

Curley

UFO AFRINEWS



July 1996 N° 14

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EDITORIAL

One of the most exciting things about being an investigator, is when one finds correlation of events between a recorded case somewhere out there in the world, and a case one happens to be working on. When I started investigating UFOs, some 18-20 years ago, this didn't happen; or if it did, it didn't happen very often for me. But now, with all the experience I have gained over the years, I am beginning to understand why people like myself believe in visitations from beings other than ourselves.

As our regular readers will know, I am convinced that water on Earth has certain properties of which we are not aware, and which the 'visitors', whoever they are, are knowledgeable about. This fact was first pointed out to me by Paul Norman of VUFORS, Australia, and once aware of it, I began to realise how many UFO cases involved the search for water.

Another reference which comes to mind is that of Danie van Graan of Loxton (in the Karoo), in 1972. On the ground, immediately after his close encounter, he found what he called 'a jewel'. In actual fact, it was a piece of glass caused by the tremendous heat emanating from the craft, so that the sand actually melted and reformed as glass. Within the glass, one could see bits of grass, grit, etc.

Recently, in a report received from a farmer in Featherstone, Zimbabwe, he had seen what looked like an elongated American car approach his gate, stop, and then reverse and leave. He became suspicious, collected his gun and four workmen, and walked down to the gate. What surprised him was the tremendous heat which arose from the ground where the object had been. He told me that they were all perspiring profusely. I have not reported this case fully yet, as I have only recently been able to re-contact the farmer who made the original telephone call to me.

Until I visit the farm and speak to the farmer, I feel unable to verify the facts. (See AFRINEWS N° 15 for further details.) Another factor in this particular case, which has many parallels all over the world, is that, becoming worried by the appearance of the strange vehicle, the farmer sent two of his workmen to bring his sheep from the bush into the perimeter of the farm. However, when the men collected the sheep and returned with them, the animals refused to walk over the heated ground but entered, in single file, at the very edge of the gate. This same syndrome appeared in the Danie van Graan case in Loxton, South Africa. The craft, or whatever, landed in Danie's

sheep kraal (enclosure), although the sheep were not there at the time. But when he later brought his sheep in, he showed me that when his dog moved the sheep from one end of the kraal to the other, they divided and walked around where the craft had stood, but never over that particular circle of ground.

In the case of the mother and daughter abduction (Case N° 50, UFO AFRINEWS N° 6 & N° 8), both women spoke of a mist-like vapour through which they approached the interior of the craft. This 'mist' is frequently mentioned in various case histories and I must admit that I am almost certain it is a decontamination process (See Antonio Villas Boas of Brasil, who was sprayed before his sexual contact with an alien woman).

At the moment I am investigating a case in Bindura, Zimbabwe, where a young Senior School boy of 17 saw a small figure in a white suit (which covered it completely) with a 'satchel on its back.'

I know there are many corollaries in UFO lore for this happening, but I cannot recall any specific case and all the encyclopaedias (3) I have, do not list 'backpacks' or 'satchels' in their indices. There is one case in Brasil, investigated by a lawyer, where two hunters who lost considerable time, later found a satchel lying on the ground with strange writing on it.

I actually took a slide of this writing with me to the Middle East, as I suspected it might be written in Aramaic, or ancient Hebrew. Later I contacted a Linguistics professor at the University of Jerusalem who specialised in ancient languages, but when I mentioned UFOs and Brasil, he refused to have anything to do with it. So much for scientific curiosity!

I know there are other cases of satchels on the entities' backs, and would appreciate information on this.

A lot of ufologists withdraw from the subject after many years of interest and investigation.

Some perhaps, have become too old to go out in search of evidence; some are ill, and some have become disillusioned for lack of solutions. Indeed, for me too, the years creep by and I don't have the energy I had in my thirties and forties. But lose interest? Never! I grow more and more intrigued as the years go by. I am still physically able

to move around Africa and I still do full-time investigations with a wonderful team built up over the years.

I cannot understand those who denigrate every case before they have investigated one single factor. But neither do I value the opinion of those who are so gullible that they accept at face value everything they are told.

Of course I make mistakes, but then, don't we all? But at least I work with an open mind and I do accept that a large number of reports involve physical objects with which we are familiar (looked at from a different angle, perhaps), or natural phenomena which we do not recognize.

To me, UFOs are still the greatest mystery of our time.

LESOTHO - ANOTHER UFO HOAX?

I have my American correspondent Albert Benajam to thank for first drawing my attention to an alleged UFO crash in Leribe, Lesotho. He sent me a cutting which reported that a farmer in Lesotho had seen something crash in the hills on his land in September, 1995. There was little more to the report than that, but I immediately started making enquiries from most of our top sources in South Africa.

Then, anonymously, someone sent us some documents referring to the Lesotho crash. This was quite a revelation, apart from the fact that I thought they were faked and at the back of my mind, James van Greunen's name sprang up.

The documents looked reasonably genuine, but so had the documents purporting to be real which van Greunen had produced in his sad attempt to hoax the world with an alleged UFO crash in Botswana.

And let me reiterate here that I have never maintained that nothing occurred in Botswana; only that whatever it was, it never happened the way van Greunen reported it, and I doubt it was a UFO.

But let us tell you the story, so you know where you are.

The early report, and now the documents, alleged that an African farmer, Peter Lachasa, heard a strange sound in the sky at 21:15 hours on the 15th September, 1995. His farm was 12 km west of the Madibamatso river in Lesotho. Two minutes after he heard a dull explosion, he went to investigate the cause.

Friends of Peter Lachasa's who lived on the boundaries of his farm told him they had seen a bright light in the sky that slowly descended to the ground and exploded, giving off some blinding flashes. Lachasa accompanied them to the site where a humming sound could be heard from the 'craft' which became a dull grey in colour after the light surrounding it diminished.

An intense heat surrounded the object which prevented people approaching too closely. Also, the grass surrounds had been set alight which made close inspection impossible.

Lachasa decided to report the matter to the Leribe Police in case anyone had been injured inside the 'craft'.

Lachasa allegedly arrived at Leribe Police Station at 22:30 and notified Sgt Thobo, the Duty Officer, of what had happened. He asked the police to remove the strange 'aircraft' from his farm as it was frightening his cattle.

Supposedly, at 22:34, 14 minutes later, Sgt Thobo and Constable Nandi escorted Peter Lachasa to the site of the crash. The Sergeant later reported that a large round disc-shaped object lay on Lachasa's farm. The object measured approximately '18 meters in length by 3 meters in height.'¹ It was a dull grey colour; it had no windows or portholes, nor any doorway. The object did not appear to be externally damaged, although the surrounding terrain was severely disturbed.

Sgt Thobo allegedly radioed the Leribe Police and was told to return and make an official report. At 00:15, a Lesotho government official was supposedly contacted and a 2-page report faxed to South African Military Command/1 SAI Intelligence Unit (a bit repetitive as 'SAI' reads South African Intelligence), in Bloemfontein.

¹ The spelling of 'meters' is incorrect here, as the documents are South African where the word is spelt as 'metre'.

As the 'documents' have it, the South African Intelligence received the fax at 00:17 and checked on what aircraft had been in the area at the time.

A 'Commander George Human' (as far as we know, he does not exist) from the Airborne Division instructed - according to the documents - an aerial assessment of the area. Two Alouette helicopters were sent to inspect the site. At 01:17 a rescue Team under 'Capt. Manie Louw' (untraceable) reported that he was at the site and a fierce fire had engulfed the area.

He said that '400 square meters were engulfed in fire'; that a disc-shaped metallic-looking object of approx. 20 meters in length seemed to be in tact (sic); that the terrain around the object was severely damaged by the impact, and that due to the darkness and smoke, clear observations could not be made.

