

BUFORA

JOURNAL

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AIMS :

1. To encourage and promote unbiased scientific investigation and research into Unidentified Flying Object phenomena.
2. To collect and disseminate evidence and data relating to Unidentified Flying Objects.
3. To co-ordinate UFO Research on a nation-wide scale and co-operate with persons and organisations engaged upon similar research in all parts of the world.

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THE BUFORA JOURNAL

Volume 4 Number 1

Winter 1973

Editor: NORMAN OLIVER

Editorial Address: 95 Taunton Road, London, SE12 8PA.

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Readers will notice that, to commence the new volume, we have a ' bumper ' issue of 40 pages. Printing and postal costs prevent us, unfortunately, from maintaining this size other than in exceptional circumstances. Future issues, therefore, will normally contain 32 or 36 pages Ed.

EDITORIAL

Whilst deliberating on a suitable theme for this issue, it occurred to me that the contents of the editorials I presented in COS-MOS 9 and COS-MOS 10 in 1970 are as appropriate now as they were then, so—from No. 9:—

“ It is not infrequent these days when confronted by evidence that sightings or contacts are hoaxes, or that a UFO photograph is a fake, for some researchers to cry “ Space Hoax.” If one assumes this, however, then “ evil space entities ” can be blamed for everything connected with our erring human nature, though I suppose it’s really a nice thought that “ It wasn’t me, only that ‘ evil entity,’ that ‘ sadistic spirit ’ or ‘ devilish deva ’ looking over my shoulder at the time!” Nevertheless, I would not entirely dismiss the possibility of space or spirit hoaxes occurring—my good friend Harold Chibbert has, in fact, postulated the possible existence of a “ psychic hoax ” barrier similar to a light or sound barrier, which we may have to pierce before arriving at the truth. What I do NOT think, however, is that we should cry “ Space Hoax ” at every conceivable opportunity when in fact in many cases it is almost certainly hoaxing HUMAN nature. To do so is to denigrate our study in the eyes of the very people we are trying to convince and impress: they certainly will not go along with “ Space Hoaxes,” but will be far more inclined to the opinion that we are attempting to “ cover up.” Let us, therefore, search first on our own doorstep before we invoke the intangible.”

And from No. 10:—

“ THERE ARE NO EXPERTS IN UFOLOGY,—only some who have more knowledge and experience of events Ufological than others. That sounds like a quote, though if it is, I cannot place the source. Nevertheless, to my mind it is certainly true, and before we criticise others for pursuing lines of thought and action dissimilar to our own, let us first consider whether *our* approach is not open to criticism also. It is very easy to scoff at others for being non-scientific: prone to exaggeration or mis-statement, (there are very few—including myself—who at times have not been guilty in this respect, however accurate and dispassionate one may strive to be), and many other faults, real or imaginary. The truth is that the truth may come from any source—quite possibly from numerous sources, and those who indulge in unjustified criticism of UFO researchers, UFO societies and their members named or unnamed, should first ensure that their own actions, aims and methods, viewed through others’ eyes, are above reproach.

NORMAN OLIVER.

The British UFO Research Association does not hold or express corporate views on UFO phenomena. The Editor and his contributors are solely responsible for views advanced over their names in this Journal.

Articles and items for inclusion in the Journal must be sent direct to the Editor and not to other BUFORA officers. Requests for permission to reproduce material from the Journal should also be addressed to the Editor.

LET'S LOOK AROUND . . .

The first two items I have chosen for this issue have both been received via Richard Farrow and are, I think, particularly interesting because of their completely different nature: firstly:—

SUNKEN UFO

Kolbjorn Odegard, Chairman of the Norwegian UFO Centre, and several other members of NUFOC have been searching for a UFO in a lake at Roros. The lake is called Djupsjoen (which means The Deep Sea) and is 2,200 feet above sea level at 62°35'N. 11°35'E. They seem to be using an echo sounder and other equipment and are sending down divers when some form of reading is obtained. So far they have only found an old milk separator. They are searching the lake because a local farmer claims a UFO sank there in 1947.

An account in the newspaper Dagbladet read as follows:— “It is supposed to have landed in August 1947 and came swooshing in at high speed and low height over Roros. It was farmer Bernhard Sollie who, together with a neighbour, saw the object land on the water in the middle of the haymaking season.

“We heard the sound two-three minutes before we saw the object,” Sollie told Dagbladet,—this was right whilst they were cutting the hay.

“I have never heard this noise before. It was like the rolling roar which follows a jet plane. Then we looked up and saw a shining steel-blue metal object come whistling over the hilltop. The object was shaped like an egg but we saw no windows, smoke or flames. It went steadily lower and just before it reached the treetops on an island in Djupsjoen it swerved away at right-angles and levelled out to come in for a landing on the water. After it had come to rest it was just lying there bobbing up and down on the surface. The object appeared to be about 1½ metres long. We had no boat, so we searched for some wood to knock up a raft but could not find any. We could not swim out to it either. I was late with the haymaking that year and was in a hurry. So after we had stood for 10-15 minutes watching the object bobbing about a few hundred metres from us we went back up to the hay field, which was behind some trees. When we went back to the lake half an hour later the object had disappeared. We had not heard any sound so we reckoned that it had sunk.”

“And you reported the incident immediately?”

“No, are you mad? I won't have people say that I spread rumours. If I had not seen it myself I would not have believed it either: it was ten years before I told anyone about it”

. Translated from Dagbladet 14.7.73 by Richard Farrow, who considers the only reason they think it sank was that it made a lot of noise when it came in but they did not hear it take off afterwards. He considers that if it made a controlled landing and was bobbing about, it would be most unlikely that it sank.

* * * * *

UFO NEAR NORWEGIAN ROCKET RANGE

This report, which he received from Mr. R. J. D'Arcy of the Department of Space Research at Birmingham University has also been passed on to me by Richard Farrow:—

Date: 26th October, 1972.

Location: Beach near the Norwegian Rocket Range, Andenes, Norway.
(69°17'40"N, 16°01'E.)

Meteorological Conditions: No cloud, excellent visibility, no sea mist, scattered patches of cloud on the horizon to an elevation of 5° or 10°, no moon.

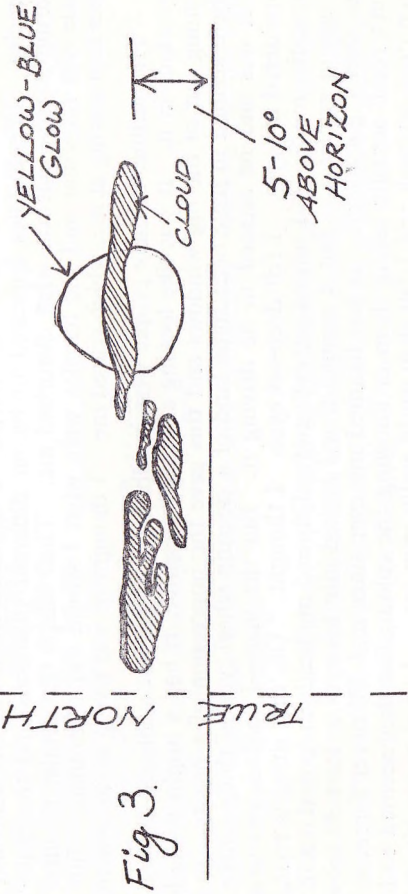
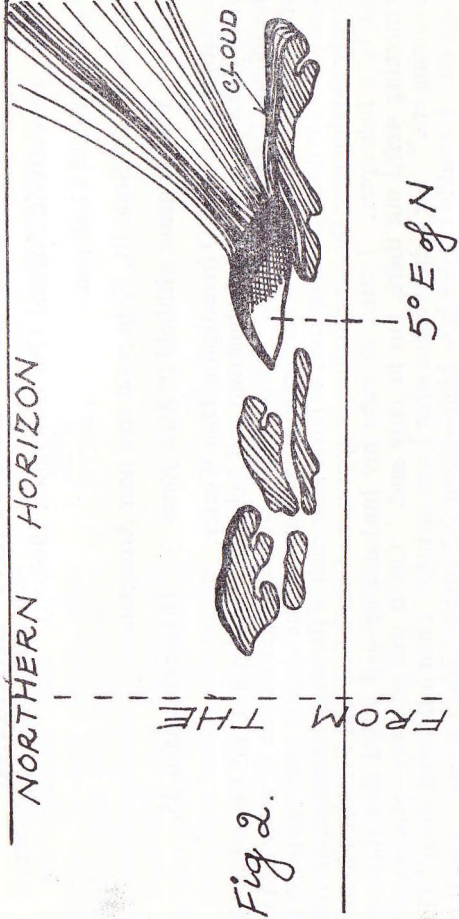
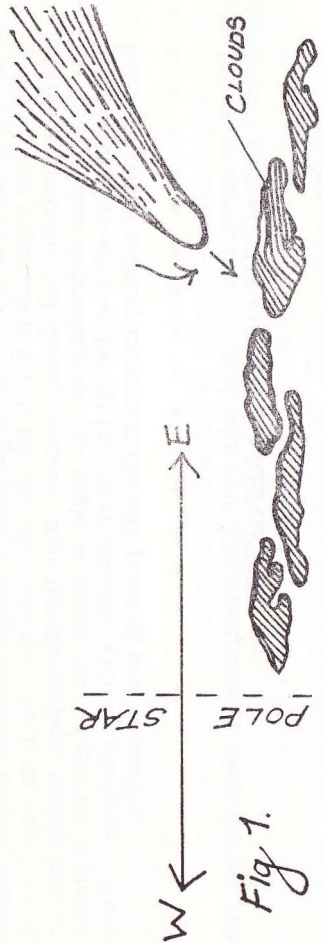
Time: Approx. 2315 MET.

Description: A large yellow-bluish object was observed (2315 MET) in the northern sky 10° - 15°E of N at an elevation of 10° - 15° in the sky. It resembled a large or very close comet to the earth. The head was at a lower elevation than the body and its bearing was a few degrees closer to 0° N than the end of the tail (cf. Fig. 1). Over a period of about 5 mins. it moved slowly towards N and to a lower elevation in the sky until the head was obscured behind a cloud near the horizon. At this time the tail emanated out from behind the cloud into the sky (Fig. 2). The bearing of this cloud was 5°E of N and about 5° - 10° elevation above the horizon. A few minutes later, the tail had become faint, and a bright yellow-blue spot of light became visible in the centre of the cloud. Over a period of a few minutes or so the circular spot became much brighter and larger. Eventually it reached its maximum size and diameter (a few degrees wide), and equivalent in size and brightness (I estimate) to that of the sun at sunset. At this time it was the brightest object in the sky and it was much larger than the cloud which formed a dark narrow patch across its centre (Fig. 3). Over a period of several minutes it died away. There were three other observers:— Mr. P. Burgess, Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Harwell; Dr. G. Jenkins, Dept. of Physics, University of Southampton, Southampton and Mr. M. Jarvis, Dept. of Physics, University of Sussex, Brighton, Sussex. Mr. Jarvis took some photographs of the object when it was near its maximum intensity.

Subjective Comments: (a) Comet or Meteor?—To our knowledge it was much too large for either of these and a Comet had not been reported recently in the N. sky. Its speed of movement was too fast for a Comet and too slow for a Meteor. (Meteors usually last a second or so only).

(b) Barium chemical clouds—These are often launched in rocket experiments. There is a rocket range in N. America and a chemical release at an altitude of 1000Km or so would be visible from Andenes near the horizon. However these experiments are normally launched at twilight for scientific reasons and the American rocket range is on a bearing a few degrees *west* of N where the local time was near midday. Thus a rocket chemical release is an unlikely explanation too. This does not preclude a Russian firing.

