

"chain of evidence" that would have validity in the legal sense, although it does not completely eliminate any possibility of trickery on the part of the scientists involved in the tests. The probability of such manipulation of the data decreases, of course, as the tests are repeated by independent laboratories.

The range of explanations for the Bogotá sample has now been narrowed down to three hypotheses. It could have come from a UFO, as claimed by the witnesses. But before we can definitely "prove" this conclusion, we must eliminate the possibility that we are dealing with satellite re-entry material, or with a hoax. It is difficult to exclude the satellite hypothesis as long as the date remains imprecise, hence the high priority on finding the witnesses again. Unfortunately the file containing the original interviews has been lost, and we do not know the exact year of the observation.

The hoax hypothesis can only be eliminated through the internal consistency of the test results and their match with the witnesses' story. So far we have noted several facts that seem to indicate that the case is genuine: the sample is very clean and does not seem to have been formed by pouring aluminium over the ground or over a factory floor. Aluminium picks up dirt very easily and the sample would have been contaminated.

Also, the impurity level is quite different from what would be expected from slag. These observations encourage us to continue with our program of tests, but they do not constitute final proof that the case is genuine.

In coming months we hope to be able to determine whether this sample is truly unusual. It will then be interesting to correlate its composition with that of other alleged UFO samples.

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## SPANISH MOTORISTS CHASED FOR FIVE HOURS

ONE of FSR's Spanish Consultant/Correspondents, Sr. Juan Plana Crivillén (who himself lives in Sabadella, just outside the city of Barcelona, in Catalunya) has sent us details of a remarkable recent case which he has investigated, and which was reported at length in "Claxon", Sabadella's local newspaper, in its issue of December 8-14, 1986. In its account, this newspaper used a report on the affair that had been compiled by Josep Guijarro, Director of the Spanish review "Mundo Misterioso".

The episode dates from a Friday in August 1980. The family involved are residents of Terrassa, another small town, lying slightly to the south of Sabadella, which has been mentioned in a number of important UFO accounts in recent years, especially that of the enormous UFO detected over that area in November 1985, and reported on by Sr. Crivillén in FSR 32/1.

The family had been away on holiday, visiting friends in Ciudad Real, in south-central Spain below Madrid. Juan \_\_\_\_\_, aged 35, employed as a foreman in an enterprise at Sabadella, was at the wheel of his *Morris 1100*. His wife Maria-Dolors, aged 37, was in the passenger seat beside him, asleep, while their two daughters and grandmother were in the rear seats. The time was about midnight. They were travelling northwards along the coastal road, the N-340, and had passed through Valencia (39°27' N., 0°23' W.), when Juan caught sight of a brilliant white object which he took to be a mercury lamp on some nearby tower. When they had driven on a few more kilometres, the light appeared to have taken up position

right above the top left corner of the rear window. Juan began to be alarmed, and his wife awoke. She suggested that the thing must be a UFO, but Juan insisted on running through a series of rationalizations, saying finally: "Well, now ... if it was a UFO ... I've heard that they change colour!"

Instantly it turned into a dense cloud, and then grew smaller and took on a very leaden-bluish shade. And it underwent this particular set of transformations four or five times.

It was a very clear night, the sky full of stars, and the temperature around 20°C. The moon lay to their right.

Next, the UFO began to shuttle from one side of the road to the other, sometimes ahead of the car, sometimes behind and at times shooting across overhead or taking up position there.

*And this "toing and froing" went on throughout the whole of their five-hour car journey!*

But when they arrived at the toll-post at Martorell the UFO began to change its ways again. It grew smaller and now became an intense blue colour. Immediately after that, it turned into a cloud which proceeded to settle right down on top of the car. Says Juan: "I had no visibility whatever, and pulled up in a real fright. Then, a few instants later, the cloud grew smaller again and rose again into the air."

One feature not mentioned so far in this story is that, moving along beside it, the UFO had a smaller object like a sort of scout-ship.

Shortly before the party reached the restaurant

known as "L'Hostal de la Gloria", at the spot popularly known as "Los Once de Martorell" (as the distance from there to Terrassa is eleven kilometres), Maria-Dolors, very excited, shouted to her husband to pull up. He did so, and they then watched the small object enter the big one.

