

# THORNY TOPIC

That "Overlap"; comment and speculation

Charles Bowen

DEAR old John Keel has been at it again! Here is an extract from a letter of his to John Harney, co-editor, with John Rimmer, of the lively *Merseyside UFO Bulletin*,\* and published in the September 1970 issue of that journal:

"Now, whether you like it or not, here is my considered opinion. Ufology should *rightfully* be a branch of psychical research. The psychical researchers have developed reasonably scientific methods for dealing with paranormal material. And they have quietly come up with some reasonable answers for much of it. (I am not speaking of the innumerable crackpot cults and lunatic fringe believers.) The "New Ufology" (Jerome Clark's term) must necessarily be concerned with *all* paranormal manifestations. It is folly to ignore and exclude cases which contain unsavoury psychical elements, just as it would be folly for medical researchers to ignore leukaemia because they don't like the sight of blood.

"Ufology is *not* dying [a response to an article in an earlier *Bulletin*—C.B.]. It is in a transitional period. A most painful one for many. If our none-too-learned interpretations of the cave paintings are correct, UFOs have been buzzing this planet since man first appeared. They will very likely still be flying around long after we have blown ourselves up. Maybe they belong here even more than we do . . ."

These observations will probably attract sharp rejoinders from some quarters. Nevertheless I think it advisable that we take current stock of this very thorny topic, for it would appear that there are some areas of agreement, and some of disagreement, with Mr. Keel's ideas.

For many years several of us have suggested—and we have put our thoughts on record—that there could be an area of overlap between UFOs and psychic phenomena. Continual perusal of witnesses' reports—often dream-like in quality—of the appearance of humanoid "occupant" creatures, and of less pleasant (if that is the word) things, spectre-like and ominous, in the presence of landed UFOs, forced us to consider the possibility that some of these might be illusory images, "psychic-type projections" into the minds of the observers of the object.<sup>1</sup>

Not surprisingly, some of us have been taking cautious note of reports of psychic phenomena, especially those where there are marked similarities to certain aspects of UFO reports; we have also encouraged other specialists to look closely into fairy lore seeking similarities between reports of elementals and those of UFO "occupants". Not that this topic hadn't been

broached already, for Gordon Creighton drew attention to the elementals both in *Flying Saucer Review*<sup>2</sup> and *The Humanoids*<sup>3</sup> while Jacques Vallée went farther, and had a book published<sup>4</sup> in which the theme was a comparison of reported "UFO entities" and manifestations of elementals. Since then, John Keel himself has produced *Strange Creatures from Time and Space*<sup>5</sup> and *UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse*,<sup>6</sup> which deal largely with similar aspects of the subject. Best of all, C. Maxwell Cade has shown us that it is possible for human beings, within the bounds of their present technology, to cause other humans to "see things" in the mind.<sup>7</sup>

## Reluctance

This is all very interesting and encouraging, and so far seems to be in line with what Mr. Keel has said. However, there are many who would raise their hands in horror at the thought of ufology becoming a subordinate branch of psychical research. I remember how, on the occasion of *Flying Saucer Review's* reception for, and discussion with, Dr. J. Allen Hynek last August, there was a great reluctance on the part of our many guests to become involved with anything that seemed to come from the realms of parapsychology. Only John Rimmer, on my urging, tried to break the ice, and nobody was prepared to plunge in after him. Indeed, one gentleman warned us that if we weren't careful we would be taken over by the psychic research people, to which I replied, as reassuringly as I could, that the boot might eventually be found to be on the other foot, and that the ufologists would do the taking-over.

Thoughtful writers and researchers on matters psychic, like Mrs. Anne Dooley, Air Marshal Sir Victor Goddard, Dennis Bardens<sup>8</sup> and Hugh White, not to mention the Chairman of BUFORA, Captain Ivar Mackay, are aware of the "overlap", but most of the psychic research fraternity wish to have nothing whatsoever to do with us. To them flying saucers and talk of their alleged occupants are anathema.

Mr. C. Maxwell Cade, a physicist blessed with that rarest of possessions, an open mind, has done remarkable work in the field of radiation medicine, in astronomy and in electronics. He is also a valued member of the *Flying Saucer Review* team, and a committee member of the Society for Psychical Research. In March this year he gave a lecture to the S.P.R. on UFOs. For private reasons I was unable to attend, but friends among those present have told me that most of the leading lights of the Society pointedly stayed away. Similar absences were noted when The Reverend Norman Cockburn later gave a lecture to the Society on the same general topic.

Those among us who spend sleepless nights, tossing and turning with worry at the thought of waking to find

\* *Merseyside UFO Bulletin*: 53 Woodyear Road, Bromborough, Wirral, Cheshire L62 6AY, England.

themselves "taken over", may now sleep peacefully. What's more they needn't write to me about the contents of John Keel's letter to Mr. Harney, for it matters not whether he was right or wrong: most psychical researchers are too reasonably scientific to want us, either root *or* branch!