(c) NATO exercises: the local NATO airforce base on Andoya stated the object was not observed or related to any of their military exercises.



(d) A chemical release or explosion from a device launched from a satellite provides one explanation which fits the observations. Such an object would create a luminous tail during re-entry into the atmosphere lasting perhaps several minutes depending on the angle of attack and might be exploded/ released at a pre-set low altitude for test/or scientific military purposes. There has been recent military interest in the non-peaceful uses of satellites.

* * * * *

The following report is re-printed with full acknowledgements from the No. 10, March 1973 issue of THE OHIO UFO REPORTER

INDIANA UFO OCCUPANT SIGHTING

Date: Between the 5th and 17th November, 1966.

Time: Around 11.20 p.m.

Location: Off State Rt. 52 in rural area near Arlington.

Witness : Prefers name withheld (" Mrs. Jones "). Housewife, aged 33.

Investigated by APRO investigator Don Worley.

MRS JONES " My husband and 3 children were in bed and I was watching the Johnny Carson TV show. I went to the kitchen to get a drink of water and saw what I first thought was a helicopter hovering over the electric lines north of the house and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile east. It seemed to hover near each of the three homes on our road. Slowly moving over the electric lines it approached our house and I realized it could not be a helicopter. I tried to wake my husband up and yelled that there was something weird out there, but he only said, " Oh, it will go away—you must be dreaming etc." He didn't realise what I was saying. Then it hovered about 50 feet from me: I wouldn't know how high—about 2-3 stories high, I guess. The thing had a hump on the top and a hump on the bottom with a round section in the middle that had windows in it: and I saw people—it appeared there was one male and two females. The females appeared to be on different platforms and the male was staring at me—that was what disturbed me. Their shape was similar to ours: the male was muscular and the females were what I would call effeminate. But the man kept staring at me, which scared me. I thought he was trying to do something.

The outlines of these people were in silhouette: it was not a colour—I could see no colour in it. It was like looking at a black negative. It had a bright white light coming out of the big windows and this gave the impression of a negative to me. There seemed to have been some kind of a steering wheel type of thing where the man was and he seemed to be driving it. But the man—I looked into what I considered his eyes. I felt deep-set eyes. I thought, " Oh, that thing is trying to hypnotise me." So I turned my eyes away: I turned my head yet looked out of the corner of my eyes. But it seemed that I looked into his eyes at least 30 seconds and then I got scared. It has haunted me ever since and I'll never forget it. I don't recall actually seeing them or knowing the colour, but they seemed to have been deep set back and I felt they could really stun me. I tried to get his glance

out of my eyes and did so by turning my head I kept wanting to see if there was anything else and kept trying to wake my husband, but he was still asleep. I was very restless after that: I couldn't go back to sleep and walked around very scared. I was wondering if he would find his way back.

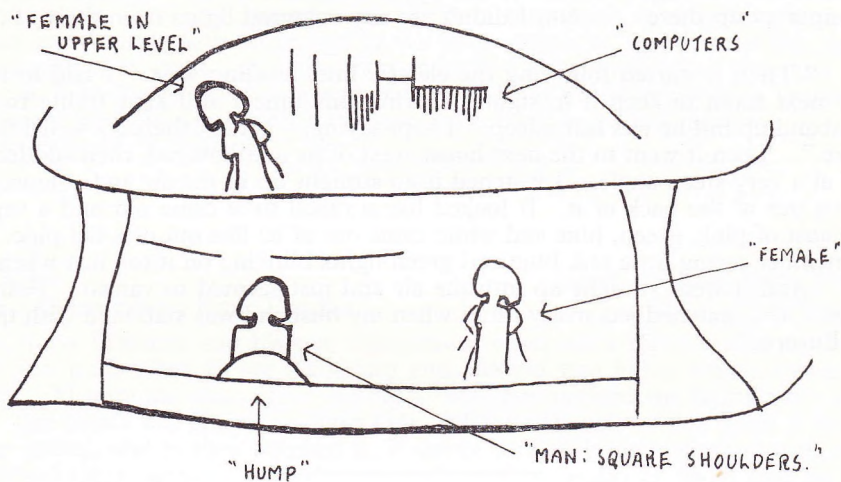


DIAGRAM SLIGHTLY ADAPTED FROM THE OHIO UFO REPORTER

. . . . Now the woman who was on a lower level nearer him seemed to hand him something: it was a small object like a cup of coffee. It looked like he had the "steering wheel" in his hands as though he was driving a car. The thing in front of him he seemed to have his hands on looked like a hump: it was down about his waist The man was completely muscular but all three seemed very trim, not heavy like I am. Not skinny, but very well-built It seemed a normal size head and body."

DW: Did he have hair? . . . "I don't remember any." DW: And the thing that made you think the other two were females was? . . . "They were of smaller frame than he was: he was facing me from the front, but the other two seemed to be more of a side silhouette." DW: Did you see a bustline? . . . "No, but I still got the impression they were females, but not built exactly like our women are." DW: You saw all this with a light in the background? . . . "Yes, like a negative, the figures were black." DW: Did the other woman move any? . . . "Yes she looked like maybe she was working that computer thing on a higher level than the other two." DW: And the other woman down lower? . . . "Would be like in the kitchen handing him a cup of coffee (laughs). The man never seemed to stop driving: I don't remember anything about his arms: they seemed to come down like a man's silhouette with arms down. I never saw any of the figures below the waist."

“When hovering above me the object seemed big as a house. It was tall as it was long, a ball with a circular ring around it. This ring was large and almost all large windows. The dividing parts (of the windows) were like poles and quite distinct: they were thin. The colour of the object was almost white or silver. You could look right into it on this upper level and it looked to me like a wall of computers up there No, I didn't see any coloured lights from there”

“Then it started following the electric line, heading west. I had to run into the next room to keep it in sight. During this time I still kept trying to get my husband up but he was fast asleep. I kept saying, “get up, there's a weird thing out here.” Then it went to the next house west of us and hovered, then suddenly took off at a very steep angle. I watched it go straight up in the air and coloured lights came out of the back of it. It looked like a metal tube came out and a vapour or exhaust of pink, green, blue and white came out of it: like out of a tail pipe. I also remember seeing little red, blue and green lights blinking on it too just when it took off. And it went straight up into the air and just seemed to vanish. Faster than a jet. I've watched jets many times when my husband was stationed with the army in Europe.”

On reading the letter from Margaret Wilton in our correspondence columns I was immediately struck by the similarities of a “visitation” experienced by Mrs. Maureen Garner some 20 years ago. It is here given exactly as she related it to me, and the description of the face should be particularly noted for comparison with Margaret's theory. **Mrs. Garner's “visitation”** took place in 1954 in Tenterden in Kent and to quote her:—

“ I was coming out of my lounge door to go to the kitchen. I turned round and closed the door with my left hand and then, as I went to proceed down the landing, my passage was blocked by a man. He was standing on the landing in front of me preventing me from walking into the kitchen. I wasn't at all frightened or amazed even, to see him: ordinarily if I saw a strange man in my house I would be very nervous—I've only got to stand at the sink washing up and my husband comes in very quietly and peeps round the corner at me and I jump out of my skin, but I didn't on this occasion: I was surprised to see him, but I wasn't nervous.

“What surprised me most of all was the height—I'm nearly six feet tall, and I had to tilt my head back to look up at him—I should say he was over seven feet tall. He was wearing a “one-piece suit,” metallic blue, though it didn't seem to be made of metal—more like a soft nylonish sort of material. It glimmered, but not like Lurex material does these days—it just glimmered with a soft metallic light.

“ I didn’t look at his feet—I didn’t have the time: what I looked at nearly all the time were his eyes and his face and his features—and features were the operative word in this experience, because he was a strange looking man. He had a very high broad forehead—I don’t remember his nose—I suppose he had one, since if he hadn’t he would have looked ugly and he wasn’t ugly. He had a slit for a mouth—the lips weren’t protruding like ours do, but of course they might have been turned inward. He had high cheek bones but they weren’t protruding: the bones were “ heavy ” under the skin. His eyes were very large: his jaw was of a different shape—there was no jaw bone to see at all, but the shape of his face underneath his eyes was pointed. Below the eyes and down to the chin the skin was absolutely immobile as if he hadn’t opened his mouth for ages. The dominant shape of his face was a blunt ended triangle with his chin in the blunt end.”

“ His eyes were deep blue: he had pupils and the eyes held an expression I shall never forget—I can remember this man now (this was in 1969) as distinctly as I saw him then (then being 1954). His ears weren’t visible, nor was any hair because covering his cranium, head and ears was a very tight fitting helmet, seemingly like Perspex. The suit fitted his neck, fitted the waist: there was no belt around the middle: he was definitely a man. There were no seam, buttons, fastenings or anything else like that in his clothing.”

“ His skin was pink—he was a white man: he said nothing to me, but just stood and looked. If he was trying to give a message I don’t know what it was, though I felt compelled to look in his eyes. He had no eyebrows, or wrinkles in his skin, and one received the impression of great intelligence and wisdom.”

“ This man just materialised in front of me, and when he felt, he just left: one second I saw him, the next I didn’t. He didn’t disappear in a cloud of vapour or anything—just suddenly he wasn’t there any more”

In answer to questions, Mrs Garner told me the man would have been standing there for about half a minute, and that she is normally observant so far as people are concerned. At no time did she touch the man, or he touch her—to be exact, she said her right arm was about three inches from his left elbow: he didn’t move his hands at all, just stood there with them at his side: he made no bodily movement at all—just his eyeballs moved and she could see reflection of the landing window in them. Asked whether she felt he was actually “ present in the flesh,” Mrs. Garner replied that he appeared to be flesh and blood, she certainly couldn’t see through him: he wasn’t a projection and was as solid as I appeared to her at that moment. Asked whether there had been any emotional upset prior to the incident, Mrs. Garner replied that there had been none—she was feeling perfectly wide awake and was not tired—up to the point of her confrontation it had been a perfectly normal day.

Presentation by

Norman Oliver

UFO SYMPOSIUM, 3rd November, 1973

“Beyond This Horizon” Festival of Science Fiction and Space Exploration.

Report by Lionel Beer.

The Sunderland Arts Centre was established in a frenzy of activity just in time for “Beyond This Horizon” (BTH), which ran from 23rd October to 25th November. The BTH festival is part of The Wearmouth 1300 Festival in Sunderland, which started in May 1973 and lasts until June 1974. This latter celebrates the foundation in AD.674, of the monastery of St. Peter at Wearmouth by Benedict Biscop, where that renowned historian The Venerable Bede studied as a boy. St. Peter's Church now stands on the monastery site complete with its square Saxon tower, and surrounded by a green ribbon of grass overlooking the docks.

The BTH displays included 30 paintings by David Hardy FRAS on early ideas of moonships, space stations, shuttles and planetary landscapes. These were superbly drafted in glowing colours which gripped the imagination. Works by Karel Thole, Eddie Jones, Josh Kirby, Helmut Wenskes and David Early FRAS were also on display. Back-up was provided by a display of plastic model spacecraft produced by Matthew Irvine, including satellites, all of which provided a greater insight into the space programme. At the top of the stairs was a vegetable man from the “Dr. Who” T.V. series. It was the nearest thing I have seen to a giant 200lb. carrot!

The UFO symposium saw 100-150 people crammed into the darkened basement bar, and no doubt some fire regulations were contravened! The speakers were told they had 20 minutes each, and Christopher Carrell, the BTH organiser-in-chief, let Rex Dutta speak first. Mr. Dutta is a West End vendor of live tropical fish and has six books to his credit on that topic. He has also had published two theosophically-orientated flying saucer books, and publishes a duplicated bulletin called AQUARIUS VIEWPOINT. I find his lecture-style embarrassing, and am reminded of a door-step salesman doing a “hard-sell.” He presents a large quantity of general facts, but rarely it seems, substantiates them with specific details. He seems to imply to his audience that if they don't believe him, they either have closed minds, or are beyond redemption.

