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EDITORIAL

Sometimes, when I hear a new UFO story, it is so completely bizarre that I cannot help but question its authenticity. And although I listen, all ears, there is an underlying certainty in my mind that the whole UFO business is so weird, how can we possibly believe it all?

Of course, there are many cases one can check on easily; some with physical evidence or multiple witnesses, which proves that something happened there! But what if people are hoaxing, hallucinating or report what they genuinely think they have seen? How can investigators find out that sort of truth?

At this stage, 50 years-plus after Roswell, we still cannot be sure! We are certainly now much better informed. Where possible, we visit the site and carefully question the witnesses. We calculate heights when there is a measurable factor for us, such as the roof of a house or a tree-line. We also know what to look for, such as broken tree branches, burnt leaves, burn marks on the ground, depressions in the earth, residue left behind and so on. From the early years, when one really reached out in the dark, now seasoned investigators have a long list of possible items to search for. With Gunter Hofer, who owns a Geiger Counter, we here are able to pick up excessive radiation. He also has an electromagnetometer to check out electromagnetic effects. He brings along his metal detector, just in case, and as most regular readers will know from earlier reports, we take several samples of soil, collected in plastic bags and kept sterile until examined by experts in this field.

In the Rosmead Case (South Africa, 1975), I took the burnt leaves from the two trees affected, to the relevant Department at the University of Zimbabwe. At least I knew – scientifically – that they had been subjected to intense heat, where there had been no fires and where the other trees around the tennis court at the Primary School had not been affected at all!

In so many of the cases I have dealt with, water has proved of special importance; not only in Africa but all over the world. There are many

instances of craft hovering over lakes or dams, sucking up water through a tube. It is only recently that the public have been told of the use of hydrogen for rocket fuel. Hydrogen of course, is available in the air but concentrated in water (H₂O), so that it would more easily be extracted from water than elsewhere. Is this then the 'aliens' need for water, bearing in mind that I am only speculating as no-one really knows the answer.

In the Ariel School Case (Friday 16th Sept. 1994 in Ruwa, Zimbabwe) I was intrigued by some of the children who told me that the two little men running up and down in front of them, ran in slow motion. I had come across this before in two other cases (Danie van Graan, Loxton, South Africa, 1975 and Stuart's case, Mutare, reported in UFO AFRINEWS N° 17), but did not know the reason for this. Then I received a letter from Dr Helmut Lammer of the Austrian Academy of Sciences, who had read my article and pointed out that when observing movement from a different Time factor, the movement would appear to be in slow motion.

Obviously, none of the children were aware of this, and only told me what they had seen. (So much for the Dutch TV programme where the presenter speculated that Dr John Mack and I had bribed the children with sweets to tell their story!)

From an investigator's point of view, one of the best cases was that of Phyllis and Diane, the two women who were abducted in Johannesburg, South Africa. Despite their lack of knowledge on abductions, they repeatedly – in their story – came up with factors which I knew applied in these particular cases.

A light overtook their car and the next thing they were aware of was:

- a) being propelled up a series of steps into a craft (very few abductees can recall the transition from car to craft).
- b) They entered through a white mist smelling of incense and lemons (I personally feel this is a decontamination process, just as our astronauts were decontaminated when they returned from Outer Space).

- c) The entities inside the craft never looked up as Phyllis and Diane entered, as though they were not interested (I think they have telepathic perception of everything that is going on around them. There is no need 'to look').
- d) Both women were helped onto a flat metal-topped table and examined.
- e) The one entity called Me-lee-lah inserted a knitting-needle-like instrument underneath Diane's left breast, where a small, round scar remains.
- f) The insertion was painful and when Diane cried out, a hand was placed on her forehead immediately sending her into a euphoric state.
- g) Diane is examined and Me-lee-lah says to her, 'What is the name of your condition in your world?' Diane has suffered from haemolytic jaundice since the age of 12 and tells Me-lee-lah this. Later, when Diane returned to Earth, no evidence of this blood disorder could be found.
- h) Phyllis and Diane notice that Me-lee-lah has no fingernails. She says to her mother, 'Just like Apie', a pet monkey she once had. 'Who is Apie?' Me-lee-lah asks. Diane replies, 'A friend'. With that, Me-lee-lah stands up and bonds with Diane by bringing her face close to Diane's and staring into her eyes. Diane realises that Me-lee-lah is aware that she lied and notices that the pupils of her eyes change to vertical slits as she watches.
- i) Apprehensive at first, Phyllis becomes more and more comfortable with Me-lee-lah and the rest of her crew and both women are reluctant to return to Earth.

j) They are told by Me-lee-lah of impending disaster:— 72-metre waves which would destruct most of Earth's low-lying areas. But no date is given.

k) Finally, they are told they will remember some of the events of their experience, but not all of it.

None of these memories were revealed under hypnosis. They were recorded naturally over a period of time. If Phyllis and Diane were hoaxing, where did they obtain all this information?

Certainly not from reading UFO books although they might have had some background knowledge.

There is no doubt that the more I read about cases all over the world, the more I am able to recognise similarities among many witnesses. MUFON have a data base for all the strange factors of a UFO experience and as an investigator, I feel it is essential to have this knowledge at one's fingertips, so that one can recognise the genuine from the hoaxer.

And if you think hoaxers are wonderfully meticulous about detail; well, you're wrong. They make mistake after mistake and even if this is not immediately perceptible, it doesn't take long before it becomes evident. That is, if you're a thorough researcher, and if you have the expertise available.

And let it not be said that the team who researches on your behalf for the stories in UFO AFRINEWS is slap-dash and careless. For indeed, **we are not!**

"When I consider life, 'tis all a cheat; Yet, fool'd with hope, men favour this deceit."

John Dryden, 1631 – 1700

PILOT SEES LIGHT STREAK

Case N° 148

South Africa

Reported by Paul, a pilot, to Cynthia Hind.

A friend of Paul's, also a pilot, was flying from Cape Town to Johannesburg at 30 000ft. Both men worked for a private airline which has subsequently closed, and both have had to find new jobs. The pilot involved is now, Paul thinks, working in Kenya but could be traced.

The pilot received a call from the Air Traffic Control at Cape Town Airport, to say that they had picked up on radar a blip following his plane. He and his navigator kept a close look-out but could see nothing. Cape Town informed them that the craft was travelling at Mach 12 (12 000 Kmph) and then that it was close behind them. They could now see two objects on radar.

At this point the pilot and navigator saw a streak of light pass them but could not identify anything. Air Traffic Control said the two blips had now disappeared into cloud at Mach 14 (14 000 Kmph).

This occurred in August 1998, exact date not known.

Comment:

Further information on this case will be published if, and when, it comes to hand. – Ed.

The Royal Greenwich Observatory in Britain, closed on 31st October 1998 due to budget cuts. It was founded in 1675 by Charles II to aid navigation, but in recent years it was concerned more with astronomy.

New York Times, 10/11/98

THOSE I HAVE KNOWN....Elizabeth Klarer

Cynthia Hind

Re-reading the title to this, it sounds a bit pretentious! But it is true that ordinary a person as I might be, I have met some of the most interesting and famous people involved with UFOs. So, when I first became interested in Ufology, I knew it was going to be a lifetime's investigation into what it was all about, and what was really going on.

My first UFO article was for the magazine 'Illustrated Life Rhodesia', based mainly on reports I had read and from newspaper clippings in our local papers. It is also true that although the reports sounded genuine, they usually finished with sceptical conclusions such as 'having recently emerged from the local pub, it's no wonder the witness saw flying lights all over the sky', or 'next time we suggest they take more water with it!'

Nevertheless, that first investigation into what was then known as 'Flying Saucers' produced a nice pile of mail and having seen all the letters, I was convinced that the subject needed further delving into. One of the letters had mentioned a South African contactee, Elizabeth Klarer, and as I was on my way to Cape Town via Johannesburg (where she lived), it was an excellent opportunity to ask if I could interview her. She agreed to this, so early in 1968 I called upon her, and she told me her story.

