

can look with much sympathy on John Lade's notion that they are semi-objectified thoughts.<sup>3</sup> Eddington suggested many years ago that the universe is intrinsically a mental phenomenon.

The key question — of who is doing the thinking — is impossible to answer in our general state of cosmic ignorance. As Lade puts it — "We now need intelligence."

I cannot stifle the fear of wondering whether thoughts are not disseminated automatically to a radius of X light years, and of the possible result. Maybe the human race already matches the tedious parade of silvery discs by thoughts of its own even more banal. Imagine, for a grisly instant, that *Coronation Street*\* appears nightly in the heavens of neighbouring planets to the confusion of scientists in those places who wonder how the metabolism of

\* [A long-running British television (ITV) "soap opera" serial—EDITOR.]

any species can be sustained indefinitely on a diet of never-ending bitter ale. On the basis of thought we are indeed ill-prepared for meeting our cosmic brothers. Is this why they think up cosmic puns like monsters, Bigfeet and the bat-eared gargoyles of the Hopkinsville variety?

#### References:

1. Gene deterioration is a severely limiting factor. In 1911 the U.S. government established reindeer on an island off Alaska to serve as an emergency food-supply. The 21 does and 4 bucks had increased to 2000 deer by 1938. Then the "gene pool" became exhausted and by 1950 only 8 reindeer remained.
2. See: *Bigfoot* by John Napier M.R.C.S., I.R.C.P., D.Sc. (Lond.) Published by Jonathan Cape, 1972. Quote: "...it will become intellectually necessary from time to time to abandon the real world and, like Persephone enter the dark regions of another world which I like to call the Goblin Universe."
3. See: *Superminds* by John Taylor of King's College, London. Published by MacMillan, 1975.

## TINY ENTITIES REPORTED IN COLOMBIA

Gordon Creighton

WRITING in Professor Fabio Zerpa's Fortean and ufological Journal *Cuarta Dimension*\*, No.23, Sr. Rafael Barrero Cortes, Director of the "Cirex" research group in Colombia, gives many details of an extraordinary case in which four schoolboys and a policeman allegedly had a close view of extremely small humanlike beings of the type so frequently recorded in the annals of research into what is generally called the Fairy Tradition.

The date of the occurrence was August 10, 1973.

The four boys, Medardo Martinez, Hipolito Garcia, Hernan Manjarras, and Mario Fernandez Ramirez, are described as pupils at the local *Escuela Normal* in the town of Ibague. (Ibague is a little over 100 kilometres or so to the south-west of Bogota, Capital of the Republic of Colombia.)

The boys were outside the town and were approaching a ravine (*quebrada*) known as *El Jordan* which lies just a few miles distant from Ibague. They were on an expedition to gather botanical specimens from the semi-dry bed of a nearby rivulet.

Arrived at the banks of the stream, the boys observed, with vast astonishment, *four small beings no more than 20 cm. in height* standing beneath and slightly in front of a little stone footbridge and seemingly engaged in searching for something in the mud of the river-bed.

The boys described the little creatures as "dressed in white, with tiny grey caps on their heads, and with humanlike features." The boys walked on towards them, and then suddenly the little creatures were gone, "disappearing in the air as though by magic."

There is no account of any machine or craft having been seen, and consequently the case falls into

the voluminous category which has been accumulating for centuries past, and from every corner of our planet, of alleged encounters with tiny "elves", "goblins", "trolls", "fairies" — creatures for which we find dozens and dozens of names merely in our languages of Western Europe. As I began to emphasise more than ten years ago, this whole question of the so-called "Fairy Tradition" must be tackled if we are ever to have any hope of knowing what the latterly more fashionable stories of "flying saucers" and "UFOs" are all about.

As for the policeman, we are told that his name is not being divulged, but that the report which he submitted to his superiors was identical in substance with the account given by the four schoolboys. According to Sr. Rafael Barrero Cortes, a group of Colombian experts are now engaged in a thorough study and analysis of both versions of the affair.