The second 20 minutes was taken up by the (Rev.) Ray Nielsen, European Headquarters Secretary of (Dr.) George King's Aetherius Society. Predictably Mr. Nielsen dwelt on his leader's alleged telepathic contact with superior planetary beings, and the point that George King had been able to obtain this rapport through advanced yogic techniques and going into samadic trance

One of the Aetherius Society's more recent revelations (they appear to retain membership interest with a variety of intangible esoteric cliff-hanging “carrots”) is their plastic prayer-power machine. This is “charged” by chanting an old sanscrit phrase “Om Mani Padma Hum” for an hour or so.

Raymond Drake, head of the Customs and Excise in Sunderland, and author of 5 published books with “gods and spacemen” themes, various plays, poems and novels (some seeking publication) spoke third. He postulated his theories that certain major events in history could have been influenced by the intervention of

Spacemen, although unlike Ray Nielsen, he made no specific claims about their places of origin. He also reminded us that much written history had been lost through the destruction of great libraries as a result of war or vandalism (for example, the great library of Alexandria). Despite my tugging his sleeve gently, his speculative but highly erudite talk over-ran by five minutes.

After three concentrated talks squeezed into 70 minutes our audience was looking a little glazed around the eyes. Fortunately Mr. Carrell called a break, but this left Trevor Whitaker and myself only 35 minutes between us. I opened by stating that I had not come to give them the hard-sell about UFOs, had not come to promote space-evangelism and had not come to talk about Yoga. I emphasised that practical UFO research was liable to be unsensational, tedious and at times even downright boring. But in case the audience lost interest I went on to comment on the sensational flap of recent months in the USA. From a little audience participation I was able to learn that most of those present had read at least one UFO book and many two or more, which was encouraging. I concluded with a summary of the Lakenheath Air Force Base case of 1956, as an example of what BUFORA might consider an interesting report.

Trevor Whitaker, BUFORA regional co-ordinator and secretary of our Yorkshire Branch, rounded off with a sober talk on practical field investigation, and gave examples of how careful analysis sometimes revealed cases of mistaken identity. One such example was the Low Moor case where a bright red object was seen in the night which fizzed, and was eventually shown to be nothing more exciting than an Army flare, but none-the-less created some excitement early in the year.

Our supporting panel included Professor John Taylor, Dr. Christopher Evans, Duncan Lunan and Colin Ronan, and it was gratifying that myself and Trevor Whitaker as representatives of BUFORA did not come in for any adverse criticism or questioning.

Mr. Carrell closed the meeting at 11.30 p.m., although I think most of the audience would have been happy to stay into the morning, and I felt sorry that they had so little opportunity to ask questions. However in view of the response to the symposium, Mr. Carrell announced that the Arts Centre hoped to arrange a full weekend symposium on UFOs, possibly in February 1974. So keep a line open to the Sunderland Arts Centre if you live in the North (Tel.: Sunderland 41214).

FESTIVAL ANTHOLOGY

As an adjunct to BTH, the organisers published an A4-sized book entitled "BEYOND THIS HORIZON, An Anthology of Science Fiction and Science Fact," with copyright held by the Ceolfrith Press, part of the Arts Centre. Leading science fiction writers, like Brian Aldiss, Mark Adlard, Peter Nichols and Bob Shaw have donated articles or stories, even Patrick Moore has a piece and many others too. The Flying Saucer section includes articles by Raymond Drake, Rex Dutta and Lionel Beer. (Lionel's article has the best illustrations!). At a price of only £1.10 (plus heavy postage) this substantial compilation of about 150 A4-sized pages is remarkable value and no doubt a darn good read.

Lionel Beer would like to express his personal appreciation to Raymond and Marjorie Drake for their kind hospitality on his first visit to Sunderland.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Mr. Oliver,

As a new member of BUFORA who has only had the opportunity of reading three copies of the Journal, I would like to make a suggestion. I do not know if it has been thought of before or not.

Would it be possible to use the Journal as a means of educating the members and maybe help some of us to specialise in one of the aspects of UFO technology?

I feel sure that you would not like to hear of an investigator being ill with radiation poisoning while investigating a UFO. Also there could be brain damage due to the low pulse vibrations. There are also other possibilities such as gases, poisons, electro-magnetic radiation and bacteria. If one knows what to do to prevent this, then it may never happen, but there is always the possibility that it may. Until we know or find out where these craft are from, or what they are, ignorance is still our greatest enemy, not the UFO itself.

If it would be possible for you to print a collection of magazines on such aspects of UFO technology, you could charge a fee for them. In the end, it would help you, since you would be receiving correct information from your investigators, as well as helping them to take every precaution when handling material for analysing.

JAMES WILKINS,
Handsworth, Birmingham.

Basically I consider Mr. Wilkins has a good idea and it will be passed to the Committee for consideration; though I also feel it may prove a difficult one to carry out, not least, perhaps, because we will have only general ideas on what to guard against—Ed.

Dear Sir,

Reference BUFORA Journal Vol. 3. No. 11, and the theories of Mr. Derick Shelton in letters to the Editor

I am in agreement with Mr. Shelton's ETV viewpoint on UFO origins and would suggest one reason why no UFO has been "solidly captured," so to speak. Since most close sightings appear to affect the workings of mechanical and frequency controlled devices, my suggestion is that UFOs emit some kind of "electrosonic" wave. In other words a wave which not only paralyses man-made devices, *i.e.* cars and radios, but also has a controlling influence on the human brain. As one is aware, too much high sound can affect the brain in extra-ordinary ways.

Such a wave would have to be of an advanced nature to achieve all this at once. The only solution available at present, in my opinion, would be a jamming device but these are costly. Perhaps, our scientists should give some thought to this angle of the UFO enigma.

A. BRINDLEY,
Blurton, Staffs.

Dear Mr. Oliver,

My wife and I were living in the UK a while ago, we attended many BUFORA lectures and now we are back in New Zealand would be interested in writing to anyone who, for reasons of their own, would be keen to learn the UFO news from this side of the Earth. We would also like to know what is happening over there in this field.

DENNIS RODWAY,
P.O. Box 393,
Nelson, New Zealand.

Any Members Interested?—Ed.

Dear Sir,

With reference to Mr. Shelton's letter (BUFORA Journal, Volume 3, No. 11), I should like to say that I agree entirely with his comments about UFO detectors and their possible usefulness as "early-warning systems."

However, I find his dismissal of a possible "alternative" to the Extra-Terrestrial Hypothesis unscientific, to say the least. Of course each of us will have his own personal leaning towards a particular explanation of the UFO phenomenon, for complete impartiality on a subject as controversial as this is practically impossible. But to reject almost out of hand a particular theory in favour of another is, at this stage, quite the wrong approach.

Far too little is known, as yet, in the field of parapsychology to rule out a possible answer to UFOs within its confines, and even today, though we find such phenomena as ESP quite commonplace, we are still a very long way from understanding the basic concepts behind them. Far more research has still to be carried out before we can say with any certainty whether or not the eventual answer to UFOs will come from this field.

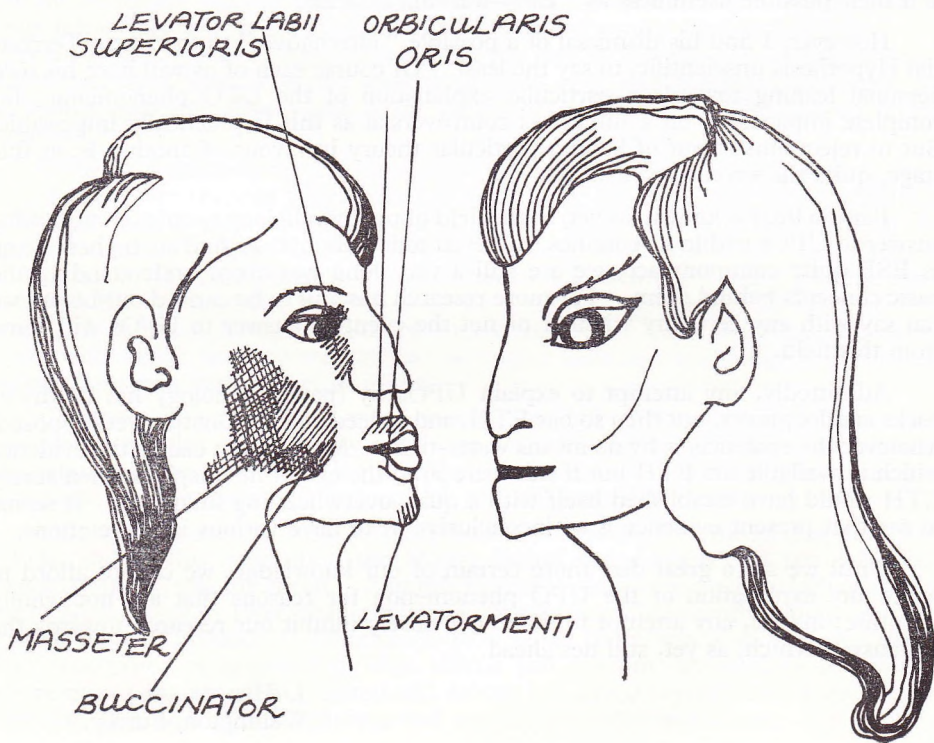
Admittedly, any attempt to explain UFOs by (para)psychology has its drawbacks and loopholes, but then so has ETH, and indeed any explanation yet proposed, whatever the evidence, is by no means water-tight. Mr. Shelton claims the evidence which is available fits ETH but if this were so to the extent he imagines, then surely ETH would have established itself with a quite overwhelming following. It seems to me that present evidence is so inconclusive as to have various interpretations.

Until we are a great deal more certain of our knowledge, we cannot afford to reject any explanation of the UFO phenomenon for reasons that are not wholly scientific; indeed, any attempt to do so will surely inhibit our research towards the the answer which, as yet, still lies ahead.

J. HEDGER,
Wallington, Surrey.

“ . . . I suppose to most ufologists the AVB case of 1958 and the Betty & Barney Hill case of 1961 are now “ old hat,” but as a newcomer to ufology—and having just read these two cases—I am tempted to work on the theory that the humanoids featured in both cases are actually “ Modified Humans.” The reason for my thinking along these lines lies in the description of the humanoids’ face and lips in both cases, which, generally describe broad, flat faces, high cheek bones, flat noses, slanted eyes and *very* thin lips. To take the AVB case first: Boas described her as having white-blonde hair, large blue slanted eyes, straight nose, very high prominent cheekbones—under which her face suddenly narrowed, ending in a pointed chin—and she had thin, almost invisible, lips. In the Hill case the humanoid was described as having large slanted eyes, flat nose and his mouth was just a horizontal slit—with two vertical lines at each side. I feel the Hills’ description is hazy but similarity exists in both cases.

I think the shape of our faces can be attributed to our diet and environment: *e.g.* in prehistoric times man had to have extremely strong teeth and jaws to enable him to eat the raw meat that was his diet, and consequently his face had a very strong muscular appearance. As time went by, our diet became more refined, and consequently so did our facial muscles, though some races still retain—to some extent, the strong facial muscles of a raw “ natural ” diet: the Eskimo is an example.



Some of the muscles of the face that are concerned with mastication of food—and for moving the lips are: the Buccinator in the cheek which keeps food between the teeth; the Masseter, also in the cheek, which is a “chewing” muscle: the Orbicularis Oris which is the mouth’s main muscle and surrounds it; the Levator Mentis in the centre of the chin which depresses the lower lip whilst the Levator Labii Superioris elevates the upper lip . . . there are many more but these five are sufficient to illustrate my point.

