

THE TOURIST THEORY

OR . . . WHY THEY ARE HERE

R. DeLillo & R. H. Marx

I – THE MYTH OF SUPER-RATIONALITY

ONE of the greatest puzzles confronting ufologists who support the ETI (Extraterrestrial Intelligence) hypothesis is UFO motivation. Why are they here? Why do they so often act so trivially, so meaninglessly? What kind of superior rational being repeatedly buzzes cars, examines trees, lands in remote fields, takes samples of the most common flora, fauna and minerals over and over again, and performs all the rest of their absurd actions. What can they mean?

So frustrating – so meaningless – does their behaviour appear to be that a giant swing has developed against the ETI hypothesis. In its place, theories proposing UFOs as Psychic projections, hoaxing interdimensional or time-travelling entities, even Satanic forces of evil have been offered.

We think it is time to sweep aside these uncertain theories and propose a better foundation and a more reasonable approach to the study of the UFO phenomena.

However, in order to do this we must first examine and consider a much more flexible approach in dealing with UFO motivation.

Hynek has said that the problem with the UFO question is that even Science Fiction has not suggested a truly sound rationale for their behaviour.

This was true.

For two main reasons.

First, like the present UFO theories, SF has always developed elaborate plots which revolve around one premise. **They are here because...** UFO theorists claim a single motivation which they then have to twist and turn to ensure it fits the facts. Why just one reason? Why not fifty?

Secondly, and most crucially, SF has held on to a literary cliché: ufonauts must be super-rational, that is, infinitely wiser and more rational than we are. (Perhaps this is the reason theorists assume they must do things for just one reason, lacking our complexity.) It is what we shall call the “Mr. Spock” syndrome.

To begin, let us define, or at last describe *super-rationality*. It is a concept which assumes that aliens rarely, if ever, think irrationally or emotionally. Rather than feel and react (as we do), they coolly respond, deduce and conclude. While an exaggeration for clarity, it gives the basic idea.

At the outset we must face the primary problem which created the “Mr. Spock” myth; we are so afraid of giving the ufonauts human motives and attri-

An engaging look at the Extraterrestrial Intelligence theory, and an optimistic attempt to answer the question of UFO motivation. The authors are Australian researchers who are associated with the excellent Sydney group headed by W. C. Chalker, who himself has contributed to FSR on a number of occasions. Mr. DeLillo is a physicist and Mr. Marx is a professional writer.

This is the other side of the coin from that seen by Professor P. Guérin (see the last issue of *Flying Saucer Review*); a clever exposition of what we once saw fit to label the “Nuts and Bolts” idea, or wish – an appellation that has stuck.

EDITOR

butes that we go to the opposite extreme. “They can’t be like us, so they must be super-intelligent and super -logical” is the reaction. But attributing super-rationality to aliens is absurd; we do not even know if it exists except in machines.

After all, this refusal to admit to similarities prevented ufologists accepting the humanoid form of alien. The attitude was that since they looked so much like us, they had to be illusions or distortions of reality by witnesses who wanted the aliens to look like us – if only subconsciously. This is the same tired thinking which expects aliens to behave and think differently from us and be morally wiser. It is ironic that critics of ETI should argue this way. On the one hand they say that the ufonauts are acting irrationally, so much so that we cannot understand them. Then the same critics contend that this irrationality means that UFOs must be a product of our own minds, or at least represent our own race returning as time travellers.

The authors want to reverse this reasoning. We know the phenomenon is real – we have photos, radar returns and magnetic readings to prove it. Perhaps we can understand the puzzle by comparing it with human motivation and see if it tallies.

Biologists have shown how useful the humanoid form is. It may turn out to be one of the best body structures for technological beings, and Nature may have used it as a model throughout the universe. Perhaps the human mind, with variations, may prove to be an equally good model. As much as we rightly mistrust emotions, which are at the heart of irrational thought, they serve many useful and essential purposes. Emotions trigger a whole series of feelings from love to hate, from fear for fight to sex for reproduction, and arise out of basic primaevial

instincts. So why have we avoided giving them to ufonauts?

We have fallen into an old trap; that is, "only humans should behave like humans." Until recently we viewed the rest of the animal kingdom in the same way. Now modern research has shown how similar the behaviour of other animals is to ours – or should we say how similar our behaviour is to theirs. The whale, the dolphin and the primates were once thought to be dumb brutes of interesting behaviour but with low "IQs". Lately, however, we have found out how humanlike their behaviour is. Dolphins use an "advanced" complex language still only partly translated; chimpanzees have been taught to read and recognise written language, and have created new words, sentences have even *lied*. Apes display greed, feel guilt, grovel for food and even prostitute themselves. Birds have highly-developed navigational abilities, concepts of territorial ownership and sophisticated reactions to prey. And on and on. Animals do behave like humans. Why not intelligent alien beings?

