FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

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RE-STATEMENT

IN a recent letter, a young man who implies that he is a student of astonomy, and states that he has just read our book *The Humanoids*, takes us to task for appaarently being unaware that "... if two planets are chosen at random within an area of, say, 12 light years' radius, the chance of the dominant creature on one bearing the slightest resemblance to [*the dominant creature on*] the other is almost zero, and is at least very, very minimal."

He then goes on to say: "If six planets are chosen (all life-bearing), then the chance of all six within the 12 light year radius having similar dominant species is zero."

Our critic states that his reasoning is based on the fact that, in the evolutionary processes of our planet, amino acids were formed which combined with formaldehyde (a 'sugar' brought in by the countless meteorites which bombarded "planets in the early solar system" [*sic*]) to form proteins, and that the molecules of protein lumped together to form the first primitive cells. Continual changes in the elements of the planets caused these cells to change to suit the environment. The millions of changes required to reproduce an intelligent creature would, it is implied, vary from planet to planet, so the creatures produced would all differ from one another.

The radius of 12 light years was chosen by our correspondent because, he says, it is at that distance that our star [*the Sun*] becomes "invisible to the naked eye," hence any deviations in its path produced by orbiting planets like the massive Jupiter would not be visible. The detection of the planets of Barnard's star – which is at 5.6 light years distance from our system – was quoted as an example of such deviations being visible from Earth, although we suspect that astronomers use powerful visual aids in such an exercise. [*All of which prompts us to ask the question: "Whose – or what creature's – naked eye? It is possible that a differently-evolved creature may be able to see a star of the magnitude of our Sun from much farther away that 12 light years – it would seem our critic has used a loose assumption here.*]

After the build-up, our critic proceeds to his point when he refers to the "... hundreds of humanoids" which "pop up" in forms varying from human-like types to squeaky 30 cm. creatures, different in detail but basically resembling our planet's dominant species, capable of breathing our atmosphere and instantly accustomed to our terrestrial gravity. He concludes that "... almost all humanoid reports are utter rubbish, as any respectable astronomer would agree."

It so happens that we know several respectable astronomers who would not agree with such a bald statement. One of them, Dr. Jacques Vallée collaborated in *The Humanoids*. Then there is Dr. J. Allen Hynek who, until his recent retirement was Professor of Astonomy at Northwestern University, Director of the Lindheimer Astronomical Research Center, and for twenty years Civilian Scientific Consultant on UFO reports to the United States Air Force. Again there are Dr. Pierre Guérin, astro-

physicist and Maître de Recherche at the CNRS, Paris, and C.Maxwell Cade, FSR's valued consultant.

Should readers wonder why we bother ourselves with a letter bearing a somewhat trivial and ill-considered argument, we should explain that it presents a chance to re-state our position in these matters. As for the author of the letter, who says he is a student who expects to pursue his studies at university – which is why we are withholding his name – we hope to persuade him to prise open his mind before it is too late. It seems he completely missed the point of the book, which was a first attempt to gather together world-wide reports of allegedly humanoid occupants of UFOs, either landed, or in close proximity to the observers. It was never the purpose of the book to prove that these reported creatures were "spacemen" from distant star systems, visiting and surveying this planet of ours. Rather it was to record the diversity of ways in which people from widely separated and far-flung places claim to have encountered these things, to search for patterns of behaviour inherent in the reports, to learn something about the behaviour and background of the witnesses, to encourage preliminary studies and further collating of information and documentation, and to enable ourselves to speculate a little.

We too have read our fill of popular science digests, and so are aware of the possibility that threads of life have taken vastly different courses in different places in the universe. This, however, has not caused us to negate in our minds the witnesses' descriptions of their encounters or observations but, instead, has caused us to wonder. To wonder, for instance, why people have persisted in making such reports over the years, reports which the diehards, or the inexperienced, tell us are baseless or are rubbish.

It seems certain that most of the witnesses have seen something very perplexing; that it could have been what they say it was is another matter.

It is possible that they may have seen something of extraterrestrial origin. It is also possible that they may have experienced a manifestation of something from another time-space continuum, with object and forms "seeping" through one of the so-called "window areas" where an interpenetrating (or parallel) universe impinges on ours. On the other hand they may have witnessed manifestations of elemental beings appearing in a modern frame of reference – and so deceiving the observers – as "space beings" from afar; encounters with "Old Nick" and his minions rather than with assorted extraterrestrial Captains Kirk.

After studying the countless reports that have passed through our hands it is possible to speculate that whatever it is that appears before the witnesses' eyes or senses, it is capable of exerting varying degrees of control over them. Perhaps it *is* a spaceship – to satisfy our critical student, just *one* from that huge, near-empty volume of "cubic light years" around our solar system – the controllers of which are capable of beaming whatever images they choose into the minds of the percipients; images of humanoid activity, images of abduction, images of "messages." (If, however, our witnesses over the decades have been watching signs of surveillance and exploration by extraterrestrials, then it seems to have been an extraordinarily untidy and inefficiently-conducted operation.) On the other hand the observers may have seen haphazard manifestations of beings in various degrees similar to our own species who emerge by chance, perhaps momentarily, from their parallel or interpenetrating world, Again, our witnesses may have been subjected to the gruesomely playful antics of materialising elementals or demonic beings, in which case perhaps they should turn for succour to our men of religion.

Wherever the region these persistent visitors come from, be it extraterrestrial, interterrestrial or meta-terrestrial, we feel we should be very guarded in our reaction to their admonitions and pleadings. We have an uneasy feeling that they are not concerned with the welfare of mankind.

Pointers to these ideas are to be found in *The Humanoids* (first published in 1966), and they have been developed since then in *Flying Saucer Review* and in the more recent book *Encounters Cases from Flying Saucer Review.*

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