

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally, so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Mice, UFOs and a Reward!

Dear Mr. Bowen, — As your readers well know, mice have long been used as subjects in laboratory experiments. The knowledge gained from these experiments often may be used to determine the mechanism of damage in a member of the same species injured by an otherwise unknown cause. (For example, the effects of microwave radiation are especially easy to identify.)

Because of this fact, I hereby offer a reward of \$50.00 for copies of each published description of mice killed or injured as the alleged result of their proximity to a UFO.

Yours sincerely,

Jan Eric Herr,
6250 Stanley Avenue,
San Diego, Calif. 92115
U.S.A.

June 21, 1982.

That "Concorde" film: unidentified object seen from a different angle

Dear Sir, — It was interesting to note how quickly that portion of the British Airways Concorde TV advert was cut when it was discovered there was an unwelcome intruder disporting itself thereon.

Experts were quick to discount this "visitor" as being a "light effect," but really did they do their homework? Perhaps their wills-not-to-believe were showing. Mine did when I first saw what I thought was a piece of paper chasing Concorde — how ridiculous!

Had these "experts" examined the rest of the Concorde footage they would have found that this "UFO" was there, following exactly the same path, on yet another piece of film taken that day, completely discounting their lens flare theory. Apparently there was more than one chase plane following the Concorde and photographing it simultaneously. But obviously, had the experts examined the film this further footage of the UFO would also have been cut; it wasn't, for on February 13th and 14th, 1982, in the British Airways World Cup advert, this fur-

ther UFO footage was beautifully revealed.

I was further reminded of my casual approach to the Concorde object when I saw "Ensemble" 14 (BBC) for again there were unidentified things in the sky during the balcony scene of *L'amour et vie*, showing the possible female tenant with a sky background. There, in the first shot, was a small cloud-like object over her right shoulder. In a second shot (and a third shot) there were two objects, the first had been joined by a cigar-like object.

Of course these objects could have been other things, like aircraft, but then the objects did not move between shots. They could have been structures, balcony or street lamps etc., but then they were up in the air and both were not there all of the time. An airship is a possibility of course, but then there were two, and two airships at once seems unlikely. Or perhaps it was a studio shot with a defective background; when should one close one's mind?

Yours faithfully,

A. Calvert,
26 Well Road,
Barnet,
Herts.

February 15, 1982

Misperceptions encouraged in USSR?

Dear FSR, — I urge your investigator to exercise extreme care in the evaluation of Soviet UFO accounts (e.g.: Creighton's three-part series on Feliks Zigel), since there appears to be some sort of deliberate deception going on.

For example, I believe that I have mustered overwhelming evidence that the great Russian UFO of June 14, 1980 (also seen over Argentina) was only the launching of the Kosmos-1188 satellite, distorted by eyewitness misperceptions and possibly by the addition of spurious fantasies. It is similar to the "jellyfish UFO" over Petrozavodsk on September 20, 1977, which has been solved to the satisfaction of leading American ufologists as the launching of Kosmos-955. Another spectacular Soviet UFO, on May

16, 1981, was caused by the launching of Meteor 2-7. All these shots came from the officially non-existent Pleseck cosmodrome, north of Moscow. Because of secrecy requirements, it suits Soviet purposes that these events be mistakenly perceived by the population as "UFOs," and I suspect that this misperception may be deliberately encouraged.

In the same light, the great Gindilis Report" (Academy of Sciences, 1979) on UFO statistics actually is based mainly on secret Soviet space weapons tests in the 1967 FOBS program "Garbage in, garbage out."

This data may disappoint British UFO enthusiasts but it cannot be ignored.

Respectfully,
James Oberg
RT2, Box 350,
Dickinson
TX 77539
May 25, 1982

New Spanish Book

Dear colleague, — We hereby advise you of the publication of our joint research book entitled *UFOs and Science* (Los OVNIS y la Ciencia), just released this month by Plaza & Janés, an important publisher from Barcelona, Spain.

The book's foreword has been contributed by Dr. Richard F. Haines, experimental psychologist at NASA's Ames Research Center, who wrote that "what Ballester Olmos and Guasp have done is to approach the subject of scientific Ufology systematically, carefully, critically," which basically matches with the real objectives the authors had in mind when working on this book.

We feel that, in order to place this book in its true perspective, the following thought from the book's introduction will be in order: "Ufology, in its current state, is an *embryo* of a significant, new discipline, as originally was the Alchemy, which only became Chemistry when magic and obscurantism were separated from pure

Science." This is the message of the book.

Yours sincerely,
Vicente-Juan Ballester Olmos,
Miguel Guasp,
Guardia Civil 9, D-16,
Valencia-20,
Spain.
January 1982

Alignments

Dear Editor, — In reference to Pat Delgado's interesting article (FSR Vol. 27, No. 5), and for those who have a liking for straight lines, Mrs. Bowles' second contact and abduction took place on the A31 road near the cemetery.

