

THE TIME CYCLE FACTOR

Problems of Distortion and Distention

John A. Keel

IN February 1968, a young man in Adelphi, Maryland¹ allegedly experienced a time distortion while aboard an unidentified flying object. According to his story, he first encountered a UFO around 1.00 a.m. on the morning of December 10, 1967, while driving outside of Washington, D.C. A normal-looking man dressed in coveralls approached him and conversed with him briefly, asking the simple, routine questions so often reported in such initial meetings. This man identified himself as "Vadig".

The young man, a psychology major in a Maryland university, worked evenings as a waiter in a Washington restaurant. He had not mentioned this to "Vadig". Nevertheless, Mr. "Vadig" appeared at the restaurant in early February, dressed this time in conventional clothing, and invited the student for a ride aboard his craft. The youth was taken by automobile—a 1955 Buick which looked and even smelled like new²—to an isolated farm area some 30 minutes outside of Washington.

A large, egg-shaped craft on tripod legs was waiting there. The young man was ushered aboard and sealed alone in a compartment containing a contour chair and a large "TV screen". He was taken on a trip which, by his reckoning, consumed from four to five hours. Then he was returned to the same spot and driven to his home. This drive also took about 30 minutes. When he entered his apartment and confronted his room-mates, he was amazed to discover that *little more than an hour* had actually passed from the time "Vadig" had first picked him up at the restaurant.

Ufologists have been hearing this kind of story for years, often dismissing them as being hallucinatory or the fiction of psychotics. Occult literature is also filled with many documented accounts of strange distortions of time and space. In this particular incident, the witness claimed he never lost consciousness and, although he was not wearing a watch, he was painfully aware of the passage of time because there was nothing for him to do while sealed in the compartment. During two lengthy interviews in March 1968, he was able to provide numerous significant details common to such stories but never published or publicised.³

Actually, the young man described four different meetings with "Vadig", and each time the "spaceman" ended the conversation with the phrase, "I'll see you in time".

Other contactees have told me of similar phrases. Traditionally, the first question the Ufonauts ask is: "What time is it?" or "What is your time cycle?" You

will recall that "time" questions were asked in some of the alleged contacts of 1957, and in the Gary Wilcox case of 1964.⁴

One notable Ufonaut characteristic, as related by numerous contactees, is *their* apparent inability to understand and utilise our standard measurement of time. As such cases pile up in each succeeding "flap" it is becoming more and more obvious that a very special time factor exists, and in some instances the phenomenon seems to be able to manipulate both time and space—at least in so far as the involved witnesses are concerned. This could be the result of some hypnotic technique, of course, but it could also provide us with an important clue to the overall nature of the phenomenon.

The two most commonly reported time distortion effects (TDE) are:

1. Time compression as in the Adelphi, Md. case. The witness undergoes an experience of seemingly long duration but later discovers a comparatively short period of real time—or Earth time—has passed. Experiments have shown that seemingly long and involved dreams often occupy only a few seconds or a few minutes of the sleeper's real time. Therefore we must examine time compression experiences from a psychiatric approach as well as a physical approach.

2. Time lapses. Events in which the witness suffers partial or total amnesia and is unable to remember how he passed specific periods of time. Several cases have been reported to me in which the witnesses, who were usually in automobiles, saw an approaching object and then suffered a memory lapse although they had no awareness of losing consciousness or otherwise undergoing an unusual experience. Such witnesses complain that it took them two hours or more to drive distances of only a few miles. This type of experience also demands psychiatric examination.

Those who assume that all of these many witnesses are either insane or are liars, are obliged to explain how it is possible for so many widely separated people to report the same identical details in their "lies".