Capt. Louw was told to patrol and secure the area.

Our source later informed us that the timing was almost an impossibility. Having access to S.A. Intelligence, he said the whole exercise could not have been accomplished within the time stated. Besides, he pointed out, the Intelligence Unit would have waited for daylight.

Further into the documents, the Botswana crash was mentioned, and knowing that the documents referring to that had been faked by van Greunen, we became even more suspicious.

To make the report even more ridiculous, it is alleged that Military Intelligence from Pretoria was informed and they instructed the Unit on site to keep a 'sterile area of 100 meters around the craft' and take control until a Foreign Technology Recovery Division from Valhalla AFB could arrive. The area allegedly remained sterile until this Foreign Recovery Unit arrived at 05:55. There are other documents involved, all extremely far-fetched in content and unbelievably naïve.

The more we thought about it, the more we felt that somehow, van Greunen was involved. It was his style and yet, the last we'd heard of him, he was safely ensconced in a domestic situation with his partner in the North of Great Britain. But when examining the documents, there was definitely evidence of his personality. There were no glaring spelling mistakes, only some small ones, that we could find. But the name of a General (Patric Dwight) in one document was absolutely incongruous for

a South African (He was supposed to head the S.A. Air Force Intelligence). Another name was 'Col. Holt': well, there the connection immediately became apparent. Col. Holt was the C.O. of the American Air Force Base at Bentwaters, where a British/USA UFO case in late 1980, which Jenny Randles has reported so ably in STAR CRASH, had occurred.

We then contacted the VIP in South Africa whom we know well, and he soon established that although the telephone number given for the Intelligence in Pretoria was genuine enough, no-one (not even the Top Brass - who had no idea what it was all about!) had ever heard of General Dwight or Colonel Holt.

However, the VIP source was also quick to pick up on the papers he had looked at: 'This story has the same feel about it [as the Botswana Crash case had], the same finger-printing, but with spelling corrected', he wrote. 'The trouble with these hoaxsters is that they either over-estimate their own intelligence or under-estimate the intelligence of the recipients...'

As far as he was concerned, here again were the trade marks of James van Greunen!

And then, through a quite different but also reliable source, we heard that van Greunen was back in South Africa!

We are quite sure he is behind this Lesotho story: as much as he was behind the hoax he perpetrated in the Kalahari/Botswana crash.

At that time, he was certainly after the 'big money' as he had been promised 2000 Deutschmarks (R5000) by a well-known and respected Editor in Germany. In fact, this is how I first had definite confirmation that the documents in the Botswana case were a hoax, because van Greunen had stayed with this person in Munich for some time, promising this Editor his full support of the story and further documentation; and when he failed to produce any of this, he finally broke down and confessed that his part in the whole story had been a lie. All the documents were faked; the reports untrue.

The only thing he stuck by was that something had happened involving a crash in Botswana, which information had been passed to him by his friend (We thought this could be Hendrik Greef, a friend, we believe, from school days. Or another contact whom van Greunen must have had from within the Air Force).

We have heard that van Greunen did his National Service in South Africa in the Air Force and that he was subsequently moved to the Intelligence Section for a short period. This is a possibility but he is obviously living in a dream world; a fantasy of his own making; deeply involved with UFOs - he joined MUFON when he was 16 - and determined to be recognized as some sort of super ufologist with perhaps the 'Geller' effect.

In retrospect, we really feel sorry for him! His problems are already enormous and he is creating even bigger ones for himself.

If he really is involved again this time, then we can only say,

'Watch it, James; you cannot get away with these hoaxes all the time. There's bound to be some retribution!'

'WHY ARE THEY HERE?'

UFOLOGY IN AMERICA AND BRITAIN

by Dr Diana Cammack, Lilongwe, Malawi, Africa

PART II: THE SANTILLI FILM

As noted before, the highlight of the BUFORA meeting was the Santilli film, about which people (before and after seeing it) had mixed views. Slides of the entity were shown at the MUFON meeting and the film was discussed there by Milton Friedman and other experts, including Kent Jeffries, who thinks the film is a hoax and very dangerous to the on-going effort to get the American government to come clean about Roswell. George Wingfield, a British ufologist who had seen the film at a London showing on 5th May, argued that the public should at least wait to make up its mind until the film has been appraised by experts. Indeed, both forensic pathologists and the Kodak Company were (at the time of the BUFORA meeting) evaluating the footage.

Ray Santilli was also present at Sheffield and explained how he fortuitously acquired the film from the now elderly American cameraman (pseudonym, Barnett) when purchasing early footage of Elvis. Neither Santilli nor Barnett is a ufologist, but the former had heard of Roswell and Santilli is a shrewd businessman, and so both realised the value of the film.

The story, according to Santilli, goes thus: Barnett, whom Santilli feels is 'genuine', was a cameraman for the US military.

He was told that a Russian spy plane had crashed and to be prepared to take some pictures. When arriving there, he realised it wasn't a Russian craft that had crashed. He took photos of the debris and the occupants.

A portion of the film was then shown, which entailed an autopsy of a female-appearing humanoid, with no navel on her extended stomach, no breasts, a large head and black hooded eyes, and six digits on hands and feet. She had suffered a major injury to her right leg. The two doctors were fully covered in protective gear, while a man stood outside the glass window of the autopsy room wearing a surgical mask and gown. As they started cutting, it appeared (to this layman) that the body was newly dead, for blood seeped from the incision, and there appeared to be no rigor mortis. All the while a clock in the background kept time: the autopsy started at 10:20 and finished at 12:15, though the film was much shorter in length. It was also poorly made in places, with light erasing the picture at times. The doctors removed and weighed the organs, and opened the cranium, removing the brain. Finally, photos were taken of casts of the hands and feet, and of an I-beam (approximately one foot long) with characters on its side. The characters appeared to be thus:

MIΘΘIXΔ

Santilli answered questions after the film, stating that doctors who have viewed the film have said that the body appeared to have been dead only two hours. The camera work was poor because Barnett used a hand-held camera with no zoom. NASA is trying to improve the quality of the film, which totals 22 reels, at the moment. Finally, also according to Santilli, Barnett said he kept the film all these years, as it had been separated out of a much larger consignment because it was of relatively poor quality. The rest of the film had been sent to Washington, while he waited for the government to come and pick up these remaining reels, which it never did. He had not viewed or discussed it for years.

The following day, Michael Hesemann took up the story by stating first that Santilli had been 'helpful, open and cooperative' throughout the investigation into the authenticity of the film. But the furthest Hesemann would go at this stage was to state

that the film 'may be authentic', though he didn't think it was actually shot at Roswell. Instead, he argued that there were two crashes in 1947 - parts of a craft came down at Roswell but another part, with several bodies, came down in a dry lake bed near Magdalena, New Mexico, west of White Sands and out past an Apache reservation.

(He stated that he has found and visited the site and has sent pictures - which were shown at the BUFORA meeting - to Barnett to confirm the location. The pictures showed an area where the soil was purportedly replaced, and certainly there did appear an area that was different from the surrounding ground.)

It was there that Barnett was told to start filming, while a military medical team watched three entities, who were 'injured and crying', and their single dead companion. Barnett claims, according to Hesemann, that they had black boxes on their chests, which were violently removed from them by American security forces. In any event, these [entities] and the debris were removed by truck, taken to Wright [Patterson] Field and filmed there by Barnett again. The first films, then, were taken by Barnett in 1947, while the last film, the one shown at Sheffield, was of the autopsy done in Dallas on one of these creatures, who died in 1949. There were, according to Hesemann, some 120 reels of film originally.

