

caveat emptor

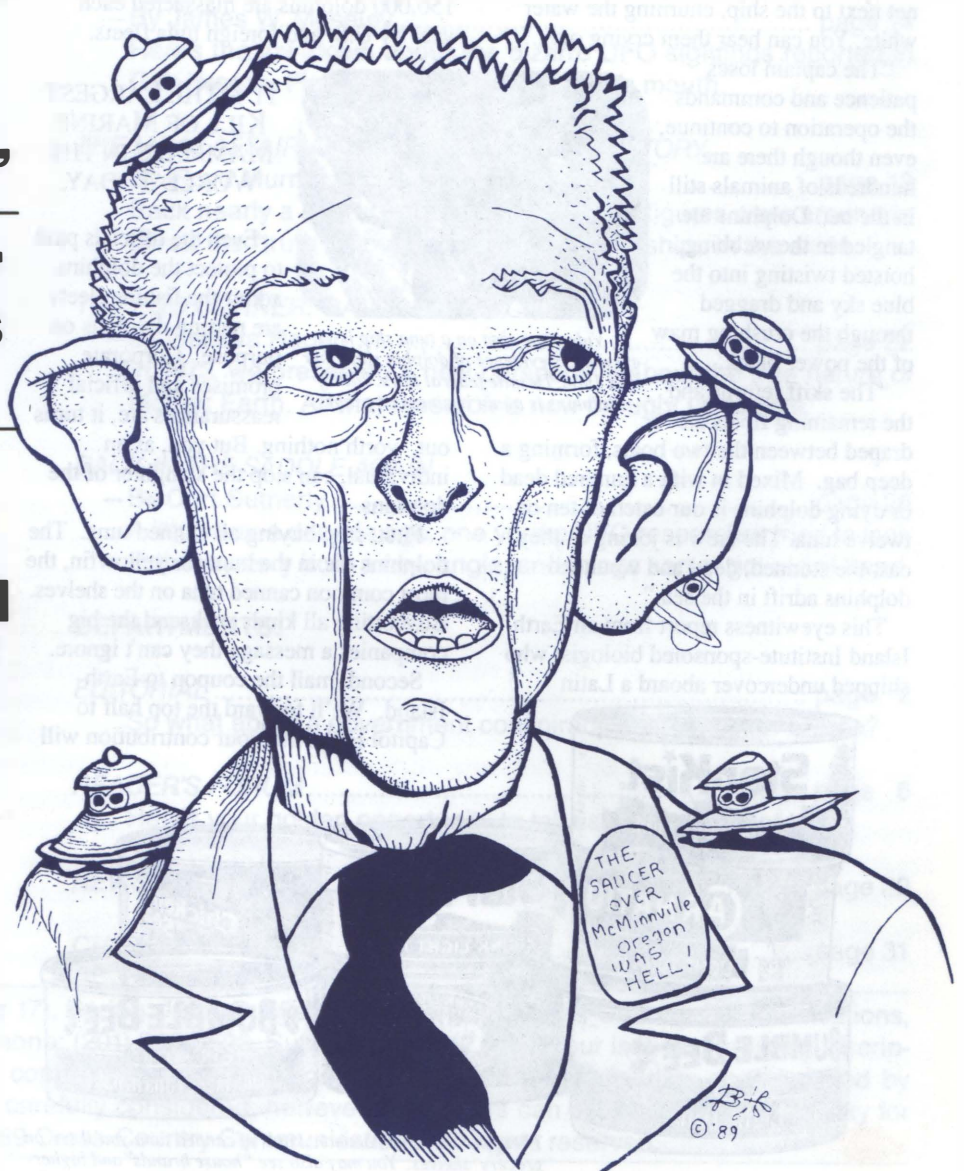
No. 17 Spring 1989 \$3.00

**Brad Steiger
Interviewed**

**Profile:
Gulf Breeze,
Florida's "Mr. Ed"**

**The MJ-12 Affair
and the Lessons
of History**

**A New UFO
Perspective:
Gaia and Beyond**



THE DOLPHIN MASSACRE OFF OUR COAST AND WHAT YOU CAN DO TO STOP IT.

“THE DOLPHINS ARE fighting up through the mesh. They’re unable to breathe. They’re drowning. Now a crew member throws explosives to scare the dolphins toward the far end of the net. This plan backfires. Panicked by the explosives, the dolphins pile up in the net next to the ship, churning the water white. You can hear them crying out...

“The captain loses patience and commands the operation to continue, even though there are hundreds of animals still in the net. Dolphins are tangled in the webbing, hoisted twisting into the blue sky and dragged through the crushing maw of the power block.

“The skiff returns and the remaining floats are draped between the two boats, forming a deep bag. Mixed in with a hundred dead or dying dolphins is our catch of ten or twelve tuna. The crew is joking as they cast the stunned, dead and wounded dolphins adrift in the sea.”

This eyewitness report from an Earth Island Institute-sponsored biologist who shipped undercover aboard a Latin

American tuna boat this year confirms our worst fears. The slaughter of dolphins along the Pacific coast continues.

The documentary evidence, reported on CBS and ABC news, shows that between 75,000 and 150,000 dolphins are massacred each year by U.S. and foreign tuna fleets.



Videotape shot on a tuna ship is eyewitness evidence of dolphin slaughter in 1988. Despite federal laws, killing dolphins is again business as usual.

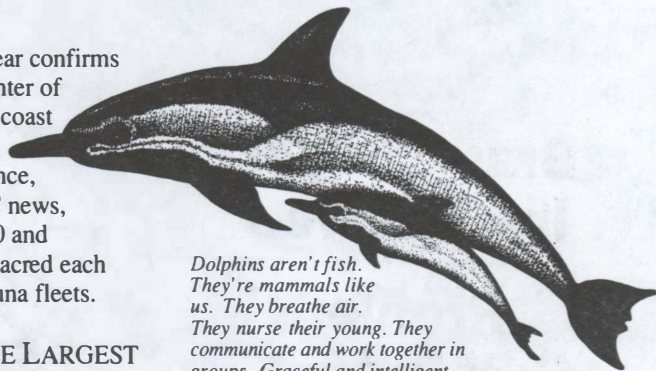
IT'S THE LARGEST KILL OF MARINE MAMMALS IN THE WORLD TODAY.

Even the officials paid to protect the dolphins admit the fishing fleets are netting dolphins on purpose. Corporate promises and official reassurances are, it turns

out, worth nothing. But you, as an individual, can stop the slaughter of the dolphins.

First, stop buying all canned tuna. The dolphins die in the hunt for yellowfin, the most common canned tuna on the shelves. Boycotting all kinds will send the big companies a message they can't ignore.

Second, mail the coupon to Earth Island. We'll forward the top half to Capitol Hill. And your contribution will



Dolphins aren't fish. They're mammals like us. They breathe air. They nurse their young. They communicate and work together in groups. Graceful and intelligent creatures, dolphins have been known to come to the aid of drowning humans.

let us work hard for tougher laws, better research and greater protection for the world's dolphins – especially species in immediate danger of extinction.

Speed is of the essence. Every day you delay, a thousand more wild dolphins may be trapped and drowned in the nets.

To stop this crime against the dolphins ...and against our own humanity...please act immediately.

Hon. Gerry E. Studds
Chairman, Subcommittee on Fisheries,
Wildlife Conservation and the
Environment

We can't allow the massacre of the dolphins to go on. Renew and enforce the federal Marine Mammal Protection Act and bring the kill down to absolute zero. Future generations won't forgive inaction.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

I've joined the tuna boycott as of today. Here's my contribution to your fight to rescue the 75,000 to 150,000 dolphins now killed each year. [] \$10 [] \$15 [] \$25 [] \$50 [] \$150 [] more. Keep me posted.



EARTH ISLAND INSTITUTE
DOLPHIN PROJECT
300 Broadway, Suite 28
San Francisco CA 94133
ATTN: David Brower



These are the most common kinds of canned tuna you'll see on grocery shelves. You may also see "house brands" and higher-priced bonito and albacore. Keep it simple. Boycott them all.

caveat emptor

Spring, 1989

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"We are kept ignorant not by the things we don't know, but by the things we know that ain't so."

—Author Unknown

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Editorial:

Of UFO Conspiracies and Other Anomalies

by Gene Steinberg

We've heard it all before: UFOs are spaceships and the government is keeping it a secret — or so they say.

UFOLOGY'S LAST ICON

This isn't quite the Editorial I had in mind for this issue, but sometimes events have a habit of catching up with you.

I had planned to focus this little article on theories about possible conspiracies in the UFO field, and the tales of some of the likely victims of such conspiracies, and in fact, whether there were any conspiracies at all.

But first there was that phone call from Jim Moseley.

"Did you hear the news?" he said.

I admitted that my information pipelines were still not well established.

"Keyhoe is dead. It happened on November 29th, but I just heard about it."

The conversation lingered for a few moments on the life and times of one of UFOlogy's last icons, and then the subject changed. Jim frankly admitted that he had changed his mind somewhat about the controversial "Gulf Breeze" UFO sightings. A 16-hour visit with "Mr. Ed" and some long conversations had laid to rest at least some of his lingering skepticism about the case, but that's another story (see Moseley's article elsewhere in this issue for a first-person account of that visit).

It isn't appropriate to switch topics in midstream.

I only met Major Donald Keyhoe three times, all within the ten-year period between 1965 and 1975. I can't say I really knew the man, and if you have read my writings in the field through the years, you know that my viewpoints and his differed sharply. I can't really say I had any deep conversations with him either. But I did interview him back in 1975 for a national supermarket tabloid. The piece received a nice response at the time — only the publication conveniently folded before they bothered to send me a check, which means I still retain the rights to the article. In light of the circumstances, perhaps I'll bring it all up to date someday if any of it is still relevant.

The man I do recall though was friendly and alert, despite his advanced age. He had little of the typically stiff



Major Donald Edward Keyhoe, 1897–1988.

demeanor of the military officer, or the condescending air that some supposedly serious UFO researchers adopt. I always sent copies of *Caveat Emptor* to him, but I never heard whether he bothered to read the magazine, or what he thought about it.

It is also true that Keyhoe influenced a whole generation of UFO researchers, myself included.

It has long been the "conventional wisdom" (with apologies to *Newsweek* magazine) that UFOs represent visits by an advanced alien intelligence, and that evidence of these visits is in the possession of the military of various countries throughout the world.

The theory perhaps got its first public pronouncement from Major Keyhoe, who was a noted aviation writer in the 1940's. At the time he received the unhappy task of writing an article about the strange discs in the skies for *True* magazine, a publication that catered to a largely male audience interested in true adventures of all kinds.

The article later became a book, *Flying Saucers Are Real* (in 1950) and Keyhoe was quickly swept up by the rapidly escalating UFO mania.

Because UFOs were an aerial event—there weren't so many landings reported in those days—and because Keyhoe had many news contacts within the military complex, most of his most trusted sources were usually in government service.

His sources were heavily steeped in nuts and bolts and hardware, and it was natural that they'd come to a conclusion about flying saucers that reflected those beliefs: The objects can be tracked on radar, and appear to be solid, metallic structures. They show signs of intelligent control. They perform aerial maneuvers, such as pinpoint acceleration, that is beyond the capability of any Earthly aircraft. By a process of elimination, they have to come from another planet.

Keyhoe's own orientation was military hardware, so it was natural that he would accept this wisdom without question, and the inevitability of military secrecy also formed a focal point of his beliefs.

Of course, the military had some very cogent concerns about UFOs: If they were indeed intelligent aircraft from another world, they represented a technology far beyond ours. If they had hostile intent, then they represented a clear and present danger to our national security—which meant that any evidence *must* be classified without further ado.

The original task of investigation went to the Air Force, with "Project Sign," which later became "Project Grudge," representing perhaps the unvoiced feelings of the officers who had the highly unenviable task of working for it. Later on, until it was disbanded in the 1960's, we had "Project Blue Book."

Keyhoe painted a picture of this project being in the hub of a giant vortex of military activity to investigate the phenomena. But rather than being positioned at the Pentagon, where military operations are directed, the headquarters of the project was at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, in Dayton, Ohio. And rather than having a vast staff with a huge budget and field investigators at their beck and call, Blue Book never consisted of more than a handful of people.

Hardly an example of an important, highly motivated military operation.

Keyhoe's later books, especially *Flying Saucer Conspiracy* and *Flying Saucers: Top Secret*, described a vast wall of silence established by high-level Pentagon figures that perhaps stretched all the way to the White House. Only a few brave souls fighting the veil of secrecy brought forth enough revelations of UFO encounters to keep the subject alive.

During all this time, Keyhoe, though long retired from the Marine Corps, was still subject to recall and discipline if he was doing anything against government policy. If UFOs truly represented a potential national crisis, it would have been quite possible for the proper authorities to call up Keyhoe, warn him of the impending threat, and quickly seal his lips.

Keyhoe on occasion asked the military to do just that if he were truly violating national security or was spreading

false facts about flying saucers.

No one saw fit to pay him heed, or perhaps he just wasn't taken seriously enough to be a threat to anyone, since at best his audience was never more than a few thousand diehards.

Keyhoe made a big show about getting classified flying saucer reports direct from his sources in the military who were fighting the secrecy policy from within. During the early part of the 1950's, he was given lots of these sightings and was led to believe that the secrecy policy was due to be ended and the public was being prepared for the truth about our alien visitors.

Ever an officer and a gentleman, Keyhoe cooperated fully, and did his best to get the word out.

At the same time, he never stated publicly that the same sightings were being given out to others in the UFO field.

One example is my old friend Jim Moseley, whom I interviewed at length in the last issue of *Caveat Emptor*. Moseley was quite serious about his UFO research in those days. He used his own funds to finance a trip around the country, which took him on one occasion to the headquarters of Project Blue Book.

While Keyhoe got second-hand summaries of the sightings that formed the basis of the book *Flying Saucer Conspiracy*, Moseley got the actual reports. He was allowed to take them all to an office typewriter, where he spent hours copying them verbatim.

This is no fanciful claim on Moseley's part. He compiled a very extensive diary of his cross-country trek, and that diary included every shred of information he got from the Air Force. I have read that diary—I made a copy of it years ago and reviewed it recently before writing this column.

When Keyhoe found out that a potential rival author had been privy to the same information he had received, and had in fact possibly gotten ahold of information first-hand, rather than the second-hand summaries that had fallen his way, Keyhoe supposedly raised a ruckus. At least that's what Moseley says. And Moseley then had to write a letter to the Air Force stating that he had never received any classified information. That letter too forms a part of the diary, so I believe that Jim is telling the truth.

Moseley has also long felt that Keyhoe's complaints to the Air Force about all this finally backfired. Whatever the reason, their new policy of openness on UFO sightings soon came to a sputtering halt.

It is very clear, however, that Moseley and Keyhoe just weren't destined to become fast friends. In fact, Moseley actually met the good Major on one occasion during the research expedition. It was at a hotel, where Keyhoe came over and did his best to talk Jim *out* of writing a book about flying saucers. Keyhoe needn't have worried. The book was never written. Moseley used his influence in the UFO field in other ways.

In any case, all of the trials and tribulations Keyhoe encountered at the hands of the military are typical of the kind of behavior attributed to them throughout the UFO saga. First they rolled out the red carpet, and promised

him revelations about the ultimate truth behind the enigma, then they pulled the rug out from under him. So if he perhaps cried "foul" a little too loudly, it was understandable.

It wasn't the first time that a supposed military source led a UFO researcher down the garden path, only to leave that researcher to twist slowly in the wind.

THE SILENCE GROUP MARCHES ON

In the 1970's long-time investigator Leonard Stringfield had his own encounter with this strange behavior. He was given certain documents and accounts of an alleged UFO crash in the 1940's.

This is naturally the same story that has been floated aloft in the field through the years, with little evidence that it was authentic. The late Frank Scully, in his *Behind the Flying Saucers*, detailed such an incident back in 1950. But a *True* magazine writer soon derailed the book's premise, and Scully never seemed able to give a satisfactory rebuttal.

Nevertheless, Stringfield is a careful, dedicated investigator, and he felt he was onto something real. He once made a presentation before a convention of the Mutual UFO Network, promising forthcoming revelations that the crash had actually taken place. He went out on the limb and the limb was cut. His source, it seems, had dried up.

We come to the case of Stanton Friedman, William Moore and Jaime Shandera. Friedman and Moore had produced *The Roswell Incident*, which recounted a similar crashed saucer saga, providing just enough tantalizing evidence to show that it might this time be true.

Then came an anonymous package sent to Shandera, who's a TV producer. That package contained a roll of 35mm film, pictures of the infamous "MJ-12" documents.

Again, serious researchers with a reputation to match are risking their credibility to support the authenticity of purportedly hidden documents proving UFO reality.

If true, they would certainly turn the UFO field on its ear. Paranormal UFO theorists would be rapidly swept away in the dust, and it would be demonstrated once and for all that the incredible sightings involve actual aircraft from another planet—just what Keyhoe and others have been saying for years.

But who was it who said that those who ignore the lesson of history are condemned to repeat it?

Back in the 1890's, strange airships were widely seen in the skies. In some scattered cases, witnesses actually saw the ships land, and actually conversed with the apparently human pilots. They were usually told that the pilots were inventors, and the airships their invention. Soon the world would know that heavier-than-air craft had been invented, and it was the duty of these witnesses to spread the word.

So spread the word they did. And then the day of the supposed public landing came... and went.

Some years later, as our history books show, the Wright Brothers and others truly invented such aircraft. But none of these inventions had anything whatever to do with those airship stories some years earlier. Those alleged

pilots and their alleged craft served their purpose it seems. The event was foretold, and they soon departed.

