than 1000 feet) as to make identification easy (for me, being familiar with conventional aircraft design). I knew right away that this aircraft was not a conventional earthly machine, and instantly felt the rush of recognition of once again beholding a magnificent craft from a more advanced world, or whatever. The last such time was ten years before. It appeared simply as a great frisbee-like disc with "gold-ball" white spherical lights arranged around the rim and all touching each other, and one spherical red light of about the same size on the top center of the craft. Within five minutes it had gradually moved out of view, having travelled in an arc, not in a straight line. It was as simple as that-- I only wished I'd been able to see it longer, and through binoculars. There were no sound, odors, or emissions. The time was 9:30 p.m., and the temperature was between 70° and 80°.

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Lights

(continued from page one)

of a working hypothesis as to how they form. They notice an increase in numbers crudely correlated to increase in earthquake phenomena, but cannot precisely link "balls" with "quakes". Between 1972 (July) and 1977 (April), the lookout posts at Yakima witnessed 82 cases, however, indicating that ufologists need to be concerned about this explanation for so-called "ufo landing-fields" type claims.

Another recent publication of what may be a similar East Coast phenomenon regards the "Brown Mountain Lights" of North Carolina, being researched by two Fortean research organizations, ORION and the Enigma Project, and published in the January 1984 number of *INFO* (the journal of the International Fortean Organization). The writer, Michael Frizzell, reports many misidentifications of refracted city-lights which seemed to hang over the hills, and several "genuine" mystery lights which may be part of the "glow ball" pattern.

The group project's best "multiple witness" incident showed "a bright diffused white light. . . among the trees on the northern slopes." The sighting lasted only 5 seconds but moved in a speedy (37⁺ mph) horizontal zig-zag pattern "before blinking out." Mr. Frizzell's best personal sighting involved multiple lights over a period of many minutes (at 3 miles distance). These lights changed colors in a pattern from arc-welder's blue-white brilliance through yellow to dull red and then out. Some of these showed wavering horizontal movements, and all individual lights went through their "act" in a very brief time frame (10 seconds). Mr. Frizzell feels that the geological strain theory is the primary hypothesis for the moment.

And a last note, a recent *OMNI* (August 1984) briefly reports a Russian incident of a baseball-sized glow ball entering a plane, transversing its length, and leaving through the tail. This was referred to as "ball lightning", but weather conditions were reported as clear. The object apparently punched or burnt minor holes in the plane's fuselage at both ends. As the newsnote ended: "It is a very rare and strange phenomenon." Indeed; and one which ufologists must take seriously to eliminate from our cases as an alternative explanation of nocturnal light sightings.

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ASTRONOMICAL DATA

by Lee Emery

This data applies to those areas located from approximately 30° north latitude, including most points in the U.S.A., Canada, Europe, Central Asia and Japan. All times given are approximate. Add one hour for the beginning of the month, and subtract one hour for the end of the month. Standard time is used.

OCTOBER 1984

PROMINENT PLANETS: *Venus* can be seen in the western sky after sunset before setting an hour or so later.

Mars and *Jupiter* are located close together in the southern sky after sunset, then set in the WSW about 9:00 p.m.

Saturn is low in the west after sunset, then sets about an hour later.

BRIGHTEST STARS:

9:00 p.m.: *Aldebaran* is low in the east.

Capella is 30° above the ENE.

Vega is 45° above the west.

11:00 p.m.: *Aldebaran* is 45° above the east.

Capella is 55° above the ENE.

Vega is 30° above the west.

Orion Constellation is low in the east.

1:00 a.m.: *Aldebaran* is 70° above the ESE.

Capella is 75° above the east.

Vega is low in the NNW.

Orion Constellation is 30° above the SE.

Sirius is low in the east.

3:00 a.m.: *Aldebaran* is 75° above the south.

Capella is almost directly overhead.

Orion Constellation is 50° above the south.

Sirius is 30° above the south.

5:00 a.m.: *Aldebaran* is 60° above the west.

Capella is 80° above the west.

Orion Constellation is 50° above the SSW.

Sirius is 35° above the south.

METEOR SHOWERS: October 10 *Draconids*
October 21 *Orionids*

NOVEMBER 1984

PROMINENT PLANETS: *Venus* is low in the SW after sunset.