She used to spend time with her sister and brother-in-law in the Drakensberg Mountains, not far from Durban, where they owned a farm. In 1957, riding up in the hills, she saw a craft flying above her, with a man standing inside, watching her. At first she was afraid but then she realised they meant her no harm and the craft soon shot up into the clouds and disappeared.

Some time later, she had a compulsion to go to the spot again and this time she found the craft on the ground, and the man she had seen before, waiting for her. Elizabeth claimed that she fell in love with him. His name was Akon and he was the Commander of the craft, which originated on the planet Meton, in Proxima Centauri. They became lovers, and Elizabeth

eventually bore him a son, Ayling, born on Meton. However, she could not adjust to the atmosphere there, and her heart and breathing began to suffer so that in the end, leaving Akon and Ayling, Elizabeth had to return to Earth alone.

Her story which I had written, appeared in FATE magazine (USA) in I think August 1968. Despite finding it difficult to accept what she told me I found her to be a charming and beautiful woman. She was a real lady softly-spoken and genteel, always elegantly dressed. She was an accomplished musician and had obtained a Meteorologist's Diploma when she lived in Oxford, England. She had the most incredible green eyes slanting slightly upwards with a soft smile curving her lips.

She had written a book, 'Beyond the Light Barrier' about her experience but could not find a publisher for it. I was going over to the United States and offered to take it with me to MUFON (Mutual UFO Network) to see if they could help sell it there. The Americans were always more open-minded about UFOs than any other group of people I knew; they were more willing to listen to stories of sightings so they were already knowledgeable about UFO lore however way-out the story might appear.

Elizabeth was convinced she was being spied on by the Russians (this was during the Cold War period) and on one occasion when a craft landed or attempted to land in the Drakensberg, she hid away so they could not find her.

I always felt that this part of her story was due to her active imagination, for why would the Russians, who apparently had plenty of their own sightings and contactees to contend with, seek out Elizabeth in a remote part of South Africa?

When I reached Jan Smuts Airport in Johannesburg, on my way to a MUFON Conference in Dayton, Ohio, Elizabeth was waiting for me with the manuscript of her book. 'Please take great care of it', she said. 'There may be Russians on the plane and they will try to take it from you.'

I guarded that book with my life! It sat on my lap, heavy and loose-leaved, right through the entire journey. Of course I dozed at times, but the moment I felt the book slipping off my lap I would be awake again, totally demoralized by lack of sleep. It was one of the most uncomfortable journeys I have ever made.

At last, with a sense of relief I was able to hand the book over to Joe Brill in Quincy, Illinois.

Alas, it didn't sell in the United States, not because it wasn't an exciting story but because Elizabeth was a romantic and there are sections of her book which are reminiscent of a typical woman's love story in a popular novel. I discussed this with Elizabeth: here she was, trying to persuade the world that she had met and cohabited with an 'Alien', a man from another planet or another Dimension, and certainly she needed some scientific data or serious discussion to prove her story.

Elizabeth was adamant that this was how it had all happened and she was not prepared to alter anything. All these inconsistencies always worried me about Elizabeth but she was such a charming, kindly person, that it was difficult to be too critical of her. Sadly, in early February 1994 she passed away; her last years dogged by poverty alleviated by her son David.

In UFO AFRINEWS N° 19, there was an extremely interesting story told by 'Doug'. He and his wife were honeymooning in the Drakensberg and while walking not far from their hotel, they came across a cairn of stones a short distance from Champagne Castle mountain.

When they returned to the hotel they asked the proprietors, Connor O'Hagan-Ward and his wife, about the cairn. He told them it had been put there by Elizabeth Klarer to mark 'Flying Saucer Hill' where she had allegedly met a man from Outer Space. O'Hagan-Ward then went on to say that one day when his wife was alone at the Reception a tall, good-looking man came in and asked for Elizabeth Klarer. Mrs O'Hagan-Ward had never heard of her, nor was she booked at the hotel or due to come. The man thanked her and left.

A few seconds later her husband came in and his wife asked if he had seen the man, or seen him leave in his car? The husband was positive he had seen no-one, nor had there been any unrecognized cars in the car park.

A while later Elizabeth did turn up with her newly-published book. In it there was a drawing of Akon, her Spaceman lover. Mrs O'Hagan-Ward recognized him immediately. It was the man who had called and asked for Elizabeth!

One other fascinating point: Elizabeth had always told me that she was constantly in touch with the South African Air Force and reported to them about her meetings and trips with Akon. I was doubtful about this but never queried it. I knew it could never be proven.

On one occasion in her book she says that her sister, her brother-in-law and herself sheltered a SAAF helicopter team who were forced to land on the farm during a heavy storm.

O'Hagan-Ward told Doug that the SAAF used to fly Elizabeth to her rendezvous with her memories each year after she had become too elderly to ride up there on horseback. They would land her there and come back for her later.

On Friday, 5th March 1999 I appeared on Cape-talk, a radio show in Cape Town where I was interviewed by Lisa Chiat, the talk-show hostess. We discussed Elizabeth Klarer and her bizarre story; her absolute conviction that she told the truth. There were numerous phone calls coming into the programme, one being from a man who had worked at O'Hagan-Ward's hotel. 'The story you told about the SAAF taking and fetching Elizabeth Klarer to Flying Saucer Hill', he said, 'is absolutely true. I saw it with my own eyes.'

I have never felt that Elizabeth Klarer deliberately lied to me; she was not that sort of person. But it can happen that people sincerely believe that something has happened to them when in actual fact it has not. It is an illusion, a dream-state of euphoria.

But today people readily believe Betty and Barney Hill; they believe Linda Cortile and dozens of other abduction stories which occurred in the USA. So when we get down to basics, why not Elizabeth Klarer?

ALIEN INTERVENTION?

Case N° 147

Various places, South Africa.
Interview by Pam Puxley, Cape Town, 9th March 1999

As a child, Kerry lived with her grandparents on a farm near the Lanseria Airport outside Johannesburg. She was seven years old when she had her first strange experience.

One night she woke up and saw a bright orange glow through the large window of her bedroom, which faced the veld. Thinking the farm was on fire she switched on the light, jumped up and ran into her grandparents' bedroom shouting, 'Fire! Fire!'

Her grandfather and all the farm labourers ran out into the veld, but there was nothing there! The orange glow had completely gone.

Kerry was greatly puzzled by this event, but nothing untoward happened until she was 13. Her grandfather gave her a book on UFO sightings and said to her: 'Kerry, if you want to know what's going on, read this book. If you like it, carry on reading; if you don't like it, leave it alone.' She was interested, and read the book.

She said, 'But this time I want some answers, and I want to know what's going on...'

There are times when she starts dreaming about UFOs and hearing voices in her mind. This is how she knows they are close by.

'I'm not scared of them', she adds. 'I have no fear at all. I get this feeling they are trying to help humanity and that they choose certain individuals. One ability I do have is that I feel I'm a bit psychic. I believe they pick on people who are susceptible to their power and that's why they use them here.'

In reply to Pam's query as to who 'they' were, she said, 'The Grays'. She calls them Grays, she says, because of the grey face and huge eyes, having actually seen one of them (Also, because obviously she has read of this expression). She adds that she can actually feel when they are near, which was one of the reasons why she contacted Pam.

'Anyway the second time I had an experience, I actually saw some-one. We were in Knysna (Cape Province) on a farm. In 1992, when I was 21, my husband and I had this 36-hectare farm in Knysna. One night we were lying in bed when suddenly everything in the room lit up with a white light. I could see perfectly the colour of the furniture and the carpet, but I couldn't see a thing outside because there was just this blinding white light.

'My Alsatian dog started barking, scratching at the door to get out. I ran to the kitchen door and let her out; the moment I did that everything went pitch black. I heard no sound of a plane or helicopter, it was all silent. But I knew what it was. I **knew**. That's why I wanted to get outside.'