Hesemann explained that Kodak has stated that the film is either 1947 or 1967 stock and that it is doing further tests to confirm which date is correct. Meanwhile, one pathologist has reported that the brain removed on film does not appear to be human, and a palaeontologist has stated that the entity is not human. By the time this report is published, hard information may be known about the film, for it was to be shown on TV Channel 4 in the UK in late August [1995] and further reports from experts were due soon.

Clearly the film has stirred the imagination of ufologists in the North. Some believe it is real, others feel it is a hoax perpetrated by Barnett and/or Santilli.

Others think it is clever disinformation, designed by the authorities or others to steal the spotlight from the US-GAO enquiry into Roswell, and to undermine the credibility of Roswell investigators and ufology generally. Whatever the case, it adds yet another dimension to the already complex Roswell case.

With over one-half of Americans convinced that UFOs are real, with programmes on TV in the US and UK regularly showing home videos of UFOs, and with the New

Agers forecasting a radical and enlightened spiritual shift and/or millennial catastrophe, ufology in the North is much different than it is in Africa. Here we are still doing ground work by developing new cases and determining how local cultures impact upon reports of sightings and abductions

ALIEN BODY FILM

Further Comments

Cynthia Hind

While I made it clear in UFO AFRINEWS N° 13 that I cannot say the 'alien body' film being commercially exploited by Ray Santilli is genuine, I must admit that the more evidence being presented, the more I lean towards this theory.

True, Kent Jeffrey in his exposé in the MUFON JOURNAL of March '96, had some very valid points to present.

- a) He speaks of Santilli's reluctance to hand over any of the original film to Kodak for analysis. I must admit that I too find this difficult to accept for after all, if the film is genuine, what has Santilli to fear? But on the other hand Santilli, who to me appeared to be a rather nice, gentle sort of person, is also an astute businessman. He says he is doing well with the film as it is and he does not want to be embroiled in any further hassles.
- b) In my previous analysis (AFRINEWS N° 13) I did not mention that the body had no navel. Surely, if the body was a simulation made by some movie house, they would hardly omit to put in a navel (this lack of a navel has become a main factor in authenticating the body among Canadian groups).
- c) With regard to the 'hieroglyphics' found on the cross-bars, I have looked at the figures very carefully indeed, and although it is true that one can almost read 'video' into the one, it certainly takes a bit of imagination to do so. If you want, you can almost read anything into foreign letters.

Dr Leo Sprinkle, retired Professor of Psychology from Wyoming University in Laramie, recently sent me Bob Shell's article on the Alien Autopsy Footage, published in Photo Shopper of December 4th, 1995. Shell is an authority on many photographic topics and editor of Shutterbug Magazine.

Shell confirms that 'the film is 1947-vintage Kodak 16mm Super XX Panchromatic high speed safety film.'

He also goes on to say it was used by the military for different types of photography, and he is quite sure it was of 1947 vintage. He gives a number of valid reasons for this being 1947, none of which I have seen quoted elsewhere, viz. the wall-clock, the telephone and its cord, etc. were not available in 1927.

In 1957 Kodak altered the 16mm film. The Super XX film was discontinued then too. Besides all this, there is an odour and shrinkage which is easily recognisable to an expert.

Even if the body is a fake, Shell is positive the film was shot in 1947. And what production house had the ability at that time, to produce such a hoax, apart from the exorbitant cost?

Shell has also identified the camera as a Bell & Howell Filmo 70 which doesn't focus very close. 'If you move in very close, the picture becomes blurred'.

Shell says there are two places during the film where a reflection of the cameraman is seen, one being when the camera is reflected in the bone saw used for opening the skull.

There is a great deal more of Shell's expertise (in the article) and it was enough to convince me that no-one really knows the answers. But when one weighs up the evidence, there now appears to be more in favour of the reality of the body than against it.

It is up to you to make your choice.

EVIDENCE OF UFO SUNBURN

UFO AFRINEWS N° 13: Feb. 1996, pp 9/10

With reference to our request for cases of sunburn after UFO contact, we had a reply from Loren Gross of the USA. We are indebted to Mr Gross for these references and thank him for his response.

This is taken from PASSPORT TO MAGONIA by Jacques Vallée, published 1969:

On August 13th, 1965, a 37-year-old civilian had seen an object, about 100m. in diameter, fly in front of the moon. It then disappeared, followed by a 'shock-wave' effect. When inside his house, the witness (after about 20 minutes) found his vision hazy and his eyes painful. He gradually lost vision in both eyes and his entire body was sun-burnt. Medical examination compared these symptoms to ultra-violet exposure. His vision subsequently returned.

In the International UFO Reporter edited by Prof. J Allen Hynek, of Sept. 1978 (Vol.3, N°9) it reads as follows:

Police Officer Manuel Amparano of Kerman, California Police Department, was driving in his police car on May 13th, 1978, on Delnorte Avenue at 03:32 in the early morning when he saw a reddish light ahead of him. At first he thought it was a fire so he drove to the site and pulled off the road near the railway tracks. There was an unusual source of light about 45° in the sky. It looked like a horizontally-oriented oval, twice as wide as it was high; a crimson-red colour. It was bright but did not hurt his eyes. It hovered motionlessly. Amparano watched for about 4 minutes, when the light source shot out a beam of blue light, and then went straight up out of sight in a matter of seconds.

Amparano drove back to the Station, aware of a tingling sensation in his body. But when he got back to the Police Station, where 5 other witnesses were already assembled, he learned that he was sun-burnt 'red as a lobster'. After 4 hours it faded a bit.

Amparano went to the Fresno Community Hospital at 07:00 where he was treated for third degree burns on his arms, face and neck. The burns had penetrated through his blue, long-sleeved uniform. The day after the encounter, white 'fever blisters' appeared on his face and arms, lasting a few days. He suffered a burning sensation under his skin for a week, especially in the groin.

His blood pressure registered high at the hospital, something which had not occurred before.

The two doctors felt the burns were caused by some form of microwave radiation.

Thirty-two-year old Amparano, a Mexican American, had been on the Force for 5 years and was regarded by his colleagues as reliable. He himself wanted to avoid all publicity and remained in the background.

I know there are other instances of 'sunburn' following a close UFO encounter, none of which have proved lasting or fatal. What we really need in the UFO syndrome is for an accredited scientist to take up something like this and prove to the world that it is not 'all in the mind'.

DESTRUCTION BY A UFO? Village in Kenya, East Africa

Thanks to Richard Heiden of Milwaukee, USA, the following report was brought to my attention, although I cannot vouch for its authenticity. I did try to contact the Library in Nairobi to find out if they had a record of this story, but have received no reply. This time I am trying via a) jungle drums, b) carrier pigeon and as a final resort, c) cleft stick.

This is the story, first published in FLYING SAUCER NEWS by Earl Neff (year unknown):

Tragedy Hits African Village

'In June of 1954, Laili Thindu, an 11-year old African boy, visited his grandmother in a small village about 100 miles from his own home in Nairobi, Kenya. The story related to me (Earl Neff) about an Unidentified Flying Object was so unusual that I later asked him to tell this tragic story on a big UFO radio program.

Laili Thindu and an older companion were tending his grandmother's flock of goats and sheep on a grassy slope on the outskirts of the village of Kirimukuyu. Mt Kenya, 25 miles away, is in the background.

On two occasions, Laili saw a brilliant light on the mountain. At first he believed it was a light carried by mountain climbers. Later, the light fell from the crest and made a sharp turn to the right, covering a great distance in the matter of a few moments. The third day it moved eastward and changed direction.

After Laili went into his hut to sleep, he could see through the openings in the hut, beams of light playing back and forth in the distance. They were coming from a disc-shaped object.

