

the spirit of covert cooperation. I hope so.

I believe that my basic "retrieval" information is true. Someday, if there is an official time table, certain information may be made known to confirm the greatest story every told.

* * * * *

†**FSR Editor writes:** The following is the text of a letter, dated May 30, 1979, received by Dr. Andrew Michrowski, president of the Planetary Association for Clean Energy (100 Bronson Avenue, Suite 1001, Ottawa, Ontario) in reply to his letter of August 15, 1978 to Mr. Pierre Trudeau, Prime Minister of Canada. Dr. Michrowski had made a plea for Canadian Government sponsorship for setting up a multi-national centre where scientifically-minded people (he quoted as examples the names of Drs. Vallée and Hynek, astronaut Gordon Cooper and Leonard Stringfield) could discuss the problem freely and with Canada's official backing. The last two paragraphs are of interest:—

Dear Mr. Michrowski:

On behalf of the Prime Minister, I wish to thank you for sharing your views on the very interesting and

intriguing issue of Unidentified Flying Objects and Occupants and their reported contacts with North Americans.

Regretfully your letter was indexed upon receipt but was not acknowledged. Please accept my apologies for this oversight.

You are quite right in noting the dilemma which UFOs present to the scientific community. There are deep and honest divisions between scientists on this issue. Although a multi-national research effort might considerably advance the resolution of this controversy, the fiscal constraints on the Canadian government at this time might make it difficult for the government to assign a high priority to such an endeavour.

Nevertheless, your comments have been noted with interest and you might wish to consider writing again to the Minister responsible for Science and Technology in the new government at a future date.

Yours sincerely,
Katharine E. Gourlie,
Government Operations.

Publication in *Flying Saucer Review* of Mr. Stringfield's study: *The UFO Crash/Retrieval Syndrome. Status Report II: new sources, new data*, will commence in the next issue.

FSR BOOKSHELF — 15

New UFO books reviewed by . . .

Janet & Colin Bord

IN the 1980s the trend in ufology seems to be to turn the inexplicable into the mundane, and sometimes the explanations by which this is done are weirder than the original phenomenon. In **Night Siege** we are faced with truly unbelievable happenings for which one of only three possibilities must be applicable: 1. The witnesses are lying (but the investigators claim to have also witnessed some events — are they lying too?); 2. The witnesses are hallucinating (but shared hallucinations are a rare phenomenon); 3. The witnesses are honestly describing happenings for which there is no logical explanation.

These strange events took place in mid-1981 at Rome, Ohio, not far from the home of Fortean Dennis Pilichis, who launched an immediate investigation. Briefly, the affected family, who live on a rural property, were regularly plagued at night by tall, dark figures with glowing red eyes. The figures wandered about at the treeline, or came closer to the house, but were apparently aimless. When shot at by the family, they screamed, but do not appear to have been hurt.

During the night of 1 July glowing objects or lights were seen as well as the dark figures, and one family

member was hit by a ray of light. The father shot at a cigar-box-shaped object which flew over the farmhouse. It had red and blue lights, and he aimed at the red light, which went out. He also heard a noise like a bullet hitting something like glass. But the object continued along its course apparently unaffected.

Many authors have tried to establish a link between UFO and Bigfoot phenomena, but our own studies have showed us that such a link is rare, only about 1% of Bigfoot cases showing any direct UFO involvement. If the Rome events are classed as a Bigfoot case (and the dark forms seen do certainly bear some resemblance to a category of Bigfoot phenomena), then we have here one of the few cases where Bigfoot and UFO are seen together, apparently as part of the same phenomenon.

The Rome Bigfeet have more affinity to the paranormal rather than the physical Bigfeet (readers wishing for further explanation of the different categories should consult our books *Alien Animals* and *Bigfoot Casebook*), and the whole series of events carries an aura of the unreal. It is particularly unusual that the investigators were themselves able to witness some of

the goings-on. They were "believers" closely involved with strange phenomena. Had they been scientists, and sceptical, it is likely that the phenomena would not have manifested during their visits. In other words, they easily tuned in to the family's wavelength and picked up whatever it was that had latched on to them. But their enthusiasm, though it enabled them to take part in the events, did not lead them to organise a sober investigation of those events. They seem to have seen nothing wrong with the family's tactic of shooting at anything that moved, and they even added an extra unfriendly touch, by baiting live rabbits with cyanide capsules in the hope that the figures would take the rabbits, eat them and die.