### More theorising

Granted there are elementals (or something like them) and granted they can manifest themselves to human beings, it is possible that their materialisations could be associated with certain categories of UFO manifestations. Thus it was that R. H. B. Winder, G. Creighton, L. Moulster and myself, were deeply interested in the reports of a queer, blue, humanoid creature which materialised several times in the presence of a number of schoolchildren,<sup>9</sup> and of the account of a ghostly figure and pungent odour which frightened a Surrey motorist and his passenger.<sup>10</sup> Then there was the monster of Sandling Park, near Saltwood in Kent, a shuffling creature, seemingly headless and bat-winged, which suddenly appeared to a group of young people after they had watched a glowing object descend from the sky and apparently land nearby.<sup>11</sup>

It was this last chap—followed as he was by scores of other reported instances of occupants who wobbled up and down beams of light from "craft", who stood half transparent before their "machine", who "walked" through the walls of the "object"<sup>12</sup>—who first prompted thoughts that perhaps there is more than one group involved with the human earthlings in this UFO phenomenon: that we may be just pawns in some awe-inspiring game, or conflict (perhaps between good and evil?). Ultraterrestrials (John Keel's expression) on one side generally hoaxing, causing havoc, or worse (could it be that the notorious "Men in Black" are manifestations of elementals?); extraterrestrials on the other, with solid craft plying human observers with some strange hypnotic effect,<sup>13</sup> or radiation which controls (or protects?) them, sometimes making them "see things", and sometimes overdoing it and causing the human body, and human-owned equipment, to malfunction. Speculation, but an interesting thought.

Maxwell Cade has even suggested that these effects could be achieved by beamed radiation from great (extra-terrestrial) distances. Aimé Michel has reminded us that the technology of an advanced extraterrestrial interloper would be like magic to us: control either from afar, or by intruding extraterrestrials from closer at hand, would certainly seem like magic. And as things like this are possible, and as ultraterrestrials indigenous to this planet are also possible, I suggest it might even be found that embattled forces that could be the cause of UFO phenomena could also be the cause of much that is classed as psychic phenomena. Is this the stuff of religion? Could we be but pawns in a battle for possession? I recommend that before anyone hastens to answer, he or she should first read, re-read, and think long and hard about Aimé Michel's account of the strange story of Dr. 'X'.<sup>14</sup> I would also suggest they read *Of Men, Cats and Magonia* by the same author in the last issue of this *Review*.

### Conclusion

So, having taken stock, I suggest that my main disagreement with Mr. Keel rests in the fact that I suspect that there is an extraterrestrial influence at work, possibly in conflict with ultraterrestrials, while he claims that the UFO phenomenon is due solely to the latter's activities. I feel, too, that the masses of data that we have collected will be of paramount importance to psychical research, and that when this is recognised, and prejudice is overcome, there will be a rush by parapsychologists (and scientists, doctors, psychiatrists, historians, philosophers and theologians) to join our ranks. As I wrote earlier, the boot would then be on the other foot.

For the rest, one must agree with Mr. Keel: ufology is not dying; it is more vital than ever. Readers and researchers will have seen, too, why it is of paramount importance that *everything* be considered. Nothing should be discarded just because it doesn't *seem* right. Even the weirdest of contactee claims should be closely scrutinised, not forgetting the contactee himself—what is *his* history? Is he clairvoyant? Is he a deep-trance subject?—for who knows, the poor, derided contactee may be saying just what something somewhere wants him to say.

### References

- <sup>1</sup> Bowen, C.: "Few and Far Between" in *The Humanoids*, FSR Special Issue No. 1 (October 1966). See also 1969 augmented edition of *The Humanoids* by Neville Spearman Ltd.
- <sup>2</sup> Creighton, G.: "The Most Amazing Case of All," Pt. 3, FSR Vol. 11, No. 4, July/August 1965.
- <sup>3</sup> Creighton, G.: "The Humanoids in Latin America" in *The Humanoids*, FSR, October 1966. Augmented 1969 (Spearman).
- <sup>4</sup> Vallée, J. F.: *Passport to Magonia* (Henry Regnery, Chicago, 1969; Spearman, London, 1970).
- <sup>5</sup> Keel, J. A.: *Strange Creatures from Time and Space* (paperback Gold Medal Books, Fawcett World Library, Greenwich, Conn., U.S.A.).
- <sup>6</sup> Keel, J. A.: *UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse* (G. P. Putnam's Sons, New York).
- <sup>7</sup> Cade, C. M.: "A Long, Cool Look at Alien Intelligence," Pts. IV and V, FSR Vol. 13, No. 6, November/December 1967, and Vol. 14, No. 2, March/April 1968. See also "Crypto-sensory Response" in FSR, Vol. 15, No. 5, September/October 1969.
- <sup>8</sup> Bardens, D.: See recently published book, *Mysterious Worlds* (W. H. Allen, London).
- <sup>9</sup> Winder, R. H. B.: "The Little Blue Man of Studham Common" in FSR Vol. 13, No. 4, July/August 1967.
- <sup>10</sup> Bowen, C.: "The Spectre of Winterfold" in FSR Vol. 14, No. 1, January/February 1968.
- <sup>11</sup> Bowen, C.: "Few and Far Between" in *The Humanoids*, taken from account in FSR, Vol. 10, No. 2, March/April 1964.
- <sup>12</sup> Michel, A.: "The Valensole Affair" in FSR Vol. 11, No. 6, November/December 1965, *et al.* Instances of many cases of the types mentioned in the text have been recorded during my six years as Editor of FSR.
- <sup>13</sup> Michel, A.: *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery* (Criterion Books, New York). See the Quarouble case of September 10, 1954. Also Valensole case, as in note 12.
- <sup>14</sup> Michel, A.: "The Strange Case of Dr. 'X'" in *UFO Percipients*, FSR Special Issue No. 3.

### The Kirlian Effect

U.S.S.R.: Human aura photographed  
Interplanetary contacts

ITALY: Photos of new discovery in fluid  
dynamics. In Vol. 4, No. 4, of:  
The International Science Magazine

### JOURNAL OF PARAPHYSICS

Send one dollar or 6s. 8d. to:  
Paraphysical Laboratory, Downton, Wilts., England