This would place it on the line Cheesefoot Head/Goodworth Clatford.

Also, so far as I can ascertain the straight portion of the road at which Mrs. Bowles' first contact took place aligns with Cheesefoot Head.

Yours sincerely,
John Ledner,
50 Seymour Road,
Ringwood,
Hants.
10 June, 1982

The "nuts-and-bolts" ET idea rejected

Dear Mr. Bowen, — Nuts-and-bolters fail to realise that there is no comparison between lunar flights and interstellar/intergalactic travel. The moon is only 1¼ light-seconds away, and "nuts-and-bolts" spacecraft (such as *Apollo*) can easily cover this short distance in a few days (or even in a few hours in the future).

The nearest star, *Alpha Centaur*, however, is 4⅓ light-years distant from us, and, even at the velocity of light, which no "nuts-and-bolts" craft could attain according to Einstein's theory of relativity, a journey there and back would take nearly 9 years. And the other stars in our Milky Way galaxy are located anywhere between 6 light-years and 80,000 light-years away. Andromeda, our galaxy's bigger sister, with over 300 billion stars, is 2 million light-years away.

Quite apart from these insurmountable interstellar/intergalactic distances, one major objection to the ET hypothesis is: Why should the Sun, of

all 250 billion stars in our Milky Way galaxy, be the selected target of so many ET visits? ETs trying to identify our Sun among this mind-boggling number of stars would be like our trying to find a specific grain of sand on the beach!

Another major reason why the "nuts-and-bolts" ET idea is untenable is provided by the Men-In-Black (MIB) phenomenon which is indisputably linked to the UFO phenomenon. In this connection, Miss Jenny Randles' report entitled "The Car That Disappeared" (FSR 23/3) is extremely revealing. This MIB incident does indicate the parapsychical nature of both the UFO and MIB phenomena.

The trouble with nuts-and-bolters is that they are so obsessed by a material/physical aspect of the UFO phenomenon that they blithely ignore the related parapsychical phenomena such as the MIB and the Marian apparitions.

Yours sincerely,
Julian H. Kaneko,
18, rue Le Corbusier,
CH-1208 Geneva,
Switzerland

Alien influences?

Dear Mr. Bowen, — Many CE4 cases report that the "Aliens" have their representatives living among us on Earth as schemers, influencers and persuaders.

T. Lobsang Rampa, author of 19 books has ideas on the subject. He tells us the methods they use to observe and perhaps help the world. They are: Transmigration, Reincarnation and Visitation.

Transmigration is defined as the taking over of a body by an entity, whose soul, spirit or consciousness, — call it what you will — takes over the body of a person who intends to commit suicide, or a body specially grown for the purpose of Transmigration.

Reincarnation, as most of us should know, is a spirit being reborn as a baby. Reincarnate entities very often do not remember past states of existence, as most of us do not, but have a mental tilt towards their task in life. In the case of our "Aliens" the tilt is towards influencing mankind. For an interesting account of Reincarnation of this type see *Tibet* by Thubten Jigme Norbu and Colin Turnbull. Other

reincarnate entities with a special task and special knowledge are called "Avatars."

Visitation is the other technique they use and is the one with which we are most familiar. They are the close encounters of the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th kinds.

Yours sincerely,
Stephen Pyrah,
76 Woodbridge Road,
Leicester.
May 27, 1982

[Readers will be interested to see Gordon Creighton's observations on the late T. Lobsang Rampa in his article "The Return of the 'Cyclopes'?" on page 3 — EDITOR]

The Integrity of Experience

Dear Sir, — Let me start by stating that I fully endorse the need to authenticate reports of sightings, if only to identify those individuals whose motive is profit or publicity or to ridicule. However, I seriously doubt that much more can be achieved. The person who sincerely believes he or she has seen a UFO, however bizarre the circumstances, whatever the lack of corroborative evidence and regardless of the alternative explanations, deserves our attention and respect — as I hope to demonstrate.

It is easy to forget that we all make gross presumptions about what is real and what is unreal, what is possible and impossible, what is true and what is false. Perhaps we should remind ourselves that we inhabit a world constructed by common consent and we interpret and judge our own and others' experiences by arbitrary conventions only. We do not know — we can but speculate.

Therefore any theories about UFOs and any assessment of encounters with them are distorted by a predetermined and habitual outlook. And this same preconditioning determines what to us is plausible or implausible. We are not, I would suggest, well qualified to judge or to explain.

