

south-west", and in fact Pu-Xian County does indeed lie precisely to the south-west of Yu-Zi. Could it be that the "thing" was first seen at Yu-Zi and then fell in Pu-Xian County, and, when the Pu-Xian people saw it, it had ended up beneath a willow tree, its speed by then having been reduced so that consequently it no longer looked so bright?

Some Accounts of "Fiery Balls"

The old books contain numerous references to "fiery balls", most of them doubtless being ordinary shooting stars. But a few of them do not seem to be shooting stars, and I give some examples:—

"In the third moon of the 18th year of the Ming Dynasty Emperor Chong-Zhen (A.D. 1634) a shooting star appeared at Can-Su. It gave out an intermittent sound and was of a red fiery colour like thread. It dropped straight down to the ground and, after a good while, its light was extinguished. It was seen by people at Fen-Zhou and at Ping-Yang ... During the night of the 24th day of the twelfth moon, in the sky at Jie-Ti, a bright fiery object shaped like a bushel was seen. It rose up from the west and came down in the south-west, and as it passed it made a noise."

"In the sixth moon of the eighth year of the Emperor Kang-Xi (A.D. 1669) a shooting star was seen during the night at Jiang-Zhou and made the night sky as bright as daylight. It came from the south-west and passed between Ming-Lun-Tang and Liang-

Dong, and vanished from sight at Geng-Xu. At Dong-Guan near Huo-Zhou a white vapour like white silk rose up suddenly into the air and passed through dense clouds."

With the exception of the item from the *He-Shun County Annals*, all the foregoing cases come from the SHAN-XI TONG-ZHI (SHAN-XI BULLETIN), and many of them had come originally from old books. No doubt some of these accounts contain hearsay and rumour, akin to "religious superstition", but they cannot simply have been concocted without foundation. I think we ought to collect all these old accounts together and put them in order and give a scientific description of them.

(Romanization in Pin-Yin system. G.C.)

NOTES AND REFERENCES

- (1) 飞碟探索 1985/1
- (2) 山西通志
- (3) 沈括: 梦溪笔谈
- (4) 苏东坡: 游金山寺
- (5) 和顺县志

THE "PIEZO-PERINATAL" SCENE: A LETTER FROM BUDD HOPKINS TO "FATE" MAGAZINE

So long ago as 1976 (FSR Vol. 22, No. 3) we printed the article *Hypnotic Regression of Alleged CE-III Cases: Ambiguities on the Road to UFOs*, by Dr. Alvin H. Lawson, Professor of English at California State University, Long Beach. And we have referred to this egregious piece of theorizing on a number of occasions since then, notably in our Editorial in Vol. 29, No. 1; in Antonio Ribera's article on abductees in Vol. 29, No. 6; and in our introduction to his *Soria Abduction: Part I*, in Vol. 30, No. 3.

There was also the important article by Larry Fenwick and his colleagues of CUFORN (*Canadian Rock-Band Abducted?*), in FSR Vol. 29, No. 3 and, most important of all, without any doubt whatever, Dr. J. Allen Hynek's article, *Abductees Are "Normal" People*, in FSR Vol. 30, No. 3.

Mr. Budd Hopkins, author of the remarkable book *Missing Time: A Documented Study of UFO Abductions*, has now given us a copy of the following letter which he recently addressed to the Editor of *FATE* Magazine. We agree with Mr. Hopkins that it may well be of interest to many of our readers, for, as Dr. Hynek has observed (*and his question still remains unanswered*), if all the abduction reports are the results of perinatal traumata, then why on earth do the patients always blather about having been inside dome-shaped contraptions and seen sundry queer characters (either giants or mere runts) who mess about with them generally and engage in physical and medical examinations of them? *Why — for example — don't they start reporting, for a change, having seen pink elephants or double-decker London buses?*

(Incidentally a newly-born babe would scarcely be likely to remember a huge normal-sized obstetrician or nurse as a runt smaller than himself!)