Pursuing this more deeply we put the question: would a "flesh and blood" being which has evolved *naturally* (that is without genetic engineering) be truly super-rational and emotionless, even if it has developed an advanced technological society?

While the authors realise the vagueness of this question, we want to make a few points for the record.

For technology to develop there must be specialisation of tasks in a co-operative framework. In other words one must have a society, a group consciousness. Therefore the individual must be free to use various skills, yet be subordinate to the group direction. Consequently, he has to have a sense of loyalty, or a sense of duty, or a need to co-operate to function as part of the group. And since individuals have different levels of ability and skills, something must bind individuals into a group, either a higher outside power or an internal sense of sacrifice.

This is why we emphasised the natural evolution of any such being. Nature needs binding forces. And such forces must be stronger than mere reason. Why? Because individual beings have varying abilities to reason and by their very specialisation different viewpoints from which to reason.

Hence the desirability of emotion arises at the start.

Even Mr. Spock had a strong sense of duty, acceptance of hard work and a deep loyalty and friendship towards his superior, the Captain.

A being would have a number of basic biological functions, i.e. obtaining energy, ridding itself of wastes, and reproduction. In addition, it should have an instinct for self-preservation, possibly a sense of pleasantness and/or comfort and at least one of the five senses. These would be the non-rational needs of his organism.

Already we can see a complex being taking shape, not a mere thinking machine. If we add a humanoid shape with our kind of movement, our relative eyesight level and thus viewpoint and tactile sensation; a pattern begins to emerge. All these factors limit a being and its thinking, and must influence its rational

thought processes if only by its subjective experience. These automatic, non-rational, instinctual behaviour patterns necessary for the organism's survival develop in the rational being into what we call emotions. This argument is further strengthened by the fact that even human emotions originate in the oldest parts of our brain and predate our self-conscious awareness.

Further, add the needs of a technological society and our similarities grow; the need for group response, the time needed to learn specialised skills, the co-ordination of those skills, a political system to organise the various individuals and groups within the overall population, an economic system, organisational ability itself, etc. We are sure the list could be greatly widened from the communication needs such as language to the nurturing instinct.

The authors hasten to say that we do not believe that alien humanoids will respond and act exactly like we do, or possess every behaviour pattern or instinct that we have. Rather we submit that there will be a basis for some common modes of behaviour and therefore thinking.

Besides expecting aliens to be super-rational, two other errors are commonly made in attributing heightened rationality to aliens.

First, we assume automatically that there must be a link between advanced technical beings and "advanced evolution." It is generally believed that the higher one is on the evolutionary ladder the more rational one's thought processes become, and since ufonauts are surely more advanced technically, they must be fantastically more advanced rationally and possess little of those emotions which bedevil us.

Put so baldly the error becomes obvious. Mankind's very hostility to itself contradicts this reasoning. This was the kind of reasoning that the white man took into Africa and Asia a century ago. And the Spaniards into South America with the Conquistadors. And the Nazis into the rest of Europe in our time. Were those technically advanced societies more highly evolved? Hardly. Superior science does not equal superior rationality or wisdom, though this is a stubborn premise which still haunts mankind.

The second error in thinking is as emotional as the first, but much more human and appealing. Basically, it comes down to the argument that because they are so advanced scientifically, they would already have passed through the atomic age we are presently in. And because they did pass through it they had to have found a way to avoid total nuclear war. Hence they have to be more reasonable, thus more rational than we are. From this premise the step to super-rationality follows easily.

Attractive as this thinking is, it really begs the question. To begin with, we may not have a nuclear war; or if we do, we may survive it. Or perhaps it may be a necessary step in our evolution.

Moreover, there is no direct link between higher intelligence and emotional thinking. On our Earth the dolphin, the whale and the chimpanzee have relatively high intelligence, yet they do not war on their own species. ETIs may simply have not developed so much aggression in general, or against itself in particular. Without trying to belabour the

point, we should remember that on Earth only human beings, bees and ants are *so built as to war* on their own species, yet non-rational emotional thought is universal.

Now that we have examined man's distorted thinking vis-a-vis the 'Mr. Spock' syndrome, and we have seen that super-rationality:

- (a) is a misconception on our part,
- (b) is not exhibited in Nature, and
- (c) may not even exist in Nature for Nature needs irrational binding forces;

let us look at the UFO phenomenon.

Here we all agree something is going on which baffles our sense of understanding. Can we evaluate it?

Do UFOs exhibit the 'Mr. Spock' syndrome?

Clearly the answer is no. So clearly in fact that, as stated earlier, many ufologists have surrendered the ETI hypothesis.

What then is their behaviour?