The liars and the lied to

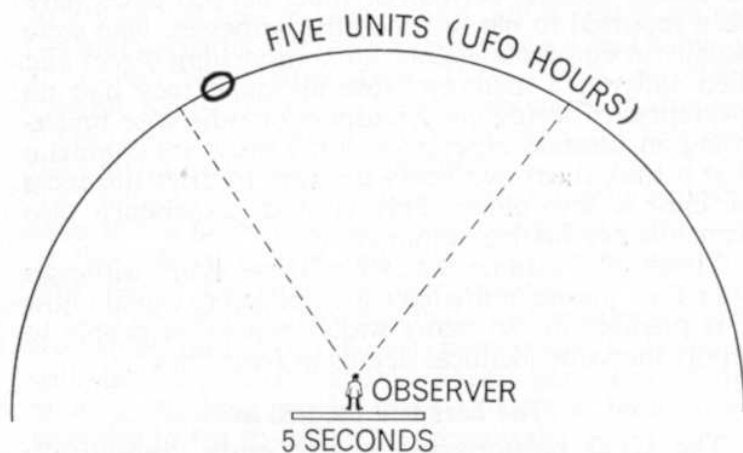
The UFO phenomenon is frequently "reflective"; that is, the observed manifestations seem to be deliberately tailored and adjusted to the individual beliefs and mental attitudes of the witnesses. Both the objects and their occupants appear to be able to adopt a multitude of forms and the contactees are usually given "information" which conforms to their own beliefs or

ability to understand. UFO researchers who concentrate on one particular aspect or theory often find themselves inundated with seemingly reliable reports which tend to substantiate that theory. My own extensive experiences with this "reflective" factor have led me to carry out several weird experiments which confirmed that a large part of the reporting data is engineered and deliberately false. The witnesses are not the perpetrators of these "hoaxes" but are merely the victims. The apparent purpose of all this false data is to create confusion and to divert us from the *real* phenomena. It has also served to convince the Air Force and the scientific establishment that the phenomenon is non-physical and therefore non-real.

Ufologists are thus confronted with the problem of sorting out the meaningful "hints" and the important facts from the mass of totally irrelevant diversionary material. The science fiction-like manifestations reported by the witnesses are far more important and deserve far more study than the often inane "messages" transmitted to them. The elusive and abstract time factor may be far more important to us than a detailed description of the object used in the Maryland incident.

Time and space are steady, inflexible factors in our environment, and it is difficult for us to comprehend any large variances in these measurements. However, assume that a planet exists trapped in a binary star system. Its orbit is such that all sides of the planet are constantly bathed in light. No day/night cycle exists there and the inhabitants would have no way of measuring time . . . even years . . . in their early development. As they developed a technology it might be possible that they would work out a sophisticated time system quite different from our own, based perhaps on their own life-cycles or even upon the deterioration of radioactive materials. But by our standards they would be living in a timeless void. I do not believe there is such a planet but I am merely using this as an example. (One ufonaut phrase which is repeated by many contactees is: "The same sun shines on us all", indicating that the UFOs share our own planetary system.)

Our first conclusion from the contactee data is that



TIME INVERSION THEORY

Although the ground observer views the object for only five seconds of his time, observers aboard the object may be viewing him for a much longer period in *their own time*. What appears to be an almost simultaneous event, the sudden appearance and disappearance of the object, may actually be a prolonged experience for the observers aboard the object.

the UFOs originate from a place outside of our time frame. They can enter our environment either at will or by accident, and certain human individuals can be transported somehow across this time bridge. This may involve certain physical changes which have always been defined in occult and contactee literature as "vibratory" or "frequency" changes. We do not, as yet, have the scientific knowledge necessary for the construction of a workable hypothesis.

The negative universe

In recent years, assorted scientists have toyed with speculations about "anti-matter" and "negative universes". It has even been suggested a "negative universe" might be moving through time in a direction opposite to ours. Their future would be our past and vice versa.⁵

A number of unsophisticated, uneducated contactee claimants have astounded me in the past two years when they brought up and discussed this "reverse time cycle" in lucid and knowing terms. The extraterrestrial theory has dominated the American UFO scene, and very few UFO articles, books or lecturers have touched upon the old "time traveller" theme. It has very few adherents, if it has any at all. So it is doubly disconcerting that the contactees could have even considered the theory. You might say that they *had* to be told.

