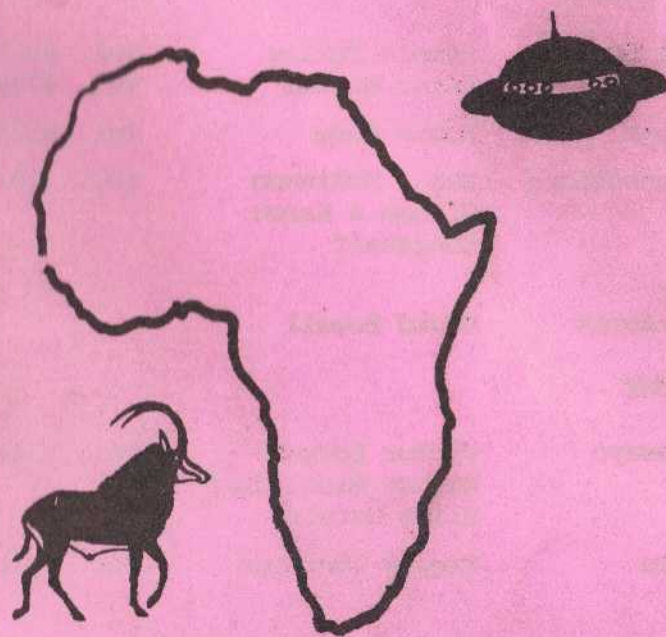


UFO

AFRINEWS



No. 7 January 1993

U F O AFRINEWS N° 6

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PLEASE NOTE : Dates in this Newsletter are given
as the day, month and year, e.g. 07:05:92

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EDITORIAL

Cynthia Hind

I don't know how many of the readers noticed a small piece on page 42 of UFO AFRINEWS N° 6? This related to accusations made against me in Cape Town: that I was a government agent! If it wasn't so ludicrous, I might have taken more serious steps regarding the issue but if the South African government (presumably this was my alleged employer) could not do better than that, their security system must be in a very sad state indeed!

Now I hear from a further source that the reason another South African group don't want me to speak to them, bringing them information of a very up-to-date nature to which they have NO access, is because I am there to 'steal their cases.'

What a sad indictment of our supposedly sophisticated society.

I recall when the late Prof. Allen Hynek was accused in the USA of being a CIA spy. Prof Hynek had been in charge of the US government OPERATION BLUEBOOK when he was more sceptic than believer. Nevertheless, when BLUEBOOK closed down and Hynek formed the Centre for UFO Study, I see no reason why the CIA would use him as a spy. If you supported CUFOS financially or if you were a member, you had access to all its cases and investigations. So that all the CIA would have to do to gain access was to become a member and possibly come in under a fictitious name.

As a matter of fact, although I am quite sure the USA, Russia, Britain, France, etc. etc. knew more about UFOs than they were letting on to the public, if they really wanted all the material the various groups had, all they would have to do would be to attend the various symposia being held all over the world. There the top speakers are constantly on circuit, letting out the 'secrets' about what is really going on in the UFO world.

Alternatively, they could send in their own highly trained investigators and no-one would be any the wiser. Each time I have been advised of a case, I am hardly the first to know: there are always the media, maybe the police, interested individuals, the crack-pots who hang around and half a dozen other folk, who might get there before I, as MUFON Representative and Co-ordinator for the continent of Africa, even know about it! Very often I don't even get to hear the story until weeks or months later.

The only difference between 'them' and me is that I have been in the UFO game for 19 years, and through constant investigation and a trial-and-error system, I have learnt to look for the right signs. I am also no longer as gullible nor as sceptical as I used to be; I don't trample all over the 'landing site' and I know where to take soil samples and which areas to preserve. I don't ask leading questions and I don't hassle the witnesses. It is also true that I know one or two things which the public does not!

As for me 'stealing' peoples' cases: well, that is a moot point. Let's put it like this: I personally KNOW nearly every top UFO investigator in the English speaking world, and many in other foreign countries. Not only am I able to recognize the significance of the case, but I would know with whom those involved should be put in touch.

Ah, I hear you say, so do WE. But do you know how much mail that person receives every day, week or month? Well, I can tell you that it runs into hundreds of letters and they usually pick out the mail from those they know, can rely on and trust.

I assure witnesses of anonymity - if that is what they want; if not, I can promise them international coverage at a high level. No wild sensationalism from publicity; that is, unless they opt for that, in which case they should deal directly with the paper or magazine concerned. Of course, there is no monetary reward from MUFON, CUFOS, BUFORA or any of the big UFO groups in the world.

But MUFON, for instance, boasts a membership of around 4000; of top scientists, psychologists, etc. and whatever your case history, providing it is a good one, it will go down in the annuals of Ufology as such; not merely recorded for your immediate friends and members of your own intimate circle.

In the end, you will know that your story has contributed to the advancement and possible solution to the greatest riddle of all time.

ARE WE ALONE IN THE UNIVERSE OR NOT?

<<<<<<<<>>>>>>>>>>

GULLIBILITY

One day on the beach I observed a tall man,
Who was wearing strange clothes and wielding a fan.
His eyes were large and his face was red,
I'm not sure about hair as he'd covered his head.
He surrounded himself with a protective sand wall,
He looked furtive and frightened, as tho' awaiting
a call.

I was sure he was diff'rent, a stranger in need
From some distant planet (an alien indeed!)

So I decided to help him and show him I care
But as I approached, he shouted, 'Beware!

'I've got German measles very badly, I fear.

'So please go away and don't come too near.'

GAMIDA (A Story of an Abduction) Case N° 48

It was only when I heard Mrs Hind on Radio 702 (in Johannesburg) that I thought to myself, 'Why, that is happening to me!'

When I first wrote to you I was afraid to tell you the whole truth because telling people about this would sooner drive one crazy than the actual event. When I wrote to you, I would say my story topped the list for bizarre.

My father is Indian and my mother Malaysian. I have two sons aged 10 and 11.

The first time an incident occurred, my children were spending the week-end at my brother's house so I was alone at home. But there was one time when 'they' arrived and grabbed my son. He screamed for help and I shouted at him to take my hand. As I reached out, instead of feeling my son's hand, I felt a hard, cold, gnarled claw. My son remembered the incident in the morning and I assured him that it really did happen but that he should not tell anyone; it was our secret. Later, the three of us, too afraid to sleep alone in our respective bedrooms, took to sleeping in a double-sized bed together.

When all this first happened to me, I tried to block it out. At that time I was having these encounters about five times a week; the whole situation was so bizarre that I felt it safer to say, at first, that I did not see anything.

With my first encounters I heard a click-like sound, like the click of a key being turned in a keyhole. My keyhole was blocked with a small safety key making it impossible for entry, even with a key. The very next instant there was a monk-like figure beside my bed. I was paralysed with fear and could not do a thing, not even close my semi-open eyes. I did not see his face. He stood as though in prayer and then gently blew something into my right ear (I was lying on my left side, facing him).

To me, it felt like ages but it could have been only a matter of minutes or even seconds when he left through the closed window, sort of 'witch-like'. This happened after 4:00 am.

When he blew into my ear, my whole body violently trembled inside; there was no movement on the outside. It felt like something washing through my whole body and I thought that what I had seen was a ghost.

In the beginning, my encounters were sinister. I always heard 'their' arrival: vibrations, birds' wings flapping loudly and a bell ringing. These days I no longer see anything; occasionally I feel vibrations and I always feel a presence. I still go into a trance-like state and they're only busy with my face. I'm not sure what it is that they're doing.