From there, the couple moved back to their present farm near Cape Town. 'One night when we got home about 9 o'clock, I just looked up and saw these lights: green, red, orange, yellow, and one started doing a slow circling then shot off in one direction while another started in the opposite way and shot off in another direction. I said to my husband, 'It's UFOs! They've come again!'

'He didn't believe me and I was disappointed but left it at that.

'Two weeks later we went to Melkbosstrand and a friend had phoned from Claremont who had seen the same thing and it was published in the Cape Times.

'Now I have a recurring dream. I just feel extremely sleepy, like when you've had an anaesthetic: a pins-and-needles sensation in your head. I get that as I lie back on the pillow.

In my dream the next thing I am in this craft (though I'm not sure if this was in my dream) and it had large portholes with curved sides but flat at the bottom. We were flying over the sea and I could see the mountains on the other side. Then I felt two hands on my shoulders and I wanted to turn round to see who it was, but I couldn't move! And then the hands turned me right around and I was led down a passage and stood outside a door. The whole passage was of a silver-like metal: no colour on the walls or doors, just brightly-polished silver.

'As I stood outside the door, it suddenly slid open and inside there were computer 'things'; not screens, just switches and lights, surrounding the whole wall. I was led to a desk-like table. There was a computer screen there. I stood in front of it watching pictures of the human body, such as bones, reproductive organs, the whole rigmarole going through, like a slide show. Then I managed to turn my head round and saw this hand with four long spindly claws sitting on my shoulder, holding a very long syringe – the fingers were grey.

'I found myself saying, "No! No!" And then I felt this prick on my left arm. And everything just disappeared!

'My husband asked if I was OK. He said "It's black under your eyes and the skin is scuffed." I was so emotional; I have never in my life felt like that. I felt as if I was on drugs and I was crying the whole morning. I felt like a zombie. I sat on the bed and my whole arm at the top was sore. When my husband remarked about my eyes, I didn't tell him anything. I said I'd had a restless night and a shit dream! He understands it now but it's taken him a long time.

We had breakfast and I never said a word that morning. I just cleaned the house. I was tired and when I got home that night I found this mark that is still there, on my upper left arm, and it was all puffed up like when an injection needle has been stuck in.

'I did not tell Alan then but waited until we went out for a drink, and then I told him what had happened.'

Kerry adds: 'No, this was not a dream. This was real. Something has happened to me and I want to know and to find out what 'they' did to me: why, what for, and where.'

Pam asks: 'When you said to me, "I've seen a Gray", where was that?'

Kerry: 'I've seen a Gray in my kitchen.'

'A week before I phoned you I had a dream — well, I don't know if it was that. I was stuck in the back of a truck, driving on the highway and it was like a sort of operating room with a bed. There were two Aliens there; one was standing on the roof of the truck, the other one was inside. With them were two human beings.

'Now I'm having a tooth operation; they're going to do something to my teeth. I'm given a tablet or something before the operation – like an anaesthetic. But the tablet isn't working!

Next thing, one of the humans sticks an injection into the same arm as before and the same sensation I had in my previous 'dream' starts coming back... I pass out... and I wake up sitting in a room with chairs all around, feeling that something has been done to my mouth... to my jaw. 'And that's when I decided to find someone to help me.'

Kerry says her husband Alan has seen the same things she has. 'But they've never touched him'. On one occasion, she says, her husband told her she disappeared.

Kerry continues: 'My grandparents know something about my family history, but won't tell me. My Dad lives in Johannesburg. My Mum left me when I was three years old. I don't know why but she wants nothing to do with me. The relationship with my father is all one-sided: I phone him and fax him letters but never get any replies. Then, on this subject, he tells me I am mad! He says I'm exaggerating when I tell him my experiences.

'My mother's parents, who brought me up, avoid the subject like the plague! I phoned my grandfather after a TV documentary appeared about the crash in the Kalahari and how I had contacted Pam Puxley and was going to see her. He wished me luck! They know something and are not telling me. Why did he give me that UFO book when I was 13?

'Since then I've gathered all the information I can: books, magazines, cuttings. I have a file in my bedroom thick with material. Even Alan says my grandparents know something they are not telling me, because when I bring up the subject with them in front of him, they switch off and immediately change the subject.'

Kerry speculates: 'They're using me for something. I don't know what it is. I pray to God to let them come back, but this time I want to see them. I want them to take me but I must be fully aware of what's going on around me, not to wake up in the morning feeling like I've been on drugs, or drinking the whole night. I don't want to have sort of 'clips' of things I have seen in my sleep... if I've been sleeping! I feel a deep attachment to them and am proud of the fact that they have chosen me, for whatever purpose. I am proud of that! They've never really hurt me. I don't understand why people are so afraid of them.'

Kerry shows Pam a picture, some sort of map of Africa with dots scattered all over the southern region.

Pam: 'This is Africa, you say?'

Kerry: 'Yes, I do believe this is where most sightings take place. I drew that out of a dream I had, of certain pinpoints, hot spots in Africa.'

'I feel like my body is linked into the weather', Kerry adds. 'I can feel if it's going to rain or be cold, or if there's going to be a thunderstorm. I've been struck by lightning three times. One time, I opened the fridge to get a can of soda and next thing, this bolt came through the window and struck the back of the fridge and made a hole there and threw me across the kitchen.'

'I can smell a change in the atmosphere, the environment. Also, before my 'friends' come and visit, I pick up this hot smell, **like olive oil smells when you're cooking with it**, before you put the food in the pan. The smell is not sulphur. It's a strange odour, not sweet, that I pick up. If I stand outside and sniff, I can smell it and it puts the feeling into me that I know something is going to happen; that I am going to have a visitor.

It's a sort of **used oil** smell. It smells like a body, but an Alien body. And that's the most regular thing I picked up on the farm outside Johannesburg. That smell used to excite me. It didn't scare me and I **knew** something was about to happen.

Two night ago (Sunday 7th March 1999), I had a very restless night. I think it was the fire on the mountain. I couldn't breathe, the whole night; I was short of breath. Every night before I go to sleep, I pray to God for them to come back.

'In Simonstown (a town further along the False Bay coast) they didn't touch me. I think because it is a military town. There are cameras that control the whole of False Bay, including Simonstown. So anything extraordinary that goes on they can see that, because I've noticed that every time I've been near any military installation, I've lost contact with them. Now we moved here to our present home in September 1998 and suddenly zap, the contact is back. I can feel it like a link. When I was in Simonstown I lost it, then went through that depressing stage because I was losing them.'

Kerry told Pam that she is interested in being hypnotised as she would like to get to the bottom of her experiences. This is being arranged.

Editorial Comments:

We are trying to find out what book was given to Kerry by her grandfather. The fact is, if she is in a particularly vulnerable state, she might very well be influenced by the 'masses' of reading material she has accumulated.

On the other hand she appears to be a sensible, practical person, with her husband very supportive of her and her experiences. However, in

interviews one has to be wary of suggestive techniques, particularly if the witness is in an uncertain state – certainly with regard to the experiences she has had. Are they **real**, or are they part of a dream?

The factor which is impressive, is the smell of cooking oil prior to the arrival of the visitors. It is suggestive of the Varginha case in the State of Minas Gerais in Brasil (featured in UFO AFRINEWS N° 15).

A strange 'being' was spotted by three young girls returning home from work on January 20, 1996. The creature appeared 'greasy' with dark oil on its skin. In fact, the wife of one of the firemen who were directed to the spot, said later that when one of the creatures was captured, the oil rubbed off onto her husband's clothing and she was so upset, she burned the uniform.

When the girls reached home, the mother of the two younger ones went back to the area to search for the creature. She did not see anything but admitted that there was a terrible smell of 'dead flesh'.

It is also interesting that Kerry was unable to move, typical of an abduction experience, and yet when her abductor put its hand on her shoulder, she could see it was '4-fingered' and 'claw-like'.

Another factor which is impressive, is the gradual psychological change from fear to waiting for the aliens to reappear – a hate-love involvement which dominates most abductee reports.

In the final analysis, one has to weigh up whether Kerry was unduly influenced by the reading of UFO books or whether all the facts were exactly as they occurred to her initially.