In the end, they obtained no corpse, nor any real information on the nature of the figures, so their investigation methods were a total failure. Perhaps they should have used the quiet approach, treating the figures as a natural history project, and got the family to put away their guns and simply watch the figures to see what they did, where they went. They could have used this method to get closer to them, to photograph them and perhaps even communicate with them. It could hardly have been less successful than the method they did use.

So many close sightings and not one photograph, or even an attempt at photography! The only photographic "evidence" is a few blurred shots of plaster casts of lumps of dirt, supposedly footprints but which could be anything. Dennis Pilichis' report, though not very literate, makes dramatic reading. His "Afterthought: Conclusions!?" does not get anywhere near explaining what was going on at Rome last year, but we must be grateful to him for documenting the events so that others can try to make some sense of them. *Night Siege* is a large-format, 40-page, magazine-style report, illustrated with drawings and photographs. It is available from the author at P.O. Box 5012, Rome, Ohio 44085, U.S.A., price \$6 (cheques payable to Dennis Pilichis).

The papers from the 1981 Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) Symposium have been published under the title **UFO's... The Hidden Evidence** in a well produced, large-format paperback with 154 pages. As in previous years, it can be obtained from MUFON at 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin, Texas 78155, U.S.A., price \$10. In his introductory paper, "Ufology as a Profession: A Manifesto," Dr. J. Allen Hynek calls for a professional attitude to the subject by all involved and states the need for an international house-cleaning programme to rid ufology of "manoeuvres, intrigues, and balderdash" and of "fast-buck artists who publish an amazing amount of undigested tripe."

Lawyer Peter Gersten, who, on behalf of various UFO organisations, has fought several successful actions to obtain official UFO documents from government departments, tells us "What the Government

would know about UFOs if they Read their own Documents." Giving reports of UFO events from U.S. government agency files, he concludes that after 30 years of secrecy and deception the government still maintains this attitude.

In "Faith, Theory and UFOs" Dr. Barry Downing shows how faith is the mainspring of human endeavour, in both religion and science; while Budd Hopkins shows in "UFO Abductions: The Invisible Epidemic" how he has documented the degree of conscious recall of abductees *before* they undergo hypnotic regression, and concludes that "There may be as many abductions as there are UFO sighting reports."

In "The Human Factor in UFO Sightings" Dr. Ronald M. Westrum examines the background and motives of both the witnesses who report UFOs, and the scientists who ignore the reports. New York psychologist Dr. Aphrodite Clamar, who has worked with Budd Hopkins on abduction cases, offers "Missing Time: A Psychologist Examines the UFO Evidence," a short but pithy paper presenting the results of her psychological testing of UFO witnesses.

From South Africa Mrs. Cynthia Hind details five inexplicable cases she has investigated in that continent. "Close Encounters of the Second Kind: Physical Traces" is Ted R. Phillips' summary of his research into physical trace landing cases, a major contribution with ten pages of charts and tables and a 24-page analysis of the Delphos, Kansas, landing case.

Finally, Stanton T. Friedman and William L. Moore speak of the research behind the book *The Roswell Incident*, and the means by which the U.S. Government continues to maintain a state of secrecy among its employees with regard to UFO matters. MUFON are to be congratulated on having held twelve successful symposia, and for airing a wide range of UFO matters. This collection of papers is particularly rich and varied, well worth buying and reading.

In 1979 New Zealand sprang into prominence in a UFO context with the filming of the now famous Kaikoura lights. But this incident should not obscure the fact that UFOs have been seen over New Zealand since the earliest years of this century. New Zealand's 1909 airship scare is usually overshadowed by the 1897 events in the U.S.A., but the facts are just as strange. **Mervyn Dykes** devotes a chapter to these reports in his book **Strangers in Our Skies: UFOs over New Zealand** (large-format paperback published by INL Print Ltd, Eastern Hutt Road, Taita, Lower Hutt, New Zealand, price not known; 192 pages, illustrated with drawings and photographs). He also describes other intriguing incidents in New Zealand's UFO history, giving ample space to the Kaikoura events and aftermath. The UFO speculation is basic, but overall this book provides an interesting account of UFOs over New Zealand.