Then, they said, "A triangular-shaped metallic object the size of an aircraft and with a number of coloured lights came out of the big disc and shot away over the car at tremendous speed".

Juan had, meanwhile, remembered that he had a ciné-camera with him in the car, and he managed to expose one metre of film. (KODAK EKITAR 9mm., F/12 LENS XL 33, with HECTACOM 160 film.)

This film, said Josep Guijarro, writer of the newspaper report, was now held by Jordi Márquez of the ANTENA-3 TV organization.

The UFO finally vanished from sight suddenly at about 6.00 a.m.

*What happened to this family that night?, asks Josep Guijarro. Was it an abduction attempt that did not come off? Did Juan, by braking abruptly, prevent the UFO entities from getting them and examining them?*

The one metre of film does not show much — just a light, of about the size of the moon, against a blue sky.

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COMMENT. Almost six hours of constant harassment and pursuit by a UFO seems to me to be just about a record in the whole of the known literature, and it is difficult to imagine that the whole family were not in fact taken out of the car at some point on the journey and subjected to any number of tests and examinations. — G.C.

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## MAIL BAG

Correspondents are asked to keep their letters short and give full name and address (not necessarily for publication). It is not always possible for the Editor to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

### The Linear Motor: Gravity Defeated?

The Editor, FSR, — I wonder how many of our readers saw the news item on page 2 of *The Times* of Saturday, May 23rd, 1987, entitled "Gyroscopes challenge law of motion", by Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent? From it I quote: "Mr Sandy Kidd, aged 49, a tool-fitter, has moved to the department of mechanical engineering at Dundee University to continue his investigations after working for four years in his garden shed in Dundee to produce his system. Unknown to him, Mr Peter Greed, a Swindon schoolteacher, had been working on the same subject and had taken out a patent in 1974.

"Both have used spinning gyroscopes to convert rotary momentum into linear momentum. Mr Greed said that he had used a simple device which showed in principle that in low gravity it was possible for the device to reduce the weight of the object being propelled until there was an up-thrust which would lift it against the gravitational field. Mr Kidd's device, which is about 18 in. high, uses two gyroscopes, an electric drill and a model aircraft engine to demonstrate the principle.

"Professor Eric Laithwaite,\* of Imperial College, London, the leading

British academic in the field, said: 'What he has to do now is to make a machine which develops a bigger force in relation to weight'.

"It was lectures by Professor Laithwaite which first stimulated Mr Kidd's interest. What Mr Kidd has achieved so far, he has achieved by pure intuition. I want to see what more his intuition can turn up. He might just turn up something that the experts miss. We need all the help we can get.

"Mr Greed, who used pieces of wood and string and two gyroscopes to demonstrate the principle, denied that it was contrary to Newton's laws."

I am reminded of a letter received in the early years of FSR from a man who had tried to interest scientists in his device, which was an upturned bowl with a hole drilled in the bottom, a cotton reel stuck outside and the whole threaded on a vertical rod. When spun round, he said, it rose on its shaft. Being reporters rather than scientists at FSR there was little we could do to help him, but there does seem to be some principle involved here, for it has been said that the conventional bell-shaped flying saucers are made externally of two or more contra-rotating shells, generating lift and linear acceleration. One wonders if control is still a problem, but the answer must wait for a gap or a thin-

ning in the unprecedented smoke-screen that has been built up to hide our subject.

Yours faithfully,  
**John M. Lade,**  
Yaldham Manor,  
Kemsing,  
Nr. Sevenoaks,  
Kent,  
May 26, 1987.

\*Many of our British readers may recall television programmes of some years ago, in which the distinguished British scientist Eric Laithwaite, Professor of Heavy Electrical Engineering at the Imperial College of Science and Technology, London University, demonstrated his very exciting experiments with linear motors, gyroscopes, "effortless lift-off", and the high-speed transport of the future.

Incidentally I learn privately that this many-sided scientist, this true "Renaissance man", even knows a lot about "our subject, UFOs", and he is not unacquainted with FSR. I call him "many-sided" because, amid all his activities, Professor Laithwaite has even found time to be the principal co-author of *The Dictionary of Butterflies & Moths, In Colour* (1975, Michael Joseph, London, £12.50). It is one of the three or four very best books in the world on these beautiful creatures

— now as gravely threatened as we are — which have been my own beloved hobby of a lifetime and which I have been privileged to watch and study in my own travels on all Five Continents. As Laithwaite has said somewhere, “a world without butterflies and moths is not a world worth living in”. And this is, alas, especially true today of Britain, where so many of our Lepidoptera are gravely endangered.

