THREE MORE REVIEWS

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CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: A Better Explanation, by Clifford Wilson, Ph.D. and John Weldon, paperback; Master Books, San Diego, Cal., U.S.A.

WE ARE NOT ALONE. by Walter Sullivan. Signet paperback; New American Library Inc., P.O. Box 999, Bergenfield, New Jersey 07621, U.S.A.

UFO PHENOMENA AND THE BEHAVIOURAL SCIENTIST. edited by Richard F. Haines. The Scarecrow Press Inc., Metuchen, N.J. and London.

THE better explanation deserves careful consideration: the authors of Close Encounters: A better explanation feel strongly that UFO and allied manifestations are activities of anti-Christ. What they have to say is backed by evidence, much of it drawn from past issues of Flying Saucer Review. We are aware that some have abandoned our subject as evil; perhaps they expected too much from it. This rereviewer has never thought that UFOs have any more to do with spiritual reality than has the discovery of a new tribe in some jungle. Christianity, surely, widens human horizons and there are parts of the gospels which could be taken to refer, both favourably and unfavourably, to the astonishing developments in this century. However, recommend all who share our aim of understanding the phenomena, to weigh the arguments and strong feeling of this book.

Turning to the scientific approach, the next book, Walter Sullivan's We are not alone, has a good index and list of references, dealing with the search for intelligent life on other worlds and the observational evidences prompting the application of new methods of communication in this exercise. Nikola Tesla, asked to predict likely developments in this century and having, like Marconi, received radio signals he believed to be artificial, replied in 1900: "Faint and uncertain though they were, they have given me a deep conviction and foreknowledge, that ere long all human beings on this globe, as one, will turn the eyes to the firmament above, with feelings of love and reverence, thrilled by the glad news: 'Brethren! We have a message from another world, unknown and remote!' "This belief, that communication with extraterrestrial intelligent life would unite humanity, is appealing and it was Adamski's hope; however, one wonders whether it puts the cart before the horse: earthly interest in a Venusian brother could

be less than in the military possibilities of his scoutship. Nevertheless, the century has one-fifth still to come.

Dr. Haines' compendium UFO Phenomena and the Behavioural Scientist offers much more than the layman might imagine. Particularly interesting is Dr. Leo Sprinkle's investigation of the Carl Higdon case (reported in FSR Vol.21, No.3/4): the variety of occupants and vehicles is one of the greatest puzzles of the UFO phenomenon. Chapters in the book are contributed by eleven authorities and each argues for his own discipline; e.g. Chapter 5: "...UFO sightings are related to social factors." Another argues that electric shock from charges in the earth are responsible. One author comments: "In the final analysis, the major differences between science and superstition is the ability of science to make quantative predictions about the occurrence of some phenomenon." This, surely, would apply to natural phenomena only: if intelligence or volition on the part of aliens or puppeteers were involved, then developments would, to that extent, be in their hands. If the phenomenon is superstition, the creation of human belief, we are reminded of the pantheon of Greek mythology. Flourishing from the sixth century B.C., the Delphic oracle declined during Roman times and "Christianity struck the final blow. Nobody believed any more in the prophecies of Apollo... The romantic lover of the past, Emperor Julian, made a last effort to revive the ancient religion, but the Pythoness gave a hopeless reply to the Emperor's delegates which indeed proved to be her own swan song: 'Tell the King that the rich palace of the god lies deep in the earth. Apollo no longer dwells here." (What to see in Greece, by Ev. Penteas). Classical mythology did not revive with the Renaissance: the Church saw to that. Did it leave a gap for a materialistic age and are we witnessing, in the UFO pheonomenon, the growth of a new mythology suited to powered flight and space travel?

On another tack and agreeable to the argument in Chapter 7 that human consciousness creates, is this quotation, in the Introduction, from an article by Nichols and Alexander (1977) dealing with the impact of science fiction upon man's various enterprises: "...it is almost ironic that the media that have made science fiction more accessible to the masses (TV, radio, movies) were once the speculations of science fiction. There is an amazing connection here, a subtle yet also overt interrelation wherein the medium expounding the message also is (and increasingly becomes) the message itself. We live in a scientific age, an age of future shock - an age in which it is becoming more difficult daily to distinguish between everyday reality and science fiction." If we keep our eye on the ball, what we ought to be doing is studying the various propulsive systems UFOs appear to use and experimenting to understand and control the natural forces involved, which may be simpler than we imagine. The world needs cheap, safe energy. Also, think what it would mean to be able, silently, to rescue a hostage and lift to safety the starving victims of guerrilla warfare!

