

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's fullname 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.

That BBC Television Programme — The Case of the UFOs

Dear Sir, — Despite the recent intensification in the attempts by 'select' scientific experts to 'debunk' the UFOs in such mass media programmes as the recent showing by NOVA, here in the USA, of the BBC Horizon production *The Case of the UFOs*, my interest in your publication has not diminished one bit. *If anything, that slick TV production, which amounted to a brilliant obfuscation of the truth, has only increased my interest.*

A careful analysis of the techniques employed by the producers of the TV programme leads me to conclude that the very same techniques could be used to prove the non-existence of both James Oberg and Philip Klass! I am left with the question: "*Why did they go to such lengths?*"*

I am thankful that we live in 'free' societies. Let us hope that freedom of speech remains stronger than the will of the rich and powerful to manipulate the beliefs and opinions of the masses through control of information. Their intentions may very well be good, but their methods are abominable.

Thank you for the continuing excellence of your publication.

Sincerely,
Frank E. Denaro,
2951-A Webster,
San Francisco, CA 94123,
U.S.A.
October 24, 1982

**Why they did it is patent to all. On a very famous occasion in the British House of Commons about fifty years ago, a brilliant member named F. E. Smith (later Lord Birkenhead), striving to preserve the proper degree of parliamentary decorum while plainly branding his opponent as a liar, compromised neatly by dubbing him a "terminological inexactitudinarian." (Some claim, though probably wrongly, that the wit was the first Winston Churchill.)*

At any rate, our own views about "terminological inexactitudinarians" and the Boys of the Mendacious Brigade were conveyed in Dr. Hynek's excellent Guest-Editorial in our last issue.

As to whether we truly enjoy the benefits of 'living in free societies', maybe there are by now enough little straws in the wind to indicate that reader Denaro is a trifle optimistic? (It is not that we do not still enjoy a vast degree of freedom of speech, plus the basic liberties, and thanks be to God for that. But there is a lot of 'listening' going on. Mail is being examined, and a great deal of it never arrives. And telephones are being tapped.) — EDITOR

UFOs in the sea

Dear Sir, — I enjoy your magazine, and think it is the best one concerning the UFO Phenomenon. In particular, I have enjoyed your articles on the "Connection" theories — i.e. *Spruce Budworms*, etc. There are too many people in this country who are anxious to explain the UFO events away as natural phenomena. I also believe that the U.S. Government is keeping facts on this subject away from the public.

Only 20 miles from my home on Shaw Island, Wash., lies Victoria, B.C. The article by Dr. P. M. H. Edwards (FSR 27/4) concerning MIBs therefore relates to very close to home, even though not in the same country.

I believe that there are many, many people who have seen something unusual in the sky and are afraid to tell anyone about it. There is, for example, a radio-talk programme in the U.S. called the Larry King Show, broadcast from Washington, D.C. About two weeks ago, Mr King had as his guest a Mr. Bud Hopkins, who wrote the book *Missing Time*. It was a very good programme, having a call-in show for the U.S. public to respond to. One of those who phoned in and told his story was a man who had been a sailor in the

U.S. Navy in World War II. He said that, while on duty in the Pacific, he had seen a UFO that came up out of the sea and flew away at fantastic speed. This event was witnessed by 900 sailors. The officers on the ship told the crew not to relate the story to anyone, and it was not until he took part in this radio-talk programme that this man decided to tell about it. I suggest that there must be many others who were sailors on that ship and who would know of this incident but are afraid to tell anyone of it.

Yours sincerely,
Ralph Lillie,
Box 364,
Shaw Island,
Wa., 98286,
U.S.A.

July 26, 1982

The Falcon Lake Incident

Dear Sir, — Many thanks for publishing my rather unconventional study on the Falcon Lake case (Volume 28, No. 1.) I had feared that you might not dare to publish such 'heretical' ideas, but fortunately you are as open-minded as ever.

Thus I was also very pleased to read the article by Derek J. Rolls, in FSR Vol. 28, No. 2 (p. 15). With regard to the 'call for papers' expressed in his closing paragraph, may I suggest that you might care to reprint my first piece on "UFOs and Fourth Dimension", which was issued by the late Waveney Girvan, then Editor, in FSR Vol. 9, No. 2 (March/April 1963)?

Such a reprint could conveniently be placed in one of the FSR issues to be published around March or April of 1983, and would thus mark a twenty-year anniversary, so to say. We were quite progressive twenty years ago, weren't we!

My article of yesteryear could also serve as an encouragement for others, and there are certainly many readers

— especially the younger ones — for whom it would be completely new. Moreover, in the past twenty years the UFO Phenomenon has begun to display an increasing number of characteristics which point precisely in that direction — i.e., the Phenomenon has definitely got something to do with a defect in, or a manipulation of, the Space-Time structure, no matter whether one leans more to a physical or to a psychological hypothesis.