After their initial shock and surprise the boys stepped down into the bed of the stream (shown in the accompanying photographs as just a creek about ten or fifteen feet wide) and found a whole series of tiny footprints in the mud. One of the pictures shows some six or seven of these marks, which certainly look quite deep. They are roundish, do not look to me particularly like "small human footprints," and, as is usual in such cases, are altogether rather unimpressive and certainly totally inconclusive. As always, all that we have to go on are the statements of the five witnesses, who affirm that they saw what they saw — tiny humanlike beings.

When the affair became known, vast crowds of people descended on the area of the El Jordan Ravine to have a look at the spot, and the story of the little dwarves became the main topic of conversation not only in Ibague but throughout the whole of the Colombian Republic.

\* English translation: *Fourth Dimension*. Published in Buenos Aires, by Fabio Zerpa and the O.N.I.F.E. UFO Research Group.

# World round-up

of news and comment  
about recent sightings

## England

### Saucer over Wigan

The *Wigan Observer* of October 31, 1975, carried the following account,—

"A 'flying saucer' has been spotted hovering over Wigan.

"The sighting was made by a Wigan man's girlfriend — a BA graduate — near the Technical College in Parson's Walk.

"Now Marilyn Parkes [of Westvale, Kirkby, Liverpool] has written to the *Wigan Observer* asking if anyone else saw the strange object in the sky on October 22.

"She says: 'I am not a member of any UFO society and have always kept an open mind on such matters. However, I thought you might be interested in my experience on October 22.

"I was on my way to pick up my boyfriend from the Spring Gardens Annexe of Wigan College of Technology. His lecture finished at 9 p.m., and shortly before this I visited my aunt who lives in Barnsley Street, Springfield.

"Because it is a one-way street, I therefore drove down from Buckley Street and was hence facing down towards Parson's Walk when I parked.

"I arrived there at approximately 8.40 to 8.45 p.m. to set off for the

Tech. There were a lot of cars parked in the street, and I switched on the side and headlights and windscreen wipers since it was drizzling slightly.

"I was about to pull out round a van parked directly in front when, for some inexplicable reason, I glanced at the sky and noticed a perfectly spherical object, luminous orange and moving relatively slowly across the road.

"It disappeared over the houses and I drove off to see if I could trace it, turning left along Parson's Walk since it seemed to be heading in that direction. However I lost sight of it.

"If anyone else saw it at the same time I would be interested to know about it, or to hear from anyone who is interested in such phenomena, and who, perhaps may have some explanation."

Credit: C.R. Mather of Lower Ince, Wigan, who also kindly supplied a road sketch map.

## Northern Ireland

### Egg-shaped UFOs over Donaghadee

From the *Belfast News Letter* of November 4, 1975, we learn how unusual aerial objects,—“Egg-shaped, yellowish and travelling upwards at phenomenal speed...” were seen.

"And at least a dozen people did spot them over Donaghadee last night.

"The unidentified flying objects lit up the sky and were visible for almost three minutes, according to 15-year-old Roy Adam.

"Roy, who lives at Oakfield Walk, Donaghadee, said: "They were yellowish in colour and egg shaped and were moving at a fantastic speed.

"There were two of them and although they lit up the sky they made no noise at all.

"I watched them for about three minutes then the sky suddenly went dark again."

"A number of other people in the area also rang the *News Letter* saying they had sighted something in the sky shortly after 6.30.

"The Met. Office admitted it was baffled. 'We have no weather balloons up so we don't know what the objects were', a spokesman said.

"At the weekend five UFOs were

sighted over Belfast flying in a 'V' formation across the city."

## Argentina

### Landing near Miramar

According to a report in *La Razon* (Buenos Aires) of March 11, 1975, Juan Andres Gregorini, a farmer at Los Abuelos, near the beach resort of Miramar (on the Atlantic Coast just south of Mar del Plata) watched, with his family, a UFO flying around over his property. The mystery craft, which emitted vivid flashes of light, touched down very briefly, performed a "balancing motion" for a few seconds, and then took off again and vanished at incredible speed towards the north.

