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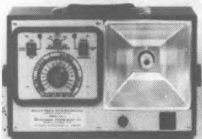
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I SEE BY THE PAPERS

by Curtis Fuller



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

The art of medicine consists of amusing the patient while nature cures the disease.

— Voltaire (1694-1778)

PARAPSYCHOLOGISTS who feel the Establishment discriminates against them because their work is not acceptable to most conservative scientists should note that such discrimination applies to anyone making unorthodox claims. I'm thinking specifically of the distinguished scientist Linus Pauling, a two-time Nobel prizewinner, whose unorthodox claims for the benefits of vitamin C in treating both cancer and the common cold have been generally rejected by the medical community.

Now, after his eighth try in eight years, Pauling has been given a National Cancer Institute grant to test his hypothesis that vitamin C can help prevent cancer. In the past Pauling's research money has been provided by private contributions and the Hoffman-LaRoche Foundation.

Pauling's present project will be to study the influence of different dietary doses of vitamin C on tumors in a select strain of mice.

The man who has received the

Nobel prize for both chemistry and peace says "the medical establishment doesn't know how to recognize new ideas that are worthwhile." He is quoted by Marjorie Sun in the June 5 issue of *Science* as stating, "First of all, the leaders in nutrition decided 20 to 30 years ago that vitamin C in large doses doesn't have much value." Second, "ordinary physicians' believe vitamin C has no value in preventing or treating cancer. They don't have the time or the background to review the literature."

Other Nobel laureates agree that because of the competition for research funding there is "dangerous conservatism" in government. The tendency is to fund only research that is guaranteed to pay off. Pauling suggests that 2½ percent of the budget of the National Cancer Institute should be used to research "fresh ideas."



SIMPLE RULES

MEDICAL research usually moves with deadly slowness. Consider the problems of nutrition. The late Adelle Davis, whose books on nutrition and diet still are widely read, criticized the medical profession for knowing little or nothing about nutri-

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tion. Few physicians ever study it; most medical schools do not even teach a course in it. This continues to be true today. Research into nutrition, so crucial to human health, is being conducted by physiologists and private companies rather than by medical men.

Humans cannot be used as guinea pigs and so the work must be done with animals and can't be extrapolated with certainty to apply to people. Then the claims made by the researchers are often contradictory and even when there is a consensus it takes a long time for the information to affect our workaday world. For example, consider the controversies surrounding Pauling's claims for vitamin C's effect on the common cold.

Despite all this, some things become pretty well established: Too much fat intake usually increases cholesterol in the blood and increases the risk of heart disease for most people; exercise seems to improve our feelings of well-being and to prolong life; cigarettes can kill you; stress may or may not increase the likelihood of heart attacks.

Recently a new claim, one that affects all of us, is being widely circulated — common table salt is a deadly killer.

Actually it has been known since the 1920's that hypertension is linked to salt intake. Hypertension — high blood pressure — is the main cause of strokes in which a blood vessel bursts in the brain. And the most common cause of hypertension is a diet high in sodium — common salt.

In addition to being a primary cause of stroke, hypertension is one of the three main risk factors in coronary

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heart disease — the greatest single cause of death among men in the western hemisphere. The other two chief causes of coronary heart disease are smoking and high blood cholesterol.



APPALLING LAG

YET THE necessity of limiting salt intake for *everybody* is only now receiving attention in this country, although two French physicians proposed the idea in 1904. Although the FDA requires that the labels on processed foods list the various ingredients, including salt, it is only now considering requiring that the *amount* of salt be stated on the label.

The definitive research linking salt to hypertension was done by the late Lewis K. Dahl over a 20-year period. Dr. Dahl used genetically inbred rats

and found a clear relationship between salt intake and hypertension. Prof. Lot Page of Tufts University, Boston, described for Colin Tudge of *New Scientist* the data he has gathered on at least 20 societies with variable genetic backgrounds — Chinese, Australian aborigines, Greenland Eskimos, African tribes, and so on. People in these societies do not suffer from hypertension and all take no salt in their diet.

"The correlation works minutely," writes Tudge. "Polynesians who cooked their food in seawater did exhibit hypertension while those who cooked food in fresh water did not." Other "primitive" tribes sometimes exhibit appalling hypertension — if they are addicted to salt. The Japanese have a remarkably high intake of salt and the highest incidence of stroke in the world.

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Do people need salt?

We hear of animals traveling miles to their salt-licks. Salt certainly is needed by herbivores to produce hydrochloric acid for their digestive process. But contrary to common wisdom, when people lose salt by perspiring it is only because they have eaten a lot of salt. They don't need salt to prevent heatstroke. The best evidence suggests that humans can get by on about 200 milligrams of sodium a day; a common daily intake in the Western world is 10 grams or more a day — 50 times too much.

People are easily hooked on salt but those who give it up find that after a few weeks they no longer miss it — in fact no longer like it.



WE GOT RHYTHM

RECENTLY we ran into some fascinating studies on biological rhythms being done by Charles Ehret, a senior scientist at Argonne National Laboratory near Chicago. Dr. Ehret began his research hoping to find ways to help workers adjust to their changing shifts and remain alert whether working day or night shifts. His findings are significant and exciting.

Jon Van of the *Chicago Tribune* interviewed Ehret and reports that there are certain times in the day when coffee "drives the body clock cuckoo," when food intake works against the body rather than for it, when medicines should be taken and not taken and when people are more wide-awake or sleepier, depending on their schedules. Ehret's findings appear to explain for the first time some of the reasons for the exaggerated effects of "jet

lag." Changes in their daily rhythms simply throw people out of whack. This has nothing to do, incidentally, with the so-called biorhythms which are getting a mixed reception these days. The new study is called "chronobiology" and has significant implications for human health and well-being.

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EXAMPLES

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RESPONSIBILITY: A man unwilling to take responsibility found he was formerly a sea captain who panicked in a past-life crisis, abandoning his ship and leaving many others to die.

OVERWEIGHT: An extremely overweight woman relived a past life in which she was the pretty teenager of a wealthy family in revolutionary France. She was jailed, mistreated and eventually executed. "I was so pretty and they killed me," she exclaimed. "If you want to be ugly."

INSOMNIA: A middle-aged man who had suffered from insomnia all his life found that in a previous incarnation he was a woman who was attacked and sexually molested while asleep. The unwarranted fear of this recurring resulted in programming his subconscious to remain awake all the time.

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nephrine or adrenaline usually peak in the late afternoon and then subside as the body builds up serotonin, another chemical messenger that promotes relaxation and sleep. The foregoing is a simplified blueprint of part of the daily biological clocks of most people.

Suppose you have coffee or tea in the morning. The caffeine has the immediate effect of increasing your blood sugar. This may give you a lift for about 90 minutes until the body's insulin overrides it. Then you crash. Research into the stimulative effects of caffeine heretofore have not taken into account any of this effect.

So the caffeine boost doesn't last and in addition it delays the normal build-up of epinephrine. If you take coffee or tea at night the caffeine accelerates the epinephrine, so in either case the caffeine works against the body's tendency to be alert during waking hours and relaxed during sleep, Jon Van writes.

The best time to drink coffee or tea is during the traditional British tea-time, 3:30 to 4:00 P.M.

"At that point the effect is neutral," explains Ehret. "They neither advance nor delay the cycle."



WHY NURSES BURN OUT

THERE ARE many other important implications in this research and the whole matter seems so complex that it may be a long time before they are all sorted out. Some of the findings support folklore that has been rejected by medical men.

In one study in which seven volunteers were limited to one meal of 2000 calories a day the subjects lost more



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weight eating breakfast than eating dinner although the caloric intake was the same.

"There is logic in that finding," according to Dr. Ralph Morris, a professor of pharmacology at the University of Illinois. "We know that a person's circulation varies, being slower when he first wakes up, and we know that absorption of calories varies with circulation, so it makes sense that you'd absorb more calories at one time of day than another."

Another important observation is made by Geraldene Felton, dean of nursing at the University of Iowa. She suggests that maybe the new findings explain why nurses "burn out and leave the profession because of the pressures of changing shifts so often."

Other implications are not yet completely understood. It appears that some drugs, in the same dosage, are highly therapeutic if taken at one time of the day but toxic and even lethal if taken at another time of day. They may work at one time of day and be ineffectual at another time of day.

This might explain why some medical research is not verified although the researchers imagine that the controls and conditions are identical; it could be simply the time of day at which medications are taken that explains why they do or do not work.

"One researcher in Arkansas," writes Van, "has cured a majority of mice tested by giving them a combination of anticancer drugs at 5:00 A.M. but only 16 percent when giving them the same medicine later in the day."

Professor Morris states flatly, "All testing of drugs for efficacy and toxicity that has been done without taking

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biological rhythms into account is questionable."

And what does this mean for you and me?

One simple benefit, Ehret advises, is to change your eating habits. People function best if they eat most of their protein for breakfast and lunch because protein stimulates the active phase cycle. "Carbohydrates are best taken at dinner because they enhance the sleep pathway."



COMPUTER CRITTERS

THE FOREGOING report is incomplete and probably there are numerous other aspects of chronobiology which are not even suspected. Each of us varies in his response. And in addition we are affected by the strange workings of our minds.

So now let us consider the new and strange problem of "cable lice." Recently a reservations sales agent for Delta Airlines wrote to the *Miami Herald's* "Action Line" column begging for help. She said the problem was "cable lice" which thrive on the cables of computers.

"These pests' bites are worse than that of fleas since they're practically invisible to the human eye. We've tried monthly pest-control spraying but it doesn't seem to help."

Fred Grimm of Knight News Service followed up on this strange complaint and found that belief in these critters is widespread. Paula Teleha, who manages the building containing the clean modern suite of Delta offices in downtown Coral Gables, comments, "They complain. We spray for them. But I've never seen them."

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Prof. Philip Koehler, a University of Florida entomologist and mite expert, says he gets several calls a year about such bugs. "People, usually women, complain about a creeping sensation and occasional bites. Usually they work among electronic equipment or among old dusty records. In the record rooms they're called 'paper mites.' "

Professor Koehler never has been able to capture one of the pesky creatures. The "specimens" he's received in alcohol usually are grains of sand or specks of dust. If there is a problem at all, two United States Public Health Service doctors concluded in 1967, it is a little fiberglass insulation and a lot of talk.

Koehler says, "They're delusions. Sometimes we can take care of the problem by just telling people we've gotten rid of the mites."



MORE ON THE SHROUD

ONE WONDER if the scientific controversies over the Shroud of Turin ever will be resolved. Now Walter C. McCrone, an internationally known microscopist whose studies proved that Yale University's famous Vinland map was a hoax, says that his latest findings, based on electron microscope and electron microprobe studies of fibers taken from the Shroud, show that the Christlike image contains two paint pigments, iron oxide, indicating that red ochre was used, and a second red pigment, vermilion. He believes that although the Shroud could have been painted at any time, even as far back as the First Century, it is probable painting and cloth are products of the 14th Century.

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"All of these studies . . . support the conclusion that the image on the linen cloth known as the Turin Shroud is typical of tempera painting on cloth, introduced into Europe at least as early as the end of the 13th Century," McCrone said, according to Ron Kotula in the *Chicago Tribune*.

His findings are contradicted by Dr. Samuel Pellicori, an optical physicist at the Santa Barbara Research Institute in Goleta, Calif. Dr. Pellicori's conclusions indicate that paint pigments were not used in the production of the image.

Both men agree that the claims of the Rev. Francis L. Filas, a theologian at Loyola University in Chicago, are unfounded. Father Filas claims that a three-dimensional analysis of the photographs shows images of Roman coins over the eyes.

"Father Filas' work is not scientific," Pellicori says. "It is mostly wishful thinking."



CREATION "SCIENCE"

LAST MARCH the Arkansas legislature, with the approving signature of Gov. Frank White, voted to give "creation science" equal time with evolution in public school curricula. The new law would require a balanced offering of both theories in lectures, textbooks and other teaching materials. This law already is under fire as a violation of the constitutionally mandated separation of church and state.

The *propaganda* for teaching anti-evolutionism in the public schools has been gaining increased support over the past 20 years.

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poor sinful little chickens.

- There is no such thing as global plate tectonics or continental drift.
- Neanderthal man, Java man, Peking man and other predawn men never existed except as fossil creations.
- Galileo was wrong after all; the earth and not the sun is the center of our solar system.

Countless other discoveries of our scientific age would be invalidated.

It boggles the mind to imagine what mischief the widespread acceptance of such beliefs would cause our scientific society. Eventually, no doubt, constraints would be put upon free scientific research itself.

Let us agree that there are differences among responsible scientists concerning the mechanics of evolution. But there is no disagreement that not only did man evolve, but all creatures, Earth, the universe itself and all things in it evolved.

Laurie R. Godfrey puts the case well by stating in an article in *Natural History* that "Doing science is not the business of scientific creationists; destroying the public credibility of evolution is their real goal. 'New evidence,' the press is told, reveals 'major weaknesses' in evolution. . . . Scientific creationism may be poor science but it is powerful politics. And politically, it may succeed."



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It has shoulders like a man's but no hands. Its body apparently grows narrower from the shoulders down, so that the lower down it has been observed, the more slender it has seemed to be. But no one has ever seen how the lower end is shaped. Whenever the monster has shown itself, men have always been very sure that a storm would follow."

Is this another one of those ancient myths?

Two scientists at the University of Manitoba, reporting in the British journal *Nature*, believe the Norse sailors were describing accurately what they believed they were seeing. They say the clue given in the old Norse reports is that storms were sure to follow such sightings.

The answer suggested by the scientists is that when atmospheric temperature inversions approach the surface of the sea the distorted appearance of walrus or orcas would exactly match what the early Norse sailors described. Prof. Waldemar H. Lehn and Irmgard Schroeder reasonably assume the witnesses were standing about six feet above the surface of the ocean in a Norse longship and watching an object a mile or less distant.

Under these conditions, says Professor Lehn, a walrus would take on a pillarlike outline, a monster with huge fangs rearing 10 feet above the surface of the ocean. The conditions necessary to create this optical illusion would be the last stages of a warm front in a calm just before a storm.

As a result of his theory, Professor Lehn believes that other descriptions of monsters by early Norse sailors should be reexamined.

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MY AMAZING STORY

A year ago I really had a problem—constant bad luck! I had tried everything to change it—horoscopes, tarot, charms, astrology, good luck charms, success courses—you name it! Then a strange thing happened that practically changed my life overnight.

I was on vacation in India. One evening I was taking up a steep slope of the Himalayas toward Rudranath, when I suddenly smelled a strange, bewitching fragrance. Turning toward the forest, I saw a long-haired, almost-naked Hindu man sitting before a cave. He was gracefully waving a burning stick—from which the heavenly fragrance came. As I approached him he smiled and said, "I've been expecting you."

"Me?" I asked, surprised.
"Yes. I see that you've been experiencing a great deal of trouble, and I want to help change your luck."
"How do you know?"

"I know everything about you." There was a long, eerie silence. Then he said, "This is a GOVINDA FORTUNE STICK. It is made of rare herbs, roots, barks, resins and flowers—from a very secret formula handed down for centuries by great sages. All you do is light it, wave it, and whatever you want is yours."

Then he whispered the secret formula into my ear and told me where in India I could get the sticks made. As I was about to leave, he waved his GOVINDA FORTUNE STICK mystically and said, "Here, my son—for you!"

I was amazed, aghast! Because, right before me, he materialized the most gorgeous gold ring with a diamond setting—out of thin air—and then put it on my finger!

At that point, I thought it was just a trick with white cheap-contrast jewelry. You can imagine my surprise when I found out the ring was real. Still skeptical, I went to the place he told me to go—in New Delhi—to get some GOVINDA FORTUNE STICKS made up. I actually didn't believe that they would work for me, but what the heck, it didn't hurt to give them a try.

MY LUCK STARTS TO CHANGE

As soon as I returned to the U.S. with my GOVINDA FORTUNE STICKS. At the time I was in debt to the tune of \$720 and was not about broke. The collection agency started calling me daily. So I burned a GOVINDA FORTUNE STICK and begged, "Please end my debt!" Three days later I found an \$880 check in my mailbox—the lottery ticket that my girl friend purchased for me was a

winner! I could hardly believe it!

Two weeks passed and I came down with a bad case of flu. So I lit a GOVINDA FORTUNE STICK and asked for a quick healing. The next morning I woke up without a single symptom—in perfect health! I didn't know what to believe now!

Then a month later I lost control of my car and accidentally hit a store window. The owner immediately asked for \$2,000 damages. So I burned a GOVINDA FORTUNE STICK, and pleaded, "Please, help me get out of this mess." The next day the store owner withdrew his complaint, and a friend of mine fixed my car without charge! What would you believe now? I was almost tempted to stop doubting.

Around the same time, I had been working at my job for a year without a pay raise. On two occasions I asked my boss, but both times he turned me down. Then I lit a GOVINDA FORTUNE STICK and pleaded, "Please, give me a salary raise!" The very next day, at 9:30 A.M. my boss approached me and said, "I'm making you manager of the Customer Services department—and your salary is doubled!"

Now I was positive—THE GOVINDA FORTUNE STICK worked! Therefore I had another batch of sticks made—to give to all my relatives, friends and acquaintances, so that they too could reap the same harvest of good luck.

STAGGERING RESULTS THEY REPORT!

Find Lost Stuff—After my friend Mary used THE GOVINDA FORTUNE STICK, she located her long lost son a few thousand miles away—and made him come back!

Gets Perfect Mate—Then there was my cousin Carol—a total failure in love and marriage. Lonely, she asked THE GOVINDA FORTUNE STICK to get her a man. In two months she met and happily married a young, handsome, charming owner!

Wife Stops Cheating—And my brother Sal—he saw his wife enter a bar with another man. Overwhelmed, he asked THE GOVINDA FORTUNE STICK for quick help. A few hours later his wife begged his forgiveness and promised to stand by him forever!

Alcoholic Cured—Martha E. V. husband was a chronic drunkard, but after she burned a GOVINDA FORTUNE STICK, he never touched another drink!

Yes, you cannot die, because once you make your wish—whether for wealth, love, or health—the Universal Power of THE GOVINDA FORTUNE STICK will make a come true—without the slightest effort on your part!

MORE WONDERS!

PROOF—Ted F. reports that before he took that ill-fated flight, he burned a GOVINDA FORTUNE STICK and prayed, "Get me to my destination safely!" The plane crashed, many people died, but Ted walked out of the plane without even a scratch!

PROOF—G.H. E. was just a small-time singer, but after he lit a GOVINDA FORTUNE STICK he made it right to the top!

PROOF—Betty F. used THE GOVINDA FORTUNE STICK to protect herself from physical harm. One night a sex maniac tried to molest her, but when he looked into her piercing eyes, he lost his nerve and ran screaming into the night!

You name it—and a stick is lit! Just ask for it—and a stick is yours! Now, nothing can ever stand in your way! Yes, you'll look and start scoring, dispel aches and pains, pile up a fortune, repel attacks, gain friends, prevent tragedies, know true love, win games, and more—once you start using THE GOVINDA FORTUNE STICK!

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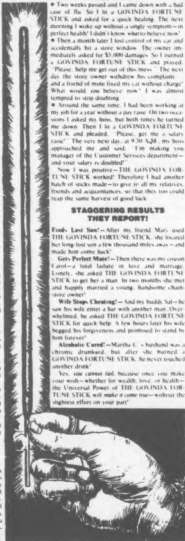
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JACKPOT DREAM

EARLY IN March, after he was laid off from his carpentry job, Ronny Whitlock of Greenfield, Calif., left Crystal, Minn., near Minneapolis and headed for Reno, Nev., where he had heard there was a giant jackpot on the \$1.00 slot machine.

On March 10 he dreamed he was going to hit it big. He didn't sleep the rest of the night and decided to warm up on the 25-cent slot machines before he started to play the \$1.00 slots.

He never got that far. His "four men in a barrel" lined up on the 25-cent machines and he won \$77,000.



PILCHARD PUZZLE?

THE *Sydsvenska Dagbladet* of Malmö, Sweden, looks upon the world with wondering eyes. The publication has noted that pilchards, those sardinelike fish of the herring family, have deserted their traditional waters of the coast of southwest Africa where they have been overfished by Soviet trawlers using fine-gauge nets which even scoop up the minnows. And, continues the story, they have relocated off the coast of Peru, where stocks are rapidly growing.

The question then is: How could these supposedly dumb animals have learned that a similar habitat exists at the other end of the globe where they could escape the danger from the Soviet trawlers?

Well, that's one way of looking at the situation. To us it is likelier that the nutritious cold water currents which keep shifting off both coasts also bring or take away the pilchards. Since the fish are always associated

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From a piece of paper or foil, cut a strip about $\frac{1}{2}$ "x1", and bend one end upward to form a small sail. Place in a shallow bowl of water, on a steady surface, free of drafts. Don't breath on the sail. Point your index finger at the sail...very close but not touching it. Concentrate on moving the 'boat'. You'll find you can repel or attract the 'boat' at will! This simple test should prove that everyone has psychic ability.....most just refuse to believe it. But now there's some *really* exciting news.

An electronic ESP MACHINE has been perfected that will *instantly amplify all the inborn psychic abilities you may not even realize you have*; the discovery that can bring you money, psychic power, friendship, love and good health, almost instantly!

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with these currents and when the currents are absent so are the fish, we reject the idea that the pilchards thought it all out and planned an escape.



RELIGIOUS AMERICA

THE GALLUP poll reports that two out of three Americans believe religion is relevant to modern society. The number of people who feel this way has remained comparatively stable over the past seven years, according to the poll.

Sixty-five percent of Americans believe that religion can provide answers to modern problems, while 15 percent say religion is "largely old-fashioned and out-of-date." The remaining 20 percent express no opinion.

However, while the attitude that religion is relevant to modern problems has remained relatively stable since 1974, it declined sharply between 1957 and 1974 — from 81 percent to the present 65 percent.



THEORY ON EXODUS

THE *New York Times* reports that Dr. Hans Goedicke, an Egyptologist and chairman of the department of Near Eastern studies at Johns Hopkins University, claims there is "solid historical evidence" that the Exodus of the Israelites from Egypt occurred in 1477 B. C.

Dr. Goedicke believes that he has verified the Exodus and that it took place during the reign of the woman Pharaoh Hatshepsut. The date Goedicke pinpoints is about 200 years earlier than previously assumed and could coincide with the volcanic eruption of

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Thera, an island north of Crete, with which all kinds of historical events have been associated.

According to Goedicke the "parting of the waves" that came together again to swallow the pursuing Egyptians could have been an ensuing tidal wave rather than supernatural intervention.

The principal evidence for Goedicke's conclusion is a royal decree by the queen, found some years ago in an Egyptian shrine, which reads in part:

"And when I allowed the abominations of the gods to depart, the earth swallowed their footsteps! This was the directive of the Primeval Father (Nun, the primeval water), who came one day unexpectedly."

Although other scholars don't agree with Goedicke, he believes that the correspondence between the biblical account in Exodus and Queen Hatshepsut's decree are "so great that in my opinion there can be no doubt that we have here two accounts of the very same event."



"SEEING EYE" BIRDS

• Ray Berwick, a Hollywood animal trainer, claims he is teaching large red macaws to become "Seeing Eye" birds for the blind. Berwick believes his cockatoo Fred, formerly star of the cancelled "Baretta" TV series, "understands words as well as a three- or four-year-old kid." Berwick has demonstrated the abilities of two macaws, Sylvester and Jo-Jo, under laboratory conditions and the last we heard he was preparing to test them in the real world. They have one advantage — they live 50 to 60 years.

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A New Look at . . .

ROMAN LONDON

Archaeologists are now rediscovering ancient Londinium whose Roman origins were forgotten with the coming of the Dark Ages.

By Brian Hobley

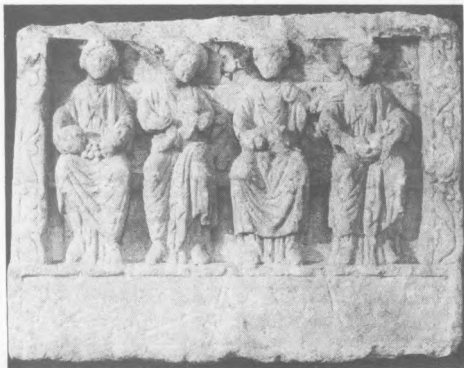
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Photographs courtesy

Museum of London

THE PICTURE of Roman London has undergone constant change since antiquaries made the first serious discoveries in the 17th and 18th Centuries. And it will continue to change, for remarkable discoveries made by the Museum of London, which has



Excavations near river at Blackfriars unearthed large group of sculptured stones which had been reused in Roman wall. Frieze dates to late Second or Third Century and is unique in that it depicts four mother goddesses, not the usual three.



Line of Roman town wall and fort superimposed on modern street plan shows that wall surrounded historic core of London known to today's business community as the City or the Square Mile. London had its mercantile origins in Roman times.

conducted continuous rescue excavations since 1974, now throw new light on this history of Roman London.

The Roman town wall, largely rebuilt in medieval times, contained within it the historic core of London and the area known to today's business community as the City or the Square Mile. This modern emphasis on trading and commerce is appropriate in view of the City's mercantile origins in Roman times.*

Fundamental to an understanding of archaeology's limitations is an appreciation that during past excavations of many deep foundations, cellars and bank vaults, no record was kept of surviving archaeological layers. Yet these layers are the only evidence available

to us, for Roman historical sources give few passing references to Londinium. Sad to say, knowledge of Roman London is in many respects still only rudimentary.

Until recently, London's origins were considered to conform to those of many other historic British towns with Roman ancestry — for example, Carlisle, Cirencester, Exeter and Worcester — in that they began from a civil settlement (*vicus*) outside a fort. As military exigency dictated, the army often moved elsewhere and the settlement was left to survive or perish depending on its value to the local native population, as well as to the Roman civil authorities.

London, it appeared, was closely involved in the campaigns that immediately followed the invasion in A.D. 43,

*See "Britain, The Western Edge of Rome," November-December 1974 FATE.



All along telephone tunnel more than 200 yards long, massive basilica and courtyard floors form tunnel walls and roof.

campaigns recorded from the somewhat distorted viewpoint of a man writing 150 years after the event. Roman historian Dio's account of the army's movements shows a concentrated push from Kent toward the River Thames, which had to be crossed if the British capital of Colchester were to be captured. After a two-day battle, a river identified as the Medway was crossed and, according to Dio, the Britons fell back to a river subsequently identified as the Thames.

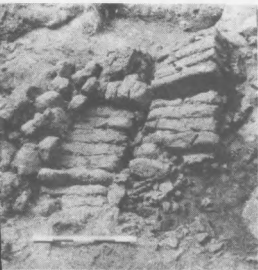
The outstanding advantages of the site of Roman London now come into play, for its elevated twin-hilled location (St. Paul's and Cornhill), well above the floodplain, was considered by many scholars (before recent investigations) as an obvious place for the Romans to establish a bridgehead fort.

Nowhere between this location and the sea is there any other site so ideally suited for settlement. It has military, geological, topographical and tidal advantages — all in a remarkably favorable combination which must have been immediately appreciated by army surveyors and engineers. No earlier native settlement of any size or permanence occupied the site: this should be remembered in considering Roman London's fortunes over its 400-year history, when a large local population could have helped support its economy once its overseas markets had declined.

Although a military origin had been argued by many archaeologists, no definite evidence of recognizable mili-

Mosaic pavement found at Milk Street site depicts stylized vessel (cantharus) within a circle and square of guilloche.





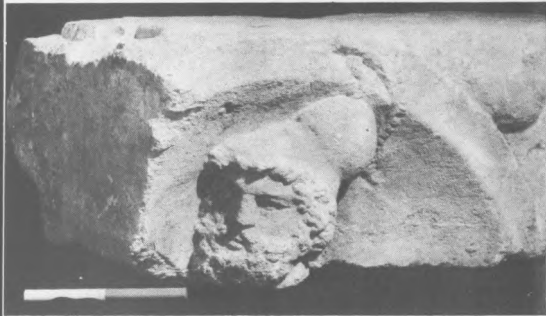
London was flourishing when Hadrianic fire struck in 120's. Mud brick walls such as this were burned granite-hard.

tary structures was found even after a century of careful observation. It was becoming increasingly clear in the 1960's that this hypothesis now needed firm data to make it tenable. These were found in the early 1970's, not in the city but across the river in Southwark. For some time there had been evidence suggesting that the early roads from the Kent coast to London originally led to Westminster, the lowest point at which the army could ford the Thames. Here it was possible that a fort, built to guard a crossing, once existed on Thorney Island, site of Westminster Abbey and Parliament. Dio, on the other hand, refers to an existing bridge which was used for the crossing, but this seems improbable because the Thames served as a frontier between warring tribes in the decades between Caesar's foray into Britain (circa 55 B.C.) and Claudius'

invasion in A.D. 43. Modern scholars have considered the possibility of a pontoon bridge but with fords at Chelsea and Lambeth as well as Westminster, such a bridge seems unnecessary.

Excavations in the bridgehead area at Southwark now support the likelihood that the army crossed at Westminster, for in Southwark the approach roads were almost certainly not built before the 50's. As a consequence of this discovery a detailed re-examination of the earliest Roman pottery was made and it showed far too little Claudian Samian pottery to be commensurate with a major military base. Claudian coins also were reexamined and shown to be mainly imitations of later date than the regular issue characteristic of the Neronian period. In sum, the evidence from Southwark and the city and of the roads from Southwark to Westminster raises a strong possibility that London was not founded until the early 50's, sometime late in the reign of Claudius or early in Nero's reign and its origins cannot be shown to be connected with the military campaigns of A.D. 43.

There is no firm evidence in London itself for any military presence before A.D. 60, except that the historian Tacitus, commenting on the events of the Boudiccan revolt of that year (see box), wrote that Londinium then "was crowded with traders and a great centre of commerce." The town therefore was established by that date but its function was mercantile, not military. In fact, the normal pattern of Rome's conquest, to which Britain was no exception, was to permit trade to follow the flag insuring a full economic exploitation to justify the *Pax Romana*.



At Blackfriars the 1974-75 rare find of sculptured stones from several public monuments gives vivid glimpse of Third-Century London. Head of Mars wearing a crested helmet came from screen of gods and temples dedicated to Isis and Jupiter.

Government authorities must have realized at the outset of the conquest that the new province would require a major international trading center and no other site was better suited for this. Most important, Londinium was an open site free of the problems that an existing native population would impose on a rapid urban expansion.