In the next village, two miles away, a wedding was taking place. One could hear the drums used in the tribal dance. Later, all was silent. The following morning it was learned that all the dancers; all the children, the animals, the people who had gone to their beds inside the huts... all were dead! Apparently killed by the deadly rays from a UFO!!

Let me repeat, I cannot vouch for the authenticity of this story, but I have heard several versions of it over the years.

I cannot recall a case of UFOs being as destructive as this, and I find it difficult to believe that a village would be thus destroyed without rhyme or reason. But then, who knows?

If we ever do receive a follow-up on this, we will report back to you.

SO, WHAT GIVES?

Sometimes I wonder where the Aliens stay?
Do they live on a planet, just like our Earth,
Do they eat the same food and dress the same way?
Do they owe any bills, and what are they worth?

Are they happy at times, just as we are?
Are they sad and quite crazy when all things go wrong?
Are they sometimes alcoholic and live in a bar,
Or perhaps, unlike us, they are morally strong?

But whatever I think, it does not explain
Why Aliens, as ever, a mystery remain.

ZIMBABWEAN FLAP OF SEPTEMBER 1994:

Lake Kariba, 14th September, 1994.

Garry and Jenny were on a houseboat with a group of friends. They all saw an object come very low over the boat. It was huge, with lots of flashing lights, but totally silent. The sighting lasted for about six minutes from the horizon to the Kariba hills, which it then disappeared behind. Three people on the boat took pictures, but none of them came out.

Jenny said the experience left them with a feeling of disbelief and eeriness.

At one stage someone called out, 'What is it? It looks as though it's going to hit us!'

Jenny was in the loo and she said she had never come out of there so quickly. By this time the object was almost overhead.

Other reports said that it lifted up over the hills and then came down over the water, which rather explodes the theory that it was a meteorite shower or the nose cone of a Russian spaceship.

TRIANGULAR UFO SURPRISES FISHERMEN

Case N° 115

Sedgefield, South Africa

(Sent by Marie van Staden)

A UFO in the early morning sky above the village of Sedgefield, on 7th August, 1995, had a couple of residents experiencing some anxious moments. According to Dirk Jooste, he and his friend Fanie Kleyn were in a rowing boat at the time, catching fish on the lake.

'Suddenly we saw a triangular object in the sky, larger than a passenger aeroplane. There were three bright lights underneath, on the base, and smaller orange-red lights which extended to the highest point', Jooste said. According to him, the object appeared at 02:00 hours. 'It hung in the sky above us for two minutes, absolutely still. Then it came closer to us, made a turn, and in a fraction of a second it disappeared', he said. Fanie Kleyn drove to the river mouth to see if the object was still visible, but there was nothing there.

Sgt. Steven Schnetler, from the Sedgefield Police, was in his car just outside the village at about midnight, when he saw red lights high above him on the road.

'At first I thought it was a vehicle on the mountain, but there are no roads there', he said. He then accepted that it was a car in front of him on the road.

'I asked my colleagues if I was dreaming, because the lights were 100 metres in front of me at one moment, and then the next they were clean gone! I did not see it again', he said.

Comment: We have written to Sgt. Schnetler to find out if any further details have been obtained from the other witnesses.

FLASHING LIGHTS:

Fort Rixon, Zimbabwe, Jan. 1995

Case N° 118

On the 3rd January, 1995, Mrs Connie Cloete of Hwange, was visiting her son's farm in the Greystone area near Fort Rixon in southern Matabeleland.

It was a very warm night, with clear skies overhead. There were four witnesses: Mrs Cloete's son Robert, her sister Cathy, a friend, Justine, and herself. They reached a section of the road which was on a rise, affording a panoramic view of the sky.

Cathy drew their attention to what looked like an aircraft, but they then noticed seven smaller objects moving away from the large one; all going in different directions and flashing on and off as they went ('almost like fireflies flashing').

The large object remained stationary but seemed now to have a flashing blue light, with a revolving red light on top. There was no sound. Because of the dark, shapes were not discernable, and only lights could be seen. It was also difficult to judge distances, but it was to the east of where they were.

The sighting took place at 20:50 hours and they watched as the smaller objects moved away, although the large light remained stationary. After a while, they went home.

FLASHING LIGHTS

Harare, Zimbabwe

Case N° 116

Sometime in March 1996, Justin Marabini, a racing cyclist, and his friend Nick Lynch, a Safari guide, saw a bright orange light about 15-20 kms away, as they stood in the garden of a house built on top of a hill in Glen Lorne, an outlying suburb of Harare. From their vantage point, the two reckoned that the 'light was about 250 metres off the ground, and in a direct line with Ruwa (site of Ariel School, where sightings by pupils made world news in 1994).

To their left, there was the glow of Mabvuku Township, which was clearly seen and had nothing to do with the orange light they were watching, which was in a dark part of the horizon. The time was about 20:00 hours and the night sky was clear. Their first sight of the glowing light lasted about one minute; the glow dipped to 50 metres in an instant, then it went out. Both witnesses thought it was a flare.

However, after about another minute, the light reappeared and moved, this time upwards; but once again, it disappeared after a minute. Thinking that the 'show' was over, the two went inside.

At about 20:45 hours, when they were back in the garden, they saw two small stationary lights, flashing irregularly. It seemed to the witnesses that the lights were some 500 metres apart. For about 10 minutes they watched. Every now and then, one of the lights moved up and down, while the other remained stationary.

As there seemed to be nothing new happening, the witnesses returned indoors, speculating on what they had seen. Both concluded that it could not be a star, nor the planet Venus. The flashing was definitely not autokinesis.

About 15 minutes later, they went out again to have another look. But this time, to their disappointment, there was no sign of anything untoward in the sky.

Justin said that three weeks earlier he had heard that someone had seen something resembling the Star of David in the sky, giving off rays, but he could not say who had seen this, nor when it had been seen.

**UFO IN THE FIELDS OF AFRAM PLAINS
GHANA, WEST AFRICA**

Case N° 117

This report was originally received from CUFOS in October, 1991, asking if I could look into the matter on their behalf.

I immediately wrote to Thomas Agyekum of the School of Forestry in Ghana, asking several pertinent questions. (17th October, 1991)

When I didn't receive a reply, I wrote again on 9th December, 1991 and finally to a contact in Ghana on 22nd January, 1992. On 2nd September, 1992, Ion Wills, who is a roving reporter for FORTEAN TIMES of Great Britain, happened to be visiting Ghana and I wrote to him to see if he could contact Agyekum. But no luck. One cannot say I didn't try!

We give you the report in all good faith, but because of the circumstances, cannot state if it is the truth or not.

'I am a student in the School of Forestry, Jumyani, Ghana. A strange thing happened in our village at the Afram Plains in the Eastern Region, which led to my writing about the incident.

In early 1990 (February) a strange object resembling an aircraft was seen by me and my younger sister whilst planting maize in the field in one of the remote parts of the Eastern Regions.

Prior to the appearance of the object, I was explaining to my semi-illiterate sister man's achievement in going out to Space, and the deaths of the valiant astronauts of the Challenger Spacecraft.

Suddenly the object appeared in the sky, like a jet fighter trying to pick out a ground target. It came so close to the ground that we could see it clearly. It was silver coloured and too slender to be a manned craft. It was moving intelligently as though it was manned.

As we looked on, it swerved downhill and appeared to have landed but whilst we tried to get closer, it lifted to the sky again at the most fantastic speed I have ever seen or known and soon disappeared up, up into the sky.

We went over to the place where it touched the ground and saw a big plus (+) marking on the ground in a very dark substance, much like powder. We did not touch it as we were afraid, the way the craft had behaved.