My brother is much more religious than I am. He was overseas doing religious studies when this first happened. When he returned, he shared my room with me just so I could sleep. I was so drained I was not only an emotional wreck but a physical one as well. My face was bloated and my eyes blood-shot. I caught snatches of sleep and hardly ever slept for more than an hour at a time. My brother tried to stay awake to sort of guard over me and prayed throughout the night. He wanted to see what was happening to me and asked me to tell him when it happened. This was not possible because I'd be in a trance. Sometimes he'd sit on my bed until I fell asleep and would continue sitting there and praying and blowing on my face (We do this to ward off evil, in Islam).

We both felt something come wobbling out of the mattress, then I'd be raped. My brother would pray and this thing would go away. I firmly believe that his prayers helped because the raping occurred less often and when he wasn't with me, more often then and more violently.

On one occasion I went to work and my colleague started teasing me for having a love-bite.

I ignored her because I never have that sort of stuff; I didn't even have a boy friend. But she persisted and I eventually agreed to go with her to the cloakroom, where I saw a mark on my neck. The night before I felt that I was pinned to my bed and being strangled. There were also marks on my wrists. I was literally on edge, and then resigned from work and was unemployed for two years.

Whenever something is going to happen and I'm involved I have a dream about it. It's like a warning. I've had several warnings that there would be trouble regarding lending money, which I ignored. Consequently, I had to cut ties with quite a few friends who now cannot, or will not, repay me.

Since writing to you I have had two more encounters in April and one in June (1992).

Habitually, I leave my watch beside the bed on the floor when I go to sleep. One morning when I woke, the watch was on my bed. This seemed strange to me because had I put the watch there, what with three people sharing the bed and two of them very wriggly youngsters, the watch would never have stayed on the bed all night!

Shortly after this, I sent the two boys to live with their father. My son says that he occasionally sees 'them' but they don't do anything. However, my sons have had some weird experiences. They both insisted at one time that a man walked through the closed door of their room and then tickled them on their stomachs.

My husband brought in a spiritualist who prayed in the house. However, the incidents continued and we were forced to move away from that home.

COMMENTS : I am still in touch with Gamida (not her real name) and hope to meet her soon.

(Continued on page 28)

LITS OVER CAPE TOWNINTERVIEW WITH ARLENE OF SCARBOROUGH, nr. CAPE TOWN.

Interviewer: Pam Puxley Case N° 65

On the night of 6th March, 1992, Arlene walked out of her door and stood looking out over the horizon.

'As I looked to my right, I saw a light and a shape. I wondered what it was. I sat for ages looking at it, went inside, but returned and sat there watching this 'thing'.

'My feelings were very unusual. The shape was a sort of 'squat' triangle with a dome on top. The light intensity was something like if you took a mirror, turned it to the sun and reflected it against a wall - a sharp, clear, silver-white light.

'The entire structure was uniform in brightness and the colour was silver. It wasn't flat, the outlines were very definite. The bottom was seen against the horizon which was pitch black. The sky was clear with no cloud. The time was between 21:00 and 21:30 in the evening.

'We usually have a lot of tankers anchored out on the horizon, and if there's no wind you can see both lights on the ship against the horizon; but with a wind, you only see one light as the wind veers the ship around. That night there must have been wind at sea, though here it was calm. To the right of what I saw there was a yellowish twinkling, not flashing, light, which is what the tanker's lights normally are. There was another tanker on the extreme left, with an identical type of light. The size of what I saw, the brightness of it, if it was close by, it would have been absolutely enormous, because it was huge against that horizon. I've questioned two friends who are in the Navy and they estimated the distance as about 120 nautical miles.

'With the object being well lit, every line showed up as well. The twinkling tanker light looked as if it was a couple of miles from whatever that thing was. I was fascinated.

'Eventually, I went inside and to bed and slept deeply right through the night.

The light was certainly brighter than that of the full moon in a clear sky; my distant vision is excellent. Whatever it was, it had no windows, it was just one solid light.

The reason why I thought I'd seen a UFO is that next morning I saw the CAPE TIMES and on the front page was a photograph of the whole thing. But the other people who'd seen it, had seen it at 01:00 in the morning or just after, while I saw it the previous evening at 21:00 hours.'

This next sighting, reported by Pam Puxley, made headline news in the CAPE TIMES of March 7, 1992.

Case N° 66.WITNESSES: Alzanne-Mari and Grant, at Clifton, Cape.

This sighting took place in the early hours of March 7, 1992 and was headlined in the Cape Town newspapers that morning.

It was Grant who saw the object first, hanging in the sky over the mountains near Llandudno. The time was after midnight. Grant thought it was an aircraft but after some minutes knew it was not, so he called Alzanne and both looked out of the window of their home and realised it was neither a plane nor a light on top of the mountain.

'We had the idea it was revolving because it was in a saucer shape and it had a red light on top and a green light on the bottom; there was also a centre light. Every now and then this white light flashed. Alzanne actually saw it like beams in the clouds and the beams were changing direction as it revolved.'

Alzanne commented that it was more like a halo than clouds.

She says: 'We watched the object as we hung out of the window. It looked as if there was a hole in the sky with a halo. It was hovering, making very slight moves and then there were the red and green lights, not like an aeroplane, being at the top and bottom. And then the white light would come by, maybe three or four times in the half hour we watched it. First I thought there were small lights travelling past this. Then we looked more intently and it looked like beams coming down to earth through this halo; it might have been from the white light.'

Grant said, 'I made a drawing, but I can't say exactly what it looked like. All I know is it had three distinct lights, the red and green staying in the same position, top and bottom, while the white centre light now and again flashed past, very majestically.'

Alzanne added that the area where they lived was a training area and they saw lots of planes and helicopters, also parachutists and hang-gliders jumping from the mountain, but never anything like what they saw that night.

The couple then tried to phone various authorities and even the radio station, but 'a lot of people thought we were crazy and didn't take our calls seriously; some, in fact, tried to play the fool, telling us there was a helicopter and a photographer at Port Helicopter, ready to fly out.' But when they got there, it was all a hoax.

They also failed to convince the announcer at the waterfront independent radio station that they were serious and wanted to alert people.

At this time, the fog was coming up, about 50 metres above their heads, and though the object had still been there when they set out for the helicopter pad, the mist now covered the horizon. When it finally dispersed as the sun rose, the object was no longer visible.

Alzanne and Grant stress that they were totally sober and felt perfectly well on the night of their sighting.

They both worked late and it was when they arrived home that they saw the strange object in the sky.

Grant says he has stopped smoking and drinking since the sighting and has felt no desire to start again!

The news item was carried by the CAPE TIMES of Cape Town on March 7th, 1992, with pictures of the couple and the object they drew.

The next week-end, the WEEKEND ARGUS of Cape Town (14/3/92) published a small item:

Hundreds of people reported seeing an unidentified flying object hovering in the sky above Table Mountain last night (13th March). The callers described the object as having a huge white light with smaller green lights.

'It's definitely not a helicopter. It's been hanging there without moving for hours', said Mr Cliff Johnson of Pinelands.

A caller from Oranjezicht said it looked 'like a bright white streak, very high, almost like light reflected off a wire.'

The sighting was reported on Radio Good Hope after the studio was inundated with callers.

EDITOR'S COMMENTS:

It is always extremely difficult to identify LITS (Lights in the Sky) and I never try to make a positive identification, however convincing the evidence might be. However, I would like to reiterate a previous observation I made which, quite unwittingly, has fooled a number of very sincere people.

During the beginning of March, 1992, there were several bright stars and planets in the sky. When watching stars, one is often misled by AUTOKINESIS. When staring at a bright star, it often appears to change shape and give off bright colours.