Sincerely yours,
Luis Schönherr,
Geyrstrasse 55,
A-6020 Innsbruck,
Tyrol, Austria
December 1, 1982

An excellent idea. We will bear it in mind and try to reprint the article some time this year. Incidentally, with FSR now nearly thirty years old, many of our faithful early readers have died off (and this will soon be the lot of many more of us.) Those early issues contained a mass of highly important articles, particularly on some of the first tremendously important landing and contact cases, which were covered by us in very great detail, but which are totally unknown to the young readers of today, and unless we try to do something about re-publishing the best of them, they will continue to be unknown, and this will give much pleasure to our enemies and critics. — EDITOR

The "Concorde" film and unidentified object

Dear Sir, — In Vol. 28, No. 1, you published my letter concerning a further sequence of Concorde/UFO film.

When I posted the letter I was waiting for the 'offending' sequence to be excised — and indeed that it had ever appeared in the first place was a surprise, and does not say much for the efficiency of the censors — begging the question of course of whether they can keep anything secret.

And I was not disappointed. The film vanished from the TV screens before my letter was published in FSR.

Later, although the film did reappear, it had been doctored. This was not a long sequence of UFO film, and it took place against a background of open sky, hence it could be altered relatively easily. The UFO had now turned into a lens-flare! Anyone now watching this sequence and expecting to see a UFO could only be disap-

pointed, and would think that I had been deluded. And indeed, I would be dubious about it myself had I not noticed the sequence many times previously, both at the time of its first showing, when the more obvious UFO footage was lost for ever (as they thought and hoped) — and also at the time prior to the World Cup in Spain. As it is, however, I just consider it a case of malpractice.

Yours sincerely,
A. Calvert,
26 Well Road,
Barnet, Herts EN5 3ED.
January 27, 1983

God: The Supreme Illusionist

Dear Sir, — Mr. Hilary Evans is quite right when he says that the UFO phenomenon dodges any attempt to pin it down within any existing closed belief system (FSR 28-2).

The Christian belief in the Final Battle of Armageddon between God and Satan is sheer nonsense from both scientific and metaphysical viewpoints. Nature being infinite, neutral and amoral (i.e., neither moral nor immoral), it is totally pointless to moralise on it. In fact, Good and Evil are human creations. Man created them because he needs them, and then he drew an arbitrary line of demarcation between what he considers Good and Evil in terms of his anthropocentric and anthropomorphic conception of Nature.

Contrary to what many seem to believe, moreover, God and Nature are not two separate entities but one and the same. Thus, God is not only infinite but also neutral and amoral. God is also the Supreme Illusionist. Life itself is only an illusion, but God makes us believe otherwise. UFOs, Marian apparitions, Jesus Christ, Muhammad, Buddha, and all other so-called paranormal/religious phenomena are just a few examples of Divine illusionism. God does this because man needs illusions and diversions to stay alive and evolve.

Why do Marian apparitions occur only in the Roman Catholic countries? The answer: this is God's way of poking fun at the Roman Catholic belief in the Virgin Mary. It is interesting to note that no Marian apparitions had ever occurred in pre-Columbian Americas and that the first such apparition on the American Continent took place in Mexico on December 9,

1531, i.e., only after the colonisation of Central and South America by Roman Catholic Spain and Portugal.

The Truth shall NEVER be found. As Einstein said, the more we learn, the less we understand. In other words, mystery thickens exponentially as our knowledge increases. The Truth is infinite and hence inaccessible to humans.

I am rather surprised at Mrs. Ann Druffel's naïveté in swallowing Leonard H. Stringfield's allegations about "crashed UFOs and their dead occupants secreted in the U.S. Government's storehouses". There is not a shred of supportive evidence. He either made up the whole story very cleverly or was fooled by God or perhaps by the U.S. authorities.

Yours sincerely,
Julian H. Kaneko,
18 rue Le Corbusier,
CH-1208 Geneva,
Switzerland.
December 6, 1982

The U.S. authorities will feel greatly honoured to find themselves bracketed in such high-class company! But how can Mr. Kaneko (though evidently he knows a lot) be quite so sure about what went on in the Americas before the arrival of Columbus? And how, for that matter, can he be so confident that both God and he are not also disastrous illusions, figments in the All-Encompassing Kaneko Limbo? — ED.

The "Space-Travel" Debate

Dear Sir, — Julian H. Kaneko claimed that aliens from another star system are prevented from reaching Earth by Einstein's 'theory of relativity' and the 'impossibility' of 'ever identifying our Sun among the 250 billion stars that compose the Milky Way galaxy.' (FSR Vol. 28 No. 2).

Einstein's *Special* Theory of Relativity cannot prevent aliens from reaching Earth — all it says is that they cannot travel faster than light. Since the nearest star (other than the Sun) is about four light-years away, and the stars of inhabited planets are probably hundreds if not thousands of light-years away, this would appear to inhibit communication. However, since the Theory also predicts that, at speeds near that of light, time aboard a space vehicle will pass more slowly, aliens could reach Earth in reasonably short travel times. (This travel time will be a

fraction of the time which *simultaneously* passes on the alien home planet). Thus, if aliens have huge amounts of power available to propel the craft at near the speed of light (300,000 km/s), if they can construct a craft which will endure the journey and sustain the crew, and if the crew do not mind the permanent loss of their families, friends and everything with which they are familiar, then a journey to Earth is feasible. Whether it is practical and desirable is another matter.