ARCHAEOLOGY has shown recently that from the beginning the new city was deliberately planned with a street system which eventually would accommodate an area approaching 300 acres. During these early years it would have looked not unlike the 19th-Century frontier towns of the American West. That traders came from all over the Roman world is

made evident by some of the earliest finds in London — jars for wine and olive oil from southern Spain and the Aegean (especially Rhodes), fine glass from Italy and Syria, and from Gaul beautifully decorated pottery lamps of the distinctive glossy red Samian ware.

The earliest known inhabitant of London was Aulus Alfidius Olussa, a Roman citizen from Athens who died in London at the age of 70 not long before A. D. 100. Olussa probably was typical of the first settlers in what was essentially an international trading and business community. Probably few Britons were to be seen.

The new settlement was centered at Cornhill and the earliest structures and objects have been discovered there. These include timber-framed

buildings, probably shops, which had a piped water supply along the roadside frontage. Nearby a store of seed corn, apparently imported from the eastern Mediterranean area (on the evidence of distinctive weed seeds), has been investigated. Until quite recently it was believed that the city expanded west across the Walbrook stream from Cornhill but now it is known that the earliest planning proposals included these areas from the beginning. At Watling Court, streets and two rectangular timber-framed buildings clearly intended to be permanent were established and their early property boundaries were followed by succeeding buildings.

At a site in Newgate Street the earliest structures suggest a ribbon development along the main west road through a suburb which contained industrial activities, a cemetery and a circular "native type" building. The civic boundary ditch separating this random suburban growth from the planned area evident at Watling Court may have been established near St. Martin-le-Grand and may have extended to the river. To the northeast of Cornhill, following the line of the later town wall, an early ditch which may be the original civic boundary has been investigated. It probably marked off from the surrounding countryside a town which enjoyed self-governing status from the beginning and which, in a few years, would achieve chartered status. Whether this had been accomplished by A.D. 60 when the Boudiccan revolt shook the Roman world is not known. In that year Colchester, the capital, Verulamium and London were destroyed by fire and many of

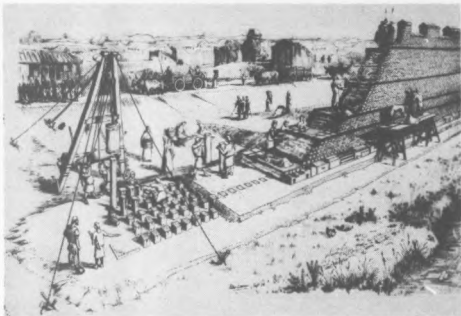
their citizens were slaughtered, although an unknown number are assumed to have escaped, later returning to rebuild their lives and cities.

Evidence of the Boudiccan episode appears dramatically at many London sites as a distinctive layer of burned building debris up to about 18 inches thick. These deposits and burned Samian pottery of Claudian-Neronian date indicate the extensive area destroyed by Boudicca, especially when the debris was clearly scorched *in situ* and not redeposited from clearance operations elsewhere.

In addition, a study of archaeological levels immediately over the scorched debris has indicated a generally slow recovery. This suggests that



Romans built massive wooden riverside quay to improve port. Upper timber of remains shown here was 28 feet long.



Artist's impression of construction of riverside wall at Blackfriars, built about the middle of the Fourth Century, depicts excavations pictured on facing page.

the business community lost confidence in the security of Roman Britain. Watling Court and other recently excavated sites give little evidence of domestic redevelopment before A.D. 100, so it seems likely that Londinium took several decades to regain its former size. But there is evidence along Newgate Street to show that priority was given to business premises, in this case on a main road well outside the urban limits where large buildings were built soon after the fire.

Thus redevelopment and prosperity took hold slowly and in the early 80's apparently required the encouragement of the new governor, Julius Agricola, who provided a significant urban aid program in an attempt to realize

the pre-Boudiccan planning proposals. Tacitus records, "With private encouragement and public aid he pressed forward the construction of temples, fora and town houses." Moreover, now there was a need to build a city to match those of the Mediterranean world. In London this presumably culminated in its recognition as the provincial capital and the fulfillment of the plan for the town to serve as the province's main trading port.

London now had its first basilica- forum with a small classical temple just to the east at Cornhill, public baths at Hugging Hill and at Cheapside and an extensive official residence, presumably for the governor and his staff, set high on the riverbank at Cannon Street. This building con-

tained staterooms, a garden court with a great pool perhaps 60 yards long, a bath suite, hypocaust central heating and tessellated floors. To the west beyond the Walbrook stream at Watling Court the most complete area of domestic buildings yet known in the city showed three town houses facing south, high on the steep natural riverbank, with corridors, mosaics and floors of *opus signinum*, a kind of cement or stucco. These were much repaired and replaced which suggests either intensive use or long life. In the Milk Street area large timber-framed town houses were rebuilt with concrete floors and tessellated pavements.

By the end of the First Century A.D. timber revetments had been built along the Thames riverbank to provide basic port facilities, vital to the business interests whose main role during this initial period was to supply the growing markets of Britain with consumer and luxury goods. Apparently London remained an open undefended settlement at this time, for no First-Century defenses have yet been discovered. However, by the beginning of the Second Century a fort was built, probably only to garrison the governor's bodyguard and officials. Thus, at the end of the First Century it appears that after the setback of the Boudiccan revolt, London had fully recovered and its future was assured for centuries to come.

Emperor Hadrian's visit to Britain in A.D. 122 added to the city's fortunes with the instigation of the second forum, dated to A.D. 120-130, built to replace the Flavian forum and four times its size. This was to be the most impressive building in Britain and one

of the largest buildings north of the Alps. Civic pride and confidence in the future of London and the province itself was expressed in a way never to be seen again on such a scale in a single building. The whole complex — basilica (town hall), central courtyard, porticoed shops and offices — covered eight acres. The basilica's vast hall, consisting of nave, side aisles and tribune, was more than 90 feet wide. The central feature was the large unroofed courtyard with a decorative pool at its center and surrounded on three sides by a colonnaded inner portico of shops. A north-to-south traverse of the



Rear one-third of Roman riverside wall is in position. The Thames had eroded the front of the wall by late Saxon times (Ninth or 10th Century). Other than this, few Roman buildings dating to Fourth Century have been discovered.

foundations was achieved during 1976 when a telecommunications tunnel more than 200 yards long was excavated below Gracechurch Street. All along the tunnel the massive basilica and courtyard floors formed the tunnel walls and roof.

* * *

LONDON was therefore flourishing when another disastrous fire devastated 100 acres or more of the city center in the 120's. It is known as the Hadrianic fire and significantly it came at a time when towns elsewhere in Britain were rapidly establishing themselves with their own industries and markets. The local population they served, both in the town and surrounding countryside, apparently no longer required the type of goods, particularly the luxury trade items, imported through London, or possibly they could obtain them cheaper through less expensive trade inlets. The Hadrianic fire and its aftermath of economic disruption clearly worsened the situation in London and undoubtedly accelerated an inevitable decline. Hence, by the end of the Second Century the archaeological evidence gives a picture of decaying temples, demolished public baths and ditches of the civic boundary and fort filled with rubbish. If this means the fort was abandoned, it is probable that the governor's residence was unoccupied too. What rebuilding did take place after the fire seems to have been short-lived. In Watling Court the burned buildings were not rebuilt immediately and when they were, they appeared to have been much less substantial structures. The Newgate Street and Milk Street buildings were replaced

but nevertheless these went out of use well before the end of the century.

It appears that because of the absence of a large native population the gradual decline of overseas trading could not be cushioned by an expansion in local trade, as seems to have been the case in tribal capitals. Moreover, it seems likely that London's population was declining and that the population of the suburb of Southwark also was shrinking. In short, from the middle of the Second Century, Roman London declined rapidly, and this economic disaster may have meant the loss of its status as the capital.

However, substantial imperial aid was at hand to save the city's fortunes. Toward the end of the Second Century a massive new quay was built to improve the port facilities. This impressive structure has been investigated at the Old Custom House site, New Fresh Wharf and Seal House, where finds have revealed some of the overseas imports — impressive quantities of Samian pottery from Gaul and mixing bowls from the Rhineland. Toward the end of the Second Century a landward stone wall was built about two miles long, enclosing 330 acres and extending beyond the earlier First-Century civic limits on the western side. No other town in Roman Britain had defenses enclosing such a large area. Thus the populace must have been reassured of London's revival as an important city, especially as few towns were walled by this date.

At this time the provincial governor, Clodius Albinus, was making a bid for the imperial throne and he may have decided to develop and defend London about A.D. 192 for purely military

THE BOUDICCAN revolt, led by Queen Boudicca, erupted after the death of her husband Prasutagus, King of the Iceni tribe, whose royal line was then declared extinct by Emperor Nero. The Romans enslaved the royal family and confiscated their properties; lustful servants flogged Boudicca and ravished her two daughters. In the midst of this outrage, when Roman officials routinely demanded recruits and tribute money, the entire Iceni nation rose to free Queen Boudicca. Tribe after tribe joined her until she had a following of 230,000 men.

Boudicca's warriors were more than a mob but not quite an army — and the far-flung Roman legions could not mobilize fast enough to stop them. There were no Roman legions within 120 miles of Colchester when Boudicca's forces burned the town. Next, by sheer numbers they swamped and annihilated the Ninth Roman Legion, which was moving too late to save Colchester.

When word reached Roman General Seutonius Paulinus that Boudicca was hurrying toward Londinium, he ordered the Second Legion to join him to defend the city. Fearing the fate that had befallen the Ninth Legion, the junior officer in command of the Second Legion refused to march and Seutonius was forced to abandon the city.

Boudicca's army burned Londinium, then pursued Seutonius whose 10,000 legionnaires were entrenched in a small meadow where their flanks and rear were protected by a dense forest. When Boudicca's huge raggle-taggle army and wagons full of women and children arrived on the scene, the end came swiftly. Although they were outnumbered 20 to one the awesome line of legionnaires penetrated the massed Britons at the same instant Seutonius' calvary hit Boudicca's army's flanks. Some authorities say that 80,000 Britons died in that battle which killed only 400 Romans. Seutonius' victory was a lasting one.

and political reasons; it was ideally placed to handle communications between Britain and the Continent. However, Albinus was defeated and Septimius Severus, the successful claimant, came to Britain in A.D. 208. Subsequently, also for political reasons, London may have been included in a general program of town fortification, if in fact it was still an open city at that time. In addition, Britain was soon to be divided into two provinces and it is almost certain that London then became the capital of Britain Superior and York of Britain Inferior.

* * *

LONDON'S role in the Third Century was now due to change dra-

matically, for it appears that despite all the urban aid programs and building projects, a commercial revival did not take place. London henceforth became a formal city with major public buildings, monuments and town houses, and an "official" administrative function.

In the 1974-75 excavations at Blackfriars a rare find of a large group of sculptured stones gave a vivid glimpse of London in the Third Century. These stones came from several public monuments, including a monumental arch, a screen of gods and temples dedicated to Isis and Jupiter, all probably from the southwest quarter which may have served as an area for

religious and entertainment purposes. Although these stones cannot be closely dated on stylistic grounds, their broad dating to late Second or early Third Century allows them to be attributed to Severus' reign.

Elsewhere within the wall Roman buildings of the Third and Fourth Centuries have rarely been discovered. Consequently, the Walbrook Mithraeum of the Third Century found in 1954 is of outstanding importance to the present concept of a formal "official" capital city, as are the significantly large number of centrally situated polychrome mosaics. These mosaics still require closer dating but they must have belonged to wealthy house-owners who may have been either merchants or senior government administrators. The archaeological deposits immediately above most of the mosaics consist of a deep layer of featureless "dark earth" up to more than three feet thick which in many cases is the only evidence of late Roman London. At Milk Street the dark earth came on top of the last surviving Roman levels which were of the Second Century. Here the dark earth appeared to be a single deposit containing mainly late Roman material, very abraded throughout and with occasional Saxon material. Chemical tests surprisingly did not suggest an agricultural use, although it would be hard to imagine any other purpose. The dark coloring comes from carbon which suggests agricultural practices such as burning stubble but this speculation has to await more controlled excavation

and scientific research.

London is not alone in having this strange deposit; many other towns with Roman ancestry have it and therefore may have shared a common fate. In London such a widespread deposit within the walls suggests the population contracted in the late Roman period. The people, some scholars are beginning to believe, lived in squalid and less hygienic surroundings than is typical of the Roman manner. These living conditions were more characteristic of the Middle Ages and Saxon times.

The preservation of London's walls in the Fourth Century and the addition of bastions and a river wall built about A.D. 400 show that important town areas and functions were still worth defending against increasing Saxon raiding. In A.D. 396, 14 years before the "official" end of Roman Britain in A.D. 410, Stilicho ordered an expedition to sail to Britain to restore its defenses. In 1977 a massive section of wall dated to the 390's was found at the Tower of London. This section could be the work of Stilicho, so it is one of the latest structures in Roman Britain.

It is difficult to say exactly when Roman-style occupation came to an end in London, but the decay and collapse of town services must have been well advanced by the middle of the Fifth Century. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle claims that at this time, about A.D. 457, the British fled from the Saxons and sought the protection of the Roman walls at London.



THE PHANTOM SHIP *KÖBENHAVN*



The largest sailing ship in the world disappeared in 1928
but her specter continues to ply an eternal voyage.

By Raymond Lamont Brown

ON JULY 14, 1930, the Argentine-registered trading vessel *Maria* en route for Concepcion, Chile, encountered a fierce Pacific gale and her captain, Francisco Morales, ordered all hands on deck. The men worked furiously for about 20 minutes lashing down hatches and equipment; then, while at their stations, the crew saw the phantom ship.

The wraith appeared off the port bow and remained clearly visible for about a minute. Less than a mile away the phantom vessel could be seen scudding before the wind. Incredulously the crew watched the enormous

ship, canvas fully set on her five masts. Strangely enough, however, the sails did not seem to be filled with the gale that was lashing the *Maria*. Yet most of the crew and the captain saw the vessel and later described it clearly. Her black hull was distinctly visible, often illuminated by the storm's lightning flashes — which, one sailor affirmed, seemed to run the full length of her southwest-heading bows.

For about five minutes the crewmen watched. The sea still raged and lightning flashed but now it illuminated only empty waves.

Captain Morales was anxious to

document the peculiar experience completely. In any event the Chilean coast guard would want a report of any ship in distress. Apart from seeing a huge ship completely disappear before his eyes, the captain was puzzled by the presence of a five-master in the Pacific. A shipping buff himself, Captain Morales was sure that no five-master was sailing with any fleet in the world at that time!

The story of the phantom ship was brought from South America by an acquaintance of Count Louis Hamon, the world-famous palmist and seer who died in October 1936. The ghost-hunting Hamon (who wrote under the name of "Cheiro") might have included it in his new edition of *True Ghost Stories* which was being reissued by the Psychic Book Club except that he had too much material already. Cheiro noted the story in his workbook with the comment that the only five-master the South American captain (Morales) could relate it to was the *Kobenhavn*. The ghost story was first given a public airing by Warren Armstrong in *Sea Phantoms* (Odhams, 1956).

Kobenhavn was logged by Lloyd's of London as a steel-hulled, five-masted auxiliary barkentine. She had been registered at Copenhagen, Denmark, with the signal letters NDBV. Her tonnage was 3901 gross, 3329 tons net and she had been built at Leith, Scotland, in 1921 by the builders Ramage and Ferguson, Ltd. Some 368.9 feet long, with a breadth of 49.3 feet and a depth of 26.9 feet, *Kobenhavn* had a normal horsepower of 139 and was powered by oil engines. She was owned by the *Ostasiat-*

iske Kampagni (East Asiatic Company of Copenhagen) and her master in 1928 was Capt. H. F. Anderson.

Kobenhavn was the largest sailing ship in the world and was used exclusively for the training of officers for the Danish navy. For several years, with a crew of 15 and 45 cadets, she had gracefully cut the waves between Great Britain and Thailand, Australia and Chile.

On December 14, 1928, in ballast, *Kobenhavn* set out from Buenos Aires with a full complement, bound for Australia by way of the Cape of Good Hope. Radio stations were accustomed to the paucity of information received from stolid Captain Anderson's *Kobenhavn*. Although fully equipped with up-to-date high-powered radio equipment, *Kobenhavn* sent few messages. On December 22, 1928, however, she signaled her position some 900 miles off Tristan da Cunha, the British island possession midway between South Africa and South America. The message confirmed that all was well aboard the *Kobenhavn* and the company was looking forward to spending Christmas off the Cape of Good Hope. That was her last word. The *Kobenhavn* did not contact her next reporting stations, Crozet Island and Amsterdam Island.

On March 22, 1929, Reuters passed this message: "More than 100 days since last news of *Kobenhavn* . . . left Argentine for Australia with 75 [sic] on board . . . much uneasiness felt as to fate of vessel . . . equipped with wireless and auxiliary engines."

But back in Denmark there was little real worry over the fate of the *Kobenhavn*. The ship had been silent be-

fore. Her owners noted that the vessel had once remained at sea for 80 days without giving any clue to its location. As the year 1929 wore on, however, with no message from the ship, apathy turned to concern in Denmark.

No distress signals were received from *København* but her call sign NDBV was repeatedly broadcast. There was no reply. At length the directors of *Ostasiatiske Kampagni* authorized an investigation and the ship *Mexico* was sent to Tristan da Cunha which is known as the remotest inhabited island in the world.

Tristan da Cunha was discovered in March 1506 by the Portuguese admiral Tristao da Cunha. It was annexed by the British on August 14, 1816, and a military force was stationed there while Napoleon was imprisoned on St. Helena, which is 1320 miles away and the nearest inhabited land. Tristan's population in the 1930's numbered fewer than 200, many of whom were fishermen. Had any of them seen the *København*?

The records of the *Ostasiatiske Kampagni* show that one fisherman testified that he had seen a large sailing ship and others corroborated his story. The fisherman and his mates were not sure that the ship had five masts but all remembered that its foremast was broken. The ship neither flew a distress signal nor made any attempt to communicate with the fishermen and eventually she was seen to sail away from Tristan.

"But," said the fishermen, "it is a confusing time at sea around Tristan."

What did that mean? There is an old Tristan story that on the anniversary of Admiral da Cunha's arriving at the is-

land the god of the volcano demanded a ship as a sacrifice. Any ship near Tristan during the month of March stood a chance of being destroyed and transformed into a phantom ship. The investigators logged the folklore without comment — although the *København* officially disappeared in the month of March. No wreckage that might have been from the *København* was ever found on Tristan or on St. Helena.

Mexico conducted a 10-day search of the sea from Tristan to Cape Town and found nothing that had any bearing on the *København's* disappearance. On September 11, 1929, the Danish newspapers *Kristeligt Dagblad*, *Berlingske Aftenavis* and *Bonsen* (Denmark's commercial and shipping daily) carried an official report that the *København* was deemed lost at sea in a storm.

Maritime news gatherers had almost completely forgotten the *København* when fishermen off the coast of Chile began to report seeing a phantom five-masted sailing ship. A month after *Maria's* sighting, another coaster, a Chilean, reported seeing a vessel answering to *København's* description, this time off Easter Island in the Pacific.

Three weeks later, in September 1930, passengers on board a small liner bound for Panama reported seeing a phantom five-master off the Peruvian coast. Each person who claimed to have seen the vessel was carefully interrogated; all accounts agreed.

While the *Ostasiatiske Kampagni* was investigating these sightings, some wreckage was picked up off the west

coast of Australia and one fragment bore the lettering "Kobenhavn."

During the summer of 1937, aboard the oceangoing yacht *Mariposa Junior*, Hiram C. Thorsen, a shipping agent for a San Francisco company with offices in Panama, was sailing with his family off Guayaquil, Ecuador. The morning was stormy but clear. About 10:30 A. M. Thorsen's wife brought him a mug of coffee and stood with him near the tiller as he drank it. Together they watched a black-hulled sailing ship approach from the direction of the busy Australia-Panama shipping lane. They both counted the ship's five masts and six spreads of sail per mast and both noted that the foremast appeared to be broken just below the peak halyard.

Thorsen altered course to avoid the ship's path and took up a parallel course in the opposite direction. As the two ships passed, the Thorsens saw not a soul aboard the other vessel. They could not make out the mystery ship's name except for the letters "K-BE---VN." On the spanker at the stern hung a tattered red and white flag.

Perplexed by the lack of life aboard the other ship and anxious lest the broken foremast indicated a disaster that could have left the ship sailing masterless, Thorsen took note of the ship's position and remarked that there did not seem to be wind in the sails, despite the blowy morning. As a long shot he attempted to photograph

the strange vessel; he took three exposures. On having his film developed Thorsen was even more perplexed to see that his three prints showed only empty sea!

Other scraps of knowledge of *Kobenhavn's* fate include a note in Lloyd's of London's file: "In 1961 a piece of timber, possibly from the *Kobenhavn*, was found in the Solomon Islands."

And in the book *Dictionary of Disasters at Sea* by Charles Hocking the entry for *Kobenhavn* reads: "The remains of a lifeboat and skeletons were found half buried in the sand on the S.W. African coast in 1935, and it is thought that these may have belonged to the *Kobenhavn*."

In his book *Sea Phantoms* Warren Armstrong reported that sometime in December 1938, a trawler (which he did not name) brought into Cape Town a bottle which had been dredged up in the fishnets some 40 miles southeast of Cape Town. Inside the bottle was a scrap of paper bearing a message written in very bad English. Most of the water-stained message was illegible but a position of 47° 37' south and 02° 14' east could be made out and the words "easterly wind . . . icebergs . . . surrounded . . . Kobenhavn."

The position mentioned in the note is about 625 miles southeast of Tristan da Cunha. Yet the spectral ship continued to ply her eternal voyage hundreds of miles away from there.



SEVEN-UP

SEVEN horses ran in the seventh race at Arlington Park racetrack in Illinois, on the seventh day of the seventh month in 1979. Horse No. 7 won. — *W. R. Anderson.*

TRUE

MYSTIC EXPERIENCES

FATE will pay \$10.00 for each true experience published. Stories should be less than 300 words and typed double-spaced on one side of the paper. They may be sent to the TME Editor, FATE Magazine, 500 Hyacinth Pl., Highland Park, Ill. 60035. They must be signed by the author and address must be shown. Manuscripts will not be returned unless accompanied by stamped self-addressed envelope.

COLD AS MARBLE

By Lillian Parks

IN THE late 1890's my mother Harriet Bristol was 12 years old and living in a drafty old farmhouse near Wysox, Pa. She was one of seven children and she shared a bedroom with her 14-year-old sister Margaret. One warm night in June 1897 the family climbed the stairs to their respective bedrooms, donned their nightclothes, blew out the lamps and settled down for the night. Mother dozed off for a short time, then suddenly came wide-awake and aware of some one lying between her and Margaret. At first she thought another sister had come to share their bed but the form seemed to be cold as marble and rigid.

Cautiously she reached out to touch the hand of the figure next to her. On the fingers she felt rings set with chunky stones. Moving her hand upward she found two bracelets encircling a cold wrist and she felt the silky texture of long flowing hair.

Choking back screams she slid out

of bed and ran down the hall to the other girls' bedroom. A few minutes later Margaret came running into the room. All of the girls were awake now and listened as Margaret told of their cold bed partner. They had little sleep for the rest of the night but after a few days the incident was forgotten — until seven months later.

In December 1897, the girls' Aunt Glenda Brantley was widowed. Ed, her husband of 20 years, died of pneumonia. Aunt Glenda was childless and after Ed's death she lived alone in their



Lillian Parks

small farmhouse — always wearing the heavy rings she loved.

In January 1898 she developed a severe cold and all the family was concerned about her. After a fierce blizzard which left several inches of snow on the ground, Mother's father and brothers shoveled their way to Aunt Glenda's house to check on her. They saw that she had not been out of the house or near the stack of firewood. No tracks marred the snow. Entering the house they found the stove stone-cold and ice in the water pail. Aunt Glenda had let down her long black hair and had lain down fully clothed, either to rest awhile or because she was feeling ill, and she had frozen to death.

Seven months earlier, the harsh cold shock of the death of her favorite aunt had somehow been forecast by the cold-as-marble figure in Mother's bed.
— *Wister, Okla.*

JULIE FELL IN

By Carren Strock

THE SUMMER of 1951 when I was eight years old we went to the Chain Lake Bungalow Colony outside Poughkeepsie, N.Y. We lived in New York City so my father and mother thought it was important that, for a few weeks every year, we stay someplace where there was grass, trees and a place to swim. This meant that Father had to stay in the city and we saw him only on weekends. But all of the other families at the Bungalow Colony lived under the same arrangements so that during the week the only man at the colony with all the women and children was the man who owned it.

One evening my mother Bobbe

Wagner had tucked my brother, my sister and me in for the night and was putting on her woolen sweater to join the other women on the porch for some conversation.

All of a sudden we heard screaming. "Help! Baby! Water! Help, help!"

Everyone, including us children, ran toward the sounds of the screams which were coming from the pool area. I'll never forget seeing my mother tear off her sweater and her slacks as she ran toward the pool. By the time we reached the pool everyone else was there too. Our bungalow was the farthest away. Ten or 12 women were milling around in the shallow end of the pool. Some others had jumped in at deeper spots. It was a very large pool. It was almost dark and the water, not very clear in daylight, looked black and uninviting.

My brother, sister and I stood with the other children. Twenty-five of us, of all ages and sizes, huddled together. Some were in pajamas, some were still dressed and others were in all stages of undress. Most of us were crying, upset by the screaming of the adults.

My mother, who was always very gentle, ran up to the group of children. She reached out and grabbed a little boy. He was crying like the rest. She shook him and then slapped him. When he stopped crying all she said was, "Where?"

He ran to the center rear of the pool and pointed. It was like watching a silent movie. Mother dived in and it seemed that she was gone for a long time. She is not a terrific swimmer. She came up and went right back down.

Someone must have called an ambu-

lance because we heard sirens and then Mother surfaced with a child in her arms. A doctor appeared and worked over the child right there. The doctor said that another minute would have made the difference between life and death.

Later that night as my brother, sister and I lay in bed we heard the women talking over coffee in our kitchen. They had learned that Michael, five years old, and Julie, four, had gone alone to the pool. The gate was unlocked. They went in and were reaching for water toys when Julie fell in. Michael ran and told another child what had happened. The other child ran to tell his mother. There was no way Mother could have known who was directly involved but out of 25 children she picked the only little boy who knew where Julie had gone into the water.

"How did you know?" the women persisted.

"I had a premonition," was Mother's only answer.

Years later when I brought up the subject again Mother's answer was still the same. — *East Amherst, N.Y.*

SORT OF A CHARACTER

By William C. Murphy

IN THE summer of 1941 I left my home in Jacksonville Beach, Fla., and went to Canada to join the Royal Canadian Air Force. While waiting for the results of my physical and processing, I went to Bath, Ontario, to visit my friends Mark and Marion Trumppour who had a summer home there.

During my visit they happened to mention a local World War I veteran named Freddie Cross. They called him



William C. Murphy

"sort of a character." He had been badly gassed during the war and now claimed to be clairvoyant; he "told fortunes."

I went to see Fred who lived with 30-odd cats in a rundown house. I was a little appalled at the condition and smell of his home and I admit I drank his tea with some trepidation. However, he told me many things that day that later proved true — for example, that I would become a navy pilot and would serve in Japan. He also mentioned the initials FAA as troublesome for me in the future. The Federal Aviation Administration wasn't even in existence then but I've had my share of problems with FAA since its inception.

However, what looms largest in my mind concerns what he said about my father's lost watch. My dad Howard Murphy had died New Year's Eve 1940 after being bedridden for many months. In getting his effects together we were unable to find his prized retirement watch.

Fred told me (I can quote him al-

most word for word), "There is something of value that belonged to your father who died recently. Go back to your home and look in the closet in the room where your father died. On the top shelf, stuck way back in the corner, you will find what you are looking for."

I didn't go home but I did write to my mother Matilda and today I still have the watch she found in the uppermost corner of the closet in the room where my father died. — *Middlebury, Vt.*

BOOKSTORE THAT WAS

By Shirley Lawrence

ACROSS the street from Paramount Studios' gate on Marathon Avenue in Hollywood stands a building that houses a corner restaurant and several stores used for offices. As often as I had walked past there while working for Paramount, I had never seen the bookstore I entered one day about 20 years ago.

Mysteriously drawn there I vividly remember walking down a few steps and ambling over to the bookcases where I saw the sign "Metaphysical Books." Not looking for anything in particular, I browsed awhile and then started to walk out.

"Are you looking for something?" the woman at the desk called out. "I think I have something in the back that you will like. Please wait just a minute."

She disappeared through a door behind her desk and soon returned with an old, thick, faded green book. Handing it to me she said, "I know you will like this book."

"Why, thank you," I responded.

"What do I owe you for it?"

"Nothing," she said, "for I want you to have it. I know *you* will appreciate it."

As I left I wondered how a complete stranger could know such a thing — but I could hardly wait to start that



Shirley Lawrence

mysterious book. It was *Ardath* (the story of a dead self) by Marie Corelli and it absolutely fascinated me. I determined to read every book I could find by that authoress.

The next time I worked at Paramount I looked forward to revisiting the bookstore and thanking the woman who had given me the book. But look as I might I could find no bookstore. There was none in that block!

I inquired of other businesses in the area but no one recalled a bookstore ever being there — but it could not have been my imagination, for I still have the book!

Since that time I have acquired nine more of Marie Corelli's books but never have I seen another copy of *Ardath* among used books.

Is there a twilight zone? If so, I was there. — *Canoga Park, Calif.*

GHOST DOG

By Mary E. Roberts

WHATEVER it was that frightened Pierre the French poodle that summer night in 1971 also frightened me. At first I was more puzzled than frightened, wondering if the twilight intruder could possibly be a huge dog.

During the afternoon we'd had a hard rain but with sundown the clouds cleared away and the sky showed blue. I took charge of the house and Pierre whenever my daughter Dorothea Winberg was away. This included seeing that Pierre was properly fed and was allowed plenty of exercise in the spacious rear yard.

The evenings of those late spring days were wonderful. I'd sit on the patio and watch twilight turn into darkness while Pierre roamed the yard to his heart's content. This particular evening twilight was deepening but no patio lights had been turned on. Finally Pierre settled down for a nap on the concrete walk; I felt comfortable and relaxed.

Then all of a sudden Pierre leaped to his feet. I must have seen it the instant he did. I expected him to be so angry he'd growl and bark but he didn't utter a sound; however, I knew he was alert for any movement the huge dog made, a dog fully the size of a Shetland pony.

I wondered what family in town owned such a dog and how he had managed to get over the tight high board fence. It was a dog, all right, not quite turned our way but watching us as we watched him.

