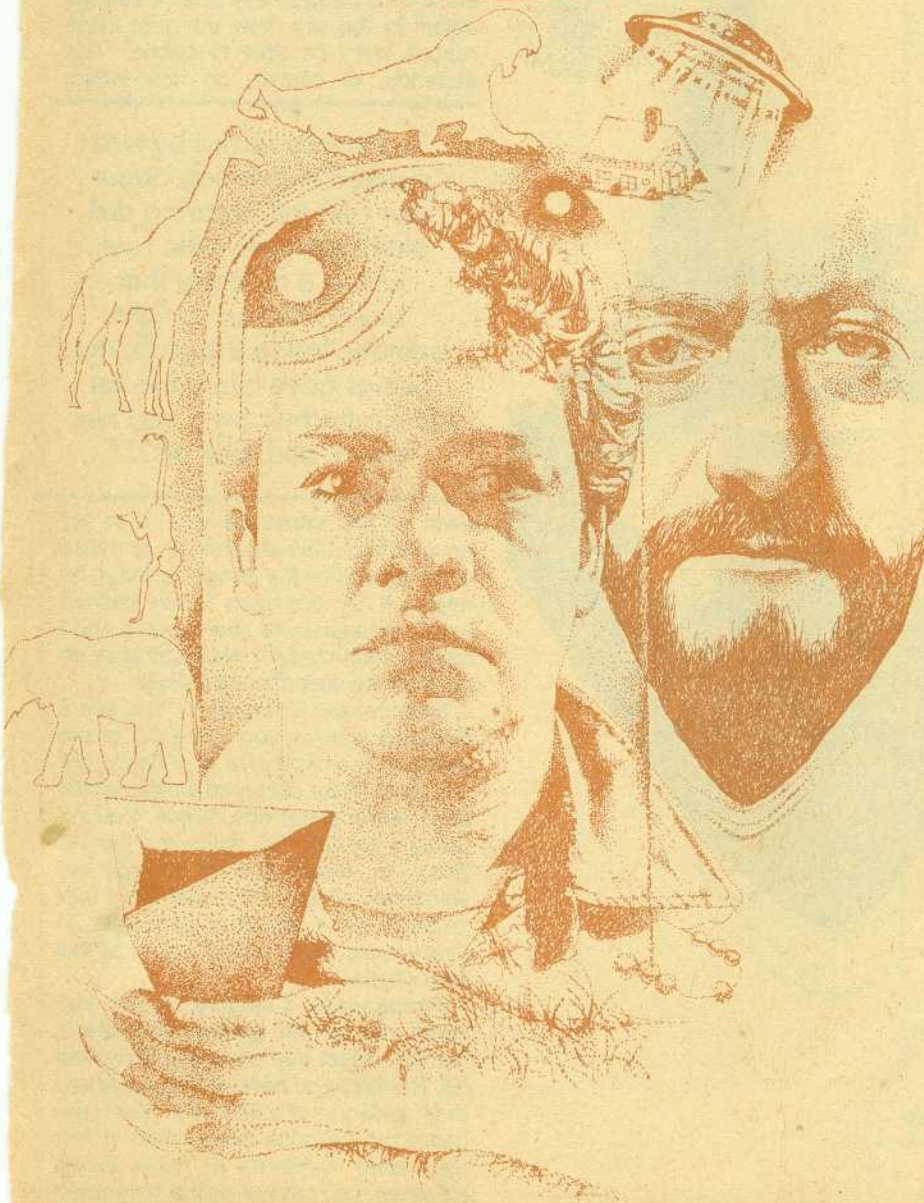


INVESTIGATING THE 7 ZONES OF THE UFO PHENOMENON

Renowned author and scientist Jacques Vallee has been delving into UFO sightings for many years and has reached some astounding conclusions.

By Jacques Vallee



Almost as if by accident, we seem to have come across something very important. We have encountered a multifaceted phenomenon and we are trying very hard to ignore it, because it does not fit into any neat category and refuses to be dragged under a microscope to be examined. Instead, it appears to seek confrontation with us *on its own terms*. What are these terms? What kind of human experience does a close encounter with a UFO constitute? And how can we ever obtain reports of the kind and quality that would be necessary to define the nature of the phenomenon?