One West Virginia contactee, Woodrow Derenberger, talks knowledgeably about this backward time factor. This former preacher is not well-read and does not even have a basic knowledge of the moon and solar system. On Wednesday, November 2, 1966, he allegedly encountered a UFO on a highway outside of Parkersburg, W. Virginia, and conversed with a man who identified himself as "Indrid Cold". Mr. "Cold" reportedly visited with Derenberger many times after that, and later took him for trips to his planet, "Lanulos". Derenberger's initial "contact" received national press attention but his story of the follow-up developments has not been published or circulated. I have interviewed him at great length many times, both in West Virginia and in New York. The young man in Adelphi, Maryland, produced details identical to those in Derenberger's still-unpublished story.

"They're time travellers," Derenberger has explained. "One reason they can't stay here too long at a time is because they get younger instead of older . . . if they stayed here too long I think they'd go back in years and possibly forget how to manipulate their craft."⁵

It's easy for us to scoff at such outlandish statements, but we should consider the possibility that people like Woodrow Derenberger may only be passing along their own interpretations of complex information, and that on some occasions the ufonauts may have tried to communicate valid information by simplifying it in terms which would make some kind of sense to the contactees. You can't really discuss the Einstein theory with an ex-preacher in West Virginia. Derenberger had, he claims, suffered peculiar distortions of time and space during his UFO experiences and he had, reasonably enough, asked for some sort of explanation. He was purportedly told in simplified terms that *their* time stream was different from ours and was somehow running contrary to our own time cycle.

Nearly every contactee is given a set of prophecies or

predictions concerned not only with his or her immediate interests and future but with national affairs as well. Many of these predictions are very precise, pinpointing time, place, and so on, with incredible accuracy. I have collected many such predictions and have been impressed with their *proven* validity. Contactees told me, far in advance of the events, of the collapse of the bridge at Point Pleasant, W. Virginia, of the murders of Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy, and of innumerable ship and aircraft disasters and major earthquakes. A small percentage of these predictions missed because the time coordinates were off. Collecting, documenting and validating such predictions can lead to the development of an important body of evidence.⁷

These predictions also prove something else: that the ufonauts have an intimate knowledge of our future. They may attempt to explain this strange talent to the contactees by claiming that they come from our future and are headed into our past. We cannot determine the validity of this claim without extensive study and research. Until such studies can be made, we must consider the claims a definite possibility.

It is far more likely that *they* originate outside of our time frame, as I have said. It is also likely that the entities are *not* individuals with separate intelligences and free wills, but are actually cells in a larger whole, controlled by a computer-like intelligence⁸ which manipulates them like puppets. Thus *they* do not actually know who they are or what they are or even where they came from. Like machines, they have only two states—turned on and turned off.

When you review *all* of the data instead of just those parts which conform to your own theories it becomes obvious that a careful plan is being followed by the entire phenomenon and that it is closely patterned after the same techniques of psychological warfare which we ourselves employ.

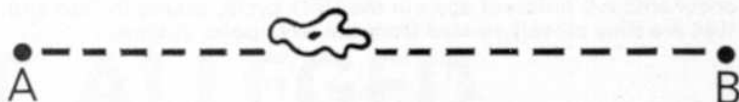
Again, we must stress that the phenomenon is *reflective* and that a large part of it is a total hoax being foisted upon us.

The distention of time

This magazine simply does not have enough pages for me to even outline all of the cases and experiences which have led me to these far-out conclusions. The evidence does exist. It has been ignored for too long. There is a great mass of historical documentation going back several centuries, all of it substantiating these conclusions.

Let us assume that I am correct and that the UFOs come from outside our time frame and *from outside the environment of the known universe*. Let us also assume that they are the manifestations of an intelligence which is able to freely manipulate the energies which compose atomic structure.⁹ Perhaps this intelligence can also manipulate time and space. Both are merely measurements conceived by man within the limitations of his own environmental frame of reference. They are not absolutes.