Pierre moved close to me as if wanting to be a protection. I put my hand on his head and discovered he was

trembling violently. He was more than upset over the dog's appearance, he was frightened. I'd never seen him like this before. I decided to ease along toward the door and keep Pierre close to me. Once inside we would be safe from any attack by this strange-looking dog.

I didn't take my eyes off the strange intruder and now something happened that made my heart thump madly against my chest. I was looking right through the dog and could see the pool beyond! The huge animal had become grey and thin, like a huge paper cut-out, suspended between the patio and the pool. The next moment it was gone!

I hadn't seen it move. All I can say is: it was there and then it wasn't.

I didn't know what moment it would show up again so the house was still our protection. Pierre's teeth clamped down on the cane across my lap, pulled it close to my hand. He often did this when he thought we had been out long enough and should go indoors. I backed into the living room, my hand still on Pierre's collar. Not for an instant did I take my eyes away from the spot where the dog had been. I saw that every door was locked, drew the drapes and turned on the lights, including those outside at the front and rear. Why I felt safer after that I don't know. Any animal that could make itself paper thin and disappear could surely walk through a closed door.

I did not sleep well that night. I kept thinking I heard sounds and would get up to pull aside a drape to look out. The next morning right after breakfast I examined the gates and fence carefully. All along inside the fence the ground was bare of grass and still soft

from the hard rain. The only paw prints were Pierre's; none were larger. If that huge animal had been able to leap the fence there would be a smidgen of mud or a trace of dirt to prove it.

On my way to market I stopped and talked with the vet. He named several families who owned large dogs but I had seen them time and again. He listened to my story, shook his head and

smiled. I had rather expected he would.

I never saw the ghost dog again, although I was always on the alert for it. I never again sat outside in the twilight and I kept plenty of lights burning so I could see around the yard. The coming of darkness found me inside. Whatever it was, surely it was supernatural; I hope I'll never see it again or anything similar. — *Phoenix, Ariz.*



MY PROOF OF **SURVIVAL**

FATE will pay \$10.00 for each true experience published. Stories should be less than 300 words and typed double-spaced on one side of the paper. They may be sent to the TME Editor, FATE Magazine, 500 Hyacinth Pl., Highland Park, Ill. 60035. They must be signed by the author and address must be shown. Manuscripts will not be returned unless accompanied by stamped self-addressed envelope.

PARAKEET'S RETURN

By Wanda M. Smith

MY SISTER Virginia Neighbors and her family bought a chartreuse-colored parakeet in 1957 and named him Vicky. They all were gone most of every day and came to feel Vicky didn't get the care he should have and so two years later, in 1959, they gave him to our mother Martha Smith and me.

He was quite a pet already and became more so after he came to live with us.

I think it was in 1965 we moved into an apartment with an upstairs. Vicky had never known an upstairs but after we showed him around he often went upstairs to sit on a wooden clothes rack we kept up there. He would spend part of each day there playing and resting. Sometimes after he had been up there awhile we would call for him to come down. When he refused to come we would be very quiet for a time and then he'd soon come to see if we were still there.

The year before he died he took to

coming to me where I lay on the couch watching television and he would sit on my leg to play. At times it almost seemed he was watching TV. When he got tired of that he would come up and sit on my chest where he would rest and nap for almost an hour. This became a nightly habit. Each day when Mother and I started to cook our dinner, usually late in the afternoon, Vicky would fly up on our metal cabinet and start hollering for us to hurry; he loved to eat mashed potatoes whenever we had them.

Vicky died in June 1968 when he was about 11½ years old.

A couple of days after his death I was alone in the apartment and had gone to bed on the couch that night. At about 2:00 A.M. I heard a bird chirping. I tried to go back to sleep as I knew we no longer had a bird. But each time I started to doze off I'd hear this bird chirp louder. I knew then it had to be Vicky. I talked to him mentally but it was not until 5:45 A.M. that he left.

Another time Mother thought she saw his shadow dart past her chair.

I still hear him once in a while but not often and he doesn't stay long. — *Evansville, Ind.*

CLOCK STOPPED SHORT

By Jacqueline Roberts

“**C**’MON, Honey, let’s go buy your birthday present,” Mom said.

It was March 1973 and my mother Elma Zepnikowski was visiting me from Hampton, Va., where she lived with my stepfather. She had been treated for cancer a few months earlier and the disease seemed to be arrested. I had no reason at that time to believe



Jacqueline Roberts

that she would be dead in less than a year.

“I have been thinking about a clock for your living room. Is there any particular kind that you’d like?” she continued.

“I think I’d like a cuckoo clock,” I replied.

She bought one for me that day and we had a lot of fun waiting for the cuckoo to call the hours and the half hours. It must have been perfectly balanced when it was hung because it kept perfect time and never stopped except when it ran down.

The following January 1974 I got word that Mom was very ill. She died a few days later on Wednesday, January 23, 1974.

It was a sad time returning to our own home from the funeral which was on Saturday, January 26. Each time I looked at my little cuckoo clock it reminded me of the time Mom was with me and how special she had made my birthday.

Several days later, on Tuesday, I noticed the clock had stopped. I had wound it that morning and now it was

stopped at 3:35 P.M. I immediately realized this was the time of Mother's death. But thinking it was only a coincidence I started the pendulum swinging again. But the clock stopped again at the same hour on the following day. Again I started the pendulum. When it stopped at 3:35 P.M. on the third day for the third time I had to believe my mother was trying to let me know she lived on beyond death.

I said aloud, "I understand what you are trying to tell me, Mom. Thank you for letting me know."

I then restarted the clock and it has run perfectly ever since. — *Greenville, S.C.*

THE TUNNEL

By Lenore O. Mummy

MY EYES opened on what could have been an antechamber to hell. The shadowy gloom of the long rectangular room was accentuated rather than relieved by the dull glow from a few dim lights along its walls. The close air was troubled with sounds of labored breathing, some rasping, some soft and shallow as a sigh. The sounds drifted up from the motionless figures, shrouded to the chin in white sheets, who lay in four-sided beds like oversized cribs, along the walls of this room.

Only I was awake. Or so I thought until I glimpsed, in a far corner, a woman spotlighted in the round glow of a student lamp. She wore a nurse's uniform and was writing in a book propped on the table before her.

I remembered then that I was in Roosevelt Hospital in New York City and realized I must be in the intensive care unit. My second throat operation

in two days was over — a tracheotomy had been followed within a day by the semithyroidectomy to remove half my thyroid gland.

I felt thirsty. Lifting a hand to attract the nurse's attention, I opened my mouth to call her. No sound came! I had no voice! What I feared most had happened!

For months I'd put off having the tumor in my thyroid gland removed while I hunted for the best thoracic surgeon in New York. Finally, when in April 1958 I chose Dr. Daniel C. I asked him only one question: "Is there any danger to my voice?"

His "no" had been emphatic.

The operation had been a success. My voice was fine. The tumor was benign.

But the next day I woke up choking and gasping for air. A tracheotomy was hastily performed (a slit in the throat through the upper wall of the trachea or windpipe into which one end of a short tube is inserted to help the patient breathe).

Now waking up from that second operation, I discovered that this time my voice was gone. In such a night of the soul as I had never before experienced, I faced the fact that I didn't want to live so maimed. My hand dropped. My eyes closed.

I was in a tunnel, whether alone or not I couldn't tell. The blackness around me was impenetrable. The tunnel seemed to have neither beginning nor end. I wasn't conscious of moving but I must have been for suddenly, far ahead, the end of the tunnel came into view. Beyond it shone a light, a whiter more luminous light than any I had ever seen. I struggled to reach it.

Instead my eyes opened on a hospital room. Dr. C. was standing at one side of my bed, his associate surgeon at the other. Seeing my eyes open, Dr. C. leaned down and spoke urgently, "You're going to be all right. You'll be all right!"

I tried to answer but I had no voice. Again a wave of despair engulfed me. I shook my head and my lips formed the words I couldn't speak, "My voice? My voice?"

Reading the message he insisted, "You're going to be all right. Trust me. In a few days you will speak again."

And so I did.

In the more than 20 years which have passed since that night in intensive care I have never forgotten my strangely vivid experience in the tunnel. But I never spoke of it, not even to my nurse when a few days later she described the hectic activity around my bed that night after a container of blood suspended beside it to transfuse me suddenly crashed to the floor. I locked away the memory, telling myself I'd been asleep and the tunnel was a dream. But I never really believed that.

Then quite recently, in a dentist's waiting room, I picked up a magazine at random and found in it a report on a research project on people who had died briefly or believed they had. To my astonishment almost every one of them reported having been in a long black tunnel at the end of which shone the whitest, most luminous light they had ever seen.

Learning that other people, too, had experienced that tunnel unlocked the old memory and, for me at least, resolved it.



Lenore O. Mummy

I don't believe those people had died or that I did. I believe only that we stood on the dark threshold of death — and something bright and beautiful waited beyond it. — *Seminole, Fla.*

THE CHOICE

By Rajahia Newton

IN MY 15th year I was ill with pneumonia. For nine days I lay at death's door, much of the time in a coma, moaning because breathing was so painful. Our physician, Dr. Henry Sears, made daily visits to our farm outside Binghamton, N.Y., and assured my mother Betsey Davis that he had done everything he could.

One night, while my mother kept watch at my bedside, I was suddenly free of pain and fever. I found myself with my 13-year-old cousin Almon Heath who also had been very ill. Together we walked up a trail which ended at a wall with gates. We peered through the gates at the most beautiful place imaginable. Artistic buildings glistened in the sun, surrounded by trees and flowers, and crystal waters spouted from sparkling fountains.

A man wearing a flowing white robe appeared and opened the gates. He admitted my cousin but told me I must go back to my family. I watched sadly as they walked away.

The next day my fever had broken and the doctor said I would recover. Mother told him that she had feared I was gone the night before when for a time she had been unable to detect any breathing or to evoke a response from me. She said I had been murmuring Almon's name when I awoke.

When I was well enough to bear the news, I was told that my cousin had died January 1, 1921, the night I was so ill — the night we went together to the gates. — *Roy, Utah.*

THE PERFUME OF PAULINE

By Violet V. Moore

I RECEIVED a letter from my sister Pauline Thompson in April 1971 saying that she had to have surgery. During her yearly physical checkup, her doctor had discovered a malignancy. She came through the surgery okay — but the cancer had gone too far and in March 1972 she died.

From the time Pauline was in her teens she loved fine perfumes and always asked for these for birthdays and Christmas. When Prince Matchabelli's "Stradivari" came out she liked it so much that she never wanted or used



Violet V. Moore

anything else. She always had the aura of Stradivari around her.

On my birthday, April 15, a few weeks after her death I first had the dream that she came back to me. I was getting drowsy and had put down my book when the room was suddenly filled with Pauline's perfume. I had been thinking of her all day; it was the first time we had not been together on my birthday. I thought I must have imagined the perfume but when I went to sleep I had a vivid dream. Pauline and I were sitting together in my living room, talking about children and grandchildren and laughing about things that had happened in the past. Suddenly Pauline stood up and said, "I have to go now, dear, but I will be back." And she has come back every few months for the past nine years. Each time, before the dream starts, the room is filled with her perfume. — *San Jose, Calif.*



NEW NEWS OF NEPTUNE

ALTHOUGH the planet Neptune was not discovered until 1846, it apparently was first seen 234 years earlier by Italian astronomer Galileo, according to the National Science Foundation. The research of Charles T. Kowal, California Institute of Technology, and Stillman Drake, University of Toronto, indicates Galileo used his newly developed telescope to spot Neptune twice in 1612 and 1613. He recorded the target of his observations as a star, not a planet, however.

ESP GAMES

CALLING COLORS

With an ordinary deck of cards you can play a new parlor game and use it to whet your psychic abilities.

By Frederick R. Korf

THE RED-BLACK clairvoyance game can be played as solitaire or with two or more players. Each player keeps his own score and at the conclusion of the game, comparison with the table below will determine whether the score is significantly better than pure chance allows.

After shuffling a deck of ordinary playing cards, count out the top 20 cards and set aside the rest of the deck. This insures that any number of red or black cards may be among the 20. The guesser therefore need not feel he ought "logically" to balance out black and red guesses. It is ESP, not logic, which is being tested.

Each player has a list of numbers from one to 20 before him. One player, the "dealer," deals the first card face down in the center of the table. Each player, including the dealer, concentrates on receiving a clairvoyant image of "red" or "black" and pro-

ceeds to mark his choice alongside the first number on the list. (It is probably wise, although not essential, to avoid looking at your neighbor's list, because it cannot help you and it *can* disrupt your concentration.)

When each player has made his choice for the first card, the second one is dealt face down, responses are recorded and the game continues through the entire set of 20 cards.

Turn over the pile of cards and check each player's list for correct choices. Each player should keep a score sheet because the results of several games may demonstrate ESP even if no single game shows significant ESP. If a player has 15 or more correct responses on any one run of 20 cards he can be 95 percent sure that his performance is not due to luck.

Now reshuffle the entire deck and run through a different 20 cards one or more times, adding each player's cor-

rect responses to his earlier total.

The highest scorer wins, of course, but the real prize for clairvoyance

goes to the one who meets or exceeds the number of correct responses shown in this table:

Number of 20-card runs	Minimum number correct to be 95 percent confident that results are above chance
1	15
2	26
3	37
4	48
5	59
6	70
7	81
8	91
9	102
10	113

COUNTRY MUSIC STAR COUNTS ON PSYCHIC

By Jim Miles

COUNTRY music singer Razy Bailey has been patiently climbing the entertainment ladder for years and a large part of his success is due to Florida psychic June Maloney who can tell Bailey if a song will be a hit even before he records it.

In the past several years he has had seven top 10 country hits and Mrs. Maloney has made numerous correct predictions about his career. She told Bailey that he would find an agent in Dallas (he did), that he would write a No. 1 song (9,999,999 *Tears* sung by another performer), and that he would sign a contract with RCA Records and while his first record for that firm would not be a hit, the second would (all true).

Razy first contacted the psychic about four years ago at his mother's urging.

"I was skeptical," Bailey admitted. "She began telling me all about myself. She said I was a writer of some sort and told me all about my life. I said, 'If you know all this I better talk to you.'"

While Maloney's predictions are usually accurate, she is sometimes a little off on the timing.

"She'll say something will happen in the spring or fall," Bailey said. "It will happen but six months later than she said it would."

She also helped Razy become conscious of his own psychic ability.

"At times I've made mistakes when I had a gut feeling not to do something. She told me I get that feeling because I'm a little psychic myself. Since she told me that I won't do anything my gut feeling tells me not to. It's helped me. I guess everyone has these gut feelings but hers must be more developed."

Topping his recent string of hits was a 1980 nomination by the Academy of Country Music for "top new male vocalist."

"I want to go to the top," Bailey said. "I want to stay in music and be as big as Kenny Rogers. I want to be No. 1 while he's No. 2."

Can his psychic help him attain that goal?

STARBABY



They call themselves the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal. In fact, they are a group of would-be debunkers who bungled their major investigation, falsified the results, covered up their errors and gave the boot to a colleague who threatened to tell the truth.

By Dennis Rawlins

EVER SINCE it came into being the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal (CSICOP) has proudly proclaimed itself the scourge of the "new nonsense": astrology, ESP, UFOs and other phenomena of which it does not approve. Its pronouncements on these and other subjects have received widespread attention and uncritical acceptance in the news media.

Critics such as FATE, professional parapsychologists and moderate skeptics like former CSICOP cochairman Prof. Marcello Truzzi, sociologist at Eastern Michigan University, have questioned the Committee's commitment to objective, scientific investigation of paranormal claims and have accused some CSICOP spokesmen of misrepresenting issues and evidence. But such dissenting views were little noticed by media writers eager to headline sensational — although frequently unsupported — debunking claims.

The story that follows, written by a man who is himself skeptical of the paranormal, confirms what critics of CSICOP have long suspected: that the organization is committed to perpetuating a position, not to determining the truth. — The Editors.

I USED to believe it was simply a figment of the *National Enquirer's* weekly imagination that the Science Establishment would cover up evidence for the occult. But that was in the era B.C. — Before the Committee. I refer to the "Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal" (CSICOP), of which I am a cofounder and on whose ruling Executive Council (generally called the Council) I served for some years.

I am still skeptical of the occult beliefs CSICOP was created to debunk. But I have changed my mind about the integrity of some of those who make a career of opposing occultism.

I now believe that if a flying saucer landed in the backyard of a leading anti-UFO spokesman, he *might* hide the incident from the public (for the public's own good, of course). He might swiftly convince himself that the landing was a hoax, a delusion or an "unfortunate" interpretation of mundane phenomena that could be explained away with "further research."

The irony of all this particularly distresses me since both in print and before a national television audience I have stated that the conspiratorial mentality of believers in occultism presents a real political danger in a voting democracy. Now I find that the very group I helped found has partially justified this mentality.

* * *

C SICOP originated with the statement "Objections to Astrology," published in the September-October 1975 issue of *The Humanist*. "Objections" was signed by 186 scientists, including 18 Nobel prizewinners, who were justly upset at the growing newspaper exploitation of a public that wasn't being informed that astronomy and astrology aren't the same thing. "Objections" and its child CSICOP were both the creation of *The Humanist's* then-editor Paul Kurtz* and received widespread national publicity.

*CSICOP began as an offshoot of the American Humanist Association. In 1978, after a year of not telling AHA anything of the ongoing legal proceedings, CSICOP separately incorporated.

Unfortunately the statement was published (both in *The Humanist* and by Kurtz's own private publishing house Prometheus Books) in conjunction with a largely valuable article which included a misconceived attack (by Lawrence Jerome) upon the claims of the prominent French neoastrologers Michel and Francoise Gauquelin. Almost none of the signers read Jerome's analysis before publication.

Concerned that such an attack could cause trouble for the rationalist movement, I contacted Kurtz for the first time by phone on November 3, 1975.

futing Gauquelin — in about two weeks — to beat a deadline for the January-February 1976 issue of *The Humanist*. This is not, it need hardly be said, the way of well-researched scholarship.

All that fall of 1975 Kurtz was mailing Jerome, me and UCLA astronomer Prof. George Abell reams of articles relating to Gauquelin, including the lengthy March 1975 report and alibis of the Belgian Comite Para which some years earlier, to its surprise, had confirmed the approximate success-rate Gauquelin had predicted in his

Br'er Kurtz, he could just hardly wait to sock that TARBABY...

He admitted privately that I was just one of a number of scientists who had called him about this article immediately after *The Humanist* published it. But the "Objections" statement was rushed into print intact, along with the uncorrected article, by Prometheus.

The embarrassment was compounded when Michel Gauquelin proved to be a more skilled statistician than his critic — and intimated possible legal action. Kurtz, under some pressure from within the AHA for his antiparanormal effort, realized he had a problem. Publicly he admitted no error but privately was frantic to attack Gauquelin in print. Uncle Remus might say, *Br'er Kurtz, he could just hardly wait to sock that TARBABY a second time to force him to release the stuck first fist.*

During that first phone conversation Kurtz urged me to write an article re-

strongest alleged neoastrological correlation, now generally called the "Mars Effect": Gauquelin's results showed that 22 percent of European sports champions are born with Mars rising (Sector 1) or transiting (Sector 4), to express it roughly. Since Gauquelin divides the sky into 12 sectors, the purely chance probability of Mars' being in a prespecified pair of sectors is about 2/12 or 17 percent, well below the observed rate of 22 percent. For the 2088 sports champions in Gauquelin's sample, such a difference is statistically very significant (because of the largeness of the sample); the odds are millions-to-one against its having occurred by chance.

I did what I could with the material at hand. Even while continuing to analyze this strange problem, I sent Kurtz a paper which he relayed to others interested in the case, among them Je-

rome, Abell and Marvin Zelen (then director of the Statistical Laboratory of the State University of New York at Buffalo, but soon to move on to Harvard University). The paper, while suggesting that there might be a natural explanation for the Mars Effect, explicitly noted that *if the European sampling was unreliable* no amount of analysis (based on this sample) could be certain to detect that.

Thus, since a fresh sample and analysis of it would be an enormous labor, my paper recommended that any new test offered Gauquelin be both (a) extremely clear-cut in its predicted result and (b) free from the complexities and subtle bias-problems of sampling and of the astronomical/demographical influences that affected the expected ("chance") level (to which experimental observed data, once collected, would be compared). I suggested a possible experiment that would satisfy these conditions: Could Gauquelin use the position of Mars in competing athletes' horoscopes to beat the posted odds on sporting events?

At this time we all wondered, like other scientists on first acquaintance with the Mars Effect, if there was a possible "natural" (nonoccult) explanation. As seen from Earth, Mars appears near the sun more often than not. And birth rates are higher at dawn, when the sun enters Sector 1, so one would expect all births (not just sports champions) to be slightly more frequent when Mars is in Sector 1. For convenience I will call this astronomical/demographical intrusion (or "influence") the "Mars/dawn" factor. We will return to this since the Keystone CSICOPs' inability to compute this

factor (until years after it was too late) was to prove their undoing.

My manuscript (which gently corrected the "Objections"-affiliated false attack on Gauquelin) was not published in January-February *Humanist* on the grounds that it had arrived too late for the deadline — although it had been written in less than two weeks. Instead Kurtz published two other papers in that *Humanist* issue: one by Abell, on astrology in general and Gauquelin in particular, which based its discussion of the gravitational effects of Mars on us upon a common popular-science misconception, causing an error by a factor of a few million. The other, by Zelen, was "A Challenge" to Gauquelin.

The Challenge was a classic *control* experiment: isolate the sports ability variable by comparing the Mars horoscopic positions of the champions Gauquelin had already collected vs. the Mars horoscopic positions of all other persons (*nonsports* champions), the "control" group, born about the same time and place as the champions. If the control group exhibits the same hit-rate (a "hit": being born when Mars resides in celestial Sector 1 or 4) as the champions, 22 percent, then clearly sports ability has nothing to do with the Mars Effect, which is thus revealed as merely a by-product of purely natural influences. This is what the top CSICOPs expected to happen.

If the nonchampions' hit-rate turns out to be what Gauquelin had said is correct for ordinary people, namely 17 percent, then the control experiment has come out in Gauquelin's favor, since sports ability is isolated as the link to the five-percent difference.

The Challenge concluded (emphasis added): "We now have an objective way for *unambiguous corroboration or disconfirmation*. . . . [Thus we may] settle this question" — statements leaving no doubt at all that if Gauquelin met this test he would achieve confirmation of his claims.

I was appalled at the potential disaster that awaited if Zelen's presumptions (that the European sample was unbiased and that the cause of the Mars Effect was a natural influence) were wrong. As I checked further into Gauquelin's output, I became convinced there were serious problems in these presumptions. Kurtz said I should speak with Abell whom I did not know personally. When I reached him by phone on December 6, I said I was worried about the Challenge.

Abell snapped, "Oh-what's-wrong-with-it?" as if uttering one word. I explained politely that the Challenge depended entirely upon the validity of the European sampling. Abell said he was sure that Gauquelin was honest and the Mars Effect was just a natural influence in the data. I agreed that it had looked that way at first to me too but that recent, still-proceeding attempts to verify the Mars/dawn factor's actual effect left me in skeptical suspension of judgment and thus in fear of possible trouble. Why gamble the outcome of a crucial experiment upon such an uncertain factor?

But to Abell that just wasn't worth bothering about. He was more interested in who I was. Had he ever heard of me? Had we met at conferences?

I mentioned a few papers I'd published in top journals. In addition I pointed out a couple of errors in his



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He holds degrees in physics from Harvard University (B.A.) and Boston University (M.A.). His researches have been published in *Nature*, *Astronomical Journal*, *American Journal of Physics*, *U.S. Naval Institute Proceedings* and other leading publications in the fields of astronomy, geophysics, geography and history of science. He is the author of *Peary at the North Pole: Fact or Fiction?* (1973) and was the first to release to the public news of a major ESP scandal (in 1974) at the laboratory of the late J.B. Rhine. Rawlins, 44, and his wife Barbara live in San Diego, Calif.

upcoming paper (such as the gravitational effect of Mars previously referred to) and I urged that these be corrected before the issue went to

press. He said they didn't matter; he'd rather leave them as they were.

Since Abell and Kurtz wanted to check Gauquelin's calculations, I offered to help since I had recently prepared an efficient computer program that would calculate all planets' positions to one arcminute accuracy, a program that could be adapted to the Gauquelin project. Abell said fine, just send it along. He spoke as if he were doing me a favor.

Declining his generosity, I repeated my offer to do the work if it would help. He replied that it probably would be "easy" to compile such a program; after all, the astrological outfits now had computer horoscopes. So I suggested he try those routes. In case he wished to construct his own program, I imparted a few elegant mathematical shortcuts to assist him. I mention this because anyone who understood the necessary science would have quickly realized that I was an experienced specialist in this area.

Nonetheless Abell subsequently told Kurtz and other CSICOPs that I was an "amateur" and he continued to say so until October 1978. This was a major factor in CSICOP's decision to ignore me, the only planetary-motion specialist ever involved in the Gauquelin project (which was, of course, a planetary-motion problem). At this point of no return, Kurtz depended upon Abell's astronomical advice in his decisions on the Gauquelin investigation. It was to take them two years (and help) to perform the calculations Abell had called "easy."

* * *

I CONTINUED to examine the details of Gauquelin's claims and on

January 23, 1976, completed a mathematical analysis showing clearly that the "natural" Mars/dawn factor (a) couldn't come anywhere near explaining the Mars Effect and (b) had been *already included by Gauquelin* in his reports' expected-frequency values. Although Gauquelin's method was different from mine, our results were so similar that it was clear he had done this part of his experiments correctly.

The Mars/dawn factor was the only possible "natural" influence (although Zelen and Abell didn't seem to realize it) that could have lifted the nonchampions' hit-rate from 17 to 22 percent.

I communicated this to Kurtz immediately and forcefully. Getting no response, I phoned Zelen on March 8 and made an utterly fruitless appeal. By this time the Challenge had been published. And more support for it was in press, to appear (over my strenuous objections) in March-April 1976 *Humanist* (page 53).

The forces of antioccultism met in Buffalo, N.Y., on April 30 and May 1, 1976, to found CSICOP. I gave one of the Founders' Day speeches. It contained enough good press copy and one-liners to get me selected for the nine-man ruling Council of CSICOP.

Founders' Day was above all a media event. Reporters were wooed and catered to. I certainly had no objection to that, having had largely pleasant encounters with the media. But I was naive about the one overriding reality: a Committee that lives by the media will inevitably be ruled by its publicists, not by its scholars.

Once CSICOP was under way, I found myself not only on the ruling Council but also on the editorial

board. Although most of the Fellows sought, like me, to battle pseudoscientific bunk, they disagreed about the means. Except for the agreement to start a magazine (*Zetetic*, later *Skeptical Inquirer*) there was little cohesion on public policy, a vacuum that was filled (if not in fact caused) by tacit cohesion on Private Priority Number One for active CSICOP Fellows: maximum personal press coverage.*

Neither I nor most other Councilors were to be reinvolved in the Gauquelin affair for some time, since Kurtz was handling it in *The Humanist*, which he still edited.

I referred to Gauquelin's results in a paper for *Humanist* publication sent to Kurtz on June 5, 1976, a paper soon thereafter sent to Marcello Truzzi and eventually published in *Skeptical Inquirer* (Fall-Winter 1977). It attacked Gauquelin's Mars Effect on various grounds, pointedly excluding the Mars/dawn factor on which Kurtz, Zelen and Abell (hereafter to be called KZA) were gambling CSICOP's reputation.

The September-October 1976 issue of *Humanist* published a paper by Abell and son, with commentary (formally coauthorship) by the Gauquelins. I did not see it until much later. Kurtz was no longer sending galley proofs or confiding to me the details of his increasing obsession with his neoastrological sTARBABY.

The paper had a number of important features. For one thing, Abell affirmed Zelen's "unambiguous corroboration or disconfirmation" statement. As Abell put it, it "appears to be a

definitive test." He went on, "The [control] test will be refereed by a disinterested and competent committee of scientists, and we hope that the results will be available in about six months." In fact, the test was *never* neutrally refereed — and the time estimate was equally ironic.

Reading Abell's article, I was struck, first, with the realization that every calculation was simple arithmetic. His computer analysis relied on an almanac provided by the U.S. Naval Observatory which listed Mars' celestial longitudes at a fixed interval. In-

***Investigators who live
by the media are ruled by
publicists, not by scholars.***

stead of using spherical trigonometry to convert Mars' positions to equatorial coordinates (as the Gauquelin experiment required), Abell stuck with the ecliptical coordinates of the USNO program.

Since Abell had indicated in December 1975 that he intended to verify computationally Gauquelin's original calculations, I was amazed to read now, nearly a year later, that "*we have not duplicated or checked the Gauquelins' original calculations*" (my emphasis). How the devil could this be, when Abell had in hand (and was using in his simple-arithmetic analysis) a Mars almanac and all the birth data for the 2000-plus sports champions of Gauquelin's famous original Mars Effect study?

Incredibly, it appeared that over all the intervening months, Abell, the CSICOP Gauquelin-test subcommit-

*Bob Sheaffer, Kendrick Frazier and Martin Gardner never showed a passion for the limelight.

tee's sole astronomer, had not performed the elementary calculations of the astrologer he was taking on! Abell drove Kurtz crazy with stalls, mostly variations on not "having time" to do the work. Yet he found time to do all 2000-plus calculations — the wrong way — for the paper we've just been analyzing!

* * *

WHEN 1977 opened, it had been the better part of a year since I had had any contact with the Gauquelin matter. But *Skeptical Inquirer* (then *Zetetic*) editor Truzzi asked me to referee an antiastrology paper. I found to my astonishment that the paper was promoting the *Humanist* and *Comite Para* theory (which heretofore had not disgraced *Skeptical Inquirer* and CSICOP directly) that Gauquelin's results could be explained away by the Mars/dawn demographical influences.

Incredulous that my 1975-76 warnings were still being ignored, I sent out on March 29, 1977, a full mathematical explanation of the Mars/dawn problem — to no avail. The unkillable Mars/dawn misconception appeared intact on page 50 of Spring-Summer 1977 *Skeptical Inquirer*.

But Truzzi did not ignore the memo's implications. He phoned to ask if I would object to his sending the memo to Gauquelin to show him that not everyone on CSICOP disagreed with him. I told Truzzi to go ahead.

That summer Kurtz phone me in an agitated state. Gauquelin had shown him the memo (apparently in early July). Then in August Gauquelin attempted to quote the memo in an upcoming *Humanist* paper. Feeling that this would be mistaken as support

from me for Gauquelin, I wrote Kurtz to ask that he publish a very short paper (dated September 17, 1977), pointing out that (a) the Mars/dawn effect (KZA's only "out," their sole semiplausible hope of justifying the Control Test) could not explain away Gauquelin's results; (b) there was in fact no "natural" explanation of the Mars Effect; (c) I believed that the sampling of sports champions was amiss; and (d) I didn't believe Gauquelin's claims merited serious investigation yet.