Mr. Hopkins' book, which was published in 1981 by Richard Marek Inc., 200 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016) is available in Britain from Ms. Stebbing, and we can thoroughly recommend it. It has already been excellently reviewed for us by Janet and Colin Bord in their *FSR Bookshelf-13* (see our Vol. 27, No. 5). — Editor

To the Editor:
"FATE" MAGAZINE

246 W. 16th St.
N.Y., N.Y. 10011
March 15, 1985

Dear Sir,

It is a dreary task, I'm afraid, to have to deal yet again with Prof. Alvin Lawson's absurd "explanation" of UFO abduction reports. Arguing with all the ingrained habits of the English teacher that he is, Lawson constantly confuses superficial resemblance with causal connection. Thus, since some abductees describe their captors as looking, in Lawson's interpretation, "fetus-like", there must be a causal connection; the abductee must be remembering his own birth, disguised as a UFO abduction! Let's forget, for the time being, the mystery of how a new-born infant knows what he looked like as a partly formed fetus (the old mirror-and-light-in-the-womb-trick). Let's also not ask why, since the abductee was presumably delivered as a full-term baby and not a half-formed fetus, he should have any "fetus imagery" in his "birth trauma recollections" in the first place. Let's only ask what kind of warped logic lies behind a "birth recollection — UFO abduction account" in which the baby — recollected as a fully-grown adult — appears on the examination table surrounded by fetuses! What became of the doctors and nurses?

Lawson has asked UFO investigators to compare abductees' actual birth experiences with "relevant" details from their UFO accounts. He has said that if there is no connection his theory should be discarded. Well, I followed his suggestion and did my own survey in a number of cases. The woman who described being held by clamp-like devices at one point in her abduction account ("an obvious forceps delivery") was the third of four children and was delivered so fast that her mother barely made it into the hospital. No forceps. One abductee who was, in fact, a "forceps delivery" was *walked* into the UFO as casually as one could wish. No clamps. Lawson asks for "even one" Caesarian baby whose abduction account has head pain ("vaginal contraction pressure"). How about a number of normally delivered people whose abduction accounts present *no* head pain? I have several. No remembered "vaginal contraction pressure". And so on. The so-called correlations just don't exist.

Perhaps the most ludicrous assertion of Lawson's theory is his statement that abduction accounts, to be true, must have no "birth imagery". And what is birth imagery, according to Lawson? I quote: "chest straps,

doors, beams of light, humming sounds, probing physical examinations, brightly-lit rooms, spiral stairways, backpacks, bubble headgear, windows", and so on. He challenges investigators to come up with an abduction account that contains — by *his* standard — no birth imagery, an obviously impossible task. I once asked him to make up for me an abduction account that had no birth imagery. He refused, which I and others present (at the 1981 CUFOS conference in Chicago) took to be an admission that his theory could not be falsified; it was, therefore not a testable hypothesis. If a theory can be made to explain everything, every possibility, it obviously explains nothing.

Lawson tries desperately to account for the presence of amnesia so frequently encountered in "missing time" abduction accounts, and brings in some vague reference to a hormone that causes birth contractions in women. This hormone, he says, "causes amnesia in laboratory animals." I had an amnesiac German Shepherd dog once, who told me he could not remember much of his puppyhood, but I never believed him. Never trust a laboratory animal who tells you he's suffering from amnesia, whatever he says. Some animals will lie through their teeth!