As for Mr Kidd and his remarkable invention, I am indebted to Dr. Bernard Finch for drawing my attention to the latest amazing news, in the *Sunday Express* (London) of September 27, 1987. This paper says that the Australians first sent over a man to interview Mr Kidd, and have now shipped him and his family out to Melbourne and already set him up there in a factory with a backing of millions of £s. And the paper quotes Professor Laithwaite as saying:—

*“Mr Kidd’s work . . . basically means that a ship can move through Space without shovelling a load of rubbish out of the back. His machine converts rotary motion into linear movement. It has a tremendous potential.”*

“Potential” indeed! For the report talks of “Mars in 34 hours” and “London-Sydney in a matter of minutes”!)  
EDITOR

### SETI and the “In Proximity” School of Thought

Dear Editor, — Ever since 1960, when the American radio-astronomer Frank Drake made his attempts to detect alien radio transmissions, I have been wondering to myself just how many years would have to elapse, with various ideas and applications being tried, tested, and exhausted, before a school of thought developed which perceived and argued that any alien species would be so ancient and so resourceful that their techniques of delivery and transmission, if made available to us, would, when compared with the status of our own science, appear — to use Arthur Clarke’s term — as nothing short of ‘magic’ to us, thus providing our ‘establishment science’ with an intellectual prospect upon which we Ufologists have been actively researching for years already!

Well, this now seems to have occurred. Hence, may I introduce FSR readers to the ‘In Proximity’ School of Thought.

The letter which I reproduce below

recently appeared in the British Interplanetary Society’s journal *SPACE FLIGHT*, Volume 29 (May 1987):

### SETI and the In Proximity School of Thought

Sir,

In *SETI and the Mind* (*SPACE FLIGHT*, February 1987, p.79) W.I. McLaughlin failed to point out why the radioastronomy school of thought regarding extraterrestrial intelligence (ETI) has been assigned low plausibility by many, forcing the In-Proximity (IP) school of thought into prominence.

The former presumes that the technology of ETI will never advance much beyond what we foresee for ourselves in about two or three centuries — the time typically estimated as when we will be embarking on our first interstellar journey via world-ship. The ETI, no matter how many tens of thousands of years advanced over us, would never be able to undertake much exploration or colonisation. Hence, Earth remains undetected by them, it is argued, even though roughly a million independently evolved species of advanced ETI are typically estimated to exist within just our own Galaxy.

The IP school of thought, on the other hand, allows for continuing breakthroughs and advances in many branches of science, some of them new, and in technology, so that the capabilities of advanced ETI should appear indistinguishable from magic to us (A.C. Clarke’s law). It allows for a continuing desire for increased knowledge, and hence in exploration of the Galaxy, within any one ETI species for hundreds of thousands of years. It allows for the likelihood that the applied level of ethics of most advanced ETI will be at least somewhat higher than our own. It then follows that Earth has not escaped present detection by ETI, nor escaped past visitations. Various hypotheses have then been put forward in the astronomical literature to explain why we have not been officially contacted by some of these ETI. These include the quarantine, embargo, nursery, laboratory, and wildlife-refuge hypotheses. They are overlapping and complementary, so several, not just one, may apply.

Thus, with the IP school of

thought, no special pleading is needed which invokes quickly failing ET technology in the field of galactic transportation or mobility. No special pleading is needed which invokes a total lack of ETI concern for special treatment of rare emerging societies like ours. Although the IP school of thought predicts that SETI will not succeed, it predicts that interesting events will occur as the embargo is finally lifted.

With the IP school of thought, the epistemology of advanced ETI is seen to be far ahead of human epistemology.

James W. Deardorff,\*  
Oregon State University,  
U.S.A.

It would perhaps be premature of us to assume that, at last, some indisputable common ground exists between Ufology and the scientific world, but certainly the ‘In Proximity’ School of Thought signals an important moment in human ETI philosophy, and if we are truly “coming of age” then we should follow carefully any future developments.

I am quite sure that FSR will do this admirably.