Now, take a jump into the far, far future (not necessarily our own) where the diet consists of just a “gell”- a “gell” that supplies all the proteins, vitamins and minerals needed to sustain life and needs no use of facial muscles. Would it not be possible then for these muscles to fall into disuse? And through the process of evolution be regarded as “not necessary?” So causing them to become almost non-existent and changing the shape of the face? If the muscles in the cheek area were to recede, the result could be a narrowing of the face below the cheekbones, and the same goes for the main muscles of the mouth this causing thinner “flatter” lips. Also, if the centre muscle of the chin were to go it could lead to a “pointed chin” effect.

The humanoids in the AVB case uttered grunts and growls as their form of speech, whilst the humanoids in the Hill case uttered ‘Mmmmmmm’ sounds. It seems to me that if the facial—and particularly the lip muscles were to become almost non-existent—then a new form of speech would have to evolve, and it could only go two ways; either by emitting grunts and growls from the throat region or by emitting Mmmmmmm sounds from the mouth region! Of course, a sign language could also be used or by the process of evolution even further—telepathy . . .

MARAGARET WILTON,
Greenock, Renfrewshire.

Dear Sir,

I have read with interest BUFORA Journal Volume 3 No. 12, and with particular interest the article “Take your Pick” on page 27.

The first point entitled “Interdimensional Craft” is perhaps not as far fetched as may at first seem. You and many of the other members may well have seen a recent “Horizon” programme on BBC TV which was narrated (and I believe written) by Professor John Taylor, on the subject of Black Holes in space. In this programme he mentioned that should any space traveller actually fall into a Black Hole that was revolving he would eventually be thrown out into a completely new universe, different from the one he had just left. Should the intrepid traveller then decide to re-enter the Black Hole he would once again go into yet another new universe completely different from the other two. This, according to Professor Taylor was a mathematical conclusion and not just an hypothesis. So perhaps the idea of other dimensions is perhaps not so foolish after all and in fact would seem to be fairly well substantiated by the above. Therefore the possibility of parallel universes/dimensions on Earth is perhaps also feasible. Which brings us to point 5—Co-Existent Intelligences—*e.g.* the Earth being shared by others of which we have, and perhaps may never have any knowledge of or understanding.

Another point mentioned by Professor Taylor was that if you could remain within the revolving Black Hole long enough one could actually meet one-self coming in. In other words time travel! So this now makes point 2 also possible in fact it makes three of the nine points mentioned possible. Not bad for just one programme.

It could well be argued that this is only to do with Black Holes so what does it have to do with Ufology? To that question I have no answer other than it does seem to prove in the light of our present knowledge that other universes/dimensions do exist and that time travel is also possible. Agreed, at the present time they can only be found in Black Holes, but if they occur there, they must surely also exist everywhere else, including Earth.

As to my own beliefs with regard to UFOs, I do not think that they can be extra-terrestrial (although the science fiction fan side of me wishes they were). I think this argument falls down on two points, (a) I just can't see what possible interest an obviously advanced civilization would have in us, and (b) reports of UFOs go way back down the centuries, surely they would have contacted us by now, with such an advanced technology they would have little to fear from us. I therefore believe that they must be some phenomena pertaining to Earth or nearby space, that we at present have no way of explaining, whether from another dimension, time travellers, or not I wouldn't know, but I do think they are intelligently controlled as their movements would lead us to believe

Keep up the fine work on the Journal.

R. MOORE,
Wilmington, Sussex.

Dear Norman,

. . . . We are in the midst of a great wave here. It started last year and is continuing unabated but is receiving very little publicity. The innumerable sightings around Piedmont, Missouri this spring, and around Manchester, Georgia in August/September, have gained national attention, however if previous patterns are repeated, and if the flap continues, UFOs may become a momentary sensation again sometime next spring. In recent weeks there have been many sightings in the Catskill Mountains (where I spend most of my time these days) but I have not seen anything myself here. As you know from Dr. Schwarz's FSR articles on the "Woodstock UFO Festival" of 1966, this area had quite a wave during the 1966-67 peak

. . . . If a new publicity wave materialises I expect it will be quite different from those of the past. The anti-Air Force/anti-Government propaganda of the Keyhoe era will probably be absent. There will be greater emphasis on the psychological and philosophical aspects, and a number of sociologists and folklorists will surface with articles and books which will offer new perspectives and new approaches. A whole new storm will brew between the physical scientists and the behavioural

scientists. The reality of UFOs as extraterrestrial vehicles will not only be seriously challenged, but a new set of explanations will be offered. As usual, these explanations will deeply offend the ET believers. The controversy will become more diffuse and certainly more complicated.

Since 1967 I have reluctantly supported Dr. Doel's first possibility (BJ, Vol. 3, No. 11, p. 29) "That in fact saucers don't exist, and we have been duped these many years." And I have been trying to determine exactly how this hoax has been accomplished and, more importantly, why? I do feel that the Fort/Sanderson viewpoint is the correct one, that all paranormal manifestations are interrelated, and that the core of this thing is the manipulation of human beings through what was known in other ages as magic and "enchantment." Space and Time being distorted, hallucinatory allegorical events are staged to cover up the real meaning and activities of the manipulative force. This is not a "Keel Theory" but is thousands of years old and a basic tenet of all theological concepts. Fort and Sanderson (and Keel and Vallee) attempted to simplify this, never claiming originality. Yet people like Alan Sharp are still grumbling about the "Keel Theories!"

I could cite hundreds of relatively obscure books which deal with the ufological problems in surprising ways (*e.g.* Bentham's *THE THEORY OF FICTIONS*, 1832) but it is my experience that hardcore ETists are not only poorly read but seem to choose to remain that way. The works of the great thinkers and observers of the paranormal of the past remain remote and even incomprehensible to the armchair ufologists. A scholarly friend of mine once remarked, "Never try to argue with a Marxist or a Hindu. They think they have the answer for everything." We might add ufologists to the list. They presuppose the intervention of extraterrestrials in all events, past and present . . . just as Von Daniken finds evidence of the gods in every lump of carved stone.

No "Dark Force" turned me away from the ETH. Careful in-depth investigations into hundreds of UFO cases and bizarre events forced me to reject any belief and accept the available facts. The USAF and the RAF apparently underwent the same process in the 1943-55 period.

In one of his last interviews (*PSYCHIC OBSERVER*, February-March 1973, pp 150-55) Ivan Sanderson said, "It's been known to authorities for forty years now that they do not come to us through our space-time. They don't come from another planet. They come through from another set of dimensions, not another dimension or a fourth dimension, but they come from another whole universe, or whole bunch of universes which are interlocked with ours either in space or time. That's why we can't catch one, because they are not really here The intelligences behind certain types of them can make them just the way you, being a New Yorker, might expect in our technological age such a thing to be. Whereas for a primitive tribesman somewhere down in the Grand Cheaco they'll make it look a thing probably quite different, more like something he would know about They don't really *come* from anywhere."

john a. keel,
New York, USA.

Whoops ! Any comebacks from "hardcore ETists?"—Ed.

Round & About

Association News

Those of you who wait patiently outside Kensington Library on the nights we have Committee Meetings—usually chilly nights—probably visualise your Committee sitting around with steaming cups of coffee and indulging in cosy UFO chat. However, if it's any comfort, nothing is further from the truth! We are generally still thrashing out some tedious admin. problem, with tongues hanging out after a tea-less 3 hour sitting. Although we rarely get around to actually discussing UFOs many plans are going forward for various types of research, such as our Motor Vehicle Interference Research Project, ideas for publicising BUFORA and investigation problems. As we all have to work for our living, sometimes these plans do not go ahead as quickly as we would like, but I think I can safely say that all members of the Committee give a large amount of their spare time, and money, towards furthering the aims of BUFORA. Many of the general public seem to be under the impression that our telephone numbers comprise part of a vast complex of BUFORA offices, with a 24-hour answering service. This is very flattering of course, but until that happy day it would be of benefit all round if they made their calls after 6.30 p.m. or at weekends—and preferably not before 9 in the morning!

Whilst talking of telephones, I had a call from a little lad taking part in a school debate "Are UFOs attacking Earth." I'm not sure that my earnest exposition got through, but I certainly would have liked to listen in to that particular debate.

I wonder hopefully whether we are in for a flap again—as there appear to be happenings in the U.S. which have caused some slightly hysterical reports in the Press about U.S. cops being "attacked," and fishermen dragged off for "terrifying" medical examinations by creatures with crab-like webbed hands. Not pleasant experiences, but no actual damage appears to have been done. A later directive to police in Detroit gives them the go-ahead to stop and frisk any creatures seen disembarking from unidentified flying objects! This conjures up some hilarious pictures of the average Hollywood-type cop and the average little green bug-eyed monster!

For those of us with a bias towards the E.T.V. theory, I see that Dr. Raymond Wilson, Assistant Professor of Geology at Utah University, considers that Mars is far from dead and geologically appears to be more like the Earth than the Moon. He said that closer photographs transmitted by the Mariner IX probe contradicted some of the pictorial evidence of the Mariner VI and Mariner VII missions which led many scientists to believe that Mars was a geologically dead planet. Although animal life seems improbable, the latest photographs show a number of large volcanic mountains, one three times higher than Everest, what appear to be dried-up river beds and a huge canyon about 2,500 miles long and 4 miles deep.

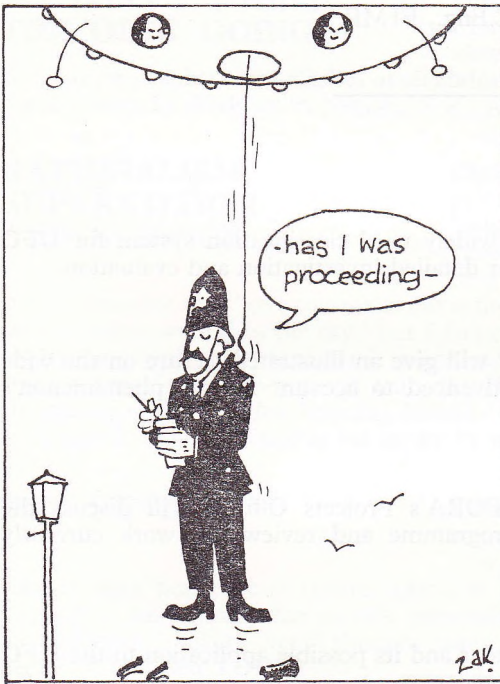
Russian scientists have recorded radio signals from space that they have never received before. Professor Samuil Kaplan, of Gorky University, said it was too early to say if they were natural or artificially produced signals from Earth satellites. The signals come in pulses after definite lapses of time.

Round & About

Betty Wood

Which makes me think of our old friend, Arthur C. Clarke. I have just been reading his *THE LOST WORLDS OF 2001* and am feeling completely baffled. In the beginning of the book (which partly explains how the film of 2001 was evolved) he says that he saved Stanley Kubrick (the Directors of the film) from the “gruesome fate of believing in flying saucers”—yet in the final chapter Mr. Clarke again repeats his contention that there must be many extra-terrestrial civilisations that knew of our existence—“. . . by the turn of the millenium, therefore, emissaries could be arriving from Alpha Centauri, Sirius, Procyon . . .” and adding, as he said in 1948: “I do not think we will have to wait for long.”

An infuriating man. But I found his book compulsive reading and was impressed by his many brain-storming sessions with Stanley Kubrick, and the various ideas that were thrown up and thrown out before the final version appeared. Why then, this terrific hangup on UFOs ?



COPY DATES—

Letters, articles and copy intended for the Spring 1974 Journal should be sent at the latest by February 14th—earlier if possible—to ensure publication: dates for succeeding issues will be at three-monthly intervals, i.e. May 14th, August 14th, November 14th. Ed.