Elsewhere in this issue, writer Floyd Murray relates the experiences of the 1890's to the present-day flap over MJ-12 and related controversies, so I won't rehash it in any further detail here, except to use it as an object lesson.

I'd rather not believe that Friedman, Moore and Shandera are being led astray. The fish hook dangling before them is so tempting I'm sure it's difficult for them not to bite. And the years of frustration at not being able to find the ultimate truth about UFOs certainly can make someone a bit too willing to believe.

Of course, I'm an optimist by nature. Despite my doubts, I would certainly hope that all is well this time, anyway, and that the example of Keyhoe and Stringfield and others won't set a precedent.

But some serious caution is called for.

And then we come to the secrecy angle itself.

If UFO researchers are being led on wild goose chases, does that represent some kind of insidious military conspiracy to conceal the truth?

More than a decade has passed since William Spaulding of Ground Saucer Watch and others succeeded in prying loose from the government coffers an avalanche of UFO documents. All of these papers came by way of the "Freedom of Information Act," that forces the government to let loose with data unless there is a proven, compelling need to keep it secret.

The documents were interesting indications of previously undisclosed military UFO cases, and an abiding interest in the phenomena among the highest intelligence agencies of the nation, including the CIA. This is the kind of information that Keyhoe and others tried to obtain without success.

Yet despite the sheer volume of the information, nothing really new or conclusive has been learned about UFOs.

True there may indeed be a lot of documents still secret, and it may also be true that those documents include photos of crashed saucers, dead and decaying pilots, scientific analyses of hardware and other startling data.

But as of now there is simply no smoking gun!

After all of the crying and complaining that the government was engaged in a carefully controlled conspiracy to conceal the truth about UFOs, the evidence that has come forth so far indicates that the authorities probably didn't know anything more than anybody else.

Now it's ten years later, and we can all hope that "MJ-12" is different, but one remains skeptical.

Maybe it's just another trick.

And trickery has long been part and parcel of the UFO phenomena.

WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH...

The works of John Keel and Jacques Vallee and others speak in explicit detail about these insidious little games. Telling a few innocent folks about impending inventions that don't materialize is minor compared to some of the

things that have been reported.

In this issue, writer Curt Sutherly speaks respectfully of the dangers of getting too close to the forest. I personally know of another researcher of great prominence who had an identical, and probably more horrifying series of experiences years ago.

I still remember when I visited the home of that researcher. He was a college student at the time, at a small midwestern learning institution. I always respected him as serious and conscientious, and had read the growing number of his writings on the subject with intense interest.

The person I met that day, over 20 years ago, was frightened. He had been in close contact with John Keel, who had warned him about the consequences of his experiences and the experiences involving a young lady whom he knew at the time. It was the classic "Men-In-Black," syndrome, with visits from strange people, odd and threatening telephone calls at various hours of the night, and even strange and frightening psychic phenomena. The young man clearly feared for the safety of himself, his family and that young lady.

Over the years, the experiences appeared to influence the young researcher's thought processes about the origin and purpose of UFOs, as indicated in his later writings.

At the time I first learned about all these things, the young researcher sharply admonished me not to tell anyone else about it, with particular emphasis on James Moseley. Perhaps he feared some sort of ridicule from that source. This was the heyday of the original *Saucer News*, however, and Moseley's sources of information were spread far and wide in the field. Shortly after the visit, I called Moseley on another matter, and he asked me what I knew about the experiences reported by that researcher—it seems he knew more than I did. In any case, I respected my journalistic confidences and said nothing.

But since Jerome Clark finally did reveal many of these details years later in *UFO Report* magazine, I feel nothing more would be served than to say simply that I learned of it almost at the very beginning. It is probably true that little that happened to Clark and others associated with him at the time differs very much from the descriptions found in the books of Keel and others.

My old friend Richard Shaver spent most of his life telling anyone who would listen, and even those who wouldn't listen, that vicious, deformed creatures called "deros" were responsible for all of the dreaded consequences of researching UFOs too deeply.

Shaver said that the deros used ancient "telaug," or telepathic augmentation machines to tune into people's minds and manipulate those minds to their own insane, evil purposes.

Whether we take all this seriously or not—and Shaver is no longer here to defend himself—the UFO field has long been a ripe area for mind control of some sort.

There is speculation that perhaps the CIA and others have at times used hypnosis and mind-altering drugs for their own purposes.

And even one of the legendary UFO contactees of the 1950's, Howard Menger, claimed that he was the victim in some kind of insidious government game to play with the minds of UFO buffs. Though he originally claimed contacts with physical beings from another planet, that belief gave way gradually to the feeling that he was a part of some government experiment of some kind.

Menger once promised a book about it all, but it hasn't been forthcoming.

It has also been speculated that these "tricksters" frequently pose as military men, and that the military is being blamed for something they didn't do.

Perhaps those people in uniforms who told folks like Donald Keyhoe and Leonard Stringfield and William Moore and many, many others that they were trying to rid the military of every vestige of its secrecy policy had another hidden agenda.

Or weren't military figures at all.

So what does it all mean? That is the 64 billion dollar question that nobody can answer—yet. These anecdotes might best be interpreted as a warning that not everything in UFO research is quite as it seems. Perhaps we ought to start reading between the lines, to learn more about that hidden agenda. Then we can all make some informed choices, instead of sitting back and remaining helpless pawns in some kind of gigantic cosmic game that is beyond our understanding.

• • •

PERSONAL NOTES...

Some of you eagle-eyed readers have no doubt observed that we have increased our annual subscription rates to \$12.00 and added \$1.00 postage to the price of a single copy.

No, we haven't become greedy in our old age. Besides, the hope that we would all become millionaires died years ago. It is also true that nobody ever makes a lot of money on a magazine like this. But we have to be realistic. All single copy orders and the first issue of a new subscription are generally sent first class. That costs 85 cents plus the envelope, which brings it darn near to a dollar.

Now about that remaining dollar: We'd very much like to bring you a larger magazine, and even now we're barely able to include everything we want to publish in the space that's available. That small additional amount of money will go strictly towards enlarging *Caveat Emptor*—watch our upcoming issues.

A few words also for all you subscribers in Canada and overseas: All annual subscriptions are \$16.00 U.S. to reflect the additional cost of postage. We emphasize U.S. funds, because our poor efforts at understanding the arcane science of fluctuating currency rates have been unsuccessful. We require all payments to be in American dollars.

Most of you can do the transaction at a local American Express office, or at any major bank. —Gene Steinberg

Readers' Forum

GROUND RULES: Please keep your letters short and to the point. We will not edit your letters except for spelling and serious grammatical errors. Deletions will be indicated by ellipses. We ask that you be considerate of the libel laws and the use of appropriate language. Otherwise, we put no restrictions on content. We will try to acknowledge all letters by mail, but unlike the days when we were young and foolish, your editor can no longer engage in a lengthy and protracted correspondence with anyone. If we have a response, you'll see it here.

A BREEZE OF FRESH AIR

Mr. Gene Steinberg:

I received *Caveat Emptor* and extend a big "thanks."

Your interview with Jim Moseley was most interesting to me because last week [December 17] I spent 16 hours with him. He looked me in the eye and pulled no punches. I accepted his directness and answered his questions without reserve. Hopefully he now understands me to be far removed from the biased W. Smith description.

During the Cleveland Conference, W. Smith tried to ignore the other Gulf Breeze witnesses.... Smith presented a classic debunking talk certainly admired by Klass. He said that "on several occasions an investigator" was near when I photographed the UFO and saw nothing. WHO WAS THAT INVESTIGATOR? WHAT IS THE NAME? There was none. Smith made this up to mislead the audience.

On and on Smith went, leaving out the official testimony of witnesses (changing it when it did not suit him) and worse, he just made up "facts" to persuade the unsuspecting Cleveland Conference. One example you reprinted in *Caveat Emptor* was:

"Smith displayed a number of the photos, which were supposedly taken with a *fixed-focus* [italics mine] Polaroid camera. Smith commented that anything photographed from a distance of five feet or more should be in focus...."

On March 19 [1988] (the only time I have seen him) Smith held the exact 108 Polaroid in his hands, and even a beginner can tell the difference between a *fixed focus* camera and the *3' to infinity manual focus* camera that he examined.

What is Smith's motive for misleading the Cleveland audience?

Mr. Ed of Gulf Breeze
Gulf Breeze, FL

Score one for Mr. Ed!

Jim Moseley, in the article about his visit with Mr. Ed (see page 14), confirms that the Polaroid camera he saw does indeed have a manual focusing adjustment. The photograph of the camera included with the article appears to confirm it.

What do you have to say, Dr. Smith?

Also we are quite concerned about the refusal of Smith and others to respect Ed's request for anonymity. At the National UFO Conference in Cleveland and (we understand) elsewhere, Smith revealed Ed's real name. Perhaps Ed made a mistake by getting involved in the public arena, but let's please respect his right to privacy.

The truth of falsity of his claims doesn't rest on his true identity—but on his testimony and the quality of the photographs he has presented. Let's confine our debate to their merits, okay? —GS

• • •

MOSELEY, ETC.

Gentlebeings:

Welcome back! I recall seeing a copy of your previous effort somewhere or other, I know not where, but I must say that your emulation of the phoenix is very well done, very professional.

Now, inasmuch as I'm one of Mr. Jim (Supreme Commander) Moseley's *Saucer Smear* un-subscribers... has that illustrious and handsome (and growing old with the rest of us) gentleman informed you fine folks that on his mailing list, along with the usual retinue of "serious" UFO-logical luminaries, there are (Shudder, Cringe, Eek and other words signifying horror and dismay)—dare I say that word—"contactees" (Ergh, Ugh, Argh, Yick!). Of whom yours truly was one of the more infamous of that species in the mid-1960's.

Having had a running (or at least walking) correspondence with Mr. Moseley for

some time whilst he was publishing the late, lamented(?) *Saucer News*, I know well of that fine soul's love for pomposity-deflating (and somewhat off-the-wall) humor. The interview with him was delightful, and vintage Moseley. The man's a Klass act.

On the other hand, Geneva Hagen's spiteful sniping at Ronald Reagan evinces mostly knee-jerk shades-of-Berkeley politics warmed over from the left-loving sixties. One wonders if the lady is now honing her daggers for George Bush. Time will tell. However, let her remember that the democrats have controlled Congress for four years, ergo passed all those budgets that she liberally laments are pro-military and anti-"social-program" (a bureaucratic euphemism for throwing tax money at a problem without the merest interest in whether it will help anything).

Final point, FYI: your index-page quote reads suspiciously like this one by Josh Billings (Henry Wheeler Shaw): "It ain't what a man don't know that makes him a fool, but what he does know that ain't so."

Live long and prosper.

Bob Renaud
Washington, MA

And where in the fine print does it say I'm a Democrat? You are too quick to categorize people, Mr. Renaud, and name-calling seems out of place in a forum for unpopular ideas. During *Caveat Emptor*'s first incarnation, my columns expressed the opinions that Richard Nixon should not be vilified for Watergate, and that war is better conducted by political assassinations than on the battlefield. I doubt that these views belong in the category of "knee-jerk shades-of-Berkeley politics warmed over from the left-loving sixties." Actually, I spent most of the sixties in Alabama, belonged to the Young Republicans as a teen, and took so little interest in

politics as a young adult that the Vietnam War had been over for weeks before I noticed. In the 1980 president election, I voted Libertarian, not Democrat.

However, I must admit that I do have knee-jerk responses when I think of starving children and environmental degradation, and it soon came to my attention that Ronald Reagan was dismantling our already-meager environmental protection measures, while domestic hunger, which had almost been eradicated, increased to the point where even the Scientific American featured it as a cover story.

I am well aware that most social programs are ill-conceived and do not address the root question of why so many people are poor and hungry in the first place. Even so, it is cost-effective to ensure that pregnant women and children get adequate nutrition. Every dollar spent for this purpose saves the taxpayers three dollars in the long run, by helping to prevent birth defects, mental retardation and other health problems that require expensive medical treatment or institutionalization, and may make it impossible for these children ever to grow up to become productive adults. The first school lunch programs were instituted not out of charity, but because too many young men were found unfit for military service during World War II!

I don't feel like apologizing for any "spiteful sniping" at Ronald Reagan. I have seen drawings by Central American children showing soldiers aiming bayonets at the bellies of pregnant women, and the Reagan administration was supplying military assistance to the powers responsible for such atrocities. If George Bush continues these policies, yes, I will have a few things to say about him, too.

If you care to challenge any of my factual statements, write to me % Caveat Emptor, and I will try to refer you to sources that will enable you to check out that information for yourself. —GH

• • •

Dear Mr. Emptor:

While sifting through the neighborhood garbage in my desperate daily search for deposit bottles, I came upon the remains of a rancid fish wrapped in a copy of *Caveat Emptor*. I was tempted to keep the fish and throw away the magazine. But a little gray man in a rubber suit happened by and hinted that I would find the secret of the universe therein. So I carried the smelly thing back to my park

bench and, needless to say, I was bitterly disappointed by its contents.

First of all, why all those gruesome photographs of that witless individual named James Moseley? Surely you could have found some amusing cartoons somewhere or, better yet, some old photos of myself in a beard. Moseley looks like a serial murderer or a person who has lost one court case too many. Hardly a fit subject for so much attention, even in a magazine named *Caveat Emptor*.

Secondly, who is this Floyd Murray? I've never heard of him before. He is obviously an imposter. Like Moseley, he looks like he belongs in a jail somewhere in Alabama.

I'm afraid that our dying planet has no need for a new magazine like this. I suggest that you dedicate your limited energy to a more productive project such as growing mushrooms in your basement or playing Three Card Monte in Times Square....

Hang by the thumbs.

John A. Keel
New York, NY

• • •

Dear Gene, baby,

...The interview with Jimbo Moseley was very revealing.... I like the photo of him on page 9. In that picture, he looks rather alert, as if he is anticipating one of his tenants to pay their rent. Or, perhaps, he is casting a watchful glance at a potential shoplifter who has just entered his Rose Lane Antiquities?....

The best part of the Jimbo interview was when he goes directly to the punch line of the joke by Lyndon Johnson. I suppose it's better to be pissed-off inside a UFO rather than tarnish the shining exterior of a staunch organization like MUFON. I heard a rumor recently that Congress wants to pass a law banning the sale of beer at MUFON conventions. That's probably the REAL reason that Moseley wants to get kicked out of MUFON already.

Speaking of UFO clubs, I am starting my own club this year. It shall be called the "Organization of Stealth UFOlogists." You could join if you want. It's free. The Main Purpose of the club is to get Moseley to join up. Later, we throw him out when he begins telling us that there's more than one Phil Klass. We had enough trouble handling ONE Phil Klass. Now, he's trying to tell us there's MORE than one Phil?? Get outta here, man!....

May the Goddess Sit On Your Face,

Barry Hoffman
Flushing, NY

• • •

PLAUDITS, ETC.

Dear Gene,

Delighted to get CE #16.... Interesting reading... may it/you prosper.... Glad to have you back. Note, tell Curt Sutherly there's a 4th Law of Reality: It states that the first 3 are wrong!

George W. Earley
Bloomfield, CT

• • •

MINORITY CONTACTEES?

Dear Editor:

I liked your new reincarnated 'zine.... It is refreshing to see in such a 'zine talks about social problems too and that not all UFOfans are neo-Nazi followers.

Now my questions are: How come so few Blacks, Hispanics, etc. in the USA are contactees? Are the Space Gods white and of Aryan descent? How many Blacks, etc. at recent UFO conventions. Are UFOs white man's stuff or?

We do have in America travelers (Gypsies, etc.), thousands if not millions of homeless people. How come none(?) seem to spot any UFOs? Or why are they ignored by UFO researchers?...

R. Yves Breton
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

If UFO encounters were random, one would expect they would be independent of racial, cultural or class distinctions. But studies from John Keel and others have painted a different picture.

If these theories can be taken at face value, it would seem that some UFO witnesses, notably those who experience close encounters or abductions, were somehow selected, perhaps at a very early age, to undergo these experiences. Certainly abduction researchers have investigated a number of these claims.

As for myself: I am white and Jewish, which—so the story goes—would make me somewhat less susceptible to such encounters. But I am also left-handed and a skeptical journalist, which would tip the scales in the opposite direction. —GS

• • •

ASSASSINATION THEORIES

Dear Gene Steinberg,

... I have this to say about the JFK assassination: There was a recent TV documentary by Walter Cronkite, also shown over here [United Kingdom], that reinforced belief in the lone gunman theory. I thought it very good, and it would be a useful antidote to the one you have reviewed (which I did not see). Contrary to what you may think, the conspiracy theory is by no means certain, and the "Oswald did it alone" idea is still quite feasible and possible, maybe probable.

There was also a documentary by Central TV here on the alleged "Mafia link" theory. Their thesis, which they put forward with great conviction, was that three French hit men from Marseilles committed the murder. Two are still alive. The three were brought all the way home from the South of France to shoot the president. All this comes from the recent ideas of an American author, Steve Rivele, said to be writing a book on it. The two living persons later produced impeccable documentary proof that they were nowhere near Dallas on the fateful day (one was in a French jail, the other serving at sea with the navy). A multi-million lawsuit is in the offing, and I predict Mr. Rivele will not be publishing his book, not unless he wants to face about the biggest lawsuit of all time!...