UFO-WITH OCCUPANTS?-NEAR MAIDSTONE

Patricia Grant

Report of an investigation conducted for UFOIN and Flying Saucer Review. Data: July 25, 1975 Bearsted, Maidstone, Kent CE3d Level A

THIS case concerns a middle-aged lady (about fifty years old) who works as an Invoice Typist. She wishes total anonymity. Her testimony was first given to the BBC a few days after the sighting, but they did not pursue the case. She then wrote to the Daily Express UFO Bureau in early 1978 - from which I came to investigate the case. Investigation has taken some time due to the frequent unavailability of the witness.

The Events

The day in question was warm and sunny with a clear blue sky. The time was between noon and 1.00 p.m. and the witness (whom we shall call by the pseudonym Mary) was hanging out her washing in the garden of her home in a popular residential area. She took a casual glance at the sky "as one would do occasionally" and spotted a strange object quite high up. She was transfixed as she watched it descend to hover over a clump of trees in the adjoining garden. She estimates at this closest point that it was only 25-30 feet off the ground and in size appeared 18 inches at arm's length (i.e. very large).

In shape she describes it as like a spinning top. She has done a drawing of it at low level, but this basically just shows the top view, as it was tilted slightly towards her on hovering. This had two portholes in the top — through which occupants were seen. As for the side-on shape, she had been given a large selection of shapes to choose from and had picked out three each of which is totally distinctive. It is most uncertain which is the closest. Of A she says "the one I distinctly saw whilst hanging out my washing' while B "...does not appear to have much room to be able to see two men as I have described them." The colour of the object was silvery all over and it made no sound, even at closest approach.

The witness felt no effects during the sighting, but does say that the area was very quiet. After watching the object start to move off she went inside to tell her husband. He thought she was seeing things. When she went back outside it had totally disappeared.

The occupants

Mary says that she saw two occupants through the upper portholes. She could only see them from their shoulders upwards but they seemed to be dressed in a silver suit and had "divers" helmets on. They were sitting and seemed to be in control. They had a very

fair complexion and had staring blue eyes. 1 No attempt has been made to draw them.

Subsequent Events

Whether they be of any relevance whatsoever is another matter, but for the record the witness did respond to the question about other unusual events in the following way...

On June 3, 1979, during the investigation, her home was broken into. The police were puzzled because there were no signs of a break-in and nothing was apparently stolen. Nevertheless Mary had been awoken at 1.30 a.m. by someone trying to open the locked bedroom door. On later inspection the only thing amiss was that the telephone had been broken. She claims that only the "0" digit on the dial would turn. The others all stuck. The police succeeded in fixing it to the extent that it could be used for outgoing calls but when the GPO finally came they could not make it receive incoming calls. She was advised "Whatever they did, they have KO'd it this time" and the phone had to be replaced. It should be mentioned that several local burglaries were reported on that same night.

She further recounted an experience from earlier in 1979 when a light was seen flooding into her bedroom through the open curtains one night. The electric lightbulb that was on in the bedroom then went out – at the same moment as the light outside disappeared. She assumed that the bulb had just expired in the normal fashion, and thought no more

about it.

Unfortunately, at this point, the witness was becoming somewhat nervous and sensing a connection between the break-in and the investigation. I asked her if she wished the investigation to continue and she requested that we did not do so. Naturally I obliged, despite several matters being outstanding.

Conclusions

Unfortunately I am of the opinion that this story should be considered dubious, despite the apparent sincerity of the witness. There does seem evidence that Mary is prone to fantasy - or perhaps her memory is somewhat disorganised (or both). Another UFOIN investigator (who is a personal friend and who assures me did not act in the manner suggested) is alleged by Mary to have asked her for £45 to