It is proposed to recommence the practice of printing lists of BUFORA members' names and addresses to enable you to get in touch more easily with those in your own area. Should you NOT wish your name and address published, please notify the Hon. Secretary (address on back cover) accordingly.

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS

Kensington Central Library, Campden Hill Road, London, W.8.

Saturday, 2nd February, 1974, 7 p.m.

GUIDE LINES IN THE SEARCH TO SOLVE THE UFO MYSTERY . .
Lecture by Charles Bowen.

Saturday, 5th March, 1974, 7 p.m.

WHERE ARE THE DOCUMENTS?
Lecture by Mr. Gibbs-Smith, MA, FMA, FRSA.

Saturday, 6th April, 1974, 7 p.m.

WIDENING VISTAS IN UFO RESEARCH
Lecture by John Cleary-Baker, Ph.D.

Saturday, 4th May, 1974, 7 p.m.

UFO "MECHANICS"
Lecture by Bryan Winder, B.Sc., C.Eng., FIME.

Staffordshire Branch Meetings.

Tuesday, 12th February, 1974.

CATEGORIES OF EVENTS
. . . . An illustrated lecture on the widely used classification system for UFO reports which remain unknown after detailed investigation and evaluation.

Tuesday, 12th March, 1974.

UFO'S IN PERSPECTIVE
. . . . Mr. A. Tomlinson of DIGAP will give an illustrated lecture on the wide range of ideas which have been advanced to account for the phenomenon's presence and purpose.

Tuesday, 9th April, 1974.

UFO RESEARCH
. . . . Mr. Charles Lockwood, BUFORA's Projects Officer, will discuss the Association's Research Projects Programme and review the work currently being undertaken.

Tuesday, 7th May, 1974

RADAR
. . . . Mr. W. Daniels will discuss radar and its possible application to the UFO problem.

Announcement

25th November, 1973.

Due to the prevailing industrial disputes and the oil supply situation, members wishing to attend any of the Staffordshire Branch's meetings are advised to confirm, by phone, with the Branch Secretary prior to each scheduled meeting, Telephone: Newcastle (Staffs.) 619658—Address on back cover.

Round & About

Notes and Quotes

LUTON LIGHTS

Half-a-dozen brilliant white lights floated downwards above Luton at midnight on October 18th, 1973. They descended to the height of a plane approaching from London, then arranged themselves into a V-formation and changed colour to orange, apparently either rotating or pulsating. Then, giving off an eerie glow, they disappeared over the rooftops. Details supplied by BUFORA member J. Cowley: report under investigation.

SO THAT'S WHERE THE OIL'S GOING!

During late summer '73, a woman in Motueka, New Zealand, had a close up view of a large silvery disc passing over a hill: she reported seeing splashes of oil and/or mud along the side of the craft. Information from D. Rodway in Nelson, N.Z., just across the bay from Motueka.

RATIONALISM, SUPERSTITION AND SCIENCE

Christopher Evans has had a little booklet printed thus entitled which examines 'superstitions in the twentieth century.' Included with Spiritualism and Scientology are Flying Saucers. To be fair, the author does say that 'one can make out quite a good case for the existence of strange objects flying around in the sky,' but I feel one must question the question he poses, 'Why do people rush with such eagerness to believe in them?' This is far too great a generalisation,—were it true, this Journal would have something like the circulation of the London Evening News! And whilst I like to think our magazine is 'passable fair,' I do not as yet aspire to such dizzy heights!

THE DEVIL!

I understand it is believed quite seriously in some quarters that I have been "taken over" by the INVADERS of TV fame. This is utter nonsense of course, since, as my good friend John Cleary-Baker will confirm, I am actually the earthly personification of his Satanic Majesty! No! I haven't been "taken over," though, come to think of it, would I know if I had been? Or would YOU?

CRYPTIC

In view of the above it puzzles me somewhat why I was permitted to enter the church of St. Mary-le-Bow in Cheapside some months ago to address its "Commoners." Mind you, I gave the talk in the crypt, so perhaps that indicated I'd be more likely to go "down" than "up!"

Round & About

Norman Oliver

WESSEX UFO RECORD

Is the title of a quarterly newsletter edited by John Cleary-Baker which aims to "investigate, record and comment upon UFO manifestations in the area of Southern England known as Wessex." Items for publication should be sent to John Cleary-Baker, Ph.D., 3 Devenish Road, Weeke, Winchester, Hants. Subscriptions (£1.50 for four issues) to Mrs. S. Pike, "Poco," 14 St. John's Road, Warminster, Wilts.

ALIEN BEACONS ?

It has been rumoured from time to time by various authors and researchers that "space beacons" for the purpose of guiding alien craft have been "planted" in various locations on our planet—even perhaps under Mount Zion! An acquaintance of mine, also interested in telepathy and American Indian lore is pursuing some practical research on these lines and would like to hear from others similarly interested. Letters addressed to me marked "Beacon" will be passed on.

TELLY-WATCH ?

Telepathist and psycho-kinetic "expert" Uri Geller, who is featured in a book coming out ere long, stated on TV on the David Dimpleby Talk-In on 23/11/73 that he believed his abilities to be externally controlled. Controlled or not, two of our own wristwatches, inactive for months, recommenced operational activity during his demonstration! The Daily Mail 26/11/73 devoted space to the opinions of "Magic Circle" members who, it was claimed could produce similar results. Another case of "in order to fake you must have a genuine article to imitate?" Latest information to hand is that Uri has agreed to demonstrate his powers before a panel which will include Chris Evans and a Magic Circle member.

UFO URI ?

As an "addendum" to the above, the Sunday Times of 2/12/73 informs us that Andrija Puharich has written the book about Geller, and that amongst other things it describes an incident where Geller, filmed by Puharich entered a UFO in the desert. Puharich tells us that unfortunately the film cartridge dematerialised a few minutes later. This may not increase Geller's chances of being taken seriously by sceptical scientists—but it should do wonders for the book!

"SPACE BALLS"

"It was lying in rough open country," said Mr. Munro, of Rugged Ridges, New Zealand, "There was no indentation on the ground to suggest it had landed with force, but of course, the ground is pretty hard." He was referring to a mystery cylinder he found which is now being examined by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research in Christchurch. His discovery has been linked with mystery space balls found in various parts of Canterbury, N.Z. in April and May last year. These balls were subjected to extensive laboratory tests at the Christchurch National Radiation Laboratory when it was considered they might well have come from a disintegrating Russian space vehicle.

Round & About

Vice-Chairman's Notes

Interest in UFOs.

Normally, interest in UFOs is directly proportional to the space given to them by the press. Certainly there have been numerous short items in the provincial presses on local reports, local interest (clubs and individuals) and lectures on the subject this past year. Perhaps BUFORA has received better cover than usual? Anyway, by the time you read this, I estimate that in my own mail alone, there will have been over 350 enquiries for BUFORA in 1973. The good work done by other members is in addition to this, and BUFORA's limited press advertising has also produced a further 200-300 enquiries. The Executive Committee are particularly grateful to individual members and local groups for promoting the Association's interests. We also continue to receive a steady stream of lecture requests and as an example, Peter Wain volunteered to talk to 350 London school children in December. Brinsley Le Poer Trench tells me that the U.K. section of his CONTACT organisation has received a phenomenal number of enquiries this year, no doubt due to the details given in the 1973 paperback edition of his book THE FLYING SAUCER STORY. Speaking personally I had a peak of nearly 100 enquiries during August and am relieved that it has now settled down to a steady 35 or so a month! Anyway, this brings me to tell you that we have updated and reprinted the BUFORA information leaflet, which now includes the address of Ken Phillips, new National Investigations Co-ordinator. If you or your group require further leaflets, please let us know.

Local Groups.

BUFORA's three branches are listed at the back of the Journal. I had feared that the number of local groups had reached a new low. However, letters received recently indicate that my pessimism was misplaced. A lively young BUFORA member, Pat Hannaford, has established herself as President of the newly formed Edinburgh University UFO Research Society, and although this is primarily a student group, I understand that they will be pleased to hear from local members. The long-lived Scottish UFO Research Society, based on Edinburgh is sadly defunct, and the University group has been offered their files. *Write:* The Edinburgh University UFO Research Society, c/o The University Union, Teviot Row, Edinburgh 8.

Another newly formed group is the Wessex Association for the Study of Unexplained Phenomena, affectionately known as WATSUP. *Write:* Peter Hill, 7 Malmesbury Place, Shirley, Southampton, Hants. Philip Grant of Bournemouth has created some press publicity as he is running evening school lectures on ufology with the support of the Bournemouth Unexplained Phenomena Research Group. *Write:* Philip Grant, 2a New Park Road, Southbourne, Hants.

Round & About

Lionel Beer

In October I received an enquiry from a lady in Kings Lynn, who said she was secretary of the Norfolk UFO Investigation Society, but when I finally got round to acknowledging her letter, my reply came back marked "Gone Away." If any member of the Norfolk Society reads this and would like their address published, please let me know! Richard Thompson of the South Lincs UFO Study Group tells me that they have had a reshuffle of officers. *Write:* Richard Thompson, 5 Western Avenue, Saxilby, Lincoln, LN1 2NT.

I have also heard recently from Mr. D. L. Rees, 40 Mersey Road, Sale, Cheshire, a member of Flying Saucer Investigation Team, who is trying to organise lectures. The Wirral UFO Society, a schoolboy group, has been running for a year and Michael Dean, the group's secretary, kindly sent me a copy of their newsletter. If your club or society has aims similar to BUFORA and would like a mention, then write to me at Freshwater Court giving full details.

Research Project.

At the AGM in Kensington Library on October 6th, 1973, a resolution for the following project was accepted: "In view of the 'Lakenheath Case' of 1956 being one of the most potentially interesting UFO cases reported in this country, it is proposed that the Association should give priority to investigating the details fully and pursue these investigations to the highest level." I am including this item since our Research Director was good enough to second the proposal, and also partly to alert members who might be interested in researching this case. Discussion at the AGM proved useful as several members put forward suggestions for information sources. It seems rather embarrassing that BUFORA does not have a fully documented report of this intriguing case on its files.

Press Cuttings.

Is there anyone in the London area who might be interested in helping sort out some press cuttings? These are primarily concerned with UFOs but also include other strange fact topics. Please telephone me after 7.30 p.m. at 723 0305 (Marylebone).

ATTENTION AREA INVESTIGATORS!THE FUEL CRISIS

If, in the event of a good UFO report, area investigators find that they are unable to travel to visit witnesses or possible landing sites, will they please contact their R.I.Cs. straight away. This step will enable the Investigations & Research departments to take alternative action should they deem it necessary.

BOOK REVIEWS

THE EARTH WATCHERS by Brian J. Ford, published by Leslie Frewin, 1973. pp. 189; Illus. £2.90.

With a surefire selling title and the promise on the jacket that "A brilliant young scientist gives the sensational answers" we might expect some original and exciting reading in this volume. But Brian Ford, scientist, writer and broadcaster, gives us his ideas on the possibilities of space travel, for "them" and for us, combined with his comparatively unprejudiced but unremarkable thoughts on UFOs, which can be summed up as: contactees are liars, hoaxers or deranged, but it is very likely there are extra-terrestrials who are watching us.