Seven Categories of Strangeness

A farmer sees a light in the sky. A housewife is frightened by a disc-shaped object that dives toward her car on a lonely road. A man walking through the hills finds himself enveloped in a dense mist and wakes up in a daze at a spot many miles away, having no recollection of what he has done to get there. A young girl reports a blue flame that flickers in a nearby wood. A child of five tells the teacher that someday he will go to the stars with the little men in the red machine and, under questioning, reveals that last summer he played with a group of diminutive creatures who came out of a landed disc when he was alone on his grandmother's farm.

Such are the reports that are collected by the people who study the UFO problem: they vary greatly in the strangeness of the event, and it would be wrong to assume that all investigators receive approximately the same kind of information. There are significant differences between each one. Furthermore, each collection reflects a different investigator's method and bias. Official investigators, such as U.S. Air Force personnel or the police, tend to get all the reports of strange lights and aircraft-like objects. Amateur organizations and private researchers receive more landing and occupant reports than do the police.

This fact gave me a clue to what I regard as a fundamental problem in this type of research: *when scientists and the military discuss UFOs, they are not talking about the same part of the phenomenon the public perceives*. The antagonism with which UFO amateurs view the official researchers can, to a large extent, be explained by the fact that they literally "see" a different set of reports. If different investigators are so biased that most of them perceive only a fraction of the experiences they are attempting to study, then a scientific investigator will be faced with serious problems simply in



attempting to define the boundaries of his research.

I will present here a framework for the reporting phenomenon that will clarify and reconcile these differences. Then we will be able to see how the sighting reports relate to the framework.

A basic characteristic of the confrontation with a UFO is the strangeness of the occurrence. Dr. Allen Hynek, in his book *The UFO Experience* proposed a study of the strangeness in connection with the reliability of a report. Is it necessarily true, he asked, that the strangest reports (such as the landing cases with occupants) always come from the least reliable sources? He found that such was *not* the case, and that many reports existed in his files with *both* high reliability and high strangeness.

Let us take this idea one step further and discuss the probability that a given witness will report seeing a UFO. Assuming 10 people have seen a strange object in the sky, how many of these reports will I be able to obtain? This depends, of course, on how willing

“... He was seized by two masked individuals about four feet tall, wearing dull aluminum suits, who took him to a machine that looked like an upright cylinder. Inside the craft, the beings gave him a helmet similar to their own, tied him down, and took off...”

each of the witnesses will be to tell anyone about his experience, and also it will depend on the person to whom he relates it. On this basis I have defined seven categories of strangeness and I have constructed for each category an appropriate scenario, as follows:

Strangeness Category 1: You see a flickering light as you come out of the garage. It reminds you of a firefly, but you have never observed fireflies under quite similar conditions. *Result:* You are unlikely to call the police or the Air Force to report this! If you do tell someone about the sighting, it will probably be a *friend* or associate: “I didn’t know there were fireflies at this time of year.”

Strangeness Category 2: As you come out of the garage you see a flaming object that plunges behind the hill. Perhaps you have read somewhere that meteors and fireballs often appeared to be quite close when in fact they were hundreds of miles away. However, you call *the police* to report it because the summer has been very dry

and you are afraid the phenomenon, whatever it is, may cause something to catch fire.

Strangeness Category 3: You put your car away and come out of the garage in time to see a luminous object giving off a blue glow that plunges behind the hill. It looks like a large, circular aircraft and seems to have some windows but no tail or wings. Could it be that the Russians are up to something? You call the nearest *Air Force* base to report it, out of a feeling of civic duty.

Strangeness Category 4: You park the old Chevy by the side of the barn and as you walk toward the house you suddenly see a large disc with lighted portholes that comes down with a gentle rocking motion and touches the ground near the pen where the pigs are kept. It makes a humming sound that turns into a high pitch whistle and it takes off again. You think of calling the police, but it occurs to you that the neighbors will be intrigued and the story will be all over the town the next day. You realize that the *Air Force* might be interested, but you think better of it when your wife tells you she read an article in a magazine explaining how the *Air Force* paid some big university to study those things and it came out negative. On the other hand, Joe down the street has lots of books on the subject and gets a little journal from a private UFO group in Indiana. Perhaps he would pass along the information to them. This way you could at least tell *someone* about it without being ridiculed.