In Zimbabwe, hypnosis is only allowed when prescribed by a medical doctor for special treatment to the patient, so it is not indiscriminately used. But perhaps hypnosis will help Kerry's case to a realistic conclusion.

SOME SERIOUS ASTRONOMY

Clippings provided by Albert Benajam

In UFO AFRINEWS N° 19, we wrote that the Hubble telescope had allegedly picked up 50 billion galaxies besides our own Milky Way.

Now, in the New York Times 'Health & Discovery' section in January 1999, a later report is mentioned. It says that a further deep look into Space in an experiment entitled 'Hubble Deep Field South', the Hubble focussed on a portion of the sky above the Southern Hemisphere for 10 days, taking images 11 billion light years away.

Based on the number of objects picked up by the telescope, it was estimated that the Universe has about **125 billion galaxies!**

The reason for the increase is that the Hubble now has new instruments which allow it to look farther than ever before.

And next year, or the next, who knows what else we will find?

From: Health & Discovery, Jan. 1999.

Pluto Stands Firm!

Did you know that Pluto takes 248 years to make a trip around the sun? It is nearly always taken for granted that Pluto is the outermost of all our planets, but for two decades – those just passed – Neptune is the one which is furthest away.

There is no danger that these planets will collide, as tiny Pluto travels in a plane tilted 17° to that of Neptune's path, and they are relatively far from each other. According to E. Miles Standish of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, the two planets were 2,5 billion miles apart.

However, astronomers cannot calculate Pluto's position exactly because they know little about its mass and gravitational interaction with other planets.

Pluto is smaller and icier than its planetary peers. A Harvard astronomer felt Pluto should be relegated to a 'minor planet' status, of which there are about 9 999, and that it should be given a number. But other scientists could not accept Pluto as a minor and major planet at the same time. In early February, 1999 the International Astronomical Union said Pluto was safe from being designated a 'minor planet'.

Pluto was discovered by Clyde Tombaugh 69 years ago (Feb. 18, 1930).

From Daily News, Sat. Feb 13, 1999,
and The Dallas Morning News, 1999.

Travel to Deep Space

Manned missions to neighbouring planets, or travel beyond our solar system, will remain a wild dream until we find a faster, more efficient means of cruising the Galaxy.

One hundred physicists met in August 1998 in Cleveland, USA, at the NASA Breakthrough Propulsion Physics Workshop. Many of the ideas are already known – warp drive, wormholes, tachyons, hyperspace – but have only recently come into serious scientific literature.

The interesting point was that these scientists were prepared to explore ideas which were beyond normal acceptance. One idea being the possibility of travelling faster than light without rockets or fuel. Impossible in the concept of current science!

But the ideas were those which could produce impossible theories.

Along with inertia, gravity is being reconsidered as a possible electromagnetic side effect of vacuum fluctuations.

If this is so, the vacuum of Space may not be empty at all, but filled with energy, known as zero-point energy, which could be used for propulsion.

With scientists like these tossing ideas around one feels there is hope for those of us, not scientifically trained, who realise there is so much more to this Universe of ours than is readily explainable. Marc Millis, an aerospace engineer at NASA's Lewis Centre in Cleveland and head of the BPP programme, said, 'We wore people out (at the 3-day meeting)'.

He also made it clear that the workshop was by invitation only, partially in order to avoid the 'fringe element', like amateur inventors who think they've outdone Einstein. The meeting place, a suburban hotel, was kept secret.

In a way, it's a rather sad indictment of what most UFO investigators are trying to do and what they're trying to say.

From Smithsonian Air & Space Magazine, January 1998.

Hey there, Mr Millis, we're not all crazy but by heavens, it's difficult to make our voices heard!

Machos

Some scientists believe that dark objects, known as massive compact halo objects (machos) may contain about 50% of the missing mass of our galaxy.

They are extremely difficult to detect, but scientists accept that they are there because of the gravitational effect on light, even though they cannot be seen.

New York Times, 18/8/98 (Tuesday)

AUTOMATIC PILOTED VEHICLES

For sometime now I've suspected the technically advanced Armscor/Kentron company of South Africa having access to unmanned aerial vehicles. Ever since the South African/Botswana border alleged crash of a UFO engineered and hoaxed by James van Gruenen, I knew that no UFO had been shot down by a SAAF pilot. Basically because the documents presented by van Gruenen were so badly formulated; inexcusable spelling mistakes (I counted 14), completely inaccurate information, incorrect ranking of officers, and mixing of metric and imperial measures.

I served with the SAAF and have always respected the high qualities demanded of its officers and the documentation presented. Besides, all the evidence which van Gruenen provided proved that he was merely after the highest bidder for his material. (I have proof of this!)

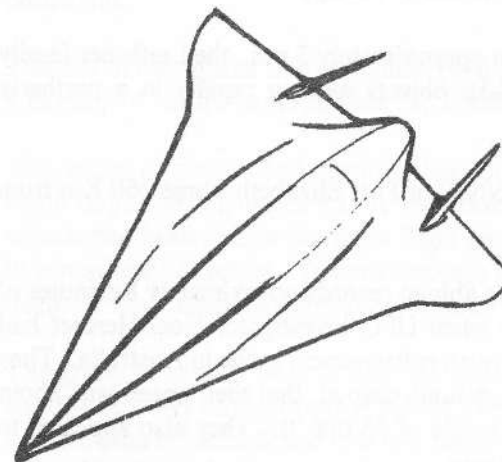
I also, some time after this incident surfaced, lectured in various countries around the world, one of which was Israel. There, for the first time, I heard of these Automatic Piloted Vehicles which were controlled from a secret base and sent to evaluate air defence systems in other areas or countries. If they were shot down (as could happen) at least there was no loss of life. I also knew that Harry Harris, a lawyer and well-known UFO investigator from Manchester, in England, claimed that he had 90 pages of documents from Mossad, which involved the South African/Botswana border incident. One of van Gruenen's claims was that a South African naval vessel named 'Tafelberg' had first spotted the UFO at sea, and I have recently been informed by a person involved in government at that time, that this ship was in dock when the incident was reported!

Thus I was left with the puzzle of how did it all start, as something must have triggered van Gruenen's devious mind into perpetrating this whole incident. (For fame and money, I suspect!)

Then I discovered that Kentron, quite openly, admitted in 1994 that they had produced a triangular-shaped unmanned aerial vehicle. Well then, I thought, what if one of these had crashed on the wrong side of the border

into Botswana and South Africa wanted to retrieve it very, very quickly? Dennis Stitt from Lake Laberge, Yukon, USA, reports that on June 18th, 1997, at 23:10 hours, he saw a 'little flying object zip over his cabin.' He heard a loud fluttering noise – like a flag flapping in a strong wind – and when he looked up he saw a V-shaped black object. He says that the one most similar to what he saw was the Flowchart 2 manufactured by the South African company Kentron. Kentron call this the 'Stealth Target Drone'. It has a conventional thrust turbine engine using high-octane aircraft fuel. I also know that Israel shared its technology of the automatic piloted vehicle with other countries, such as Britain, the United States and in all likelihood, South Africa.

So there you are! Next time you spot a black, triangular object moving at great speed across the skies, pause a moment and reflect before you decide to report a UFO!



Sketch of:

Kentron's Flowchart 2 –
Stealth Target Drone.

Some of this information is extracted from UFO-BC Quarterly, Fall 1998
Vol.3, No 4.

APV FROM USA

The LoFLYTE, a supersonic, remotely piloted aircraft, was flight-tested recently at Oshkosh, Wisconsin, USA. It is about 2,5 metres long, using neutral-network technology to improve performance. Its travelling speed is Mach 5 (5000 Km per hour).

Thanks to: INUFOR DIGEST
Box 783, Kogarah 2217, Australia

UFO ON VIDEO

Case N° 149

Graaf Reinet, South Africa.

Report from Kay Collett, of Graaf Reinet and
ECUFOR, South Africa (N. Herbiet/T. Farley)

On the 27th December 1998, at approximately 3 pm, the Laubsher family of Graaf Reinet observed 8-10 objects moving rapidly in a northerly direction over Graaf Reinet.