Juggling with noughts and equations, he first shows that with a possible 12 million inhabitable planets, there is bound to be life elsewhere in this galaxy. He then has a lengthy section, that looks rather like padding, on legends, early astronomical concepts and fictional accounts from the 19th century of interplanetary travel. George Adamski, who was "The greatest fraud in the whole field, part hoaxer, part madman," also gets a disproportionately large amount of attention with a long account of his desert contact and a detailed refutation of the account. Two of the most impressive pieces of evidence which have caused many astute people to consider that there may be more to Adamski than a simple nut, are not mentioned. The first is the orthographic projection by Leonard Cramp showing the structural similarities between an Adamski photograph of a UFO and the photograph of a UFO taken by Stephen Darbishire in England. The second is the similarity between the strange signs that Adamski said were put on one of his photographic plates by the extra-terrestrials and the ancient petroglyphs discovered by Marcel Homet in Brazil and first published in 1963. Both these are illustrated in the 1970 edition of *FLYING SAUCERS HAVE LANDED*, and must be known to Mr. Ford as he refers to this particular section. It would appear that here is another case of selective scientific criticism.

Von Daniken and the Piri Reis maps also come in for some verbal mauling, with, perhaps, justification.

When he discusses the interpretation of photographic evidence the author has some useful and varied points to make. Dealing with optics, he is at home in his specialised field (he has just had a book on microscopy published). Researchers who are involved with the examination of alleged UFOs would find this slim section of the book to be of value.

The author continues with a potted history of sightings, starting with Arnold and including a few well-known sightings by airline pilots. BUFORA members will be interested to learn that they belong to one of the 'odd-ball new quasi-religious

movements.* The Association is dismissed in eight lines with outdated information culled from a Daily Telegraph Magazine article written by Clement Freud in 1967. Such a level of accuracy can only make one question the reliability of much else that appears throughout this book.

The final third of the book considers the biological possibilities of life on the planets and the attempts of radio astronomers to monitor for signals from space, not omitting of course, Fred Hoyle's quote relating to galactic telephone directories, to which most of these fool scientists want Earth's number added, as though we had not problems enough.

As Mr. Ford's examination of UFO reports is of the most rudimentary nature and ignores all contactee and humanoid-type sightings, the implication of the title, that the author is going to investigate the probabilities of ET surveillance of our planet, is not borne out in the reading. There is very little that we haven't read before, and as an introduction to the subject it is lopsided and cannot really be recommended.

COLIN BORD.

*See also comment in Notes & Quotes, Summer '73.

Journal, Vol. 3., No. 11.

A Source Book of ROCKETS, SPACECRAFT AND SPACEMEN: Tim Furniss, published by Ward Lock Ltd., July 1973, pp. 144, Illus. 95p.

This excellent little book, whilst having no direct ufological connection, makes an extremely good pocket-sized reference work from the V2 rockets of the last war, via the Atlas, ICBM and Space probe launchers, Sputniks, Luniks and Ariels to the Apollo Spacecraft and Lunokhod remote-controlled lunar landing vehicles.

As its introduction states, it does not profess to be a truly comprehensive record of rocketry and astronautics: nevertheless, despite the absence of, for example, Echo and Skybolt, it is still sufficiently comprehensive to satisfy all but the most fastidious.

At the beginning of the book is to be found "A Chronology of Some Events in Rocketry and Astronautics" from March 1936 when the world's first liquid-fuel rocket was launched to the Apollo Moon Mission of December 1972: at the end photographs and biographical details of 66 American and Russian astronauts are included. Altogether a most useful information source and a pleasure to read.

NORMAN OLIVER.

Obituary

Philip Rodgers

The death occurred in Manchester Royal Infirmary on October 8th, 1973 of Philip Rodgers, well known to many ufologists for his 'space-voice' recordings and in particular for his 'time-check' in which an alien voice corrected the time given on a recording from ordinary to 24-hour notation. He wrote an article on the subject in FLYING SAUCER REVIEW in the late 1950s and his belief that space people were responsible has had few challengers as other suggested explanations from those who had heard the recording were considerably less likely than his own.

Philip was a personal friend of mine for many years, having contributed considerably both to the investigations resulting in the publication of THE SCORITON MYSTERY and subsequently SEQUEL TO SCORITON. He was also a most talented musician and, although he lived for much of his life in the village of Grindleford, near Sheffield, had more recently married and moved to Denton, not far from Manchester. In fact it was only in December 1972 that he and his wife Joan and her family moved to a larger house in Denton so that Philip could more easily continue both his musical and UFO interests. He will be missed by many in both spheres—his musical talents being well illustrated in the following extracts from the Ashton Reporter: “. . . an accomplished musician with a distinguished professional career . . . Mr. Rodgers wrote and published 12 books for beginners, two of which have been published in German . . . among the instruments he could play were the guitar, recorder, trumpet, flute, French horn, mandolin, ukelele and lute . . .”

We extend our sympathy to his wife Joan—also well known to ufologists—in her sad loss, a loss which will be felt by all those who have known Philip's ebullient personality and charm—though blind, he was more active than many sighted persons.

Goodbye, Philip—you will be remembered.

NORMAN OLIVER.



Photo:

ASHTON REPORTER

THE ETERNAL SUBJECT

Lecture Review

On Saturday November 3rd at Kensington Library Lecture Theatre, BUFORA extended a warm welcome to new vice-president Brinsley Le Poer Trench, who drew a near-capacity audience despite the rival attractions of the major UFO symposium at Sunderland which some committee members and others had perforce to attend.

“ Islanders in Space ” had originally been scheduled as the evening’s fare, but Andrew Tomas, who was to have given the talk, had departed for the Middle East and was in fact in The Lebanon, though according to a letter which Ivar Mackay had received from him that morning which he read from the platform, due to the state of affairs in that area, Andrew’s luggage had last been heard of in Valetta and he was trusting it would eventually catch up with him!

Well-known in his capacities of author and International Chairman of Contact, Brinsley Le Poer Trench emphasised that he was speaking privately and not on behalf of CONTACT UK or BUFORA, this meaning, as he put it, that he could ‘ waffle on about practically anything.’ Despite his having just developed a cold, the audience found the ‘ waffle ’ extremely interesting and, in general, very much to their liking.

To begin with, Brinsley referred to the universality of sighting and other reports, describing a Russian sighting of a flying disc from an airliner, and mentioning the current increased incidence of reports from the U.S. He also had heard recently from John Keel who had stated MIB reports had shown a similar incidence. He then went on to quote a recent report from the Boston Herald of an alleged contact where men had been abducted aboard an alien craft and medically examined by occupants with pale silvery-grey skin: their story subsequently standing up under hypnosis.

Brinsley continued by exploring the numerous theories extant, stating with regard to his own theories propounded in THE SKY PEOPLE and MEN AMONG MANKIND—‘ I still adhere to everything in those books.’ Nevertheless, he thought that the ‘ current ’ UFOs were not from the same area as the ‘ Sky People ’ of long ago. He considered in some instances UFOs might have a psychic connotation, but in the main believed they were now Earth-based craft from remote areas such as Brazil, though he did not think it likely they could be advanced government craft: rather that representatives from other spheres were living here, this not necessarily being their planet of origin.

The meeting was told ‘ it was unrealistic to look at the subject through rose-coloured spectacles and see only what one wished, ’—there had been hostile cases, and reference was made to AVB and a Mexican incident where a truck had been met by a posse of little men, then incinerated, asbestos and all, by a blue ray.

Of particular interest were Brinsley’s allusions to earthly artifacts dropped from UFOs, and in this connection the Maury Island case (which just pre-dated the Arnold sighting) was instanced. A number of other cases were cited, including a landing at New Jersey in 1964 when potassium nitrate was subsequently found: a report from a football ground in Florence in 1954 when there was a shower of shining flakes composed of magnesium, iron, silicon and calcium: an instance in Finland where snow beneath a UFO melted and refroze into green crystals, and many others. The San Jose de Valderas sightings and symbol were also mentioned.

The article 'Take Your Pick' in the last BUFORA Journal was examined and Brinsley agreed that item No. 11 ('We Are Property') was probably the most likely, but that we may well have had a change of landlord and 'changes here may be more imminent than I thought before.' He closed by referring to Fred Hoyle's comparison of 'vast messages passing through the galaxy of which we are unaware' with a phone directory,—'our problem is to get our name in this directory.'

Question time produced a variety of enquiries, from those suggesting other planets might have intelligent life on a different vibratory frequency, to more mundane thoughts as to why saucers should be disposing of small quantities of minerals: several answers were proffered to the latter including the suggestion of celestial loos!

Richard Colborne made an interesting contribution to the proceedings in speculating on connections between Fortean and UFOs, in particular giving details of a case in Lancashire where police had defended themselves with dustbin lids against a rain of bottles from on high!

Asked why and when he considered the Sky People should intervene, Brinsley gave it as his opinion that "since we were here first as a breeding experiment, they decided to let us go on our own, but have given us a 'shot in the arm'—they don't wish to break any Cosmic Law to advance us before we ourselves approach their level—this was why no previous intervention had taken place . . ."

A most entertaining and enjoyable evening.

NORMAN OLIVER.

INVESTIGATIONS SECTION

In this issue are presented reports received via our retiring National Investigations Co-ordinator, Richard Colborne and an introductory article from present N.I.C. Ken Phillips. Will readers please note that I have adopted our previous editor's method of identifying reports, so that when an evaluation is made in a future Journal the reference quoted will immediately pinpoint where the original report may be found, so: Report 4/1/1. 4 = Volume No. 4. 1 = Issue No. 1. 1 = Report No. 1. These numbers do not, of course, represent those of the Research and Investigations sections, but are purely for readers' convenience and ease of identification.—Ed.

SIGHTING REPORTS

The past twelve months have generated very few reports and a high percentage of those we have investigated have turned out to be only of LITS* quality. Most sightings that have come to BUFORA's attention have been investigated, so it is not for want of trying.

The summaries that follow have been made from reports submitted by our investigators and are therefore entirely from investigated sightings. The case summaries in this issue have been written by: David G. Guyatt, Michael Eden, Peter S. Wilson and Christopher Randles.

Now that the actual co-ordination of investigations is in the capable hands of Ken Phillips (and our team of regional investigations co-ordinators), I shall be taking things a little easier in the coming year but will still be active in the investigations section.

Happy Landings!

*LITS=Lights In The Sky.

RICHARD COLBORNE,
N.I.C. Retiring.

Report 4/1/1.

Date : Early September, 1965.

Location : Gillkicker Point, Gosport.

Time : 1900 hours.

Mr. Ken Williams, together with his wife and a friend were sitting in their car in the early evening, admiring the view of the Solent and the Isle of Wight.

They noticed an object approaching from the direction of the Isle of Wight, and as it came nearer, Ken Williams considered it was something unusual and got out of the car for better observation. Its shape was that of a 'bell' with several portholes visible and three balls slightly protruding from underneath, (typically the Adamski-shaped object), and appeared to be a fluorescent green colour and was rotating. It hovered for two minutes some distance away from their car and then 'took off vertically until it had disappeared from view.'

Investigated by Nick Maloret.

Report 4/1/2.

Date : January 14th, 1969.

Location : Southsea, Hants.

Time : 19.15 hours.

Mr. & Mrs. M. Handley were driving along Southsea seafront when they noticed a light like a 'bright Venus.' All seemed normal until the light moved downwards and then to the South. Soon it was moving along a parallel course to their car. Mr. Handley accelerated hoping to leave the light behind, but it seemed to keep pace with them, even up to 65-70 mph. Mr. Handley stopped the car and got out. He was now able to observe the light to be a conically shaped object red in colour. For fifteen minutes the object hung motionless, quietly humming and changing colour either to white or silver. After a further interval the object moved off towards a beam of light emanating from the Isle of Wight (possibly a searchlight). The beam of light suddenly went out and simultaneously did the 'light.'

Report 4/1/3.

Date : October 23rd, 1971.

Location : Cornwall.

Time : 18.15 hours.