It is now widely accepted that some 90% of UFO reports are explainable as misinterpretations of everyday phenomena or sometimes rarer natural events. It often takes time to clearly identify the stimulus for a report, and the careful checking needed can be a chore. Two teams of UFO investigators based in the south of England have shown considerable tenacity and skill in their solving of UFO mysteries, and they are now sharing the knowledge they have acquired by publishing a small but fact-filled booklet: **UFO/IFO: A Process of Elimination**, by SCUFORI and PROBE (13 articles in 40 pages; illustrated; price 80p to UK readers (foreign readers add postage) from PROBE, 16 Marigold Walk, Ashton, Bristol, BS3 2PD).

The subjects covered include astronomical UFOs, perception, aircraft lights, natural phenomena, UFO photographs and balloons, and there are also detailed case histories. Since UFOs when demystified lose their power to thrill, the most intriguing report in the booklet concerns the object seen at Ashbury, Wiltshire, in July 1981. Despite exhaustive attempts by the investigators to find an unsensational explanation, this incident, where a small silver object was seen at close quarters by nine witnesses, remains unexplained. *UFO/IFO* is very well produced, with clear type which is easy on the eye. It is recommended to all who take their ufology seriously.

A recent publication from Dr. Hynek's Center for UFO Studies is a work by **Mark Rodeghier** entitled **UFO Reports Involving Vehicle Interference** (available price \$9.60 including postage from CUFOS, P.O. Box 1402, Evanston, IL 60204, U.S.A.; large-format paperback, 144 pages). It follows the high standard of material and presentation that we expect to find in CUFOS publications. The first half contains 441 summaries of UFO reports involving electromagnetic effects on motor vehicles, such as the malfunctioning of the engine, radio or lighting, or the control and movement of the vehicle in a manner other than that decided by the driver.

In the second part the author analyses what he considers to be the significant elements in these reports by means of 54 tables, listing attributes such as shape, colour and behaviour of UFO, time, duration and location of event, and physiological effects on witnesses. Various elements from these tables have been statistically compared for significant patterns, and where the author has found correlations these are presented. He found for example that almost half of the UFOs which were seen to disappear were yellow, while metallic disc-shaped UFOs which often land, also often make a noise.

Where necessary the information is illustrated by

clear graphs, and even for the non-statistician the author's writing is generally clear, easily understood and without jargon. In his summary he suggests that the results show the presence of intelligently controlled metallic craft, with a smaller group which may be an unknown type of natural phenomenon. This useful work is completed by the usual list of references and sources, and will make a valuable addition to the UFO researcher's bookshelf.

Lt. Col. Wendelle C. Stevens and William J. Herrmann have together written the story of Herrmann, who started seeing and photographing daylight discs in November 1977 near his home in Charleston, South Carolina, U.S.A. On the evening of 18 March 1978 he was abducted into a UFO and some 2³/₄ hours later was released, unable to remember what had transpired. Since then he has had other sightings, undergone hypnosis and recalled some of his abduction experience. He has also produced spontaneous automatic writing in an unidentified script and received an enigmatic metal bar from the UFO entities.

The book, **UFO... Contact from Reticulum**, is misleadingly subtitled "A Report of the Investigation." A report it may be, but there is no trace between its covers of any investigation. The Herrmann case has been "investigated," and this book written and published, by Wendelle C. Stevens, who gave to ufology *UFO... Contact from the Pleiades*, a similar exercise in contactee public relations. *Reticulum* has some of the same faults as *Pleiades*: on first sight it looks impressive, but is lacking in substance, facts and verification. There are nearly 400 pages with colour photographs, line drawings and some smudgy black and white photographs, but the material has been padded out by repeating large sections of the text in different parts of the book with only slight alterations. For example, Herrmann tells his abduction story three or four times in the book, each time in slightly different words — an excellent way to stretch the material and fill pages. Other subterfuges employed are the use of a large typeface, printing each of the eight UFO colour photographs twice in different parts of the book (the jacket picture is reproduced four times, no less!) for no apparent reason, and adding five appendices of irrelevant material.

For all their faults, other recent books on abduction investigations are models of penetrating investigation and concise reporting when compared with this sorry affair. Perhaps behind it all there is a genuine UFO experience to be recorded and examined, but this uninvestigated muddle is of no help in that task. (*UFO... Contact from Reticulum* is available price \$18.20 including postage from RETICULUM, Box 17206, Tucson, AZ 85731-7206, U.S.A.).