A simple analogy is now in order: visualise a teen-aged boy with a microscope. He is studying a tiny microbe with a total life-span of 65 seconds. He takes a fine needle and pokes it into the liquid environment of the microbe. Supposing that the microbe has some sort



RELATIVITY

It takes the microbe 20 seconds — or one third of its life span to travel from point A to point B. To the observer peering through the microscope this is an almost instantaneous event. To the microbes the same event consumes a considerable amount of time.

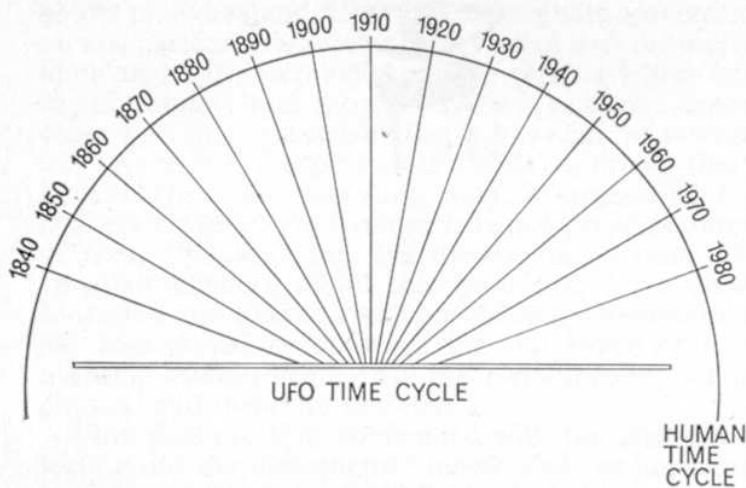
of visual or sensory apparatus, the point of the needle would suddenly appear enigmatically before the specimen. A completely foreign object beyond the microbe's frame of reference. The bewildered microbe swims around it, sits down and writes a microbe report on the inexplicable object which he saw. When the boy withdraws the needle, the "object" disappears in front of the microbe because it is no longer a part of his environment . . . or his time cycle.

Our microbe lives out his full 65 seconds. Five minutes later the boy—by his clock—reinserts the needle in the same slide. Now many generations of microbes have passed. A new microbe glimpses this wonder and hurries to the dusty microbe library and uncovers the old report. Strange foreign objects which appeared and disappeared were seen in ancient times, the microbe learns. To the boy, the two events spanned a mere five minutes. To the microbes, many generations had passed. By our time cycle the two events were almost simultaneous.

Switch things around a bit. Now *we* are the microbes. Could it be possible that all UFO events are inter-related and although they may be widely separated according to our time cycle they might really be almost simultaneous events to the ufonauts?

The theory of simultaneous events

In other articles I have noted that UFO events tend to recur year after year and century after century in the same locales. We have made the mistake of isolating and studying the individual events and have not made any effort to correlate those events. We have tried to fit these events into our own environmental framework. It has been noted, for example, that some UFO flaps occur during those months when Mars is closest to the earth. Many ufologists regard this as "proof" that the



Compression of time: The UFO time cycle is hypothetically condensed and simultaneously events in the human time cycle occur within a different span in the UFO cycle. Events in 1890 and 1930 are thus closely related from the UFO point of view.

UFOs come from Mars. Actually, this only proves that certain periods in our time cycle coincide with specific periods of activity in the UFO time cycle.

The flap of 1896 began in November of that year. The flap of 1897 peaked in April. The New England flap of 1909 began and peaked in December. The Scandinavian flap of 1934 began in December and peaked in January. The flap of 1954 in France took place in September/October. The flap of 1957 occurred in early November. In more recent years, December has continued to be a big month for UFOs, but so have January, March/April, July, and September/October.

One of the patterns in the contactee phenomenon in the United States is the *fact* that most of the initial contacts of the past three years have all taken place on Wednesdays. This does not necessarily mean that the ufonauts are using our calendar but rather that our Wednesdays coincide with something in their own time cycle.