The initial surprise is the number of cases indicating that they have a sense of humour. For example, small beings are seen near a ship, a human being approaches and does something that provokes amusement in the ufonauts. Good examples are in the Latin American case where the aliens found the witness's smoking absurd¹ and laughed when he explained it. In another, more macabre case, an alien shot a paralysing ray at a witness and then laughed at him.² Though this and other examples may seem sadistic to us, it might be good to remember how much of our humour centres around slipping on banana skins, or the like.

Humour, as any comedian or psychologist will tell you, results from the discrepancy between our expectations and the reality, i.e. between our emotions (convictions, pretensions, vanities, etc.) and the true world. Though humour requires thought, it requires the tension between thought and emotions to be triggered.

As well as humour numerous cases involving hoaxes or ridiculous mis-statements abound. True, most have dealt with the more questionable contactee cases. But it also applies to even the very best documented cases, such as the CIA contact case in 1959 in which a CIA agent at Langley, Virginia, CIA Headquarters, supposedly made contact with a UFO alien. Asking for proof the others were directed to a window where they saw a UFO hovering outside. And yet the information conveyed via the agent who was in a trance was nonsense.³

Not only are humour and hoaxes evidence that at least some of the ufonauts have emotions and can react like us, but also it suggests more. "Sadistic" humor and hoaxes indicate a strong sense of self worth in the aliens. They are very aware of the difference between us and them, and feel very superior. This may seem obvious but it means that they have well developed egos, and it argues for a complex emotional life.

Going beyond humour we can see many suggestions of play in their behaviour. The way they chase cars, buzz planes and play tag with Air Force jets and lift cars and animals off the ground are some

common examples. The shutting down of electrical systems, playing hide-and-seek with radar by letting themselves be periodically detected, disappearing and then reappearing again, and the Coyne helicopter incident,⁴ demonstrate a more sophisticated sense of play. The harassing of military and civilian air bases (like sitting on the runway until all hell breaks loose), the "displays" they put on with their lights and aerial acrobatics – even though they could fly almost unnoticed – and even the more bizarre contactee cases involving messages saying that the investigators will find no proof of their visit, and the already-mentioned flashes of humour, all seem to indicate, in an endless stream, a play-oriented mentality. There was even a case in South America in which three aliens were seen playing "ball" with huge rocks much like the cavorting of our men on the moon.⁵ And why not? When one thinks about it, play is an integral part of the learning process of animals on Earth (mammals). It is an emotional and "fun" method of absorbing information and the main, non-formal way of learning.

Other characteristics can be seen. Curiosity for one. In the Betty and Barney Hill case the reaction of the ufonauts in discovering Barney's false teeth was dramatic.⁶ While curiosity is related to rationality, it is an instinctive reaction which triggers the desire to understand. Abductions and contactee cases tell of compassion and kindness in alien behaviour. Fear of men, or at least of too close a contact with them, is repeatedly demonstrated; how often do they see a man approaching and rush back into their craft and take off, even when the witness is a defenceless child? In some of the abductions, cases of anger, impatience and irritation have also been recorded.

Even hostility and destructiveness have been displayed – sometimes quite deliberate, even calculated. Note the number of possible UFO-caused Air Force plane crashes, including the F-89 jet over the US-Canadian border in 1953 which merged with a UFO on a radar scope and vanished.⁷ Or the planned unprovoked attack on a Brazilian army border post,⁸ or the wanton destruction of an African village.⁹ And surely power blackouts, if UFO related, can be very dangerous for hospital patients, traffic, etc. Occasionally, direct attacks on people have been reported – from immobilising with ray guns to capturing for examination and leaving permanent scars on their victims' psyches.

Taken altogether, the sum of these actions do not suggest a super-rational creature. Rational to be sure, but with minds linked to strong emotions. No doubt comparisons with humans would show a different scale of emotions. For instance it is inconceivable that humans could be so restrained for so long a period on a foreign planet were we so clearly able to dominate it. Though intentional and unintentional lapses of discipline occur (as shown above) humans, we believe, would be far more aggressive, exploitive and destructive. Ufonauts are much more controlled – whether from self-restraint or from an outside source. In addition, the ufonauts seem to operate on a different time scale. Human patience, in merely observing a foreign planet, would have been exhausted years ago. Decades and centuries of

waiting are not the way Earthlings are conditioned.

One final, more hopeful note. The humanoids seem to lack our sense of greed. Certainly man, in their place, would have begun to exploit us more than they have done. Yes, they have taken water, some animals, plants and mineral samples, but really very little. One finds it hard to believe that even with the best of motives, some humans would not turn "criminal" and begin to exploit the planet much more. Somehow we are off limits to the ufonauts; that is, generally we are left alone and are not molested, *we are protected*. Like the great game reserves in Africa, strict laws must exist to prevent interference. Incidents do occur, but they are rare — much rarer than poachers in Africa. Which brings the authors to the key of our argument. We have finished examining the door and the lock, let's find the key to open it.

* * * * *

II—THE NATURE RESERVE HYPOTHESIS

LET'S assume they are tourists.