Mars is 25° above the south after sunset, setting soon after 9:00 p.m. in the WSW.

Jupiter sets just before *Mars* in the WSW.

Saturn is no longer visible in the evening sky but becomes visible in the pre-dawn eastern sky by the end of the month.

BRIGHTEST STARS:

9:00 p.m.: *Orion Constellation* has just risen in the east.

Aldebaran is 45° above the east.

Capella is 55° above the ENE.

Vega is 30° above the west.

11:00 p.m.: *Aldebaran* is 70° above the ESE.

Capella is 75° above the east.

Vega is low in the NNW.

Orion Constellation is 30° above the SE.

Sirius is low in the east.

1:00 a.m.: *Aldebaran* is 75° above the south.

Capella is almost overhead.

Orion Constellation is 50° above the south.

Sirius is 30° above the south.

3:00 a.m.: *Aldebaran* is 60° above the west.

Capella is 80° above the west.

Orion Constellation is 50° above the SSW.

Sirius is 35° above the south.

5:00 a.m.: *Aldebaran* is 30° above the west.

Capella is 55° above the west.

Orion Constellation is 45° above the WSW.

Sirius is 35° above the SSW.

Arcturus is 20° above the east.

METEOR SHOWERS: November 5 *Taurids*
November 14 *Andromedids*
November 18 *Leonids*

DECEMBER 1984

PROMINENT PLANETS: *Venus* is low in the SW after sunset.

Mars is located near *Venus* after sunset.

Jupiter sets in the WSW right after sunset.

Saturn rises in the east just before sunrise.

BRIGHTEST STARS: Star positions are unchanged except times are one hour earlier than November in the first part of the month and two hours earlier towards the end of the month.

METEOR SHOWERS: December 14 *Geminids*
December 22 *Ursids*

(Editor's note: *Mr. Emery, who has faithfully furnished APRO with our Astronomical data, is moving on to graduate school to study orbital mechanics. He will be extremely busy with his studies and does not feel he will have time to devote to his column. Therefore, he has furnished us with the data for the remainder of the calendar year, and wishes us luck. The staff knows of a couple of talented individuals in the field who could take over the column, and we'll wait a few weeks for volunteers before we start "twisting a few arms". How about it, folks?*)

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UFOLOGY— According to WHOM?

by Coral Lorenzen

The January, 1984 issue of the *MUFO Journal* carried a 3½-page "Estimation of the Situation" of UFOlogy by John Schuessler, Deputy Director of MUFON which was part apology for the mistakes of MUFON and Walt Andrus, and partly a diatribe against the UFO detractors, APRO and Mr. Lorenzen and myself in particular.

I had not intended to even make reference to the article because it was so patently obvious, but many old-timers have written or called suggesting that I at least correct some of the glaring errors.

NICAP'S PROBLEMS

I don't feel I should take the time and space to deal with each issue but the following are important: Schuessler gives "certain cases such as abductions" as one of the biases which "doomed (NICAP) to failure." He seems to know little or nothing about early UFOlogy history. The dissension within NICAP started almost at it's inception (1956) because Donald E. Keyhoe would not accept landings as legitimate cases for investigation. In fact, his main thrust (the "I" of "Investigations" in NICAP) was to prove a

cover-up of UFO evidence and prove the Air Force to blame.

APRO became a target of NICAP displeasure when we not only published landing cases, but our opinion that the Air Force project was a front and that if a cover-up was in effect, it was being accomplished at CIA level or higher. This theory was later embraced by the whole UFO field with no credit to the originators. See my book, "The Great Flying Saucer Hoax", 1962, William Frederick Press.

The article goes on to pay homage to Hynek and to beamoan the fact that CUFOS (Hynek's group) and MUFON are feeling a financial pinch, and blames the problem on a lack of ability to recognize "changes in management styles."

APRO's PROBLEMS (?)

Then all-seeing Deputy Director of MUFON gets around to his scapegoat: "APRO has similar problems", he writes. Where did he get his crystal ball? APRO has always had money problems because we have always had projects we have wanted to initiate, but couldn't afford, but where day-by-day operating expenses are concerned, we are still growing and getting by.