Two witnesses—Mrs. Preston and another were travelling to Saltash by car from a different part of Cornwall when they sighted a golden/pink ball in the west at an elevation of about 45°. They followed it along a side-road but it disappeared abruptly. Mrs. Preston was 'told telepathically' to return to the original spot where the object reappeared, shaped this time as a cigar. The object seemed to respond to the thoughts of the witnesses, changing shape as they thought of possible explanations 'experts' might use to explain it: in all, it changed shape or alignment suddenly six times. As the sun set and the light faded the object grew smaller and faded from view. In all it was visible for thirty minutes.

Mrs. Preston had no views on the subject of UFOs until September 6th, 1971, when in a dream she experienced telepathic communication with the leader of a space craft; after this she had been aware that UFOs were around, but it was not until this sighting that she saw one. Since this time certain people with psychic gifts have informed her they have seen three space people standing by her. They are described as smaller than normal humans and wearing one-piece 'barrage-balloon like' suits with pointed helmets. They were seen to be sending and receiving communications.

Case brought to our attention by Geoffrey A. Baker.

A very intriguing one this—but 'barrage-balloon like' suits! Help! Ed.

Report 4/1/4.

Location : Harting, Hants.

Date : October 15th, 1972.

Time : 18.20 hours.

This account is interesting because of the sequence of 'shape-transformations' reported to have taken place. However, such 'transformations' could, in this instance, be due to the distance of the object together with an unusual observation angle.

Helen Sturm, a grandmother 'over 55', was watching Nationwide on TV. For five years she had been an art instructor at the University of California, and the very beautiful Californian sunsets had made her a 'lifetime sunset-watcher.' It was not unusual therefore, for her to peek out of the west window to see the Sun set. On this occasion, having noted that the Sun was low on the horizon and 'misted-over', she saw a very bright 'star' above the setting Sun.

Continuing to watch the 'star,' she was surprised to find that it was moving from the South-West to the West, and was even more surprised to witness it change shape from a 'star' to an 'elongated star with a tail.' Its colour was silvery to reddish-yellow and it appeared to be self-illuminated: it moved quite rapidly. Mrs. Sturm tells us that it "continued North until probably about due West, when it turned East and swooped down the sky towards the Earth. From a point roughly overhead to the point where it disappeared over the horizon, the object assumed a 'saucer shape.' She reported the incident to a local RAF base (Coney Island) who advised her to contact BUFORA.

Case investigated by R. J. Nash.

Report 4/1/5.

Location : Banbury, Oxon.

Date : November 4th, 1972.

Time: 04.00 hours.

Mr. B. J. Rudge, a former RAF pilot with astro-navigation experience, awoke early to see a bright circular object with a white and yellow centre becoming blurred at the edges. The object was observed for about 11-12 minutes in the ESE. When the object left, it went very suddenly, with a flash, leaving behind a grey cloud.

Mr. Rudge has had 2,000 flying hours, which have given him a wide experience of natural phenomena, which this, he says, was not.

Investigated by G. Baker.

Report 4/1/6.

Date : November 13th, 1972.

Location : Brown Edge, Staffs.

Time : 10.21 hours.

Whilst in her garden, Mrs. M. Buxton, of Leonard Drive, Brown Edge, saw a disc-shaped object, travelling at high speed from the Northwest to the Southeast. She describes the object as being as big as a full moon, and as it flew, the object seemed to 'wobble.' The sky, although the weather was stormy, was clear, so Mrs. Buxton was able to see that there was no vapour trail.

The official estimate of the wind speed was 20 knots—30 knots at 10,000 feet.

Case investigated by Derek James.

Report 4/1/7.

Date : December 18th, 1972.

Location : Northumberland.

Time : 12.30 hours.

This sighting took place 'somewhere in Northumberland' at a specialist school for persons suffering physical and mental deficiencies. We have been especially asked to withhold information concerning names and addresses in this instance.

During the lunch break, Miss X, who had been looking out of the window of the second storey staff room, drew the attention of the other staff (some twenty teachers, physiotherapists, speech therapists and psychologists) to an object drifting across the sky above and beyond a group of trees opposite (3/10 mile distant). The staff rushed to the windows to observe the phenomena. What they saw was a dull grey or black cylindrical shaped object with a convex top and flat bottom from which smoke trailed. They all agreed the object was small in size, about two or three feet in diameter and some five or six feet high. As one later put it, it was shaped like a domestic dustbin, flying through the sky at a steady pace, emitting this wispy smoke.

The 'dustbin' continued flying steadily westwards, having come from the east and flew, apparently soundlessly, out of sight of the area of vision of the staff room, the whole observation lasting about two minutes.

The headmaster, also a primary witness, reported the incident to the police, who despatched an officer to the school to investigate: he later informed the staff that they were unable to explain the object, nor had they received any other reports.

Investigated by Peter Bolam.

Report 4/1/8.

Date : February 2nd, 1973.

Location : Umberleigh, N. Devon.

Time : 18.30 hours.

A round fiery object appeared between two aircraft which had just passed each other, travelling in opposite directions over Umberleigh. It was seen by three people: Mrs. Edna Huxtable, a local farmer's wife, and, independently, by Mr. and Mrs. H. Davidson.

The object was described by Mrs. Huxtable as 'large, red and fiery' and 'quite frightening.' It passed from her right to left in about six seconds. Mr. and Mrs. Davidson say the object was round, with flames and a tail and did not change its shape or colour. The sighting lasted, they estimate for 7 seconds, after which the object travelling faster than a jet aircraft, disappeared in midair followed by a muffled explosion. Mrs. Davidson estimates its size as a thumbnail at arms length: Mr. Davidson compares it with an orange at the same distance. Visibility at the time was apparently very clear. A spokesman at RAF Chivenor said they were not on duty at the time the object was seen, but they had not heard of anything unusual. He suggested the object was probably 'cloud reflection' or a small meteor. Investigated by H. T. Bromley.

Report 4/1/9.

Date : February 10th, 1973.

Location : Gunnersbury Park, London.

Time : 17.10 hours.

Mr. John Williams and his two companions observed a UFO which was first seen at 5.10 p.m. when it was stationary and showed two lights which varied in intensity. 20 minutes later, after visiting a cafe they noticed the lights were still there. The object was fairly low down (Mr. Williams thought at this point it was a tower or crane), and as they watched it, it slowly turned, became cigar-shaped and now showed three lights. The witnesses estimated its length as 60-70 feet, its altitude as 1 mile at an elevation of 30° in a SE direction. Its body colour is described as 'dull-dark.'

After watching it for a few minutes it suddenly rocketed forward and flashed off across the horizon 'at an extremely fast speed.' There was no noise although the wind was blowing towards the witnesses. The object seemed to be solid with a hazy outline. The evening was clear with stars visible.

Report 4/1/10.

Date : February 22nd, 1973.

Location : Copnor, Hants.

Time : 06.50 hours.

Multi-witness observations, such as the following, are useful, as they tend to rule out hoaxes, leaving only misidentification of known objects or genuine UFO observations.

Before commencing his paper round, 14-year-old John Enderby of Copnor, Portsmouth, heard a whirring noise at about 6.50 a.m. which he described as similar to a 'loud fridge.' Looking out of the window, John saw a large disc-shaped object about 50 feet above the house. It was fluorescent orange with yellow and black (sic) lights flashing in sequence. The disc moved away in a south-easterly direction slightly 'wobbling' from side to side.

John's 8-year-old sister Ann, also saw the disc for about 15 seconds and said, 'It looked just like those pictures of flying saucers and disappeared just like the dot on a TV screen.' Total time of observation about $\frac{1}{2}$ minute.

One hour later, at 7.55 a.m., Mrs. Barbara Stimpson of Portsmouth also observed an unusual object which she described as a 'single elongated oval-shaped object with a flickering flame-effect at one end,' coloured something like a 'Magicoal fire.' It looked 'red-hot' and was moving north-west to south.

The final known witnesses were Mr. & Mrs. Geoff Lambert of Woodside. They had read of John Enderby's sighting in the local paper and had decided that what they had seen on the same day at 7.55 a.m. was the same thing. Mrs. Lambert said, 'I saw the orange object directly in front of us due east. I thought it was an aircraft on fire.' Geoff Lambert got out his binoculars and watched the object for three or four minutes. After hovering for a short time Geoff said, 'It disappeared slowly towards the east without any apparent noise.'

Investigated by Richard Nash.

Report 4/1/11.

Location : Keyingham, Yorks.

Date : March 22nd, 1973.

Time : 02.40 hours.

The witnesses, Mr. C. Mark, a 33-year-old butcher and his wife were travelling by car from Hull to Keyingham when a bright orange sphere passed silently in front of them at an estimated angle of 45°. The outline was fuzzy. It was in view for about five seconds then disappeared like a light going out. There was no variation in the intensity of the light.

Investigated by N. Beharrell.

Report 4/1/12.

Location : Fareham, Hants.

Date : March 31st, 1973.

Time : 07.00 hours.

Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas, a midwife sister from Fareham was looking out of her bedroom window early in the morning and was surprised to see two bright silver rods hanging vertically in the sky at an elevation of approx. 45° to her east. The 'double-rods' were some distance away towards Portsdown Hill. Both objects were 'cloud-like' with a fuzzy outline and remained stationary for about two minutes before slowly descending. As they came lower their shape distorted, becoming indistinct and finally disappearing.

On the same date and at the same time, Mrs. Windsor, a nurse working coincidentally at the same hospital as Mrs. Thomas, was leaving the hospital gates having completed her night shift. She observed a silvery cigar-shaped object some distance to the east. Mrs. Windsor was accompanied by Nurse Ladford who also observed the object. Its appearance, whilst apparently cigar-shaped, could well have been discoid viewed from an unusual angle. It seemed to be silvery with a scalloped edge surrounding a dark grey 'smokish' area, and hung motionless for a few minutes before slowly receding eastwards whilst retaining its height and sharp outline. Total observation lasted six minutes.

Both reports investigated by Nick Maloret.

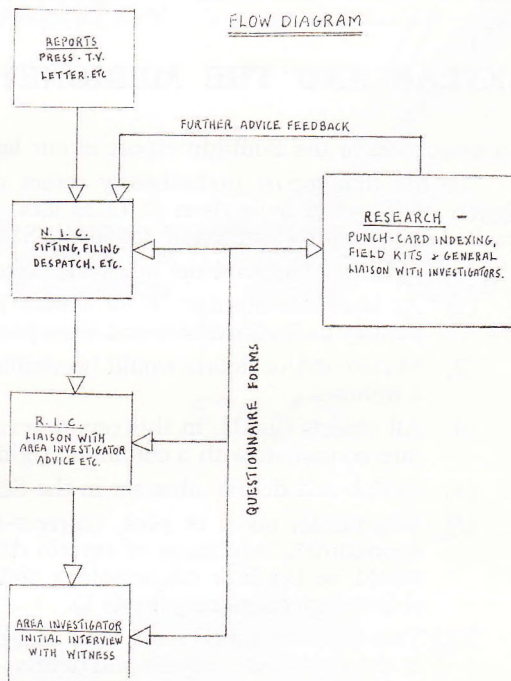
NATIONAL INVESTIGATIONS CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

I think it is fitting at this time to introduce myself and to outline my ideas in my new role as N.I.C. I am 33 years old and employed as a technician at London University: I have spent the past six years in 'university service' having studied at Southgate Technical College, East Herts College and am currently attending the Middlesex Polytechnic.

It was 1966 when I first became interested in Ufology—a friend told me of a strange machine which had landed in a Somerset field terrifying two small children, the case being subsequently investigated by the Ministry of Defence. I joined BUFORA in 1968 and have conducted many investigations since, including the 'Waltham Forest flap' during the spring of last year.