Angry that I had let the Mars/dawn memo get into Gauquelin's hands in the first place, Kurtz urged that I ask Gauquelin not to make public use of it. He then used the memo's privacy (pretending this was my idea!) as a basis for deleting Gauquelin's comments on the memo — and scratching my proposed September 17 paper altogether!*

I did not yet understand Kurtz's anxiety over heading off my public dissent. He neglected to inform me that in press at this very time was the upcoming KZA report on the Control Test (nonchampions) results. This report flew right in the face of the truth revealed in the very memo I'd agreed to keep private only because I believed KZA would pay attention to it.

The KZA Control Test report appeared in November-December 1977 *Humanist*. It marked the beginning of the end of CSICOP's credibility — be-

*I had not begun keeping count of the number of Gauquelin-related papers of mine Kurtz had rejected. In retrospect it is obvious that his reason was that all of them dissented from the KZA party line on Gauquelin. The only paper of mine Kurtz published was also the only one that did not discuss Gauquelin; it was on ESP (July-August 1976 *Humanist*); thus in Kurtz's *Humanist* this astronomer was allowed to discuss matters psychological — but not astronomical!

cause it was at this point that the handling of the Gauquelin problem was transformed from mere bungling to deliberate cover-up.

and so were forced to propose the fresh-sample American test in a July 1977 meeting with Gauquelin. By autumn the birth-record data were com-

The report marked the beginning of the end of CSICOP's credibility.

Before publication the KZA Control Test report was shown to the only other member of the Gauquelin subcommittee, Prof. Elizabeth Scott of the statistics department of the University of California at Berkeley, who was so upset ("I feel that the [paper's] discussion may be misleading") that she telephoned each one of the KZA trio (as I had done two years earlier). They ignored her.

Back in December 1975 Abell had expressed an interest in checking Gauquelin's celestial-sector positions but had not done this even for his September-October 1976 *Humanist* article. Now the new report (November-December 1977 *Humanist*, page 29) stated (emphasis added): "The committee . . . has not . . . yet [!] checked all [any?] of the [Gauquelin's celestial] computations. Prof. Owen Gingerich (astronomer at Harvard) is in the process of reviewing the calculations concerning the position of Mars . . ." In addition: "The committee has agreed to make an independent test of the alleged Mars Effect by a study of sports champions born in the United States. This test is now under way."

As the data started to come in, KZA realized they were in deep trouble on the Control Test (based on European data entirely computed by Gauquelin)

ing in for the American test. Now it was not a matter of just using Gauquelin's celestial calculations; CSICOP must compute positions not previously done — and no report could be issued until this was accomplished.

Kurtz started receiving the American birth data as early as September. Stung by his private knowledge that he'd lost the Control Test (as he confessed aloud at least once), he was frantic to get on with the diversion of retesting (using the American sample) as quickly as possible.

By October 20 Kurtz, who was getting nothing from Abell and Gingerich, phoned and asked me, betraying not the faintest sense of irony, if I could do the work. He was so relieved at my consent that he instantly added me to the subcommittee on Gauquelin (presumably to replace Elizabeth Scott, now a nonperson). A CSICOP check for \$100 accompanied the first installment of 72 athletes' birth data.

Kurtz told me that this time he wanted an advance look at the results, to see what was going to happen. He stressed that his sneak peek was to be strictly confidential. In all innocence I probably broke security first thing by phoning Abell in Los Angeles on October 22 to ask where in San Diego I could gain access to a computer. (I'd

only just moved to California.)

Abell protested that he was doing the work with Gingerich, and what the devil was Kurtz in such a rush for anyway? Although I agreed that Kurtz was pushing, I remarked he'd waited two years and one might forgive some impatience. Abell tried to talk me out of getting involved but I stressed that this was entirely Kurtz's idea, not mine. He and Gingerich were free to compute these or any other data but Kurtz was hot to get a look at the way things were going to come out.

Abell gave me the name of John Schopp of the astronomy department of San Diego State University (SDSU) who'd helped Abell with a textbook he'd written. So on October 27, two days after the birth data arrived, I drove out to SDSU and met John and his colleague Fred Talbert. Fred got me hooked up that evening. I fed the problem into the computer, ran off the 72 positions and mailed a printout to Kurtz on the way home.

It's revealing that a lone "amateur" could perform at one sitting a project that the combined CSICOP forces of UCLA, Harvard and SUNYAB didn't get anywhere with for years, despite their access to a highly accurate U.S. Naval Observatory planetary-position program.

In succeeding weeks Kurtz mailed me further birth data as well as unsolicited cash. At one point (after 120 names) I told him by phone (he preferred hearing the accumulated score instantly, without waiting the few days the mail took) that the key-sector score was now at 22 percent. He groaned. I emphasized that the sample size was too small for the result to be

statistically meaningful. He drew no comfort from this remark. I asked if he were *sure* that this was a clean sample. He was, so I assured him that the score was bound to revert to roughly 17 percent as the sample got larger — unless astrological claims were true, which I certainly didn't believe.

Nonetheless he continued speaking in a pained voice, as someone cursed with a demon that would not go away.

Meanwhile KZA's November-December 1977 *Humanist* Control Test report appeared. No one then on CSICOP's Council (other than Kurtz) had seen it before publication.* Yet it committed CSICOP to a cover-up course which ultimately sucked the whole Council into sTARBABY's goo, as one's willingness to go along with the cover-up (to protect The Cause) became a test of loyalty.

In the report KZA tried to obscure the clear success Gauquelin had scored. The Control Test had entailed analyzing 16,756 nonchampions born near (in time and space) 303 champions (a subsample of the original 2088 champions). KZA had believed that they too would score at 22 percent in key sectors (1 and 4) thus establishing that the champions' 22 percent hit-rate was "natural."

Instead the nonchampions scored at exactly the chance-level (17 percent) that Gauquelin and I had predicted from our Mars/dawn-corrected expectation-curve analysis.

Faced with this disaster KZA pulled a bait-and-switch. (Thus the report will be hereafter called the BS report.)

*I don't even know how many Councilors saw it after publication until questions were raised about its honesty. For example, although I was on the *Humanist* mailing list, no copy came to my address.

Suddenly converting their *nonchampions* test into a *champions* test, they attacked the subsample of 303 champions! The subsample had of course been chosen simply as a means *en route* to testing the point KZA had proposed the Control Test Challenge for in the first place, namely, was chance level 17 percent or 22 percent?

Since the 303 had scored at 22 percent (like the full 2088) the only ploy left was to protest that *this* 22 percent (of the 303) was not *strongly* statistically significant (not as strong as for 2088). Now, anyone familiar with statistics knows that no sample of 303 cases *can* produce strongly significant results if one is trying to measure 22 percent versus 17 percent rates. But you don't have to know statistics to realize that the attack on the 303-champion subsample's nonstrength could have been done *before* the 16,756 nonchampions were collected and calculated — at enormous cost in time and labor to Gauquelin (all 303 champion birth data had been calculated and published years ago).

To sum up: the whole purpose of the Control Test — of collecting nearly 17,000 nonchampions (the control group) — had been to test whether Gauquelin's champions' 22-percent hit-rate was just a "natural" (nonastrological) function of the time and place of birth. Had the nonchampions control group shown at the 22-percent rate also, the "natural" hypothesis would have been confirmed and Gauquelin's neoastrology would have been disconfirmed.

However, the opposite occurred. The nonchampions' rate turned out to be 17 percent, establishing the cham-

pions' 22-percent rate as a real, *highly* significant above-chance result.

I first read the Control Test report in March 1978 after seeing a letter in the March-April issue of *Humanist* from Lawrence Jerome who "congratulated" CSICOP for confirming his erroneous 1975 analysis!

Incredibly, Jerome was claiming confirmation, by the Zelen-Abell test, of his (and their) belief that astronomical/demographical biases explained Gauquelin's 22-percent rate. "The [Control] test proved no such thing," I

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wrote Kurtz. "To the contrary, [Zelen and Abell] *confirmed* Gauquelin's expectation values . . . showing that there was indeed about a 17-percent probability for being in sectors 1 and 4 for nonchampions. . . . If I believed the European sample was clean (which I don't), I would count the [Control] test as a major proof in support of Gauquelin."

Years later I learned that Abell (as well as Kurtz) had known the awful truth all along. In 1980 I obtained a copy of the smokiest Smoking Gun in this case, a letter written by Abell to Kurtz on April 29, 1977, privately telling him what I've explained here in preceding paragraphs — the same thing I'd often explained to KZA.

The Smoking Letter answers the same key question that hung over the Watergate conspirators: *When* did

they know? The answer is astonishing: *over half a year before the cover-up Control Test report was published.*

The letter admits that "in a sense" Gauquelin's calculation of a 17-percent chance-level had been "vindicated." Abell says the very test CSICOP had urged Gauquelin to carry out had shown his findings to be "significant." He also says that the 22 percent applied to *both* the 303 subsample champions and the full 2088.

The Smoking Letter to Kurtz reveals that KZA knew they were in trouble. But as Abell learned pronto, Kurtz wasn't about to publish any letter that admitted Gauquelin had won the Control Test. He was going to pretend that nothing had gone wrong.

Abell cosigned the BS report. Despite later claims that he didn't know what he was signing, Abell has never broken publicly with this report's united front.

Early in April I wrote KZA again, exhibiting in tabular form further difficulties with their report. KZA had suggested that the subsample of 303 champions showed geographical variations. This move had broken the subsample into *subsubsamples*! (The smaller a group, the weaker its ability to prove anything statistically.)

My April 6 letter's tables simply showed that none of the deviations (of, say, Paris' hit-rate vs. Belgium's) were statistically significant.*

Again, Br'er Kurtz, he lay low: still no written reply.

In mid-April Kurtz visited California and we saw quite a bit of each other. He couldn't stop talking about the Gauquelin business. In the middle of conversations on other matters he would grow silent and go back to discussing some possible "out."

During this visit and subsequent phone conversations Kurtz tried out various schemes for getting off the hook. My favorite was the notion that Gauquelin fudged the *nonchampions* to force the score down to 17 percent.*

Hilarious. First, if fraud or bias was involved, it would be lots easier to work it on the smaller original champions sample. Second, it was ridiculous to suspect fraud simply because the nonchampions came out at the very level chance would predict!

This is "scientific investigation," which CSICOP claims as its middle name?

* * *

INCREDIBLY, despite all, I remained largely unsuspecting — indeed I was downright enthusiastic — about CSICOP as a whole.

Late that spring of 1978 I was back East visiting my family. Simultaneously Kurtz was in a tizzy because the last American data in the Gauquelin test had come in and he was as frantically impatient as ever to get them computed — even waking my family one night and then, after finding I wasn't in, hanging up so abruptly that I found a note by the telephone the next morning asking me who this "Curts" was.

Since I was about to fly to Europe (and my files were back in San Diego)

*The following May I was startled to see an identical attack by Eric Tarkington in *Phenomena*. When I phoned Kurtz in shock at the embarrassment of having correct analyses published in that proastrology journal while CSICOP was publishing crap, his reply was, "Nobody reads [*Phenomena*]."

*KZA publicly: "Nowhere did we wish to suggest that Gauquelin 'cheated' and we regret any such implication" (*Skeptical Inquirer*, Summer 1980, page 67).

I suggested Kurtz get Abell, Gingerich or Jerome to try to do the work. But Kurtz kept pleading.

So I postponed my European trip.

I bothered the Loyola College computer people for a computer number and time. Next I hired trusted friend Mary Kidd to determine time zones (for the whole American test to date). Since she was sympathetic to astrology (and was not told that Gauquelin was involved), this would eliminate possible bias on my part. Needless to say, this is the sort of precaution that should have been applied (much more rigorously) at the sampling stage.

Mary interrupted her affairs to rush the zone-determinations work and get it back to me. I went right to the computer and stayed up all night typing in the program and the data. The next morning, June 8, all 325 athletes' sector-positions were computed, tabulated and dropped in the mail to Kurtz.

No sooner was this task finished and the American test supposedly completed than Kurtz phoned me up and said oops, we accidentally missed a lot of names — they'll be sent right away to the states' birth-record offices and we'll get the birth data back late this summer.

So the whole push-and-shove aggravation of all those helpful people had been as needless as the original Control Test Challenge.

I returned to San Diego some weeks later. The last 82 names came in at summer's end.

I ran off the final data at SDSU. The cumulative score was not 22 percent or 17 percent but only 13½ percent — strongly anti-Gauquelin. On September 18 I sent Kurtz a table of the totals

for all 407 American athletes along with a brief report on the results which included gentle corrections of the various past errors published by CSICOP Fellows throughout this affair.

Since I had performed all the science of the American experiment that had reversed the earlier (Control Test) Gauquelin victory over CSICOP (lifting a three-year curse from Kurtz's shoulders), I innocently thought that Kurtz could hardly refuse again to publish my dissent. In a covering note I made it clear that this time I would insist. The moment Kurtz read this, I was a dead CSICOP in his royal eyes.

When the report arrived on September 20, Kurtz phoned to gush about how much he liked it, adding, however, that Zelen and Abell might not

***Br'er Kurtz, he lay low.
Still no written reply.***

agree. Then he casually asked if I could send along the readout of individual positions too. He spoke of the upcoming Council meeting and press conference (to be held in Washington, D.C., on December 6, 1978) and assured me my travel fare would be paid.

The very next day, without even waiting for the data to arrive, Kurtz wrote Abell to suggest that KZA confer and prepare the test report for publication (excluding me). He did this, I remind the reader, less than 24 hours after assuring me he was eager to publish my September 18 report.

Kurtz's letter also called on Zelen and Abell — the very men whose long

immobility on the Gauquelin project had led to my being asked to do the computation — to verify the work! Kurtz enclosed for Abell the readouts of the first 325 celestial-sector positions without saying anything to me about it, since I had emphasized that providing answers is the worst way to get independent checks of them.

It was obvious from his September 21 letter that Kurtz's promise, made the day before, to publish my report was being rethought.

Sure enough, once the calculations for the last 82 athletes had reached him, Kurtz phoned me and made two things clear:

(1) He wasn't so sure that *The Humanist* was the right place after all for my report. He mentioned *Skeptical Inquirer*. (Later he welched even there.)

(2) He didn't think he could pay my way to the meeting in Washington.

With Kurtz's letter Abell received my answers for 325 of the American athletes. Ten days later Abell still had not reproduced them. With Kurtz frantically pushing for verification, Abell was feeling the pressure. On October 5 he called to rage at me for over an hour. I call it the Jaws phone call.

Abell started it by complaining that KZA hadn't had the time to compute the 407 data, adding that I had. He asked me to describe my method to him allegedly because he was supposed to check my work. Since he now had all the answers from Kurtz, there was no longer any good scientific reason not to. So I did — especially after finding that Abell still had a misconceived idea of how to perform the sector calculations.

Abell asked me to send a copy of my

computer-program so that he could verify it. I responded that obviously it would be simpler just to check a few of the answers he now possessed via hand-calculation out of the *American Ephemeris & Nautical Almanac*.

Nevertheless Abell persisted, eventually justifying himself by saying he wanted to check out all the ordmag 1000 lines of the program to insure its accuracy! At any rate, I refused to give the program to anyone talking such transparent nonsense.

Abell couldn't believe that my calculations were correct because the score had come out at 13½ percent instead of 22 percent. He wondered if I had tampered with the sample. I replied the sample came from Kurtz.

By choice I had had nothing to do with gathering the sample. Obviously neither had Abell. Nonetheless Kurtz insisted that Abell coauthor the lengthy published *Skeptical Inquirer* report. Unfortunately "coauthorship" in a Kurtz publication need not require that you cowrite "your" paper — or even read it before publication. Your name gets tacked on to add prestige — and you get to read all about it when it's published!

Abell asked countless questions about my academic training. Obviously unaware that my papers on planetary motion had been published in eminent astronomical journals here and abroad, he demanded, "How do I know you're not just a bullshitter?"

On October 6, the day after the Jaws call, Abell phoned San Diego State University to verify his suspicion that someone besides the "amateur" had actually done the Gauquelin experiment computations. He visited SDSU

on the 11th, questioning at least two more scholars, who told him I had seemed quite competent when I delivered a recent lecture to an astronomy department symposium.

Between September 20 and late October I spoke fairly regularly with Kurtz regarding the Gauquelin problem and the upcoming December 6 Washington press conference. His pri-

***Kurtz's private intentions
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Soon enough it became apparent that not only was Abell being invited to the press conference, he was to be the CSICOP spokesman on astrology in Washington — this despite Kurtz's open admission in our conversations over the previous months that there had been a screw-up in the UCLA and Harvard experts' calculations. But now suddenly he began disremembering he'd ever said that!

I had now to face the fact that Kurtz was trying to suppress my dissenting report and (by not paying my travel fare) keep me from the December Council meeting, while inviting to Washington as a prominent CSICOP authority the very person whose appointed task *I had myself performed*.

I phoned Kurtz on October 23 in one final attempt to impress upon him the fact that he was locking CSICOP into an investigation that would curse the Committee to its dying day. It was

the only time I ever raised my voice in any CSICOP dealings.

I hammered at Kurtz that the Control Test project he had led us into had been irretrievably lost and it was discreditable to pretend otherwise. Even if Gauquelin *had* faked the control (nonchampions) sample (which I don't believe for a moment he did), such a point cannot be raised post hoc — because CSICOP should have had the foresight to keep the sample-taking from getting into Gauquelin's interested hands in the first place, especially since prior to the challenge I had warned KZA not to trust Gauquelin's sampling. What use is it to run tests if the side whose hypothesis loses can just scream "fake" as it pleases?

Kurtz seemed uncharacteristically subdued. Finally, when I pointed out that he was backing down on his promise to publish my report in the *Humanist*, he said he couldn't publish it there now for the simple reason that a day or so earlier he'd been fired as *Humanist* editor after 11 years at the post.

Concurrently a subplot was developing. On October 15 Councilor James Randi phoned and I mentioned some of my problems with KZA. On the 18th, when Randi phoned again, I remarked how odd it was that I had no written record (despite requests for such made over many months). Would Randi speak with Kurtz and get some firm answers? The next day Randi wrote a trial letter to Kurtz and sent me a checking copy before mailing it.

In the letter Randi agreed I was right in arguing that the Gauquelin test had been ill-designed and should not have been done. Now that the whole thing had backfired, Kurtz —

out of his depth when he attempted a scientific experiment — was clearly responsible. Randi also criticized Abell for snooping into my back-ground. If this was the way CSICOP business was going to be conducted, then CSICOPs were no better than the parapsychologists who covered up their mistakes. Randi asked why my expenses to the Washington meeting were not being paid* and concluded by admitting that he was "mad," saying he seldom wrote such a letter except to parapsychologists. He assured Kurtz that no one besides him, Martin Gardner and me would see it.

I called Randi on the 21st and urged him to phone Kurtz to get his immediate reaction to the letter. For obvious reasons I didn't want to give Kurtz a lot of time to concoct fresh excuses.

After he had talked with Kurtz, Randi called me back on the 23rd saying only that KZA had still not confirmed my calculations. Randi's call, which indicated trouble was brewing, seems to have inspired Abell. Two days later, using the method explained to him on October 5, he got the same answers as I had. He phoned me the news that evening (October 25) and urged that I do an expectation-curve for the American sample. I suggested he do the math. As a matter of fact I'd already done it myself and had mailed copies of the results to Gardner and Randi two days earlier.

On October 23 I had sent some background documents concerning sTARBABY to Randi and Gardner. Gardner wrote back six days later,

chuckling about what an incredibly hilarious foul-up the whole thing had turned out to be. To a further packet of documents he repeated his feeling of deep amusement but he wasn't interested in doing anything about it.

When Kurtz phoned me on October 31, I (as a member of the CSICOP subcommittee on Gauquelin) asked for copies of Committee records and his correspondence with the various appropriate parties on the Gauquelin experimentation, thus putting to the test my hypothesis that he was deliberately avoiding the written word. Kurtz refused to send *anything* and said the dealings had been almost entirely by phone. (Later I saw copies of important correspondence and learned this was not true.)

On November 2 I wrote KZA asking:

(1) What was being looked for in the Control Test?

(2) Did KZA and *Humanist* readers know this from the start?

(3) Wasn't the test designed to show that the control group (nonchampions) would or wouldn't score at 22 percent like the champions? And if the control group had scored at 22 percent, wouldn't you have publicly concluded that Gauquelin lost the challenge?

(4) If you carry through your current plan to declare the Control Test "invalid," what if Gauquelin then challenges *you* to repeat it yourself? (Gauquelin would have won regardless; Abell later figured this out.)

(5) If a "valid" repetition isn't possible, are we not back at square one, where we were at the time of warnings not to get into this mire?

(6) If the Control Test is repeated, what do we look for?

(7) What will be your and CSICOP's position if the test again comes out in Gauquelin's favor (as I know it will)?

(8) Did you (or colleague) make any pre-test estimates of approximate magnitude of

* An interesting bit of history, since Kurtz still says my nonreimbursement wasn't brought to his attention *until a full year later*. And Council pretends to believe this.

astronomical/demographic [Mars/dawn] effects — before issuing a challenge, *the outcome of which depended entirely upon this question?* Were you acquainted with any of Gauquelin's detailed quantitative discussions of these matters?

(9) The Bait-and-Switch (BS): "Why collect 16,756 new nonchampions — and then attack [in the BS report] a [sub]sample of 303 old champion data because it is too small when it is in fact typical of the whole (22 percent success, just like the full sample of 2088, which is certainly not too small) and is about twice as large as you requested in your original challenge (*Humanist*, January-February 1976, page 33)? ... I have no written reply ... to this or any other point raised, since the beginning of our involvement with the Gauquelin question

pages of Kurtz's magazine) perhaps at the same press conference at which the damage to CSICOP was to occur, in order to ameliorate that damage. Such a prospect chilled the Council.

Kurtz's initial move was a threat that Zelen and Abell would be on hand personally to settle my hash at the private December 5 Council meeting. I asked if that were a promise.

On November 19 Kurtz called in the worst shape I'd ever found him. The prospect of a discordant CSICOP voice's being heard at his orchestrated press conference had badly frazzled

Martin Gardner chuckled over the incredibly hilarious foul-up.

... I will ask the CSICOP editorial board to have the nonchampions [Control] test refereed by neutral judges before the Committee becomes any further entangled in this endless thicket, via publication in the hitherto-spared *Skeptical Inquirer*."

I had strongly protested the high-handedness of the choice of Abell as speaker at the annual meeting because of his involvement with sTARBABY. I emphasized that CSICOP had plenty of astronomers associated with it (Carl Sagan, Bart Bok, Edwin Krupp and others), all of them nearer Washington than Abell who lived all the way across the country, in the Los Angeles area.

Frustrated at being presented with a fait accompli regarding the permanent attachment of the sTARBABY albatross to CSICOP, I indicated that, since this had been done without consultation with me (the sole astronomer on the Council), I was being forced to register a dissent (which had repeatedly been denied me in the

his nerves. During the conversation he invoked, rather emotionally, our past mutual efforts — for example in removing editor Truzzi.

I believe he felt genuinely bewildered and betrayed. To him reportage of contrary results was basically a political, not a scientific, matter. There was no chance of communicating on this. To me Kurtz was a censor. To him I was a traitor. Both of us felt a lack of gratitude.

He got to the point: he didn't want any trouble in Washington. In a strong, emotion-strained whisper he virtually hissed, "I'll do *anything* to avoid trouble."

I said fine, just get me some written answers to my questions on the Control Test and don't invite Abell to speak at the meeting. Kurtz said he had "no time" (sound familiar?) for written replies; then, contradicting his own account of October (when he'd

said to me, hey, let's invite George), he added that Abell had been invited way back in August.

Kurtz had earlier maintained his long secrecy about Abell's speech invitation because he thought I would want to speak instead (and would otherwise be so miffed I mightn't finish the U.S. data if I learned of Kurtz's intentions). So now he offered to let me speak too. I told him that he obviously didn't understand the problem.

Yet one must realize that in his own mind Kurtz had every reason to believe he'd found his solution. Another chapter in our ongoing anthropology lesson: the clash of two alien cultures, public relations vs. scholarship.

Kurtz tried another let's-make-a-deal ploy, bursting out, "But I agree with *you*." He went on to blame the whole sTARBABY mess on Zelen and Abell! *They* had led him into the pit! But he would do nothing beyond private assent.

After we had finished, I phoned Randi to report Kurtz was trying to buy silence on the Gauquelin mess. By the next day (November 20) a Council deal had been concocted (and offered) that would have me chair the astrology section of the press conference. Of course this would entail my introducing Abell. My reply was the old adage that a man who can't be bribed can't be trusted.

At this Kurtz exploded in raging fear that his holy press conference would be ruined. He immediately phoned the Councilors and expressed concern that I might attack the Gauquelin project from the floor during the conference; some way had to be found to get me kicked off the

Council. (This sudden search for a pretext to eject me — the first suggestion of the need for my demise — should be kept in mind because Council is now at great pains to dredge up any other sort of "offense" on my part as the good reason for booting me. To borrow from the business world, let us recall the immortal words of J. P. Morgan: "For every action there are two reasons: a good reason and the real reason.")

* * *

RANDI AND I drove to Washington together on December 4. Late that afternoon, while Michael Hutchinson and I were in Randi's suite, Kurtz called to speak with me.

He immediately accused me of lying and conspiring against him (this only a few days after trying to organize a secret movement to have me thrown off the Council for the crime of dissent).^{*} I asked him to cite a single falsehood I'd ever told him. Unable to name one, he asked me to say what I thought his deceits were. I offered to provide a partial catalog if he were really interested — but would do it at the Council meeting the next day.

Kurtz wanted to know if I intended to attack sTARBABY at the press conference. When I refused to make any promises, Kurtz grew more furious. We couldn't have a "schism," he said.

Council met the next day at Councilor Phil Klass' apartment. I noticed that Randi was his usual friendly self when Kurtz wasn't around but when he was within earshot Randi

^{*} That Councilors Kurtz, Randi, Philip Klass and Lee Nisbet conspired to keep dissent (read "schism") from sullying the press conference was eventually admitted from the inside in a July 6, 1979, conversation. (See also June 26 document prepared by Randi and marked "Confidential," discussed below.)

made different noises. He repeatedly cracked loudly, "Drink the Kool-Aid, Dennis." (This was shortly after the Jonestown Kool-Aid mass suicide.) During the afternoon meeting, when we established a rule for expelling Councilors, Randi bellowed that it is called the "Rawlins rule."

Randi meant, of course, that expulsion could come for public dissent. No other Councilor present (Gardner was not) said a word to suggest any other inference. I might add that two months later Randi foolishly boasted about how he "had to work to keep Dennis in line" in Washington, having convinced himself, apparently, that his threats had kept me quiet.

How these things grow! In 1975 and 1976 it was just a dumb, arrogant mistake by only three CSICOP Fellows. In 1977 it was their BS report, deliberate deception-cover-up. The next year, 1978, brought Kurtz's attempts first to bribe me and then (secretly) to eject me. Now there were Randi's threats.

As we were milling around, one Councilor asked where Abell was. Indeed, where was Abell? This, after all, was the awaited moment of the show-down Kurtz had threatened — to blow away the amateur. (Zelen also didn't show.) CSICOP's leader announced that Abell had a cold and was confined to his room. I wondered if it was a paranormal flu bug that might wane just in time to permit Abell to give his press-conference speech next day. (It did.)

The evening session studiously avoided the prescheduled Gauquelin discussion. Finally I raised the issue. Klass helpfully jumped in to say that it was too late in the evening. Kurtz per-

versely objected that Abell and Zelen weren't there. Randi said not a word — but *Skeptical Inquirer* editor Ken Frazier said I'd waited patiently and Ray Hyman suggested we discuss the matter.

I started right out by saying that this was an issue that would determine whether the Committee was worthy of existence. The provisional hope to jet-tison sTARBABY was now impossible. The language of the original

*Randi repeatedly cracked,
"Drink the Kool-Aid, Dennis."*

Control Test Challenge and subsequent testaments to its "definitive" nature had left no way around the fact that we had lost and Gauquelin had won.

Klass, ever ready with useful remarks, interrupted to say that all this sounded like "just a lot of griping."

Randi continued to say nothing except at one point he suggested that I not answer even the direct questions of a reporter at the upcoming press conference.

Kurtz wouldn't admit that sTARBABY was a loss. He fell back on the alleged support of the absent Abell and Zelen, so I reminded him of our November 19 phone conversation in which he had tried privately to blame the whole mess on them. I then produced and read Councilor Gardner's letter calling the Control Test a hilarious mess. At this point Kurtz sprang from his seat and roared, "Well, you're wrong!" He grabbed the

letter, glanced at it in disbelief and announced that Gardner didn't know what he was talking about.

Continuing with his helpful suggestions, Klass urged that I state the problem in writing! (I was the only party who had.)

During all this Kurtz never took into account the depth of my reluctance to harm CSICOP, a movement I had co-founded with him. So to Kurtz's surprise and temporary relief I said nothing at the press conference and did not even raise my hand to ask a question. Naively, I still had hopes for CSICOP — shortly to be dashed forever.

From the press conference we went to lunch. I was asked to sit with Abell and Kurtz. Disturbed that I was yet again getting into a nonwritten exchange, I quickly went over to Ken Frazier and Bob Sheaffer and told them that things were probably going to be said to which there ought to be an outside witness. Would either come and sit in on it? Not a chance — both flatly refused. It was then I knew CSICOP would probably never get well.

Abell and I were introduced. He remembered to mention his cold and at first sniffed convincingly (especially for someone with no red around his nose) but neglected to do so later.*

Now, 10 minutes after the completion of his press conference with no embarrassment, Kurtz's plan to suppress my dissenting September 18 report came out of the closet. As the three of us sat down to lunch, Kurtz and Abell said they and Zelen would write the published report and in it

thank me for doing the calculations. Whereas earlier Kurtz had tried to disavow blame for sTARBABY, this time it was Abell who was unloading responsibility for it. When I expressed abhorrence of the BS report, Abell replied that he was in Europe and didn't read it before cosigning it. Kurtz shot back, "Oh, yes, you did!"*

A few minutes later Christopher Evans (since deceased) came by and took the empty fourth chair at our table. Within seconds of his joining us Abell had told him of his BBC television series and all three were talking of such matters. Right then it dawned on me. I had come to promote open-ended scientific research — but the real purpose here was media wheeling and dealing. And that is why we were meeting at the temple of CSICOP's faith, the National Press Club.