Strangeness Category 5: As you lock the garage to make sure no vandals will scratch the paint on the new Corvette you are suddenly confronted with a dwarf wearing a silvery diving suit. It has no visible arms but its oversized eyes glow with a strange orange light. It turns around and walks stiffly away into the bushes. A moment later a round object takes off from behind the hedge. At first you are too shocked to move, but you come to your senses and go into the house. You tell *your wife* you don't feel like going on that camping trip next weekend. She wants to know why and you reluctantly tell her about what you've just seen, after she promises not to tell her mother.

Strangeness Category 6: You are lying in bed, wondering whether there is enough gas left in the car to drive to church and back tomorrow, when suddenly a light appears in the backyard. At the same time the baby starts crying in the next room. You get up in your pajamas to check the screen door and a large blue object comes into view, hovering six feet away. A beam of light

appears underneath. It sweeps along the ground with a small white spot and comes toward you. When it hits your face thousands of thoughts come into your mind. You become "locked" within the strange light. A torrent of ideas seem to be transferred into your consciousness at a high rate. It suddenly stops and the blue object vanishes on the spot. You lean against the door wondering whether it was of God or the devil. Your mind is filled with burning questions. Could life exist on other planets? What if what we call God was only one of millions of higher beings who exist throughout the cosmos? You develop a throbbing headache. You take a sleeping pill and go back to bed without awakening your wife. The baby seems to have gone to sleep.

Strangeness Category 7: You are driving a truck at 50 miles per hour around a bend in the road when you become aware of a large, dark object that blocks the whole highway. There seems to be no possibility to avoid a collision but an invisible force seems to take hold of the 15-ton rig and bring it to a stop within a few feet of the object. A ring of smoke extends from the base of the dome-shaped craft and you start choking as it reaches the truck. The next thing you remember is that you are driving around another bend in the road 50 miles to the south. You look at your watch and it is an hour later than you thought it was.

These seven categories comprise the spectrum of encounters we have to deal with, and each one corresponds to a different probability of report and a different way of reporting. The following table summarizes the theory:

Strangeness Category	Example	Estimated Probability of Report	Generally Reports to Whom?
1	"firefly"	1 in 10	friend
2	burning mass	3 in 10	police
3	unknown craft	4 in 10	military
4	landing	2 in 10	local "expert"
5	occupant	1 in 10	close family
6	personal	almost nil	no one
7	"illumination" reality gap	almost nil	unconscious mind does not report it to conscious mind

Many examples of cases in the different categories could be given; the sightings of strangeness 4, 5, and 6 are especially interesting, but the witness of these sightings will report it only to a person he trusts. Dr. Hynek has shown me letters he has received from people saying "I am reporting this to you, but please do not report it to the *Air Force*!" Thus the witnesses were making a distinction between his image as an individual scientist and his role as a

consultant to the military.

An example of a sighting in category 5 which has received a great deal of publicity is the 1964 Socorro case, in which a highway patrolman saw a white object and two rather small occupants. Although he did report it, he first asked to be left alone with a priest! The Betty and Barney Hill "abduction" case of 1961 is a fascinating one in light of this classification because one part of the incident (the observation of a disc with windows) is clearly of category 3 and this is indeed what they reported to the *Air Force*. They did not say anything about the creatures (category 5) or the time loss (category 7), which only came to light after they discussed the case with someone they trusted, a local UFO amateur. Finally, the whole story of their "abduction" only came out under hypnosis.

The Hilltop Curve

I call this the Hilltop Theory because when the data is set up as a graph the curve is somewhat shaped like a mountain.

The interest of the "Invisible College" [a group of scientists, of all disciplines, that is seriously but quietly investigating the UFO phenomenon] has moved from the officially reported cases (categories 2 and 3) to the harder to find sightings of strangeness 4 and 5. My own interest lies in the psychic cases of categories 6, 7, and cases that may even go beyond the chart entirely because we cannot yet think of a classification for them. I approach these cases with the cooperation of readers who have reacted to several articles I

deliberately published in nonscientific journals; these articles addressed the unidentified cases that had been neatly swept under the rationalist rug.