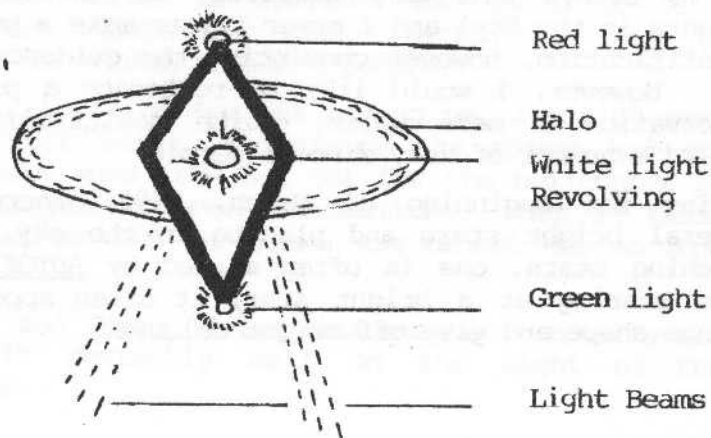
This is caused by the refraction and dispersion of their light as it shines through the thick unstable atmosphere of our planet. Not only this, but the light appears to move about, from left to right, and top to bottom.

The orange-tinted star ARCTURUS, clearly visible at this time, is one of those celestial objects causing false UFO reports when low in the sky. Arcturus is the 3rd brightest night-time star after Sirius and Canopus.

At this time - around March 7th, 1992 - the planet Jupiter was particularly brilliant, a magnitude of 2.5, rising in the East around sunset and advancing westwards across the southern sky during the night. Jupiter sets in the West around sunrise. As a matter of interest, Vesta, 4th asteroid discovered and the second largest (335 miles), is exactly opposite the Sun on March 8th. At this time it brightens to magnitude 6.1 and is about 125 million miles from Earth.

I am not denigrating the LITS reports, but one has to bear the above factors in mind when working with such a controversial subject as craft from other worlds.

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THE ART OF INTERVIEWING

Maria Sullivan *

One of the most important functions of the field investigator is interviewing witnesses/contactees and getting their stories on tape.

These days, in fact, most interviewers have a small tape recorder for this purpose, as note-taking can take too long and a tape will play back exactly what was said - a good thing when the interviewee later claims not to have said what you reported.

Always check your equipment prior to interviewing, to see that all is in working order.

Introduction of Witnesses: Your first step is to introduce those being interviewed. State your own name, the name of the people involved and something about their position (businessman, housewife, teacher, etc.), the place name and the date of the interview.

Example: 'This is Marcy Jones, interviewing Mr Tom Brown, a retired teacher from Rosmead, Cape, who witnessed a strange object over Table Mountain on 12th December, 1989. Today is March 7th, 1992.'

Clarity: It is essential to make sure that the person interviewed is heard clearly on the tape. When you come to transcribe it - or someone else does it later - it is often impossible to hear what is said because of garbled sound or a muffled voice. If the person talks too fast, ask them to slow down to an easy rate which you can gauge will be clearly heard. Hold the mike fairly close to the interviewee.

Important points should be repeated by you, so they are confirmed; but do not interrupt unless absolutely necessary, e.g. to bring someone back to the point if they stray, or to clarify a doubt.

Dates, times, etc. It is essential to pin these down or at least get an approximation from your witness; always confirm these on tape. Eg. 'When did you see the object? Was it 9 or 10 am? What day was that? Do you recall the year? Yes, 1975 was a good year for UFOs in southern Africa.'

Or: 'Can you get closer than that? Was it late at night, early morning, before lunch, at dinnertime?' etc.

Place: Try to get the place where the experience occurred, and find out where your witness was standing or sitting at the time -- whatever applies, so it might be checked later.

Gestures: People usually make gestures when telling a story, waving their arms to show size, or say, 'This side of the road', 'it was so big, so wide, so high' etc. Gestures can't be heard and should be queried: 'How long? How wide? How high would you estimate it was?' 'What distance would that be?' etc. -- so that when the tape is played back, listeners can have an accurate idea of what was said.

Interviewing Groups: When more than one person is interviewed at the same time, there are often problems with two or more people speaking at once and garbling the tape. It is important that before you begin, you impress on them that only one person should speak at a time. You can address each one by name, so the voice can be identified, eg. 'Rosalie, could you corroborate that? Martin, what sort of object did you see? Mrs Smith, you stood on the far side: did you see something different?' etc. If several people stood at different angles, ask each one to tell his/her story. Don't be afraid of repeating details so you can have corroboration on playback.

Pictures: One picture is worth a thousand words, more so if a story is to feature in a publication. If possible, get your witness to draw what was seen - a sketch is good enough, as long as it gives a fair idea of the shape of the object, with details of colour, etc. accompanying it. If the witness is unable to draw, the interviewer may have to do it from their description.

The drawing should be signed and dated by the witness. Sometimes a map, or part of one, is useful, especially if the person was travelling when the sighting occurred. Again, a rough sketch of the trajectory is sufficient, with an arrow showing direction of flight of the object, and the way the car was going. The sketch can be improved upon later, when the story is properly written up.

If you follow the foregoing guidelines, you are well on the way to becoming, with practice, a competent interviewer.

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* [Maria Sullivan worked for Radio Jacaranda (Rhodesia) as an announcer/producer, and also worked on Television as an ADMAG scriptwriter and presenter. - Ed.]

BOOK REVIEW AND COMMENTARY

Prier Wintle

SECRET LIFE, Firsthand accounts of U.F.O. abductions.

David M Jacobs, PhD

Simon & Schuster, New York 1992.

US\$21

I think my overall feeling after reading this book was that with it Ufology has become a graduate discipline. An honours course professor could prescribe it as a text book and then issue a list of questions on it which students were to discuss critically. I propose to offer a few of these questions myself a little later in this review.

What makes it so valuable is the way it demonstrates that enough is now known about one aspect of the total UFO enigma, viz. the abduction phenomenon, for researchers to be able to recognize that it follows a regular pattern, and to be able to categorize this.

Never, before this stage is reached, in any discipline, does it become possible to formulate truly testable scientific hypotheses. Till then all is guesswork, intuition and hunches. We still have a myriad questions of course; in fact we are really only right at the beginning of the road. But now it is a road, and we may begin to ask questions which lead somewhere.

Following the lead originally devised by psychologist Leo Sprinkle and carried further by Budd Hopkins (as described in the latter author's two books, *MISSING TIME* * and *INTRUDERS* +) David Jacobs decided to follow an essentially therapeutic approach while interviewing and studying abductees. Though not qualified as a psychotherapist himself, (he is Associate Professor of History at Temple University, Philadelphia, USA) he related to his subjects as essentially normal individuals who were, however, suffering from a form of post-traumatic shock. As such they should be treated with consideration, i.e. with a caring approach. At the same time, scientific objectivity was never lost sight of. He therefore became a qualified hypnotist, in order to be able to assist abduction victims to recall and come to terms with what they had been through. At the same time, what each one said was carefully recorded and later compared with what others had recounted. Gradually the patterns emerged.

As he describes it, there are essentially five stages in the whole abduction process.

The first of these is, of course, the initial taking of the person or persons concerned. The helplessness of victims at this stage is chillingly portrayed. It can occur at any time of the day or night, whether the subject is alone or with others (usually only a few others), in any locality, and no matter what activity he or she is engaged in. They may be asleep in bed, but also just as possibly driving a car.

* New York, Marek 1981. + New York, Random House 1987

The subject himself or herself becomes paralyzed, while others who may be present whom the aliens do not want are 'switched off'. One member of a couple making love may be removed and then returned some hours later, whereupon they will resume apparently from where they left off, with no conscious memory of what has happened, at that time.