Incidentally the 1979 investigation did not, repeat *not*, repudiate the Warren Report. It merely said there was evidence of a possible conspiracy. It certainly did not give any support to the claims that Warren and Co. was a cover-up, as is still put about. People who adhere to the conspiracy idea should make it clear whether they think the assassination was a conspiracy (still possible) or whether the whole commission was a conspiracy, and the government willingly covered up the truth. *That* conspiracy, if true, is totally different, as you will agree. Personally I reject the latter idea completely, while willing to accept the former.

The story of how Fred Crisman (he had several aliases) came to be involved in it is given in *UFOs 1947-1987*, published in London and edited by John Spencer and Hilary Evans. The relevant article is "The Maury Island Caper" by John A. Keel. Keel effectively disposes of Maury Island and all the subsequent "mystery" quite well, and I won't give the secret away. You can read it for yourself! Incidentally Crisman died in 1975. Arnold and Ray Palmer both died without ever knowing the truth about that affair.

Christopher D. Allan
Stoke-on-Trent, England

• • •

ET & CD

Dear Editor:

... In reading Gene's article on audio tweakdom, I accidentally read the rest of the publication and found myself intrigued. I had little realized how much passion was aroused by the mere mention of UFOs.... My background is in psychology and I have read extensively in the science fiction genre, so I am not close minded about the subject. I do, however, have a naturally skeptical bent which comes out grinning and ready to fight at the drop of an unnatural phenomenon....

As to the audio question: Briefly, Gene maintains that CDs are here to stay and a good thing too. They sound better, last better, play better, have more dynamic range, etc. etc.—you've heard this before. I have a couple of points to make. One, CD's don't sound better, they sound cleaner, but LP's sound more like the real thing. Two, a good analog system will still be preferred over a CD system in double blind tests (I've seen the demo). Three, a CD revolution is the biggest consumer rip-off in entertainment history. Think of it: Start-up costs of manufacturing have long since been repaid by profits. Actual disc production costs are less than \$2.00 per unit, so why do CDs cost twice as much? Yup, you've got it... that's what the market will bear. *Caveat Emptor* indeed!

Craig Della Penna
Easthampton, NY

Craig, if a lone inventor somewhere in the Silicon Valley came up with the compact disc, I doubt that some elements of the high-end audio community would oppose it the way they do. Unfortunately, CDs were invented to two of our larger mass market conglomerates, Philips and Sony. They are sold not only in expensive audio salons, but at your local discount store as well.

Frankly, I'm suspicious of surveys, because they can be slanted very easily to prove a certain point of view.

In trying to pit the venerable LP against a CD, the LP's identity would be obvious because of its ticks and pops and other surface noise. The absence of such noise would clearly identify the CD. The test would do little more than confirm your expectations. — GS

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The Caveat Emptor Interview:

Brad Steiger

by Gene Steinberg

Brad Steiger had a choice between a lucrative career as a major mainstream writer and the paranormal. He chose the paranormal.

Brad Steiger has been a "name" writer on the paranormal for over 20 years. Because of the sheer volume of his writings, he is often taken less than seriously in some quarters, but his credentials as a writer have never been less than impeccable.

In all, he has written over 100 books on a variety of subjects, ranging from the strange and unknown to many mainstream topics as well. His biography of silent film star Rudolph Valentino brought him fame and fortune early on, but that wasn't where his true calling was to be found.

Childhood experiences detailed in the following interview made him acutely aware that there was a whole undiscovered world out there that he yearned to explore. Against the advice of his literary agent who envisioned a lucrative writing career for him, Steiger devoted much of his later work to subjects shunned by conventional science.

His paranormal epic of the 1970's, Revelation—The Divine Fire, soon joined the works of fellow author John Keel on the bookshelves of many highly intuitive UFO researchers of that era. His present works include The UFO Abductors (Berkley, 1988) and The Fellowship (Ivy Books, 1989).

I met Steiger last October during his brief lecture tour of the northeast. Although I had exchanged occasional letters with him years ago, I had not met him personally. So I was surprised and pleased that he had been an avid reader of Caveat Emptor during the years of its prominence. He inquired as to the whereabouts of many of the writers featured in our pages, so I filled him in briefly on developments stretching back 14 years.

I accompanied Steiger and his New York lecture sponsor, Tim Beckley, as we strolled through the streets of midtown Manhattan en route to the lecture hall (the limousine Beckley had reserved never showed up). Admittedly the conversation consisted largely of informal banter about mutual friends and places we had seen. Arriving at the site of the lecture, I found John Keel awaiting us. He was sched-

uled to introduce Steiger to the audience at the evening's session. The conversation with Keel was brief. It did not concern the latest discoveries in the UFO field, about which he is usually quite voluble. Instead, Keel inquired as to a place to find a bite to eat, and quickly departed for his dinner. Steiger and I sat down and got on to the serious business of the interview.

GENE STEINBERG: *Mr. Steiger, let's start at the beginning, which is an appropriate place. You entered the working world as a school teacher. How did you get into the world of the occult and UFOs?*

BRAD STEIGER: Well, it's been part of my life ever since I can remember. I did teach high school, I did teach college, but even before that, of course, I had had, as I relate in my books, an initial contact when I was about the age of five. I of course had a near-death experience at age 11, when I was "killed" in a very violent farm accident—I grew up on a farm in Iowa.

So certainly the entire thrust of my life was toward the mystical, but I was conditioned and programmed and was to be a Lutheran minister, and it was at the last moment, so to speak, when I decided not to go into law, as the dean wanted me to, not to go into theology, as the Bible department wanted me to do, but to go into teaching because I wanted to write and I felt that, till I got my journalistic legs a little stronger, that teaching was a good complement to the research and writing I was doing.

STEINBERG: *It also gives you a regular paycheck.*

STEIGER: Yes, well of course, absolutely. And there were times when, as a freelance writer, I missed that regular paycheck. And you know what I mean.

STEINBERG: *We've all gone through it.*

Let us now backtrack to those early experiences in your life that led you to believe that there was something in our world that we didn't understand. And we go back to the age of five, and you've talked about it in your books and lectures, and maybe for some of our readers who are not familiar with those pieces of literature, or who haven't seen your lectures, can you recall for us what happened?

STEIGER: Well, surely. At the age of five, I was seated on my bed. I've always been a night person, it's difficult for me to go to bed, but when you're on an Iowa farm, in a farm family, you go to bed literally with the chickens, at the



same time the chickens go to bed.

But that night I heard the sound of footsteps crunching in the October leaves, and I heard a washtub being pulled. We didn't have running water and electricity at that time. I heard the washtub being pulled from the pump, and I saw a small being standing on his—its—tiptoes, looking in at my parents at the kitchen window. The being turned to look at me after I stared at the back of his head for a time and I saw the very, very large eyes, slit pupils, no nose but nostrils, no mouth but a straight line. There was no communication I'm aware of at that time.

But what it did for me was indicate to me at a very early age that we are not alone. I at that time, at age five, interpreted it as an elf, as a brownie or something of that nature, some kind of being.

At age 11, I was in a very serious farm accident. I died. I left the body. I was drawn toward the beautiful light. I came back then in time. They rushed me—again at that time there were no hospitals nearby—so it was a 110 mile rush to Des Moines, Iowa to Saint Mary's Hospital.

STEINBERG: *What town were you in, by the way?*

STEIGER: A tiny, little town named Bode, Iowa. So we rushed to Des Moines. There they were putting me back together again, and I came back on the operating table, and that's when the spirit reentered me, and I remember—I was a very husky 11-year-old kid—and I remember sitting up and pushing interns aside and so forth. I remember the doctors saying, you know, "Hold him, hold him."

And my first audience then were Roman Catholic nursing sisters, because they had a sense that I had seen something, I had experienced something. And they wanted to know about it, so I told them what it was like, you know, dying and so forth. And interestingly, in the room, sharing it with me, was a young girl who was dying, and I remember talking to her and talking to her parents, and

kind of preparing them for what life was like on the other side.

So that struck me again, in a kind of wonderful, inter-denominational way, that, at that time, being Protestant or Catholic had an entirely different faith, an entirely different attitude, and Jews had an entirely different attitude and so forth. And now I see the great commonality, I see the great uniformity, I see the great universality of spiritual experience. It's the same for everyone.

And that's what I'm trying to tell people, but I still find people locked behind their own doors, into their own categories, their own places, not willing to admit. In other words, if I had an experience, it is wonderful and it is beautiful, but if you had one, then I don't believe you. And that kind of attitude that we confront in this field is a very sad one to me. I'm very dismayed whenever I encounter that. And it's getting better, certainly better than when I started lecturing in the late 50's.

STEINBERG: *Let's go forward through the years. You were a school teacher, you were writing on the side. Did you write on any subjects other than UFOs and the occult?*

STEIGER: Oh yes. My first published article was on the paranormal. The first published article was on ghost ships, interestingly. The second one was on reincarnation. But at the same time, Gene, I was writing mystery fiction for *Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine*, *The Saint Mystery Magazine*.

STEINBERG: *Under the name "Brad Steiger"?*

STEIGER: Yes, uh huh. So the first work was then in the fiction field—I love short stories. I love the short story form, but of course it's disappeared along with many of our traditional forms.

STEINBERG: *We still have some of those magazines left.*

STEIGER: Yes, but very, very few. And at that time, of course, I got two cents a word, breaking in and getting your name in print at the same time, you were on cloud nine. So I began writing mystery stories, a little bit of science fiction, more fantasy. I've never, interestingly, been a science fiction buff, but I did write a lot of true crime and crime mystery fiction, and then what really enabled me to break loose from teaching was when I wrote the biography of Rudolph Valentino, which was made into a motion picture by Ken Russell, starring Rudolf Nureyev and Michelle Phillips and so forth. That book came out in 1966, the same year as my *Strangers from the Skies* and *Strange Guests*, when I was 30 years old.

STEINBERG: *So suddenly at the age of 30 you're a known writer. And at that point you began to focus more and more on your true interests in terms of writing.*

STEIGER: Yes, and it was hard, because my agent at the time was a very competent, very capable man and he said, "Now you've got the attention, you already sold movie rights," even though it was 10 years before they made the movie, but you know how that works. "All these things are happening. This is your chance to write big, sprawling, epic sex novels and so forth."

And I said, "That's not my thing. I want to go out and

write more about UFOs, about haunted houses," and that would blow him away. He said, "That's kook literature. No one's interested in that."

But I said at that time there's a new age coming, there's a new consciousness coming, there's a new awareness coming. And in a short time, then, he came to see that those things—that I didn't prophesize them, they were just intuitive feelings that there was going to be a change of consciousness and that these books would be more acceptable.

STEINBERG: *Let us now return to the present. We've seen different progressions of interest in UFOs. In the 1950's and 1960's it was felt that UFOs were manifestations of some extraterrestrial intelligence. Then, because of the writings of yourself, and of course John Keel, and Jacques Vallee and others, there was a feeling that there was something a lot more complex about the UFO enigma, and the term "ultraterrestrial" was coined.*

Now back in the 1980's again, because of perhaps the "MJ-12" documents and the Strieber book, because of possibly the Steven Spielberg movies, we are hearing again about hardware in terms of UFOs, solid visitations by beings of another planet. Where do you stand in this progression of interest in the field? What's your personal belief?

STEIGER: I still hold to the—what do you want to say, "ultraterrestrial"—or as I say, multidimensional, but I think we're talking about the same thing probably. I still hold to that, Gene, I still think we're dealing with an intelligence that communicates with us largely through the archetypes, our personal individual myths. And certainly that does not preclude the fact that there could be hardware.

But I think that so much of it is a "reflexive phenomena," poltergeist phenomena. It can be contagious and a kind of hysteria. I think that again there may be indeed actual abduction-type cases by somebody. And then it becomes reflexive. The men-in-black phenomena again I think is maybe genuinely that silencing act that has taken place, and then it becomes reflexive. It becomes almost like a contagion, in that sense, of people who either want an experience to occur or somehow go into an altered state in which they believe it has occurred.

STEINBERG: *Are we speaking now of mass hysteria or is this other force directing this?*

STEIGER: That's the big question, isn't it? And again, I guess I would say that it is very difficult to discern, it is very difficult to tell the difference, even for experienced researchers such as ourselves. When people say, "Can't you ever be fooled?," well of course, we all have been. I think after this many years, and I think you would agree with me, there are certain things that we look for. There are certain things that we can kind of tell right away when someone is fantasizing or putting us on.

But it is difficult and there's the big question: How much of it is directed by this intelligence, how much of it is reflexive? That's why I have to stay more and more with the multidimensional approach, that let's check it out first as



an individual illumination experience, as a spiritual experience, as a transformational experience, and then see if there's really something to it. But we know, Gene, that there can be intense psychological experiences, which seem real, seem physical.

And I'm kind of amazed right now at the people, just having come from a UFO lecture, who readily accept some of what to me seem to be outlandish stories, but I'm not questioning anyone's integrity, but I'm just saying, hasn't anyone asked if it could be a dream, or maybe they just saw a nightmare film with Freddy Krueger? I mean couldn't this even be a UFO film that somehow inspired a nightmare?

But they take the words of three-year-old children that they've been abducted, which to me seem when they describe them, they're much like dreams. So again I think that a lot of contact takes place in dreams, I think it takes place in altered states of consciousness.

STEINBERG: *Do you think also that popular culture generates some of these myths, such as, for example, the movie The Day the Earth Stood Still, in which we have a man played by the late Michael Rennie, wearing the silver uniform and then a couple of years later there was George Adamski and a number of other people who contacted that kind of person in the desert. And they were here to save us from our nuclear folly, which of course was the theme of that movie.*

STEIGER: Exactly. That set the prototype for the "Space Brothers."

STEINBERG: *Then of course with E.T. the Extraterrestrial and of course with Close Encounters of the Third Kind, we have cute aliens that we see now.*

STEIGER: That's right.

STEINBERG: *There was also a writer who also started as a science fiction writer, who died some years back, Ray Palmer. Palmer said in his magazines, "Flying saucers are*

here to make us think." And maybe it presages different developments of mankind, such as the discovery of heavier-than-air craft in the 1897 airship scare. Then coming more towards the present, the beginning of our space age.

STEIGER: I think the UFO is a symbol that continually pulls us into the future.

STEINBERG: *Where do you think it is going to lead us?*

STEIGER: Now there's a question, and again I think I have to say, even though I know Arthur C. Clarke is not a fan of this field, but I think we have to say it leads us to "Childhood's End." I think it leads us to the transformation of our species."

STEINBERG: *You're thinking of 2001 also, there.*

STEIGER: Yes.

STEINBERG: *Then at that point we'll know the answer to everything, maybe not before? Is that what you are saying?*

STEIGER: I think that's what we're leading to. We're leaving from *homo sapiens*, thinking man, to *homo spiritis*, spiritual man.

STEINBERG: *Let's come back down to more nuts and bolts again. You have read, I am sure, about the so-called "MJ-12" documents, which are said to represent a government study of an alleged crashed UFO at Roswell, New Mexico, where the bodies of aliens were recovered and kept on ice. We've had a couple of motion pictures about it through the years, as you may or may not recall. Do you feel that there is something to that, or is somebody being hoaxed?*

STEIGER: Yes, that's a toughie. My wife [Sherry] and I have semi-regular "paranoia nights," in which we have people, who can't disclose their names perhaps, but who show us their credentials, Gene, NASA credentials, that indicate that they have worked on top secret projects earlier. These are people who are now somewhat older, I'd say people primarily in their late 50's and 60's, who are showing us information and swearing that they have seen the bodies, that they have participated in the autopsy, that they've seen the hangers, that they've seen all of these things.

They appear to be sane. They appear to be rational, and that if even half of the accusations of MJ-12 are true, then we're kind of in deep cosmic dookie here. If indeed there has been a deal made with certain aspects of our government, certain aspects of our government with an alien intelligence, an alien life form, then, of course, we can see why the coverup has been so intense, because the people are going to be outraged if we have been sold out. If it is as Charles Fort said, "we are property," and someone convinced our government that we belong to somebody else, and the people have been sold out, then of course we have something really intense, we have something that is the most horrific news story of the ages.

STEINBERG: *When this interview appears in print, we will all know the results of the presidential election. Of course we all know that George Bush was head of the CIA, would have been privy to information of this nature if it indeed exists. What are your feelings?*

STEIGER: Well, again, one of those things that someone pointed out in some little newsletter, and I don't know who circulated it, so I don't know its validity, that Bush is going to make public statements about this when he takes office, so again I don't know the validity of that. Someone told me that they heard it on television, and I tried to track it down. Someone said they saw it in print and I tried to track it down. Finally it turned out that this little newsletter was circulated.

STEINBERG: *They said that Eisenhower would say something and they said that Kennedy would say something, they said Johnson, they said Jimmy Carter, because he had a UFO sighting. Ronald Reagan, I believe, has had a UFO sighting.*

STEIGER: Yes.

STEINBERG: *But he hasn't said anything about it.*

STEIGER: So since you and I have gone through all these promises...

STEINBERG: *I think we're aging ourselves here.*

STEIGER: I think so too. I'm a little bit jaded in terms of those kinds of promises and statements, but again I, as yourself, would certainly welcome such an open declaration.

It's frightening, as I said, if even half that stuff that we're being told, as I say during our paranoia nights, would be true. Then it's very frightening.

STEINBERG: *That's why you call them "paranoia nights?"*

STEIGER: Yeah, really.

STEINBERG: *You don't take them terribly seriously?*

STEIGER: I don't know, you know. We've been around, Gene. We've heard some of these things, we've heard these stories about the crashed saucers, we've heard about the possibility of government conspiracy, you know, since we were green horns in this field. And how many times have I been called to see photographs of the crashed bodies, how many time I've gone from this place



to this place to this hotel, wait till the phone rings, now go to this... I mean I've played that game so often and have yet to see that photograph.