If we can break through the barriers of our own consciousness of our environmental limitations we might be able to unscramble *their* time cycle by examining all the reports of the past 100 years, particularly in those areas which I term "windows" . . . areas where reports consistently recur.

In order to summarise some of my own findings and research let me set up a hypothetical case based upon those findings. Assume that there is a little town called Flat Rock, Nebraska. Before the white settlers arrived the local Indian tribes were very conscious of aerial phenomena. They had many old legends about the objects and "people" who came from the sky. A nearby hill was regarded as "sacred" and "evil" because these sky people appeared there periodically. The Indians even established certain rites and dances to appease these "Gods" and the hill was "off limits" to all Indians for many generations. Then the white man arrived and drove the Indians out. The town of Flat Rock was founded. Some of the settlers built their homes on that "sacred hill". Eventually those homes were haunted with poltergeists and other strange phenomena. So the settlers named the place "Misery Mountain". Over the

years, many strange flying lights were reported around Misery Mountain. People living there went mad, committed murder or suicide. Some even disappeared mysteriously. Perhaps there was only one such event in each generation . . . not enough to cultivate anything more than a local legend. Eventually the houses there were abandoned and the hill was deserted. Some of the houses burned to the ground mysteriously. Now and then a dog would begin to bark hysterically and run up the hill, never to be seen again.

There are hundreds of "Misery Mountains" in the United States. There are whole islands which have been abandoned because something foreboding turns up periodically.

When the public finally became aware of "flying saucers" in 1947, the folks in Flat Rock, Nebraska just shrugged. They'd been seeing the things for years. The Flat Rock Gazette began to carry reports. Every year several people reported seeing something strange, always in the vicinity of Misery Mountain.

If we could dig out every single UFO report from Flat Rock in the past 20 years, and if we could scour all the Indian legends and other historical documentation, we could then assemble a comprehensive study of the events in that "window" and by comparing many such studies from many such areas we might be able to untangle the time cycle involved. We might even be able to construct a "UFO calendar". Those UFO events which seem to be widely separated by our time cycle might actually be simultaneous events when organised to a more abstract cycle.

All of this is based on the assumption that the UFOs are from another time cycle vastly different from our own, and that they enter and leave not only our environment but our universe just as the boy's needle entered and departed the microbe's miniature world. I don't mean to imply that some giant is poking needles at us. The microbe's world was a tiny part of the boy's world, although the microbe didn't know it. The microbe was not only unaware of the boy's existence, but it could not have possibly comprehended his existence.

Our first problem is to collect sufficient data . . . particularly historical data . . . so that we may test and examine the information now coming through in the contactee material. It may be true that all human events occur simultaneously when viewed by a greater intelligence. The boy peering through the microscope can plainly see an obstacle looming before the swimming microbe and can therefore "predict" the microbe's future 10 seconds—or a sixth of its lifespan—before it is even aware of the obstacle.

Instead of dismissing all contactee reports as "crackpot material" we should be examining and sifting these reports for clues and keys. There is no clinical precedent for the contactee phenomenon in the science of psychiatry. There is no medical explanation possible. This may be because not enough contactees have been examined by experts, but Woodrow Derenberger and others have been given thorough psychiatric tests and passed them.

At present we have no frame of reference for these events. Only those of us who have had some direct experience with the phenomenon can really understand it at all. A long and tedious road lies ahead. Extensive research is essential and it must be organised and

systematic. I am confident that all the answers already exist buried within the available material but we must ferret them out, digest them, and reduce them to some tangible form. A reflective phenomenon cannot be dealt with in the same way that our military intelligence teams determined the nature and origin of the German rockets of World War II.

If it is reflective, then we may be able to learn to exercise some control over it. There is the very chilling possibility that someone on this planet has already learned to do so.

NOTES

Name withheld. A full report on this case will be published at a later date.

