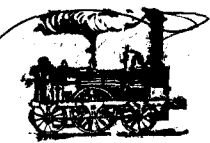


UFOs: 3-D or 4-D+?

"The nature of things is in the habit of concealing itself."—Heraclitus

By Karl T. Pflock and James W. Moseley



What are UFOs? Where do they come from? Why are they here? What do their operators want? These questions have bedeviled ufologists for more than half a century, and appear little closer to being answered objectively and definitively today than they were when they were first asked.

But this does not preclude informed speculation.

Jim Moseley and I have quite different ideas about what the answers may be, and to some degree even what the real questions are. In a nutshell—or, rather, two nutshells—here is what we think. Jim gets the first word.

UFOs—According to Moseley

Throughout recorded history, there have been events of all kinds that do not fit into the proper scheme of things—astronomical apparitions, hauntings, poltergeists, unexplainable coincidences, and, of course, things seen in the sky that should not be there. The champion chronicler of such matters was the late, great Charles Fort, and I am proud to consider myself one of his followers. Fort did not seriously attempt to explain these anomalies. He just threw them in the face of Science and in effect said, "Here. Explain this!"

Some of these weird happenings are easily explainable with a proper knowledge of science and by discarding obviously un-

provable superstitions. Others defy explanation, unless one assumes they are products of delusion, mistake, or hoaxing. On the other hand, there rarely is any physical proof to back up these startling claims. Thus, True Believers have a valid excuse for believing, while True Unbelievers have an equally good excuse for disbelieving.

It all depends on your starting point. Objectivity, even with the best of intentions, is almost impossible to come by.

There was a time when the conventional wisdom was that the sun revolves around the earth. Science has since shown us that earth is merely one of several planets revolving about a not particularly important star, just one of countless others in

this huge and extremely peculiar universe.

Yet mankind insists on feeling important. The latest ego trip is to believe we are so important that intelligent beings have come across the void just to study us. This makes us very important indeed!

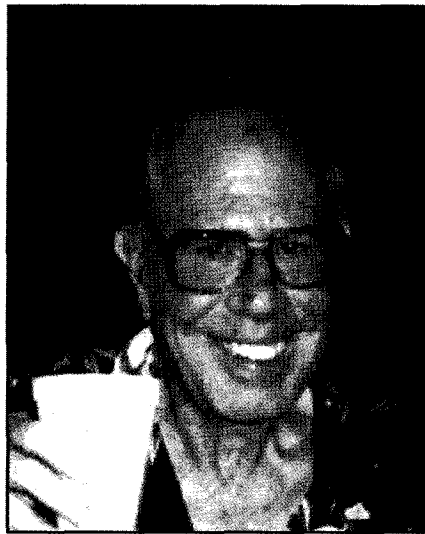
I share the view that life is common in the universe, and that, yes, it sometimes has evolved to become what we would call intelligent. I even accept the idea that, if there were intelligent beings somewhere that just happen to be in what I call the exploring stage, and if they had the motivation and technical means, they might come here. But that is an awful lot of "ifs." I will even grant that the speed-of-light limit could be overcome by a highly technical civilization.

So let us assume "they" could get here if they really wanted to. But I still wonder: Why would they want to? (It has been said there is no life on Mars—except on Saturday night.)

Now compound these improbabilities with another: Our Visitors just happen to look almost exactly like us. Note that most are shorter than us, which is very important. As a race, we are still so primitive that we are less afraid of "little men" (gray, green, or otherwise) than we would be, say, of 20-footers—who theoretically are just as likely as the little guys.

Most of the Visitors who do not fit the little-men category fall into the Benevolent Space Beings box. Here we have Orthon and all the wonderful beings whom contactees of old used to hobnob with. They were full of feel-good philosophy, though they quite literally never told us anything specific that we did not already know. There were no scientific formulas, no precisely accurate predictions, no clear prescriptions for better human relations. Just drivel.

Then there is the problem of no coherent Visitor agenda. The Visitors act in ways that seem arbitrary, meaningless, and sometimes just plain stupid. They are obsessed with sex—as we are—and worst of all, they allegedly impregnate human women, conceiving hybrid babies, something even closely-related earth species cannot do. They leave "implants" in the bodies of selected humans, and yet no one has



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learned why. They perform the same sort of sexual-medical manipulations with humans over and over again, obsessively.

There probably is some sort of truth behind some of this weirdness. But rather than looking to space beings, it seems much more likely to me that we are dealing with an intelligence that is and always has been a permanent four- or extra-dimensional (4-D+) part of the Earth's environment.

Another problem with the idea of space visitors is that earthly evolution has been going on for hundreds of millions of years. Only in the past 5,000 to 10,000 years have we achieved anything resembling civilization. What will we be like if we keep advancing and evolving at the same pace for another million years, or even just a thousand? The results are literally unimaginable.

In 1,000 years, I doubt we will be bothering to go off looking for similar civilizations in space. We will be way beyond that stage, into whatever follows. Today, we are in the exploring stage and may remain so for a couple of hundred more years. Are we interacting with another three-dimensional (3-D) civilization that just happens to be in the same stage? The odds are overwhelmingly against it.

Would a highly advanced civilization be doing what we are doing? I think not. It seems to me that a supremely evolved race would, in effect, be just one entity, with total knowledge, living in a perpetual state

of ecstasy—God, if you like. Such an entity would not be running about looking for primitive creatures like us. It would have no need, no motivation to go anywhere. It would already be "there."