STEINBERG: *So you maintain a healthy skepticism.*

STEIGER: I have to.

STEINBERG: *What could be done to channel this new interest, maybe that's an interesting way to put it, into constructive research into what is going on?*

STEIGER: Well, if we indeed can get the attention of serious-thinking people, and we're getting more senators, congressmen, and people in the military are at least quietly making contact and efforts to communicate with some of us in this field. If we can get their ear and their attention and maybe for once get some serious unbiased interest in this field, then perhaps we'll have the breakthrough. I guess I'm always a cock-eyed optimist, but I don't know if I'm that optimistic any more. I think it's always going to be for those of us kind of in the hardcore of research to just keep on keeping on, and keep on—I'm using this in the positive sense of the word—propagandizing that something is going on, that we're not alone, and that eventually the governments are going to have to pay serious attention to what's happening around us.

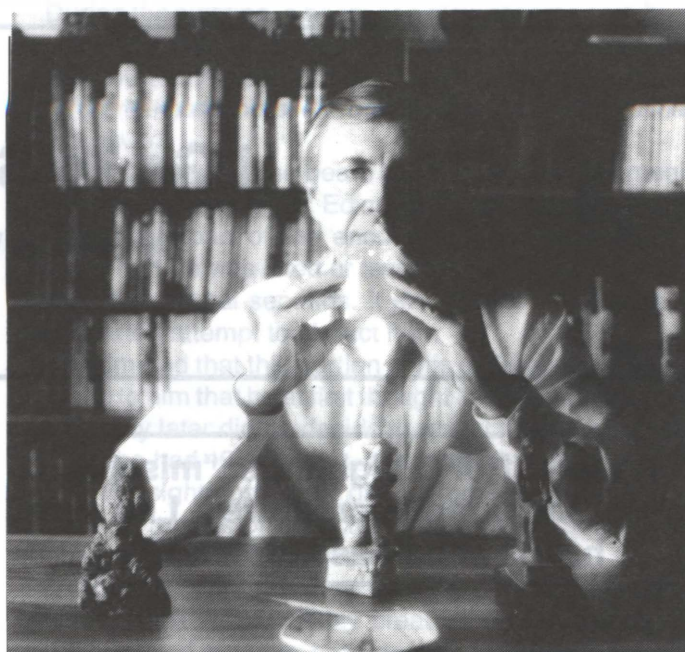
STEINBERG: *But if it is, as has been theorized, something that is more than a physical phenomenon, governments aren't geared towards dealing with psychic phenomena.*

STEIGER: That's why I said steady propagandizing in the positive sense of the word. To me I think we're dealing with maybe the Armageddon scenario, which is very frightening too. Maybe we are dealing with it. We are in the, not the end times, but a transitional time, that maybe we, we as a species, are far more important, far more enriched than we even think, and we're very special to somebody, and there may be two somebodies to whom we are very special. I mean this could be a "war of the worlds" for us. We could be the prize.

STEINBERG: *What about the theory that we're programmed? And even Erich von Daniken was saying that in Chariots of the Gods? in one of the sections people didn't pay attention to, because they were too busy chasing after the Nasca lines. He said that the aliens who came to this planet thousands of years ago, programmed our DNA to eventually reach some stage of development. And then back into the drug culture of the 60's, Timothy Leary was saying that you needed LSD and other psychedelic drugs to bring out this internal message.*

STEIGER: You know we did an entire book on that, called *The Star People*, about this whole other area of research but yet related to what you are saying. And then you were kind of reminiscing in a chuckling way about the 60's.

We said that we may have been programmed by these beings in some way, even in the book written with Joan Writenour. We suggested that and everyone practically threw stones at us at that time for thinking that there could be that kind of connection, that kind of eventual development with UFOs. It's been interesting to see it progress, as you say, from the solid nuts and bolts and there's no one



inside, there's just a robot type of thing, to the "ultraterrestrial" point of view.

STEINBERG: *But now that there's that interest again in hardware, do you feel it's now going to go into a new cycle where the realization that there's something more involved will start getting people's attention, or do you think it's going to continue to focus that way?*

STEIGER: I don't know. It is focused that way now, and that we know for certain. But again, as I say, I continue to stay in the middle ground, that I think we're dealing with basically more of a mental or spiritual or psychic phenomenon.

STEINBERG: *Of course a major part of your interest is psychic phenomena, so you're saying then that maybe the same force that causes people to see ghosts and other spiritual encounters is also the same source of the UFO phenomenon.*

STEIGER: Exactly.

STEINBERG: *Where do you intend to go from here in your research in terms of lecturing and writing? Are there any new books on the horizon that we could look forward to?*

STEIGER: Well, *The Fellowship* is out now, and then to balance that we have *The UFO Abductors*, which I think is a balanced view of the abduction question, and then we're working on a number of books, a number of projects, my wife and myself, which I think will go back again to the question of discernment, and helping people really get through so much of the information, misinformation and try to make sense of it in a practical way, because again what really matters is how the individual interprets this and what it means to the individual and how the individual can use it or not use it.

STEINBERG: *It doesn't necessarily mean that they have to believe Brad Steiger or Gene Steinberg or John Keel or Tim Beckley?*

STEIGER: Not at all.

I Go To See Mr. Ed

by James W. Moseley

A rash of UFO sightings, "missing time," and strange creatures. Life sure hasn't been easy for Mr. Ed.

THE BEGINNING

I must admit I had mixed feelings as my plane began its landing approach at Gulf Breeze.

For many months now, I had filled pages and pages of my newsletter, *Saucer Smear*, with disparaging remarks about the man known as "Mr. Ed" and the series of strange UFO encounters he purportedly had in the small bedroom community of Gulf Breeze, Florida, near Pensacola.

The entire affair, involving dozens and dozens of sightings and related events by Mr. Ed and other residents of Gulf Breeze, had split many of the higher echelons of the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) between believers and skeptics. A series of photographs taken of strange objects by Mr. Ed had been variously labeled as fact or fiction, depending on who analyzed them.

At the convention of the National UFO Conference (of which I'm chairman) in Cleveland last September, Dr. Willy Smith, a Florida-based researcher, said the whole case was a hoax. At the same time, Smith made no bones about telling one and all Mr. Ed's true identity, and even provided a photo of the man during his slide presentation.

Despite this public disclosure, Mr. Ed still hopes he can somehow keep his real name out of the public eye. In order to discourage the idly-curious, he has had his telephone number unlisted. He has also moved to a new home, and has likewise kept his new address a secret.

Out of respect for Mr. Ed, whom I frankly admit I have come to like, I am going to keep his real name private. The truth or falsity of his experiences doesn't rest on who he is, but on what he has to say and on the evidence he provides to back it up.

In all, I spent 16 hours with him during the weekend before the Christmas holiday. I visited his home and had dinner with him and his wife. I had ample opportunity to evaluate his sincerity and I developed some clear impressions as to the kind of man he is.

In every case, Mr. Ed's wife was most cooperative in

amplifying his remarks and supporting him during his lengthy conversations with me. Mrs. Ed was on hand to witness at least some of her husband's UFO encounters. I could not find any way in which they substantially disagreed as to facts or background.

My first meeting with them was at the motel at which I was staying. I invited them both to dinner, and kept the initial conversation on topics of a general nature, as I sized up Mr. Ed.

He is quite a prominent businessman in Gulf Breeze. Since I have had a long-standing involvement in real estate, and since he is a builder, we had a mutual interest to discuss. I learned that, despite his efforts at anonymity, his construction business had definitely suffered because of his connection with the flying saucer saga. Later on, I had a chance to look at some of the homes he had built. I didn't linger long enough at these dwellings to analyze construction very carefully, but everything seemed to be of good quality.

I got to see Mr. Ed's new residence, to which he had only recently moved, and also the home that was the scene of many of his UFO encounters. I was also taken to other sites where he had had sightings. I was given copies of some of his UFO photos, after discussing them at length.

I asked him question after question. I didn't hesitate to pose a pointed question when I felt it was necessary, and I brought up the many sharp criticisms that were leveled by UFO researchers *against* his claims.

It would be fair to say that I was not converted from skeptic to believer. The story Mr. Ed told me is in many ways absolutely incredible, and I don't want to jump to any unwarranted conclusions. But he did try to answer all my questions clearly and completely.

I have met all kinds of people during some 35 years in the UFO field. While I admit that recording and analyzing technical information is probably not my forte, I believe I know how to evaluate someone's personality. Mr. Ed struck me as a perfectly normal husband and father. He has two children, an 18-year-old son who is away at college, and a 13-year-old daughter. He has also been honored on many occasions for his work in the fight against juvenile delinquency. In every way, he is a pillar of the community.

The small talk completed, I got down to the question of



If you thought that Mr. Ed was the only person to report UFOs in Gulf Breeze, guess again! Pictured here are some of the other Gulf Breeze residents who've had sightings. (Credit: Duane Cook, Gulf Breeze Sentinel)

UFOs. I took lengthy notes as Mr. Ed described his various UFO encounters.

THE COMING OF THE SAUCERS

According to Mr. Ed, his first sighting occurred on the evening of November 11, 1987. It was about 5:00 p.m., twilight. He was seated alone in his office at home. His son was elsewhere in the house and was not a witness. Looking out a window, his attention was drawn to a glow of some sort beyond a tree. He grabbed his Polaroid camera and went out the front door of the house.

The object he saw was described as between 150 and 200 feet away, and was traveling in a northeast direction. Later analysis of the five photos he took of the object supposedly indicated that the circular craft was about eight feet in diameter at its bottom edge.

The UFO had what appeared to be two rows on the bottom half of the structure. The top one seemed to consist of lighted windows, the bottom row possible outlets for the strange beams that were later seen to shoot forth from the strange craft.

My impression from looking at the photos was that the UFO seemed much larger, perhaps 30 feet or more in diameter. Mr. Ed said he couldn't really tell how big it was. He depended instead of the MUFON photo analysis which supposedly indicated a smaller size.

Soon thereafter, Mr. Ed sent a report about the sighting along to the local newspaper, the *Sentinel*, but he admits that he left out some key information about the UFO encounter, which perhaps opened him up to later criticism that he added those details to embellish his report.

In retrospect, those details seemed the most fantastic of all.

During the sighting, a beam or a glow of some sort, blue in color, shot out from beneath the UFO. There was a white underglow to the craft, and Mr. Ed isn't certain if the beam of light originated there, or from the first row of outlets that he observed.

With the arrival of the beam came a psychic communication of some sort for Mr. Ed not to be afraid. At this point, the strangest part of the encounter took place. Mr. Ed claimed that he was lifted or levitated a few feet from the ground for several seconds. It struck him as possibly a half-hearted attempt to abduct him.

He admitted that this portion of his experience seemed so weird to him that he at first thought it was better to leave it out—only later did he decide to reveal the full story.

In all, he had 16 sightings, and took 36 photographs of UFOs. The sightings ran the gamut from strange aircraft in the sky to reports of odd creatures right out of the frequently reported abduction cases.

On December 2, 1987, a barking dog signalled the presence of a weird, sleazy creature on Mr. Ed's back porch. He and his wife both described the creature as resembling the alien pictured on the cover of Whitley Strieber's *Communion*, a large head, big, hypnotic eyes, a slit for a mouth, and a small or non-existent nose.

Mr. Ed reached for his gun and a camera and walked out onto the porch and along to the backyard pool. By this time, the alien was nowhere in sight, but he saw a UFO in the sky over the roof of his home. Again he was struck by a blue beam, but this time he wasn't levitated or given any telepathic communications. He did manage to capture the image of the craft with his camera.

A UFO was blamed for a near-accident on the evening of January 12, 1988, when the craft passed over Mr. Ed's truck as he was driving to a job site along Highway 191B in Gulf Breeze. As the low-flying UFO passed above his truck, a white beam was flashed at him. Mr. Ed's arms became numb. He panicked and nearly drove off the road,



Mr. Ed's first UFO photo, reportedly taken on November 11, 1987, around 5:00 P.M. The UFO and the trees are seen against the glow of the cloudy background sky.

but somehow brought his vehicle to a safe stop. He sought refuge beneath the truck.

The ever-present shotgun and a camera were in hand.

Like something out of *Star Trek*, an alien dropped down the white beam, and was soon joined by four other creatures. They all looked similar to the alien seen on Mr. Ed's back porch a few weeks earlier. They all carried shields and rods.

The five creatures proceeded to march slowly towards Mr. Ed's truck, but he mustered enough courage to reenter the vehicle and speed off. He evidently wasn't followed.

The last experience he had was probably the most complex and bizarre of all. It seemed to represent a finish for him of his UFO sightings. He explained that he has not had any encounters since then, at least to the present day.

THE HOODED VISITOR

It was early on the morning of May 1, 1988. Mr. Ed was seated at a picnic table in an area adjacent to a sandy beach. He reportedly had a feeling that something would happen that night that would bring the whole sequence of uncanny events to a conclusion.

At the urging of MUFON investigator Dr. Bruce Macca-bee, Mr. Ed and his wife had previously erected a series of wooden posts around the area as a kind of marker to gauge relative distances. The posts were located in multiples of ten feet from the picnic table.

Mr. Ed was alone. It was around 1:10 a.m. when he heard or felt a buzzing noise. This same buzz had been sensed on previous occasions, heralding the arrival of a UFO. He was armed with a stereo camera to record the event in three dimensions.

When he saw two objects, though, he became very frightened and started talking to himself. He said he was then "whited out," using that phrase to distinguish between blacking out or being "blued out," as he described earlier experiences.

Somehow he was assaulted physically or psychically. When he came to his senses, he picked himself off the sand of the beach, some 20 feet from the picnic table. He was bruised all over. In a panic, he collected all of his gear, threw it into the truck, and sped off.

It was 2:25 a.m.

According to Mr. Ed, he had experienced incidents involving "missing time" on four previous occasions. He said he had thought little of those experiences till then. But this final "missing time" encounter apparently put the focus on those previous events.

He went on to describe the final event as a "replay" of the earlier experiences, and through hypnotic regression that was conducted by a psychologist at a later date, he was able to recall what had happened to him.

The hypnotic session was part of a detailed psychological evaluation performed on Mr. Ed by Dr. Dan Overlaid, a noted Florida psychologist who is past president of the Florida Psychological Association.

In an account of the examination published in the Pen-



James W. Moseley stands in front of the picnic table where Mr. Ed was seated just before his "abduction" experience.

sacola *News Journal*, Overlaid said, "He's as normal as the rest of us."

While in a hypnotic state, Ed told of awakening in a pie-shaped room that was small in size. A light was emanating from above.

A creature then came through the doorway. The entity or being wore a gray hood and pink tights. It was the same kind of creature he had seen before.

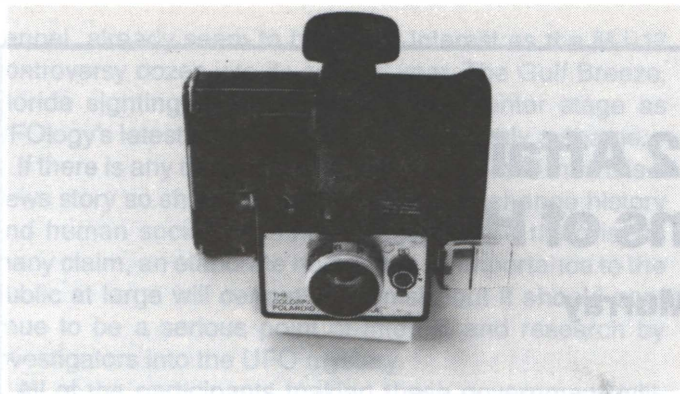
The being was accompanied by three companions who were similarly garbed, but without the hood. All had shields and white rods, which were about the size of flashlights. The rods had some sort of power source within. Mr. Ed became quite angry at this point and tried to grab the hooded alien, who appeared to be the leader of the party. The other three aliens stepped forward.

The next thing he knew, a wall in the room had begun to move, and suddenly Mr. Ed was in another room, quite alone. There was a bright light in the room, and a large table in the middle. On that table he saw a series of strange symbols. The room was otherwise bare of furnishings.

In touching the table, some kind of sticky substance got caught between his fingernails. This detail alone seemed like something no contactee could possibly make up, unless he wanted his whole experience to seem unbelievably weird.

His abduction had ended. Mr. Ed lifted his bruised body off the sandy beach, and went home. Without doubt, his sleep that night was fitful and restless.

When he awoke he was still tired and aching, but then he sensed a horrible stench, which evidently came from that sticky substance between his fingernails. He scraped the substance off his fingernails, carefully placed it in a jar,



Mr. Ed's notorious Polaroid 108 camera. Notice the focusing ring surrounding the lens.

and put it in his refrigerator. The jar helped conceal that awful odor.

Days later, the substance, still having a hideous smell, was turned over to a MUFON investigator for analysis. So far there has been no report to indicate that the odd substance is of an unearthly origin.

MR. ED ANSWERS HIS CRITICS

The details of his UFO encounters out of the way, Mr. Ed dealt with his critics. He insisted that Dr. Willy Smith and others who had claimed his UFO photos were hoaxes were absolutely off base.

In one instance, he charged that Smith had relied upon a source with an axe to grind, a young man named Nick Mock, who supposedly had some kind of falling out with Mr. Ed's son over a girlfriend.

Mock's accusations related to a series of parties Mr. Ed had sponsored and chaperoned in his own home. As I explained earlier, Mr. Ed is a local champion in the fight against juvenile delinquency, and these parties were attended by many local youths.

Mock charged that, at one or more of these parties, Mr. Ed had taken a series of double-exposure photographs showing ghost-like or devil-like faces right behind the images of some of the young people. The pictures were taken as a joke, to entertain everybody.