This is a small town situated NNW of Port Elizabeth, some 260 Km from there.

Luckily, Jacques Laubsher was able to record approximately 8 minutes of video-time of the objects and when UFO investigator Noel Herbiet had viewed this, he was able to have an enhancement made in Australia. They reported that the objects were deltoid-shaped, that their speed was about 12 000 Kmph, travelling at a height of 35 000 ft. They also appeared to have a magnetic field around them.

I received a phone call from Carte Blanche, a commercial TV programme on M-Net in South Africa, asking if I knew of any expert in the USA who could do a further, more detailed enhancement on the video. Immediately, Jeff Sainio of MUFON came to mind and I gave the caller Walt Andrus' (International Director of MUFON) phone number and e-mail address.

I know the video has been sent over to them and the researchers now await the analysis.

The objects seemed to be like small 'Chinese lanterns' and moved in a group.

Occasionally one or two would stop while the others circled round them and would then move forward again. This movement was repeated several times. When the objects were not moving, they appeared to be first red in colour, then switched to blue, but while moving, they were a bright white.

When viewing the video footage, Kay said that the objects were reminiscent of gnats that dart around on the surface of pond-water, sometimes blinking out and reappearing elsewhere. She was also intrigued that when one 'blinked' out, it left a shadowy image on the TV screen which looked like a conventional discoid UFO. Neither of the other two viewers appeared to notice this.

The size of the objects was thought to be approximately 4 to 5 times that of a Boeing 747 at the same altitude (35 000ft).

This group of objects had been in view for a few minutes when another, much larger object, appeared. It was travelling twice as fast as the other objects had been and on the same flight path as the smaller objects, going in a northerly direction. It went through the group of lights and passed them. It was estimated to be about 8 times the size of a Boeing 747.

The group of smaller objects then followed this larger sphere at the same altitude, and they all disappeared behind some clouds near the horizon. This took a matter of seconds and was not filmed by Laubsher. The clouds were about 25 000-30 000ft high. There was no jet-stream nor noise from any of the objects but of course, the height above ground would have eliminated this anyway.

There will be further reports on this in our issue N° 21, using material from ECUFOR as well as from Kay Collett.

OUT OF AFRICA

Reported in The Sunday Times, Sri Lanka, May 5th, 1998.

Bandarawela, Sri Lanka. Sept/Oct, 98: UFO Magazine, UK Vol. 17 N° 3

Much as we feel our readers should know about important cases elsewhere, there are periods of time when very little seems to be happening.

Thus, although UFO AFRINEWS appears only bi-annually, often there is no case that we feel would appeal internationally.

We are reporting the following incident because of the remoteness of its locality and because it was seen by school children (See 'Ariel school-children in Ruwa, Zimbabwe' in UFO AFRINEWS N°s 11 and 12).

Indika Sampath Dissanayake always goes to school early in the morning. On the 30th April 1998, he arrived at 6:30 a.m. He was leaving his school-bag in his Grade 3 classroom when he heard a slight noise. He thought something was falling down but when he reached outside, he saw a large disc-shaped object, standing on legs on the playground. As he watched, it flashed bright red and yellow lights and took off at a great speed.

'It turned round once and flew sideways above the jak [Jacaranda] tree and went into the sky', he said. Indika had never heard of UFOs but his story has remained consistent and his drawing is of a typical disc-like object, with a side fin.

Harsha Ellawalagedera, a 10-year old pupil of great promise and likely to win a scholarship during his Grade 5 exam (in August '98) was the student tasked with opening all the classroom doors each morning. He was unlocking the classroom facing the playground when a slight noise made him look back. He immediately saw the disc-shaped object which was flashing red and yellow lights.

'It disappeared before my eyes', he said. 'A second later I saw it in the sky.' It then climbed higher and went over the mountains.

Harsha estimated that the object was about 8ft in diameter and about 7ft in height.

Both boys said it made a slight, soft, purring noise as it flew off, but once aloft, it was noiseless.

The children from the school claim that they have seen this object before but this is the first time it has landed; they had nicknamed the object **Korka**, which means 'the stork'.

Unfortunately, being primary school children, no-one thought to preserve the landing site. By the time adults reached the spot, imprints in the sand had been erased by dozens of small feet.

The Principal of the school, Jayantha Wickremasinghe, managed to photograph some of the curious flower-shaped marks that remained in the sand.

But the large shoe-shape marks and the deep churn marks which Harsha and Indika saw in the playground right after the object took off, were mostly gone by the time the teachers arrived.

One interesting factor was part of a dead white insect, rather like a large locust. But it too had been lost when trying to dry it on top of a rock. The insect was not common to this area.

The Bandarawela Police have no explanation for the sighting, but they dismiss the suggestion that it might have been some activity from the military camp at Diyartalawa .

There have been many prominent people, some scientists, who have seen unidentified lights and objects in this part of Sri Lanka.

But Harsha and Indika have other things on their minds, such as school work and scholarship exams, and their lives don't seem to have changed with this incident.

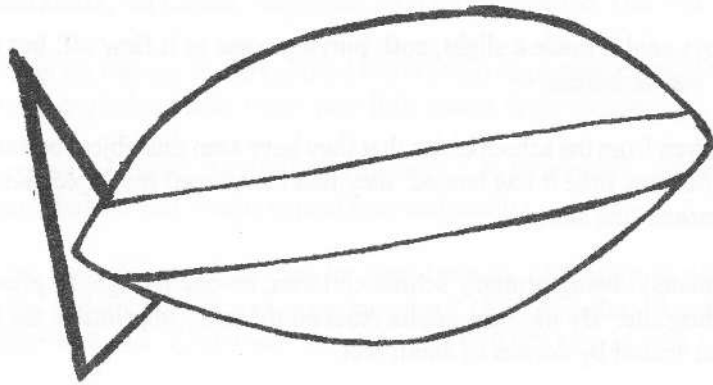


Figure 2: Drawing by Indika of the craft he saw

Questions to an Alien!

*I see, Mr Grey, you keep on coming – for what?
You're really quite weird – the whole of your lot.
It's true you're benign, or so you all claim,
But I'm not convinced that's really your game.
So what do you want? What purpose is yours?
Are you robotic and just doing your chores?
What are you saying, what's that you conceal?
Are you teaching us something you cannot reveal?
Or showing us something you never can mention,
Like some distant place in another Dimension?*

ZIMBABWE – INTERNATIONAL UFO SITE?

Capt. Frederick 'Skip' Atwater caused quite a stir with his talk at the 57th Annual International UFO Congress Convention in Laughlin, Nevada USA. Atwater is Director of Research at the Monroe Institute in Faber, Virginia. He was also operations and training officer for the military 'Remote Viewing Project' for 10 years. This project uses established psychics to view designated sites and report back on what is happening there. These sites can be up to thousands of kilometres away. Atwater related how Pat Price, a retired police officer and star 'remote viewer' had discovered four UFO bases on Earth.

One of those named was '**a maintenance and repair base at Mount Inyangani in Zimbabwe**'. The others were in the French/Spanish Pyrenees, Mt Ziel in N. Territory, Australia and a study centre at Mt. Heyes, Alaska.

(See Comment on page 42)

The Alien's Lament

*I'm short and weird, or so they say.
I work by night and rest by day!
I fade away when it suits me so,
Or remain in sight when I should go.
But the strangest part is that humans fear
The way I am – though I made it clear,
I only want to take their eggs,
An arm or two, or several legs;
A little sperm to make a child,
Who'll grow up sweet and temper-mild.
And if their fear is caused by pain,
I think it strange that they complain,
For if one thinks what humans do,
We aliens only harm a few!*

UFO EFFECTS:

Recent Controversy on Implants

Having touched on the subject of implants, briefly, in UFO AFRINEWS N° 19, there has subsequently been a lot more information about this; and for your benefit, we are giving you the details as they come to hand.