I don't mean to overdo my reaction to Lawson's "theory", because I know all too well how frustratingly endless the job of investigating the UFO phenomenon can be, and how emotionally draining. Abduction accounts, taken head on, are immensely unsettling, so it is psychologically understandable to try to explain them away any way one can. *I truly sympathize with Prof. Lawson's need to construct a big, thick carpet to sweep them under.*

The field of UFO investigation is rife with theoreticians out to prove *something* — that the earth is hollow; that cracking rocks can induce elaborate, nearly identical narrative images; that UFOs are built by Nazis living in Antarctica; that nearly every dream or UFO account is an adult recalling the look of things at his birth; or that the CIA is at the back of *everything* ... We've had plasmas, swarming ants, even swamp gas, but if half the energy people have spent on developing tenuous to downright crack-brained theories had been spent on investigating the incidents that are reported to us, and on listening carefully to what the witnesses are saying, we might be closer now to the truth than we seem to be. With all sincerity I invite Alvin Lawson to put theory aside and get back to data, to investigating the temporary disappearances, the physical marks and wounds, the ground traces and independent witness descriptions that accompany

UFO abduction accounts — *and when the abductee describes a doorway, may he think of it as a doorway and not someone's cervix. We need him back.*

Yours truly,
Budd Hopkins

And Now for the Views of Another Psychologist

By pure chance, the same post which brought us Budd Hopkins' letter, also brought an interesting little snippet forwarded by Lucius Farish of Plumerville, Arkansas (an old and valued correspondent of many years standing, from whom we do not seem to have heard lately, so his note is most warmly welcomed!).

The item in question comes from the American publication *Family Weekly* (March 31, 1985) and is as follows:—

What Do You Know? And When Did You First Know It?

The medical profession keeps pushing back the starting point of human consciousness. San Diego

clinical psychologist David Chamberlain has pushed it all the way back to the delivery room. He claims that children have vivid memories of their own births. He says: "Babies are real people, trapped, as it were, in baby bodies. They are fully equipped with sensory and learning abilities."

Chamberlain has asked children under hypnosis to describe their surroundings at the time of their birth. He found that their recollections included such details as Mother's hairstyle, obstetric instruments used, and conversations in the delivery room. In later interviews with their mothers, Chamberlain found that the children's memories were remarkably accurate. And extremely sophisticated. He concludes that "at birth, babies note who is nervous, careless, tired, crying. They sense when fathers are uninterested, afraid, or ecstatic."

Maybe we should find a better welcome to the world for the little nippers than a slap on the behind.

* * * * *

As Lucius Farish comments: "It would appear that *actual* birth memories are far different from Lawson's ideas!". — G.C.

ANOTHER "A.V.B." CASE FROM BRAZIL

*Edgardo R. Fontanet, Director, G.I.I.F.O. UFO Research Group
Santa Fe, Argentina*

We are indebted to Antonio Ribera for this interesting case, which occurred in the far south of Brazil but was investigated by an Argentine group in Santa Fe, to whom, therefore, we also extend our thanks. Toni Ribera points out that the episode, which sounds entirely genuine, fits perfectly into the pattern of the "contactee" as outlined by him in his recent article in FSR 29/6. EDITOR

(Translation from Spanish)

Name of witness: José Ignacio Alvaro
Occupation: student
Age: 20 years
Place of residence: Pelotas, State of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil.
Type of contact: Third Kind
Date: March 2, 1978

The Witness's Account

"**I**T all started at 8.00 p.m. on March 2, 1978, when an electricity failure plunged the town of Pelotas into darkness, and at once a spherical object appeared over the town. I was with Izenozia Silva da Silva and Orlando Costa Silva. I started walking towards the suburb where my parents live, and when I was near

their front entrance I found myself confronted with an extremely strange flying object standing there in front of me. From it came a beam of bluish light, directed at me; my mind became confused and I quickly began to see scenes from my life in my family, and scenes of violence, and a few minutes later I lost consciousness.

"Then, about an hour later, I woke up and found myself at a place about a kilometre distant from my father's house. Half-dazed, I kept hearing just one phrase: 'THE TASK IS ACCOMPLISHED'.

"To convince myself that I was not asleep, being still dazed, I pinched myself several times on my skin and on my face, and quickly made for my parents' place to tell them at once of what had happened to me, for they were already uneasy having heard what my comrades had reported. I tried to sleep, but could