Very best wishes,  
**William P. Dillon, FBIS,**  
43 Hollybush Road,  
Vauxhall Park Estate,  
Luton, Beds.  
May 23, 1987.

\*Professor James Deardorff, a most respected member of the Scientific Faculties of Oregon State University, is a long-time regular reader of FSR, and what he has to say is so full of good commonsense that it comes like a whiff of fresh air. — EDITOR.

### From Our Former Danish Correspondent

Dear Editor, — This is to inform you that, as from this date, I am withdrawing from the editorial boards of *UFO KONTAKT* and *UFO CONTACT NEWSLETTER*.

The reason for this is solely my desire to dedicate myself 100% to my job as a University teacher and to more specific research projects.

Allow me to express my sincere thanks for your collaboration during past years.

In future all correspondence and publications on UFO research should go to:—

Ib Laulund (Editor),  
Vinkelvej 15, Lunde,  
DK-6830 Nr. Nebel, DEN-  
MARK.

Yours truly,  
**G.E. Skov,**  
Sønderskovvej 159, 1 mf. tv.,  
LYSTRUP,  
DENMARK.  
September 6, 1987.

### The Mystery Rings in the Fields

Dear Sir, — Now that the mystery grain rings season is upon us once again, let us hope that this time we will find some answers.

After all, they *are* on our doorstep, and it does seem to me that the “mechanics” behind these mystery rings are in fact challenging us to solve the enigma. It would be nice to feel that we are capable of solving this puzzle\* — but somehow I don't think we will.

Finally, may I say how much I enjoy your refreshing style of editorship — you certainly don't pull any of your punches. Please keep up the excellent work. You're doing a fine job.

Yours sincerely,  
**C.R.H. Shelton,**  
8 Newton Close,  
Whiteparish,  
Wiltshire SP5 2SP.  
June 22, 1987.

\*Surely reader Shelton realizes by now that this puzzle was solved long ago, since all the leading British inves-

tigators have proved beyond question that the rings are due to some peculiar form of wind that seems to spend all its time in Hampshire and Wiltshire. (There is, in fact, even a very recent report that this wind is a subtle emanation from the local cows.) EDITOR

### An American Sighting of 1909

Dear Sir, — With reference to the article which appeared in FSR, Volume 32, No. 21, entitled *An Alarming Episode*, by Gordon Creighton, I would like to mention the following account which allegedly took place at Burlington, Vermont, in 1907:—

Four people claimed they saw, floating about 50 feet above a street, a torpedo-shaped body, six feet long and eight inches in diameter.

The object was dark in colour with a few bright spots which emitted flames; the whole thing being surrounded by a halo.

The appearance was preceded by a loud bang. The sighting itself, however, was noiseless.

*Sunday Express* readers will have noted, with pleasant surprise, Graham Lord's book review, in the July 12 issue. Particularly pleasing was the fact that the book *'Above Top Secret'*, by Timothy Good, was given pride of place in the review column.

Of equal interest was the mention of FSR and its royal readership.

Yours faithfully,  
**E.J. Hirst,**  
7 Robins Close,  
Aston, Sheffield S31 0FW.  
July 21, 1987.

### “The Re-Discovery of the Wheel”

Dear G.C., — The UFO scene here has suddenly come alive again. The conventions have drawn huge crowds this year and interest is really high.

Budd Hopkins and Whitley Streiber have “reinvented the wheel”. They've turned the clock back to the 1950s, and are rediscovering the whole contactee thing with its doppelgängers, its insidious little games, and its mimetic hallucinations. But they are totally unaware of all that has gone before. They think they have found something new... age-old “Devil's Marks”, forms of astral projections, tired demonological manifestations.

We hear the claim being made: *“I alone know the cosmic truth...”* We've heard it all before, over and over again.

Keep FSR going at all costs. It is the only voice of reason in this insane field.

The UFO revival should hit England soon. Several new Hollywood UFO movies are in the works this year. Then FSR should be in greater demand.

All the best...  
**John A. Keel,**  
New York, N.Y. 10024,  
USA.  
July 1, 1987.

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT TO OUR READERS

IT IS OUR VERY SAD DUTY TO REPORT THE  
DEATH OF CHARLES BOWEN (FSR EDITOR  
FROM 1964 TO 1982), WHO PASSED AWAY ON  
OCTOBER 14, 1987, AGED 69 YEARS.