The next day when we went to the spot where it touched down, everything within about five metres radius had withered as if sprayed with insecticide and the black substance had disappeared (it had rained all night).

Since then, my sister has seen an object of a similar nature on two occasions and I have seen an object like a plane or a saucer in broad daylight at the same green field. It was very large, at least 20ft in diameter. It flew and hovered in the sky, making a hissing sound until it disappeared over the horizon.

Recently, whilst I was jogging in a school park in the village at dawn (about 04:00 hrs) I saw a remarkable object like a Stetson cowboy's hat, brightly illuminated with coloured lights, hovering in the sky. I kept watching until it went very high up in the sky.'

SOUNDLESS JETS IN N. CAPE (South Africa)

Case N° 119

**Sent directly to us but translated and
followed up by Marie van Staden.**

Paul Maritz, who sent in this report, lives with his father on the farm **Damhoek** in the district of Olifantshoek, near Uppington in the Northern Cape. His father is a falconer as well as a farmer.

During April/May of 1976, at approximately 10 a.m., the day was almost cloudless. Mr Maritz senior was travelling in a southerly direction and when he reached the border gate between his farm and a neighbour's farm called **Zuidzande**, he saw three objects moving from left to right, about 500 metres ahead of him.

His first impression was that they were wingless jets. They were about 100 metres above the ground, a dull brown in colour. They were cigar-shaped, moving fast, one behind the other, and going from west to east. Maritz could see no window or wings, and could hear no sound! His thought was that they were secret military planes, as they seemed to be the same length as a Mirage, but the pointed nose was missing.

Maritz watched as they disappeared in the distance.

Comments: To this day, Mr Maritz does not know what he saw. It is a pity he did not check at the time with the S.A. Air Force to see if there were any aircraft in the area. It would be too late now. We are sure he is honestly reporting what he saw, but one's perception is often marred by sun brightness, or not being aware of what military hardware is available.

We believe implicitly in some form of 'alien' visitation to our planet Earth, but it is also essential that one checks on possible alternatives at the time.

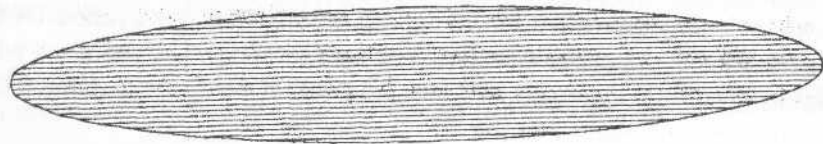


Figure 1 This is what Abrie Maritz saw (3 of)

THE SHAPE CHANGER

Report from Chinhoyi, Zimbabwe

Date: 26th April 1996. Time: 18:20 hrs.

Case N°120

Willie Robb lives at Sunningdale in Chinhoyi, in the North West part of Zimbabwe.

On the evening of 26th April 1996, his next-door neighbour, Rita, drew his attention to a very bright object in the sky. The object was to the NNW, with an approximate 160° elevation.

The light seemed to Willie to be a very bright star (Venus was specially bright in April and May and there have been several mis-identifications), and he went off to have a bath and change.



Figure 2: Shape change from A to B

Fifteen to 20 minutes later, the 'star' was still there, in the same position. This time he noticed a certain amount of movement at the lower left of the object (see illustrations A and B).

The object then changed shape to illustration B.

The observation was made over a period of 30 minutes, and during this time there was no noise.

There were other witnesses living in the same area although they did not see the object changing shape. Willie spoke to them but when he turned back, the object had gone.

There was no noise or unusual smell pertaining to the object.

Comments

At first, especially after collating 'A Little Bit of Astronomy' for this issue, I thought it might be the tether taken up by the space shuttle Columbia, which broke loose.

But when I checked the date on that, it was in the middle of March (reported in The Natal Mercury on 12th March, 1996), so could not have been that event.

A FLYING HOUSE Chipinge, Zimbabwe

Case N°121

Moses Munyanduki, of Darlington, Mutare, wrote to tell us that he had several UFO sightings, in the sense that he had seen unidentified lights moving across the skies. Most of the reports appear to be satellites, meteors or even the sun reflecting on a flock of birds. However, as it is some time ago, it would be difficult to assess now. But he did make an interesting report on a sighting which he himself had not witnessed.

'It was in 1982 and I was in the Chipinge area called South Downs, or as the local people call it, Munyasa. I was attending the Shakavanhu Primary School at that time. One afternoon after school, I was walking home with friends, when I heard stories of a 'flying house'. People even stated that it had windows. As far as eye witnesses are concerned, whoever lived there during that time had either heard about it or seen it. However, I could not make anything of it; people simply dismissed it as a miracle.'

[If any of our readers in the South Downs area have knowledge of this event, would they please contact UFO AFRINEWS. We will refund any postage involved.- Ed.]

OUT OF AFRICA

ISRAELI SIGHTINGS

KADEMA is a small town in Israel of about 5000 inhabitants, in the centre of an area called Sharon (in Hebrew). Half-way between Tel Aviv and Haifa is the city of Netanya. About 10 miles East is Kadema. The town is in the citrus country and is surrounded by orchards and green meadows in March, when this incident occurred.

On the morning of 20th March, 1993, at 06:00 hours, Carmel Zsiporet woke up, disturbed by something. She went outside her house where she saw a UFO resting on the ground, about 50 metres from where she was. The UFO was shaped like an orange fruit container and was silver-coloured. Along its sides there were 18 glowing square windows. Five large beams of light shone from the craft into the sky. As Zsiporet was watching, another 'container'-shaped object, the same size as the first, suddenly materialised. The size of the object was estimated to be 5 x 6 metres.



Alongside the UFO, Zsiporet noticed an entity about 2-2½ metres tall, wearing a metallic type of overall, the colour of aluminium foil. He wore a sort of 'bee-keeper' hat and his face could not be seen.

An apparently telepathic conversation took place, and to Zsiporet's question, 'Why don't you take off your hat so I can see your face?' the entity's reply was, in Hebrew, 'Kakha zeh', meaning, 'That's the way it is.'

Zsiporet felt compelled to enter the house and by the time she went outside again, the objects and entity were gone. The following day she walked to the field and saw what appeared to be a landing circle. By the time Yoram Torbatian, a UFO investigator, arrived at Kadema, on the 31st March 1993, he found a second circle a few metres from the first, and a third circle was also seen in the same field on 1st April, 1993. This time, no UFOs or entities were seen. Every circle has its own peculiar trace material. Torbatian gathered samples which are sealed and awaiting further analysis. In the first circle, they found a gelatin-like black substance. This is acidic and has not yet been identified. In the second and third circles, a red liquid was spread in patches. One of the principal elements of this liquid is cadmium. In the third circle, chips (shards) of silicon were found. The silicon has been extensively analysed. It was initially scanned by an Electron microscope with energy dispersive X-ray micro-analyser, Differential thermal gravimetric analysis and X-ray diffractometer. The tests were conducted at the Geological Survey Department of Israel.

There are a lot of questions concerning the Kadema story: for example, we would very much like to know the trace element which makes up the silicon chips. The Kadema sighting is an on-going case involving dozens of UFO circles ranging in size from 4 to 18,5 metres in diameter.

UFO circles are located by means of ultra-light planes flying over, surveying the Kadema area. For instance, on the 1st October 1995, a series of three circles were found of 4,12 and 18,6 metres in diameter. Close to these circles was a group of trees with scorched leaves.

Following the Kadema events, a UFO Association was formed in Israel, known as ICUFOS (Israeli Centre for UFO Studies). We are indebted to Yoram Torbatian for this report. ICUFOS can be contacted at:

P.O. Box 3077,
20306 Nesher,
Israel

UFO STOPS AIRCRAFT OVER BARILOCHE, ARGENTINA **Report from Ruth Gerstel**

'We saw something like a reversed flying saucer, as large as a Boeing 737, and with an enormous light that dazzled us.'