The statements of the farmer, who is an ex-policeman and a native of Miramar, were confirmed by his family.

Credit: Jane Thomas of Buenos Aires.

## Mexico

### UFO follows Piper

The *Worcester Gazette*, Massachusetts, of May 7, 1975, carried the following UPI report of an incident which took place on May 3, 1975,—

"Carlos Antonio de los Santos Montiel tried to flip over two flying saucers with the wings of his Piper plane before bursting into tears of desperation, he told newsmen.

"Authorities at Benito Juarez International Airport said the 23-year-old flier told them three unidentified flying objects joined him as he was flying at 15,000 feet and 140 miles per hour over Tequesquitengo Lake 50 miles south of Mexico City Saturday.

"Two of them flew a few inches from each wing and another below the plane," he said. "I tried to lower the landing wheels to hit one below, but the mechanism failed.

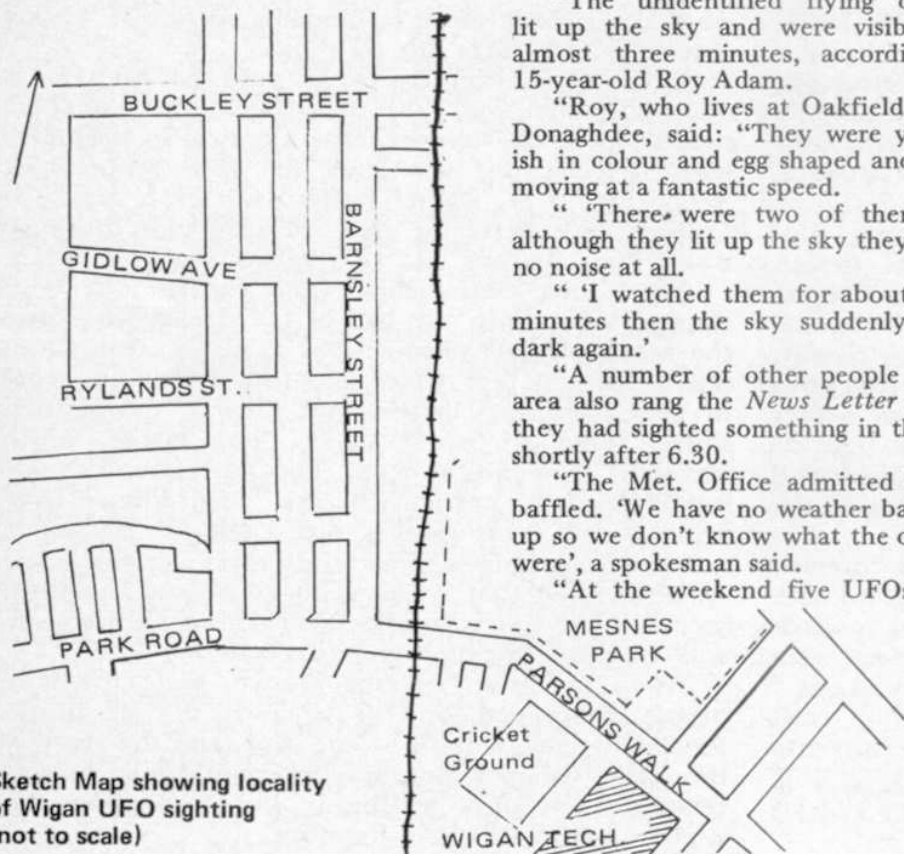
"Then I tried to hit the other two with the plane's wings. But the controls did not respond."

"At that moment, he said, his nerves broke and he burst into tears.

"De los Santos Montiel said he was able to radio the control tower at the Mexico City's airport, but added his plane was 'piloted by some strange force between Tequesquitengo and Tlalpan,' a southern suburb of the capital.

"It was there, he said, that the UFO's peeled away towards two snowcapped volcanoes about 50 miles to the south."

Credit: Barry Greenwood of Stoneham, Mass.



Sketch Map showing locality  
of Wigan UFO sighting  
(not to scale)