The Hilltop Theory could be summed up in the statement that the type of data collected by an investigator is a function of his image (the beliefs about him) among his audience. It implies that scientists can only obtain a certain type of data (a biased sample). Similarly, the

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tionship between witnesses and the perceived objects, rather than a single UFO phenomenon coming from outside.

The second letter contains the provocative argument that absurdity is designed into UFO occurrences in order to permit thought transference while the mind is open to external influences. This would account for the low report probability in strangeness categories 6 and 7.

I am indebted to Gerald Askevold for bringing to my attention an interesting book which quotes a fascinating story by Dr. Erickson concerning what the authors call "The Gentle Art of Reframing":

"One windy day . . . a man came rushing around the corner of a building and bumped hard against me as I stood bracing myself against the wind. Before he could recover his poise to speak to me, I glanced elaborately at my watch and courteously, as if he had inquired the time of day, I stated, 'It's exactly 10 minutes of two,' though it was actually closer to four p.m., and walked on. About half a block away, I turned and saw him still looking at me, undoubtedly still puzzled and bewildered by my remark."

After quoting this story, the authors of *Change* continue:

This is how Erickson described the incident that led him to the development of an unusual method of hypnotic induction which he later called the Confusion Technique. What had taken place?

The incident of bumping into each other had created a context in which the obvious conventional response would have been mutual apologies. Dr. Erickson's response suddenly and unexpectedly redefined that same context as a very different one, namely, one that would have been socially appropriate if the other man had asked him the time of day, but even that would have been bewildering because of the patent incorrectness of the information, in contrast to the courteous, solicitous manner in which it was given. The result was confusion, unalleviated by any further information that would have reorganized the pieces of the puzzle into an understandable new frame of reference. As Erickson points out, the need to get out of the confusion by finding this new frame makes the subject particularly ready and eager to hold on

firmly to the next piece of concrete information that he is given. The confusion, setting the stage for reframing, thus becomes an important step in the process of effecting second-order change and of "showing the fly the way out of the fly-bottle."

Was the alleged "UFO pilot" trying to show the witness the way out of a similar maze?

Is this Confusion Technique deliberately used to effect change on a major scale? This could also help us to understand the strong resemblance that anyone who has examined the beliefs of esoteric groups could not fail to note between certain UFO encounters and the initiation rituals of secret societies. This "opening of the mind" to a new set of symbols that is reported by many witnesses is precisely what the various occult traditions are also trying to achieve.

The Case of José Antonio

A case in point is the story of José Antonio, an enlisted Brazilian soldier in the military police of Minas Gerais and orderly to Maj. Celio Ferreira, who commanded at that time a Guard's Battalion. An investigation conducted by Mr. Brant Aleixo and published in the *Flying Saucer Review* (Nov./Dec., 1973) disclosed that one Sunday afternoon in May 1969, José Antonio was fishing on a lagoon north of Belo Horizonte when he suddenly became aware of figures moving behind him. He saw a "burst of light" hit his legs and felt a numbness that caused him to drop his fishing rod and fall to his knees. He was seized by two masked individuals about four feet tall, wearing dull aluminum suits, who took him to a machine that looked like an upright cylinder. Inside this craft the beings gave him a helmet similar to their own, tied him up, and took off.

The higher the machine seemed to rise, the more difficult did breathing seem for the soldier, and at one stage, in addition to his state of low morale, he felt as though his whole body was physically tired out, almost paralyzed. He felt more and more uncomfortable in this position, owing to the hardness and the shape of the seat, the numbness in his legs, and the weight of the helmet, the corners of which were bruising his shoulders and neck.

After a period of travel which seemed "interminable," the machine landed with a jarring sensation and the little men unfastened José Antonio. They put a bandage over the eyeholes in his helmet and carried him with his knees

dragging on the ground. He heard footsteps and the sound of many people talking. Finally he was placed on a backless seat and the bandage was removed.