As to identification of our Sun, there is no question of our star being in any way special or somehow being identified among all the other stars. However, the existence of an advanced technological civilisation on a planet circling our Sun could be deduced by aliens if they have radio telescopes sensitive enough to detect our radio, TV and radar communications. Earth blazes in the radio frequencies (mainly from the defence radars), although the distance at which such signals could be detected is disputed. They could be detected by an alien probe dispatched to the Solar System, and Earth could certainly be identified if it beamed specific radio signals at the alien star (supposing we knew where it is).

It is evident that neither an alien civilisation nor our own would embark on such a huge enterprise without knowing of the other's existence, and without preliminary radio communication.

Yours sincerely,
Steuart Campbell,
4 Dovecot Loan,
Edinburgh EH 14 2LT
November 23, 1982

The "Space-Travel" Debate

Dear Sir, — Julian H. Kaneko (FSR Vol. 28, No. 1) lists a catalogue of errors of so-called 'Nuts-and-bolters' without defining this term. This makes it difficult to answer the accusations specifically.

He should explain his meaning to enable a useful dialogue to take place. Does the term imply a belief in metallic extra-terrestrial craft or is it intended to apply to the scientific paradigm *in toto*? If the latter is implied, what does your correspondent propose in its place?

It is implied that a journey time of at least 9 years is untenable. This is a curiously parochial viewpoint, appar-

ently based on the assumption that extra-terrestrial probes would be manned by living creatures. It would seem more likely, however, that an advanced technological society would use robotics for such functions. The journey time with robots is not critical.

Interstellar travel may not be insurmountable, as alleged. No good evidence is offered in support of this view. Nor does the question of why our solar system should be selected for visitation invalidate the extra-terrestrial hypothesis. It makes the invalid assumption that the solar system would be the only recipient of such visits. Given thousands of advanced societies in the galaxy, each could play a role in space exploration, including numerous star systems. Our radio noise would be a beacon, inviting examination.

The M.I.B phenomenon does not exclude the ETH, irrespective of whether this factor is objective or subjective. Such humanoids could be robots, specifically designed and programmed for inter-stellar exploration. Mr. Kaneko accuses the scientific materialist of obsession with a material/physical aspect, excluding parapsychical nature. As our experience is primarily of the success of classical scientific method, the onus rests with the advocates of the paranormal to present evidence to support their assumptions.

Yours sincerely,
Peter A. Hill,
Almond Brae,
47A Easter Brankton,
LIVINGSTON, West Lothian,
Scotland
January 29, 1983

UFO Research in Belgium

Dear Sir, — The situation in Belgium today as regards UFO research does not seem to differ in any way from that prevailing in the rest of Western Europe.

There is a great shortage of people willing to undertake the work of field investigation, and a notable lack of any general interest in our subject among the public.

A few years ago, as may be recalled, some French investigators were claiming that, "*in time of crisis . . . people imagine they see more 'Visitors from Space' than in periods of economic well-being.*"

If those French investigators would

just take another look at the much worse economic situation prevailing in the world today, perhaps they would drop that silly idea pretty quickly!

Yours sincerely,
Wim Van Utrecht,
Director,
Studiegroep voor Vreemde
Luchtschijnselen (SVL)
(Group for Study of Strange
Aerial Phenomena), Oever 28,
Antwerpen, Belgium.
September 23, 1982

"Killer UFO prowls sky over Maine"

Dear Sir, — The Starks, Maine, UFO (FSR Vol. 28 No. 2) is an excellent lesson in celestial misperception. First of all, the fact that the object was seen repeatedly in the area for months indicates the likelihood of a bright planet. Venus shone like a beacon in the western sky during the period of the sightings and nearly at its maximum brilliancy on the date of the Hendsbee "encounter." At the time the report was publicised, I determined the planet's elevation and azimuth for the Starks area and discovered that Venus set when the last sightings were made. (Unfortunately, none of the witnesses gave directions). The beams of light and the "craft's" reported approach and recession can be attributed to atmospheric refraction effects upon the planet — effects most pronounced near the horizon. When the observers were convinced they were seeing something bizarre, their imaginations took over and did the rest.

At first glance the vivid descriptions given by the witnesses might seem impossible to explain away. However, I have run into the same or similar scenario time and time again with regard to Venus. My judgement is based upon 30 years of experience investigating UFOs (my field is astronomy and I am a MUFON consultant as well as a CUFOS field investigator). I am constantly amazed at the ineptness of people as observers of ordinary sky phenomena.

Yours sincerely,
Walter N. Webb,
5 Willow Street,
Westwood, Maine, 02090
U.S.A.
January 9, 1983.