In another swipe at APRO he states: "It's main claim to fame today is that it is the oldest organization of its kind in existence." I beg to differ with Mr. Schuessler: APRO is also the *only* organization of its kind in existence. It has been copied a lot (by CUFOS and MUFON) but not quite duplicated.

FOR THE RECORD

Of equal importance is the fact that APRO pioneered investigation and research in the days when UFOs were a subject of ridicule. NICAP was busy trying to find someone to blame them on, but APRO made it possible, with good, sound investigating and reporting, for people like Hynek, Schuessler and Andrus to "come out of the closet" and act as though they were responsible for the legitimatizing of UFO research.

In fact, we might ask those three where they were during the hard times, from 1947 to 1969. Hynek was in the pay of the Air Force, we know that. Mr. Lorenzen and I began our search when we formed APRO in 1952. Ten years later, in 1962, I wrote and published my first book, with my own funds. It was the book which began to interest the scientific community (Dr. Harder, Dr. Sprinkle and Dr. Salisbury, to name a few familiar names) in the validity of the UFO problem.

During the middle 1960s flap, APRO Headquarters received a complaint from a UFO witness in Missouri that Walt Andrus had become very short with her when she tried to report subsequent experiences which followed her initial one. He insinuated there was something wrong with anyone who saw more than one UFO

(the Hynek doctrine). APRO subsequently sent in another investigator.

In December of 1968, Richard Greenwell stopped in Quincy, Illinois, where Andrus lived at the time. During a visit with Andrus, Greenwell was regaled with tape recordings of reports which Walt said he had investigated. When Greenwell asked if they had been forwarded to APRO, Andrus responded: "I am APRO."

In 1969, NICAP was failing, the Condon Committee was about to close its doors, and Walt Andrus made his move. In the guise of removing what he called the "bottleneck" at APRO Headquarters, he proposed a "Midwest UFO Network" (run by him, of course) to be made up of APRO members throughout the middle-west. The Board discussed his proposal and in a meeting with him in Chicago in June of that year, I told him the decision was *No*. But Walt did not take no for an answer. Later, in the fall of the same year, he visited with some of APRO's scientific advisers, and ultimately, with Mr. Lorenzen and me here in Tucson. We still said no. By that time we considered him to be somewhat of a pest.

In the spring of 1970, a UFO conference was held in Peoria, Illinois. Walt tried to influence the program committee to leave APRO out of it, but they stood firm and I spoke at the conference. Walt demanded and got the roster of attendees, and that was the nucleus of his "Midwest UFO Network". Those attendees had all been invited by APRO, from APRO rolls in seven states. Later that year, Walt called people on the phone, apparently using the WATS line at his employer's place of business, generally libeling APRO and the Lorenzens, and one of those individuals recorded his call. The whole conversation consisted of criticism of the Lorenzens, including their home: "Not in a very nice neighborhood", he said. We still have the recording.

Now I ask the reader, "What has our home and our neighborhood got to do with UFO research?" Because of the gossipy content of the recording, I began to think of Walt Andrus as a nuisance.

When MUFON finally got established and published their Field Investigator's Manual, in the section dealing with "How to Dress", Investigators were instructed to wear "old jeans" when interviewing "rurals". THEN IT DAWNED ON ME! Walt didn't like the Lorenzen neighborhood because we live on the edge of Tucson, in a "rural" setting. "Rurals, as I interpret it, means anyone who lives outside the urban and suburban area, including farmers.

Now we don't exactly live on a farm, but there are a couple of corrals on the neighborhood, one of which holds another jackass and a mule. The lady across the street (we're in the city - she's in the county) has horses, goats, geese, chickens, dogs and cats. So I assumed that Walt does not like or understand "rurals", or farmers. Maybe he doesn't like animals,

either. That, in my humble opinion meant that he was lacking in judgement. But a threat? Nawwww!

WHITHER NAUFOF?

A few words in Schuessler's article mentions the North American UFO Federation (how can you have a Federation of UFOs anyway?) and the fact that it is having problems, too. He mentions Mr. Lorenzen's and my health problems, but says that if we had prepared someone to take our place, things would be alright, and also that the "many fine volunteers" in APRO would be contributing to the success of NAUFOF.