If we insist on believing creatures from other planets are visiting us, we must admit that much of what they do represents "magic," activity beyond our level of comprehension. We can call them advanced beings we do not understand, or 4-D, or whatever we want. The simple fact is, we natives are very primitive, and our Visitors—if any—simply are beyond present understanding.

It is not unreasonable to assume that among the "magic" being practiced upon us are ways of interacting with the human mind. Thus, it is unreasonable to separate "nuts and bolts" UFOs and their occupants from astral entities, philosophical space brothers, poltergeists, Ouija board spirits, et cetera. All are part of the same spectrum of phenomena, all to one degree or another beyond our present knowledge.

We humans do not like to admit anything is beyond the grasp of our minds. So when there are no reasonable answers, we make up something. Better to believe the absurd than to admit ignorance. Yet scientists (theoretically) have learned to say, "We don't know the answer to that," and live with it. They often add, "But we'll know someday." This is an article of faith, which may be true. Meanwhile, 4-D+ reality continues to intrude and we keep making up answers.

UFOs—According to Pflock

A major stumbling block to cracking the UFO mystery is what J. Allen Hynek called the "embarrassment of riches." We are confronted with an incredible array of disparate phenomena on which the label "UFO" has been hung. Call it a UFO, it is a UFO.

Thus some have come to mistake the label for the reality. If science approached its work the way proto-science ufology has, wombats and supernovas would be lumped together, undifferentiated and both about as well understood as UFOs and other anomalies are today. Just because someone

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thinks something is a UFO, or UFO-related, does not make it so.

The seeming connections between and among various paranormal phenomena and UFOs, and many of the particulars of what people report and how they characterize their experiences, seem to me to arise from two perfectly understandable human tendencies. Some are consequences of careless and wishful thinking. More arise from perfectly natural and honest, conscious and unconscious attempts to interpret extraordinary events in terms of ordinary experience.

To the degree anything paranormal (or seemingly so) is associated with reports of things that clearly are nuts-and-bolts vehicles and their quite substantial occupants, it is likely to stem from our present level of knowledge. As Sir Arthur Clarke has observed, any sufficiently advanced science, and its resulting technology, would appear to us as magic. Which does not make it magic in any extra- or supernormal sense.

It just looks that way because we lack a mental-experiential frame of reference to deal with it.

But we may not be all that far away from such understanding. Today, NASA is developing plasma-spike "disk ships" that bear an uncanny resemblance to the flying saucer captured in the famed McMinnville, Oregon, photographs of 1950. These craft will be capable of speeds up to 35,000 miles an hour within the atmosphere, without burning up or creating a sonic boom. In

a U.S. Air Force laboratory just down the road from where I am writing this, scientists are experimenting with model "lightships," which make true right-angle turns and can both hover and accelerate faster than the human eye can follow, seeming to just disappear into and appear out of thin air. Is this beginning to sound like flying saucers to you? Then there are quantum computers, the recent announcement of new materials that cause certain laws of physics to run backward, the potential for tapping into "free" zero-point energy, and so on and on.

Today's paranormal phenomena may well be tomorrow's everyday technology—and may be so already for advanced civilizations on planets orbiting other stars.

Some suggest UFO beings are too much like us to be from another planet. However, it stands to reason that space-faring beings would seek out worlds similar to their own. As a consequence of evolutionary selection, odds are that such travelers would bear a passing resemblance to the locals—in this case, us. This dispute was amusingly summed up in a television talk-show exchange between astronomer-skeptic Carl Sagan and UFO abductee Betty Hill. Sagan said he would find elephant-like aliens more believable than humanoids. Mrs. Hill retorted, "If they looked like elephants, then they'd be bothering the elephants." My money is on Betty's assessment.

There are far too many credible UFO reports on record which are most simply and directly explained as encounters with extraterrestrial craft and beings to dismiss such an explanation in favor of a "unified field theory" of all things tagged UFO. If these forced bedfellows were instead carefully sorted out and independently subjected to rigorous study, relating them as such study suggests it is appropriate to do, we would be much more likely to understand what we are dealing with in all cases—nuts-and-bolts saucers and paranormal phenomena alike.

Based on the evidence, I am of the opinion that we have been visited by 3-D

beings from an extra-solar planet of our galaxy. I think they came here because our sun and its planets seemed cozily familiar. They studied our entire system and us quite closely for 30 years or so.

Once in a while a couple of alien graduate students got out of hand and buzzed the natives. On occasion some ambitious scientists overstepped a bit and grabbed a human or two for study—as, for example, in the famous (and, in my opinion, very real) 1961 abduction of Betty and Barney Hill.

Then they moved on, leaving us wondering, dreaming, hoping, and more than a little confused. They may have left automatic monitors or even a small contingent of observers behind to keep an eye on things. If so, they probably will return and eventually make overt contact. It would behoove us to be ready when they do, to make their "magic" ours and meet them on as equal a footing as possible.

You Make the Call

UFOs: 3-D, 4-D+, or something else entirely? We leave it to you to decide. ■

Karl Pflock, writer and ufologist, is contributing editor of his coauthor's Saucer Smear, the insider news-, gossip-, and humor-zine of ufology. Jim Moseley has been a prominent figure in ufology since 1954, and is editor and publisher of Saucer Smear. Karl and Jim are collaborating on Shockingly Close to the Truth!—Confessions of a Grave-Robbing Ufologist, Jim's ufological memoirs, where the many dimensions of ufology are explored from the inside.