José Antonio found himself in a large quadrangular room, 30 by 40 feet, about 15 feet away from a robust dwarf who stared at him "with apparent satisfaction." He was extremely hairy:

His long tresses, reddish and wavy, fell down behind past his shoulders to his waist; his beard was long and thick and came down to his stomach. He had wide-set eyebrows, two fingers thick, running right across the whole forehead. His skin was light-colored, very pale. His eyes were round, larger than is the norm with us, and of a green shade like the color of green leaves beginning to wither.

Other beings of similar appearance began arriving until about 15 dwarfs were in the room. The soldier assumed there was a door in the back beyond his field of vision. The three walls he could see had no window and no door.

To his left was a low shelf with the corpses of four men, one of them a Negro. He thought they had been killed by the homunculi [little men]. The whole room seemed to be made of stone, and at one point he was given something to drink out of a cubical stone glass, and the cavity containing a dark green liquid was in the shape of an inverted pyramid.

The lighting in the room was uniform and intensely bright, coming from no identifiable source. On the left wall were paintings of animals: a jaguar, a monkey, a giraffe, an elephant; also vehicles, houses, etc. In the far right angle of the room was something that looked like an upside down racing car.

He watched while the homunculi examined all his fishing equipment and carefully took one of every item in duplicate: they kept one specimen of each type of fishing hook and a single banknote from a total of 35,000 old cruzeiros.

The leader of the dwarfs began a strange conversation with the soldier. It was entirely conducted through gestures and drawings and revolved around the concept of weapons. (José Antonio thinks that they must have perceived that he was in the military and illustrated this by their actions.) At one time a little man shot a beam of light against the stone wall. The communication seemed to be a request that José Antonio help the little beings in their relations with Earth. Was he to be their guide among men? This is what José Antonio understood. He gestured his refusal and began pray-

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ing, fingering the rosary he always carried with him:

The leader stepped towards him and, displaying irritation for the first time, seized the crucifix and snatched it from him. One of the beads rolled onto the floor and was picked up by one of the little men, who showed it to the others. The crucifix was passed around in the same way, arousing the curiosity of all of them.

While this discussion took place among the homunculi José Antonio had a vision of a Christ-like entity, "his eyes clear and serene," barefoot and wearing a dark robe. The figure made some revelations to José Antonio, who now refuses to disclose them. The apparition vanished, the irritated dwarfs blindfolded him again, and he was transported back. As the machine landed, he felt that he was being dragged and he lost consciousness. He woke up alone, near the town of Vitoria in the state of Espirito Santo, 200 miles away from the spot where he had been fishing. He had been away for four and a half days.

The Case of Paulo Gaetano

Another remarkable case from South America will close this article, raising additional possibilities for the nature of confrontation.

On Nov. 17, 1971, at 9:30 p.m., a Brazilian man named Paulo Gaetano was driving back from the town of Natividade de Carangola on a business trip. With him in the car was another man, Mr. Elvio B. As they passed the town of Bananeiras, Paulo felt the car was not pulling normally, and mentioned it to his companion, who reacted by saying only that he was tired and wanted to sleep. The engine stalled and Paulo had to stop the car on the side of the road. He then saw an object about 12 feet away. A red beam of light was projected at the car and "caused the door to open." Several small beings appeared, took Paulo into the craft, and made him lie down on a small table. Fastening his arms, they lowered from the ceiling an apparatus that resembled an X ray machine. He felt a cut near his elbow and they collected his blood. (Investigators from the SBEVD research group in Brazil saw and photographed the wound three days later.) Then he was shown two panels, one of them a plan of the town of Itaperuna, the other a picture of an atomic explosion. Paulo felt heavy. He remembers being helped by Elvio, but does not recall how they got back home.