This is elementary school psychology. Criticize the officers of a group and praise the general membership. The fact of the NAUFOF matter is that APRO learned about its formation by word of mouth and was formally asked to join after officers were elected. Actually, pressured is a better word. We published the results of our Board of Directors ruling on APRO's participation in NAUFOF, which was negative, and the only mail we received on the subject from the "many fine volunteers" as Schuessler put it, supported the Board's decision *not* to join NAUFOF.

Then, after patting Andrus on the back, John gets to the subject which really bothers him: The Cash/Landrum case. For newcomers, this case involves the claims of two ladies and the grandson of one, that they had observed a strange diamond-shaped object, a large number of military helicopters and suffered severe burns and physical trauma. According to Schuessler, "Coral Lorenzen, head of APRO (has) been very negative and critical of the case." He wrote that I claimed inside knowledge about the "UFO", and that it was a malfunctioning government device. Now, let's look at some facts: Both Mr. Lorenzen (who is the Director of APRO - not I) and I tried to help, but the damage was done early on.

Mr. Lorenzen was, as usual, working a full-time job when the Cash-Landrum sighting occurred. I was recuperating from a broken neck and could participate very little in APRO's activities. During that time, a local member and hanger-on at the office took the initial call from Mrs. Landrum, solicited a tape recording she made of their experience and within days had sold it to a tabloid. We were unaware of this.

When we learned of the case, in early February, 1981, Mr. Lorenzen instructed our office manager to send what details we had to Mr. Schuessler and ask him if he wanted to investigate the case. Meanwhile, the culprit in the tape-selling deal was denied access to the office and his membership was rescinded.

In the summer of 1981, we published a report on the case based on the information Schuessler had forwarded, the last of which was April, 1981.

PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT

In early October, 1981, during a conversation with

Dr. R. Leo Sprinkle, APRO Consultant in Psychology, I mentioned my concern for Mrs. Cash and Mrs. Landrum and said I had thought of calling and talking to them - just to express my sympathy. Dr. Sprinkle urged me to do so. I called Mrs. Landrum and we had a nice, revealing but sad visit. The women had been through a lot and were both still suffering, both physically and psychologically. She agreed to correspond with me and answer some questions. I wrote Mrs. Landrum on October 24 and asked some questions about information not covered in Schuessler's report. On October 31st I received her answer. I talked with her once more, and then my subsequent calls were rebuffed and my letters went unanswered. Then in July, 1982, I received a typed letter from Mrs. Landrum asking for the tape recording. She had mentioned the recording in her one letter (which was handwritten) and we had been trying to track it down. We eventually located it and sent it (the original) and a copy to her.

On the basis of my conversations with Mrs. Landrum, her letter, and Schuessler's material as well as other information, I wrote a critique of the Cash-Landrum case, concluding that the object which the women saw was a classified military aircraft which had malfunctioned. APRO has not changed it's assessment of the case.

STEVENS DEFENDED

Last, but certainly not least, is Mr. Schuessler's treatment of the Wendelle C. Stevens affair. Mr. Stevens is an ex-Air Force Colonel who has been involved in the UFO subject for some time. He happens to reside in Tucson, but is not and never has been connected with APRO. He was another of our office hangers-on when APRO had a public office. We found that he had intercepted a photo case meant for APRO and had it forwarded to his home. From that time (1979) on, he was persona non grata at the office. He is mainly known for his connection with the Billy Meier (Switzerland) claims of contact with UFOs. The case is considered by serious researchers to be a patent hoax, and Stevens' credibility as a "researcher" is practically nil. Stevens has had absolutely *no* connection with the Travis Walton case investigation, so Schuessler has grossly erred again.

COURT RECORDS REVEALED

In July, 1983, APRO received, via mail, xeroxed copies of the final disposition records of the Superior Court case of the State of Arizona vs. Wendelle C. Stevens. They were anonymously sent, but investigation revealed that they were a genuine item. I did not consider the Bulletin the place for publicizing Stevens' problems and the material was filed.

However, in the fall of 1983, APRO and Mr. Lorenzen and I began to receive an excessive number of "wrong number" (the telephone rings until you

answer- sometimes as many as eight or ten rings, then the caller hangs up) telephone calls (four or five a day, sometimes as late as 2 a.m.) and unsigned mail accusing me (Coral Lorenzen) of having paid \$200.00 (a bribe) to an official of the Pima County Attorney's office in return for Wendelle C. Stevens' court records.