Regarding my plans concerning investigations into UFO activity. It now seems quite evident that the only way a scientifically orientated body such as BUFORA can appraise the data that comes to its attention is by compiling statistically all the characteristics exhibited by the UFO, i.e. colour, sound, animal reaction, location, time, physiological and psychological effects, shape and electrical disturbances, etc. I believe that if enough data can be channelled into BUFORA's research dept. and fed to the punched-card system, certain parameters must evolve—in fact this system is the only viable one open to BUFORA based on the majority of evidence we receive; however, a few reports do contain details of alleged landings and indentations of surface areas; also there are reports of withered foliage and chemical deposits therefore investigators MUST know what to do in such cases so that 'indigenous elements' do not spoil what could be 'hard evidence'!

Summing up then, what is required is an investigation carried out initially by an area investigator, but in liaison with the Regional Investigations Co-ordinator (see map in BUFORA Journal Vol. 3, No. 10); all the data gathered by them to be fed back to myself and then on to Research. (see diagram).



So far as the LITS-type cases are concerned—log them by all means and then forget them! Too much of BUFORA's energy is taken up with unproductive reports of this nature due to there being an ever-increasing number of artifacts in the sky at any one time, so always use your own discretion!

Personally, I do not think there are any short-term answers to the UFO enigma, but in the meantime there is a great deal of 'routine groundwork' to be done. Scientifically, we cannot say that UFOs are 'this' or 'that', or they come from 'here' or 'there' because we just do not know! No one knows!! We must accept the truth however unpalatable it may be to our pet theories, for even if the truth were that UFOs are caused by mass hysteria we would then have to ask ourselves the question—WHY?

Let me take this opportunity of wishing the best of luck to all BUFORA members.

KEN PHILLIPS, N.I.C.

SKYLAB AND THE MERIONETH SIGHTING **Tony Pace** **Research Director**

An evaluation of the Bontddu report in our last issue.

To me this report undoubtedly refers to the observation of Skylab debris. Skylab itself would have risen at 12.23 a.m. that night in the WSW, would have reached a maximum elevation of 25° in the SSW and gone into eclipse at 12.26 a.m.

I would like to append the following comments:—

- (1) At least this number (6) of similar lights have been reported to me previously in Staffordshire and were positively indentified as Skylab debris.
- (2) Skylab and/or debris would be visible with a good horizon for up to about 6 minutes.
- (3) All objects (lights) in this report travelled in the same path and are therefore consistent with a common origin—Skylab.
- (4) Skylab and debris often set in the SE.
- (5) Magnitude, taken as plus, (correct-Ed.) would again be consistent with approximate brightness of certain debris. Skylab and rocket stage (final) would be brighter on occasions and could account for the two brighter objects—perhaps magnitude 0.
- (6) Two objects (lights) have been reported previously moving close together in the sky—again Skylab and debris. I have seen them myself, i.e. Skylab and final stage within 10 seconds (in time) of each other! On 29th June, 1973 my brother Michael photographed two bright lights which show as two separate trails on the 2" x 2" slide (time exposure). Skylab *had apparently passed over a little before* proving that these two lights were in fact two of the brighter debris fragments.

I suggest that the similar lights reported were the same but may have been seen between or through thin cloud and mistaken for low altitude objects. I do not think that most investigators put enough or any emphasis on human error in eyewitness reports.

ROGER STANWAY

Born in 1944 at Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, Roger was educated at Repton in Derbyshire, specialising in the sciences and served two years as Secretary of the School's Astronomical Society which was the relatively proud possessor of a 6" refracting telescope.

On leaving school he entered Articles of Clerkship with a firm of Solicitors in Stoke-on-Trent, and following attendance at the College of Law in Guildford, qualified as a Solicitor in 1969. After spending a further period with the same firm of solicitors he decided to embark upon a postgraduate course in Business Administration at the Cranfield School of Management in Bedfordshire, from where he eventually received his Master's degree in 1971.

Since leaving Cranfield, he has been working with the Industrial and Commercial Finance Corporation where he now holds the position of Legal Adviser to its Mergers and New Issues Department in the City of London. He married his wife Diane in 1972 and they are now living in Barnes, London.

Besides Astronomy and the study of UFOs, Roger's interests include athletics (javelin), hockey, amateur operatics and an occasional strum on his battered guitar. Societies of which he is a member include The Law Society: Business Graduates Association: Assoc. Royal Aeronautical Society: Royal Astronomical Society: British Astronomical Association: National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena and the Society for Psychical Research.



Publications Roger has been associated with include UFO'S UNIDENTIFIED, UNDENIABLE which he co-authored with Anthony R. Pace, F.R.A.S.: this was published privately in 1968 and, now in its second edition, this book covers the UFO wave in Central England of 1967: THE PROSPECTIVE LAWYER—BLUEPRINT FOR THE FUTURE, published in 1969 by the Associate Members Group of the Law Society, of which the author was first Hon. Secretary and then Chairman: and, LAWYERS IN COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY which, published privately in 1972, contains the results of a survey and investigation into the role and status both of solicitors and barristers in Commerce and Industry which was conducted by the author as part of his thesis work at the Cranfield School of Management.

Regarding his Ufological involvements Roger writes:—

“ I have been keenly interested in Astronomy and UFOs since the age of 11, but as far as UFOs are concerned, this remained a passive interest until the summer of 1967 when I set out with a friend to interview my first witness to a potential UFO sighting. On reaching the house in question I discovered that two other persons had arrived just before me with the same idea of interviewing their first UFO witness. Their names were Anthony and Michael Pace, and from that moment, we have studied the mysterious UFO phenomenon together.

“ As a result of this first meeting, I joined the Stoke-on-Trent Astronomical Society of which Tony Pace was Chairman and his brother Michael, Treasurer. Subsequently I also become associated with Newchapel Observatory which the Pace brothers had built and equipped in conjunction with two other amateur astronomers.

“ Although I have only been actively involved with BUFORA for a relatively short time, I have been extremely impressed with the work and objectives of the Association and filled with admiration for the dedication of those members, on and off the Committee, who have contributed to its development. This is no easy task, as the UFO phenomenon possesses a minefield of ‘ political ’ traps for the unwary researcher seeking scientific respectability.

“ I firmly believe that the aims of BUFORA are the right ones. Also, I feel that there is a favourable change in the climate of public and scientific opinion, recognising the work which BUFORA and other similar UFO and non-UFO Research Associations have been conducting for many years. I believe too, that BUFORA must continue to grow in size, attract the help of scientifically trained minds and work in close collaboration with other individuals and organisations in this common field of research.”

We wish Roger well in his numerous interests and trust BUFORA may continue to enjoy his able services for many years to come. NORMAN OLIVER.

ATTENTION MEMBER SOCIETIES !

Details of your forthcoming meetings can be published in the Journal if you wish: please bear the copy dates (see p.19) in mind though. I am also considering a feature or features on the formation and activities of member societies on the lines of ‘ Bufora Personalities,’ so if you would like your Society included, please send appropriate details to me at 95, Taunton Road, London, SE12 8PA Ed.

WARMINSTER SKYWATCH CARAVAN will be available from Easter until the end of October, details from Mrs. M. Carey, 61 Corton, Nr. WARMINSTER, Wilts., or Mr. A. West, 49 Mill Road, BURGESS HILL, Sussex. (S.A.E. essential, thanks).

U.S. 'FLAP.'

Over the last month or so, BUFORA officials, including myself, have received numerous phone calls from Associated Press and other news media asking for comments on the current American 'Flap' and whether we were experiencing one here also! Alas, although sighting reports over here have by no means dried up, we had to say 'No' to the latter and explain that the 'Flap' (a poor description anyway) situation seems to pertain to different countries in different years—not everywhere at once. However, to give some idea of what's been going on, here are a few of those U.S. reports:—

On 19 January 1973 a young man in Cherokee County claimed to have come across a domed saucer-shaped object flashing a variety of coloured lights in the middle of a road surrounded by about a dozen 'men': he then turned up a secondary road and stopped to observe the situation. The object was supported by three legs or struts and glowed a dark yellow. The 'men' seemed to be wearing white coveralls with buttons, buckles and belts: they appeared to 'waver' or 'quiver' as though seen through a heat haze. Prior to noticing the object he had seen no other vehicles and he estimated that it would have been impossible for any vehicle either to have passed the object or travelled underneath it.

In S. Carolina on 23 January 1973, it was reported that Gerald Sumney, a truck driver, claimed that some three months previously an oval-shaped object with a phosphorescent glow began following his semi-trailer truck and had been following him at intervals since then. A dozen or more of his friends have seen it also and variously described it as 'oval, with a black base, having holes all round the base area' and 'like a white and orange-coloured light.' It has also been photographed by a reporter of the Charlotte News.

The Aurora, Texas, investigation into the 1897 newspaper report of the crash of an airship, and the burial of its pilot in the Aurora cemetery is continuing at the time of writing. A number of metal samples have been dug up at the alleged crash site with the aid of a metal detector and at least one of these has received extensive lab. tests. A grave that was discovered was found to have as its only marking an apparent drawing of a UFO. MUFON—the Mutual UFO Network is hoping to obtain sufficient evidence from the metal so far recovered to justify an exhumation order of the grave.

Between February and March 1973 many people in Piedmont, Missouri reported UFOs of varying types and under varying conditions. On 21 February, five members of a basketball team and their coach saw an object hovering soundlessly about 200 yards from their car, flashing red, green, white and amber lights from 'portholes.' On 22 February, Mrs. Kathy Keith, her brother and sister-in-law pursued a greenish-red object at 70 miles an hour before it disappeared, suddenly

making a 90 degree turn. On 14 March, Mrs. Maude Jefferies took a photo of a UFO from the front of her home, east of Piedmont: this appeared as a star-like spot on the film. On 15 March, at 9.30 p.m., Wesley Howard, his wife and daughter saw a "weird amber coloured object 'beaming rays' over the treetops." On 19 March, two scouts on top of Bluff View saw a glowing UFO skim across the lake there and disappear. On 21 March, Mrs. Jean Coleman and Miss Cathy Leach, reported a 'disc-shaped object with a reddish glow' surfacing from Clearwater Lake to soar over a mountain top. On 29 March, a 57-year-old operating engineer saw an oval object 25 feet in diameter with red pulsating lights hovering over a 66,000 volt transformer yard. The Piedmont Chief of Police said that altogether hundreds of reports had been received and that he had seen lights himself.

Twenty miles from Piedmont at Ellsinore a landing was reported on 6 April. There were three holes in the ground in a triangular formation, some 6 inches deep and 2-3 feet across: several trees were damaged, being split and having bark stripped off them, and a Mrs. Stucker, living across the highway from the trees claimed she saw a craft that day with what appeared to be three landing feet.

On 23 August at 9.45 p.m., Robert Pease of Bristol, Connecticut and his father saw a brilliant white object in the southern sky moving on an even course, but stopping every 5 minutes. At 10 p.m. a much smaller red object dropped down from the white one and moved to the west: later, another white object appeared, passed under the first white one, hesitated, then followed the red object. The first white object then disappeared towards the west.

On 13 August two witnesses saw an object 50 feet in front of their car: they described it as 'like a flying oil derrick' with four legs made of girders and crossbars: lights covered the legs, but the 'cylinder' was dark. The object followed a straight course but the legs seemed to gyrate!

The Western Mail of 6 April 1973 printed a report of mysterious foamy pulsating blobs of matter—reddish with thick bubbles on top and blackish mucous inside oozing from a garden in Garland, Texas. Lab. tests have shown samples to be 'growing'!

With acknowledgments to SKYLOOK, THE OHIO UFO REPORTER, CAVEAT EMPTOR and the WESTERN MAIL, from whose pages the above reports have been culled.

NORMAN OLIVER.

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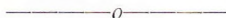
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