As those of you who have been reading UFO AFRINEWS for some time will know, we in Africa are not abduction-prone. Or if we are, not many people report this. And the few abduction cases we have dealt with, i.e. Phyllis and Diane in Johannesburg and Bruce of Zimbabwe, never spoke of implants.

However, recently we have become more involved with this possibility because of Stuart's case in Mutare (UFO AFRINEWS N° 17). Stuart had a UFO sighting in 1988, where he actually saw a football-shaped UFO, was temporarily paralyzed, realised that he could not attract the attention of a young girl playing on the porch of her house a few metres away, and watched as several horses in the polo cross field where he was, were frozen into a heads-raised position. Subsequently, his ears started suppurating and for the first time in his life he became aware that he had a rib missing.

Stuart has no recollection of being taken aboard a UFO and in fact, according to his wife, the whole episode took place in about 30 minutes. But the time factor is uncertain as neither Stuart nor his wife particularly noted the time although Stuart said he felt he had the object in view for a long time.

We managed to obtain agreement from an eminent ear, nose and throat specialist to examine Stuart but when we visited him in October 1998, the matter from his ears had stopped oozing, so there was no point in his seeing the specialist.

We also had a young lady from Bulawayo (UFO AFRINEWS N° 4, Case N° 23) who pointed out a small round scar above her right temple. She had

'dreamed' one night of being in a large circular room completely made of metal, and of lying immobilized on a table-like bed with people moving around her, doing something to her head.

There were many such beds occupied by other people. Those working on her were dressed in one-piece suits of white or silver, but she recalled nothing more until she woke next morning and found the small circular blister on her forehead. It could have been an insect bite of some kind, but it had left a very vivid scar the size of a 5-cent piece; and the 'dream' had occurred in 1985!

One of the reasons she had come to see us was that subsequent to her 'dream' she now found that she had a strange effect on electrical equipment: light bulbs had exploded in her presence and on two occasions, lights above her head, for no apparent reason, had fallen where she had just been sitting. She was never injured herself but recalls moving from the spot only seconds beforehand.

At the time, we were not aware of implants, so did nothing further about it, and a couple of letters to her home address later, elicited no reply.

Now, however, in an article published in the MUFON JOURNAL of June '98, Dr Roger K. Leir says he has removed suspected implants from two patients, one male and one female. The objects were removed from the toe of the female and the hand of the male. Dr Leir asserts that X-rays confirmed the objects as metallic and they were covered with a dark grey, shiny membrane. The surgeon tried to cut the objects open with a new surgical blade but he could not do so.

Dr Leir says that the patients appeared to react violently when the objects were touched. Both suffered pain one week prior to the surgery and yet, after the objects were removed, they told the psychologist that they had a new-found feeling of freedom.

Dr Leir reported that one of the objects contained a core made of the hardest iron carbide known, which was also magnetic.

Independent scientific reviews say the one object was manufactured, with purpose and precision.

Subsequently to all this, in a scathing article reprinted in 'Strange Daze' (Editor: Dave Newton, Newsletter of Winter 1999), Dr Trevor Jordan and Barry Jones (ASKE) point out several anomalies about Dr Leir's report. I certainly agree with them for taking Leir to task about numerous errors and omissions, but have never agreed with 'grinding people into the ground'. Nevertheless, Leir should not have published his findings without scientific and specific reference data. I agree completely with Jordan and Jones that small objects in the toes and hands, could have been implanted from perfectly natural objects, when barefooted as a child, possibly. I can recall reading about a needle going into a child, of which she was not aware until years later when it again worked its way to the surface. But these are identifiable objects.

If Leir had proved – beyond doubt – that the objects he removed were of totally unknown materials, then certainly we should have taken notice!

As an investigator myself, I feel that we are all too easily taken in by reports like these which are not sufficiently authenticated before publication.

Surely the responsibility lies with the magazine or Newsletter to check the facts?

CROP CIRCLES

Despite the denigration of these circles which have been appearing regularly in Britain in a variety of crops for several years now, and the general idea that these are all hoaxes, other factors have recently come to light. Apparently, when hoaxed, the stalks of the crop are always broken; but in the more complex circles, the stalks are bent and eventually return to an almost upright position. The hypothesis which has developed suggests plasma as the active force! More on this in UFO AFRINEWS N° 21.

REPORT BACK ON EARLIER CASES

In UFO AFRINEWS N° 18 we gave details of the aliens that 'Zamei of Dar-es-Salaam' had seen over a short period of time in 1998. We have tried several times to follow up on this case through a Tanzanian Air Line pilot and a local Travel Agent, but so far this has proved unsuccessful. However, one of the main features of Zamei's report was that the short creatures he encountered, who made unintelligible sounds like two glasses being rubbed together, only had one eye placed in the centre of the forehead just below the level of eyes in human beings. One respected ufologist remarked:

'Zamei's story is strange indeed, even in ufology, where one is used to strange stories. Entities with only a single eye would not have stereoscopic vision, which would be a serious handicap for any form of life. Frankly, the story is hard to believe.'

However, in John and Ann Spencer's book **Fifty Years of UFOs** (pub. by Boxtree, 1997, an imprint of Macmillan Publishers Ltd), on page 35, the following three cases are reported:—

1. Torrent in Argentina, 1965 – Five beings two metres tall, each with one eye in the middle of the forehead.
2. Belo Horizonte, Brasil, 1963 – Tall, slim beings with bright red skin and one eye, no ears or nose.
3. In Peru, 1965 – A blackish-coloured creature resembling a shrub, 80cms tall, with one eye.

We have always felt that the Zamei case seemed too bizarre to be true; but on the other hand, there was actually no purpose to the report from him. There was no personal publicity involved – we have not used his real name – and in fact, the whole exercise was costly to him as phone calls to Don Berliner at the Fund for UFO Research in the USA, and to us in Zimbabwe, would involve a lot of US dollars.

BOOK REVIEWS

Prier Wintle

CASEBOOK OF THE MEN IN BLACK by Jim Keith
Illuminet Press, Lilburn, Georgia USA 1997

THE TRUTH BEHIND THE MEN IN BLACK by Jenny Randles
St Martin's Paperbacks, USA 1997

Both of these books are important and necessary reading, and long overdue at that!

Not that ufologists haven't heard of M.I.B's before. Of course they have. John F. Keel first coined the name Men in Black for them in the book *Operation Trojan Horse*¹ in 1970 but they had been around long before that – at least since the Maury Island case, a few days before Kenneth Arnold's classic sighting of 9 saucer-like objects skipping round Mt Rainier in June 1947. But this is the way the Flying Saucer/UFO subject has developed all along. At first even the very notion that anything at all unknown could be flying around in the skies was scoffed at. Gradually that had to be admitted, but the idea that they could be seen at close quarters, and that their occupants too could occasionally be glimpsed, was regarded as cultish nonsense.

Even Ed Ruppelt, in his 1953 Report on Unidentified Flying Objects, states that whenever he received a report that mentioned occupants, he automatically put it straight into the trash can. But occupants too, have gradually – reluctantly – had to be accepted.

Next came the abductions. Probably they too have been happening since the earliest days, but it was not until Budd Hopkins, David Jacobs PhD and Harvard Psychiatrist John E. Mack began to research cases systematically in the 1980's and 90's that a sizeable number of ufologists began to believe in them (still not all!). And now at last, at last, there are two books which

¹ John F. Keel, *Operation Trojan Horse*. Souvenir Press 1970

take a straight look at the men (no women yet!) who may come round after you (men or women) have had a significant sighting knowing exactly what you have seen and telling you to shut up about it – or else!