The allegation, of course, was since Mr. Ed could take such pictures in a party-like setting, he is quite capable of faking UFO pictures also.

Mr. Ed was quick to discredit Mock's reliability. He alleged that, as a result of the falling out with his son, Mock had sabotaged the youth's car on four occasions. The last time, he supposedly used the old sugar in the gas tank trick, which can destroy a car's engine if not caught in time. Fortunately, Mr. Ed's son stopped the car right away when he realized what was going on.

Mr. Ed went on to show that none of his UFO pictures had devil's faces or anything else that might have been done as a party trick.

The next bone of contention is Dr. Smith's claim that a fixed focus Polaroid camera was supposedly used to take at least some of those UFO pictures. During his presenta-

tion before the National UFO Conference and elsewhere, Smith insisted that the varying focus of the UFO and the trees seen in the photos proved they had to be double exposures. With a fixed focus camera everything from five feet and beyond would be relatively sharp.

I got a look at the camera, and I examined it carefully. It does indeed have a focus adjustment ring on it. Take a look at the photo on this page. It wasn't a fixed-focus camera at all, as anyone could plainly see, even someone who wasn't technically inclined.

More importantly, Mr. Ed is simply not a good photographer, at least in my estimation. If he truly wanted to fake a series of photographs, the results would be obvious to anyone, even if they weren't technically trained.

MY ANALYSIS

I left Gulf Breeze with the feeling that Mr. Ed had absolutely nothing to gain from creating such a lengthy and complex series of hoaxes. Although the local residents know who he is, his real name has been kept out of the national media. He doesn't appear on Oprah Winfrey or Phil Donahue, or on any other television talk show. His face has never appeared in print anywhere. He is a perfectly normal looking 42-year-old man who, when traveling outside of his local community, would pass by totally unrecognized by anyone.

Just as important, lots of other Gulf Breeze residents have reported sightings, as recently as December of this year, long after Mr. Ed's own UFO encounters had ceased. It would be stretching one's credibility to the limit to believe that he was able to fake those sightings too.

Additionally, other photos have turned up, one set from someone who calls himself "Believer Bill," another from a person named "Alice." No evidence has been presented that these photos were actually taken by Ed to substantiate his own sightings.

In looking over all of my notes of the two days I spent with Mr. Ed and the magazine articles and countless letters I have received about the case, my questions still remain unanswered. If he faked those photos, I don't know how he did it. None of his critics have come up with a proven, definitive answer to that one either. Though he lives in a small town, and is known by almost everybody who lives there, no telltale evidence against him has yet been recovered.

Secondly, if the case is a fraud, why did he do it?

Like countless other sightings that I have studied in the UFO field, the Gulf Breeze case may remain unsolved. There will be lots of claims and counterclaims in the years ahead, without any result.

Mr. Ed has taken a lie detector test and a voice stress analysis test, and has passed them both. While such tests are rarely conclusive, he gives every impression of believing he had a bizarre series of UFO encounters. Whatever the ultimate truth behind all this may be, until this case is finally resolved, Mr. Ed surely deserves the benefit of the doubt.

—James W. Moseley

The MJ-12 Affair and the Lessons of History

by Floyd Murray

We now have documents that are said to show that the government knew about crashed UFOs all along. Have we passed this way before?

Once again respected people in the UFO field seem to be in touch with sources claiming to have the answer to the mystery of these unknown objects that have always seemed to be flying through our skies.

We're not talking here about contactees and their trips to other planets, or psychics receiving mental messages from the space people.

Two highly respected and well-known figures in the field of UFO research have said they are apparently in contact with military officials who are saying that our government has had the solution to the UFO mystery since 1947. And further, that we are in close communication with alien beings—even that we have kept some of them here on Earth, one of whom(??) continues to live in a government "safe house."

Most people following the trends in UFO research to even a moderate degree have heard of the "MJ-12" affair by now. Most of you have read how long-time UFO researchers William Moore and Stanton Friedman, and television producer Jaime Shandera, claim to be privy to documents and tapes confirming the validity of their informant's claims. These claims allege that the government has been lying all these years about its lack of knowledge and interest in the subject of UFOs.

Moore and Shandera have even released an eight-page document which does, indeed, appear to be a briefing paper for then President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower, bringing us up to date—circa 1953—on our knowledge of the alien beings visiting our planet.

The controversial document claims that after the crash of an unidentified flying object near Roswell, New Mexico in July of 1947, a top secret government agency named "Majestic 12" was formed to take charge of the situation. Although the original members are now deceased, MJ-12 is supposedly still in existence today. The current head of the group is said to be none other than our new president, George Bush. All this according to information supposedly

supplied by these shadowy government "deep throats" who are in contact with Moore and his associates.

Long before the MJ-12 documents became an issue in the UFO field, Moore and Friedman's investigation into the Roswell crash produced evidence, much of it in the form of live witnesses, that seems to indicate that something very strange actually did crash at a ranch near Roswell, and that our government took considerable pains to cover up the incident. Much of the preliminary research is recounted in the recently re-released book, *The Roswell Incident*, co-authored by Moore and Charles Berlitz (see page 31 for a review).

To further complicate matters, Shandera, Moore and Friedman are not the only researchers who seem to have been let in on what Jerry Clark, former editor of *Fate* magazine, succinctly calls "the ultimate secret."

British author Timothy Goode, in his book *Above Top Secret*, says this same MJ-12 briefing document was "made available" to him in early 1987, prior to its release in the United States, but three years after a copy was mailed anonymously to Shandera.

Last October, on the syndicated television special *UFO Cover Up? Live*, author and filmmaker Robert Emenegger and Paul Shartle, former security manager and chief of requirement for the audio-visual program at Norton Air Force Base, told about seeing a film of three UFOs at Holloman Air Force Base in New Mexico. One of the craft landed while the other two flew away. An alien allegedly came out of the landed craft and communicated with officials on the scene, Shartle said.

Also, Linda Howe, an award-winning independent film and television producer, says she was also shown copies of top secret documents relating to crashed UFOs and alien guests of the government. Her source, an Air Force officer, also told her about filmed UFO landings and a group called MJ-12.

Amidst all this mystery, the slender eight-page briefing document and a one-page Truman presidential memo purportedly found in the National Archives, remain the best evidence available to substantiate these claims of government involvement with the UFO mystery.

The documents themselves have come under question by UFO believers and skeptics alike. UFOlogists, who sometimes seem to have the attention span of fleas in a

kennel, already seem to be losing interest as the MJ-12 controversy oozes into its second year. The Gulf Breeze, Florida sightings seem to have taken center stage as UFOlogy's latest storm center and this is truly a shame.

If there is any truth at all to the MJ-12 claims, then it is a news story so shocking that it will literally change history and human society worldwide. If the whole thing is, as many claim, an elaborate hoax, then its importance to the public at large will certainly diminish, but it should continue to be a serious point of interest and research by investigators into the UFO mystery.

All of the participants making these government/military contact claims have reputations for reliability within the UFO field. If they are being lied to, then somebody, somewhere, has gone to a great deal of time and effort to pull this hoax off. Finding out who and why is of the utmost importance to UFO researchers everywhere.

WE'VE PASSED THIS WAY BEFORE

The MJ-12 mystery is not "hot" anymore, just lukewarm, but there is a golden opportunity here to perhaps shed some light on this strange field of study called UFOlogy. If that opportunity is missed, it might not come again for many years. But it *will* come again.

"What's past is prologue," Shakespeare wrote in *The Tempest*. For whatever the reason, it seems that for almost as long as there have been strange objects in the skies, respected citizens have been contacted and given the "answer" by someone in the shadows, only to have the story fizzle out as MJ-12 is doing now. There probably isn't any sort of direct connection between these cases, but history should be allowed to help guide us down these strange paths for we have, indeed, walked this way before.

There was no such term as "Unidentified Flying Object" in 1896, but in retrospect the strange egg-shaped craft first seen in Sacramento, California on November 17 of that year falls into the UFO category.

Dubbed the "airship," this craft, equipped with what appeared to be an aluminum body and four large wings, flashed a powerful searchlight on the California capital for about 30 minutes and was seen by hundreds of people. After making sure the good citizens of Sacramento were aware of its presence, not to mention totally astonished and frightened, it took off in the direction of San Francisco.

The next day, residents of Oak Park saw the thing high overhead, circling and emitting a trail of smoke. A week later it appeared again to play its searchlight over the city of Oakland. This was the beginning of one of the strangest footnotes in American history.

Thanks to the diligence and hard work of numerous UFO investigators, notably Lucius Farish, Clinton Curtis Williams, Jr., Jerome Clark, Jacques Vallee and others, this long-forgotten moment in American history has been pieced together and analyzed. Over the next year, until late 1897, this craft, or more likely several like it, was seen by thousands of witnesses across 17 states.

Explanations for the sightings then were remarkably

similar to the ones offered today. The strange lights in the sky were actually caused by Mars or Venus, the experts said, or twinkling stars or too much good whiskey. Witnesses were sometimes treated with undisguised skepticism in the press and one can't help wonder today how many sightings of these machines went unreported due to fear of ridicule.

Every generation has to try and explain the unexplainable within the boundaries of the knowledge it has at the time. The airships were generally assumed to be the work of a "secret inventor."

It's understandable that our ancestors should have come up with this theory. While gas balloons were nothing new, the Wright Brothers and Kitty Hawk were still over five years away. Besides, judging by the descriptions given in the papers of the time, the airships certainly looked and acted like the product of a before-his-time technician. Even from today's perspective, the descriptions and drawings of these contraptions still makes the idea of an early inventor seem feasible.

They never did anything unbelievably spectacular and by all accounts were cumbersome craft, often moving erratically through the air with the clunks and whirring of machinery clearly audible. It's only when looking at the number of reported sightings and their patterns that it becomes probable that something more complicated was afoot back then.

But it's still a fact that the idea of a heavier-than-air craft that could fly under human control was on many an inventive mind in those days. Even as the first sightings were taking place in the Sacramento area, numerous airship designs were gathering dust in the files of the U.S. Patent Office.

Any current researchers hoping to pinpoint one person as the probable inventor of the mysterious airships has a formidable task in front of them.

For instance, a Lyman and Charles Gilmore of Grass Valley, California filed an application for a patent on a flying machine in April 27, 1898. The Gilmores were apparently well known in the area as early navigators and as late as 1981 the Grass Valley telephone book contained this brief article:

"On May 15, 1902, Lyman Gilmore, seated in a 32-foot span monoplane powered by a 20 horsepower steam engine and flash boiler was launched down a chute 100 yards long into the air, then continued in flight some distance on its own power. ...There is conclusive evidence Gilmore built and flew his own craft 10 months before the Wright brothers made their first flight on December 19, 1903 at Kitty Hawk."

The Gilmores reportedly made numerous flights from 100 yards to a mile long before the Wright brothers. Oddly enough, their fame seems confined to the area around their hometown. They're rarely if ever mentioned when the usual suspects are rounded up as possible inventors of the Great Airship of 1896-97.

In Nashville, Tennessee, one Eugene F. Falconnet was

churning out airship patent applications in 1885 as was John Finlayson MacKenzie of Edinburgh, Scotland in 1880 and Moses S. Cole of Greytown, Nicaragua in 1886. Cole's proposed airship, pictured on the front cover of the *Scientific American* for January 1, 1887, looks strikingly similar to the machine first seen in the skies over Sacramento nine years later. Unfortunately, no models of any of these craft were submitted with the patent applications.

The list of possible inventors goes on. Henry Heintz, C.W. Hoffman, Theodor Steinmann, Charles A. Smith from San Francisco (he filed his patent application on April 2, 1896, interestingly enough) and many others.

While there were never any working models displayed, if you want to look for a possible inventor, check the old patent designs and compare them with some of the craft reported in 1896-97. You'll see similarities. In 1896, the airship was truly an idea whose time had come.

THE INVENTORS LAND

Whatever the origin of the 1896 airship, within a few days after the first sighting on November 17, one or more persons was contacting local citizens claiming to be the mysterious inventor. On December 7, the Fresno, California *Semi-Weekly Expositor* reported the tale of George Jennings of Fresno. The paper said Jennings "certainly has no object in attempting to deceive and whose story is borne out by the facts surrounding his interview with the inventor, as well as by the statements of Selma and Watertown given below."

Jennings claimed that an old friend stopped by his place of business claiming to be one of the inventors. He and Jennings discussed the craft which was anchored in Fresno county. A dozen witnesses to the meeting, several of whom had overheard Jennings and his friends discussing the airship in hushed tones, corroborated the story.

A week before, George Carleton, described as a "city electrician, singer and pioneer of Oakland," was told the name of the inventor, which was passed on to him by a mutual friend, according to the Oakland *Tribune* of November 24. Sworn to secrecy, Carleton said "I'd saw my leg off first before revealing the name of the inventor."

If the mysterious "inventor" was looking for publicity, however, he revealed himself to the right person when he contacted George D. Collins, a lawyer and former candidate for Attorney General of California. On November 22, the talkative Collins announced to the papers that he was representing the inventor, whom he described as a very wealthy man from Maine who had been studying aerial navigation for 15 years. According to Collins, who claimed to have seen the machine himself, the inventor currently had a patent application in Washington.

Collins said the inventor visited his office several times and engaged in idle chatter before finally revealing that he was the man behind the machine. Collins described the inventor, as a "fine looking man of 47," who told how the airship worked and in at least one case did seem to predict a sighting over San Francisco.

Rumors floating around the city pinpointed one Dr. E.H. Benjamin of Ellis Street as the inventor of the craft. Benjamin, described as "an alleged dentist," was a distinguished looking 34 year old who admitted that Collins was his attorney but denied being the inventor of the airship. "My inventions have to do with dentistry," he told the San Francisco *Call*, and "consist of patented crowns and bridges for teeth and a reducer to draw the gold bars in making gold caps without seams. Then I have a number of other little dental inventions."

Nevertheless, the story that Benjamin was the inventor seems to have originated with Collins himself and the *Call* repeated rumors that Benjamin had told friends about an invention of his that would revolutionize the world and which was nearing completion. The paper also reported that Benjamin was originally from Maine, which Collins had said was the home state of the inventor.

We will sadly probably never know exactly what happened, but the chatty Collins suddenly recanted virtually everything he had been saying. While still claiming to be representing the inventor of an applicant for a patent on an airship, Collins ridiculed the story of one of the major sightings, this one over Sacramento, and said he had never seen the machine. "I...actually know very little about it," he told a reporter. He claimed to have had only one meeting with a man who claimed to have invented and flown an airship in the area. The inventor wanted to secure a patent for the machine immediately, but Collins said he could do nothing in the matter until he had a model of the ship in hand. Promising to furnish a model, the man left Collins office and the attorney never saw him again.

Enter William Henry Harrison Hart.

BLEATING HART

In 1896, W.H.H. Hart was one of the most prominent and respected men in the state of California.

Born in England, he came to America with his parents in 1852 when he was three years of age. His life had been an eventful one, starting with his kidnapping by Blackhawk Indians when he was eight. He was held in captivity for six months. During the Civil War, he fought on the side of the Union Army and was wounded eight times. Studying law after the war, he had become a successful attorney by the time he moved to California in 1873. After a brilliant career specializing in mining law, he won election as the state attorney general in 1890. Whoever was actually behind the airships could not have found a better public relations man than the popular and trusted W.H.H. Hart.

"Ex-Attorney General Hart now has charge of the destinies of the airship, which has hitherto been under the wings of Attorney George D. Collins," the San Francisco *Call* reported on the front page of their issue for November 25, 1896. "The reason for the change is said to be due to the loquacity of Mr. Collins. The inventor, who is said to be extremely desirous of maintaining his incognito, thinks that Collins talked not wisely but too much."

It seemed odd for the inventor to switch lawyers in mid-

sentence like this since Hart, starting with his first newspaper interview, proceeded to make Collins look like a French mime. Admitting his "new and mysterious responsibilities," Hart said the new machine was to be turned over to Cuban revolutionaries and used to attack Havana. He also said there were two airships similar in design, with one constructed in the East and the other in California.

Claiming to have seen the Eastern machine, Hart expressed little doubt that the California craft would work as well as its sister ship once it was perfected. The airship would be tested in the neighborhood from time to time. When brought to practical use, it would carry four men and 1,000 pounds of dynamite and would level Havana in two days. And now the inventor was a "Dr. Catlin" who had only been assisted in his work by the dentist Benjamin.

The *Call* tracked down a man claiming to be an investor in the new machine. Under a promise of anonymity, he provided details of the ship's construction and its first flight. Back at the law office, Hart was being castigated by the press for so heartily bragging about how easily and completely the airship would destroy Havana. Hart also promised that sufficient time would be given for the citizens to escape from the city before the dynamite started falling from the sky.

As for Dr. E.H. Benjamin, he mysteriously disappeared from the Ellis Street lodgings he had lived in for the past two years. He left behind furniture, carpets and household fixtures which were auctioned off. He took the rest of his personal effects with him. He did not leave a forwarding address.

All the while, sightings of bright lights in the night sky were being reported by hundreds of witnesses in Alameda, San Jose, Santa Rosa and many smaller communities.

By November 30, San Francisco residents were more confused by the rumors, hoaxes, multiple inventions, official explanations, and the constant barrage of newspaper articles and lawyer pronouncements, than they were by anything flying through the skies. On that date, the *Call* published a review of the last ten days of airship mania so that their readers might "more readily and intelligently grasp the present situation." While it's doubtful that the long review did anything to relieve anyone's confusion about the whole affair, it at least reminded them how they had gotten that way to start with.