"All right, so what?" the reader may ask. "So you've established that ufonauts are probably partly emotional (that is partly non-rational). What does that prove?"

It means this: Just as various aliens may have different reasons for coming here, so may any one type of aliens have different motives as well. We have developed a new concept on UFO motivation. From a rigid assumption that UFOs are here for one purpose, we have moved to the more realistic view that alien reasons may be as *complex, various* and *emotional* as our own. If we have come a long way to state the obvious it may be because UFO analysis itself has so far to go.

To illustrate this complexity we will take examples from our own history: Hawaii and Australia. Between them they have seen the gamut of human reasons for coming to new and strange places.

Hawaii was uninhabited until the Polynesian. He came to escape religious conflict and over-population. Captain Cook came for exploration, curiosity, and to broaden knowledge and expand the Empire. The whalers came for rest, recreation and refits — snug harbour and supplies. The missionaries came to spread their religions. The white businessman to make riches and exploit the soil and resources. Orientals emigrated for jobs and money and opportunity. Merchant navies stopped for trade and supplies, the US Navy for military defence, and the tourists for the beauty, climate and fun.

Australia has a different background, and though many reasons are identical, others are different. Who knows why the Aborigines came? Perhaps they were pushed out of their ancestral homelands. The convicts had no choice, because England had overcrowded prisons. The Irish came because of political revolutions, the free settlers for a better chance than in England, the gold seekers for instant wealth. And so on. Reasons abounded.

And the UFOs?

We can eliminate some reasons right away, for they do not seem to fit into the pattern of sightings: greed, exploitation and Empire building seem remote

possibilities. If anything we are a nature reserve, free from being preyed upon. So far they have left us alone.

Among the motives available, the following are good bets:

1. **Investigation** — this would explain their relatively constant low-profile on Earth. The incessant, ordinary, low number of sightings seen throughout the years. It would also explain the sightings near new science buildings, technological sites, schools, military bases, power stations, etc. In general a pretty thorough low-key surveillance would be maintained. Teams of researchers might include historians, scientists and cataloguers. These teams would help explain abductions, examinations, sample taking, tests carried out on humans (such as food-giving), dissections, and the apparent scanning of our communications system.

2. **A supply and R & R port** — Merchant and military shipping may stop here covertly for some supplies and to give their crews a rest. Cases of taking water and tapping power could be in this category. After all, "Earth" is really a misleading name for our planet. From space it *really* looks like a water planet, and no doubt would be inviting for some life forms; which brings us to our next and most significant category.

3. **A Nature Reserve** — or put more simply, a tourist spot. At first glance the third idea may sound obvious, or simplistic, or ridiculous. But is it?

Beginning with the idea that Earth is a nature reserve, does this fit the facts? Well, taken with points 1 & 2, frankly yes. While there certainly has been localised intense activity by UFOs, the vast majority of the sightings seem to deliberately avoid close or prolonged contact of any sort.

Indeed it is the very elusiveness of the quarry which upsets us. "Why don't they land and contact us?" is the often-heard demand. Clearly they are under orders not to, either self, or externally imposed. In some way, they have been instructed to refrain from greatly disturbing our planet. And while Keel and others may insist that they are here to hoax and brainwash us, surely their level of activity in this direction is minimal compared, say, to the propaganda that has come from a tiny country like Uganda. It hardly affects us deeply. No, we are not just ignored, we are avoided.

Compare this with an African game reserve and, though unflattering, the analogy is telling. In both cases "foreigners" enter the reserve on the overriding assurance they will not molest the animals. Camera safaris are encouraged, killing or provoking the animals forbidden. Nevertheless, experts keep close and continual tabs on the animals to study their habits and their inter-relationships. Note the parallels with UFOs. We have persistent sightings, with occasional sudden waves. Perhaps Earth has its tourist seasons like Europe and the South Pacific.

Yet to be honest, disruptions do take place: shootings by rays, destructive acts, and so on. Again go back to the African game parks. In spite of the strictest laws, poachers still exist; and even the best behaved and most well-intentioned human sometimes

accidentally provokes an animal through fear or ignorance. The "white hunter" is sometimes called upon to kill to protect the client: or perhaps he fires his rifle just to warn the animal off. This last point could explain the numerous UFO cases where a witness has become too close, or suddenly approaches the craft of the ufonauts and is paralyzed by a ray, or is inadvertently burnt by "radioactivity" when the UFO races away.

Now the reader may begin to understand how crucial the earlier inquiry into the "Mr. Spock" myth was. By no longer insisting upon entirely logical sequences of thought, and by opening up the possibility of emotional (and human-like) reactions, UFO behaviour starts to jell.

But, but, but...what about all the meaningless behaviour? The buzzing of cars, repeated landings in some drab spots, examining the same type of trees over and over, the incessant taking of the most ordinary rocks, plants and so on?