The subsequent afternoon proceedings dealt primarily with international organizing and publicity schemes. But no one seemed interested in defining what all the hoopla was for. Which was reasonable enough — because that was what it was for.

ON JANUARY 17, 1979, I wrote a memorandum on the dirty dealing I'd witnessed. I sent it and another memo ("On Fighting Pseudoscience with Pseudoscience") to most of CSICOP's Fellows. I inquired of Bart Bok if he could find a competent astronomer to take over my duties.

The first Fellow to phone Randi

*On December 12, 1980, Abell gave a completely different reason for not showing up at the scheduled show-down. He said he wasn't invited!

*Abell's December 12, 1980, version: he *doesn't* remember now whether he read it. In 1979 Abell cosigned yet another KZA paper which repeated the same old BS argument. Then he conceded (privately in 1980) I'd been right all along on the math — leaving Kurtz and Zelen holding the sTARBABY bag. Everyday entertainment at CSICOP!

about the memoranda asked him about various charges they contained. Randi admitted uncomfortably that they were true as far as he knew — but then he quickly changed the subject.

More often, however, the Councilors — the same ones who had chided me for ad hominem — declared, "Dennis is just a wild man." Someone who acts on principle probably *does* appear to CSICOPs to be a creature from the antipodes.

Since we're speaking of "wild": Klass and Randi reacted to my January memos by claiming they couldn't understand the indictment!

Klass added another fantastic touch to Council's reaction, contending that it was fruitless to try to "turn back the clock like Uri Geller." Funny, I used to know a Phil Klass who circulated long lists of conflicting statements made by Allen Hynek, going back many years, asking if these are the same Allen Hyneks. And this was the same Phil Klass who now wasn't interested in the past?

Many of CSICOP's Fellows fell for the unity pitch or copped a none-of-my-business plea. A letter from one Fellow amused me in light of Council pretenses that it didn't understand the charges. His letter, dated January 26, 1979, makes plain how clear my January memos were. The writer understood that the experimental results supported Gauquelin, that Kurtz, Abell and Zelen had screwed up the test and that CSICOP's leaders, primarily Kurtz, had tried to cover up the mess, thereby creating a "Buffalogate." This writer said he had long harbored doubts about the way CSICOP was being run.

A later letter written by the same Fellow contains a prescient sentence: "I regard your charges as very serious. . . . Something must be done before we read about all of this in FATE."

I received a long letter from J. Derral Mulholland, one of the world's leading celestial mechanics experts. He permitted me to distribute the letter to CSICOP's Fellows.

The letter said Mulholland had been unaware that CSICOP had an elite Council that apparently was answerable to nobody. Council members evidently were using CSICOP's name to advance their personal ends. Some persons associated with the organization were making pronouncements on subjects outside their area of competence. If CSICOP were to remain scientifically credible, it had better use

"Something must be done before we read about this in FATE."

scientific methods such as controlled tests with predefined criteria for success and failure, and nonprotagonists should judge the results. Alibis, image problems and economic concerns were irrelevant to the real issues.

I proposed Mulholland as a Fellow, someone who might replace my astronomical input. This proposal was never even acknowledged.

* * *

BY APRIL 1979 Council, which had held its breath for months, breathed again, this time a deep sigh of relief: no resignations and no news stories. Kurtz phoned on April 9, hoping to placate me. I said to put the

answers to my questions on sTARBABY in writing. That was that.

The next day Frazier offered this alibi for nonpublication of my September 18 report: he wished someone would write an article that straightened out the "mess" once and for all, but there seemed no way to resolve the matter, even though Frazier confessed to a "gut feeling" that I might be right in some of my criticisms.

He claimed that my writings on the controversy were unclear and overheated. But in fact CSICOP's own eventual referee reports found my September 18 report (which for now Frazier refused for Jack of clarity) to be clearer than KZA's report on the same material. Also my original unanswered questions to KZA were all exceedingly polite — before the censorial outrages starting in autumn 1978.

I replied on April 19:

... incredible — even aside from the various matters you (along with the rest of the Council) continue to shut your eyes to. In particular, you [all] still attempt to pretend that you can't even understand the [sTARBABY] problem and don't know how to go about doing so. This is a ploy fully worthy of the kooks. As you well know, I have urged the refereeing of the matter for months. The only reply has been: silence.

What sort of Committee claims (in its very title) to be in the business of testing occult claims, yet can't even find a way to evaluate its own first and biggest test? What use is its testing, if the Committee cannot be counted upon to report the results honestly?

As for the no-compromise pose:

(1) Most of the Councilors (including Kurtz and Abell) either know or strongly suspect the truth. The problem isn't *what's* the truth but how to *deal* with it, p.r.-wise.

(2) Even without any scientific background one can just observe:

(a) Which side has made a complete, open, written record — vs. a year of refusal to commit answers in writing, while frantically juggling stories privately?

(b) Which has tried to silence the other by expulsion?

(c) Which has called for refereeing-arbitration? Which has steadfastly ignored the suggestion?

In any controversy within the Committee, it is always possible that the mistaken party will (instead of owning up) put up a smokescreen of alibis and pseudocomplexities (just like the occultists do, every time they lose). In that case, is the attitude of the Council to be that, well, the whole matter is too complicated to adjudicate?!

At this time Kurtz attempted to persuade Gauquelin to agree to the suppression of even my mild September 18 report. He also tried to dissuade Gauquelin from visiting me during the latter's April trip to San Diego.

He never told me any of this. Instead he pretended (as he had the previous year) that he might be willing to publish my report *if* KZA got to sum it all up afterward. And this is roughly how it was done eventually.

However, my challenge to call in outside refereeing (as Abell had promised in September-October 1976 *Humanist*) to determine the truth did not tempt the Committee.

During this period Randi would occasionally phone up for a friendly "just-happened-to-be-thinking-of-you" chat. I suspected he was trying to draw out of me statements of anger or of dissatisfaction. Despite his private rages Randi wished to make no public waves. When I asked him why, he repeated the tired old alibi that the occultist kooks would whoop it up if Kurtz fell. But he claimed that he had dressed down Kurtz (privately) in Washington in December. He stated

without qualification that Gardner, Hyman and he all supported my scientific position on the sTARBABY mess. (I knew, however, that he was telling all inquiring Fellows that a little old nonstatistician like himself just couldn't understand the problem.)

Next Randi (and soon afterwards Bob Sheaffer) tried to get me involved in new projects, i.e., diversions. As

hoped he and the other Councilors could find a way out of a long-standing problem. Randi observed that CSICOP was always under the watchful eye of irrationalists who chortled at every apparent failing, as witness the response to Truzzi's resignation.* At the Washington meeting he had feared the Gauquelin affair would be brought up in front of reporters. That would

Skeptical Inquirer editor Kendrick Frazier confessed to a "gut feeling" that I might be right in some of my criticisms.

part of this effort Randi asked my advice on the Helmut Schmidt parapsychology experiment which some CSICOPs had been investigating. I simply urged that it be approached with all the caution KZA had thrown to the winds in 1975 and 1976. He assured me how cautious he was in the testing for his well-publicized \$10,000 prize for proof of psychic abilities (for which he acts as policeman, judge and jury — and thus never has supported my idea of neutral judgment of CSICOP tests. "I *always* have an out," he said.

* * *

THINGS HAD quieted down by late spring 1979. All the while I was mercifully occupied at sane, non-CSICOP projects.

Then on June 24 Randi phoned mentioning he'd just talked with Truzzi. Randi seemed suddenly anxious to settle the sTARBABY problem. Two days later he wrote a letter to the Council stamped CONFIDENTIAL on both pages. It said he

have been unfortunate because CSICOP cannot afford to wash its dirty linen in public.

But then Randi hit upon a solution. Why should CSICOP worry about the Gauquelin matter? If (Randi's emphasis) the thing was a mistake, Councilors should decide once and for all that it was never a CSICOP project and be done with it.

Randi's letter touched on another subject of interest to both sides of the paranormal controversy, relative to my proposal (in an early issue of *Skeptical Inquirer*) that the American Association for the Advancement of Science reevaluate its decision to let the Parapsychological Association be affiliated with it if the PA could not produce a repeatable experiment. A petition I had circulated among the Fellows had drawn support from some of CSICOP's leading lights.

His letter said that when physicist

*See Jerome Clark and J. Gordon Melton's "The Crusade Against the Paranormal," September and October 1979 FATE, for Marcello Truzzi's account of these events.

John Archibald Wheeler denounced the parapsychologists (as he had done the previous January) and urged that they be kicked out of the AAAS, Councilors "cheered." But they "forgot"* that I had suggested the same thing and been rebuffed.**

Curiously, the following November Randi cosigned a letter to the PA stating, "We have no intention of requesting the 'expulsion' of the Parapsychological Association from the AAAS and would be opposed to such a move" (Spring 1980 *Skeptical Inquirer*). I will leave it to the higher theologians on the Council to reconcile this statement with the foregoing CONFIDENTIAL document's statement, "We cheered."

I might have been more impressed with the CONFIDENTIAL letter had it not been for another piece of mail that arrived *the same day*. It was a letter from Jerome Clark of FATE asking me to relate the sTARBABY episode for publication.

The mystery of Randi's strangely sudden desire to open up sTARBABY evaporated. Before answering FATE I called Randi (on July 6) and asked whether perchance Truzzi had mentioned FATE during their communication just before Randi phoned me on June 24. I got a well-we-talked-about-a-lot-of-things response and hmm-well-maybe-we-did.

I mentioned the coincidence of his

let's-get-moving CONFIDENTIAL letter arriving the very day I heard from FATE after six months of CSICOP inaction. It was about a 200-to-one shot. He suggested "synchronicity." (And CSICOP is supposed to be *antiparanormal*.)

Randi also admitted (having learned elsewhere that I already knew) the Kurtz-Nisbet-Klass-Randi plan to try to silence my dissent at the December 6 National Suppress Club meeting.

We hung up on slightly better terms than I'd expected although I remained quite disgusted that only the threat of FATE exposure had produced even token motion toward nonsuppression.

I had asked Randi the big question, the question all CSICOPs will be asking themselves for years to come: *Why?* Why get involved in a conspiracy that was as stupid as it was low? Why do something that would mark him and CSICOP for the rest of their lives? The reply was ever the same: We can't let the mystics rejoice. A lifetime price — just to prevent a little transient cuckoo chirping.

On August 11 Randi again wrote the Council to discuss CSICOP's response to the FATE interview with Truzzi, saying the latter had been dumped because he wanted the journal (then called *The Zetetic*) to be a scholarly rather than a popular publication.*

I told the Council I'd be open with FATE. Part of my reasoning was that,

*Not true. Randi phoned me on January 9, 1979, the moment he read press coverage of Wheeler's proposal, trying to reignite my interest. Sheaffer wrote me along the same lines a few days later. Yet when Frazier published Wheeler's statement (Spring 1979 *Skeptical Inquirer*) he did not mention that he had published my similar proposal a few issues back!

**By the Council, yes, but backed by Fellows B. F. Skinner, W. V. Quine, Isaac Asimov and L. Sprague de Camp; Carl Sagan and Ken Frazier supported the request that AAAS clarify the affiliation.

*In reality Truzzi had been replaced at CSICOP's August 9, 1977, annual meeting by a prearranged conspiracy to which Randi and I were both parties. Privately we all (except Ray Hyman, who was not in on it) spoke freely of the fact that the real reason was our disapproval of Marcello's softness on the mystics and slowness to print tough skepticism. But this reality did not look open-minded, so naturally another reason was given to the public. (When I circulated a letter giving some of the real reasons, Council was horrified.)

although I didn't wish to hurt rationalism, I felt that realpolitik cynics were taking advantage of that very reluctance and their increasing power was endangering rationalism's reputation. These were the wrong people to be carrying the cause's banner.

As the FATE-story realization set in, Council reacted like the White House when it learned that John Dean had sat down with the prosecution. The awareness of how much I knew and what would happen if I told all — this was the stuff of nightmares. Thus a new game plan was needed: Be *nice* to the wild man. Soothe. Flatter. Laugh at his jokes. Project as honest and self-critical an image as possible — at least until the problem subsides again.

By August 24 Frazier had received from Kurtz a 45-page package of four papers; the shortest of them was my original September 18 report on my Gauquelin results. Kurtz evidently hoped to bury the embarrassing parts (mild as they were) of my report in the sheer volume of print.

Since I had repeatedly requested refereeing, the board decided it would have to go through the motions.

Refereeing in professional journals is the backbone of the legitimate scientific community. In serious journals the process requires months of careful examination, often back-and-forth communication among author, editor and referees.

But if this were done now, some blunt, explicit revisions I'd already promised (last April 5) might have time to find their way into my previously-gentle September 18 report. So, professing fear that Gauquelin might "scoop" (sic) CSICOP, Frazier

suddenly sent the 45-page, four-paper package to various CSICOPs (not neutral referees as promised in September-October 1976 *Humanist*) — with the demand that the results be back within 10 days! Maybe it was just another of our paranormal coincidences that I was away from home while this was going on.

Council reacted like the White House when it learned John Dean had sat down with the prosecution.

All of this activity took place without my knowledge — although I was the author of one of the papers, the calculator of the entire study, a Councilor and associate editor of the magazine. Thus two referees, as yet unaware of the problems with the Control Test (defended in KZA's paper in the Gauquelin package), were insulated from my pointing these out to them. And my own paper was being rushed into print not only without my approval of its form but in actual defiance of my written statement that I would have to revise it in the direction of bluntness.

When I returned to San Diego late on October 1, 1979, I learned that Frazier had left a message on September 24 saying that his deadline was October 1. Still no mention of the secret rush-refereeing, which I learned of only upon telephone questioning the next day. I asked for copies.

When the material arrived on the sixth the consensus of CSICOP's own referees was in my favor (versus Pro-

fessors Kurtz, Zelen and Abell) in *all* major departments: (a) clarity, (b) technical competence, (c) honesty and (d) defensibility of conclusions. No scientific criticisms were leveled against my report, while the two statisticians among the referees criticized the KZA paper on various grounds.

Only one of these two referees had been forewarned (not just by me) about the problems with the 1977 BS report, the central nonsense of which KZA were again lading out. Appalled, he counseled neutral refereeing by appropriate experts before rushing into publication.

Here are some excerpts from the referee report (on KZA contributions to the Gauquelin package) by the sole Councilor trained in statistics:

I would be irresponsible if I did not point out serious defects in the documents in their present form ambiguities should be avoided — especially if they can be interpreted as evasions or ways to wriggle out of a prior commitment . . . quibbling over whether to include [a very few] females in the sample . . . looks like post hoc playing around to push the data in their [KZA's] favor. At what point did they [KZA] decide NOT to include females — after they knew the results or before? The same can be said over the splitting of the data to try to show that the major effect is carried by the Paris [-born athletes]. Again this is post hoc. Besides the splitting of the small sample into even smaller subsamples, of course, lowers the power [of the study's significance] considerably What is important is that the entire sample, taken as a whole, shows the [Mars] effect Such post hoc rummaging [for possible hitherto-unnoted trends in the data] has to be kept in perspective. It can supply ideas and hypotheses for a new study but it has no basis for drawing conclusions [for this study].

I suspect that as a LEGAL debate G won this first round [Control Test. Afterwards, it appears other factors] than a true Mars

effect . . . might account for the correlation. But, as originally stated, G has won. . . . I hope that they [KZA] can see that a neutral reader . . . can interpret their criticisms as post hoc attempts to wriggle out of an uncomfortable situation.

* * *

THE FIRST weekend after my October 2 call to Frazier, Kurtz phoned, dripping charm. I urged that if the package was to be published, the statistician-Councilor's referee report ought to be published instead of KZA's.

I revised my September 18, 1978, report in the promised direction of bluntness and submitted it to Frazier on October 8, 1979, telling him that if there were any alterations not cleared with me, I wanted a note printed with the paper stating that deletions had occurred over the author's protest and that the missing portions could be obtained directly from me.

On the morning of October 12 Frazier was happily protecting *Skeptical Inquirer's* innocent readership by blue-penciling out all my report's revelations of KZA's fumbling (leaving intact, of course, all its negative scientific revelations about Gauquelin's claims, including the nonreplication [13 1/2 percent versus the 22 percent in the French data] in the American sample*). Suddenly he came upon my request for a printed note regarding the existence of unauthorized deletions. He lunged for the phone and got through to me with the opening salutation, delivered in a loud growl, tense with rage, "I am pissed off at you." He

* But the potential significance of the 13 1/2-percent result, which disconfirmed the Mars Effect's 22 percent (at a 10,000-to-one level), was lost due to KZA's 1977 precedent and subsequent obsession with post hoc sample splitting in their own favor.

said my note was "blackmail."

Frazier went on in this vein for some time before easing off to mere exasperation. I reminded him that I had said a year ago that CSICOP would publish non-neutrally-refereed BS sham over my dead body (which is just the way it happened) in a magazine of which I was a responsible associate editor. If Frazier insisted on printing — at great length — what five of his six associate editors privately deemed questionable science and/or intentional pretense, I would insist just as adamantly on protesting such in my brief paper. As the person who had actually performed the experiment, I felt that this was perfectly reasonable.

Frazier, editor of a magazine born to tear down dumb beliefs, said such criticism would create dissension and "confuse" the readers. We finally left it that he would send an edited version and see if we could agree.

Instead, as the final deadline approached, Frazier just sat on it. I finally phoned on October 20 and left a message — no reply. I telephoned again two days later and was curtly informed that the report would be published his way or not at all. He said that Kurtz opposed publishing my report at all.

I received Frazier's edited version the next day. I phoned him small (undisputed) changes on October 27 and 28 and on November 4, quietly but pointedly reminding him on each occasion that I protested his substantial deletions and his bowdlerization of my very mention of these deletions (into a version *designed to indicate to the reader that no deletions had occurred*).

On November 6, two days after a

last request to Frazier to reconsider, I circulated a memo to all my fellow associate editors:

Alone among the Councilors, I still have no compensation for travel expenses to the last Council meeting (c. \$230). I have booked a flight to this one — the cost will be nearly \$400 just for the plane, and I have to stay 7 days (at my own expense) just to keep the rate down to that. This must be paid in a (very) few days — and I won't do that unless all 630 dollars are here beforehand.

My upcoming *Skeptical Inquirer* article (1979 Winter) on the Gauquelin matter has been neatly censored here and there, so I have asked to add a statement saying so and suggesting that readers who wish to consult the original version may do so by contacting me. This sentence has itself been bowdlerized (so that it reads as if no tampering occurred). It seems to me that to distort the meaning of a contributor's statement over his explicit protest, especially when he is an "Associate Editor" — whatever that means — is a serious matter. Therefore, I will here ask the other members of the *Skeptical Inquirer* Editorial Board whether they concur in this action ... none of this should be published until the KZ&A [Control Test] is competently, independently refereed. Another point I have vainly stressed to Ken [Frazier]: there has been some faint hope of dissociating CSICOP from this disaster. The forthcoming package seals the matter forever: opening and closing arguments (and pseudoscientific obfuscations of the clear outcome) coauthored by CSICOP's Chairman and a CSICOP Fellow who is [senior] editor of the forthcoming Scribner's book [*Science and the Paranormal*] attacking everybody else's pseudoscience (full of CSICOP contributors).

I must also say that these same two gentlemen have each attempted privately to blame the other authors for the adventure. They had an amusing argument on this point in my presence 1978/12/6. Yet they now [in their upcoming articles] have the brass to pretend to *Skeptical Inquirer's* readership that there is nothing amiss. This is deliberate sham. And I think most (if not all) of you know so or strongly suspect it.

When he read this Frazier blew his stack again and on November 9 wrote a memo declaring he had deleted only "one sentence from a late-added footnote" (emphasis in original). False — there were in fact a *dozen* deletions.

Frazier's letter conveniently confused his right to edit (which I never had questioned) with his right to alter the meaning of a brief note telling the reader where to obtain the unedited version.

* * *

ON NOVEMBER 15 Randi phoned trying to find out whether I meant my November 6 promise not to come to next month's Council meeting in New York City unless both 1978 and 1979 fares were paid. (After badgering from Frazier, Kurtz in early November had sent the 1979 fare only, citing a ridiculous excuse for not sending the 1978 fare.) I replied to Randi that if he cared (his ostensible reason for calling) he should tell Kurtz to wire the still-unpaid 1978 fare.

I also made an offer which, in view of all that had happened, was about as forgiving as one could possibly be: I said that Council would have no more trouble with sTARBABY if *Skeptical Inquirer* would publish the dissents of those Councilors who knew the truth about it — the same suggestion made to Frazier a month earlier in regard to publishing the statistician-Councilor's referee report. They were not interested.

I heard nothing further. Even my November 6 note to Martin Gardner, asking him if he planned to be at the meeting, went unanswered.

As might be expected, at the December 15, 1979, meeting Kurtz

(who never really believed I wasn't coming) carefully held a closed-door minipress conference that was kept a secret even from some attending Councilors until they were in the room and the doors were closing.

Equally surprising to some Councilors was the decision, made that same day, to hold an "election."* No prior announcement had been made — which violates every established code of parliamentary procedure.

By another of our paranormal coincidences, only one person was "not renominated" and I was replaced by Abell. It was then decided to put off the Abell announcement for some weeks so that there would seem to be no connection.

A comedy high is the December 21 letter I received more than 10 days after the meeting from Randi, the appointed bearer of the tidings that I had been unanimously dumped or, as he so delicately put it, "not reelected." Randi hoped we could continue to be good friends. Also, since I was still on the editorial board, he urged me to write regularly for *Skeptical Inquirer*.

I thought it was curious that one who was such a horror that he merited unanimous expulsion should at the same time be asked to stay on as associate editor and publish lots in the CSICOP journal.

Along the same line, I received a January 5, 1980, letter from Abell, four solid pages of "gush" (Abell's word). I felt I was in danger of spiritual diabetes from the syrup that had

* Gardner told me on November 23, 1980, that there had been no election, just a boot (the official minutes, dated January 8, do not even mention the matter), adding a week later that since Kurtz owns the CSICOP mailing list, parliamentary rules are "crap."

been poured over me all through 1979. (The funniest inundation had come from, of all people, Gardner, at Randi's behest.) The truth is, my admiring "friends," who "reluctantly" (Randi's adverb) voted my ejection at

from the author" with: "Deletions from this paper are available from the author at his address. This December CSICOP Council unanimously decided soon to replace me on the Council with George Abell." If you kill one sentence, consider the other separately. (If some particular words or phrases bother

***I felt I was in danger of spiritual diabetes from the syrup
that had been poured over me all through 1979.***

the December 15 meeting, had a long argument at this very meeting trying to identify the boob responsible for getting me onto the Council in the first place!

My reaction to ejection was not quite what Council expected. On December 31 I wired Frazier a request that a note be printed at the end of my upcoming Gauquelin-package article stating that "following editorial disagreement over these articles" I had been "unanimously ejected," which was undeniably true.

Frazier refused this (in a January 9 letter) as "inappropriate and inaccurate in its implication of cause and effect."

Back on December 18 Frazier had written me to say that *Skeptical Inquirer* Assistant Editor Doris Doyle had emphasized it was too late to make any further changes in the Gauquelin package. Yet, nearly a month later, on January 12, Doyle told me that even then there was time for alterations. Consistency was hard to come by.

So on January 14 I sent Frazier another Mailgram:

Since the mechanicals are still with Doris (who says you refused my ["following editorial disagreement"] statement), please replace "Further commentary ...

you, have Doris phone me today regarding my OK of possible changes.) I repeat my request for written reasons for your censoring my attempts to make these simple statements to *Skeptical Inquirer* readers.

At this point, I am not interested in promises regarding future letters column space, since what can one make of Council's word, after its recent clandestine "election" and customary secrecy regarding Abell's upcoming elevation? — Dennis Rawlins, Associate Editor?

Frazier replied the next day by decreeing that he would allow no more changes. Any announcement of my nonreelection to the Council would have to be carried in *Skeptical Inquirer's* news column because, he said, it was "irrelevant" in a research report. On February 16 I took Frazier up on his offer and prepared this statement for the news column.

I am resigning from the *Skeptical Inquirer* Editorial Board (effective on *SI* publication of this notice) in reaction to the Board's handling of empirical testing (when the results do not come out as expected) as well as (among other matters) the CSICOP Council's surprise December "election" in New York (not even known to some attending Councilors until a fraction of a day before it occurred) — at which private event it was *unanimously* decided that I should be "not renominated" (in absentia) and that (after a cosmetic interval) George Abell was to be elevated to Councilor. What this sleight of ballot switch portends for the fu-

ture scientific level and integrity of the ruling body of CSICOP can be most quickly understood from a careful reading of our [Abell's and my] respective contributions (especially the pre-edited versions) in the 1979-80 Winter *SI*.

The Council wants to make it perfectly clear that Abell's (public) support for — as against my long-contained (now surfacing) criticism of — CSICOP's conduct during its four-year involvement in testing Gauquelin's neoastronomy, has NOTHING to do with Council's December move. *SI* readers who wish to believe in this paranormal miracle of acausal synchronicity are urged not to contact me at the below address.

Meanwhile I privately urged that the other Councilors think of rationalism's reputation ahead of their own immediate interests and resign.

On April 10 Frazier reneged: "The resignation letter you asked to be published is not appropriate for publication. Such internal matters are best dealt with by private circulation.* I feel strongly about that."

Although my letter of resignation stated that it became effective only when published, Frazier tossed me off the editorial board anyway — without giving me notice or cause. Abell was my replacement.

One other dissent has been kept from *Skeptical Inquirer* readers. The identity of the mystery guest in dissent-space? George Abell! In 1980 Abell hired UCLA grad student Albert Lee to compute the expectation curve for the Gauquelin experiment. According to a May 3, 1980, letter Abell wrote to Gauquelin, Lee's results agreed with Gauquelin's and mine. Thus Abell learned (some years too late) that 17 percent, not 22 per-

cent, is the chance figure after all. Poof goes the Control Test (based upon the hope that Gauquelin's 22-percent Mars Effect results were merely chance level in disguise).

As the truth becomes undeniable, what will CSICOP do? Perhaps as the Smoking Letter (as well as the prospect of total exposure in FATE) is considered, CSICOP may be heard to protest that it was most anxious to get the truth to the public but delayed somewhat in the interests of cautious science — thereby explaining, of course, things like 10-day refereeing and rushing a Challenge to press to beat a publishing deadline.

EPILOGUE

I CAN SUM up by noting that: CSICOP's idea of internal scandal-preventing is not to eject the culprits but to eject those who expose them. A Watergate analogy would be to throw Sam Ervin out of Congress and keep Nixon as President on his promise not-to-do-it-again.

The foregoing account was drafted between March 26 and May 15, 1980. The great bulk of it, however, was not typed until December 1980 through January 1981 due in part to the press of researches in nonparanormal-related areas of scholarship. I was reminded of CSICOP in October 1980 by three incidents that occurred together and not coincidentally:

(1) I was dropped as a CSICOP Fellow without being informed, much less being told why in writing.

(2) I was attacked (along with Gauquelin) in the most insulting fashion in the letters section of Fall 1980 *Skeptical Inquirer* by the same Fellow

* I guess that's why Frazier prevented my stating in *Skeptical Inquirer* that deleted material was available from my private address!

whose mistakes in "Objections to Astrology" began sTARBABY.

(3) The last October event explained Item One — my ejection from the full Committee. Council announced its annual meeting and press conference for December 12, 1980, at

two or three press persons who had been sufficiently interested in CSICOP to show up.

Phil Klass, looking unwell, rushed over to growl through clenched jaw, "You're sick!" He said that after all this time I should drop it, in effect

***Klass growled through clenched jaw, "You're sick!"
It was a free-for-all orgy of fantasy.***

UCLA. The gathering was described as a closed "press seminar," *only* for Fellows and invitees.

I telegraphed Kurtz on December 1 to suggest that the neoastronomy test be openly debated at the meeting. I received no reply.

Therefore I simply appeared at the meeting, correctly judging that Kurtz wouldn't risk creating a scene by having me ejected bodily before his beloved press corps. I was privately assured that the Gauquelin matter would be discussed at 5:00 P.M. As insurance that it be held, I stood up during the question-and-answer period and mentioned in passing that there would be a 5:00 P.M. hearing concerning sTARBABY and the reasons for my ejection from CSICOP. No Councilor contradicted me.

At 5:00 Kurtz stood up and, instead of announcing the promised discussion, adjourned the press conference.

Twice bit, thrice shy. In anticipation I had with me four pages of Xeroxed exposé material. After a few minutes' abortive attempts to have Randi and others honor their promise, I simply distributed the material to everyone in the room, including the

using the cover-up's long success as a justification for its perpetuation.

The Council then retired to a private meeting. Over Kurtz's protest I just walked into the meeting. Kurtz then tried to preannounce a five-minute limit to a Gauquelin discussion. I never got five minutes of straight narrative. It was a free-for-all orgy of fantasy, with Councilors interrupting so often that they interrupted each other's interruptions.

The Council agreed there was not the *slightest* connection between my unique expulsion and my equally unique insistence on honest reporting of sTARBABY. It was just that I had behaved rudely.

I pointed out that before Kurtz tried suppressing me, beginning in September 1978, I was patient and gentle, a trusting chump.

My request that offenses justifying expulsion be specified brought on the Morganisms. Kurtz could come up with only two pre-September 1978 claims:

(1) A letter I had written on February 6, 1978, to the University of Toronto regarding an astrology conference to be held there the next

month. Supposedly I had put pressure on the university to cancel the meeting. I refuted this phony charge by reading from a Xerox copy of the letter, which made it clear I was objecting only to the grossly unbalanced composition of the proposed panel (which certainly would have disgraced the university); in fact I had encouraged the invitation of a broad selection of experts on both sides, hoping for a meaningful confrontation. Kurtz then referred to an alleged phone call I made to the university president. The only catch is that I never phoned the president of the University of Toronto.

(2) Then Kurtz seriously attempted to define my other excommunicable offense as my proposal that the American Association for the Advancement of Science reevaluate the Parapsychological Association's affiliation with it! The other Councilors in attendance were too astonished to comment. (Kurtz and Frazier had themselves published this proposal in my article in Fall-Winter 1977 *Skeptical Inquirer*.)

Obviously it was a hoked-up scenario. When I asked, a Councilor admitted that kicking me off the Council had not even been discussed until just a week before the December 1978 press conference, where Council feared I would expose sTARBABY. Indeed, only 10 minutes previously

Council had attempted *again* to suppress my public dissent at the press conference we had just left.