I incline more and more to the view that if we are to regard the details of an encounter as important, then no less so is the individual's capacity to experience it. Your files are, above all, records of human experience and the

mushrooming of reports and sightings since World War II of this and other strange phenomena speaks to me of a quantum leap in awareness undergone by an evolving human species.

Perhaps the World Wars themselves have been sufficient trauma to precipitate such a leap. I can find no reason why many orders of existence might not interpenetrate our own and all we have lacked and may now be acquiring is the gift of sight.

Consider, for example, the experience of a tramp who finds himself staggering, drunk and sick, across Hungerford Bridge one clear night. Once he was a contented man with secure means and a loving wife and son. But he was suddenly beset by misfortune. His son was killed in a car accident and shortly after his wife died of cancer. His life in ruins he started to drink heavily and a consequent mistake at the office cost his firm a great deal of money and resulted in his dismissal. With nothing to live for, he abandoned himself to alcoholism and a miserable existence amongst the dregs of society. It's 10.30 and the Festival Hall is just emptying. People jostle past him chasing trains and buses. He looks down the Thames and there, some twenty feet above the water and clearly reflected in it, hovers a UFO bathed in a corona of light. He can feel its light upon his face. He feels embraced and supported and comforted by its soft colours. He starts to weep. For the first time he understands what it means to love and be loved, and months of misery and degradation are washed away. He is close to the most complete rest he has ever known, when a policeman rudely moves him on. "Can't you see it?" he cries. But the policeman can't. Nor can the hundreds of concert goers on their way home. All they can see is another drunk being a nuisance.

The following day the tramp finds himself with a strength and confidence and inner security to stop drinking and to start to rebuild his life. And in this he is entirely success-

ful. The strange thing is that when he decides to report his encounter to a research organisation, nobody pays much interest. After all, he was, by his own admission, drunk, and why didn't any of the hundreds of other people out that night report something strange. But who cares if he is believed or not: his life has been renewed and for that he'll be eternally grateful regardless of how it happened.

Yours faithfully,
Paul A. Greenwich,
1 Partridge Place,
Fen Place,
Turners Hill,
near Crawley,
West Sussex RH10 4TT.

Identifying Moon and Star effects

Dear Sir, — Referring to the letter in FSR, p. 27, Vol. 27, No. 5, by Jenny Randles. This business of puzzling between UFO/IFO does create some controversy. Under no circumstances would I detract from the witnesses' comments and impressions, but it should not be too difficult to obtain an on-spot investigation, check the Grid References of the observers, time, and direction of observation, to enable some potential "line-up" of sighting and track course (if any!).

From the foregoing it should be fairly reasonable for personnel at the Greenwich Observatory to *attempt* to finalise *their* assumptions. The moon can be a cause of many "trick" observations. On one occasion some of our members (DIGAP) were doing one of our many (at that time) sky-watches on the side of Winter Hill, N.W. of Bolton, Lancs. When two of our colleagues, suddenly startled, cried out at a bright light, large, which appeared to be hurling itself closer and closer, all of a sudden it resolved itself into the moon. We had been startled, no doubt of it, and the explanation we deduced was due generally to atmospheric conditions.

Fairly heavy cloud present (not forgetting our altitude at this spot was approximately 300 metres) at base level 1000/1200 ft, with secondary cloud developing from low cloud, moving up and developing from the Mersey Valley area, i.e. part of the 03.00 a.m. morning mist rising. This, with slight breeze, began to create a tunnel effect with the base cloud, that began to break up and move with the slight breeze. The total effect with the sudden appearance of the moon's light was just as if the moon was not only pulsing i.e. due to possible refraction effect through the moist vapour varying in thickness or density, but appeared to be tearing through the sky, due to the eye being held by the cloud movement.

I had a similar incident with a sighting which involved the star Sirius. A person had 'phoned me to come "as that light we had talked about was again there, showing red, blue and green flashes." This was a cold night in December 2 or 3 years ago. When I arrived we went to where he'd observed it, a fairly open view of the southern sky, between 9.30/10.30 p.m. No doubt it was very effective; the flashes were there, and of course Sirius can appear just that little bit brighter than the average star. But the main cause was probably a "bubble" of very cold frosty atmosphere in which the observer is *in situ* and acting like a huge lens lying on the ground causing the star's apparent twinkle to be increased, and subject to refraction effects, as the light emission bonds and scintillates to the observer.

Why do the stars "twinkle" and yet the planets appear to hold a steady light?

Yours sincerely,
W. Skellon,
DIGAP (Direct Investigation Group
for Aerial Phenomena),
18 Lansdowne Road,
Flixton,
Manchester M31 3PX
June 2, 1982

World round-up

*of news and comment
about recent sightings*

Finland

Possible abduction on Pielinen Lake

We learn from the quarterly report of *Suomen Ufotutkijat ry* (UFO Research of Finland) that, — “After a long quiet period, UFO Research of Finland now has interesting news to report. As the Finnish UFO researchers were gathering for their annual summer seminar at Kylämä, in Central Finland, something extraordinary took place on Pielinen Lake in Eastern Finland.