Those words from an Argentinean pilot, describe an event that could have ended in tragedy. Here is the story:

Everything seemed normal on Flight 734 of Aerolineas Argentinas on the evening of August 1st, en route to San Carlos de Bariloche. But at 20:25, when the pilot began the landing procedure, the passengers were suddenly shaken by an abrupt movement of the plane as it regained altitude. While the aircraft kept circling above the airport, the pilot explained to the passengers that there had been a sudden blackout and he could not receive permission to land.

Ten minutes later, the lights returned and permission to land was given. Once more, the pilot began the landing manoeuvres.

But just as he lined up the plane's nose with the landing strip, all four men in the cabin - pilot Jorge Polanco, second pilot Carlos Dortona, flight engineer Jorge Allende and another pilot from Aerolineas- were dazzled by the lights of an object shaped like a reversed dish with a pulsating orange light on top and emitting a green ray on each side. 'It came towards us at full speed but stopped about 100 metres in front of the plane. We asked the Control Tower if there was other traffic in the area and they said there was only an aircraft of the Gendarmerie some 200 metres above us', the pilot said later. Capt. Ruben Cipazuk, the pilot of aircraft PA 315/GN, told the crew of Flight 734 that he was also seeing the object. 'I don't know what it is, but I can see it is following you.'

As the Boeing once more approached the airstrip, the object took up a position about 40-60 metres on its right, apparently intending to escort its descent. As it did so, a second blackout hit not only the airport, but the whole city, so that all radio contact broke down. Polanco said, 'Then I executed what we call an escape, and returned to 1000 metres above the airport, but the Unidentified, with movements impossible for our craft and a speed beyond our technology, rose to our altitude at a 90 degree angle in less than two seconds and hovered there for a few moments. When we began the descent, the object crossed over below the plane and disappeared in seconds.'

At 21:10 the Boeing 737 finally landed safely at Bariloche. The passengers were not aware of the momentous events and left the aircraft quickly because of the long delay.

The chief of the Air Station, Major Oviedo, confirmed later that Polanco could not land on his first attempt due to the sudden appearance of a strange object on his route. He said that the massive light was seen by the staff of the Control Tower and he thought the passengers could not see the UFO due to the interior lights of the plane being switched on, while the cockpit light was much dimmer. The abrupt turn made by the pilot in forcing the plane to gain altitude just at the moment of the second blackout, must have shaken the 100-odd passengers, though they appear to have said nothing about it.

Members of the crew said that what they saw was not an aircraft: 'It was nothing corresponding to the laws of physics we know', they said. Flight engineer Allende added, 'In the 15 years I've been flying, I've never seen anything like it. I never believed that we are the only beings in the universe; nevertheless, it was a great shock. Nobody is really prepared for something so astonishing as that.'

A special report presented to the people in charge of Bariloche Airport described the phenomenon which, for the first time in the history of Argentine aviation, was observed from three different positions by three separate groups of experts in aeronautics: the crew of Flight 734, the staff of the Control Tower and the pilot of the Gendarmerie aircraft which overflew the scene.

Nevertheless, neither the Argentine Air Force nor the Department of Civil Aviation ever made any comments about the strange event.

A LITTLE BIT OF ASTRONOMY

Just recently, we have had quite an exciting time in our southern skies. First of all, **Venus** has been particularly brilliant on May 4th and July 17th. I had several telephone calls regarding this very bright light in our skies round about the May date; and for those of you who saw it, fairly early in the evening, it was Venus!

It appeared not too high above the horizon and didn't stay visible for long, before sinking down. But it was truly outstanding!

Then, around Sunday, March 10th, 1996, several calls came my way. There was something strange in the skies, seen from Johannesburg, through Botswana, to Zimbabwe.

A long, vertical white light was clearly visible in the skies. To one it looked like a cigarette; to another, a snake crossing the heavens, moving slowly and then disappearing among the stars. One witness watched it for approximately four minutes, and was then joined by two others.

The matter was soon solved: **The Mercury**, a newspaper in Natal, told its readers that Dr John Caldwell, of the South African Astronomical Observatory in Cape Town, had identified the mysterious vertical light. An American-Italian satellite had been tethered to the American space shuttle Columbia, when the tether broke! The 20 km-long tether, called 'tethered satellite system 75' had initially been connected to Columbia; what people were seeing was the reflection of the sun on the tether, which was the width of a human finger! This took a few days to reach our atmosphere when it burned up.

As a matter of interest, and to show that the end of our world by a striking asteroid is neither as remote nor as possible as is maintained, we quote below the passing asteroids within the next few months:

1996

- August 2nd Asteroid **Toro** near Earth (0.2208 AU)
6th Asteroid **Eger** near Earth Flyby (0.1151 AU)
- Sept 16th Asteroid **1989 R51** near Earth Flyby (0.1958 AU)

- Oct 22nd Asteroid **1989 UQ** near Earth Flyby (0.1505 AU)
23rd Asteroid **4947 Ninkasi** near Earth Flyby (0.2131 AU)
25th Asteroid **4197 1982 TA** near Earth Flyby (0.0846 AU)
27th Asteroid **3908 1980 PA** near Earth Flyby (0.0613 AU)
29th Asteroid **1991 VE** near Earth Flyby (0.0853 AU)

- Nov 23rd Asteroid **1993** near Earth Flyby (0.2466 AU)
29th Asteroid **4179 Toutatis** near Earth Flyby (0.359 AU)

Important astronomical dates to note:-

- July 17th **Venus** at greatest brilliancy (Magnitude -4.5)
29th **Delta-Aquarids** Meteor Shower
- Aug 12th **Perseids** Meteor Shower (Potential meteor storm)
- Sept 26/27 Lunar Eclipse
- Oct 12th Partial Solar Eclipse
21st **Orionid** Meteor Shower
- Nov 4th **Taurids** Meteor Shower
14th **Andromedids** Meteor Shower
17th **Lepnids** Meteor Shower

We are indebted to Greg Murrell on e-mail Space Calendar for this information. So those of our readers who really 'look to the skies' will be able to identify the meteor showers and unusual happenings.

Good viewing!

But beautifully clear and excitingly real, was the Comet **HYAKUTAKE**. This was due in our skies around May 1st but we have had some heavy cloud at night in Zimbabwe and Botswana, so were not able to view it after its turn around the sun.

Apparently this will be our last sighting for 13 000 years, so have a good look NOW!

Gunter Hofer, who took some wonderful pictures of Hyakutake on its initial journey to the sun, says it is to be seen around 4 a.m. A little too early these cold nights for your editors!

PART II of 'INTELLIGENT LIGHT BALLS?' from Roland Roeis in Namibia.

[In Part I, Roeis detailed several sightings of bright light balls observed by a number of people in various parts of Namibia, and the witnesses' comments about the 'intelligent' behaviour of these balls of light. In Part II, he offers some comments based on his own investigations and ideas.]

Let's assume that a 3-dimensional object (a sphere, a cube) penetrates a 2-dimensional plane, e.g. a sheet of paper of no thickness. The flatlanders would, in the case of a sphere, first see a point, then an ever-increasing circle which, after reaching maximum expansion, would decrease in size again down to a point, just before disappearing. The two-dimensioners would have some problem describing what happened to their flatland world.