In the interest of truth - I did not pay anybody anything for those records - they came via U. S. mail and carried no return address and a blurred postmark. Also, for the record, if I had \$200 to spare, I could find many places to spend it, and certainly wouldn't waste it obtaining records of a court case I knew nothing about to begin with.

Mr. Stevens was charged with 16 different counts of child molestation, entered a plea of guilty to three counts, and was sentenced to serve seven years on each count, in the minimum security unit of the Arizona State prison. The sentences are being served concurrently (at the same time).

Mr. Schuessler seems to be apologizing for Stevens. He wrote: "Wendell was jailed for doing something disapproved of by society." Mr. Lorenzen and I would say it was a crime, but then we're somewhat old-fashioned about children, having raised a couple.

To sum up, in my opinion, John Schuessler is flailing about, trying to find someone or something to blame for the current predicament of UFOlogy. I suggest that the answer is HYPE. He mentioned the "dirty tricks" that had been played on APRO. Someday the complete story of the happenings at APRO from 1979 through 1981 may be finally pieced together and told. For instance, the "mole" at APRO who, on a regular basis, sent the names and addresses of new members and potential members to another organization. The hanger-on who intercepted Mrs. Landrum's tape and Mr. Stevens, who intercepted a photo case are only the tip of the iceberg. Many years ago Mr. Lorenzen suggested that the UFO field be self-policing and we have tried to do that very thing, but find that we cannot act for the whole UFOlogical community.

Meanwhile, no matter how many accusations are flung in our direction, Mr. Lorenzen and I, who have devoted over 32 years of our lives to UFO research, will reserve the right to collaborate with those whom we feel are doing the job.

* * * * *

MISCONCEPTIONS IN UFOLOGY

By Coral Lorenzen

Many years ago, perhaps as early as the late 1950s,

the term "mother ship" came into use among UFO researchers, generally credited to George Adamski. If the term has been challenged, I am not aware of it, and welcome documented information from any member of APRO or the UFOlogical community, concerning its exact origin, and the challenge.

The term has always worried me; however, possibly because I was too busy with the day-to-day grind of investigations and Bulletin chores, or because it didn't seem too important, I have made no attempt to rectify it. In view of the publication of Timothy Good and Lou Zinstagg's book chronicling the life and work of Adamski, I think it is time to redefine the term and suggest an alternate.

"Mother ship" has been used to describe the large ships which allegedly carry and launch smaller ones which Adamski dubbed "scout ships". Adamski, who romanticized the UFOs, claiming they were benevolent "space brothers" who came to earth to save mankind from itself, was further romanticizing with his "mother ship" designation. Any knowledgeable person knows that a mother conceives an entity, nurtures it inside her body for a length of time, depending on her species, then pushes it out at birth. The entity does not, at any time re-enter the parent body.

If we compare the latter scenario with the sequence of events surrounding the relationship and actions of Adamski's "mother" and "scout", it is easy to see that there is little or no resemblance between the two. The larger ship is cigar-shaped, emitting small discs, while an animal mother gives birth to a duplicate (or nearly so) of her own kind. At no time does the new entity re-enter the mother's body. The discs, however, have been seen re-entering the "mother" cigar.

Therefore, in this context, I suggest the use of the more mundane and fitting term; "Carrier ship" or "craft". The first and best documented case describing this type of craft is the sighting at Vernon, France, on August 22-23, 1954, which Aime Michel published in his excellent book, "Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery". In this particular case, the huge cigar-shaped object positioned vertically above the ground, emitted or launched, one at a time, five disc-shaped objects which came out of the end closest to the ground, hesitated for a moment, then moved away at high speed.

Adamski's designation of these small craft as "scout ships" is another attempt at romanticization. Scout: boy scout - kind, helpful, etc. Scout: the name of the horse owned by the Lone Ranger's Indian friend, Tonto. The Indian "scout" of the 1800s -- friend of the White Man. Brave, stalwart, etc. Let's call these smaller craft reconnaissance or "recon" craft, as one alternative, at least.

In our next issue we'll examine another inconsistency in the UFO mystery.