A magical quality characterizes the procedure as the alien beings are able to enter through closed windows or walls. They prefer windows to walls, but the windows are usually shut. The journey to the abduction craft is upwards via a blueish beam of light and is an experience which induces severe nausea in the victim. It all sounds very like Peter Pan but David Jacobs is under no illusion that it really is just 'magic'. It is a real happening which results from the application of a superior technology.

Next comes, in all cases, a complete medical examination from toes to head. The subject has been forced to strip and lie on a table for this. When this routine check over is completed a slightly taller being takes over and two vital procedures follow. One is a hypnotic staring into the victim's eyes. Jacobs calls this process Mindscan and it appears to have two distinct purposes: first, to make all the contents of the victim's mind available to the scanner; second, to cause a bonding relationship to be established between them. The abductee may develop a feeling of love towards this alien.

The other procedure is a gynecological one. Women may have ova removed from their ovaries, or a fetus may be implanted in their womb. When this happens the fetus is later removed during a subsequent abduction, before the pregnancy runs to term.

Men are subjected to sperm sampling.

The third stage is involved with the results of the breeding program implied by the second stage. Abductees are taken to an incubatorium where they see hybrid fetuses.

(Continued on p.39)

THE CLICK SOUND

Cynthia Hind

It is important for all Field Investigators into UFOs to write up their cases in full. Then, when re-assessing the case, any factors of importance should be underlined and specific note taken of that particular incident. Those of you who have computers are far better off, of course, because the salient facts can be fed into your computer and noted for future reference in cases with similarities.

In UFO AFRINEWS N° 4 (March 1991) I wrote about 'WATER AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE WITH REGARD TO UFOS.'

Hopefully, those of you who are regular readers will remember this for the future and let me know of any new case where water plays a significant part. Now, I feel I have something - if perhaps not equally, but which is also of great importance!

CASE N° 63: This happened on the 31st July, 1975 in a very isolated place in South Africa: a place called Loxton, north of Beaufort West. Danie van Graan was walking down to where he kept his sheep in a pen, early one morning, around 7:30. He saw what he thought was a caravan with some prospectors inside. They had been prospecting for uranium on or near his land and he thought he would go and have a cup of coffee with them. As he came closer, he realised it was not a caravan, but a craft of sorts, standing on three tubular legs (there were actually five, but he could only see three. Also, they left behind very clear marks on the ground, of which pictures were taken by the Loxton police and which I have in my possession).

Danie could also see that there was something strange about the people inside; they were very short and dressed in shiny white/cream overalls. They did not appear to be aware of him until suddenly, when he was 3 metres away, they all looked up, as though he had triggered a magnetic field, which alerted them to his presence.

He heard a 'click' sound, a small shutter opened, and they hit him with a beam of light.

There is much more about this case recorded in my book UFOS AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS, but suffice to say that he heard the 'click' sound very clearly.

Case N° 48 (in this issue)

This is a young Asian girl, living in Johannesburg. Her abduction appears to be more violent than usual. Initially, she was repeatedly raped, although she was paralysed and could do nothing to protect herself. She is a Muslim, so many of her memories relate to her cultural background. For instance, 'they' blew in her ear, which is a practice in Islam to ward off evil. She never actually saw the abductors, although on several occasions she witnessed a hooded figure but never saw the face. Just prior to the appearance of the hooded figure and its blowing in her ear, she heard this 'click' sound which she identifies as 'like a key turning in a lock.' She told me she knew it could not have been her bedroom door as it has a special lock on it which no-one else can use. Her abductions are an on-going exercise, as late as June, 1992.

Case N° 50. This is a new case where there are numerous problems. Suffice to say that it concerns two women who were abducted in South Africa. They were driving to the home of Patricia,* the older of the two women, at approx. 03:30 in the morning. The reason for the late hour was they had both been working on something which required completion before the next day. Patricia was the first to notice the light behind them and drew Deirdre's * attention to this. At first they thought it was a car but then realised it was a single light, not two headlights.

* These are not their actual names, but pseudonyms to protect their identity.

Almost immediately, the light travelled towards them at tremendous speed and enveloped the car. They remember no more until later on, but the interesting point is that both women recall a 'click' sound just prior to the bright light overcoming them.

Commentary: I know there are many theories as to what UFOs are and whence they come. Professor Stanton Friedman, astro-physicist and respected UFO investigator, believes that some of the craft are from other planets. Professor Allen Hynek once confided to me that he felt they were from another Dimension, perhaps something which we could not comprehend. Although I tend to support Dr Hynek's theory, I think that Stanton might also be correct.

But for some time now, I have tended to believe that most witnesses go into an 'altered state of consciousness' when they have a close encounter with a UFO or its occupants. So maybe when this action occurs, the 'click' is the triggering point. Of course, it does not always occur but maybe the witness did not hear it, or was too bemused at the time to notice.

What intrigues me is that so many times when people report the case of a UFO at close quarters, there is NO other traffic nearby -- no one passing at that particular time, despite it being a busy Highway.

J.S. of Cape Town (Case 2, UFO AFRINEWS N° 1,2 & 6) together with a 17-year old girl, sees a rocket-type object over the city, as big as a Boeing 747. And yet, no one else reports it, nor does any of the traffic on the main Belville-Cape Town road stop to observe what he is seeing. How does one account for that?

There are dozens of cases similar to this: the witnesses clearly see the object and yet no one else does. I would be interested to hear from any readers who can add to this explanation or have an explanation of their own.

FOLLOWED BY AN 'INTELLIGENCE'?

Case N° 49

Jack Jones, interviewed by Pamela Puxley, March 1992.

'The night I saw the UFO, we were on our way back from Bloemfontein (South Africa). It was past sunset and we had supper at a Road House past the Experimental Farm. We then became aware there was something 'not right'. We looked around and saw a red glow next to the car. With me was a young German apprentice who had been seeing a car I had towed to Bloemfontein.

On the other side of the road there was fencing. The youngster was sitting next to me in the car when we spotted this object. The glow was in the car and on the road, and we wanted to spot where it was coming from.

The main concentration (of the glow) was on the far side of the fence, and it was circular in shape. We then looked up, and there was this 'thing'. I would say it was about 20-25 metres (60-80 feet) high up; and judging from the distance it was from the centre line on the road, I'd say it was about 50 metres (150 ft) away from there. If you took a perpendicular line from the object on to the ground, it was about 35-50 metres (100-150 ft).

We were going quite fast. I drove a brand new car with an American engine. It was getting late and I wanted to get home to my wife.

I increased speed to see if the object would stay next to us and if it also maintained the same height, which wasn't very high. I then slacked off and 'it' slacked off and travelled at a very low speed. I tested it and accelerated very fast, then slowed down, but it was there all the time, in the same position over the car.

It was like a ball, perfectly circular, and the outside of this ball was a mass of red flames, and these flames were shimmering and chopping and changing around. They were moving; they weren't stationary because the thing was so close I couldn't help but have a very good view of it.

We went through various towns at various speeds, and it still stayed there. There was no sound from it, nothing whatsoever. It was absolutely silent because at one time I stopped to listen if it was making a noise -- maybe a crackling from the flames; but there was no noise.

Eventually, we got to Kroonstad. As you come to this town you go down a hill and cross a bridge over a river, just before you get to the business section. When I looked up, the 'thing' was gone! It just disappeared.

At a rough estimate I'd say it travelled about 240 kms (150 miles) with us over the car.

At that time the youngster and I were discussing this thing, and I said to him, 'I wonder where the hell the thing has disappeared to? I can't fathom it out. How can you switch off these massive flames on the outside? Is it a flame or is it lights? Is it something that can be controlled by electricity?'

At the end of the main road through Kroonstad there is a railway bridge. We passed under this bridge. About a mile further on, there was an Air Station.