UP, UP AND AWAY

At 9:00 p.m. on December 7, a giant airship was seen descending on a hill to Compton, California, a small town in the northern part of the state. Five residents investigated and found a bearded man by the ship who appeared to be a deaf mute. He responded to written questions with an alphabet taken from his pocket which spelled out his answers. He had come from the Montezuma Mountains, he claimed. His wife and two children lived there. He would answer no other questions and remained with his airship until the next afternoon when he sailed away. It was one of the last of the California air-

ship sightings. Soon afterward, the great airship flap of 1897 would begin and the California sightings would be quickly forgotten until their rediscovery by historians in the next century.

So, in the end it all came to nothing.

Today it seems doubtful that Collins or Hart were lying about their claims of involvement with an inventor. Someone seems to have actually contacted these men, convinced them that he was the man behind the strange things people were seeing in the skies and then turned them loose on the press. Collins, Hart and the reporters did the rest. We'll probably never know the full story of the 1896 airship.

To the best of this writer's knowledge, no one has come up with any published updates in the papers of the time. It would be interesting to see what if anything Collins or Hart might have said about the 1897 sightings, which were much more widespread and well publicized than the ones in 1896, or how they handled the embarrassment they must have felt when their tales seemed to sputter out. Did their professional reputations suffer as a result of all the commotion they had caused with their breathless announcements? How did they explain why no inventor ever turned up when they both had claimed to be in such close contact with one? Indeed, what ultimately happened to Collins and Hart?

Hart at least was a major figure of the time and it would be interesting to learn if any of his descendants still live in the state. Maybe they could shed some light on the tales told by their once-famous ancestor. Lawyers are always awash in a sea of papers. Maybe somewhere today there are some old letters, documents, diaries, or other written material from these men that could throw some light on who it was who contacted them and why this person never appeared to back up the incredible claims these two attorneys were making. More information undoubtedly remains somewhere, perhaps in a long untouched trunk in the attic of a family named Hart.

It is close to 100 years since the airships made their initial appearance on the West Coast and it was there that perhaps the most important part of the mystery took place. There may still be traces of vital information left somewhere. Until some future researcher succeeds in finding it, the final chapter of the airship mystery will never be written.

OTHER RUMORS

It's not surprising that at virtually every stage of the recorded history of unidentified flying objects there always seems to be someone whispering claims of secret knowledge into the ears of serious researchers. No other mystery has been as consistently frustrating yet tantalizing as the enigma of UFOs.

And once again, respected people in the UFO field say they're in touch with sources claiming to have the "answer" to the mystery.

Let's see what happens this time.

—Floyd Murray

The Ego Corner:

Gaia and Beyond (Part I)

by Geneva Hagen

The vision of Mother Earth as a giant, sentient being was something our ancestors believed. New research shows it just may be true.

THE FINE PRINT

Let me begin by saying that this is a speculative article. In other words, I don't have time now to research and footnote all the references I will mention, although I will include this information where I can find it close at hand. Anyone who seriously wants to pursue any of these lines of thought can write me % *Caveat Emptor*, and I will try to direct you to the appropriate sources.

ANCIENT HISTORY

All through the Stone Age, archeological evidence suggests that our ancestors all over the world worshiped a deity whom they thought of as the Great Mother. Considering how few human beings were on Earth in those days, and how isolated the different cultures must have been, to find evidence of one single global religion is most remarkable. Perhaps these words of Otter Zell offer some explanation:

"This religion was *not* a mystical, superstitious abstraction like the religions most people know today, but was based quite literally on a vision of the planet Earth as the Body of the Great Goddess."

In Greek mythology, Gaia (pronounced GUY-ah) was the Great Mother who gave birth to all the other gods and goddesses. Her husband was Ouranos ("Sky"); he was eventually castrated by their son Kronos ("Time"), and Gaia was bereft. As an indication of her fall, the Greeks began to replace their earth goddesses by sky gods; Apollo ("Sun") was finally even said to have killed his mother! Women in ancient Greece sank to perhaps the lowest position they have occupied in any culture ever in history; men did not value them even for sex, but regarded them simply as incubation vessels for the man's seed.

How did this bizarre turn of events come about? Much of Greek culture had its origins in ancient Crete, which was home to a highly developed civilization whose women enjoyed high status.

Back in those days, the Mediterranean area had a dif-

ferent climate. There was extensive forest coverage, which resulted in a more humid atmosphere with greater rainfall. But with the increasing population, huge amounts of wood were used for construction and fuel for metalworking. Shortages soon resulted and, not recognizing that their own poor stewardship was to blame for their difficulties, the Greeks became angry at the Earth Mother's failure to provide for them. They began to populate their pantheon with male deities in place of the old goddesses.

By the time of Plato, deforestation had become a real problem: "The rich, soft soil has all run away, leaving the land nothing but skin and bone." Plato advocated reforestation and, indeed, laws were passed to regulate wood use and "sacred groves" were established. But these measures proved inadequate, and the land continued to waste away.

Male dominance and the Sky God were already well-established among the Hebrew tribes by the time of Moses. The Old Testament chronicles the destruction of dozens of Goddess-worshiping cities at their hands. Although theologians usually present this story to us as a heroic epic, a closer reading reveals a tale of unsurpassed brutality. These events are placed in historical context by Merlin Stone in her book, *When God Was a Woman*.

David Suzuki, the popular TV science show host, believes many of our present-day ecological difficulties can be traced back to that early admonition that Man should have "dominion over the Earth." The tribal religions of more "primitive" cultures usually have a more humble, and more realistic, idea of humanity's proper place in the scheme of things.

But Hugh Malafry, speaking before a gathering of the Society of Emissaries, pointed out that the "Great Earth Mother" concept has a few shortcomings of its own. It encourages us to take a childish stance, expecting to be perpetually nourished by Earth's goodies without any corresponding responsibilities. Perhaps we should start thinking of Gaia less as the Great Mother, and more as the Big Sister!

MODERN HISTORY

Obviously, then, the concept of Earth as a living being is not all that new; we have simply had the misfortune to lose that understanding for a time. Most of the Native

Indian religions have always known about Gaia. In one of Carlos Castaneda's books, the Yaqui sorcerers Don Juan and Don Genaro kiss the ground and rhapsodize about the happiness springing from their love for "this magnificent Being." But until fairly recently, this knowledge was in the realm of mystics rather than scientists.

Otter Zell happens to be a bit of both. In September 1970, he had a "profound vision of the unity of Earth's planetary biosphere as a single biological organism.... Since it is generally accepted by biologists, and demonstrable from comparable analysis of DNA, that all life on Earth has derived from a single original cell, it is clear that the aggregate of Earth's lifeforms constitute a single vast creature. And further, that this creature may be precisely equated with the entity referred to since ancient times as 'Mother Earth.'" (*Green Egg* #81.)

Zell proposed the name "Terrebia" for this organism, and expanded on his ideas in a series of articles on "Theogenesis: The Birth of the Goddess." Through space travel, the sexually mature biosphere would "seed the stars with her own spawn," and all such terraformed "colony" worlds would continue to constitute a single even vaster living entity, "Cosmobios Galacticus." Immortality was postulated through the telepathic coalescence of group consciousness, and sexual communion was praised as a form of worship. In 1973, some of these ideas appeared in *Caveat Emptor* in an article titled, "Who (or What) Are the Gods?"

It was an idea whose time had come.

In the early 1970's, "World biologist" John Isaacs of Phoenix, Arizona, also developed a theory that the Earth is alive *itself*, not just by virtue of all the smaller lifeforms on it; an article on this appeared in *The Future* magazine in 1976.

In 1974, Lewis Thomas published *Lives of a Cell*, which compared the Earth to a single-celled organism.

And in 1975, James Lovelock and Sidney Epton published "The Quest for Gaia" in *New Scientist* magazine.

Lovelock was an atmospheric scientist. Although he admits he has been strongly influenced by some views of his father that sound suspiciously like family-tradition Paganism, we can't expect a reputable scientist to extend himself too far along these lines. No. This Gaia Hypothesis arose directly out of the NASA space program! They were looking for some way to tell in advance of landing whether a given planet (Mars, in this instance) had life. In 1966, Dian Hitchcock was able to show that atmospheric composition met this need.

On a "dead planet," certain chemicals became bound up in rocks and soil. A live planet is continually generating its own atmosphere, and so has combinations of chemicals that would not long exist if they were not continually being replenished by living forms. Earth actually shows a very small margin of variation within which life as we know it could exist—and only life keeps the atmosphere within these parameters.

Lovelock then realized that Earth's

"atmosphere looked like a contrivance put together coopera-

tively by the totality of living systems to carry out certain necessary control functions. This led us to the formulation of the proposition that living matter, the air, the oceans, the land surface were parts of a giant system which was able to control temperature, the composition of the air and sea, the pH of the soil, and so on, so as to be optimum for survival of the biosphere. The system seemed to exhibit the behavior of a single organism, even a living creature. One having such formidable powers deserved a name to match it; William Golding, the novelist, suggested Gaia."

In 1979 Lovelock published *Gaia: A New Look at Life on Earth* (Oxford University Press).

As Lovelock was able to get more publicity than Zell was, the concept soon became widely known as the Gaia Hypothesis. Otter Zell began using the alternative spelling, "Gaea," to refer to his own development of the concept. In April 1988, a Gaia conference was held in San Francisco and drew a good attendance.

WHERE'S THE EVIDENCE?

In spite of what I'm about to write, I have my doubts that science can answer this question for us. Much of the discussion seems to fall within the domain of semantics: How different from ourselves can a system be, and still be defined as life? Where are the boundary lines to be drawn—a living organism ceases to live if removed from its environment, so should the environment also be considered alive? Clearly, the Earth seems much more alive than anything else in its immediate vicinity! Clearly, also, our own life is dependent on it.

But when we speak of life, we are also speaking of some level of awareness; that which has the sense of "*I am*." So far, only mystics, not scientists, can claim authority in this realm.

Lovelock himself came up with a cybernetic proof to show how a self-balancing, homeostatic system can work automatically, *without* the need of foresight or planning by life. Called "Daisy World," this simple proof was described in *CoEvolution Quarterly* #38. As it is an article in itself, I won't try to summarize it here.

Billy Rojas, in a letter to the *Whole Earth Review* (#61), notes that: "It is likely that life evolved *twice* on Earth, the first time in an epoch when the atmosphere was much different. Vestiges of the first life forms are simple creatures that function apart from oxygen, living in sea-floor mud."

And Lovelock's associate, Lynn Margulis, points to the fairly recent recognition that the kind of cells we have today are actually cooperatives of several smaller, more primitive microorganisms: oxygen-respiring, photosynthetic, acid-tolerant, and spirochetes (the scientific community hasn't fully accepted the inclusion of this last category yet). These cells, in turn, cooperate to form even higher organisms. Why could not these higher organisms also cooperate to create a living biosphere?

Scientists recognize that the molecules of hemoglobin and chlorophyll are quite similar, pointing to the fact that all life does have a common ancestor.

This realization is echoed in the communion cere-

monies of both the Christian and Pagan spiritual traditions, which allow us to acknowledge that in a very real sense, all we eat or drink *is* of our own flesh, as well as the flesh of our deity, offered in sacrifice so that life should continue in its cycles at birth and death.

THE NERVOUS SYSTEM

When expressed through biological forms, life seems to have a bio-electric aspect, so it would stand to reason that a living Earth might also have this property. And, of course, the electromagnetic fields and pulsations associated with the Earth are now well proven. It is not yet clear how much of this activity is dependent on the presence of the moon. Some scientists now think the moon was an essential ingredient in the development of life on Earth—which should really be considered a “double planet.” Although we may think of it as a dead hunk of rock, the moon actually has an electromagnetic field of its own which interacts with that of the Earth so as to “step up” its power. It is even possible that only such “double planets” would generate the conditions necessary for life; if this is true, then life in the Universe would be much rarer and more precious than we have so far suspected.

When he first developed his theory, Otter Zell felt that human beings were designed to be the Earth's nervous system; but by 1980, he had decided that the great whales are a better candidate for this function, leaving humanity as “peripheral neurons and gonads, destined for planetary reproduction via extraterrestrial colonization and terraforming.” According to this model, the Earth has been suffering some serious mental impairment due to overactive gonads—a problem with which some of us are not unfamiliar!

Zell also fears that the human race now may have become cancerous. It is true that cancer can be defined as a group of cells that reproduce themselves wildly and fail to mature!

But the communication link-up could be the function of much lowlier lifeforms. Most of us have heard by now how plants show electrical response to the other plants and people around them; this was described in *The Secret Life of Plants*.

A recent article in *World Monitor* noted that more than 100 kinds of trees have been found to form underground tree-to-tree connections that allow water and nutrients to be shared. Even trees of different species can be connected by a network of mycorrhizas. In this root-fungus symbiosis, the fungus gets soluble carbon while the tree gets improved absorption of nutrients. A single tree may form simultaneous mycorrhizas with many different fungi, and totally unrelated trees can be tied together in this way. Besides the sharing of resources, an advantage is that when disease or pests attack one tree in the network, the other trees are alerted to activate their defense mechanisms in advance.

How many other forms of life may be tied together in ways we cannot now even suspect?

I wouldn't be surprised if viruses should turn out to be

performing some similar function. Some viruses, and even bacteria, can transfer genetic material into the organisms they invade. (The HIV virus suspected of causing AIDS works in this way.) Could their greater purpose be to maintain the function of Gaia as a single organism by transferring bits of genetic material between evolutionarily divergent species? This process would help to preserve our evolutionary potential even while old species become extinct. Most of our genetic material serves no purpose known to science—could we indeed have bits of dinosaur stashed away somewhere in our genetic script, as our inward voyages sometimes suggest? This scenario would allow the planet as a whole to have a pre-set “program” for its development, even as smaller organisms do

If we manage to blow most of the higher species to smithereens, might this development program then enable the Gaian organism to begin her long slow climb back again—as She may have done untold times before us? Could that be the origin of the myth of the Phoenix who burns her nest?

It always boggles my mind how some people manage to feel that evolution must be *non-spiritual*!

“But,” I can hear you protest, “surely if there had been earlier civilizations with a high level of technology, we would have found more evidence of it.”

And, of course, there is a certain amount of evidence to that effect, as the “ancient astronaut” books are so fond of pointing out. However, a fully advanced technology would probably not leave too much of a mess behind. It would give a high priority to cleaning up the debris from its earlier stages, and would then try to make everything non-polluting and biodegradable. A high level of genetic science would mean that living things would do many of the processes that must now be done mechanically. Earth is a very old being; whole continents and ocean floors have changed places. I see no reason to assume that our like has never been seen before. (But please don't tell me about your past lives in Atlantis!)

Back to those viruses: Our increased population, together with greater mobility (how many people do *you* know who vacationed in foreign countries within the last five years?), has geometrically increased the number of our contacts with these vectors of foreign DNA. Our immune systems become weakened. AIDS is only *one* disease associated with this condition; there is also Candida, Epstein-Barr (“chronic fatigue syndrome”), and probably others. Certain mental conditions may also result from this process.

It has been shown that while under the influence of MDA, a drug that increases empathy and enhances communication (and, sadly, is also physically debilitating and thoroughly illegal), people who suffer from chronic allergies cease to be troubled by these afflictions until the drug wears off again. That would suggest that the subjective experience of communion, or lowering of psychic defenses, may be accompanied by a corresponding event on the physical level. (Allergies result from an overactive immune

system... say, does anyone know if allergy sufferers have been shown less prone to AIDS?) Indeed, AIDS sufferers often speak of an accompanying spiritual awakening, and even express gratitude for their illness on that account.

In "A Gaian Politics" (*Whole Earth Review* #53), William Irwin Thompson notes: "Historically, evil is often the announcement of the next adaptation." Could immune system disorders on the physical level be the first signs of a "global consciousness" that would dismantle our defenses on the psychic level? Science-fiction writer Spider Robinson actually used this analogy in his latest book, *Time Pressure*, when he spoke of hippies as being "like invading viruses," breaking down our species' defenses against anything new and different, and preparing the way for "the ultimate invasion"—the computer link-up of human minds into a single consciousness.

Moving onward and upward and considering Earth's connection with the stars, there is another candidate for the messenger agent. In an interview with *Magical Blend*, Terrence McKenna nominates psilocybin spores for this role. "If you have mushroom spores and you want to preserve them, you create an atmosphere as much like that of deep space as possible... Then they will last virtually forever... The percolation of spores between the stars is a perfectly viable strategy for biology," McKenna expands on these principles and adds his own interpretation of the psilocybin experience as an intelligent lifeform bringing messages from the stars—the Ultimate Other, and the Soul's Beloved. He feels that there is "a polarity between the mystery of the Self and the mystery of The Other. A mystery is not to be confused with an unsolved problem; a mystery is by its nature mysterious, and it will not collapse into solution."

Now, that may remind you of some thoughts you've had on the nature of the UFO mystery. Just how could UFOs tie in with the Gaia hypothesis? Surely two more different subjects could not be imagined! But Whitley Strieber in his book *Communion* also feels that UFO-nauts may be equivalent to Earth Spirits. In many of the contactee cases, the UFO-nauts are urging us to stop nuclear testing, protect the environment, etc., and the ones George Adamski met were said to be vegetarians. (However, that environmental angle would also make sense from the viewpoint of extraterrestrials concerned with protecting an endangered species. The midnight abductions and removal of pregnancies remind me of some nature documentaries that show biologists crawling into the den of the sleeping mother bear to take measurements. If the UFO-nauts are indeed fearing that we may soon blow ourselves sky-high, they would probably want to have a few specimens on hand so that our species might be preserved in captivity!)