There were other moments of humor. Phil Klass claimed he didn't understand the neoastrology dispute, reviving the alibi first heard early in 1979. I asked then why Frazier had chosen Klass as one of CSICOP's instant referees and why Klass had in fact written one of the five private referee reports. Incredibly, Klass denied having done so! I instantly produced and circulated a Xerox copy of this non-existent report. As it began passing around the table, Klass said that he had recommended against publishing the package. Those who were reading his report, dated September 10, 1979, learned the very opposite. I knew the refereeing had been pro forma but I wasn't prepared for such obliging confirmation.

The bottom line is:

Every one of the Councilors who say they know something about the sTARBABY knows that it was a disaster. Yet *Skeptical Inquirer* readers are given to believe nothing went wrong.

The last word Frazier allowed to appear was a letter from Lawrence Jerome (Fall 1980, page 85) in which CSICOP offered congratulations to itself for its Gauquelin project.

**Reprints of this 32-page article are available for \$1.00
apiece. Order "sTARBABY" by Dennis Rawlins from
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Deadly Phantoms of the Tower



Long-ago Keeper of the Crown Jewels denies conventional ghosts but tells his own tale of two strange apparitions.

By Frank John Reid

VISITORS to England are often surprised to find that the Tower of London is not a single building but a sprawling 18-acre complex of buildings and towers on the north bank of the Thames. For nine centuries, one or another of the buildings which comprise Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress has held the British Crown Jewels and Regalia. And for almost as long ghosts* of the famous and infamous have been rumored to haunt its

chambers and battlements.

In the 1860's the magazine *Notes and Queries*, which published mostly readers' letters on historical trivia, carried a lengthy exchange on the Tower ghosts. It began in the August 25, 1860, issue with the publication of a letter signed "K. B.": "Is there not a ghost story connected with the Tower of London? And what is it? Has not the ghost, or appearance, been seen once at least during this century, and with fatal results?"

The major responses in the complex

* See Bruce H. Knapp's "They Walk the Bloody Tower," January 1981 FATE.

correspondence that followed were from Edmund Lenthal Swifte, Keeper of the Crown Jewels from 1814 to 1852. While in office he had an apartment in the Martin Tower, then the Jewel House, located on the northeast corner of the inner ring of Tower fortifications. Swifte denied that highly-touted conventional ghosts (such as that of Sir Walter Raleigh) had been seen, but he did report two incidents from his personal experience in the Martin Tower in 1817.

Swifte was writing 43 years later when he was 83 years old which might make his accuracy questionable. But he answered questions so clearly and disputed thirdhand accounts so convincingly that we may accept his version, for it was fixed early on in discussions with his family and friends. His reports concerned manifestations called "the cylinder" and "the bear."

THE CYLINDER

Swifte wrote that he was having a late supper one Saturday night in October 1817. He, his wife, their small son and his wife's sister were in a room in the Martin Tower which is said on rather doubtful evidence to have held Anne Boleyn, Henry VIII's ill-fated second wife. In Swifte's words:

"The room was — as it still is — irregularly shaped, having three doors and two windows, which last are cut nearly nine feet deep into the outer wall; between these there is a chimney-piece projecting far into the room and (then) surmounted with a large oil picture. On the night in question, the doors were all closed, heavy and dark cloth curtains were let down over the windows, and the only light in the

room was that of two candles on the table. I sat at the foot of the table, my son on my right hand, his mother fronting the chimneypiece and her sister on the opposite side. I had offered a glass of wine and water to my wife, when, on putting it to her lips, she paused and exclaimed, "Good God! What is that?"

"I looked up and saw a cylindrical figure, like a glass tube, seemingly about the thickness of my arm, hovering between the ceiling and the table: its contents appeared to be a dense fluid, white and pale azure, like to the gathering of a summer cloud, and incessantly rolling and mingling within the cylinder. This lasted about two minutes (and then) it began slowly to move *before* my sister-in-law; then, following the oblong shape of the table, *before* my son and myself; passing *behind* my wife, it paused for a moment over her right shoulder (observe, there was no mirror opposite her in which she could then behold it). Instantly she crouched down and with both hands covering her shoulder, she shrieked out, 'Oh Christ! It has seized me!'

"Even now, while writing, I feel the fresh horror of that moment. I caught up my chair, struck at the wainscot behind her, rushed upstairs to the other children's room and told the terrified nurse what I had seen. Meanwhile, the other domestics had hurried into the parlour, where their mistress recounted to them the scene, even as I was detailing it above stairs.

"The marvel — some will say the absurdity — of all this is enhanced by the fact that *neither my sister-in-law nor my son beheld this 'appearance.'*"

In 1817 a vociferous rationalism held sway and this no doubt explains why Swift's experience was kept quiet. However, versions of it were passed on by word of mouth and one of these, related by Sir David Brewster, was used by Dr. William Gregory in his book *Letters on Animal Magnetism** published in London in 1851. The Brewster-Gregory account is an historical object lesson: it is incorrect in almost every detail.

Neither his seven-year-old son nor his sister-in-law saw *anything*, Swift emphasizes, although they were alarmed at his and his wife's reactions. The sister-in-law always subscribed to a suggestion made by the Tower chaplain, that the Swiftes had somehow shared the same hallucination. ("My answer was," wrote Swift, "if two, why not 2000? [This] argument would reduce history, secular or sacred, to a fable.")

Swift emphatically denied two of the assertions in the Brewster-Gregory account: one, that Mrs. Swift sickened and later died after seeing the apparition; and two, that she had seen a "form" within the thing. As neither Swift nor his wife saw any "form" he also rejected any parallel with the experience of Baron de Guldenstubbé.

De Guldenstubbé's case was related in R. D. Owen's *Footfalls on the Boundary of Another World*, a book which was quoted at length by John Pavin Phillips in *Notes and Queries* during the exchange on Tower ghosts.

On the night of March 16, 1854, the Baron was alone in his Paris apartment

when eight or 10 "electric shocks" interrupted his insomniac reading. He went into the next room to light a fire and thereafter passed between the rooms several times. He noticed "a dim column of greyish vapour, slightly luminous" in front of the fireplace but thought it was some sort of reflection. Returning later he found it grown nearly to the ceiling and glowing blue like an alcohol flame. Gradually a human figure took shape in the mist: "a tall portly old man with a fresh colour, blue eyes, snow-white hair, thin white whiskers . . . and leaning on a cane." This figure floated out of the misty column, put up a hand and bowed to the wondering de Guldenstubbé. It then returned to the column which reformed around it, grew brighter and then flickered out.

Despite its resemblance to a "matter transporter" sequence a la *Star Trek*, this episode turns out to have concerned an ordinary ghost, one who had been seen before and decisively identified as one M. Caron. He had died in the apartment and ceased appearing after his daughter had Masses said.

Swift described the exit of his cylinder apparition as different from de Guldenstubbé's: "It did not assume any other form but in the moment of my wife's exclamation and my striking at it with my chair, it crossed the upper end of the table and disappeared in the recess at the opposite window."

It left behind no lasting harm — but that wasn't the case in the second of Swift's experiences.

THE BEAR

Swift wrote: "Happen, however, as it might, following hard at heel the vis-

* In 1975 Arno Press reprinted the fifth edition of this book titled *Animal Magnetism, or Mesmerism and Its Phenomena* (London, 1909) as part of its "Perspectives in Psychological Research" series.

itation of my household, one of the night sentries at the Jewel Office was, as he said, alarmed by a figure like a huge bear issuing from underneath the door; he thrust at it with his bayonet, which stuck in the door, even as my chair dented the wainscot; he dropped in a fit and was carried senseless to the guardroom. His fellow sentry declared that the man was neither asleep nor drunk, he himself having seen him the moment before awake and sober. Of all this, I avouch nothing more than that I saw the poor man in the guardhouse prostrated with terror, and that in two or three days the 'fatal result,' be it of fact or of fancy, was — *that he died.*"

The Brewster-Gregory account turns the Swiftes' apparition into a demon-headed bear rushing out of the Martin Tower and charging the sentry.

George Offor, another old-timer writing to *Notes and Queries*, had a less fanciful version: a bearlike shape ran across the pavement and down some steps to a Martin Tower door; the sentry fainted and died a few hours later. Offor's date for this is January 1816.

Swifté disputes this date and other incorrect details, especially that Offor names the *wrong door*. It actually happened at the door to the Jewel Room to which Swifté had the only key. And the "bear" episode occurred a few days after the appearance of the "cylinder" in October 1817.

Swifté wrote that the second day after the occurrence the frightened sentry was "changed beyond my recognition" and he died after another day or so, despite his reputation for being "brave and steady." George Offor testifies: "The soldier bore a high charac-

ter for bravery and good conduct. I . . . was present when his body was buried with military honours. . . ."

A brave man dying of sheer fright seems unlikely — but it's possible, according to pathologists Dr. Marilyn Cebelin and Dr. Charles S. Hirsch. Their study of 15 persons who died after minor but frightful assaults was reported in *Science Digest* for November-December 1980. Microscopic examination of the hearts showed patches of dead cells, probably from excess adrenalin; heartbeats had become uncoordinated and the victims died of heart failure. This leads to a charge of murder if death occurs in a criminal assault case.

AN EXPLANATION

For the bearlike apparition there may be a natural explanation. Swifté himself found an "under the door" apparition in *The Memoirs and Travels of Sir John Reresby, Bart.* (London, 1813). Sir John Reresby (1635-1689) was a Royalist and became politically successful after the end of Cromwell's Republic. In 1683 Reresby became governor of York by royal fiat, replacing the elected mayor. At the assizes held March 7, 1687, one defendant was an old woman condemned for witchcraft on the evidence of "fits" and accusations by a "bewitched" boy. Reresby thought the boy was a faker, as did the judge who reprieved the old woman.

But at York Castle, according to Reresby: "One of my soldiers being upon guard about eleven in the night at the gate of Clifford Tower the very night after the witch was arraigned, he heard a great noise at the castle and

going to the porch, he there saw a scroll of paper creep from under the door, which, as he imagined by moonshine, turned first into the shape of a monkey, and thence assumed the form of a turkey-cock, which passed to and fro by him. Surprised at this, he went to the prison and called the under-keeper, who came and saw the scroll dance up and down and creep under the door, where there was scarce an opening of the thickness of half a crown. This extraordinary story I had from the mouth of both the one and the other: and now leave it to be believed or disbelieved. . . ."

Reresby's *Memoirs*, first published in 1734, was reprinted with modernized spelling in 1813. It was a popular book which suggests the possibility that pranksters used the scroll story as a pattern for Swifte's "under the door" apparition.

George Offor says of the "bear" at the Martin Tower: "It was fully believed to have arisen from phantasmagoria." And he claims that doubling the number of sentries throughout the whole Tower of London put a stop to the phantasmagoric effects.

"Phantasmagoria," according to the *Oxford English Dictionary*, is "a name invented for an exhibition of optical illusions produced chiefly by means of the magic lantern, first exhibited in London in 1802." Like Gothic novels, these spook shows presented thrilling but explainable phantoms. A gauze screen between audience and stage allowed images to be projected from behind it; figures on the screen appear to dwindle into the distance or to rush toward the observer with enormous increase in size.

Both Martin Tower apparitions fit this possibility. And Swifte himself mentions that phantasmagoria was suspected before either incident, for some "young lady residents" in another building were thought to be "making phantasmagorial experiments at their windows!" But Swifte's letters and my own research rule out this explanation for the "cylinder."

First, Swifte is emphatic about the guard's being doubled to stop such pranks before the manifestations in Swifte's apartment. Second, projection of such images was impossible through the deeply recessed windows which were heavily covered and not in sight of the suspected young ladies' windows. Further, Swifte's chamber is not at ground level. Even so, the Tower chaplain arranged for an investigation by a professional phantasmagorist. This expert said he could duplicate (and better) the "cylinder" if he could set up his apparatus on a table or (with windows uncovered) on the seven-gun battlement a short distance away. This battlement is Legge's Mount where at the time there was always a 24-hour guard.

Finally, as Swifte wrote, "The most skillful operator, with every appliance accorded him, could not produce an appearance visible to one-half the assembly while invisible to the other half, and bodily laying hold of one individual among them."

The other case, the "bear," is more likely to have been phantasmagoria. Swifte says the door involved is recessed and not in line with the suspects' windows — but let's not underestimate the portability of magic lanterns or the agility of pre-Victorian

"young ladies." The young sentry may simply never have seen the then-popular spook shows and he may have been frightened by his own shadow distorted in the light of a magic lantern.

Yet how could the pranksters do it without being seen? And with the death of the sentry resulting, how was a scandal hushed up?

The last word on these never-to-be-

solved mysteries came in 1870 from Edmund Lenthal Swifte. Then in his 90's the old man scoffed at stories of ghosts, bloodstains and ax shadows on walls of the Tower of London. "For my own mysterious visitation, in 1817, I will but repeat my statements," he wrote, "neither subtracting from, nor adding to, a syllable of their original verity."



PROTECT OUR ENDANGERED MONSTERS

By George W. Earley

IN RECENT years the growing environmental concern of many Americans has focused not only on clean air and pure water but on the protection of endangered animals. Now this concern is growing to encompass creatures that science says do not exist.

It started some years ago when Washington's Skamania County passed an ordinance mandating a \$10,000 fine and/or a jail term "not to exceed five years" for anyone who shot a Bigfoot.

Comes now the village of Port Henry on the shore of New York State's Lake Champlain with a resolution aimed at protecting the lake's legendary monster.

Monster reports are nothing new at Lake Champlain. The first written report came in 1609 when French explorer Samuel De Champlain noted in his journal that he had seen "a creature that was serpentlike, about 20 feet long and as thick as a barrel, with a head that resembled that of a horse." Present-day sighters (there were four reports in 1980) agree on the serpentine form and horselike head but estimate the creature's length at 30 to 40 feet.

Fortean researcher Joe Zarzynski, who has been collecting monster re-

ports at the lake for nearly a decade, gets the credit for inspiring Port Henry's newly promulgated resolution.

After hearing Zarzynski lecture on the lake monster, Port Henry resident George Harrington suggested to Mayor Robert Brown that the creature should be protected. The resolution which the village board passed unanimously on October 6, 1980, provides that "all the waters of Lake Champlain which adjoin the village of Port Henry are hereby declared off limits to anyone who would in any way harm, harass or destroy the Lake Champlain Sea Monster."

Says Zarzynski: "Hopefully other lakeshore towns will follow Port Henry's lead and pass similar resolutions calling for protection of these creatures. There has to be more than one but there can't be very many of them and we should do everything possible to keep them safe. That's the message I'm trying to get across."

Does your neighborhood have a mystery monster? If so, why not ask your local town or county government to protect it from harm? After all, why shouldn't monsters have the same protection afforded snail darters, bald eagles and other endangered species?

TALES FROM THE "TERROR TRIANGLE"

The stories of UFO landings, alien beings, underwater extraterrestrial bases and sinister men in black sounded too good to be true — and they were.

By Hilary Evans

IN THE EARLY months of 1977 a number of UFO incidents were reported from Pembrokeshire, the outlying southwesterly corner of Wales which faces out beyond the southern coast of Ireland into the broad Atlantic. Eventually these incidents became the subject of three books as well as numerous articles in the press and programs on television and radio. As the "Welsh Triangle," the "Dyfed Enigma" and the "Pembrokeshire Flap," the affair passed into UFO history.

There were some 50 separate sightings. Some involved landings and occupants. Luminous balls chased cars and sinister "Men in Black" appeared. Cattle were teleported and television sets and cars were mysteriously destroyed. Strangest of all was the story that an offshore rock, uninhabited except by seabirds, was being used as a UFO base.

No wonder the media and ufologists were enthralled. If these reports were

true, this quiet rural community was the center of bizarre extraterrestrial activity. But everyone seemed to ignore that qualifying *if*. The claims went unchallenged as the books recounting them sold by the thousands.

In March 1981, four years after the amazing events supposedly took place, I went down to West Wales to see for myself — and found a few surprises.

* * *

MOST OF THE flap occurred during the first nine months of 1977. But even before the close of 1976, sightings had begun to increase. Randall Jones Pugh, a retired veterinary surgeon who lived in a village outside the small ancient town of Haverfordwest where the region's weekly newspaper *Western Telegraph* is published, was already known as the local "UFO expert." As early as January 13, 1977, Pugh told a *Western Telegraph* reporter that he'd had several new reports in the past three or four days and expected more.

Three weeks later, on February 4, Pugh received a late-afternoon tele-

phone call from the mother of 10-year-old David Davies who along with a dozen or more of his schoolmates had seen a grounded UFO, over a period of several hours, at Broad Haven Primary School. Pugh headed straight for the boy's home.

He learned the children first saw the UFO during the lunchtime recess. A boy playing soccer behind the school noticed an unfamiliar object in a field 200 to 300 yards away. Bushes prevented the boy and his fellow players from seeing the whole object but they were convinced it was a UFO. One or two of them rushed into the school building and brought some other children out to see it for themselves. Altogether the number of witnesses totaled 15.

Most of the children were simply curious but all were excited and some were frightened. Yet when two of the boys told headmaster Ralph Llewellyn, he refused to come outside.

According to the children, the object was "as long as a coach or maybe a bit longer." They disagreed on several points — some, for example, thought they saw a flashing light on top — but all described the object as silver-colored. Six of the witnesses reported seeing a silver-suited figure close by. At least one observer thought he saw more than one entity.

At two o'clock the lunch recess ended and the children had to go in. At 3:30 classes were over for the day and the boys immediately checked to see if their UFO was still there. At first they thought it was gone but a moment later it popped up from behind a bush and the frightened children retreated.

That same evening David Davies guided Pugh to the field where supposedly the UFO had been. But in the gathering darkness and falling rain it was impossible to see anything. Next morning Pugh returned, this time accompanied by a *Western Telegraph* writer, and again David guided them to the spot. No traces could be found although of course this may have been because of the heavy rain.

News of the affair spread rapidly. The little seaside village found itself the focus of national attention. The local newspaper remarked that "reporters, photographers and television cameramen arrived in a two-day procession to see the star-struck youngsters, who were only too willing to repeat their fantastic story." By the time school started again the following Monday, the once-skeptical headmaster asked the children to draw what they had seen. A selection of these drawings appeared on the front cover of the prestigious *Flying Saucer Review*, while the children themselves achieved fame in interviews on the immensely popular Saturday morning *Swap Shop* show.

For the next few months newspaper headlines and television interviews made sure UFOs stayed in people's minds. Investigator Pugh reported that after the school incident his phone rang continually. Pugh, an experienced researcher, would be personally involved in the majority of the events that were to follow that year. In fact, after only a few of the cases had occurred, he was declaring to the press, "There's certainly a minor flap down here." By the end of April he had announced his intention to write a book

on the affair. Already it was titled *The Dyfed Enigma*. But in April 1977 some of the most extraordinary events in the West Wales flap had yet to take place.

Of all the occurrences reported from the district, the events at Ripperston Farm were the most dramatic. Of the three books devoted to the flap, one is concerned almost entirely with what happened to the Coombs family. The Coombses figure largely in all the other accounts.

Ripperston Farm is an isolated group of buildings, two cottages and a cluster of cattle sheds together with the usual sprawl of outbuildings and sheds, feed stores and milking parlor. Approach is by a long straight unsurfaced side road from a "main road" which is itself only a minor road winding between fields; the sea is a mile or so away. Billie and Pauline Coombs and their children occupied one cottage while Brian and Caroline Klass lived next door. Billie and Brian worked for a farming company whose manager Richard Hewison lived at nearby Broadmoor Farm. Hewison was an interested observer when the events occurred.

One or two minor incidents took place early in the year but the story really begins on April 16 when a UFO chased Pauline's car, frightening her and the children.

Then on April 22 an eerie apparition appeared while Pauline and Billie were watching a late-night movie on television. Bill saw "a man [of] terrible size . . . pressed right up against the window. . . . [This] is almost seven feet. The funny part of it was that he didn't have no eyes, nose or nothing."

A good many lesser incidents were

reported by Pauline and Billie that spring and summer. There was, for example, the strange effect on mechanical things. Five cars and eight television sets were all ruined that year, presumably by UFO-related effects. At the same time the Coombses' electricity bill was abnormally high. The electricity company checked but could find nothing wrong. Were the UFOs somehow drawing power from Ripperston Farm?

Most of these stories rest on the testimony of the Coombs family alone but one dramatic sighting received impressive confirmation from another witness.

One evening in October, Pauline was driving home with her mother and some of the children. Suddenly her mother spotted a disk-shaped UFO zipping over the cliffs toward the Stack Rocks, a well-known local landmark comprising a rough, uninhabited rock projecting from the sea about two-thirds of a mile from the shore and about two miles from their location. When Pauline stopped the car, the UFO headed straight for the side of the rock which opened like a door to admit the object.

The family then saw two figures moving about on the rock. Even at that distance Pauline detected a similarity to the figure that had appeared outside their sitting room window. They watched the figures for a little while, then drove on to tell Billie. They had hardly got home when the phone rang.

Rose Granville, the proprietress of the Haven Fort Hotel, located a few miles away in the village of Little Haven, said she had seen a flash in the sky. Fetching her binoculars, she had

looked out toward Stack Rocks, which happened to be her property, and seen figures.

Encouraged by this confirmation, Pauline and several of her children walked across the fields to get a better view of the rocks and again saw the figures moving about, apparently on steps cut into the side of the rock.

* * *

SUCH WERE some of the more noteworthy events that took place in West Wales in 1977. The local weekly, the *Western Telegraph*, treated these stories with admirable objectivity. Unfortunately the national press was not so conscientious. Reporters from London who visited the area briefly went back to Fleet Street to christen Southwest Wales the "Terror Triangle." Their reports were slanted to give a ludicrously false impression.

Coverage in the UFO journals stemmed mainly from Pugh and was reasonably factual. The same was true of Pugh's book (written with the late F. W. Holiday), by far the best of the three about the happenings. The one that hit the best-seller lists, however, was Clive Harold's *The Uninvited*, which concentrated almost entirely on the Coombs family's experiences. Much of Harold's research was carried out in partnership with Peter Paget, author of *The Welsh Triangle*, whose publishers pitched it thus: "Are clandestine tunneling operations being worked under the Atlantic Ocean? Why are giant alien spacemen so interested in surveying Anglo-American bases? Did the two clonelike men who tried to contact the UFO witnesses come from Outer Space? Astonishing evidence that extraterrestrial astro-

nauts are living under the sea!"

* * *

ALL I KNEW about the West Wales sightings, when I went down there in March 1981, was what I had read in these three books and in the UFO journals. But I was aware of a curious postscript. Under the dramatic headline FRIGHTENED UFO MAN GIVES IT ALL UP, the *Western Mail* reported, "The man who was at the center of the UFO hysteria which rocked West Wales has quit investigating sightings because he has been frightened by what he has discovered."

Clearly the West Wales sightings deserved closer inspection.

I started my investigation at Broad Haven School where that first dramatic sighting took place. As soon as I saw the alleged landing site, I realized there was something seriously wrong with the story.

The witnesses' estimate of the distance between them and the UFO ranged from 200 to 350 yards. Of course nobody expects children between nine and 12 years old to be accurate judges of distance, but it does mean that an exact positioning of the object was hard to establish. Nor did the terrain lend itself to it: beyond the mown field where the boys had been playing football, the fields were dotted with bushes, other undergrowth and stubby trees, without prominent landmarks to serve as reference points. And whatever the distance, whether the minimum of 200 yards or the maximum of 350, the UFO must have been somewhere among those bushes and trees, which could not provide anything but a confused and intermittent view of the object.

But the site had an additional feature which none of the reports had made clear. I found that the landing site was not in a flat open field but in a narrow valley, enclosed by a horse-shoe-shaped ridge of low hills. And this ridge was rimmed with houses. The alleged landing site was in plain view of a dozen or so houses, which looked down on it and had a better view than the ground-level view enjoyed by the children. It had already seemed improbable that a UFO should remain on the ground in full daylight for more than three hours — an event without precedent in the literature of ufology. But that it should do so in full view of several houses and be seen by nobody defies belief.

Was the story a practical joke? I don't think so. When the children's teachers refused to take their story seriously, they presented a petition at the police station. Even in peaceful Wales children do not invite the attention of the police without good reason; their action is surely proof of their sincere belief that they had seen *something*. But what?

Farther up the valley there is a sewage plant. Some residents had suspected from the first that the children had seen some kind of plant vehicle engaged in some unusual operation. A service vehicle could well be silvery in color, have a flashing light and be accompanied by human figures.

The objection to this explanation was that ground conditions would have prevented such a vehicle from getting to the location where the children saw the UFO. But aside from the possibility of a special vehicle capable of traveling over rough terrain, we already

have seen that precise identification of the site was virtually impossible.

What made the children believe they had seen a UFO? Two days before the Broad Haven sighting, several school-children at Penarth, near Cardiff, some 90 miles to the east, had claimed to have sighted a cigar-shaped object. The following day — the day before the Broad Haven sighting — the *Western Telegraph* reported that children playing soccer at nearby Hubberston Primary School also had seen a cigar-shaped UFO. So the idea of "seeing a UFO" may have been on the minds of the Broad Haven children who, viewing an unfamiliar object in an unexpected place, might have jumped to unwarranted conclusions about its identity.

I could not check every one of the 50 or so reports without prolonged and expensive investigation. In any case, a good many of the reports were single-witness sightings, not amenable to checking; one could judge them only by their inherent probability, taking the credibility of the witness into account. Some of these cases may well have been genuine while others seem dubious.

I next went to Ripperston Farm. Until I saw the farm for myself I had not understood that the cottage in which the Coombses lived actually joins onto the cottage where Brian and Caroline Klass lived. There is a connecting door between them although at the time of their occupancy this had been sealed up. This meant that the Klasses must have been very much aware of the happenings reported by their next-door neighbors. Yet curiously, in only one instance (which we

shall consider in detail later) are the Klasses mentioned by the investigators.

Brian and Caroline have moved away from Ripperston now but were glad to discuss the events of 1977 with me. Much of what they had to say was confirmed later by the Hewisons who employed both Billie and Pauline.

* * *

OF ALL the events at Ripperston Farm none captured the public's imagination more than the seemingly supernatural teleportations of cattle. On some half-dozen occasions, we are told, Billie Coombs found that his cattle had moved silently and tracelessly, in defiance of solid fences and gates and often in a miraculously short time, to some other location, often on a neighbor's farm.

I had already been struck by the fact that the cattle were never transported more than a mile at most. If there was a supernatural agency at work, presumably it could as easily have transported them to some more distant spot. But the Ripperston cattle never went farther than the next-door farm to which they could have walked of their own accord.

And that, according to Brian Klass (whose account was substantiated by the Hewisons), is just what happened. In fact, the Ripperston cattle were forever getting loose and finding their way onto neighboring land. What about the fences and gates? The gate in the cattle yard was only a makeshift affair at best, I learned, and electric fences are easily disconnected by accident or mistake. Nor are cows so stupid as might be supposed. Brian told me Cow Number 591 had learned to

open a gate-catch with her muzzle.

Could a herd of cattle have tramped past the Coombses' cottage without being heard? Easily, Brian insisted, when the wind was blowing. On that westward-facing farm open to the Atlantic Ocean, winds were both frequent and high.

Brian had an equally down-to-earth explanation for the mechanical failures which investigators had suggested were attributable to "UFO activity." As he pointed out, a simple herdsman like Billie Coombs cannot afford five new cars or eight new television sets in the course of a single year. He purchased vehicles from the local scrap yard, got them to work as best as he could, then drove them until they fell to pieces — which on the rutted side roads of the district did not take long. As for the abnormally high electricity bills, Mrs. Hewison told me the Coombses were always leaving the central heating on while doors and windows stood open.

Beyond question, however, the Coombses *had* seen a figure at their sitting-room window. Richard Hewison, who arrived on the scene soon afterwards, was certain his herdsman really had a frightening experience. But what kind of experience?

Again, Brian Klass provided a possible explanation. Some time earlier, two local men who belonged to an organization called the Round Table were passing the Haven Fort Hotel a few miles from Ripperston where the proprietress had reported recently sighting a UFO and silver-suited entities. On impulse the men decided to play a joke on Mrs. Granville. They tramped heavily around the building in a sinister fashion, using flashlights

in order to enhance the effect.

Could these men or other members of their society have been responsible for the visitation at Ripperston Farm, borrowing a protective suit from a local factory and standing on a box at the Coombses' window to enhance the figure's height and using a flashlight to create the unearthly glow? Although the identity of the two jokers is widely suspected, the prank — which is what most residents believe the incident to have been — has not been openly admitted.

Caroline Klass has shed new light on the Stack Rocks sighting. She disputes the standard account.

As already noted, after Pauline Coombs arrived home, she received a telephone call from Mrs. Granville who said she had seen figures on the uninhabited rock. Pauline thereupon set out for the cliffs, accompanied by some of the children, and succeeded in getting a closer look at the figures. Caroline Klass reports, on the other hand, that when Pauline returned from the cliffs several children ran ahead of their mother. Caroline asked Keiron Coombs if they had seen anything. The boy laughed and said no, of course not. But when Pauline arrived she insisted that they had indeed observed figures on "steps" cut in the rock side.

A visit to the site reveals that the rocks face east, which means that in the evening, when this sighting occurred, the side facing the mainland is in shadow and the witnesses would have been looking into whatever sun remained in the sky — hardly an ideal circumstance. I noticed that on the side of the rock facing the mainland two lighter-colored rock faces project

from a darker portion behind. One sees in this natural formation an optical illusion that might suggest "sliding doors."

An on-site inspection also emphasizes another physical element. The distance from the rocks to the Haven Fort Hotel, where Mrs. Granville made her confirmatory sighting, is about three miles, a considerable distance even for binoculars. Mrs. Granville's viewpoint was about 90 degrees from Pauline's; therefore they could have seen the same thing only if it was on the corner of the rock within both their fields of vision.

One wonders what made Mrs. Granville, who had the rocks in sight of her window all day and every night, choose to look at them through binoculars at precisely that moment. She says her attention was alerted by the sight of a flash in the sky.

The sky over St. Bride's Bay is the scene of considerable air traffic. On the other side of the bay is the Royal Air Force base at Brawdy, from which training aircraft continually take off to circle the bay. The flight paths of the area use the Stack Rocks as a marker for aircraft to turn into their return approach to Brawdy field. The wings and windows of the aircraft catch the light at times and cause a noticeable flash. In other words, since flashes in the sky are quite common, Mrs. Granville's explanation seems inadequate.

Clearly there is a lot we don't know about the Stack Rocks sighting. But we do know that the incident was inadequately researched and uncritically narrated. Yet on the strength of this incident author Peter Paget suggests the rocks contain a UFO base!