² Old cars that look like new keep turning up in my investigations. See FSR, July/August 1968, *West Virginia's Enigmatic "Bird"*.

References to these "details" are not meant to tease the reader. A great deal of explanation is necessary for each of these details, and it may be unwise to publish some of them since they provide one method for testing and comparing contact claims. Some of these details are so incredible that no one could accidentally make them up.

⁴ Example: Playa del Rey, California, November 6, 1957. See FSR first special issue *THE HUMANOIDS*, pages 56-57. Also the Gary Wilcox case of April 24, 1964, Newark Valley, N.Y.

⁵ Alluded to, for example, by Charles Bowen in *Few and Far Between* in FSR special issue No. 1, *THE HUMANOIDS*, October 1966. Mr. Bowen told how physicist Dr. Stannard, of University College, London, writing in the scientific journal *Nature*, had postulated the existence of such a parallel universe with time running in the reverse direction.

⁶ Dell's *Flying Saucers—UFO Reports*, No. 3, October 1967, page 23.

⁷ This task is now under way in the United States. See the story of the Glendale, California, contact claim, for further discussion of the "prophecy factor"—FSR special issue No. 2, *BEYOND CONDON*. . . .

⁸ See *The Problem of Non-Contact* by Aimé Michel in FSR's *THE HUMANOIDS*, page 67.

⁹ See *Is the EM Effect a Myth?* by John A. Keel, FSR for November/December 1968.

MUSHROOMS AT ALLEGED UFO LANDING SITES

Strange phenomena reported from Argentina

John Livingstone-Learmonth

Our contributor is an English student travelling in South America before returning to enter University in October this year.

(He was in S. America with the Millington-Drake Expedition)

At the end of November, I was travelling in the south of the province of Buenos Aires and was staying three days in the town of Tandil (pop. c. 80,000) before moving on south to the town of Necochea. On my second day—November 27—I came across this article in the local paper *El Eco de Tandil*. My Spanish is fairly weak, but I will try to give you the gist of the article.

Some enormous fungi had appeared on a lonely farm some 10 kilometres from Tandil during the night of November 25-26. They were visible next to a scorched circle of ground and were first seen by Juan Tami, one of the staff, on the morning of November 26.

The appearance of the mushrooms, within a circle of 7 or 8 metres, was sudden and prolific. There were many of them (I found out that there were 14 altogether), the largest being the size of a football. The grass inside the circle seemed to be singed, or at least with

less humidity than the grass outside.

Inside the circle, a cow bone about 50 cm. long and still fresh, showed signs of having been burnt, as did a branch of a tree. . . . Many attribute the rare phenomenon to the presence of an unidentified object.

Don Juan Tami, who looks after the Beritaco farm, expressed his surprise about the appearance not only of the mushrooms but also of the area with visible scorch marks. He said that in almost 15 years on the farm, he has never seen a single mushroom, and that the area should undergo such an alarming change in the space of a few hours was amazing. . . . His wife and two daughters confirmed that on rising yesterday they found the mushrooms about 20 metres away from the lonely house.

The case of the mushrooms could be attributed to natural causes, and this has already been the subject of scientific study after similar occurrences in Rosario and Necochea.

(Tandil lies about 37.3S., 59.2W.)

But what is really unusual for the local dwellers is the burnt cow bone and the branch, the stem of which showed obvious signs of having been in contact with the fire.

Now from the *Eco* of the following day: "The characteristics of the area are as follows: (a) there is an outline in the grass, of ovoid shape, whose larger furrow is of some 10 metres. In this outline the grass does not grow, as if the earth had been scorched. Around the mentioned outline, the mushrooms have grown and nothing of a similar dimension has ever been seen by the farm's inhabitants; (b) the mushrooms "sweat" when placed in the sun; (c) the partly-burnt cow bone and the branch lay roughly in the centre of the oval; (d) the mushrooms were continuing to grow, even in a few hours.

Some neighbours declared that they had seen some strange lights in previous nights without being able to define their nature or origin.