I imagine it was an Air Force Station. By this time we were going fast, when lo and behold, there was this glow again! It had switched on its lights, or whatever it was that operated it. And the same thing happened: when we travelled fast, it stayed in position; no movement backwards, forwards, up or down relative to us and the way we were travelling -- consistently, no movement, no sound -- it was just there!

I said to the youngster: 'Open the cubby hole.' I took out my Luger pistol and told him, 'I'm going to put a couple of shots into it', because I could have done so very easily; if it was a soft thing the bullets would have gone through it, so close was it to us. But the youngster started crying and sobbing and was very worried about my antagonistic attitude. I felt sorry for him and put back the gun, just to satisfy him.

We passed through the rest of the towns until we got to Vanderbijlpark, where we stopped at my Garage. My house was nearby, and also a sub-station to provide electricity for the whole area. It was a busy main road, with cars coming past on the way to Vanderbijlpark and Vereeniging. The whole area was covered with big blue gum trees when I bought the property and I had to cut them down before I could put up the buildings. I lived and worked there for more than 17 years.

We parked by one of the blue gum trees and got out of the car. The UFO was on the other side of the street; I could see it through the branches. To get a clearer view, I walked across and saw it was stationary. But the flames were still on the periphery of the ball. I waved and shouted but there was no movement; no dimming of the lights or anything. I got a very strong hand-held searchlight and was going to use it.

Now I think that, after me standing there and waving and shouting, this 'thing' must have realized that this place was my destination and I wasn't going to move on. It then started moving forward slowly. I also moved along with it and 'they' must have understood I wanted to get a better view, so they moved off along the road. The object moved straight along, not deviating from the road or its former position and distance.

A bit further on there's a slight rise; the thing kept the exact distance and altitude: as the road went up, so 'it' went up.

I thought about the size of the UFO but it's difficult to judge at night. I would guess the diameter to be from 8-12 metres (25-35 ft), perfectly circular. It had nothing else I could see: no wings, nothing sticking out.

Having been in the Air Force, I was interested in the propulsion side, being curious to know what kind of propulsion was motivating the movement of that thing. Over the years I've thought of it. I've told very few people about it, but that is how the whole thing happened.

The reflection from the flames could be seen on my side of the road. I could not see through the flames, the same as when a bright light shines in your eyes, you can see nothing through it. But there were no windows or exits or entrances anywhere -- it was a perfectly blank ball. But I am absolutely certain, 100 percent, that it was controlled by an intelligence which I had never seen before. I was in the Air Force for more than 17 years and also served in N° 1,2,3,5 and 6 Fighter Squadrons during the war.

Eventually, I served in N° 27 Squadron and later on in N° 40 Squadron. N° 40 was a Bomber, Fighter and Photographic Squadron and that is why they regarded us as General Montgomery's personal Squadron. If he wanted certain information, he'd come to our Squadron to get it. We had a good proportion of airmen who were colour-blind, and these were valuable because they saw through camouflage; they weren't put off by it and could see what was really there. The result was that they brought back the correct information every time.'

COMMENTARY:

With regard to Jack Jones' experience, one can immediately rule out a meteor for obvious reasons. However, in William Corliss' LIGHTNING, AURORAS, NOCTURNAL LIGHTS, ETC., he writes of Low-level Nocturnal Lights which, before detailed analysis, could perhaps account for this UFO.

Corliss says: 'Pale flames, softly glowing globes and other luminous apparitions hovering and drifting erratically below tree-top level' do occur all over the world. These lights range from candle-sized to radiating masses several feet in diameter.

He goes on to say that these lights frequently vanish when approached and then reappear nearby. But he makes no mention of a type which followed the path taken by this reported light.

Nor does he speak of the 'mass of red flames' which were 'shimmering, chopping and changing', in Jones' words.

Corliss also mentions that these balls of light bob, swoop and have elusive antics which seem to beckon the witness to follow. But this was not the case here. Corliss says that these nocturnal lights appear over wet or swampy areas and again, on the road travelled by Jones, no similar terrain appears.

The other pertinent factor is the size of the object. Jones speaks of a flaming circular ball between 8-12 metres in diameter and even allowing for error, this does not tie in with the varying in size from 'an inch to many feet' described by Corliss.

In his book there are also numerous reports of 'flames, some very pale' but there seems to be no description which ties in with that of Jack Jones. One can hardly accept that whatever this ball of fire was, it had no intelligence! Unless it was attracted by electro-magnetism emanating from the vehicle. But if this is so, one is forced to ask, 'Why then disappear when the car reached the town of Kroonstad, and reappear when it had passed through?'

Like Corliss, I find it significant that these cases have not been investigated at a top scientific level. One feels almost as though many scientists are afraid of what they will find.

I have always agreed with Paul Devereux where he reports on gasses which ignite after squeezing through rocks and the upper layers of earth to produce 'earth lights', and to me they are readily identifiable. But some of these lights defy all reasonable explanation.

This experience is particularly interesting as it is reported by a man who was highly qualified in the S.African Air Force; observant, not gullible, especially well trained. Jack Jones had a further experience where some details are still being checked before publication, but hopefully, this will appear in UFO AFRINEWS N° 8.

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IN RELATION TO.....

I am indebted to UFO RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF CANADA (Director Lorne Goldfaden) for sending me their UFORIC Newsletter for 1990/92. In this there is a report of a young lady and her father, residing in Ontario near the Great Lakes. Close to the home there was a swamp where the family had been witnessing some form of 'craft' almost on a nightly basis, which appeared to emit a loud cricket-like sound. These sounds were analysed by UFORIC, but the interesting factor here is that on one evening while recording the sounds, the girl and her father claim to have encountered a huge bat-like creature somewhat resembling a prehistoric bird.

This puts me in mind of a local case which occurred on the night of 18th May, 1958. Ray Burl, a pilot who served with the SAAF during the Second World War, lived with his family at 5, Kirkaldy Road, Fama, in Bulawayo.

At approx. 22:30 that evening, his wife, who was reading in bed, heard a strange rustling sound. At 01:15 the Burls were awakened by their neighbours, three young ladies. The young women were disturbed by a 'thing' which was hovering in the sky over the Burls' house. Ray went outside with them and observed an object, roughly rectangular, measuring about 1.5 metres by 1 metre.

'It hovered over the house and moved swiftly in both a horizontal and vertical plane, all the time making this rustling noise together with a high-pitched vibrating sound. We watched it for a few moments and then I ran inside to fetch my torch. When I came out again, the object had disappeared.'

A little while later they heard the rustling noise again and the strange 'thing' came down in a spiral movement and once more hovered over the house, not more than 15-18 metres up.

When it was pretty low, Ray turned his torch on it and they could all see a dull grey belly, very faintly luminous.

As soon as it was hit by the torch-light, it shot off in a horizontal plane, although Ray managed to keep the beam on it.

Then it rose vertically until the torch could no longer reach it and finally disappeared in a southerly direction.

Ray says the experience left him ice-cold and one of the girls was ill all night.

He added, 'It looked something like a book which has been opened in the middle and the extreme edges which might be described as wings, fluttered in a manner similar to a hawk poised before swooping. That is, there was very little movement at all except for the oscillating at the edges.'

The night was clear although there was no moon. There was no breath of wind which would eliminate it being a kite or a balloon.

Subsequently, the Burls' baby daughter Gillian became ill and the family doctor diagnosed complete dehydration, with no actual cause for this, but she soon recovered.

[Reported in UFOS AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS, pp 120-123]

Case N° 29 : BRUCE OF HARARE

Bruce told me, 'After the occurrence of one of these unusual experiences [meeting with figures in the night], I woke up and my genitals were sore; quite painful in fact. Next day I noticed a dark scar where the soreness was. I have never been able to explain this.