Could any such "hallucinatory" effects serve some purpose for the greater organism? I suggest that these could be Gaia's "thoughts"—perhaps in preparation for our own quest into space. "UFO experiences" of various sorts could help her prepare for all contingencies when the day comes that we must meet alien lifeforms face to face. They

might also help to motivate us to make the quest, just as on the individual level a person might visualize some planned activity.

And this brings us to the notion of the "swarm," as applied to ourselves. By now most everyone has heard about the slime mold, which changes from single cells into a "creature" and crawls off to a new place when its old one threatens to dry up. There is also Candida yeast, which changes from a harmless, single-celled form to an invasive, filamental form when its population reaches a certain density. And then there are locusts, which wander around in no particular order when kept separate, but when put together, begin a "marching" behavior that is preparatory to swarming.

I would suggest that the human population may need to be dense in order for our own swarming drive to be activated. Although five billion *individuals* certainly overburden our planet's ecosystems, the same number of units in a cooperative planetary organism may be able to thrive quite comfortably. Let me emphasize that I am not speaking of some utopian society of *unselfish individuals*, but some new organizing principle entirely, whose nature we cannot even guess. I suspect that if we but knew, the New Agers would be quite as terrified as the conservatives!

Does that mean, then, that we should abandon all efforts at population control and let Nature take its course? I don't think so. I do feel we should keep an open mind on the question, but our population growth rate already has quite enough momentum. If the process does require the build-up of some critical mass of conscious energy, it seems logical that it would take fewer healthy, fully functioning persons to supply this energy than it would of scared, sickly, and half-starved ones. As bettering the human condition has the welcome side effect of lowering the population growth rate, we are not faced with any conflict of interests in this department. Unfortunately, certain members of the Deep Ecology movement have been slow to wise up to this fact. (Deep Ecology differs from ordinary ecology in its insistence that the Earth is not here for the benefit of human beings, and that other lifeforms have value in their own right, not just as our "natural resources.")

Basically, if such a program for global transformation does exist, whatever we do or don't do as individuals will be pretty much irrelevant. In this scenario, a hawkish American president like Ronald Reagan, who had little consciousness of his own to get in his way of expressing the collective will, was able to take the first steps toward peace with the Soviet Union. In "A Gaian Politics," Thompson notes that "The fantasy model for Reagan's foreign policy seems to be Disney World's Epcot." He also feels that Star Wars and other programs like it "are simply the *content*; the *structure* is a planetization and represents the present phase of the transition from a civilian economy, temporarily mobilized for defense, to a scientific economy permanently organized for research and development... The end result of the arms race is transnational planetization."

(To be concluded next issue.)

Back in the Saddle Again

by Curt Sutherly

The perilous pitfalls one may face in the pursuit of the paranormal are many, but the quest must go on.

A Personal Note from Gene Steinberg: *Curt Sutherly has been my friend for over 17 years. He was one of the first subscribers to Caveat Emptor, and soon became a regular contributor to its pages. I soon realized that Curt had a deep and abiding interest in a lot more than the then conventional wisdom (there's that word again) that UFOs were from another planet.*

At the time that he was writing for Caveat Emptor, I only sensed the extent of the trials and tribulations that Curt had faced because of his intense interest in the strange and unusual. He touches upon some of those vicissitudes in the following pages, and I hope that his experiences will serve as an object lesson to all who dare to tread down the same perilous path in the future.

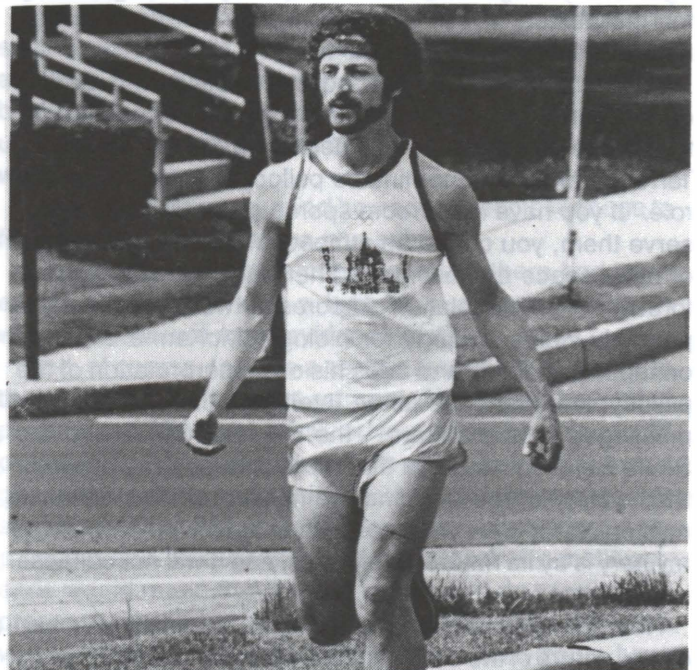
Ten years.

Or has it been longer? The interval seems both brief and an eternity.

When writer Floyd Murray telephoned, forewarning me of a communication from Gene Steinberg, it was the finale to an annoying premonition I have had for more than a year. The premonition was one of turning back the pages—of being asked to return to a “study” of UFOs and the paranormal.

Since much in life is cyclic, like the tide and the blood in one's veins, I was not particularly surprised at the nature of the prevision. On the other hand, Murray was one of the last people I expected to hear from, and so the call still caught me a bit flat-footed. But as we reminisced, with Floyd suggesting that I reenter the fold, I became increasingly convinced that this was just what I should not do. Or at least not to the extent of past involvement.

What I write now I do in way of explanation, and as a courtesy to the many who were, and still are, in pursuit of the unknown. I also offer it as a form of “heads up” to newcomers in this arena: Be aware that the battle hymns you will hear as you prepare to slay the dragon are no different



than those heard before.

A MYRIAD OF UPS AND DOWNS

In the decade gone, I have seen and done much. I entered a career as a newspaperman. At the same time, I became a “jock”—a distance runner and sprinter in the sub-masters class, and a dedicated weightlifter. Ribbons and medals collect dust on my bookshelf. UFO books do not.

Traveling often, I experienced the peace of the land—the silence of southwestern deserts, the serenity of far northern forests. Once, I camped in the company of Cree. I married and divorced. And visited hell. When I returned, I dusted off my fedora and traded careers for a job as a fed.

Presently I work for the Department of the Air Force, subject to change at a moment's notice. I have also worked for the Department of the Army, and before that, the Veterans Administration.

I still write, freelancing primarily for a state outdoor magazine, with a few other projects in the works. I have become a champion of all that is wild and natural, though

perhaps this was so long before I recognized it in myself.

MY EVOLUTION AS A UFOLOGIST

When I first became involved in studying the UFO phenomenon, there were two primary points of view: a) UFOs were extraterrestrial spacecraft, and b) the U.S. Government was involved in a massive coverup campaign. Judging by a television program on the subject several months ago, these are still the two main beliefs.

My interest in the UFO subject peaked during the early 1970's, just as I was completing a four-year military tour. At about the same time I met a man named John Keel, who was then working in Washington, D.C. Keel's knowledge of the phenomenon was legend. But it was his skill as a journalist and storyteller I most appreciated—a talent that greatly influenced my own role in life.

I was discharged from the military in September 1972. In November of that year my first freelance story appeared in the newspaper for which I would later become a staff writer—a travel piece touching on environmental matters. In December 1972 I nearly bought the farm: A car accident shattered my face and put me in the hospital. Only later did I discover the extent of my injuries. My recovery was rapid (some thought miraculous, since I was rumored to be dead), and in a few weeks I was back in the everyday world.

For a time I worked odd jobs while simultaneously moving deeper into the UFO field. I investigated dozens of reported sightings, interviewed countless witnesses. Some of these reports were documented in *Caveat Empor* and in various popular magazine articles. I became a "name." Those who had an interest in UFOs looked on me as some sort of celebrity; those who did not were rather less polite.

At some point in 1973 or 1974 I began to tire of the UFO phenomenon, and started developing an interest in wildlife. I failed to recognize this change, however, possibly because it was rooted in cryptozoological studies of "mystery cats" and bigfoot manifestations, as well as the ever-present animal mutilation phenomenon.

Still, I might have seen it coming, especially as I had been spending a fair amount of time with the late Ivan Sanderson at his farm in New Jersey.

A PEAK OF ACTIVITY

A zoologist and writer, Ivan was founder of the Society for the Investigation of the Unexplained, then headquartered at his farm. I could recount a number of stories about the man (such as the time he tried without success to drink me under the table). But what I most remember was his intense love of wildlife and his concern that I maximize my talent as a writer.

I vividly recall the night he asked me to move to the farm and take a position as his jack-of-all-trades. He knew he could pay little. When I declined, his wife Alma, then dying of cancer, also urged me to take the offer. She did this in private, without consulting Ivan, and I'll never forget the

pain in her eyes. Being a foolish young man I failed to accept, even then.

Following Alma's death, Ivan remarried. On February 19, 1973, at 62, he too succumbed to cancer. With his death, others took the reins of the society, among them Robert C. Warth, Steven Mayne, and Marty Wiegler.

For a brief time Keel was editor-in-chief of *Pursuit*, the society's journal. He in turn appointed me senior writer—a circumstance that lasted about a year.

With the new pecking order established, Keel took off for Scandinavia to gather information on a long-running and widespread UFO flap. At about the same time, the field recognized a new and brilliant champion.

Out of respect for this man and the friendship we shared, I have decided not to use his actual name. However, I cannot avoid relating, in part, his role in what transpired. I shall call him Raymond.

Like many of us, Raymond had an intense interest in the UFO phenomenon. He was a consummate writer, his skill often revealed in *Pursuit*, *Fate*, and similar journals. He possessed a talent for blending logic and instinct; his mind was among the sharpest I have ever encountered. Within a few weeks he made a transition that had taken the rest of us months or even years—from basic acceptance of the phenomenon to a realization that something utterly unknown and enormously complex was a work. But it was this quickness, I fear, that caused his undoing.

And in the end, it was the evidence of Raymond's inward struggle that hastened my own departure from the field.

AND A VALLEY...

What many of us failed to recognize, back then, was the potential for serious emotional or psychological distress arising from our studies. For Raymond, myself, and a number of others, this was an abundant danger, since we believed the phenomenon to be somehow tied to the fabric of reality. To accept the occurrence of UFOs and strange creatures on our terms, one had to accept the notion that reality originates on a mental plane, and is limited only by what we believe.

At any rate, we became obsessed with this view—in itself dangerous as it opened the doors to heightened paranoia and suspicion. Even worse, our single-minded approach seemed to release hidden flood gates; bizarre manifestations began to coincide with our every move. For Raymond, it was akin to opening Pandora's Box.

The man spent more and more time absorbed in trying to prove our "solution" to the puzzle. From all outward signs, this resulted in problems in the home. (Raymond was married and had a beautiful family.) His paranoia began to grow into a true mania, and small wonder: Creature activity and UFO manifestations were suddenly everywhere within driving distance of his home. In the creature department, everything from bigfoot to lizardmen were being reported. Nocturnal lights in the sky (and on the ground) became commonplace. Then the animal

mutilations began—a series of horrible occurrences which only served to intensify the fear and suspicion. (In the worst of these, a farmer's rabbits were removed from a hutch and ripped apart, then laid out in a neat row.)

In my own home some 200 miles away, the telephone became an instrument of great annoyance; my conversations were routinely interrupted by bizarre sounds and third-party voices. Important files began to disappear. Outside my home, my car developed a talent for turning on its headlights. Because I was living alone, I dealt with it largely by ignoring it.

But for Raymond the problem was compounded by fears for his family. He expressed this concern in one of the last letters I received from him. In that letter, he said: "You and I know that most (or all) of these phenomena do indeed originate in the unconscious mind. I am beginning to worry about what might happen in or around my own home. I know of no way to shake such 'thoughts' from my unconscious mind, of course, so I feel frustrated in my desire to stop the events short of my property line."

Raymond's fears were realized soon thereafter, when bigfoot tracks—the three-toed variety—showed up outside his home. I recall sitting in Raymond's living room while he went to another room to retrieve a cast of one of the tracks. The cast was enormous and quite deep, and sent shivers down my spine; the "animal" that made it would have had to weigh 800 to 1,000 pounds.

Not long after, I received the final letter. In it, Raymond severed all ties, expressing a desire for no further contact. I recognized in his words the panic and dismay of an embattled man. Others, too, received the letter, or at least a similar one. To date, I have not tried to reopen communication.

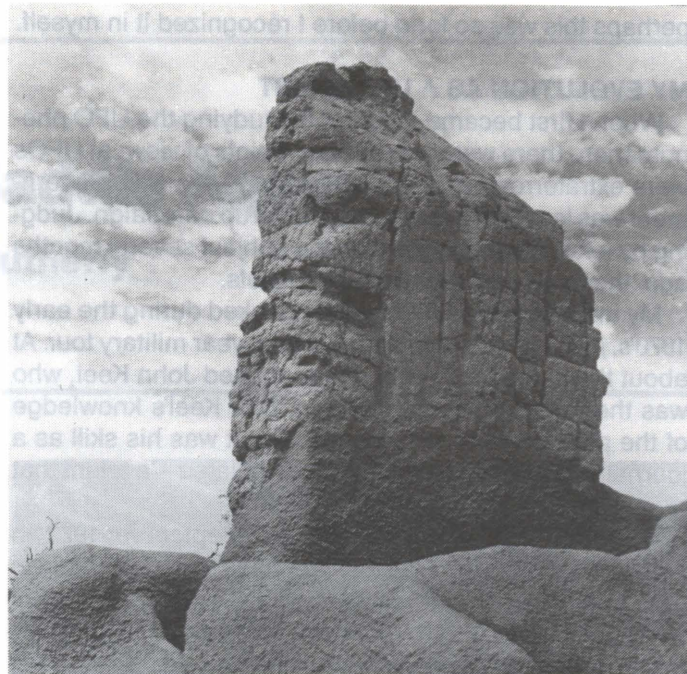
Several months later I also withdrew from the field. I was, by then, a fulltime newspaper reporter, anxious to develop my skills. Moreover, I was uneasy over Raymond's departure, and I sensed a growing melancholy among other formerly enthusiastic researchers. So I bowed out, and went on to originate a weekly newspaper outdoor column.

THE ROAD BACK AND A WARNING

Today wildlife and the environment hold the greatest meaning for me, and at a time when my small skills as a writer may actually do some good. And, yes, I do see a connection between my early interests and my present concern. It is summarized in the "Gaia" hypothesis—the idea that our planet is one vast, sentient organism.

Ivan Sanderson understood this concept, named for the ancient Greek earth goddess. So did the early native Americans. To them, the white man's view of the world was a joke.

But if the Gaia hypothesis is correct (as many scientists are beginning to believe), if the planet is not only alive but also aware, and inasmuch as we are slowly castrating it in the name of Progress (i.e., the almighty dollar), then we may have begun digging our own graves. The world we



Hohokam Amerindian ruins near Casa Grande, Arizona. The photo was taken by the author in 1981 when he visited the region. The Hohokams, after achieving a high level of civilization, vanished after 1400 A.D.—one of the great mysteries of the American southwest. They left behind no written record, and the remains of their dwellings are today part of a national park.

now betray by polluting the atmosphere and oceans and cutting down the rain forests is fighting back; previously unknown temperature extremes, massive storms, late-season hurricanes, and increased numbers of tornadoes and earthquakes appear to be only the beginning.

And it is not that we haven't had sufficient warning. Environmental change has been evident for at least 20 years, for any who cared to notice. Even those weird UFO entities (variously known as ultraterrestrials, men-in-black, deros and teros, or the Philadelphia Phillies) have offered constant warning of the dangers we pose to the environment. But because of the UFO connection, these warnings had never been taken seriously.

We had better begin to take it seriously if we value our hides. A worse-case scenario, one rarely discussed in the media, is that too much change could cause the Earth to shift on its axis, destroying all life as we know it. This has apparently happened at least once, and perhaps several times in the past.

Still, that's not to say we should all go around with a long face, feeling doomed or defeated. After all, the human animal has demonstrated a remarkable knack for pulling its fat out of the fire, and usually at the last moment.

As for myself, I intend to go forward from here, wary of the future, yet more self-assured than I've been in years.

And that at least is something.

—Curt Sutherly

Newswatch:

The four forces of nature, warp drive, the torch passes and more

THE SIX FORCES OF NATURE ... WOULD YOU BELIEVE FOUR FORCES OF NATURE?

It is rare for a scientist to backtrack on a scientific finding, unless there is compelling reason to do so, or the onslaught of strong peer pressure proves too difficult to endure.

So it was perhaps a bit surprising to find a group of scientists recant theories about possible fifth and sixth forces in nature.

The original findings—as reported in the Winter 1988–89 issue of *Caveat Emptor*—pointed to a possible revision of calculations of the size and density of planets and stars, not to mention a host of other changes with immense implications, such as the accuracy of guided missiles.

But it seems as if Sir Isaac Newton's findings over 300 years ago about gravity have so far stood the test of time.

Why the error? Well, apparently a series of measurements of the force of gravity taken inside a drill hole below an ice sheet in Greenland may have been wrong.

The group of scientists all worked at such prestigious institutions as Scripps, Los Alamos and AT&T Bell Laboratories. In a joint statement, they blamed variations in the density of the rock beneath the ice for the mistakes in their findings.

Physicist Richard Hughes, from Los Alamos, made it all perfectly clear.

"There are only four forces in nature. Read my lips. No new forces."