Although he spent six months in the neighborhood while gathering material for the book, Paget never found time to take a boat out to the rocks to see the UFO base for himself. But Brynmor Williams, a television producer for BBC Cardiff, did ride out to the rocks. There were no traces whatever of any kind of activity, let alone a UFO base with sliding doors, he told me.

The figures on the rock may have been skindivers, shellfish collectors, seals or illusions. The sliding doors may have been a trick of the light or a figment of the imagination. The shining disk may have been an aircraft or a sea gull. These alternative explanations are hypothetical but not unreasonable.

The investigators apparently made no attempt to evaluate the credibility of the witnesses themselves. We have already seen that there is good reason to doubt Billie's stories. Even if he did not actually fabricate incidents, he may have allowed reporters to assume exaggerations.

As for Pauline, only Pugh and Holiday mention that she had had paranormal experiences before her UFO involvement. Prior to moving to Ripperston she and Billie had lived in a trailer a few miles away at Pembroke Dock where for half an hour every evening Pauline "saw" a life-sized apparition of the Virgin Mary.

Evidently Pauline is psychic, imaginative and/or suggestible. Whatever she is, the earlier incident requires us to view the events at Ripperston Farm with caution. And this is underlined by something else Caroline Klass said to me. She had mentioned a television program describing a UFO abduction report and Pauline had responded,

"Oh, I've been taken aboard a spaceship too."

Only once did Caroline Klass figure directly in an incident. It involved two "mysterious" strangers who came to Ripperston in June 1977.

Published accounts report that an unusual vehicle drove soundlessly up to the farm. Inside it were two men uncannily similar in appearance, almost like twins. Only one got out. Speaking in a strange foreign accent he asked Caroline where Pauline Coombs was; somehow he knew she was not Pauline. He had, one account avers, "large, penetrating blue eyes which seemed to go right through her and examine her thoughts."

Pauline's son Clinton had seen the visitors arrive but was so frightened that he bolted the door and hid upstairs. The visitor knocked at the door but got no reply. He tried to press further information from Caroline although it seemed to her that he knew her answers before she could speak them. Finally he asked her the way to their next destination and the two "men" set off again in their strange vehicle. Seconds later Pauline pulled up in her car. She should have passed the strangers on the way; yet when her son came down and asked her about them she insisted she had passed nobody.

Caroline told me every single published statement about the incident is false. The man who questioned her was *not* a foreigner and was *not* unusual in appearance or behavior. Because the one in the car was in shadow and largely out of her range of vision, there was no way she could have determined whether he and his companion looked like identical twins. Nor was

there anything out of the ordinary about the way the stranger knew she wasn't Pauline; in fact his first question was, "Are you Pauline Coombs?" And Clinton, who was never afraid, did not hide in the house.

Why had Pauline not passed the strangers? Caroline, on learning which way the men were headed, showed them a shortcut which took them away from Ripperston by a different route from the one Pauline traveled.

LIES, OMISSIONS and additions, distortions and exaggerations — the reports on the West Wales sightings are unreliable whether by what they include or by what they fail to in-

clude, what they state openly and what they imply.

The stories took on added dimensions of wonder when writers like Harold and Paget gave free rein to their imaginations. For example, in their effort to prove Stack Rocks is a UFO base, both men assert that snow is never known to settle there. Yet when I visited them, the Hewisons showed me a photograph of the rocks beneath a heavy mantle of snow.

Although a few genuine incidents, undoubtedly took place, the West Wales affair is best remembered not as a sensational UFO episode but as a lesson in the perils of sloppy reporting and uncritical belief.



A FEW TURNS FOR THE WORSE

JAMES NORMAN of Glyndon, Minn., always thought his 1969 Chevrolet pickup was just a plain old truck until June 26, 1980. He was driving home early that Thursday morning when he noticed a trucker who apparently needed help. Norman pulled off Hwy. 10 and stopped, flipping the gear shift into park before getting out of his cab.

Moments later his pickup was backing down the highway. Norman started after it but the pickup took evasive action.

"It started going in circles," he said. "It went across one lane and then hooked part way into the ditch and back onto the highway. I caught up — but it was just like someone was steering it and stepping on the gas. It knocked me down."

He took another run at it and tried to open the door. Again he went down.

By this time, 28-year-old Norman was lying in the ditch with a throbbing ankle. The pickup was still circling when 17-year-old Curtis Highet came along. He was also driving a pickup and Norman's pickup clipped his. He stopped but saw the Chevrolet coming at him again. He steered his vehicle into the ditch to get out of harm's way.

Nancy Halda from Deerwood, Minn., wasn't so lucky. When she came driving by, Norman's pickup nailed her car, then took off after Highet's vehicle again. This time it didn't miss and, apparently content, the Chevrolet finally stopped.

Norman was the only person hurt. He suffered a broken ankle.

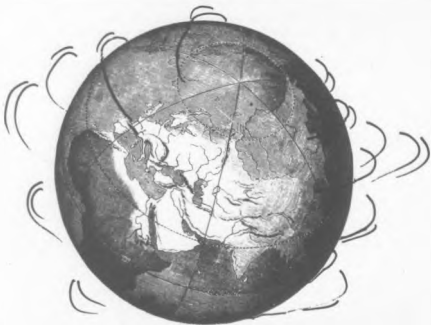
And what does he plan to do with his pickup?

"I haven't thought about it," he said, "but it really did act like something was driving it."

EARTH'S POLES DON'T SHIFT

Is the earth about to shift on its axis, wiping out continents and civilizations? Don't bet on it.

By Robert Schadewald



SUPPOSE THE earth suddenly shifted its axis. Suppose that the present north and south poles ended up on the equator. If the pole shift took place over a 24-hour period, the acceleration would be so gentle that you would never notice it. Some of its effects, however, would be *quite* noticeable.

The oceans and atmosphere, not being attached to the solid earth, would try to maintain their previous directions and speeds, sloshing like water in a jostled pan. The pan is huge and the speed change large. Tidal waves miles high would sweep over some continents while incredible winds would devastate others.

Even before the tidal waves and winds arrived, the earthquakes would begin. Because of its rotation, the earth bulges at the equator and its equatorial diameter is almost 27 miles greater than its polar diameter. As the earth tilted, the old bulge would begin to dissipate and a new one would form, causing earthquakes greater than any man has ever recorded. Shallow sea-floors might be uplifted and exposed. Elsewhere, low-lying coastal areas would sink below the waters.

Most of the human race would perish. Survivors would probably find the climate radically changed. Suppose the shift put Sumatra at one pole and Ecuador at the other. Much of Africa would remain on the equator but now Europe would be there too. Siberia would become tropical. The average climate of the United States wouldn't change much but the coldest state would be Florida, the warmest Alaska. Point Barrow would replace Miami Beach as a tropical resort. South America would be a polar continent and an ice cap would start to form there. Antarctica's ice cap, now at the equator, would melt in a few years, raising worldwide ocean levels about 300 feet and causing more flooding in coastal regions.

Is such a catastrophic pole shift likely? Have such shifts taken place in the past? Most scientists say, "Absolutely not!" But some people who believe otherwise are sure another pole shift will occur by the end of this century. An organization called The Pole Watchers (3677 1/2 Third Ave., San Diego, Calif. 92103), run by Dorothy Starr, watches for signs of an impending shift. Several books have been

written on the subject; the most recent of these is John White's *Pole Shift* (Doubleday & Company, 1980).

According to pole-shift theorists, scientific evidence suggests that the poles have not always been in their present locations. Fossils of tropical ferns and other plants are found in rocks now lying in arctic regions. Great coal beds, apparently formed in tropical bogs, lie in England and across Europe. Moving glaciers are known to cut deep scratches in bed-rock. Such scratches scar rocks in tropical Africa and in regions of South America now too close to the equator for glaciers to reach. Also buried fossil forests, mammoth frozen in Siberian tundra and similar enigmas tell us that the earth has experienced tremendous catastrophes.

To longtime FATE readers "pole shift" is almost synonymous with the name Hugh Auchincloss Brown, whom John White calls the "father of scientific pole shift predictions." Brown, who died on November 9, 1975, at age 96, first published his theory in 1948, in *Popular Awakening Concerning the Impending Flood*, but the most complete exposition of his theory appears in his 1967 book *Cataclysms of the Earth*. Brown also promoted his views in popular magazines like FATE to which he contributed numerous articles and letters to the editor.

Brown was an electrical engineer who graduated from Columbia University in 1900. In 1911 or so he became interested in the frozen mammoths found in the Siberian permafrost. Because some were remarkably well-preserved, many scientists of the

period believed they were somehow quick-frozen. At the turn of the century mammoths were considered tropical animals. How could tropical animals be suddenly and permanently frozen solid? Brown concluded that a pole shift was responsible.

When Earth's polar ice caps get too massive, Brown suggested, they cause the planet to tilt suddenly on its axis, with the ice caps ending up on the new equator. The last pole shift occurred 7000 years ago, he claimed, and the Noah's Ark story is a record of it. Brown arrived at this date from conclusions based on the salinity of Lake Chad in Africa, the age of St. Anthony Falls in Minnesota, and some carbon-14-dated wood found in Wisconsin. He thought other shifts took place about 11,400, 18,400 and 41,800 years ago. The next shift is overdue, in his opinion; the antarctic ice cap is a sword of Damocles which constantly threatens us.

Cataclysms of the Earth is unusual in many respects. Brown credits dozens of sources for various tidbits of information, but he doesn't mention the pole-shift theorists who preceded him. Yet surely he was familiar with some of their works.

For instance, his theory of 90-degree pole shifts echoes one proposed by Marshal Wheeler in 1889 and so does some of his evidence. Whereas Wheeler claimed that the most recent previous poles were Sumatra and Ecuador, Brown in effect rotated the earth exactly 90 degrees and proposed that these two points were the pivots of the last shift. Moreover, Brown devoted much of *Cataclysms* to his bizarre theory that sunlight turns into

matter, causing the earth to continuously grow larger. Is it coincidence that pole-shift theorist Alfred Wilks Drayson had a similar theory? *The Earth We Inhabit*, published in 1859, sets forth Drayson's theory that the earth is growing.

BEFORE WE examine the history and development of pole-shift theories, we should discuss what a pole shift really means.

The earth's rotational axis points nearly at the north star, Polaris. This axis makes an angle of about $23^{\circ} 27'$ with a line perpendicular to the plane of the earth's orbit. While this angle (called the obliquity of the ecliptic) varies only slightly, the direction the axis points varies in a regular way. Gravitational forces due to the sun and moon make the earth slowly precess like a lazy toy top. Its axis sweeps out a cone in about 26,000 years, causing the precession of the equinoxes.

Most pole-shift theorists believe that the earth's axis maintains its alignment with respect to the universe. They think that, as shown in the example at the beginning of this article, the earth (or at least its outer layer) shifts so that its axis of rotation cuts its surface at different points. A few theories do propose that the earth's axis changes its orientation in the universe. Such pole shifts would require powerful external forces.

Really catastrophic pole shifts supposedly happen in a day or less. Some theorists propose slower shifts, taking thousands of years or longer. These would produce the same long-term effects on the climate and sea level as a rapid shift, but without the accom-

panying tidal waves, hurricanes and other disasters.

Pole shifts were first proposed not long after the Copernican revolution succeeded. To early geologists the sometimes jumbled rock strata and fossils of marine animals found in rocks on mountaintops suggested that the earth has undergone tremendous cataclysms. Many "catastrophists" associated the fossils with the Noachian Deluge which they thought was caused by a pole shift. But as geology advanced and it became apparent that Genesis is not a reliable geology text, catastrophism gave way in the early 19th Century to the uniformitarian theory. Uniformitarians argued that the earth has been shaped by the same processes we can observe today, operating at substantially the same rates. They flatly rejected pole shifts.

Pole-shifting catastrophism remained popular, however, with fundamentalist writers. For instance, in 1871 William Bassett Walker published *Cyclical Deluges: An Explication of the Chief Geological Phenomena of the Globe, by Proofs of the Periodical Changes of the Earth's Axis*. Charles Bartlett Warring published three such works, beginning in 1875 with *The Mosaic Account of Creation*. These works had little impact and all are virtually unknown today.

A much more successful theorist was Alfred Wilks Drayson, a British army officer. Drayson, who first published his theory in his 1859 book *Great Britain Has Been, and Will Again Be, Within the Tropics*, believed that the direction of the earth's axis shifts slowly over a cycle of 31,686 years. During this time, he theorized,

the obliquity of the ecliptic varies from exactly $23^{\circ}25'47''$ to $35^{\circ}25'47''$ and back. At its maximum value the arctic circle would thus lie at $54^{\circ}34'13''$ north latitude. That would make much of England and Ireland and all of Scotland lands of the midnight sun.

Although Drayson offered some geological arguments for his theory, mostly he relied on his remarkable misunderstanding of the precession of the equinoxes and his erroneous geometry. He wrote six books on his theory and like Immanuel Velikovsky he acquired a small but faithful following composed mainly of nonscientists. When Drayson died in 1901, his followers carried on. Some of them, notably Sir Algernon F. R. de Horsey, astrologer Alfred Barley and Reginald Adams Marriott, defended Drayson's theories in their own books. The original Fortean Society, under founder Tiffany Thayer, promoted several of these works.

Drayson predicted cyclical ice ages based on the slow shifting of the earth's axis. Walker, whose work I haven't seen, apparently predicted cyclical deluges from a similar (but perhaps catastrophic) cause. Marshal Wheeler, of Eugene, Oreg., predicted 90° pole shifts like those typically discussed by modern theorists.

In his 1889 pamphlet *The Earth — Its Third Motion*, Wheeler argued that the last shift brought the poles to their present positions from Sumatra and Ecuador. (Earlier, I used the opposite shift as an example.) Wheeler offered some of the same evidence for past pole shifts that more recent authors have used.

"That said third motion has occurred during comparatively recent ages," he wrote, "is indicated by those traces of glacial action to be found in certain positions of the middle zones. . . ." As evidence of the last pole shift, he wrote, "There are to be found today the remains of elephants, mastodons and other animals which could only have been produced and existed in a tropical region, and this assertion is also true of certain kinds of vegetation found there." He also mentioned fossils of tropical ferns found in northern lands, buried forests and so on.

Wheeler believed that "the Earth's third motion [is] caused by the encircling magnetic currents now controlling it." He thought another pole shift was due but didn't specify when, saying only that we were about 24/25 of the way from the last one to the next one.

Samuel Chase Osborne was the first 20th-Century theorist to write a popular book advocating pole shifts.

"The earth tips over," he said in the first sentence of his 1927 book *The Earth Upsets*. "It is tipping all the time. It upsets.

"No one disputes this. It is only never stated in these common and easily understood terms."

Osborne's idea incorporated the well-known precession of the equinoxes but there was more to it than that. He thought that the earth lolls about like a gigantic drunkard in slow motion. As evidence he pointed to the occurrence of earthquakes and volcanoes, the known minor wanderings of the poles, glaciation past and present, and so on. "All of the baffling phenomena of the physical earth can

be traced to the compensations demanded by the gradual overturning of the entire sphere," he declared. It all happened as a result of a mysterious "Godforce."

Two others who have predicted catastrophic pole shifts, Adam Barber and Emil Sepic, should also be familiar to some FATE readers.

Adam Barber, a Washington, D.C., patent attorney, experimented with toy gyroscopes and speculated about the makeup of the universe. During the 1950's he ran full-page and two-page ads in FATE and other magazines for *The Coming Disaster Worse Than the H-Bomb*. Those who ordered his pamphlet received a collage of newspaper clippings and a few pages of typewritten text all reproduced on execrable newsprint.

Barber thought that the earth has a minor orbit about nine million miles in diameter superimposed on its major orbit. He believed that the earth completes the minor orbit in about 36,000 years and that every 9000 years the earth's axis is simultaneously perpendicular to the planes of both its orbits. Barber's gyroscopic experiments suggested that, when this happened, the axis would shift 135° causing widespread disasters. In 1955 he predicted another shift would occur some June 21 or December 21 of the next 50 years, or before 2005.

In a pamphlet advertised in FATE as recently as 1979, *The Imminent Shift of the Earth's Axis*, Emil Sepic proposes a minor orbit for the earth but he makes it only three million miles in diameter. He claims 90° pole shifts occur about every 7500 years when the earth's stability forces are tempo-

rarily used up. It seems obvious he derived his theory, first published in 1960, from Barber's although John White reports that Sepic vehemently denies any such connection.

Unlike Barber, who credits Brown for his inspiration, Sepic doesn't mention previous theorists by name. But he belittles Brown's idea that the antarctic ice cap could cause a pole shift. Some of his arguments — one about St. Anthony Falls, for instance — seem to be lifted from *Cataclysms of the Earth*. His speculations about the evolution of the planets and the causes of tides and ocean currents are more original, if bizarre.

Three other modern theorists deserve mention here: Charles Hapgood, Chan Thomas and Immanuel Velikovsky. I have not seen Hapgood's *The Earth's Shifting Crust* (revised and reissued as *The Path of the Pole*). According to White, Hapgood proposes occasional noncatastrophic pole shifts, with the earth's crust slipping over its inner layers at perhaps a few thousand feet each year. He apparently believes that such a shift is in progress. White also writes that Thomas envisions catastrophic pole shifts triggered by a magnetohydrodynamic effect in the earth. Thomas reportedly believes that another shift is imminent. Velikovsky didn't predict pole shifts for the future but said they might have happened in the past.

* * *

THE VALUE of most pole-shift theories is obvious. Drayson, Barber and Sepic all proposed long-term motions for the earth grossly different from those astronomers have been monitoring for nearly three cen-

tures. What evidence is there that Drayson's "second rotation of the earth" or the minor orbits proposed by Barber and Sepic exist? About as much evidence as there is for Wheeler's magnetic currents, Osborne's "Godforce" or Thomas' magnetohydrodynamic force.

The antarctic ice cap of course is quite real, but Brown's fear that polar ice caps become large enough to unbalance the earth is without foundation.

Suppose you took a balanced sphere, added weights to opposite poles and then spun it. The sphere would eventually stabilize on an axis that put the weights on the equator. But the earth is hardly a balanced sphere. As mentioned earlier, its equatorial diameter is 27 miles greater than its polar diameter. Thanks to this bulge, the earth is already spinning on an axis that puts its unbalanced weight at the equator. The mass of the antarctic ice cap is negligible compared to the weight of the equatorial bulge, so the earth has considerable stability around its present axis. That stability is not, however, absolute.

An apparently valid mechanism for catastrophic pole shifts was proposed by Peter Warlow. Scientists believe that the earth's magnetic field changes polarity every million years or so, with magnetic north becoming magnetic south and vice versa. In a paper entitled "Geomagnetic Reversals?" published in *Journal of Physics A*, October 1978, Warlow argued that the entire earth periodically flips over instead. Although he doesn't mention Immanuel Velikovsky in his paper, Warlow's scenario and some of his re-

ferences are clearly Velikovskian. Warlow's theory requires a planet-sized body to pass within perhaps 20,000-40,000 miles of the earth. But there's no reason to suppose that this has happened or will happen during the life of the solar system.

Most pole-shift speculations were formulated before the scientific community accepted the theory of continental drift. When Alfred Wegener proposed his continental-drift idea in 1915, he claimed it could account for the glacial markings in tropical regions, the anomalous fossils and the wandering of the poles. Fifty years later, when Wegener's theory was finally adopted, it proved to be all that he promised and more. The modern theory, "global plate tectonics," differs somewhat from Wegener's. Apparently all of the dozen or so "plates" that make up the earth's surface are in constant motion, including the antarctic plate and the plate currently covering the north pole. Thus, in a sense, both poles are slowly shifting.

And what about the frozen mammoths and the other evidence of catastrophes? As White points out, carbon-14 dates show that the mammoths died over a period of tens of thousands of years rather than all at once. The creatures frequented the edges of glaciers during the last Ice Age and could have perished and been frozen into the permafrost in any number of known ways.

As for catastrophes, it doesn't take a pole shift to devastate a forest — just ask anyone living near Mount St.

Helens. On a geologic time scale of tens or hundreds of thousands of years, our poor old planet endures millions of catastrophes: earthquakes, tidal waves, floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, volcanic eruptions and occasional collisions with comets and giant meteorites — but probably not catastrophic pole shifts.

John White disagrees. In *Pole Shift* he reviews some of the same theories and evidence and offers some of the same criticisms. But White is loathe to throw out a theory and when he catches a theorist in an error or outrage he is likely to say, as he does on page 363, "a person may be right for the wrong reasons." True. But we can hardly depend on it!

Nor can I depend on the predictions derived from prophetic traditions (such as the Bible) or made by psychics. White devotes nearly half of his book to such End of the World predictions. A pole shift certainly would mean The End of civilization but predictions of such an event have not been notably successful. White is impressed because several "scientific theorists" (Brown, Barber and Sepic) have foreseen an imminent pole shift while some psychics have predicted one for the end of this century. He concludes, "Here is a subject worthy, truly worthy, of the most concerted and full-scale investigation by the entire scientific and scholarly community."

At the risk of being called psychic 20 years from now, I predict that neither the investigation nor the pole shift will ever happen.



Water Witching With a Willow Wand

I did not expect to be paid for divining water on the old man's property but I received a much greater reward.

By Sunny Barber

ONE HOT dry summer day in 1955 an old pickup truck rattled into our yard in Vernal, Utah. An elderly little man pushed several times on the rickety door before it would open. He walked hesitantly up to me, swept his worn, weathered hat from his head and twisted it in his hands. I had never seen him before.

Ill at ease myself, I tried to make him feel comfortable by asking how he was.

He introduced himself and said he had heard from a friend that I could find water with a stick. His place desperately needed water. His animals were thirsty and the few scraggly trees and shrubs his wife was trying to grow would die soon without nourishment. He didn't have much money but could I — when I had time — see if I could find water on his place?

I was touched by this hardworking man's plea. In the past I had helped many persons like him find water. I told him that if he would take me back to his place, I would see what I could do.

With much coughing and backfiring the old pickup started up again and we took off. Conversation was impossible with the rattling and clanging, so most of the journey we sat in silence.

When we arrived at our destination, a tired-looking, sweet-faced woman and five or six kids of various sizes and ages greeted us. The old man allowed as how he would feel blessed if water could be found in or near one of the corrals. I took the willow fork I had cut before we left and holding it upright in my hands, I walked back and forth over the area, climbing in and out of several corrals. Finally the willow twisted down in my hands. About eight feet from the inside corner of one corral, he had water!

The man, who had followed me all the way, brought a big stick and laid it on the spot indicated. Elated, he pumped my hand vigorously. The kids jumped up and down with excitement and his wife dabbed at the corners of her eyes with her apron. She shyly offered me an old red Calumet baking powder can containing a few crumpled

dollar bills and some change.

Handing it back to her, I delicately explained that I didn't take payment for my efforts because God had given me the talent as a gift to be used to help people less fortunate than I. I told the man that he would find his water at 14 feet and that it was surface water. I cautioned him about cave-ins as he dug. With many thanks and

much ado, he took me home.

About a week later the old pickup rattled into the yard. The door flew open and the bony little man slid out. With tears in his eyes, he proudly handed me a fruit jar full of muddy water. No words were needed. The tears of emotion and gratitude on his weathered face were worth far more to me than any amount of money.



AMAZE-ING STONE

By Ida M. Pardue

SOMEONE did it — but who? And when? And why? And what does it say?

Not since it was first discovered in 1914 has anyone been able to answer these tantalizing questions posed by the silent "Maze Stone" located near Hemet in Riverside County, California. Archaeologists and other experts have come and gone and still no one is sure of the meaning of the strange, straight-lined pattern cut into a huge granite boulder in Reinhardt Canyon.

To some people it looks like a maze and that's where the stone got its name. Different eyes see it as a geometric symbol — a quadruple swastika. To still others it portrays a square Chinese coin. Or is it a "Kilroy was here" message left by Buddhist missionaries, who, according to local legend, actually were there in A.D. 458? Or did Cahuilla Indians, once native to the area, leave it to protect travelers from evil spirits? Or is it a much older directional signal — a "road sign" — left by explorers of ancient times?

Nobody knows.

The only certainty is that the stone is an outstanding example of the oldest known method of writing: a rock inscription. It was made by the ancient method of cutting into the rock with a sharp-pointed obsidian tool. The resulting deep grooves were then smoothed with porphyry, another volcanic rock.

It is hardly graffiti, in view of the



time and work expended in the cutting. Surely it must say more than "John loves Susie."



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BOOKS

NEWS & REVIEWS

by Jerome Clark



COSMIC JOKE

THE TITLE of *The Meier Incident: The Most Infamous Hoax in Ufology* by Kal K. Korff (Box 1178, Fremont, Calif. 94538, 1981, 124 pages, \$8.50, paperback) tips us off right away to the book's major problem: a consistent and heavy-handed tendency to overstate the case. To start with, the Meier episode is hardly ufology's "most infamous hoax." The 1947 Maury Island incident, which resulted in the deaths of two air force investigators, probably will forever hold that dubious distinction.

Eduard "Billy" Meier of Switzerland is a 1950's-style contactee who regales the faithful (of whom there aren't very many) with tales of repeated contacts with benevolent extraterrestrials. They come, he says, from the Pleiades, which he seems to think is a single star rather than a cluster of stars. It is undoubtedly irrelevant to point out that the Pleiades stars are too young and too unstable to be surrounded by life-supporting planets. In the contactee game the prosaic realities of astronomy are beside the point. After all, Meier's predecessors — George Adamski and all the rest — reported, massive scientific evidence to the contrary, that every planet in our solar system harbors humanlike beings. Anybody able to swallow that one should have no trouble digesting Meier's yarns about visitors from worlds that may be farther away but are no less unlikely.

For the inevitable "proof" contactees always feel obliged to produce, Meier distributes comically unconvincing pictures purporting to depict spaceships, Pleiadians and even greater wonders. He somehow man-

ages to keep his face straight at all times, which can't be easy. Once, for example, investigators asked him to explain how a photograph showing a UFO hovering near a tree could have been taken at a location where no tree exists. Meier replied that the UFO had disintegrated it. Asked why a picture showing the "eye of God" didn't show the other eye as well, Meier explained it was closed because God was winking at his companion!

Korff, alas, sees nothing funny in any of this. He treats the Meier hoax as if it had succeeded — which it hasn't — and as if it were a threat to serious UFO study — which it isn't. He resists the obvious conclusion that the affair may be nothing more than a joke that got out of hand. Meier acts more like a prankster having a good time at the expense of the supercredulous than a con man attempting to persuade us of his sincerity. In fact Meier does all he can to make his story grotesquely implausible, as if his ever more preposterous tales and ludicrous alibis were intended to challenge the capacities of even the truest of believers.

Meier's followers, a small and embattled band, are left to sputter that their hero never said those things, never claimed to have photographed God's eye or to have traveled backward in time to confer with Jesus, never asserted that God Himself personally confided to him the 11th and 12th Commandments, and so on and on. Korff shows that Meier did indeed say all this and more. "God's eye," for example, appears on page 26 where an astronomer identifies it as a "distorted picture of the Ring Nebula in the constellation of Lyra."

Korff is justifiably angry at the methods a

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group of American promoters have used to
sell a book that would have us think scien-
tific investigation has confirmed Meier's
claims and photographs. Korff provides
devastating evidence that this "investiga-
tion" was a bad joke at best and deliberate
flimflam at worst.

Still, I can't help feeling that *The Meier
Incident* makes too much of too little. It
does not take a sledgehammer, after all, to
squash a gnat. I wish the book weren't so
relentlessly humorless; even when he re-
counts the most hilarious of yarns, Korff is
not amused. The text also suffers from the
author's awkward prose and occasional
grammatical lapses. *Incident* is likely to re-
main the definitive treatment of this small
episode in UFO history, but perhaps next
time Korff will direct his considerable
energy and intelligence to claims more
worthy of this kind of in-depth treatment.
Perhaps too he will recognize in retrospect
that the Meier incident is not ufology's most
infamous hoax, just its funniest.

UFOs in FATE

GRAY BARKER has been involved in
ufology since the subject's very early
days. He wrote the most entertaining and
scary of all UFO books, *They Knew Too
Much About Flying Saucers* (1956), which
established Men in Black as a permanent
fixture in UFO folklore. For years he pub-
lished the *Saucerian Bulletin*, which paired
the farthest-out of contactee tall tales with
Barker's down-to-earth good humor.

In addition to selling books, he himself
published a number of them, including
John Stuart's *UFO Warning* (arguably the
most bizarre saucer book this side of *Round
Trip to Hell in a Flying Saucer*), under the
Saucerian Press imprint. Barker seems to
have concluded long ago that, since the
answer to the UFO mystery is certain to
elude us for years to come, in the mean-
while we may as well have fun with it.

His wit is much in evidence in *A UFO
Guide to FATE* (Saucerian Press, Inc., Box
2228, Clarksburg, W. Va. 26301, 1981,
103 pages, \$32.00, paperback), a monu-
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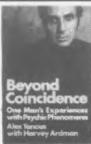
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items are computer-indexed but that doesn't mean one has to be a computer operator (or know anything at all about computers, for that matter) to find this a useful reference work. Both as a UFO enthusiast and as a FATE editor, I've already had several occasions to consult the *Guide*.

Besides being useful, the book is fun to browse through. Personally, even though I have been reading FATE since 1960, I am astonished at the quantity of UFO material it has published over the years — and unsettled to find that I have published more UFO/Forcean articles in FATE than anyone else, surpassing even the prolific Frank Edwards. (At the December 1980 cutoff, I was one article behind Edwards, according to Barker [page 46]; having published two UFO articles since, in the January and February 1981 issues, I am one ahead.)

Barker's commentary in the beginning of each section discusses in lighthearted fashion the evolution of ufology from hobby to protoscience. It also examines serious matters such as the unexplained disappearance of former FATE editor Robert N. Webster, described by Curtis Fuller as a strange fellow who "was very difficult to get to know" and who refused to take phone calls. Barker hints darkly that the full story of Webster's disappearance has not been told.

A *UFO Guide to FATE* is a welcome addition to the growing body of bibliographical UFO literature. Its price is steep but serious students and hard-core bibliophiles will get their money's worth.

THE PROBLEM OF CONTACT

UFO STUDY by Jenny Randles (Robert Hale, London, England, 1981, 271 pages, £7.95) is aptly subtitled "A Handbook for Enthusiasts." In a general way it resembles Allan Hendry's *The UFO Handbook* (reviewed in February 1980 FATE). Although it is not the trailblazingly original work Hendry's was, *Study* is nonetheless an interesting and worthwhile guide to UFO investigation.