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The Extraterrestrial Hypothesis

by Vincent-Juan Ballester Olmos and Miguel Guasp
(Translated by Richard Heiden)
continued from Vol. 32, No. 5

From this point of view, any coherent communication would be impossible by definition. It would be something like the hypothetical contact between Man and an ant. It is well known that ants have developed an advanced social order (communal and hierarchical organization), have a relatively complex technological level (which is evident from their habitat), and have attained a highly developed level of intercommunication in the species. The human being and this tiny hymenopterous insect live together in the same planet. Sometimes Man observes its customs without interfering in its world, and, occasionally, the ant suffers the destructive effects of Man's foot, but neither species can communicate with the other because their intelligences move on radically different "conscious" planes. We think that the same basic problem exists between those responsible for the UFO phenomenon and the human species. Thus, we could find that with the ETH, the absence of direct intelligent communication by UFO occupants--which is, perhaps, one of the most outstanding patterns of the problem that concerns us-- would be explained.

Another oft-repeated objection to the extraterrestrial hypothesis refers to the fact that in the occupant reports, the *humanoids have anatomical and morphological structure too similar to that of the human being*. With respect to this matter it has been indicated that perhaps evolution itself leads inexorably to the development of beings that are constitutionally similar. This is a mere hypothesis, which could be true or false, but what is true is that objections of this kind can be made starting from certain basic conceptual assumptions, that is to say, with a priori prejudices about what the shape of an extraterrestrial being would be.

What we can do, as investigators, is to compare the UFO phenomenon with all of the phenomena that we know exist in the terrestrial environment, and if we reach the conclusion that the phenomenon is not explained by any of the known terrestrial canons of behavior, then we must necessarily conclude that it is extraterrestrial, in the sense that it is exogenous to Earth. Now, then, as we still do not know of any extraterrestrial creature, we do not have any basis on which to undertake a criticism of the origin of the anthropomorphic figures that on occasion are associated with UFOs. On the contrary, if we reach the

conclusion that UFOs are extraterrestrial in nature, we should infer that the appearance offered by the humanoids is the one that should be offered by the supposed extraterrestrial beings, always through the ocular filter of the human witness.

In this matter the principle of functional adaptation must also be considered. The best example we have of this is the dolphin and the fish, both adapted for moving in the water, though with different evolutionary origins and different paths of development. From this it can be deduced that, even though the beings might have our appearance and act like humans, they could be based on a totally different biochemistry.⁷

Another problem that is attributed to the extraterrestrial theory refers to how *the humanoids seem to behave as if they were used to terrestrial gravity*. In fact, what happens is that the UFO phenomenon behaves as if it had total control of the gravitational field, and not as if terrestrial gravity was the same as that of its place of origin. There exist accounts from witnesses that attribute totally heterogeneous behavior to these beings, offering a broad spectrum of reactions to terrestrial gravity. Sometimes they are capable of freeing themselves from the influence of gravity and floating in the air, entering or leaving their craft, turning around it, etc...Other times they busy themselves in their work as if exerting considerable effort (they have infrequently been observed like this), and, nevertheless, on other occasions they have been observed moving with extraordinary agility. These do not exactly seem to be patterns of behavior that agree with the idea of adapting to gravity, rather, one must say that there does not exist a homogeneity of behavior in this matter.

There is another idea we want to comment on in regard to the behavior of the humanoids in the terrestrial environment. It is tempting to the authors to deduce that the behavior, conduct and ability to move varies appreciably between the two basic types of occupants. In the shorter beings, for example, the speed of their movements is really surprising, in contrast to the conduct of taller humanoids. Perhaps it is a hasty conclusion, and reduces everything to one physical characteristic, no doubt a crude one, but it is noteworthy that this behavior approximates what we frequently find in our own natural environment, namely, that, on the average, the more diminutive beings are usually given an agility proportionally greater than are the larger beings, which, without a doubt, would be an indication that would point toward the reality of the events that include occupants.

In certain circles it is thought that one reason to refute the ETH is that *the nature of the objects observed involves physically impossible conditions*. Such a strangeness level is desired, as there are cases in which a phenomenon with a solid appearance deforms before the eyes of the witness, or cases in

deforms before the eyes of the witness, or cases that include examples of "solid light," materializations, dematerializations, etc., but such conjectures have more to do with the unknown physics characteristic of the UFO phenomenon than with its origin. It is precisely the existence of such anomalies that grants greater value to UFO testimony. To indicate that this series of anomalous events constitutes a difficulty for the ETH is tantamount to eliminating this hypothesis *a priori*, which is methodologically unacceptable.