Fine, let's take them one at a time from the viewpoint of the tourist:

A. UFO obsession with cars and other mechanical vehicles

Time in and time out the question has been raised: Why would an advanced race capable of building UFOs continually be attracted to a primitive vehicle like a car? After all, any good study team should have detailed the car's performance levels years ago.

As a tourist I go to South America, what do I want to see? Their jet planes? Their new Cadillacs? No, I want to see their bullock carts. Or the primitive chariots of ancient Egypt in the museums, or the ancient steam trains of the American wild west. *Yes*, it may be as obvious as that. Each new tourist will want to see a quaint car and how these quaint human beings react in them. Hence the thousands of reports of UFO-car encounters. Just new batches of gawking tourists. And it is a fact of the tourist industry that the more tourists come to a place and the more touristy it becomes, the more superficial and repetitious become the tours. It becomes the done thing to do.

B. The incessant visual examination of the most mundane objects – from trees to open fields.

Once again a survey team should have detailed them long before. And the answer is the same as in section A above. Each new tourist will want to see the same things, the done thing, the recognized attractions. In fact it turns into a self-perpetuating cycle: a ufonaut sees an oak tree and is fascinated – maybe they do not have trees back home, or maybe all their trees are only 4 feet tall, or maybe they once had trees thousands or millions of years ago – and the tourist grows excited about his "discovery." He goes home and raves about it to his friends. They want to see it too; they come and see it, then they go home and rave about it and... In this way even the seemingly dull flat prairie of Kansas could become a must to see, especially if vast cities dominate their planet and rural scenery is unusual. As on Earth what the locals take for granted the visitor actually seeks out.

C. The constant sample taking – of the most ordinary things.

The answer to this puzzle is both simple and a little amusing. Souvenirs: Memento stealing is as old as history. In our time the Acropolis in Athens is being threatened both by pollution *and* the thousands of tiny chips people steal for keepsakes. With a whole planet at their disposal such mementos would hardly be missed. And though valueless to us, to an average tourist they would make keen conversation pieces.

Other possibilities, more official in nature, could involve zoos, museums, scientific laboratories, guest lectures and Earth Specialists. There might even be a large souvenir industry for Earth's knick-knacks.

D. The odd playful antics often associated with UFOs.

Though a vaguer category, examples of these would include two or more UFOs playing tag with each other, the buzzing of planes, cars and ships. These suggest a kind of teasing, sowing-wild-oats behaviour often seen by tourists on holiday. Several reports mention identical UFOs exchanging ufonauts which might be similar to two tourists switching motor cycles or bicycles for makeshift races. Numerous cases indicate junior ships playing tag or "chicken" with a mother ship. This kind of boisterousness is commonly associated with holiday-makers.

And for that matter so is the whole theory that often people are deliberately shown a UFO event, that is offered as a display, perhaps trying to get our amazed responses.

Any and all of these examples and many more, can be cases of acting up and letting off steam well known to the tourist industry.

E. Flaps and UFO landing zones – particularly the more offbeat unremarkable areas chosen.

By extrapolating the idea of why they land in remote areas we have seen how odd, "dull" spots could become active and well-visited areas. In fact the tourist hypothesis best explains that perplexity. As it explains the flaps which so baffle us.

While no doubt ego-deflating, flaps could merely be the various peak tourist seasons of various aliens. Or, more likely, specially designed trips coming for a visit. In this way flaps could be regular or irregular and still be the result of the same cause, especially if different aliens were involved.

(Sadly this might mean that the predictability of flaps might prove impossible or only of consequence in anticipating them to gather data.)

For example, cruise ships might tour the Pacific each year but only stop at New Caledonia occasionally, depending on the booking of a convention, or the type of holidays anticipated. If one compounds this with numerous pleasure cruise companies and numerous merchant ships from different countries, we begin to grasp how complex their behaviour may seem to a totally ignorant native studying ships which reach his shore – which is what we unfortunately are.

Using our knowledge of UFOs we can perhaps

validate this analogy. The mother ships would seem to fit this very nicely. A huge ship is used to transport the tourist over the vast bulk of the distance, then it anchors offshore and lets the tenders take them to Earth. Many sightings over the world (e.g. Cressy, Tasmania in Australia for one) ¹⁰ show a large mother ship surrounded by smaller more typical UFOs. Sometimes the smaller craft play tag, sometimes they are leaving the bigger ship, sometimes entering it — occasionally all three. Indeed, the system may even be more complex: the mother ships may only be solar ferries taking a packet of small UFOs across and around a solar system while the truly enormous interstellar craft waits beyond the fringe of the solar region.

An excellent explanation of how this procedure might work can be found in A.C.O.S. Bulletin No. 16 — December 1978 in the article by John Prytz titled “Are there too many UFOs?”