[Quoted from UFO AFRINEWS N° 4, page 9]

Dr David Jacobs, PhD, in his new book SECRET LIFE, says: 'A less harmful but disconcerting physical effect is the anomalous bruise. It is common for abductees to wake up with black and blue marks on their bodies.

'Men discover large bruises around their genitals. Both sexes find numerous black and blue marks on their arms and legs right after an abduction.'

Case N° 48 (In this Issue)

GAMIDA reports:

'On one occasion I went to work and my colleague started teasing me for having a love-bite. I ignored her because I never have that sort of stuff; I didn't even have a boy friend. But she persisted and I eventually agreed to go with her to the cloakroom, where I saw a mark on my neck.'

Gamida recalled that the night before she had been pinned to the bed and nearly strangled. She also had marks on her wrists.

(Continued from page 7)

I am interested in more details on the children's reports. For instance, how they describe 'Them'. And what do they feel the purpose of the meeting is. I will report further on this most interesting case in UFO AFRINEWS N° 8.

SNIPPETS....

There was a young lady in Durban,
Who believed UFOs were not urban.
But in West Street so fair,
One burnt off her hair,
So now she's wearing a turban!

*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

From Graham Longstaff, Crystal Park, S.Africa.

'One evening, sometime in the mid-seventies, my father saw what he was sure was a UFO over the mountains around Fern Valley, outside Mutare in the eastern area of Zimbabwe. My father is a very practical person and can be contacted [to verify the event].

Graham's father, Mr G V Longstaff, of Mutare, writes to confirm the sighting.

'It was a strange, steady light - not twinkling like a star - and just seemed something different from the normal lights one sees in the sky. It was about due East up from the horizon, and remained in the same position for some time, about one hour or more - and then just disappeared!

I am a keen stargazer and know it was not something like Venus, etc.

I would agree that we are not the only civilization in the Universe and suspect that there are many more 'beings' much more advanced than us. I have done a fair amount of study and have a small library of books by various authors [on the subject]. Although I do not blindly accept everything I read, I am always prepared to give it serious thought.

I must say that I admire the work you are doing in the subject, although I suspect that it must be an uphill battle!

[You can say that again, Mr Longstaff.- Ed.]

Following Stuart Marongwe's report in UFO AFRINEWS N° 6 (Case 41) about his brother's sighting of a very fast-moving cloud over Njelele, Zimbabwe (1985/6) in the very early morning, Stuart has written again 'to clarify the sighting.'

Stuart says this was what his brother saw:

'A gleaming, grey-white cloud came from the west at a frenetic speed, heading east. It passed right over us [his brother and some friends] with an eerie silence and remained in sight for about a minute, which was enough time to make out its size, shape and height above us. It had a long shape, more or less elliptical but its outline was too fuzzy to make out the definite shape; it was quite high up but one could easily become aware of its great size. If it was higher up it would have been bigger and probably moving much faster.'

Stuart continues:

'What bothers me is how could such a 'thing' move at a high velocity within the thicker part of the atmosphere without vapourising, make no sound and have such dimensions. Perhaps the answers to the UFO enigma and UFO propulsion technique lie in the very near future.

'I hope this time I have been more explicit and helpful and that my contribution might go some way in solving the UFO problem.'

[Stuart Marongwe is 19 and lives near Kwe Kwe, in the Midlands of Zimbabwe.]

From Marianne Griffiths, Fourways, South Africa.

'This sighting took place in mid-1974. We were travelling from Selukwe to Shabani (Zimbabwe) about eight o'clock at night, when we noticed a big orange ball following us - like when the sun sets - that hovered above the trees. I turned round in the passenger seat and watched it follow us at the same distance, even when we went around corners.

When we reached the lights of Shabani, it suddenly disappeared.

It definitely was not a reflection from other car lights, of which there were a few, or from the moon.

'I did read in the newspaper that a similar sighting had been made outside Fort Victoria in about the same week.'

[This refers to a most interesting case which is recorded below. - Ed.]

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PETER AND FRANCES SIGHTING: June 1st, 1974.

In the early hours of June 1st, 1974, a young couple, Peter (23) and Frances (21) left Harare, Zimbabwe, for Durban, South Africa. They were travelling in a Peugeot 404; the car in good condition, with new, retreaded tyres. There was still some moonlight when they reached Mvuma at about 02:15, when they spotted a figure on the side of the road whom they thought might be a policeman but as they passed by, they could see it had a shiny, metallic appearance. Shortly afterwards they saw a light in the sky, which appeared to be revolving like the light of a lighthouse.

A little later the car headlights, and the interior lights, faded. When Peter lifted his foot from the accelerator, there was no reduction in speed. There had been a distinct drop in temperature in the car and they piled on jerseys and pullovers, but when they aroused the garage attendant in Masvingo, he was dressed in shorts and vest and could not understand why Peter and Frances had felt the cold. The light above them had followed them to Masvingo but disappeared when they reached that town.

The journey to Beit Bridge was even more puzzling. There were now two objects in the sky, instead of only one. The landscape had changed: the scrub and bush had gone and it seemed as though they were travelling in swampland.

Peter also realised that he had lost control of the car again, with the speedometer at 190 km per hour. Later, under hypnosis, Peter felt that there was someone in the back seat. When he asked what this being was like, the reply was that he could see whatever he wanted to see: he could see a duck, or a monster.

[There is a lot more to this incident, fully reported in the UFOS-AFRICAN ENCOUNTERS book and in FATE Magazine, USA, of January, 1977.]

COMING OUT OF THE CLOSET

Kenny McKinnon

Recently I was asked by a colleague to give a brief talk about the UFO phenomenon to his Rotary Club in Johannesburg.

After much internal turmoil, I agreed to his request on the understanding that his fellow Rotarians were aware that I was a mere enthusiast and not some scientific academic.

Not having had experience in giving UFO presentations, I obviously arrived rather nervous and was extremely pleased at the cold beer which a member had offered. It did not take long to realize that the majority of those in attendance were upstanding members of the community. Many obviously were successful business people and (oh, surely not!) a Catholic priest!

As I stood on the platform to address the distinguished gathering, I felt them snigger at the prospect of 'little green men...' How wrong one can be!

The interest started off as tepid intrigue and quickly rose to intense heights. Audience participation was working a dream, here we had successful and respected people discussing the eternal question in an intelligent fashion. Was my impersonation of Dr Allen Hynek working?

Absolutely not! These fine members of the community were simply expressing their long withheld feelings and views in a comfortable environment. I made the comment that being a UFO researcher/enthusiast was like being gay at times (no offence meant to anyone), one has difficulty coming out of the closet.

Is it fear of ridicule? Is it the embarrassing reality of going against the norm?

I myself am a manager in the fast-lane business world of Johannesburg, I know all about hiding in the UFO closet.

Slowly but surely I am gaining confidence and expressing my opinions on the most important subject known to Mankind. For years I have read and learnt about the UFO phenomenon; now I have started to do some low-key research and field investigations. I now know there are hundreds out there desperate to push open the closet door.

Come out, come out, wherever you are... we need you!

[Kenny McKinnon is Director of a new group recently formed in South Africa. This group is known as ENIGMA, and his co-director is Graham Longstaff. Those interested in joining ENIGMA or attending any of their meetings, please contact them on P O Box 4104, Halfway House 1685, Transvaal. Tel. Graham on 967-1678.]

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FOR THE UFO TEENAGER ...

If you're going to a Fair, beware!

If you're travelling at night, take care!

If you're out all alone and see a telephone,

Remember E.T. and call Home.

If you chance on an alien, so kind,

Whatever you do, don't be blind.