The interesting point is that the witness was not alone. Did Elvio also see the flying saucer? No. He only saw a bus:

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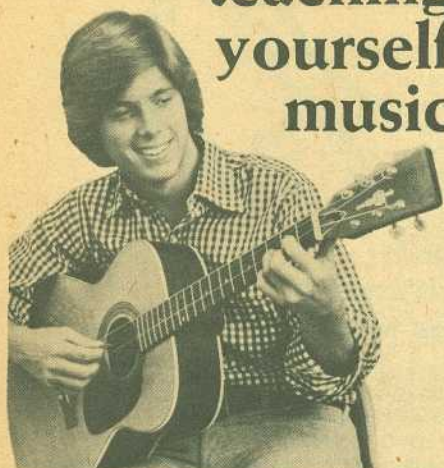
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Near Bananeires, Paulo had begun to show signs of nervousness, Elvio reported. He told him that there was a flying saucer accompanying them, when in fact what was following them was a bus which was keeping at a reasonable distance behind the car.

Elvio added that the car had slowed down and stopped, and that he had come to the assistance of Paulo after he had fallen to the ground, behind the car, with the door on the driver's side remaining open. Elvio managed to get Paulo on his feet and started with him by bus toward Itaperuna, where Paulo was examined by the first aid station. The police sent a patrol to the site and found Paulo's car on the highway. Elvio was unable to explain what had happened to Paulo and why the door was open. He did not remember when Paulo had gotten out. And he could not explain why they had taken the bus.

STANTON T. FRIEDMAN

(Continued from page 21)

can sure see why they don't want to make it public. Most of them work on classified programs. They can understand the need for security. After all, this would be earthshaking on the political, economic, social, psychological, religious, and military levels and everyone's got enough troubles without adding that. I know many scientists who say "Of course UFOs are real, the evidence is overwhelming." And, of course, they are interested in the technology that UFOs must have, but that same technology has obvious military implications so they can understand the government keeping a tight lid on the subject. The job situation in aerospace has been tight enough for the past five years so there aren't too many wave makers around.

Four years ago, the magazine *Industrial Research* conducted a poll of engineers and scientists across the country. 2,700 professionals responded; a good sampling. Of those polled 27 percent have Ph.D.'s; 26 percent have a Master's, and the rest have Bachelor's degrees. Out of these, more than 75 percent felt the government wasn't telling us the whole story about UFOs. Eight percent of those polled thought they had definitely seen a UFO and another 14 percent said maybe.

UFO REPORT: What's your feeling about contactees? Do you think people are being contacted on a larger scale than we know?

FRIEDMAN: That depends on how you

The police found no trace on the car that could explain the wound on Paulo's arm.

It is becoming technically feasible for sounds and images to be projected into people's minds at a distance. Is this part of technology that creates the UFO phenomenon? Could the required equipment be carried on board an ordinary bus? Here again we must ask the question: Are we dealing with a terrestrial technology that systematically confuses the witnesses? If so, it must be possible to demonstrate it. If certain areas of the human brain can be remotely stimulated, then it is not impossible to think of broadcasts literally saturating large territories with a flood of symbols. Such a device could be a major tool of social change. If disguised under a preposterous or "absurd" appearance, its effects would be undetected for a long time. I believe this could be a key to the confrontation with UFOs. ★

define "contactees." To my mind, there are four different varieties. The first is a person who is minding his own business and sees a craft alongside the road complete with occupants and they look at each other but there's not really any communication. Then there are the people like Betty and Barney Hill and the men from Pascagoula who were treated as specimens. Any communication was certainly not to bring messages of "peace" and "beauty" from the higher beings. That goes along with the third variety like the Adamskis and Frys. There's a fourth kind of contactee, the parapsychological kind—the telepathic contactees.

I will accept the first category. There are hundreds of reports of landed craft complete with "critters." I'll buy those Betty and Barney Hill the two men at Pascagoula, you have to take each one on its own merits but again, there's a big difference between being treated as specimens rather than being chosen to act as a messenger to bring "their" message to Earthlings. I find none of the latter acceptable, you know, stop atomic bomb testing and all that. I'm not saying they're all necessarily fake. I'm saying I've found no such story that can buy and I've investigated a lot of these.

Now of the telepathic ones, I think a lot of these people are sincere and think they're probably in touch with something but I have serious doubts as to whether it's really space beings. Those that sit down with a Ouija board and begin channeling messages from somebody who says he's an alien on another planet, for all I know they are tuned into bedtime stories being read by space beings to their children.