Taking this idea still further several other puzzles begin to clear. The wide range of types of craft would be the result of different cultures’ vehicles. Much as different nations prefer various designs for their cars so would different ufonauts. Even the same type of aliens might have differing UFOs. If anyone thinks this is ridiculous just compare the space craft of the only two truly space nations of Earth.

And if mother ships were solar ferries of a sort they could be carrying many types of UFOs quite regularly. The mother ships might even be permanently sited for our solar region and used by many different types of ufonauts and their various craft. Our cruise ships carry several types of small boats after all; and designs of cruise ships themselves vary from boating architect to architect.

Moreover, tours to any such nature reserve would probably be restricted to preset areas. This would be advisable for convenience in arranging tours and to control the tourists from molesting humans, or locating a UFO in trouble on Earth. It would be a safety factor like white hunters on safaris. This could also help explain why isolated, apparently ordinary areas would become flap zones year after year.

Another puzzling aspect of flaps is that they are both repetitive and localized like Tully in Queensland, Australia” which has had UFO sightings periodically, and yet other times suddenly intensive over large areas of the globe. Tourism fits this picture splendidly. There would be certain spots, well known and on everyone’s must-see list, and others visited erratically on one-off tours. The Tully reports might consist of investigation teams and the tourists who do not have to travel during peak seasons; the world flaps can be the peak seasons or big cruise ships coming into our port.

We should also remember that the flaps we record may be totally one-eyed. The huge, mainly empty Polar zones may be the site of massive undetected flaps. And as we pointed out previously we are really the Water planet. How many sightings might be discovered if we could keep comprehensive watch under the oceans? Marine biology may be the bulk of their interest here. There have been many reports near ships on the open seas and even a few USOs.

Such tourist programmes would remain basically unknown.

* * * * *

Several final additional points can be discussed:

Earth may be the centre of a large research project as well as mere survey teams. Some sightings could relate to educational courses back on their home planets. (Note how we say planets: if the ETI hypothesis is correct, then the plurality of ufonauts must be faced and come to grips with.) Language studies and cultural differentiation within the same species could be solid areas of interest on Earth. So could “primitive” development be of value to their anthropologists. Their scientific investigations could cover far more than mere zoology and ecology. If, as CEIII cases suggest, aliens do communicate through telepathy we may be forgetting a simple fact. It could mean that we too are at least telepathically receptive, and at the formative stage of this ability. Perhaps this is their main area of study.

Or perhaps those special flap zones are somehow places where the psychic aspects (assuming we have them) are intensified; which may be the reason they are attracted to those spots.

Or perhaps historically we are at a recognized crisis point and they are here to record it and compare it to their own. The tourists might even come for that reason: “see it before it disappears,” or “they won’t let you see it later,” is a common mode of thought among us; perhaps for them too.

Maybe technologically we are on the edge of a major breakthrough and it will change our entire civilization. “See the bullock carts this year, next year they all may have cars.”

Or we may be the only intelligent, yet primitive humanoid, within 50 parsecs.

They may come just to laugh at our backwardness.

Or perhaps it is beautiful Saturn which brings them here and we are a mere afterthought.

The possibilities are endless, but the basic logic persuasive. After all, of those of us who travel great distances, how many have only one paltry motive?

* * * * *

Undoubtedly there will be numerous objections to our theory. Most will reduce it to being unproven. The authors readily agree. What we have done is to put the “nature reserve” hypothesis forward and tried to test it against the phenomenon. Circumstantially it fits; it even works. Certainly it works better than any other ETI or alternate theory, but of course we cannot prove it until we actually get our hands on a UFO.

However, we feel we can state two things with assurance. One is a concept upon which the theory hangs and the other is in refutation to a possible challenge to the idea.

1. Ufonauts are definitely not super-rational or single purposed. Any open objective analysis of the phenomenon using the ETI or any other theory as its axiom bears this out.

They are here for a myriad causes.

2. And though the idea of the Earth as a tourist target may seem irrelevant, or petty, or absurdly simple, let us look at it from a human point of view. As we prosper and our standard of living rises, tourism grows by leaps and bounds. The UN has said that by the year 2000 tourism will be the largest industry in the world. Other reports suggest it could be that already. With the increase in affluence and leisure time people travel more and more. They want to see the world, why not the galaxy? — if possible. Tourist flights to the moon are already being booked.

Doubtless, many critics will object to the enormous cost to get here from another solar system and would an advanced society waste its resources they may ask? But how many people right now spend more on a holiday than on a new car, often half or more of a year's salary? People plan for months or years for their trips. Besides, if one did a trip of fifty suns then the costs would lessen per trip and competition would make it even cheaper. The mother ships as solar ferries then become quite sensible: each ufonaut brings his own small UFO — hence their diversity — and uses the bigger ships to travel around.