He might be bizarre, with his supersonic cars,

But what he's really after is getting you to Mars.

IN AN ALTERED STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS... Case N° 40

Jack van der Merwe of Cape Town, South Africa
(Interviewer: Pamela Puxley)

Several experiences stand out in Jack van der Merwe's memory: a) a voice seemingly in his head and a place that seemed full of mist and water; b) an orange glowing object appeared to him on Table Mountain when he was lost, whereupon he immediately saw the path leading to safety; and c) a giant ant-like creature appeared to him on a deserted road.

The first experience Jack reported, was in 1969 when, as a young man, he was working night shifts in Durban (South Africa) harbour. He sometimes heard a voice, seemingly in his head, telling him to relax, relax. This time the voice told him to relax and go somewhere quiet where he could be all alone. It told him he would not be missed by anyone, though the port was busy and he had a lot of work to do. He obeyed and went into a shed where bales of wool were stacked. He was still hearing the dock noises but, he says, 'The next moment it seemed as if I was standing in water, almost as if under water, though there was no water there. It was very misty, and there were people all around. They were all dark and had sort of white flowing garments. They seemed very beautiful. The voice spoke to me - in my head - and gave me all sorts of advice and warnings, which I now can't recall. I felt very relaxed and calm. The next thing, I heard the noises of the docks again, and got up and went back to my office.

'I thought the whole thing had lasted a few minutes - but when I got back, having noted the time before I went off, I was amazed to find I had been away about two hours - I just couldn't believe it! I thought I would be fired, but when the foreman went by, he only asked me if everything was all right, and I realized they hadn't even missed me!'

Many years went by. One day, Jack climbed up Table Mountain and watched the sunset from the top. It soon became dark, he took the wrong path, lost his sandals and slipped and slid, trying to find the path. He battled for what seemed a very long time.

By now he was very tired and cold. Basically, he said, he felt he was struggling for his life.

Suddenly, he felt he had to climb a certain rock, and experienced a surge of energy. He climbed in the dark and looking up, saw 'an orange glowing object in the sky above me, some distance away, hanging right there. It was egg-shaped and it was as if this thing was looking at me, and gave me this energy -- and suddenly I saw the path, and the moment I saw it, the thing disappeared! I climbed down, took the path and within minutes was down on the road. Everything happened incredibly fast from the moment I saw that energy -- there was the path and I was home -- just like that!'

Jack recalls the next experience as taking place sometime in the seventies, at a time when he was hitchhiking on a lonely road somewhere in the Cape. It was very hot and he had stood a long time on the dusty road, waiting for a lift.

He turned his head and saw 'a HUGE ant, coming towards me almost as if it was going to attack. I picked up a rock and threw it at the ant and I saw it hit its head, which fell off -- and then the thing was gone!'

Jack was astounded. He walked across the road and again saw the huge ant, with its head lying next to it on the road. It then vanished.

Points of Interest in Jack's story:

1) Missing Time: This is a common factor of UFO reports. One of the most famous abductee stories, that of Barney and Betty Hill (USA, 1961), showed that they had lost approx. 1½ hours of time during their experience.

John Spencer in THE UFO ENCYCLOPEDIA, says that during the 1989 International UFO Conference in London, representatives of UFO organisations agreed that 'Missing Time' should not be suggested to the witness; it should come spontaneously from the reportee.

2) 'Monsters' or strange creatures are often closely allied to UFO experiences, although perhaps one could hardly call Jack van der Merwe's incident a true UFO happening.

On the night of 21/22 August, 1955, at Kelly, near Hopkinsville in Kentucky, a family and some friends, gathered in a house, watched creatures roaming around outside. The creatures were about one metre high, with enormous glowing eyes, bald, and with elephant-like ears. The arms ended in long claw-like hands and the body had a silver sheen although the eyes glowed yellow. The family fired at the intruders but did not seem to hit them and were terrified when they realised that some of the creatures were on the roof.

Eventually, the police were called and the family were subjected to a great deal of ridicule for months and years afterwards, but they have never retracted their story and no real evidence as to what they had encountered has ever been put forward. There are many similar 'monster' reports, most of which have given rise to Big Foot, Sasquatch and Yeti-type stories.

Although no physical proof has ever been produced, one has to bear in mind that the reports are often relayed by reliable, truthful people and it is difficult to accuse everyone of lying!

MYSTERY TRIANGLES OVER LAKE KARIBA (ZIMBABWE)

Case N° 67

David O'Brien and his wife Jenny were guests on Peter Flack's houseboat on Lake Kariba on Saturday, 17th October, 1992.

They left the Marina and made for Sanyati Gorge, where they anchored about 4 kms up. That night they had a bit of a party which went on till quite late, when the majority of the 12 on board went to bed.

Peter and his girl friend stayed on deck and it was Peter who first saw the light, hanging right over the Gorge. They were looking due south down the Gorge and this light was positioned over the Gorge, at a fairly low altitude.

At this stage, Peter woke David and he in turn woke Jenny. They watched the light through binoculars although they could see it quite clearly with the naked eye.

David says he could see a group of three lights, one red and two green. They were triangular in shape and appeared to be rotating, although they were part of one object. By this time it was the early hours of Sunday morning and many of the others (8) had also woken. They watched the lights for about three hours and noted that they were moving in a geostationary fashion, i.e. the object kept up with the movement of the earth. They could see the stars moving behind the object, which was opaque.

It was definitely not the Mazowe satellite, Dave said. Although the object was low in the sky, they could not see any shape as it was too dark.

At the point where they were, the Sanyati Gorge is about 500 metres wide and has high mountains on both sides.

As they were watching, they saw another light coming up on their left, from the east.

'This was identical to the first light, but brighter, probably closer', said David. 'I was using Orion's Belt as my reference.'

It first moved in over the mountains, coming from the east, then stopped.'

Just then, David saw another four of the lights behind the new one arriving. They were in a dead straight line; six altogether.

David was able to photograph the lights at this stage using a 150mm lens on a Canon AV1 camera. He has promised to let us have a photo should anything show up when the film is developed.

Jenny says: 'It took me some while to spot the first light and it seemed to be shaky - it wobbled. And then suddenly, there was this tremendous flash of light from one side to another....'

David interrupts: 'I didn't mention that we saw this flash; brilliant, and moving very quickly, low over the hills; a flash over the mountains, going from east to west. At that stage we had not yet seen the other five lights.'

Jenny adds: 'I didn't see all of them, I saw only four, including the one with which I thought there was something wrong. I did not see them as clearly as Dave. I had a feeling that perhaps the others were trying to help the first one.'

After they had watched it for a long time, the party of eight went to bed. But David said that one of the men, who got up at about 3 a.m., told him that by that time the lights had all gone.

COMMENT: It is interesting that more and more 'triangular' craft are being reported as opposed to discoid-shaped UFOs.

Presumably they are the result of genetic engineering since actual intercourse with aliens does not usually take place. Abductees will also be asked to hold babies or older children who need human contact in order to thrive.

So far all the stages are invariable in the sense that they happen, and happen in this order, to all or almost all abductees. A fourth stage is more varied, and differs from case to case. Two abductees, strangers to each other, may be forced to have intercourse, supervised and observed by their captors. Experiments in gauging pain thresholds may be carried out. Everything is efficiently and clinically and purposefully carried on without evidence of any real concern for, or even interest in, the human beings who are being subjected to all this. Their feelings and the psychological effect upon their lives are not considered. The one overriding alien interest in us is in our breeding process. They reassure victims that there will be no pain, but this is to calm them for their purposes, not out of concern for them. Jacobs puts it succinctly: 'they express no interest in personal, social or family relationships... (nor) in politics, culture, economics or the rich and extraordinarily complex tapestry that makes up human relationships and societies. They do not ask even idle questions about this.'

