

the bathwater. He comments: "It is one thing to believe in the supernatural; it is altogether another to prove that it exists." (p.12.) In his own attempts to find positive evidence for any paranormal phenomenon Professor Taylor has found only gullibility, irrationality and hoaxing, and has concluded that since the reported phenomena do not fit into our materialist scientific mould, they cannot exist. Despite the truth of much of what he says, there still remain many well-documented cases of phenomena which cannot be so easily dismissed.

Taylor's desperate need to clear the world of all mysteries by any means is exemplified in his statement that "we have shown . . . that . . . UFOs . . . are . . . due to natural causes" (p.172), an unfounded statement indeed because UFOs are barely mentioned in his book! Ufologists agree that many UFOs are really IFOs, but most also agree that some puzzling cases remain. Since Taylor seems to think that UFO = extra-terrestrial visitor (p.169), he obviously does not have sufficient knowledge of the subject to justify such a sweeping statement, and this can only reduce the authority of his other "explanations."

The Second book of the Strange covers a multitude of mysteries, UFOs among them, 42 of its 342 pages are devoted to UFOs with a strong bias towards identification and IFOs. The possible natural explanations are listed, and 26 cases of UFOs which, they say, became IFOs are described. That the authors are rather keener on IFOs than on UFOs is confirmed by their identification of the 1979 New Zealand lights captured on film as "almost certainly the planet Venus." A few "hard-core" UFOs are also detailed, e.g. Lakenheath, Great Falls, Papua New Guinea, and there is a brief section on abductions, of which the authors are naturally sceptical.

Encapsulating the UFO phenomenon is not easy, and this attempt is moderately successful, except that, apart from abductions, it ignores the weirder cases such as encounters with entities. The section headings illustrate the wide range of this book: The Human Being (Curiosities of the Mind; Pain; Aging and Death) — Medicine and Healing (Strange diseases; Strange Drugs; Strange Treatments) — The Natural World (Genetics; Evolution; Strange Animals; Animal Phenomena; Strange Natural Processes; Strange Plants) — Prehistory — The Earth — The Physical World — The Universe — Unidentified Flying Objects — Strange Beliefs and Practices — Cults — Psychic Phenomena — Parapsychology — Strange People — Legendary Creatures. The authors' approach is factual rather than sensationalist, and the text is complemented by a number of photographs. There is a good 8-page index. *The Second Book of the Strange* by Laurence D. Gadd and the Editors of The World Almanac is published by World Almanac Publications, New York, the hardcover distributed by Prometheus Books and the paperback, \$7.95, by Ballantine Books.

UFO by **Milt Machlin**, with **Tim Beckley**, is a motley collection of UFO data in a 148-page, magazine-size paperback (Quick Fox, New York, \$7.95; U.K. distributor, Book Sales, 78 Newman Street, London W1). There is no theme to the collection of 27 articles, the subjects of which include UFO hoaxes and hallucinations; What do the aliens look like?; Kidnapped to Venus; UFO sex down under; Billy Graham on UFOs and religion; Far-out theories; Was Jesus a space alien?; The mystery of the men in black; The first UFO murder; UFOs behind the Iron Curtain. With at least one illustration (photograph, drawing or cartoon) on every spread, this book successfully aims to provide entertainment for the casual UFO reader rather than ideas or facts for the serious researcher.

Persistent rumours of a possible link between UFOs and giant anthropoid creatures has prompted **Mark Moravec** to collect all relevant reports together in **The UFO/Anthropoid Catalogue** (published by The Australian Centre for UFO Studies, and available from them at P.O. Box 546, Gosford, NSW 2250, Australia, price by seamail to the U.K. \$4 Aust.). The large-format duplicated catalogue is staple-bound and has 72 brief reports in 36 pages. The source of each report is given, which gives the knowledgeable reader a chance to evaluate its likely authenticity. Although there are 72 reports, only 15 represent sightings of UFOs and giant anthropoids seen at the same time and location and by the same witness. 48 reports are of these events occurring in the same location over a short period of time, and 9 are of anthropoid events which had features typical of some UFO events.

In fact only the 15 reports of category 1 are worth considering, the rest being of little value in the search for a link between the two types of phenomenon because of the lack of direct association of the phenomena. 15 out of 72 reports may seem quite a high proportion, but in our book *Bigfoot Casebook* we have listed 1,000 sightings of Bigfoot in the U.S.A., and so far as we can recall, there are among them no further cases of UFOs and Bigfeet being seen together. 15 out of 1,000 is a very small proportion, especially as we can safely judge that at least 50% of those 15 cases would be attributable to hoax or misidentification if more research could be undertaken.