Tourism is one of the great economic, educational and enlightening factors in the world. It produces wealth, tolerance and understanding between individuals and nations. Labelling it trivial is to ignore its power and attractiveness. For really tourism is part of the quest to know, and in the final analysis that is what drove man to space. Why not another being from another sun?

References

1. Coral and Jim Lorenzen, *Encounters with UFO Occupants*, Berkley Medallion Book, April 1976, p. 161.
2. Ibid, p. 127-128.
3. David Michael Jacobs, *The UFO Controversy in America*, New American Library, September 1976, p. 153-154.
4. Jennie Zeidman, "UFO-Helicopter Close Encounter Over Ohio," *Flying Saucer Review* Vol. 22, No. 4, 1976, p. 15.
"More on the Coyne Helicopter Case", *FSR* Vol. 23, No. 4, 1977, P. 16.
5. Gordon Creighton, *The Humanoids*, Editor Charles Bowen, Neville Spearman, London, 1969, p. 88-89.
6. John G. Fuller, *The Interrupted Journey*, The Dial Press, New York, 1966. Also, paperback 1967 by the Dell Publishing Co. Inc., New York, p. 209.
7. Paris Flammonde, *UFOs Exist!*, Ballantine Books, New York, C 1976, p. 327.
8. Coral and James Lorenzen, *UFOs The Whole Story*, New American Library, C 1969, p. 185.
9. There are two reported such cases:
 - a) at Kirimukuyu, Kenya, June 1954 by Brad Steiger, *Flying Saucers are Hostile*, 1967, p. 16.
 - b) at Saladare, Ethiopia 1970 by J. Allen Hynek and Jacques Vallee, *The edge of Reality; a progress report on Unidentified Flying Objects*, Henry Regnery Co., Chicago C 1975.
10. *Launceston Examiner*, October 10, 18, 29, 1960 also see "UFOs, an International Scientific Problem," by Dr. J. E. McDonald, Case no. 2 presented at the Canadian Aeronautics and Space Institute — Astronautics Symposium, Montreal Canada March 12, 1968. [Paul Norman, in "Motherships' over Australia" (*FSR* Vol. 24, No. 5) quotes at length from Dr. J. E. McDonald —EDITOR]

11. Stan Seers, "The Tully North Queensland Saucer 'nests' 1966 and 1969," and article compiled from Stan Seers' original report by Bob Denton and Colin A. Phillips, Sept. 1977, [See also: *Judith Magee*, "Queensland Again" *FSR* Vol. 12, No. 2 March-April 1966. and Stan Seers and William Lasich, "North Queensland UFO Saga. *FSR* Vol. 15, No. 3, May-June 1969 —EDITOR.]

* * * * *

- Our special thanks to Matthew Dick for his assistance in research.
- © 1 February 1979 by R. H. Marx and R. Delillo. Reproduction of material in this article by any source without permission of the authors or of the Editor of *Flying Saucer Review* is prohibited.

YOUR CLIPPINGS of newspaper items are very welcome. We apologise here for being generally unable to acknowledge these items as the pressure of work on our tiny staff and on our postage resources is too great. However, please do not be deterred by this seeming lack of courtesy. We really do appreciate anything you care to send.

UFOs & SPACE AGE PUBLICATIONS

UFOs AROUND THE WORLD, by T. G. Beckley

£3.50

UFOs REVIEW No. 4, the first American UFO newspaper available.

70p

THE ZETA RETICULI INCIDENT, by Terence Dickinson

£1.50

THE NIGHT MUTILATORS by Gene Duplantier. Animal mutilators and the UFO connection, Photos and maps included.

£2.00

TIMEWARPS, by Dr. J. G. Gribbin. Space, time and the paranormal. Cosmology and black holes

£6.70

ALIEN INTELLIGENCE by Stuart Holroyd. A mind boggling investigation into non-human intelligences including apes, dolphins, whales, computers, demons, ghosts and extra terrestrials, etc.

£6.70

UFOs & THE CHRISTIAN,

by Rev. Eric Inglesby

£3.00

THE UFO QUESTION (Not Yet Answered) by P. J. Wilcox.

£5.95

SUNGODS IN EXILE, by Karyl Robin-Evans. Edited by David Agamon M. A. Secrets of the Dzopa of Tibet

£4.10

UFOs, PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE,

by R. Emenegger

£1.05

A CATALOGUE OF 200 TYPE 1 UFO EVENTS IN SPAIN AND PORTUGAL, by Ballester Olmos

£3.50

A HELICOPTER UFO ENCOUNTER OVER OHIO, by Jennie Zeidman

£6.00

FLYING SAUCERS & THE STRAIGHT-LINE MYSTERY, by Aimé Michel

£5.50 rare.

Prices include pos

Prices include postage 7 packing. Dollars acceptable, plus \$1.00 bank charge on complete order. \$1.00-50p approximately. Booklists sent free with order. 20p if ordered separately. Prices and availability subject to change. Enquires should include a s.a.e or international reply coupon. Write to:

Miss S. R. Stebbing, 41 Terminus Drive, Beltinge, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 6PR England.