Some of it is rather elementary, which is not surprising since the book (which has a distinctly British slant) seems intended as a sort of beginner's classroom textbook. Each chapter ends with a list of exercises, such as: "Design a one-page handout that would be suitable to place in your local library and

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Much of what Randles suggests is simple common sense, which does not mean it is trivial. Common sense, all too often absent in the thinking of ufologists, is the basis of all sound inquiry. Randles reminds us again (as did Hendry earlier) that it is not just a meaningless cliché to say that 90 percent of raw UFO reports can be accounted for in prosaic terms; it is the most basic truth of UFO investigation.

But to me the book's most fascinating section comes midway through the text, when Randles takes up the question of occupant and contact cases, about which she writes (page 210), "They tend to be single-witness events (1.1 witnesses per case, in my sample, as opposed to 2.6 per case for general events). They tend to occur under conditions where hallucinations/trance/dream-states are most easily obtained (on a lonely road, in a bedroom). They have the properties of a dream (omissions of nonessential parts, acute symbology, etc.)."

Unlike most of Britain's "new ufologists," who contend that *all* UFO events are similarly subjective, Randles takes note of the varieties of physical evidence and sees these as suggestive of an objective UFO phenomenon, presumably technological. But she thinks contact reports as a whole can be explained in subjective psychological terms.

Unfortunately she does not explain precisely what she means when she refers to "contact cases," a term that covers a very wide variety of claims. And she weakens her argument when she asserts that "almost all witnesses [to such events] claim reasonably extensive histories of psychic or paranormal phenomena." She is suggesting, I gather, that this indicates such persons are unusually sensitive or suggestible. Yet several polls taken over the past few years have shown that *most* people (not just claimants in exotic UFO cases) believe they have had psychic experiences.

There certainly is no justification for her further statement (fortunately qualified at least by an "allegedly") that "such witnesses possess a common psychological and

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physiological makeup." To the extent that there is any evidence bearing on the question at all, that evidence suggests close-encounter claimants are no different from any other UFO claimants. Generally speaking, the only thing that separates a witness to a nocturnal light from a witness to a landing with occupants is the strangeness level of their respective reports.

In my opinion the standard close encounter of the third kind, consisting usually of a brief sighting of humanoids (sometimes multiply or independently witnessed) and more rarely of an abduction and limited contact, is a part of the "true" UFO phenomenon. Such reports, worldwide in scope and at least as consistent in their essential details as other less exotic reports, do not lend themselves to easy psychological resolution — unlike the following (page 160):

"A young man . . . is a failed artist living alone in dilapidated conditions (his parents are dead, his last girl friend left him in 1966). Out of this background came a sighting of a huge cigarlike UFO over Leeds in 1974. Following this, he claims numerous telepathic contacts with alien intelligences. . . . Quite often his personal abhorrence for science and what it has done to modern life (atom bombs, pollution, etc.) overlaps without boundary into the supposed messages from the beyond."

Stories like these, the "new ufologists" to the contrary, have about as much to do with the UFO phenomenon as reports from people who claim to be getting messages from the Russians through their teeth have to do with international communication. The only conceivable use they serve for ufology is as a standard against which to judge "normal" people's reports — to which it is immediately apparent they bear no resemblance.

Fortunately Randles is never dogmatic in expressing her views. Instead, displaying a modesty rare among UFO-book authors of any persuasion, she emphasizes that her ideas are tentative, subject to change should additional evidence come to light. If, like most of her ufological colleagues, she occasionally assumes that we know more than we really do, she more than compensates for this understandable human failing with her consistently intelligent, sensitive approach. I look forward to her next book.

OTHER REVIEWS

THE UFO VERDICT by Robert Sheaffer, Prometheus Books, Buffalo, N.Y., 1981, 242 pages, \$15.95.

Those who follow the UFO scene will remember the minor furor that erupted when James Oberg's paper "The Failure of the 'Science' of Ufology" was published in the October 11, 1979, issue of *New Scientist*. Clearly Oberg struck a sensitive nerve among UFO proponents. But if they thought Oberg was nasty, wait until they read Robert Sheaffer's *The UFO Verdict*.

Fellow debunker Sheaffer carries Oberg's theme to its extreme conclusion in this loosely organized but powerful set of anti-UFO arguments. Armed with almost every embarrassing shortcoming of ufology, he lets the "believers" have it with both ray guns blazing. He blasts them for their unbridled credulity, poor investigative

techniques, dishonest reporting, media hype, unfulfilled prophecies, unverifiable theories, internal squabbling among UFO groups, and more.

For the most part Sheaffer's book is based on sound scientific principles and logical reasoning. Therefore I predict that most ufologists will hate it. Not that all UFO proponents are totally unscientific, but for the great majority of believers UFOs constitute an unshakable article of faith, as Sheaffer easily documents.

Unfortunately a largely dictatorial tone, exemplified by the title, pervades the book to a degree that I found overbearing to the point of distraction. Sheaffer writes in a flippant and contemptuous style that is likely to turn off many potentially sympathetic readers.

For example, he is fond of saying he has found *the* solution to a given UFO case, even if his own particular "explanation"

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falls far short of being definitive. His treatment of the famous multiple-witness sighting at Exeter, N.H. (Chapter 11), is a prime example.

What was described by the witnesses as an oval-shaped object, "as big as a house," with brilliant red pulsating lights (blinking on and off in a regular sequence that was repeated several times), as bright as "automobile headlights shining directly in one's face at less than several yards away," and rocking back and forth, was "identified" by Sheaffer as nothing more than the planet Jupiter.

This also is one case in which the UFO was seen to arrive and depart, both above and below a 60- to 70-foot-high tree line, while under continuous observation by the witnesses. The sighting lasted from 10 to 15 minutes. Does this sound like Jupiter, even under the most unusual viewing conditions? I think not.

Sheaffer's fellow debunker and mentor Philip J. Klass was just as certain some years ago that he too had identified the Exeter UFO but to him it was a rare, unknown type of plasma, "uncatalogued by science" and akin to ball lightning.

So which is the solution — Klass' or Sheaffer's? And who is more gullible: someone who believed the Exeter UFO was (and remains) an unexplained phenomenon or someone who believed in Klass' "freak plasma" theory, which remains to this day an unfounded speculation?

A truly scientific approach in such a case as this would render the matter indeterminate, leaving the reported phenomenon a UFO — an unidentified flying object — which means just that. In their overzealous quest for absolute certainty (a trait they share with most believers), the debunkers often feel they must explain away every sighting report even if the data needed for proper identification are missing. The debunkers' approach is closer to pseudo-science than to true science.

I wonder if it has occurred to Sheaffer that it might be wise to keep an open mind about the possibility that new discoveries may render our present-day science obsolete. Surely we have not suddenly seen the last of all scientific discoveries. Why must we wrap up the UFO phenomenon right now, once and for all?

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From a literary standpoint Sheaffer's book leaves much to be desired. Although the tone (condescending and arrogant) and viewpoint (UFOs are nonsense) are consistent, the book lacks a clear organizational structure. One subject does not follow logically from another.

But whatever its faults, as a clear statement of the debunkers' position *The UFO Verdict* is an important contribution. — Ronald D. Story.

THE DEAD ARE ALIVE! by Harold Sherman, Amherst Press, Amherst, Wis., 1981, 288 pages, \$8.95, paperback.

Harold Sherman's voice commands respect in the psychic community. Now in his 80's, Sherman wrote about psychic experiences and risked his reputation in some important psychic experiments before most of us had ever heard of ESP. His record of successful psychic activity is far greater than that of most "psychics" who have emerged since the occult revival of the 1970's.

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The Dead Are Alive! recounts numerous accounts of survival experiences. Many of these are spontaneous cases but some were initiated by his own ESP Research Associates Foundation as experiments with those "unknown psychic influences." The anecdotes reported here are different from the more standard survival research such as Karlis Osis did on death-crisis events. Nevertheless these accounts have that great convincing value so frequently absent in cold statistics. The alternative explanations (fraud and super-ESP) are more preposterous than the simple solution that suggests survival of death.

Sherman takes a final swipe at the concept of reincarnation in the last chapter. Because of Sherman's standing as a psychic, I have tended to listen to him on this point, especially in the face of the advocacy of reincarnation based upon the revelation of lesser psychics. He and I share a prejudice against life readings (which Sherman labels "fictitious") and the memories of so-called past lives produced in hypnotic regression. In the end, however, he protests on philosophical grounds and argues that reincarnation would deny the survival of individual identity and memory and by implication deny the very evidence for survival presented in this volume.

I disagree with Sherman on some points. He relies too heavily on the Raudive tape techniques for spirit communication. Some of the stories do seem a little farfetched. But for the most part the book makes a convincing case. — J. Gordon Melton.

ALSO NOTABLE

THE WORLD'S GREAT UNSOLVED MYSTERIES edited by Martin Ebon, Signet Books, New York, N.Y., 1981, 211 pages, \$2.50, paperback.

This anthology recounting the standard Fortean and archaeological enigmas will be best appreciated by readers coming to them for the first time. Readers familiar with the anomaly literature will find nothing new here.

HAUNTED WISCONSIN by Beth Scott and Michael Norman, Stanton & Lee Publishers, Inc., Sauk City, Wis., 1980, 240 pages, \$9.95, paperback.

Entertaining, well-written and thorough, this book traces one state's ghosts from early folklore to current reports. Recommended.

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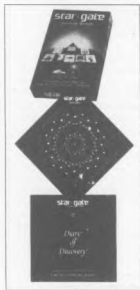
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REPORT FROM THE READERS

These columns of FATE are set aside each month for your comments. Send your opinion of articles and stories of unusual occurrences to FATE Magazine, 500 Hyacinth Pl., Highland Park, Ill. 60035.

READER PROTESTS

Black magic is alive and doing well, assisted by FATE's editorial policy (or lack of it). In the July 1981 issue, pages 10 and 11, an advertising spread blares, "Rub the belly of Buddha and get any amount of money you want!" The ad maintains the Buddha "has magic powers of attracting GREAT wealth and unbelievable riches to *anyone* who rubs his belly!" And you foster voodooism by accepting this ad for publication in your otherwise respectable magazine? You acquiesce to a come-on advertisement that caters to the avarice of unthinking people beset by insufficient income to acquire the material things of present-day living and willing to grasp any means for attaining more and more, even through magic?

Other than the immorality of such an offer, the idea of "rubbing the Buddha for money" denigrates a beautiful soul and one of the greatest teachers in history, Lord Buddha, who, although born to a regal household, gave up all worldly riches to wander around with only a begging bowl teaching his Way to Right Living, which did not include attachment to material goods. Nowhere in the commandments of historical religions can be found so practical a guide to right living as that prescribed by the Buddha in his Noble Eightfold Path. This Path leads to no desire — desirelessness being the one acquisition that is certain to break the chain of causation linking one with the sufferings of birth (life) and rebirth.

In the *Dhammapada* (The Path of Virtue) a verse reads: "The wise man, by vigilance, by restraint, by control, may make for himself an island which the floods cannot overwhelm." Lord Buddha stresses that power lies within oneself to bring about existential results and warns that one should not be dependent on Buddhas or gods (or magic). All that comes to us in this life rests solely upon ourselves and "those whose appetites (for material gains) have been conquered attain peace in this world."

As to the idea, "Rub the Buddha's belly and get rich," no Lord Buddha image should be thus desecrated; it should be treated with respect because of what it stands for.

Finally, I must ask this question. Would FATE accept a two-page ad for publication which reads, "Rub the belly of Jesus Christ and have luck and lots of money"? I doubt that you would insult the Christian community in that manner — but it seems you have no inhibitions about running an ad that is offensive to the vast Buddhist community.

Will you publish an apology for this atrocious ad to the 255,000,000 votaries of Buddhism, who love and revere Lord Buddha and who consider the ad tantamount to blasphemy? — Ruth Reyna, Huntington Park, Calif.

MONUMENTALLY DUPED?

In Jerome Clark's review of *Photographs of the Unknown* (July 1981 FATE), what evidence other than gossip does he have

that Katie King was the sister of Florence Cook? And why were the virulent skeptics of that time unable to detect this obvious ruse?

Does Clark believe that all materializations are impossible per se and so all photos of these are fraudulent? Or does he believe that Crookes in particular was a monumental dupe? — *B. Fox, Cleveland, Ohio.*

THE REVIEWER REPLIES:

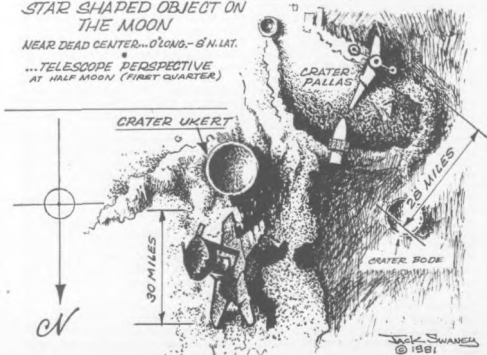
Not only "virulent skeptics" harbored suspicions that Florrie Cook wasn't all she claimed to be. E. W. Cox, one of the most influential and respected Victorian Spiritualists, was so appalled by what he saw at seances conducted by Cook and fellow medium Mary Showers in the Crookes home that he publicly condemned the affair as a hoax.

Crookes was not above being taken in by fraudulent materialization mediums. One of them, Anna Fay, confessed in her old age (to Walter Franklin Prince of the American Society for Psychical Research) that she

STAR SHAPED OBJECT ON THE MOON

NEAR DEAD CENTER...0° LONG.—8° N. LAT.

...TELESCOPE PERSPECTIVE
AT HALF MOON (FIRST QUARTER)



had fooled Crookes completely. So, apparently, did other mediums, many of whom had access to his house keys (which were copied and distributed throughout the medium community) and were able to sneak accomplices into the house.

Florrie Cook had a younger sister named Katie, also a materialization medium, and they strongly resembled each other. This may well account for the often-noted physical similarity between Florrie and the alleged spirit "Katie King."

Florrie Cook was later caught faking spirit materializations in Germany. Eric Dingwall, the noted scholar of early psychical research, has revealed that Cook often "posed" for fake spirit photographs. — *Jerome Clark, Highland Park, Ill.*

OBJECTS ON THE MOON

A very strange object is sitting on our moon. It's located at almost dead center but because of its obvious star configuration it has been retouched out of most of the published photos.

I have come to the conclusion that the star-shaped object is an example of the broken-up or junked alien machinery that litters the moon. It's piled up in and around various craters and can be clearly seen in scores of orbiter shots which, paradoxically, NASA has released.

The moon is not at all as we have been led to believe, so the person observing with a small telescope is likely to stumble across this 30-mile-wide apparition with a sense of shock. Also there is a weird rig in nearby Crater Pallas (alternate name "Murchison") which shimmers with an intense metallic whitish texture. In most photos it's altered by an artist to look like a hill!

Incidentally, the cranelike rig is not unique. At the craters Boscovitch and Julius Caesar 275 miles east are two similar examples, horrendous objects whose booms or arms are about 25 miles long.

High-priced, sophisticated telescopes are not required to see any of these anomalies. The 60mm astronomical telescopes sold in discount stores are equal to the task and can keep one busy recording alien artifacts. — Jack P. Swaney, Las Vegas, Nev.

A NUMBERS GAME

In "The Visit of the Plumed Serpent" (July 1981 FATE) author Luis Enrique

Arochi mentions that Diego de Landa spoke of the five feather plumes at the top of the pyramid as an indispensable element of the celebration.

Why five? No matter where one goes in this world this number five is held in great reverence. In the king's chamber in the Great Pyramid there are exactly five stress chambers. The Stonehenge monument in England was rimmed by five gigantic monoliths. There were seven principal actors in the occult history of Joan of Arc, but the main plot was woven around the magic sword, the sword which bore five crosses on its escutcheon. — E. L. Cole, Dallas, Tex.

REVIEWER GETS LAST WORD

In "Report from the Readers" (September 1981 FATE) Gerald Brittle decries my review of his book *The Demonologist*. Let me respond by saying first that I have no a priori prejudice against the existence of demonic possession or the efficacy of proper exorcism. I have written extensively on demonic possession and firmly believe in its existence. I even delivered a paper on the evidence to the 1978 annual meeting of the American Anthropological Association — which raised a number of eyebrows!

My objections to *The Demonologist* are purely empirical. Do Ed and Lorraine War-



THE OBJECT AS IN N.A.S.A. APOLLO PHOTO OF AREA
(..... APPEARS DAMAGED OR WRECKED)

PUBLISHED IN MOORE'S "NEW GUIDE TO THE MOON"... PLATE 15 - AT TOP LEFT....

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ren know what they are doing? Are they doing harm or good with their so-called exorcisms? Are they able to substantiate the claims they make which Mr. Brittle quotes? My answer is no to all three questions.

As for the "Amityville Horror" this "haunting" was so thoroughly exposed as a hoax by Rick Moran and Peter Jordan in the May 1978 issue of FATE that only an extremely credulous person would take the Lutzes' claims seriously.

As for the "theological" validity of the Warrens' views on possession, frankly there is none. The Roman Catholic Church lays down specific methods by which a case of possession can be diagnosed. Mr. Brittle might consult Father Corrado Balducci's paper "Parapsychology and Diabolic Possession" in Spring 1966 *International Journal of Parapsychology*. If one compares the true Catholic approach to demonic possession to the way the Warrens approach their cases, one will see that the latter in no way go about their work with the care and caution prescribed by their own Church.

It's important to remember that the Warrens are not trained parapsychologists, they have no psychiatric training and they are not ordained priests. Nor do they consult with such professionals in the course of their work. What are their qualifications for diagnosing or treating a case of possession or suspected possession?

Much of what the Warrens say is not only incorrect Christian theology, it isn't even correct demonology. A lot of their talk about the alleged differences between "devils" and "demons" and the behavior of such denizens of evil is merely the Warrens' own views and I challenge Mr. Brittle to cite any academic text or author who supports them.

Nor do I believe Mr. Brittle checked very carefully on what the Warrens told him. He cites Ed Warren's claim that the famous "Ghost of Flight 401" (a phantom crewman who was seen on several Eastern Airlines flights after an ill-fated crash) once spoke and that its voice was picked up on tape. For the record, this "fact" was invented by the scriptwriter who wrote the TV-movie version of the story! It plays no role in the original testimony which John Fuller collected for his book on the case.

If Mr. Brittle interviewed various wit-

nesses to the Warrens' exploits, why isn't their testimony incorporated in the book? Why weren't these validating affidavits published along with the text? I believe Mr. Brittle had a responsibility to present this type of confirming evidence to his readers; virtually no independent evidence documenting any of the cases is presented in *The Demonologist*, which as I said in my review is merely a book-length interview with the Warrens.

I have nothing to retract and I believe my review stands as a fair, honest and justifiable critique of Mr. Brittle's book. I most certainly believe in possession, exorcism and the power of evil. What I don't believe are the Warrens' wild stories or their claims that they have encountered these darker forces of the spiritual realm. They therefore run the risk of harming the people they attempt to "treat." — *D. Scott Rogo, Northridge, Calif.*

THE GRAND NONALIGNMENT

The May 1981 issue of *FATE* ran an advertisement depicting the "Great Conjunction" supposed to occur in December 1982. Since so much has been said and written about this supposedly imminent phenomenon, I would like to set the record straight.

I prepared a computer readout of the position of the planets on December 1, 1982, and December 31, 1982, as viewed from earth. I found that at *no* time are all of the nine planets in conjunction with the earth. They are grouped, it is true, somewhat in the same sectors of the zodiac, but most certainly not *all* of them are exactly aligned.

I suspect that the ballyhoo about this supposed event began with a book called

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The Jupiter Effect written by two supposedly reputable scientists who predicted the "great California quake." They too wrote of a "grand alignment." They were wrong. Eminent scientists pointed out the error not long after the book was published, but apparently the misinformation persists. — **Roy L. Wolter, Royal, Ark.**

WHAT PROOF?

Why are the experiences recounted in "True Mystic Experiences" and "My Proof of Survival" often so old? It is usual for them to date from the 1940's or '50's or even the 1900's.

It is hardly surprising that skeptics disbelieve these stories, most of which are so old that they are impossible to verify. And why should people wait so long before reporting their experiences? Or are some of the stories reprints from very old editions of **FATE**?

I think you could increase both the credibility and the topical interest of these sections by featuring events of 1980 and 1981. I can't believe no one has psychic experiences anymore! — **Linda L. Engleman, London, England.**

How do you verify the "true experiences" you publish? Frankly anyone could dress up a tale and get a friend to swear to it.

In your June issue you published "Help for a Friend" by Susan Sheppard in "True Mystic Experiences." I too am psychic and I in no way believe that Sheppard had the experience she describes so vividly.

I don't need a candle or astral projection to create a situation. Sorry to be so utterly blunt, but I must say here and now that a candle, crystal ball or Ouija board is not necessary to produce true psychic phenomena. — **June Lankowska, Danvers, Mass.**

PSYCHIC IN THE FAMILY

I have just finished reading the October, November and December 1973 issues of **FATE**. I was amazed to find an article on Mary Hayes Chynoweth ("The Woman Who Dowsed a Fortune"), my great-great-grandmother.

My grandfather who is still alive has told me many tales of Mary Hayes Chynoweth. I believe in ESP but it is a talent that must be

developed. Mary Hayes Chynoweth believed that *everyone* had her "talents," the degree of which was determined by the spiritual purity of one's life. — *Anne W. Hayes, Stockton, Calif.*

CHALLENGE TO RANDI

Bravo to D. Scott Rogo (June 1981 FATE) for exposing as unfounded and pseudoscientific the claims James Randi makes in *Flim-Flam!* It is shocking that prominent "rationalist" scientists casually endorse Randi's writings without first checking with the parapsychologists and scientists whose work he misrepresents. Years ago Randi sent me a note he was circulating privately giving his version of tests two magicians conducted on Uri Geller. I believed it until I checked with the magicians.

Omni reports that Randi has accepted a \$10,000 challenge from Geller to duplicate tests at SRI under the same controls that were imposed on Geller. I think Randi, after procrastinating, will back out. I doubt he was serious in the first place and may have accepted the challenge to save face.

In any case, it is obvious from Mr. Rogo's article that Randi would have to have ESP to pass the SRI tests! If Randi believes so strongly that Geller cheated at SRI, why didn't he undergo the same tests *before* writing his book? We may wonder why none of Randi's followers publicly posed this sort of question a long time ago. FATE's readers will undoubtedly desire to see a follow-up on this item because it may not be further reported in *Omni*. — *Anthony H. Klotz, Babylon, N. Y.*

CRASHED SAUCER LONG AGO

There is a story of the removal of a "dead" flying saucer from the Ka'ba of Mecca, possibly at about the time of Muhammad or a little later. The Iranians supposedly stole the flying saucer and floated it up a dry riverbed that flooded once every seven years. It took 22 years to get the saucer someplace near caves in central Iran.

A possibly related story alleges that seven different pieces (radioactive?) were shipped to seven different countries. The people of each country developed serious illnesses and deformities.

So stories of crashed saucers, whether

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true or not, have been around for a long time. — *W. B. Cunningham, San Diego, Calif.*

HOW CITIES GET BURIED

V. Fred Rayser asks how ancient civilizations got buried — as must have happened since archaeologists find one layer built atop another ("Report from the Readers," August 1981 FATE).

In the Middle East, at least, buildings usually were constructed of mud brick which was simply sun-dried and hardly a durable material. When the brick crumbled and the buildings fell in or were destroyed in war, the rubble was leveled off forming a platform a few feet higher than the previous foundation. Here new buildings were erected.

Over the course of centuries, a city rose layer by layer and a mound, or *tell*, was formed, some as high as 50 feet above the original ground level. It is into such mounds that archaeologists dig. — *Regie Stecher, Baghdad, Iraq.*

SEARCH FOR A PAST LIFE

I recently learned that in a previous life I was Marie Duchene of Montreal, Canada, from about 1837 to 1907. I wrote the Canadian National Archives who did indeed send me the birth record of a Marie Duchesne born July 17, 1852. Her mother's name was Sophie, a fairly uncommon name, but the given name of my grandmother.

I have other information but need to have it verified before making a trip to Montreal. Is there a FATE reader who is willing to help me in my research? — *Marylee Thomas, 1514 154th St. E., Tacoma, Wash. 98445.*

NEW WORLDS TO CONQUER

We have all read that ghosts or spirits will sometimes stay around the location where the death of the physical body occurred and reveal their presence — especially if the death was violent. So we have haunted houses and other places which the spirit will not leave. Even though the spirit is on another plane of existence, it remains in the same geographical location.

We may be fairly sure that if we keep sending men into space some of them will have a fatal accident. If this happens on

(Continued on page 159)

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REPORT FROM THE READERS

(Continued from page 150)

another planet, will the astronauts' spirits stay there, come back to earth, go on to where most spirits go — or what? Yes, I know the spirit will be on another plane of existence but it will also be at another geographical location — maybe even light-years away from earth. If a person is killed in another solar system, will he start a new spirit world there? — James C. Shelton, Nashville, Tenn.

GETTING THE MESSAGE

A sequence of events occurred in California during September 1980 which I believe will prove significant in the future.

On September 3, 1980, a tremendous UFO sighting occurred over the Crowley Lake area 25 miles north of Bishop. Several witnesses, including some sheriff's deputies, reported seeing a large object in the sky which released 15 to 25 smaller objects. The sighting lasted for about four hours, from 1:00 A.M. to 5:00 A.M., and news of it was broadcast over radio station KIBS, Bishop.

Reflecting on this sighting, I felt certain that extraterrestrial intelligences were monitoring the fault lines in California. It's a well-known fact in UFO circles that ufonauts have been charting the fault lines for many years. I believe the ufonauts were attracted to this area by the May 21, 1980, earthquake which rocked the Mammoth and Bishop areas. It's also a well-known fact that the Mammoth area is volcanic and about to be activated.

On September 6, 1980, David R. Mason, a resident of Fresno, Calif., received a message from Jesus Who admonished America to repent of its ways and made special reference to California. Mr. Mason was urged to publish Jesus' message in a daily newspaper, the *Fresno Bee*, which he faithfully did. Jesus called this nation "a wicked generation . . . worse than Sodom and Gomorrah."

Next, I heard that on September 29, 1980, a spaceman who calls himself "Soltec" dictated a communication to a medium regarding the sinking of the Los Angeles and San Francisco Bay basins.

Is someone trying to tell us something? — *Sam Alfieri, Bishop, Calif.*

NARROW ESCAPES

In "Report from the Readers" (March 1981 FATE) I asked if anyone had had the frightening experience of coming to a railroad crossing, carefully looking both ways, seeing no approaching train and proceeding across, only to barely escape a rushing locomotive. Seven people replied and all had had this experience. Possibly thousands of others never lived to tell of it!

These instances, together with the unhappy incident wherein four children playing on a track were run down, oblivious to the persistent warning whistle of the locomotive, lead me to suppose my theory of "the psychic blinder syndrome" is valid.

I welcome letters on other narrow escapes, Polaroid photos of ghosts, cassette records of spirit voices and spirit fragrances. — *John P. Bessor, Route 4, Butler, Pa. 16001.*

NO PETS ALLOWED IN HEAVEN?

I think I first turned away from organized religion when I was told on church authority that animals are filthy and soulless and will find a "No Pets Allowed" sign on the pearly gates.

Is there a reason why some of us are an easy mark for the stray dog or cat on the doorstep? Do our pets understand elation, grief and "the blues"? Does animal consciousness constitute a valuable backup system to the human counterpart, capable of teaching us many things — from the healing arts to telepathic communication? Do animals reincarnate? Will they meet their former owners again?

These and many other aspects of our pets are worthy of further exploration. I hope some of your readers would like to engage in dialogue on this subject. I am planning to generate such dialogue — an exchange of experiences and ideas — through a newsletter and will send details to any FATE reader who sends a stamped self-addressed envelope. — *Ruth Weddle, 22235 Parthenia St., Canoga Park, Calif. 91304.*

THE KARMIC TIES

I am a medium and I agree with Dr. Ian Stevenson concerning the characteristics of trance mediumship in "Xenoglossy — Proof of Reincarnation?" (July 1981 FATE). First, the trance state requires a conscious, voluntary decision from the medium and second, it usually lasts only about an hour or so. However, the case of Uttara's behavior as a 19th-Century Bengali is a special example of "karmic rescue mediumship."

The personality of Sharada is a consciousness that has been in a sort of coma due to the traumatic nature of her death. It is well-known that violent death often results in difficulty in accepting the transition to the nonphysical state.

In the case of Sharada, the consciousness energy chose to withdraw from activity rather than face the transition. She is now ready to work through the fact of death and transition but needs the assistance of a physical being to express and integrate this awareness into her consciousness. Active consciousness energies work with physical people regularly in order to grow and expand until the previous life reaches a state of relative unimportance. When Sharada's consciousness has regained sufficient energy to carry on it will no longer intrude on Uttara.

The mediumship of Uttara is a karmic fulfillment. It is a voluntary rescue of the inactive consciousness energy of Sharada. Uttara may not be aware of this voluntary act but she intuitively knows the karmic purpose and consents to it on that level of awareness. Sharada is not a prior incarnation of Uttara or an aspect of Uttara's present personality; however, there is a very strong karmic tie from a prior life. The traumatic state of the inactive consciousness energy explains the length of the stay of the Sharada personality.

When Sharada regains sufficient activity and accepts her transition, she will move on to other experiences. It is not likely that Ut-tara will continue to express the other personality once the karma is fulfilled. — *Wanda Mayhew, Frankfort, Ky.*

THE SEARCH GOES ON . . .

I have been all over the world and wherever I found myself, I visited the local spiritualists and psychics. I have seen hundreds of them and spent thousands of dollars on readings. Some of these psychics claimed the ability to change events, influence minds and even reunite loved ones.

The grand total of one percent of these had true psychic ability. The remaining 99 percent were charlatans and outright frauds. I would disbelieve ESP altogether except that I have had psychic experiences myself.

I would like to hear from FATE readers about their experiences with psychics, whether positive or negative. — *Stan Walters, P.O. Box 1694, Bartow, Fla. 33830.*

I am researching the "hollow earth" theory and if any FATE readers can share information or paraphernalia from organizations involved with this, please write me. — *K. A. Eggeman, R. R. 4, Box 376, Georgetown, Ind. 47122.*

I would like to hear from anyone who has had two or more past life readings from different readers.

Theoretically, all past life readings for one individual should agree and contain essentially the same information. I am endeavoring to discover if this holds true. — *P. I. Edic, 9869 Ravenna Rd., Box 129, Twinsburg, Ohio 44087.*

Feeling abandoned, frustrated, with no one to guide you? Whatever your goal or wish, let's organize and help each other. No more theories, no fees, no "good luck charms." Let's bypass our mistakes and share our knowledge. With sincerity and love, let's extend helping hands to each other. — *Heidi Konas, R. R. 4, Leamington, Ont., Canada.*



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