In recent years there seems to have been a certain neglect of the extraterrestrial hypothesis by students of ufology. This "desertion" of the extraterrestrial hypothesis in the UFO field curiously coincides with a contemporary scientific tendency toward that very hypothesis in the field of exobiology, and through NASA's Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) project, as Aime Michel has noted.⁸ In fact, Jacques Scornaux has confirmed that the ETH forms part of the modern scientific thinking, and has verified, with three recent examples, Michel's premonitory statement that the idea that certain extraterrestrial intelligences could reach us was on the verge of being born among scientists, even outside the field of ufology.⁹

Commenting on Project Daedalus--which consists of sending a manned probe to Bernard's star, propelled by the fusion of interstellar hydrogen and moving at the speed of $.12e^{10}$ --the English weekly magazine *New Scientist* says: "But if it is so easy to travel between the stars, why has the galaxy not already been swamped by the millions of other civilizations predicted to be out there?"¹¹ In an interview with U.S. physicist Gerard O'Neill, proponent of space colonization,¹² he wonders, "If the spread across the Galaxy can be so rapid, has it happened already to some other group? And if it happened, why isn't it obvious to us?"¹³ Finally, when the prestigious U.S. magazine *Science* opened its doors to work by two eminent researchers with the California Institute of Technology, relative to the problem of detecting intelligent life in the universe, we can read there that, in their opinion, unless life is extremely rare, numerous civilizations must have colonized the Galaxy already. If this is the case, "nearby extraterrestrial beings are probably aware of the existence of our civilization, [and] we might address ourselves to the implications of the fact that obvious overt contact has not yet been made. This certainly does not rule out case (ii) [that "there are several such civilizations [technological civilizations that last long enough to begin the colonization process"], in which favor the possibility that extraterrestrial beings have chosen not to reveal themselves until, perhaps, we reach a certain developmental threshold."¹⁴

Despite the progressive approach of science in the vanguard toward the ETH, a sector of ufologists has

noticeably distanced itself from this hypothesis, and turned toward theses of the paranormal and parapsychological type. Why is this? Is it due to their having succeeded in refuting the extraterrestrial hypothesis? In fact, no. What has caused it is a complex collection of reasons, of a very varied nature.

In some it is the influence of certain thinkers, writers and students who, in their evolution through the years, and dominated by the fatigue and frustration that the phenomenon cannot be comprehended, have opted for non-mechanistic hypothesis, in favor of those that do not refer to a necessary controlling intelligence. On the other hand, books and articles that expound paranormal theories about UFOs also have the capacity of changing the opinion of those for whom the idea that compares UFOs to spaceships, far from being a model based on the proofs and scientific argument, represented something romantic that he had not gotten into deeply, or simply an explanation that satiated their internal needs. But if they are furnished a quasi-esoteric world infested with psychic projections, with their unknown "forces," it can perfectly supplant the technologically super-advanced humanoid.

One more explanation for the intellectual movement of investigators from the ETH or the physical theory of the phenomenon toward the dark alleys of parapsychology or symbolism comes from the hand of the famous Peter principle,¹⁵ which reveals one of the most distinctive signs of human behavior in the social world we live in. This principle states that in a hierarchical society, people tend to rise to their level of incompetence, where they then remain. The application of this principle to our problem is that investigators who in the past have contributed notable works in their professional fields to the establishment of a scientific ufology, now sustain theories that are totally outside the fields where they are academically accredited and are competent, with all the subjective results that might be imagined.

In a perceptive essay, Jean-Francois Gille¹⁶ has isolated several reasons why the ETH is considered old-fashioned by certain people. Among them, two seem to stand out for their crushing logic. The first enunciates that emphasizing parapsychology to the detriment of the extraterrestrial hypothesis supposes that the UFO phenomenon does not have to harmonize with the latest knowledge in physics and astronomy. It is no longer necessary to know the properties of space-time, or of relativity, magnetohydrodynamics, quantum mechanics, etc.; the neo-ufologist is not imposed with the rigor of reconciling, within an expanded physics, the massive presence of UFOs in the terrestrial environment. For us, this is evident.

concluded in the next issue