If the supposition that they [alien intelligent beings] are of the 6th dimension is true, it would be quite acceptable that their appearance in this terrestrial dimension would be in some 'form' that is compatible with this dimension. In the literature of the 'esoteric' kind, and not related to the UFO phenomena, it is sometimes stated that there are beings of an ethereal substance, more energy than dense matter. Such beings cannot be detected by any of the five human senses. If the 6th dimensional entities are in fact energy, one way of manifestation in the terrestrial atmosphere would be just a sphere, brightly shining or not; since 'charges' are best equidistributed over a spherical surface. Their alleged attraction for electromagnetic devices like radios or refrigerators would confirm that. In the writer's opinion it could very well be a case of interpenetration into our terrestrial energy-world (about which we still know very little) by a so-called 6th dimensional world which may not be material at all but, from a terrestrial point of view and for lack of a better description, would be pure energy.

As to their habits and/or behaviour, the speculation is that the Cosmos is populated by a large variety of beings, covering the complete span of possibilities imaginable - and unimaginable - by the human mind.

The 'light sphere' beings are energy beings as far as terrestrial conditions are concerned; as such, they have overcome all those conditions pertaining to the biological drives as humans know them.

Their function here is only to observe, or study, to help occasionally - but never to interfere with human activity on Earth.

Their peculiar movements may be explained by their possible attraction to electric/electromagnetic/other force fields of the Earth. Here the notion of 'ley lines' comes to mind. Nobody today knows exactly what these are as it is a term given to seemingly straight tracks marked by natural and artificial features, all positioned in one straight line. Nobody knows what caused the (very) early 'land developers' to mark them out. What was their measuring rod, their purpose? Recent investigations, both scientific and not-so-scientific, indicate a possible electromagnetic field to be present with at least some of these. These fields appear much stronger at or near dolmen, menhirs or cairns. Some investigators also link the sighting of UFO-type and lights phenomena with the presence of ley lines. The notion of these lines, first publicized in England, is today no longer a European monopoly but is known to occur in the Americas and also in Asia.

However, in the African context it may not be so well known. Maybe since the question of ley lines and anything connected with them, is seldom the subject of any serious scientific investigation.

Wandering in the Namib Desert or in the areas bordering the desert proper, one cannot help observing the numerous tracks left by animals roaming the seemingly dry expanse. These tracks criss-cross the land, avoiding larger features or boulders, cross valleys, etc.

The writer has been told by locals that these tracks follow underground water courses and often lead to a spot where the water surfaces and the animals can drink.

What is it that makes animals sense these underground rivers? Is it the same force that water diviners act upon? It is known that water can be traced using measuring devices that react to anomalies in the geomagnetic/geostatic or geogravitational field of the Earth.

Could it be that the light spheres discussed here also track such linear force fields, as a guide (like a train on rails) or as a source of energy to fuel its propulsion device, something similar to a trolley bus or magnetic monorail train?

If this is so, it would be conceivable to assume Space to contain force fields/streets/skyways, close to a planet's surface. If this could be studied, it would contribute to a better understanding of the extraordinary propulsion and ways of travelling of ET vehicles. Although it is said that some of the alien craft's appearances on Earth are the result of projections, re-assembling/re-materialising once arrived on this planet.

Are there any ley lines in Southern Africa? One ley line feature apparently does exist between a spot near Durban, South Africa, and Luderitz in Namibia. A Pretoria clairvoyant, Mrs WL, was at some stage told to connect certain points on a map of southern Africa by straight lines. One day a visitor - a lady scientist from one of the South African universities - recognised some of the points of intersection of the lines as spots where so-called Dogon (an ethnic people in Mali) stones were identified or suspected. She is said to have told Mrs WL that the Dogon in ancient times used to erect large stones at particular places all over the African continent, for some unknown purpose. Are these indicative of African ley lines, just like their European counterparts? Who knows?

Perhaps we have here an interesting field of investigation, linking things that have not been linked before within the African context!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Extracts from readers' letters:

From Mr J C C Wigham, Harare, Zimbabwe

'.....I am writing to you to ask for further clarification of an intriguing comment that appeared on page 17 of UFO AFRINEWS N°13. Quoting Linda Howe at the last MUFON Conference you attended, you say that she felt that Bob Lazar (who features heavily in 'Alien Liaison' by Timothy Good) was quite correct in his assertions, but drew the wrong conclusions. You quote Linda Howe as saying, 'the entities are neither extra-terrestrial, benevolent, nor neutral.'

What interests me is where she thinks these entities actually come from if they are not extraterrestrial. Did she give her own views on this, or those of the anonymous source that she was quoting?

You are no doubt aware that there is a theory that an advanced race does actually exist on this planet, possibly being the survivors of the Atlantis cataclysm, but they remain hidden. Various places have been suggested for their 'hide-out', including the South Pole and some remote spot near Tibet in the Himalayas. Some early flyer is reported to have seen what appeared to be a tropical jungle when he overflew the South Pole in the '20s, although this appears to be stretching credulity to its limit, and it has been suggested that this advanced race might be based there.

Have you any comments on my main question about Linda Howe?

[This letter has been passed on to the writer of the MUFON Conference Report, Dr Diana Cammack, in Malawi.]

From John Stepkowski, Australia

(Alluding to the film of the so-called Alien Autopsy)

'.....For a time I also wondered whether the 'ET' might have been a real cadaver of someone suffering from Turner's Syndrome. Several factors changed my mind.

Firstly, despite the extraordinary similarities with human physiognomy, the corpse's 'organs' looked nothing like human organs, and whenever the camera moved in for a close-up of these 'vitals', the field of view was obscured by 'light' flashes and quick cuts.

What really convinced me that Mr Santilli's story was fishy, however, was the actual film itself. According to Santilli, the cameraman shot over 200 rolls of film. This would add up to a couple of hours of actual footage but - incredibly - all the key moments in the autopsy were captured on the 22 'problem' reels that had to be withheld for 'special processing'.....'

[See articles in this issue on the subject of the Alien Autopsy].

From Tin Vankerom, Antwerpen, Belgium

'As you will undoubtedly know, European interest in 'all things South-African' is growing and this includes South African UFO sightings. Yet, despite an abundance of communication channels, we know fairly little about Southern Africa and even less about its saucer stories. This situation easily leads to such deplorable nonsense as: "UFOs simply don't exist in Africa." Therefore, it would be a very good thing if you could keep us informed about what's going on under African skies.'

[The writer was sent some issues of UFO AFRINEWS to show him and his group that there indeed is UFO activity on the African continent.- ED]

**From Dr Leo Sprinkle,
Laramie, Wyoming, USA:**

'... Interesting that your brother-in-law [who is a surgeon -ED] says that the 'alien autopsy' was not performed on a human. Some American Indians/Native Americans describe their contacts with "Star People": muscular, 6-digits, etc. Perhaps the film is that of a Star person ...'

**From Gaines Crook,
Chatsworth, California, USA.:**

'... Since my last communication with you I have come to believe more than ever that the UFO phenomenon cannot be explained in terms of our technology or even our concepts. Our minds just do not contain the concepts and connective knowledge to deal with something totally out of Human experience! The predominant tendency to key all explanations of the UFO phenomenon to our own technological and behavioral standards is deplorable.'

**From William E Jones,
MUFON State Director for Ohio, USA:**

'I have been reading your UFO AFRINEWS since it started coming out. I obtain it through Arcturus Books in the USA. I must say I enjoy it immensely. After I am

through with it I donate it to the Ohio State University Main Library, Rare Books and Manuscripts (Special Collection) office. They have agreed to maintain this collection for research and preservation purposes for use both now and into the future. We in ufology are not doing enough to preserve our history. Most of our literature is published in small numbers and very little is submitted to libraries for permanent retention. There are only two places in the United States that I know of where this is being done.

If you would like to write an article for our small journal, the OHIO UFO NOTEBOOK, please do so. It would be an honour to publish it.'