Jim Keith comes to the subject from a background of general interest in conspiracies. Other titles by him include *OK Bomb*, *Conspiracy and Cover Up*, and *Black Helicopters over America*. As with any other seriously undertaken research subject he starts off with a literature review, and his first two chapters deal with what may well be called 'black history', from medieval through colonial and American Revolution times to the present day. He examines the witches and people very like M.I.B's whom it was wise always to refer to as "The Very Good People". In this he really follows in the footsteps of Jacques Vallee, who was also struck by the resemblance of much traditional fairy lore to the modern UFO phenomenon as experienced by close encounter witnesses, and who wrote about it in his book *Passport to Magonia*². But Jim Keith, from his knowledge of conspiracy theory, goes further than Vallee and describes mysterious men who appeared apparently from nowhere to act as advisers to Washington, Franklin and Thomas Jefferson at the time of the American Revolution. One of them even gave Jefferson the original design for the Great Seal of the United States! Then they disappeared again.

If one reads his book attentively one gets the impression that Jim Keith's own belief system regarding M.I.B's underwent a gradual change as he progressed with writing it.

At first he strongly favours the idea that many, if not most, M.I.B. encounters are interventions by the military or government intelligence to silence witnesses who have seen something which is secret but earthly – i.e. not supernatural or alien. An excellent analysis of the Maury Island case in chapter three follows this line. On June 21st 1947 Harold Dahl observed and took photos of 6 UFO's 2000 ft above him in Puget Sound. Five were circling round a sixth, which seemed to be in trouble and this one eventually dumped white metal sheets and dark slag onto the beach.

² Jacques Vallee, *Passport to Magonia*. 1969

He reported it to his superior officer, Fred L. Crisman, who later confirmed the existence of the debris and also saw one UFO, like those Dahl had described.

Next day a man in a black suit contacted Dahl and told him exactly what he had seen. He then threatened Dahl and his family if he discussed the experience with others. Despite this, Crisman contacted science fiction editor, Ray Palmer about it and Palmer despatched Kenneth Arnold to investigate. The whole story mushrooms from there on. Arnold found that all the hotel rooms in the town were full but then discovered that one had already been booked for him in his own name. He interviewed Dahl and Crisman and the interview was leaked verbatim to a Tacoma newspaper. Two military intelligence men, Brown and Davidson, then investigated the case, pronounced it a hoax, and set off to return to the McChord Air Force Base in Washington carrying a heavy box of Dahl's detritus. The plane crashed and Brown and Davidson were killed but unauthorised persons were kept away from the wreckage with the statement that it had carried classified cargo. Two days later there was an attempt to sabotage Kenneth Arnold's plane. A reporter from the Tacoma Times, who had assisted Arnold's investigation died in two weeks and a United Press stringer at Tacoma also died shortly afterwards. Ray Palmer, who had despatched Arnold, was fired by the editor of Amazing Stories magazine. Crisman was recalled to service by the Air Force and sent to Korea and Dahl's wife and son became ill and he himself almost lost his job.

Crisman was later subpoenaed in the John F. Kennedy assassination prosecution but was stated to be a CIA agent. Altogether a thoroughly suspicious story-combination; right up a conspiracy researcher's alley.

The next few chapters on Albert K. Bender (a Flying Saucer investigator and editor of Space Review who was suddenly silenced in October 1953), the man in black with an automatic pistol seen in some frames of films taken at the John F. Kennedy assassination, and the UMMO case in Spain where soldiers at an ammunition dump observed a white disk fly overhead with the symbol \oplus on its underside and a series of 6 to 10 page documents were subsequently mailed to government departments and UFO researchers all stamped with the same symbol, follow the same line.

They are all government interventions or hoaxes.

Chapter 7 is a print-out of a whole series of such cases, in chronological order, taken from a string of different authors, just as Jim Keith must have entered them in his computer as he read them. Chapter 8 is an estimate of the situation asking whether US Government intelligence agencies would really be interested in stopping people from talking about their UFO sightings, and concluding that they would. More computer print-out type chapters then follow.

Chapter 11 may have been the turning point in the book. Keith says it may provide more evidence for government involvement but as one reads it one wonders. It is a personal experience by an Australian researcher of the paranormal, Eric Panther, and it is quoted verbatim in 'Australian'. For that reason, among others, it is the chapter I enjoyed most in the whole book.

In June 1991 Eric Panther went to California and took part in an internal company training exercise. He had to pair off with someone he calls Mr EMF and they were to spend 5 minutes telling each other about themselves. He liked him.

I think I could best describe him as a mountain man. Big guy, tall, wide. Drives an F-100. Wears a cap. To my Australian eyes an instantly recognisable American type. Outdoors guy. Dogs, guns, Coors³. I liked him.

He is invited to a barbecue at EMF's mountain cabin and asks if they have ever seen a UFO up there. In response he is shown a redwood tree snapped off 8 feet above the ground. All 300 feet of the rest of the tree have vanished. He sees a hole driven through a pile of fallen logs and extending two feet into the ground as if slammed from above by some enormous pile driver. They had seen a huge hexagonal craft fly low over their house and next morning the two horses each had a shaved patch under their chins.

3 Coors — Australian Beer

Bags and bags of green yarn tumble onto the property and also appear round the homes of people who have any connection with EMF. On one occasion he went to see a psychologist and before he had said anything to him this man held up a clump of it and said to him, "Look what was on my doorstep when I came into the office this morning."

Both Eric and EMF like each other but are wary. One night Eric Panther takes a wrong turning on his way back to his hotel. Next day EMF corners him. Why did he go down that street? It was an unmarked back entrance to Ames Research.

A character called H appears and demands that EMF hand over to him a videotape he had taken of aliens. Reluctantly EMF does so. But H is also involved with the Swiss contactee, Billy Meier and also with the case of Frederick Valentich who disappeared in his Cessna en route to King Island, Australia in 1978. He actually possesses the original tape of Valentich's last radio message! And he warns EMF that Eric Panther is an alien and that he should have nothing to do with him. Typical M.I.B.

Eric Panther concludes:

I believe that EMF is heavily under control by a group that includes both human and alien agencies... There's no neat ending to the tale. Frankly it all got a bit too much for me, and when circumstances in my life meant a change to a different city and a different job, I was glad in a way to be out of the loop.

Jim Keith deals briefly with hoaxes in the next chapter but chapter 14 is another computer print out, this time of a series of cases suggestive of a supernatural finger in the pie. Chapter 15, Deciphering the Nightmare, is an attempt to discuss what 'Reality' actually is. Is there such a thing as Reality? Is what we take to be Reality just some consensus we all agreed to believe in and accept while actually anything and everything that can be thought of is possible?

Frankly, I feel that Keith is out of his depth here. He may also have been influenced by the theories of L.Ron Hubbard, the founder of Scientology,

to whom he alludes briefly in one or two places. Possibly he is himself quite far advanced in Scientology studies for on page 220 he suggests that M.I.B.'s may be Hubbard's "Marcabians", a term used in the high OT (Operating Thetan) levels of Hubbard's organisation. To say that there is no reality ultimately makes nonsense of everything. Having said which, it remains true that ultimately reality may well be very different from what we normally imagine. Thus I fully agree with a paragraph on Keith's last page but one:

If we grant the possibility that certain examples of the M.I.B. experience are paranormal ... Then whatever they are, their existence suggests that there is another, far stranger world 'out there' where our simple concepts of "reality" do not always reign.

THE TRUTH BEHIND THE MEN IN BLACK

Jenny Randles' background is quite different from Jim Keith's. She has been a UFO researcher for over a quarter of a century and most of the cases she discusses in her book are ones she has investigated herself. She describes them well too, so that one gets the feeling one is looking at them oneself.

On Page 1 she makes an important statement:

Such incidents do not occur to those who wish for them. You do not have to believe in little green men to suffer the trauma of a close encounter. These experiences strike without warning and no-one is immune, regardless of their status or beliefs. Today you could be the greatest skeptic on earth. Tomorrow you might be just another victim.

Then she goes on to detail the nightmare of Shirley Greenfield (a pseudonym), presented to us right in the beginning of her book because it is a case which includes, in one extended story, every classic feature of the M.I.B. syndrome as it has been researched and finally classified for ufological diagnostic purposes.