So there remains very little positive evidence to link UFOs and giant anthropoids, though of course we do not rule out the possibility of such a link. Mr Moravec has made a useful contribution to UFO and anthropoid research by collecting the relevant reports together, and his 8-page introduction shows that he appreciates the problems inherent in using this data as proof of any link between UFOs and giant anthropoids.

Believers in the theory that UFOs come from the Inner Earth will undoubtedly enjoy **Hollow Earth Mysteries and the Polar Shift**, in which author **Floria**

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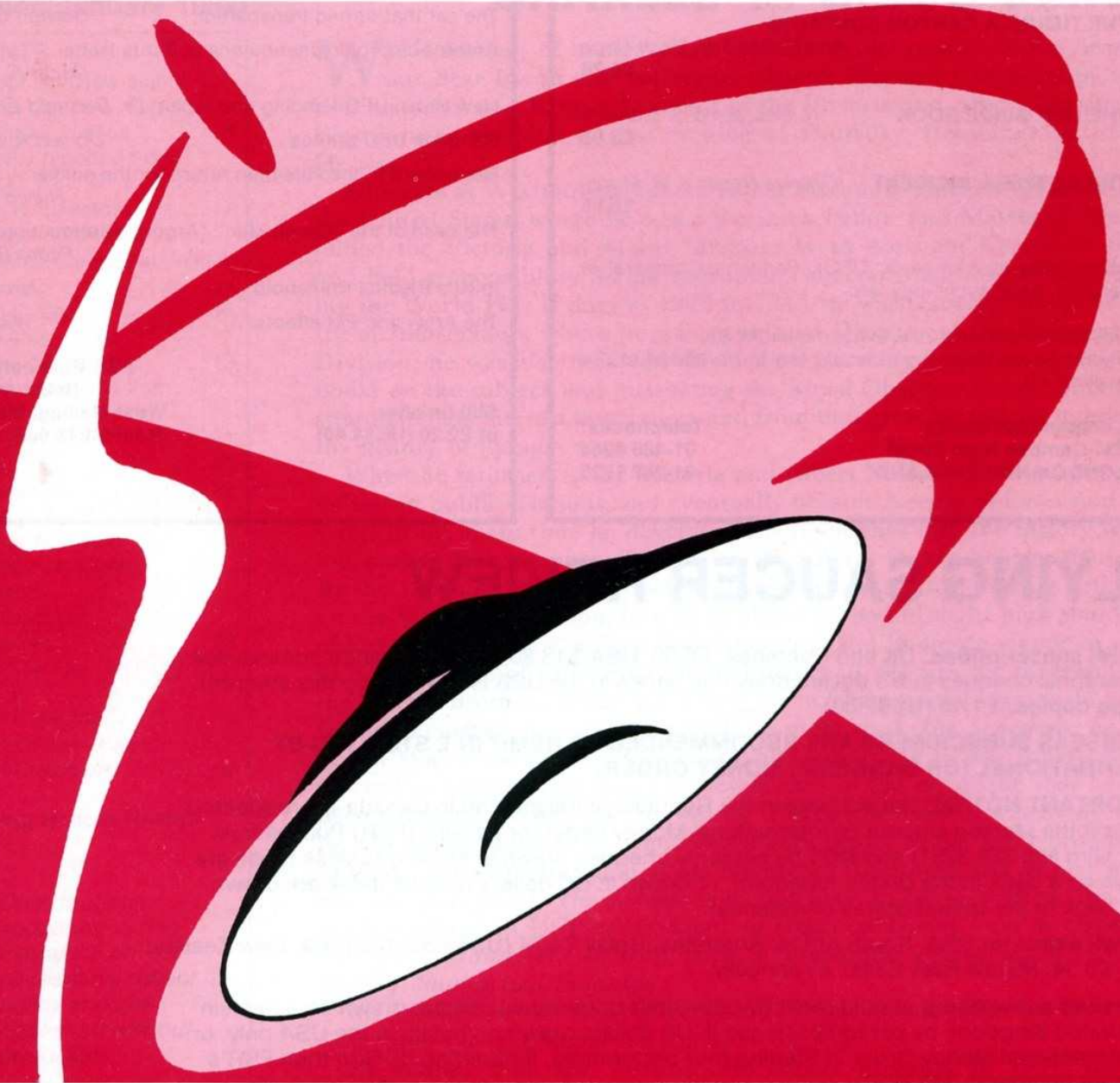
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