• • •

GIVE ME WARP SEVEN, SCOTTY

Science fiction writers have long used "warp" or "hyper" propulsion as a convenient device to get space travelers from one star system to another without having to take years to complete the trip. Cer-

tainly both the "Star Trek" and "Star Wars" sagas have employed such techniques.

It was inevitable that scientists would look for a way to possibly harness this method of travel.

Three theoretical physicists delved deeply into Einstein's theory of relativity and have postulated a means where one might be able to bend time to travel more rapidly from one place to another—perhaps even backward through time.

Two of Einstein's discoveries are involved.

The first is simply that the passage time depends on how fast you are going. The faster you go, the slower time passes, even if only by a mere fraction of a second. It's called the "twin paradox." The usual example is of an astronaut speeding rapidly through space. To him, the movement of time will seem normal. The closer he moves towards the speed of light of 186,000 miles per second the less he would age in contrast to his friends on Earth.

An exaggerated example might show that astronaut aging only one or two years on a journey to the stars, yet his family back home would grow old and die.

To deal with the second discovery, the scientists are suggesting a "wormhole" as a means to warp space by gravity. The phrase "space warp" is not being emphasized, perhaps to avoid the science fiction connection.

Picture a worm crawling over a sphere. The world would seem flat to the creature, and it wouldn't realize that its path was actually curving to follow the curvature of the sphere.

By using advanced techniques that are only now being formulated in quite an elementary way, it might be possible to harness gravity to warp space into this "wormhole," and thus travel at an incredible rate of speed from one point to another. Further development might even lead to travel through time.

Up till now, science has dismissed the possibility of time travel, by suggesting that the time machine would destroy itself before it could be built.

According to one of the researchers, Dr. Kip Thorne, of the California Institute of Technology, "we show in our paper that with wormholes this does not have to happen."

The theories received prominent display in the science section of *The New York Times* on November 22, 1988, and in the December 19, 1988 issue of *U.S. News & World Report*.

Of course, this being theoretical physics, the scientific team doesn't really have to prove that any of this can actually be done.

As Dr. Thorne puts it, "It may turn out that the averaged weak energy condition can never be violated, in which case there could be no such thing as traversible wormholes, time travel or a failure of causality. It's premature to try to cross a bridge before you come to it."

• • •

THE PASSING OF THE TORCH OF FATE

For over 40 years, *Fate* magazine has perhaps been the most widely circulated UFO and occult magazine in the world. Founded by Curtis Fuller and Ray Palmer at the dawn of the modern UFO era, the magazine soon earned a place on the bookshelves of thousands of readers. You will find references to *Fate* for source material in virtually every major book on these subjects.

If there has been any criticism at all directed at *Fate*, it has been that the magazine is slow to change with the times, to adapt to the needs of a younger generation of readers.

Ray Palmer sold his interest in *Fate* in the early 1950's, and started his own

publishing company. Since then, Curtis Fuller and his wife Mary have been at the helm. In recent years, UFO writer Jerome Clark played an increasing role in the production of the magazine. He was eventually named editor.

Now the Fullers have decided to bow out. The magazine has been sold to Llewellyn Publications, a Minnesota-based publisher of astrological and occult literature. As of March 1st, *Fate's* Chicago-area offices have been closed, and the magazine has been installed at Llewellyn's headquarters in St. Paul.

The new editor of *Fate* is Dan Kraig, who promises that the magazine will finally begin to change with the times, but not so much as to "alienate" its current readers. Kraig told *Caveat Emptor* that he viewed his new job as "an incredible challenge and an incredible opportunity." He added that newsstand circulation, which has floundered in recent years, would again be emphasized.

Former editor Clark has returned to his boyhood home of Canby, Minnesota, and will concentrate on writing books, in addition to editing the *International UFO Reporter* for CUFOS.

In the meantime, the Fullers have earned a place as pioneers in UFO and occult studies. They discussed the past as well as the future in a retrospective interview that will appear in the Summer issue of *Caveat Emptor*.

A CONVENTION IN THE OZARKS

Long-time UFO researcher Lucius Farish is one of the sponsors of the forthcoming Ozark UFO Conference. The affair has been set for April 14th through 16th, 1989 in Eureka Springs, Arkansas.

Featured speakers include—at present—Dr. James W. Deardorff, British researchers Timothy Good and Norman Oliver, Cynthia Hind of Zimbabwe, Danny Gordin, Robert W. Reid and legendary UFO contactee Daniel W. Fry. California researcher Rosemary Decker, who has studied the UFO enigma since the 1950's, is also due to make a presentation. Although their presence wasn't guaranteed at press time, Vicki Cooper and Sherie Stark, of California's *UFO* magazine, Thomas R. Adams, Bill Hamilton and Wendelle Stevens were also expected to participate in the three-day affair.

Another speaker mentioned is David Branch, who has studied the files of the late Edward Ruppelt, the former head of the Air Force's Project Bluebook who also authored the classic UFO work, *The Report on Unidentified Flying Objects*.

Registration fee for the Conference is \$35.00. Further information is available from Lucius Farish at: Route 1, Box 220, Plumerville, Arkansas 72127. Farish can also be reached at (501) 354-2558.

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- An exclusive interview with *Fate* magazine's Curtis & Mary Fuller.
- More of the implications for UFO research of the Gaia theory.
- Further investigation into the controversial MJ-12 documents.

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Culture Corner:

Roswell redux and abduction redux

THE ROSWELL INCIDENT

By Charles Berlitz and William L. Moore
Berkley Books, New York, 1988, \$3.95.

Before the advent of the "MJ-12" controversy, there was *The Roswell Incident*. The book, co-authored by Charles Berlitz (*The Bermuda Triangle, Without A Trace*) and William Moore, made its first appearance in hardcover back in 1980.

The success of such UFO thrillers as Whitley Strieber's *Communion* have caused publishers to take a new look at old and neglected titles, perhaps to refurbish some of them as paperbacks for the mass market.

The seething controversy over the alleged MJ-12 documents probably also convinced Berkley Books to bring out a new edition at this time. It might have been nice for the authors to have added a couple of chapters to bring us all up to date. But the book is reprinted without change, and it's fitting that we take a new look at this work in light of what has happened since it was originally published.

The book bears Berlitz's dry, unemotionally journalistic tone with a fine sense of irony. It appears that much of the actual research was done by Moore, with the help of his colleague, Stanton Friedman.

The plot of this odd episode is relatively uncomplicated.

On the evening of July 2, 1947, a flying saucer was reported traveling rapidly northwest over Roswell, New Mexico. The craft was struck by an intense lightning bolt during a freak storm and was damaged severely. It managed to stay aloft for a while, but finally crashed in the nearby Plains of San Agustin.

Rancher W.W. "Mac" Brazel found some of the wreckage in his pasture the following morning. The UFO itself and its dead and dying crew ended up at another nearby site.

A comedy of errors was unleashed. The story reached Roswell Army Air

Base. Public Information Officer First Lieutenant Walter G. Haut promptly sent out a press release about the recovery of a crashed flying saucer.

The story got out fast. This was the height of the first modern flying saucer flap, coming on the heels of Kenneth Arnold's sighting of nine objects flying in formation in the state of Washington. With UFO hysteria rampant, the story spread like wildfire.

But not for long.

Haut's superiors got wind of his *faux pas* and clamped down fast. A cover story was quickly concocted that it was just a fallen weather balloon. One was quickly produced and a press conference was held.

The press bought the explanation for the most part, but rumors persisted through the years.

Berlitz and Moore claim that the late Frank Scully provided a garbled version of the episode in his 1950 book, *Behind the Flying Saucers*. They claim Scully's work was cranked out just too rapidly to allow time for a thorough investigation.

Most of the research for *The Roswell Incident* dates back to 1979, some 22 years after the alleged UFO crash. The evidence is largely anecdotal. Many of the eyewitnesses are long dead, and one has to depend on memories far removed from the original encounter.

But the stories are basically the same: The crashed object was indeed a spacecraft of some kind, and the pilots were short-statured aliens with grey skin, enlarged heads and slim bodies.

A substance somewhat resembling tin foil was recovered. Though flexible, it would return to its original shape after being crumpled. Additionally, a super-hard woodlike material was found, along with parchment containing a pictographic sort of writing on it.

All of this stuff was quickly removed to Wright Patterson Air Force Base, where

it was secreted away in the infamous "Hanger 18." The witnesses were admonished not to tell anyone about it. It was just a couple of years after the war, and patriotism was high. The lid of secrecy was screwed on solid.

Now just for a moment let's forget about MJ-12, and those further revelations from such secret military sources as "Falcon" and "Condor" that Moore and Friedman have recently produced.

Let's look at this case from a different angle.

Let's just suppose that, along with the legendary V-2 rockets, our military also recovered some experimental saucer-shaped craft from the Germans. They would naturally have used their best scientific resources to try to make those strange flying machines work.

One day during an experimental flight, one of these airships is struck by lightning and crashes. The crew is killed. Now the government doesn't want any unfriendly foreign power to know that such an aircraft exists, so they devise not just one but two cover stories to lead everyone astray.

The first story, of course, is the weather balloon report. The second story is perhaps designed to appeal to the more conspiratorial among us. At the peak of UFO mania, the rumor is spread that the airship is an alien spacecraft and that its pilots are little green—er—gray men who are hurried away and kept on ice for examination behind closed doors.

Despite the years that have passed, the descriptions of that alleged crash are virtually identical, even as to the type of material recovered, its characteristics, and the appearance of the pilots.

It all seems more like a carefully rehearsed cover story than the retelling of an actual event, which would be subject to purely human errors and misinterpretations.

The families of the servicemen who

died during the experiment would probably have been given a story about some kind of accident during a routine maneuver to avoid suspicion. It would be interesting to check the records of the period to see if, say, half a dozen or so servicemen actually did die as a result of some sort of innocent mishap.

Of course, this is sheer speculation on my part. Berlitz and Moore have clearly embraced the extraterrestrial answer.

Also, I don't necessarily believe that some or all UFO sightings result from military experiments of some kind. But during the 1950's, my old friend Jim Moseley actually propounded such a theory. Now perhaps it was all just a ruse to keep the fires burning in his fake feud with his old buddy Gray Barker, though Jim seemed at least half serious about it at the time.

And of course there are other perhaps more fantastic possibilities. My editorial deals with them to some extent, as does an article in this issue from writer Floyd Murray.

I would also like to hear some word from the book's co-author, Charles Berlitz, who has been largely uninvolved in the MJ-12 affair.

It's all fuel for some fascinating speculation, isn't it?

—Gene Steinberg

• • •

THE UFO ABDUCTORS

By Brad Steiger

Berkley Books, New York, 1988, \$3.50.

Those who have a personal encounter with the unknown are inclined to develop a bit of tunnel vision. The experience seems to be the very essence of the mystery. After having undergone what may

be quite a bizarre and frightening set of circumstances, it is easy to imagine that the experience is a microcosm of what is happening to other people. Other such encounters are looked upon in this framework, for better or worse.

Since many of you have read Whitley Strieber's *Communion*, and its sequel, *Transformation*, it's a good idea to use this case as an example. Before realizing he had been singled out to undergo visitations by this other force or group of entities, Strieber had little if any conscious awareness that such things are going on. He hadn't read the vast amount of published literature on the subject. Only when the encounters become more blatant did he begin to become cognizant of an apparent strangeness to a number of episodes in his life and decide to explore further.

As a result of which, it seems, the tempo of his odd encounters picked up and his "visitors" took on a daily and powerful presence.

But as Brad Steiger points out in *The UFO Abductors*, such abductions form only a small part of the whole mystery.

Face-to-face contacts with unknown entities take on all manner of forms. Sometimes the aliens (or whatever they are) evince little if any interest in humankind. On other occasions, the unwary victim is thrust into an apparent genetic experiment, in which that person is forced to undergo sexual relations with an otherworlder. Some contactees appear to become a medium or channel for messages from the aliens, though the communications rarely if ever display any indication of knowledge beyond the capability of the person who supposedly receives the message.

In many respects, Brad Steiger has be-

come a modern-day Frank Edwards, chronicling tales of the strange and unknown quite in the manner of Charles Fort. Though he has distinct viewpoints to express about all this—which he discusses in detail in my interview with him on page 9 of this issue—for the most part he reports and does not judge.

So one may legitimately criticize some of the fantastic tales in the book as less than adequately documented. A number of these cases were actually investigated by Steiger himself or one of his associates. Others are simply summarized from published accounts appearing elsewhere, and it is difficult if not impossible to personally verify that the stories are in fact authentic.

But if we forget about *The UFO Abductors* as a research document, and regard it instead as a stepping-stone to further study and thought about the subject, then the book is quite interesting indeed.

For myself, it's been a few years since I had read any UFO-related literature in extensive detail. Shortly before deciding to resurrect *Caveat Emptor*, I had to reacquaint myself with many of the mysteries of old that I once knew in exquisite detail, and also to assess new case studies and speculation in the field. For that purpose, the book was an especially valuable guide.

Steiger has some frightening conclusions about the implications behind it all. He envisions a massive struggle between two forces—good and bad aliens perhaps, or simply one group that doesn't much care about us and one group that does. The results of that battle may shape our futures and help us find our true destiny—or perhaps it would be a better idea for us to get control of the situation and decide where our own fate lies.

—Gene Steinberg

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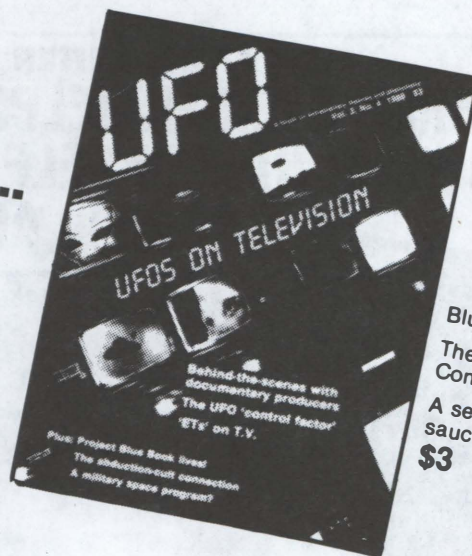
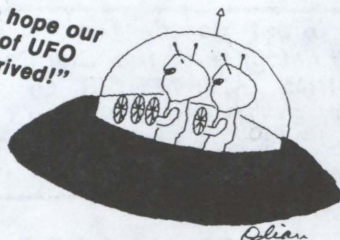
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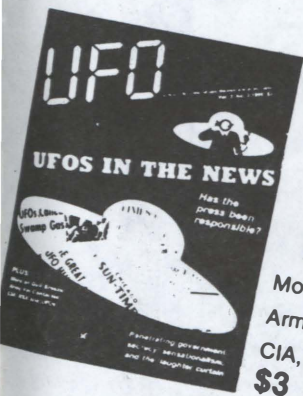
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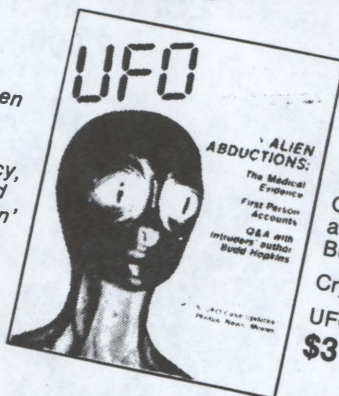
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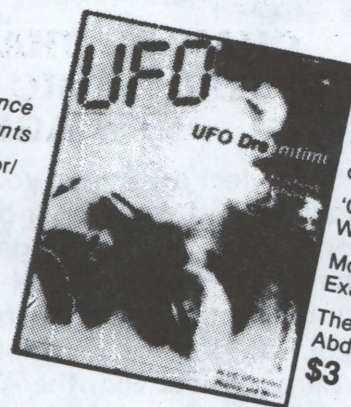
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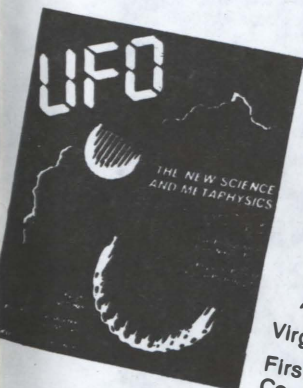
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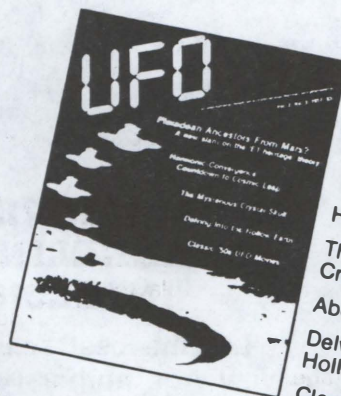
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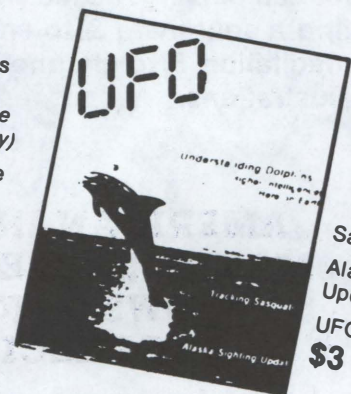
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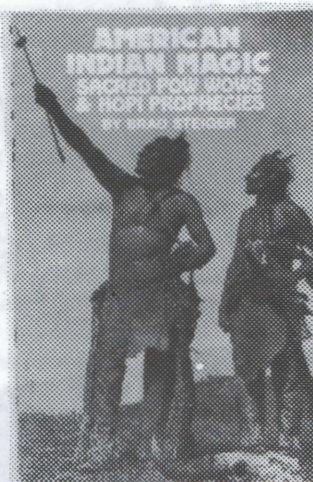
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