“It all started on July 31, 1981, at 8.40 p.m. when two 35-year-old vacationing men were sailing with their motor boat towards the town of Lieksa. They were passing the Vaaraniemi Cape which is covered by evergreen trees, when they suddenly saw a black sphere in the sky. The sphere was surrounded by one large light and several smaller ones. The large light began to approach them, and the men stopped the boat. Now a black object was separated from the group of lights, and flew to the stern of the boat. The object seemed to be enveloped by a fog, and there were two lights on it. Suddenly one of the men was “paralysed” and couldn’t move his head. However, he continued to talk with his companion. Then the lights and the black object disappeared into the sky. Now the men noticed that they were not sitting at the same locations on the boat as they had been a moment before. The sky was clear and the boat was still near the Cape, despite the strong currents and the wind. The men glanced at their watches. The time was 4.10 a.m. on the following morning. They had lost 6 hours of their lives. As after effects they suffered from shaking hands, nightmares, and a disoriented sense of balance for over a week.

“After a week of after effects, they contacted the famous astronomers Juhani Kyröläinen and Pekka Teerikorpi (authors of a UFO book) at Helsinki University. Since then the astronomers have conducted extensive studies including two unsuccessful attempts to hypnotise the men. So far it is only known that the phenomenon was not a meteorite, or a Russian

rocket launch. The studies are continuing in collaboration with UFO Research of Finland and new results are expected in due course.

Norway

Children’s sighting near Larvik

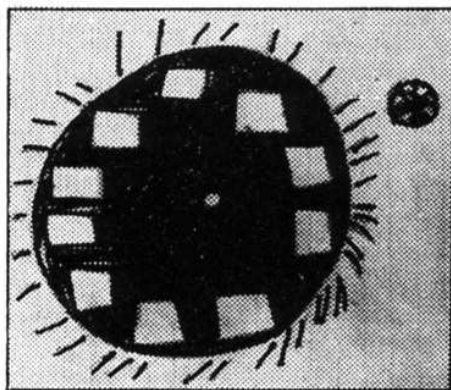
A Norwegian newspaper which, from the cutting we have received, appears to be called “VG”, and dated Friday, 16 October 1981, carries an item about a UFO event. The reader who sent the item also included a translation, and we present this in précis form, —

“An unidentified over Melgeroa was observed by a group of children aged from 5 to 11 years. A girl, whose name is Linn Fydse, said they were out playing when they saw a powerful light moving in from the sea. As well as being powerful, the light was also sharply defined, and forceful: several of the young observers were thrown to the ground.

“‘One of the boys was *going all white in his eyes*’ said Linn.

“They watched the object for a while, and suddenly a ‘trunk’ dropped from it. ‘Surely a trunk full of money’ one of the children cried. But they were all too frightened to approach this trunk, and ran off to their homes.

“Another of the witnesses, Monica Gausdal, was asked by her father to make a sketch of what she had seen. The father then took them to the police station at Larvik (Southern Norway). The sighting was declared



Monica Gausdal’s sketch of the object, as published in the newspaper “VG”.

‘unidentified’ as there was no resemblance to any known artifact.”

Credit: Sverre Lied of Svinndal, Norway.

Greece

1981 Round-up

We have received a most interesting letter from one reader **George Alahouzos** of Athens. He summarizes some recent events, and we hope to have fuller details of selected cases in due course. Here is an extract from his letter,—

“In your editorial, ‘Hard times,’ in Vol. 27, No. 2, you pointed out that sightings had petered out to a minimum. I believe this is where correspondence on a world wide basis is imperative. Continuous transmission of data to a central informative nucleus aids researchers in their efforts to comprehend the patterns which arise from time to time. I am justified in believing that many countries have their share of the phenomenon but that news of the incidents rarely gets a chance to be published within those countries, even more so outside of them. Greece is definitely one of these. It appears that the phenomenon recently decided to restrict its activities to the boundaries of this small land. A few of the sightings made during the summer months of this year were quite impressive and were definitely worth looking into. Regrettably, it seems that only a small percentage of the totality of sightings actually reached investigators. To give you some idea of our summer ‘flap,’ I have listed several of the more interesting cases.

“During July 1981, two large objects, apparently the size of the full moon, were observed for a lengthy period of time over the city of Corinth. Five days later an object was photographed near the town of Akrata. This series of shots turned out to be one of the most intriguing events in Greek UFO history. I shall return to this subject later. A few weeks after this incident, a red, cigar-shaped object with two under-hanging globes of the same colour, terrified a group of young men