Shirley, aged 17, was coming home from work in Bolton, Lancashire, UK, at about 5.20 pm on a dark January evening. She was nearly home (only ten minutes walk from the bus stop) when something like a glowing upturned pudding basin about 20 or 30 feet across swooped over her. No one seemed to be around (the well known Oz factor when a witness suddenly feels totally isolated and the surroundings are silent), and a pressure seemed to be forcing her into the ground. Her teeth began to vibrate and there was a tangy taste in her mouth. The object then flipped and left and somehow Shirley got home, terrified, only to discover that there had been a 30 minute unaccountable time lapse. Over the next few days she developed sore and watering eyes and a purple rash on her neck and shoulders and, worst of all, her dentist discovered that all her top fillings had crumbled into powder and fallen out and some in her lower mouth had become embedded in her gums, requiring extensive work to repair.

Enter the M.I.B.

Nine days after the initial experience someone rang Shirley's mother and asked about Shirley's health and whether there were any marks on her body. Mrs Greenfield fobbed him off. Then at 7.00 pm next evening there was a knock on the door and two men said they had come to 'interrogate' Shirley. Both wore smart black suits. Shirley told her father to let them in - she doesn't know why.

Only one of them did all the talking while the other sat silent holding a square black box which he said was a tape recorder. No tape was changed though Shirley was interviewed for three hours. Every tiny detail had to be gone through repeatedly. Any minor change of wording was jumped on immediately.

After hours of this the Commander suddenly announced, "This is what you saw!" It was a RAF weather balloon.

He then began insisting that she must have marks on her body. She refused to show him her arms. Could she read minds? Could she move objects by mental efforts alone? She said No, though actually she had had some psychic experiences as a child.

Finally, he warned her not to talk about the whole matter to anyone and the two men got into a large black car that was parked outside. Shirley wanted to forget the whole experience and consequently obeyed the injunction.

Eight years later, however, she contacted Jenny Randles after reading one of her books and Jenny arranged for a hypnotic regression. A UFO abduction was uncovered which is not relevant here. What is important is that the visit of the two men was also relived under hypnosis. Recall of the UFO encounter had been bad enough, but Shirley reacted with absolute terror to recall of them. As Jenny Randles describes it, Shirley said

"I don't understand - he's talking to me twice!" It seems that during the visit a message was (also) acting on her subconscious mind like a subliminal communication.

It is important to read Jenny Randles' book even if only for this one chapter alone (Naturally there is a lot more detail than I have reproduced here). The subliminal aspect to the interrogation is the strongest proof we have that M.I.B.'s are integral to the whole UFO mystery itself.

Jenny then - like Jim Keith - goes into some of the past history of M.I.B.'s, beginning, as he did, with the Maury Island case and going on to the three men who silenced Albert K. Bender in 1953. She describes that case very much as if it were a government job. Bender had apparently been told about the inside government involvement in the UFO phenomenon by contacts of his in government and written to a colleague about it. A few days later three men turned up at his home. They were middle aged, all dressed in black and arrived in a dark car. One was holding the letter Bender had posted. Their mood was very threatening. He had no doubts that they were US intelligence agents.

And yet one wonders.

Government agents or not, Jenny Randles points out that people are being intimidated. Thus people become frightened to talk about their encounters with them. And that means we do not and cannot have a full picture of M.I.B. activity.

One thing they do, and most successfully, whether they are government agents or alien agents, is to confiscate material or photographic evidence of sightings or encounters. Jenny mentions the video film taken by aviation expert Tom Drury in Papua in August 1953. He got his film back, but all the footage depicting the UFO in wonderful detail and clarity had been excised. It happens again and again. Ufological groups are infiltrated too, by members who do no real work themselves but attend all meetings when important cases are discussed. Libel laws make it difficult to discuss these people openly.

Case after case unfolds in Jenny's book and she has investigated each one herself, even if only years after it initially occurred. One fascinating one concerns a photograph taken by someone on a marsh north-west of Carlisle, UK, in May 1964 which showed a man in a space suit when it was developed, though neither he nor his wife had seen such a person when he took the snapshot.

A month later two men in black suits arrived in a dark car to discuss the case. They grilled him and took him to the marsh where he had taken the photo. Then they quickly got back into their car, leaving him to walk five miles back home. Jenny investigated the case years later and linked it – unbelievably – with an aborted rocket launch at Woomera, Australia, in the same month – aborted because of something strange which had also turned up on a photograph taken there just beforehand. Just what were the M.I.B.'s investigating? What on earth is going on in this world of ours linking continents 10 000 miles apart?

The middle section of Jenny's book describes a number of cases taken from books by John F. Keel and others, much as Jim Keith's does, though not as extensively. There are also Italian, Chinese and French cases and the extraordinary George Smyth case investigated by John Robinson in May 1968, which Jim Keith also discusses. Three men visited George Smyth and later stood outside his house for a long time. He described them minutely to John Robinson who at once recognised them as John Keel, Gray Barker and James Moseley, all leading ufologists. Smyth had never heard of them. And unfortunately, all three of them were proved conclusively to have been somewhere else at the time stated!

Not surprisingly after such a case as this Jenny Randles begins to turn to consider evidence for the supernatural in the UFO and M.I.B. mystery. Chapter 14 of her book is a wonderful summary of the antiquity of M.I.B.'s – countless legends about sinister figures whose origin is uncertain. Frequently only people with 'second sight' could see them. Time would slow down and the sounds of the environment suddenly disappear (The modern UFO Oz factor!). In 1691 a Scottish church minister called Robert Kirk wrote a book about these people called the Secret Commonwealth. They warned him to be silent. He refused to be coerced and his body was found soon afterwards dumped beside a fairy knoll. The whole chapter is fascinating and well worth reading.

Despite it all, however, and the extensive research Jenny must have done in order to be able to write it, she herself continues to favour the government cover up theory. Scepticism of the supernatural is too ingrained in her (though not of course, as with some so-called "researchers", of the whole UFO and M.I.B. mystery itself). Chapter 15 is entitled Enforcers of the Cover Up. A quotation of one paragraph from it will give a good idea of its flavour.

We know that governments can – and do – get up to some pretty horrible things that have no connection with UFO's or aliens. They stop at nothing to protect what they consider to be a "necessary" secret. If, for some reason, a major UFO case falls into that category it is understandable that any UFOlogist who gets in the way by striving to investigate might be targeted as a threat.

Jenny then tells us the uncomfortably disconcerting case of William Moore, a well known Ufologist in the US, who admitted that in the early 1980's he had been offered an exchange of information by intelligence operatives. They would tell him the real secrets if he would feed out bogus documents (disinformation) and report on reactions to them. He fed them to Paul Bennewitz who had filmed objects flying over a weapons site at Kirtland Airforce Base. Bennewitz was discredited and destabilised to such an extent that he had to seek psychiatric help and was eventually hospitalised.

The intelligence operatives did not fulfil their end of the bargain to William Moore.

Both chapters 14 and 15 must be read and studied. Both are totally valid. But must it be either or? What if both options are correct? The supernatural may well be far more widespread and operative in this world of ours than most of us realise, or would even like to realise. And governments too may well have knowledge and techniques available to them by now which many of us would probably class as supernatural.

You makes your choice and you takes your pick!

Mars on the Wind

Among a great deal of material on MARS, several items are of interest to our readers. In the New York Times of Tuesday, Nov. 10, 1998, William J. Broad says that Mars is a 'whistling' planet. It is a windy place with clouds, dust storms and windblown sand dunes. In the summer, when the winds are especially strong, there is sometimes enough dust to cover the whole planet! Last year, the Pathfinder probe which landed on Mars, recorded wind data which was turned into sound. The Mars Polar Lander set to arrive on Mars in December 1999, has on board a special two-ounce microphone developed at the University of California at Berkeley. This will be able to record the sound of wind, the blowing dust and even perhaps, electrical discharges.

New York Times, 10/11/98

Comment on Remote Viewing piece on page 27

Whether one accepts Remote Viewing or not (we will discuss this fascinating subject in a future UFO AFRINEWS), it is interesting to note that in African culture, Mount Inyangani is the mountain of the Merman-god *Nzuzu*, and a sacred mountain in our tribal lore!