[We agree totally with what William Jones says about ufologists not doing enough to preserve the history of the phenomenon. In our part of the world, complimentary copies of UFO AFRINEWS are sent to the Zimbabwe National Archives in Harare, and the Bulawayo Public Library.-ED]

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RECOMMENDED BOOKS

THE CROP CIRCLE ENIGMA by **Ralph Noyes**. Gateway, 1990.
Obtainable from Arcturus Books Inc., USA. US\$24.95

Ralph Noyes was a Senior Secretary in the Ministry of Defence in Great Britain. Once, during a Conference dinner, when I sat next to him, he told me that he used to receive hundreds of UFO reports which he had to pass onto a Senior (the Minister of Defence?) but never once did he have any feed-back.

UFO-RELATED HUMAN PHYSIOLOGICAL EFFECTS by **John Schuessler**.
Published by the Author, 1996. Obtainable from Arcturus Books, Inc., USA.
US\$15.00

For the serious researcher and especially those interested in the physical effects of UFOs on humans, this is an excellent book. I have heard Schuessler speak on one or two occasions and have always been impressed with his presentations and the genuineness of his research. He was involved in the Cash/Landrum case of 1973, where Betty Cash, Vicki Landrum and her grandson, returning home from work, stopped on the road to Houston to watch an unidentified craft apparently manoeuvre desperately in front of them to retain height. Both women got out of the car, but Vicki returned when her grandson, terrified, cowered under the dashboard.

Unfortunately for Betty Cash, she was exposed to such severe radiation that she nearly died and has suffered from cancer since the event. All three witnesses saw what they thought were 23 or so, Air Force helicopters circle the craft from above it, almost as though they were watching over it while it struggled to survive. Later it seemed to recover and took off into the distance.

Schuessler and Bob Pratt, a personal friend of mine, wrote a book about this case but were never able to have it published.

BEYOND TOP SECRET by **Timothy Good**. Supposed to have been published in April 1996. Obtainable from Spacelink Books, UK. £17.00

This is a sequel to Timothy's *Above Top Secret*, which was a best-seller when it was published a few years ago. There is sure to be a huge run on this one!

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE FOURTH KIND by **C.D.B. Bryan**. Obtainable from Spacelink Books, UK. £8.50.

This is a report on the MIT Conference on UFOs, chaired by Prof John Mack and physicist David Pritchard.

OPEN SKIES, CLOSED MINDS by **Nick Pope**. Obtainable from Spacelink Books, UK. £14.00

Nick Pope worked with the Ministry of Defence on UFOs, where he received and commented on reports in an understated, negative way. Since his resignation from his Department and reassignment to another one totally divorced from UFOs, he has spoken out and now reveals the true story on how the British Government responds to UFOs, crop circles, animal mutilations, etc.

BEYOND THE LIGHT BARRIER by **Elizabeth Klarer**

THE TWELVE PLANETS SPEAK by **Carl van Vlierden**

UFOs - AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS by **Cynthia Hind** (A few available) *

UFO AFRINEWS - Magazines - N° 1 through N° 14 available. *

The above books on Southern African UFOs may be ordered from **Aquarian Book Centre**, Shop 18, The Galleria, Cradock Avenue, Rosebank, Johannesburg, RSA.

Those marked * may also be ordered direct from:

Gemini,
P O Box MP 49, Mt Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe.

(Payment to Gemini in S.A. Postal Orders or by cheque made out to C.R.Hind)

WHEN A UFO LANDS

Some people scream and rush out of sight,
Others just stare and fall in a trance.
But if it should happen to someone like me,
I'd jump up and down and do a War Dance.

I'd stay where I was (for safety of course),
But I'd smile and welcome their cautious advance.
I'd hold out my hand and say, 'Where are you from?'
And wonder if they'd found me simply by chance.

But whatever might happen, I'd want to be free,
And never allow a 'checking' on me.

IN CONCLUSION

During all the years I've been working on UFOs, the most important factor which so constantly rears its head, is that one should not reach any immediate conclusions regarding a UFO case.

Nothing is sacrosanct anymore: you can swear an oath that what this person is telling you is the truth and nothing but the truth. And the very next week, some evidence comes to hand to show that the whole deal was a scam.

Well then, how does one know?

Again, over the years, one learns by experience. It is true, as Paul Norman of VUFORS, Australia, is always telling me, to be an 'armchair detective' is the easiest thing in the world. One sits back in the comfort of one's home, assessing the evidence, and then one makes a proclamation: 'Based on everything I have heard, this case is a total fraud.' Or perhaps, 'the brilliant spots of light in the night sky, are a flock of birds', or 'the witness wears glasses and therefore cannot see properly.'

I can give a dozen or more such examples and not only from Philip Klass or Carl Sagan, or those other experts who are extremely quick to denigrate because basically, they don't believe; but from the overly-gullible too.

Then ask yourself: did they talk to the witnesses? Did they recognize the genuine terror in their eyes; the consequent sleepless nights, the children traumatised to the extent that some are having counselling? Did they examine the details behind the case; the character of the witness? And even more than that, did they visit the site and see the marks and residue left behind which, when analysed, revealed effects that no-one could explain?

On the other hand, what about those into ufology who recognize every swift-moving light in the sky as a UFO from the Pleiades, probably sending messages of dire intent for the future of Earth.

Or accepting every document and what seems to be, professionally presented report, as *bona fide* evidence of a new UFO flap?

Of course, I am not trying to say that I am right every time either. I have certainly made some unforgiveable errors in my time and have never been afraid to admit it. But now I'm not in such a hurry to rush into print until I've investigated thoroughly and followed up every avenue of evidence that is available.

John C. (now deceased) was a clerk with the Farmer's Co-op Store, not far from Macheke in Zimbabwe, where he lived. On Saturday, 26th July 1975, John was alone at home when at about 19:00 hours, he decided to stack up the fire in his fireplace (it was a cold, clear night) and go across the road to buy some chips. He went round the side of the house when suddenly, a terrifically bright light 'came onto me' he said. 'It was about 10 metres away, above the electricity wires at tree-top level. At the same time, I was thrown to the ground.'

He told me he was wide awake but could not move. It was as though he was totally paralysed and he could not even roll over to get out of the light beam. He had no idea how long he lay there, but he remembers the light going out and it being all black around him. When he was able, he struggled onto his knees and crawled back to his house. When he got inside, the fire was out and the grate was cold!

For that to be, I estimate that he had been outside for at least 3 hours. When I started to check out his story, there were many disturbing features. He was somewhat unreliable, a heavy drinker and suffered from haemophilia which the local doctor confirmed. John refused to be medically examined and after several character reports, I decided to dismiss the case as a hoax.

Several years later, I interviewed a woman motel-owner and her manager, who had been followed by a UFO from Macheke to Rusape on the same night, but about 2 hours later!

On the reverse side of the coin, James van Greunen and his documentation of the alleged Botswana/South Africa UFO crash, is still believed by dozens of people; some of them quite highly placed ufologists. James is tremendously imaginative, and has sought fame and publicity throughout his teens and into his adult years. To me he is clever, but not clever enough, because if he was, he would be far more careful when he makes up his stories. (See Lesotho report in this issue.) I think his is a sad case and I feel sorry for him. He could have been of great value to ufology, but instead, he has done a lot of harm to its credibility.

There rests my case: why do we jump to conclusions in a matter of an hour or two, when real investigation involves a great deal of time, of analysis and repeated visits. Like the alien body film: on the 19th August 1995, 50% of the audience at Hallam University in Sheffield condemned what they saw, and the other 50% believed implicitly.

Let's all work on the INTO UFOs - Investigation, Neutrality, Thought and Ongoing ... it's a reasonable maxim, is it not?