PERCIPIENT-DEPENDENT COMPONENT IN THE FALCON LAKE INCIDENT?

Luis Schoenherr

IN a detailed 50-page paper¹ I have tried to show that there are cases in the UFO literature which display phenomenal details strangely related to the percipient's memory, and to his psychic and physical situation. I have coined for them the term "percipient-dependent components" abbreviated "PDCs". While the phenomenal characteristics of some PDCs are certainly reminiscent of hallucinations, I have also discussed the possibility that PDCs could manifest themselves as objectively perceptible physical elements, which may be identified by certain inconsistencies appearing from time to time in UFO scenarios.

With regard to this latter point, a detail in the UFO experience of Steve Michalak, also known as the Falcon Lake Incident,² could be significant. The witness stated that a hot blast emanating from a grid-like vent on the side of the UFO burned his shirt and inflicted a burn, patterned in the form of the exhaust-grid, on his abdomen. Now the photos showing the burn-patterns on the skin are indeed very impressive, but it is hardly possible that the burns could have been produced in the manner described. The physical behaviour of a blast of air, vapour, or any other gaseous substance, is quite different from, say, that of water emerging from a shower. While the latter retains, for a considerable distance, the structure determined by the tiny openings in the spray head, a gas jet would expand immediately after leaving the vent. Unfortunately none of the versions available to me states the exact distance between the witness and the exhaust, but even if he was — as may be inferred — only an arm's-length from the grid, it is more than unlikely that such a sharply outlined pattern could have been produced. This is the more unlikely as the witness wore a shirt plus an undershirt.

The Falcon Lake incident was also investigated by the Condon team. In the Condon Report this investigation is described under the title: **Case 22, North Central, Spring 1967, Investigator: Craig.**³ Apparently no attention was given to the inconsistency mentioned above, and the report does not mention that there was a patterned burn on the witness's body. It states, however, that there was such a burn on the witness' undershirt, matching, according to his assertion, the pattern of the UFO's exhaust openings from which the burning vapours had spurted. Although the Condon Report includes in the photographic section some 60 plates, there is neither a photograph of the burnt

undershirt, nor of the most extraordinary burn on the abdomen. Both photographs can be found, however, fairly well reproduced, in a recent Canadian publication.⁴ Unfortunately I could not obtain the witness' own, original account⁵ which seems to be out-of-print. One gets the impression that the investigator didn't pursue the matter of the burn subsequently, perhaps because he suspected that the burn had been self-inflicted. I too think that there could be some truth in this hypothesis, but not in a sense that would be discriminating against the witness.

Let's suppose that the witness had, deeply buried in his memory, an emotionally "filled" image of this grid-pattern. During the UFO experience, this image was triggered, and he produced a corresponding hallucination and, together with it, a psychosomatic effect, i.e. a stigma. It could also be that the grid was a real part of the UFO scenario, and that it triggered, by affinity, the corresponding memory image in the witness which led to the stigma. We may even say that it was the intention of the unconscious to construct a logically consistent scenario, but that this attempt failed because of the witness's imperfect knowledge of hydrodynamics. (At least it doesn't seem that the laws of hydrodynamics are part of the contents of Jung's collective unconscious.)

It is my opinion that inconsistencies of this sort can help us to learn more about the true process, the *modus operandi*, of the UFO experience. They deserve the increased attention of every investigator, and should not be brushed aside as merely random and, in the final analysis, insignificant distortions.

References

1. Luis Schoenherr: "Percipient-Dependent Components in UFO Experiences," in: *UFO Phenomena*, Vol. 4, 1980, Editecs Publishing House, P.O. Box 190, I-40100 Bologna, Italy.
2. Chris Rutkowski: "The Falcon Lake Incident — Part 1," in: *Flying Saucer Review*, Vol. 27, No. 1, p. 14.
3. Edward U. Condon (Project Director): *Scientific Study of Unidentified Flying Objects*, 1969, Bantam Book 553-04747-195, New York.
4. Yurko Bondarchuk: *UFO Sightings, Landings and Abductions*, p. 37, 1979, Methuen Publications, Toronto, Canada.
5. Stephen Michalak: *My Encounter with the UFO*, Winnipeg, Osnova Publications, 1967.