The fifth stage is the return. The abductee will be told 'it's time to go now - hurry up.' His or her clothes will be put back on, sometimes inside out. There is no time to waste. Room must be made for the next human being on the assembly line.

What are we to think of all this?

Jacobs devotes parts III and IV of his book to this question. He discusses the effects on abductees' lives, initially when they don't know what has happened to them and later on when they do, and when they also realise it may happen again. What can they do to prevent it? Painfully little, it seems.

Who can they talk to about it? Most people treat their stories with ridicule. One aim of Jacobs' and Hopkins' work is to set up support groups. Somehow they must be enabled to get on with life and not be crippled by the experience. One can only applaud all of this.

I do not agree with everything Jacobs says in his final section on the search for meaning, subdivided into Answers and Questions. Nevertheless I am full of admiration for the lucid, objective way he sets the whole matter out so that we are never in doubt about what issues are involved and what the questions really are. This is where I feel it is a graduate level book. Till we know what questions to ask we are only at primary level. The book is also written throughout in a clear English which is a delight to read. Such presentation is a courtesy to readers and encourages the response of logical thought and questioning.

One such question must obviously be, do all true abduction experiences really take precisely this form? Is there only one genus of aliens, involving two groups of beings, one very small, the other a few inches taller, with the small beings obedient to the taller one?

Jacobs thinks this is the true position. He attributes genuine memories of taller beings with dark hair, etc., to envisioning techniques practised by the aliens to make abductees willing to have intercourse with them. He rejects stories which are entirely unlike his overall paradigm, (omitting the medical examination, reproductive procedures, etc.) as fabrications. I suspect that one needs to preserve rather more of an open mind. There is some evidence of cultural variations in the experience. Jacobs' model is certainly valid for at least the majority of North American cases. Moreover North American cases make up the majority of all investigated cases, world wide. Nevertheless quite a substantial number of British cases are known, with a smaller percentage from other European countries.

Beings reported from Europe tend to be of average human size with Nordic type features. Nevertheless, they engage in the same procedures as the North American little beings. There also seem to be systematic variations in the accounts coming from South America. If these cultural differences are real, their full implications for the subjective or objective reality of the whole phenomenon is as yet unclear.

I also feel that Jacobs' rejection of Jacques Vallée's^{*} suggestion that there is a connection between folk tales of abductions by fairies and 'little people' is too cavalier. He says the tales have been disconnected from their original social and cultural context, to be offered as fact in a completely different milieu. Folklore is a dynamic process that is constantly changing. To get at whatever kernel of truth may be behind a tale is often quite impossible.

We sense the objective historian speaking as we read what Jacobs writes, and there is of course a kernel of truth in what he says. But possibly a psychological approach to the interpretation of myths may be more productive than an historical one. C.G.Jung's painstaking analyses have revealed the enormous relevance of various mythological characterizations to subjective mental states and mental development generally. Jacobs says the abductees are not telling stories they had previously heard from other people but relating accounts of events they believe happened to them. True - and true also that myths do not fit neatly into the pattern of the modern American way of life. But then neither do abductions, really, and Jacobs himself acknowledges that they too involve an 'altered' state of consciousness. Folklore may actually be very relevant.

* See Passport to Magonia. Chicago, Henry Reguery, 1969 and Dimensions, Chicago, Contemporary Books, 1988.

We need to ask just what sort of state of consciousness abductees are in during their experience. No explicit post-hypnotic suggestion to forget what has occurred is given, yet the memory normally vanishes immediately return takes place. Jacobs attributes this to the fact that it is an 'altered' state of consciousness, without further discussion or explanation. It is well known that dreams, drugs and certain forms of meditation also induce altered states of consciousness. Exactly what relation (if any) these states have to the abduction state of consciousness is a question that merits very close investigation. Perhaps they could provide a clue to a way to control it, or at least to mitigate the sense of entire paralysis of the will and helplessness which abductees feel at present.

Jacobs mentions that the little beings appear to be wary of humans. They know that humans are physically stronger, and whenever an abductee is able to show some resistance they tend to stand back out of range. Moreover, although the aliens' technology is far in advance of ours and they show great capacity for learning and understanding, essentially they do not appear to be an intrinsically superior race. They have not shown evidence of creative, intuitive or aesthetic abilities. Dr Jacobs sums it up, 'given the right amount of information, human beings appear to be capable of understanding everything that the aliens are doing. Alien activities that at first seemed incomprehensible have become logical and rational as we have accumulated more information.' This, in fact, may be why they are so careful to carry on all their activity in secret, and why they give no true information about themselves to abductees who ask. (Occasionally, they give misleading information. More usually they evade or ignore questions).

Another thought worth pondering is the fact that with their technological superiority, they could have taken over our world with ease if they wanted to.

They have invaded and violated us, but by comparison with what could have happened, interference has been minimal. Moreover, what has been happening to all the hybrid babies they have been manufacturing? They have been doing it for fifty years now, so somewhere or other there are fifty-year old hybrids. They are not on Earth. Are we being exploited to populate some other planet? It makes you think, doesn't it?

IN CONCLUSION

In December, 1992, I flew down to South Africa. I gave three talks: one public one at the South African War Museum in Johannesburg, on the 11th Dec., and two in Cape Town at private homes.

There are several people involved in Ufology in both cities: Ken McKinnon and Graham Longstaff of ENIGMA in Johannesburg; Pam Puxley, Prier Wintle and Andre Nestel in Cape Town. Through them I was able to meet many people who had had UFO sightings or contacts and we now have a wealth of material on taped interviews which Maria Sullivan is transcribing for our next issue, UFO AFRINEWS N° 8, to be published in July 1993.

So far we have been able to keep publication on a bi-annual AFRINEWS on schedule, but of course, not all the cases are recent ones: some go back over the years. Nevertheless, it is my contention that perhaps, in every case, there lies some factor previously overlooked which could possibly unlock the enigma that represents the UFO syndrome.

I talked with one lady who, after the mysterious sighting of a blue flame, found a portion (2 000 litres) of her swimming pool had disappeared. (See AFRINEWS N° 4)

Another man told a group of a 'wall of flame' between two outcrops in Namibia (South West Africa) which I'm sure is a natural phenomenon whose origins I would like to investigate.

I also interviewed the two ladies in Johannesburg who were allegedly abducted in July, 1988, and if this report is a reality (well, as far as we can commit ourselves, I believe it is) we have one of the most detailed reports of an abduction I have ever recorded in Africa!

It is not that I am boosting AFRINEWS (although, of course, I am!) but to show that there is no dearth of reports if one goes out into the field.

True, many are meteors, satellites and other easily explainable phenomena, but SOME are not.

And these are the ones we will concern ourselves with in the future!

FORTHCOMING CONFERENCES

Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigation at Laramie, Wyoming, USA.

June 24/25/26 - Thurs, Fri, and Sat.

Organized by R. Leo Sprinkle, PhD.

MUFON 1993 SYMPOSIUM ON UFOLOGY, The Emergence of a New Science. Held at Hyatt Richmond Hotel, Richmond, Virginia on July 2,3 and 4.

Mark E. Blashak is Symposium Chairman and Walt Andrus, MUFON Director, the Programme Chairman.

IUN Conference on UFOs: FACT, FRAUD OR FANTASY, at Sheffield, Yorkshire, England, on 14/15th August, 1993
Organized by Philip Mantle.

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ADDITIONAL CONFERENCE: C.E.R.P.A. UFO Conference to be held in Marseille, France, on Fri/Sat/Sun 10/11/12 Sept. 1993.

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