A VERY PERSONAL ENCOUNTER "SOMEWHERE IN SUSSEX"

Patricia B. Grant

THE letter UFOIN received from this witness seemed to be a straightforward account of a daylight disc observed for about 15 minutes at fairly close range. Subsequent interviews and correspondence have uncovered far more detail to give rise to speculation that the witness remembers only part of the sighting.

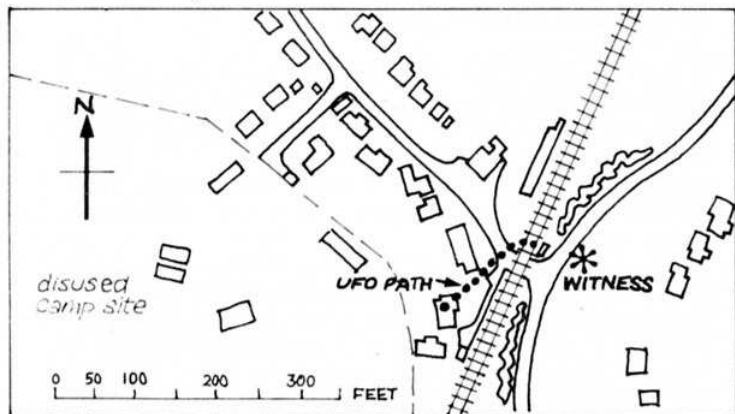
Denise is a highly intelligent young matron with an above average standard of education, and has recently served in a branch of the British Military Services where she was fully trained in aircraft recognition. On a bright cloudless day in the autumn of 1977 she stood at a bus stop on the outskirts of a small village in the South East of England. It was about 5.20 p.m., although her bus was not due until 5.40. This was due to the fact that she had missed it in the past because the hourly service had been erratic, sometimes very early and sometimes late.

The UFO

She had just finished lighting a cigarette when she noticed a sharply defined, black oval object which appeared over the roof of a house about 220 feet away and almost due West South West from her position. (In retrospect she feels the object may have been rising from the grounds of an abandoned camp site behind the house, but this thought did not occur to her until months later when she and I were studying the Ordnance Survey map of the area.)

As she watched the object and tried to determine what type of aircraft it was, she felt "extremely amazed that there was absolutely no engine noise at all..." The speed of the craft was equally astonishing. "It was at an elevation of about 50 degrees rising to 55 degrees in a total of five minutes... the speed was so unnaturally slow for a vehicle of such a size..."

The she stated: "A Harrier would be able to



This map of location and sighting is accurate to scale shown, and to cardinal points.

Mrs. Grant is a member of UFOIN who lives in mid-Kent, and this is the first investigation she has undertaken. Readers will appreciate the need to withhold both the proper name of the witness (the name used here is a pseudonym) and the nature of her work, as well as the location of the event, in East Sussex; the interests — indeed the well-being — of the witness have to be protected in any report when requested. The features of the incident that are of real interest lie in the way it happened to a "repeater" witness, in the continuing effects on the witness, and in the subsequent incidents such as the figure at the window, and the surprising effect on the dog. Certain aspects of this case bring to mind that of Mrs. Coombes, the "repeater" witness who lives near Broad Haven in Dyfed, the subject of a number of reports in FSR.

— EDITOR

make these manoeuvres but the engine noise would have been unbearable." It was a very large craft (the object appeared to her to be larger than a 4" diameter plate held at arms length). She believes that it may have been no more than 300 feet in altitude, but concedes that there is no way to establish this because at no time did it pass in front of any object to which she could relate it.

Denise continued: "Still appearing to be black, the 'nose' part of the oblong shape appeared to be red. I feel this was possibly a reflection of the sun."

By this time Denise had realised that this was no known aircraft and on impulse she waved in its direction. "I hope you won't think I'm crazy, but I thought 'come down here and let me get a good look at you.'" She was not at all frightened and sensed no hostility or danger. Immediately the disc changed course and began to move in her direction. "It then very slowly moved to an elevation of 90 degrees. This manoeuvre took a total of ten minutes. Still no noise at all..." She finds difficulty in determining the size the object appeared to be at this stage, but she says it was "very close."

At this point the witness became aware of the time, and was wondering when the bus would arrive. It was very late. Then: "The black oblong shape appeared to decrease in length and the sun's reflection showed me it had a type of dome on top and was oval underneath."

She could see it clearly now. It seemed to be a light greenish grey metal with a moderately reflective surface. There was a "greenish-blue" light at the top of the dome. The dish-shaped underside was slightly tilted towards her. The whole object was slowly spinning in a clockwise direction and hovered over a shed 50 feet in front of her, about 15 degrees North