

THE XFACTOR

COVER-UPS • PARANORMAL • MYSTERIES • UFOs

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DABBLING IN THE OCCULT

The dangers of the Ouija:
harmless fun or gateway to hell?

Examining the evidence
for **ANCIENT
ASTRONAUTS**

On the trail of the
WEREWOLF – mythical
beast or medical freak?



PLUS

DOWN TO EARTH: ASSESSING THE GROWING
THREAT OF SPACE JUNK • ARE WE AT RISK
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Exclusive Interview
Nick Pope discusses his
official investigations
into the real-life X Files

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THE X FACTOR

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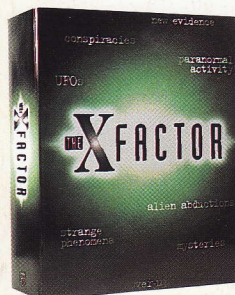
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DABBLING IN THE OCCULT

IN THE HANDS OF THE INEXPERIENCED,
THE PARANORMAL CAN BE A DANGEROUS
TOOL. PETER HOUGH INVESTIGATES THE
EXTENT TO WHICH THE OCCULT PERMEATES
SOCIETY AND ASKS: ARE WE AT RISK?

Youth hanged himself after pact with Devil

A 15-YEAR-OLD boy found hanged in the
South Belfast church made a pact
with his schoolfriend
"as of"

▲ The Ouija board is often people's first hands-on experience of the occult. But for many, this is the first step on a slippery slope to depression, madness and even death (inset).

'You are not going anywhere until I have done my master's will,' cried his friend Dennis. McCallum then began repeatedly stabbing Earridge with the 30cm combat knife.

The frenzied attack, in which Earridge was stabbed eleven times, ended only when Dennis whispered 'Stop now, David. You can be calm. He's dead.' Luckily, Cullan escaped with his life. The

Shortly before Christmas 1995, two 15-year-old schoolboys were lured to the home of Londoner David McCallum, a heavy-metal music fan, to 'watch videos'. The two boys were led to McCallum's bedroom, which was littered with Iron Maiden and Metallica records and books about the mass murderer Charles Manson, and were told by the 20-year-old McCallum that he and his friend worshipped the devil.

In the centre of the room stood a candlelit altar draped in a black cloth, and a Ouija board. Despite feeling uneasy, the two boys – Michael Earridge and Stephen

Cullan – agreed to take part in a seance, and were joined by McCallum's friend, whom we shall call 'Dennis'.

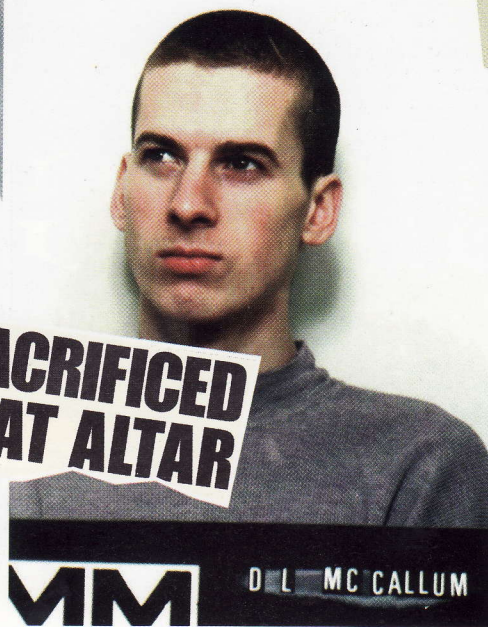
SPEAK OF THE DEVIL

As the boys sat around the makeshift altar attempting to contact the dead, McCallum asked the Ouija board: 'If you are Satan, what is it you want me to do?' With growing unease, the two 15-year-olds decided to end the session. But before they could make their escape, McCallum received the answer to his question.

Whatever response he got, McCallum, suddenly brandishing a knife, pinned Earridge to the bed.



◀ Michael Earridge was the victim of mock-ritual killing by David McCallum (below), who often used a Ouija board and claimed to communicate with 'the Devil'.



SATAN FIEND SACRIFICED SCHOOLBOY, 15, AT ALTAR

He's stabbed 11 times

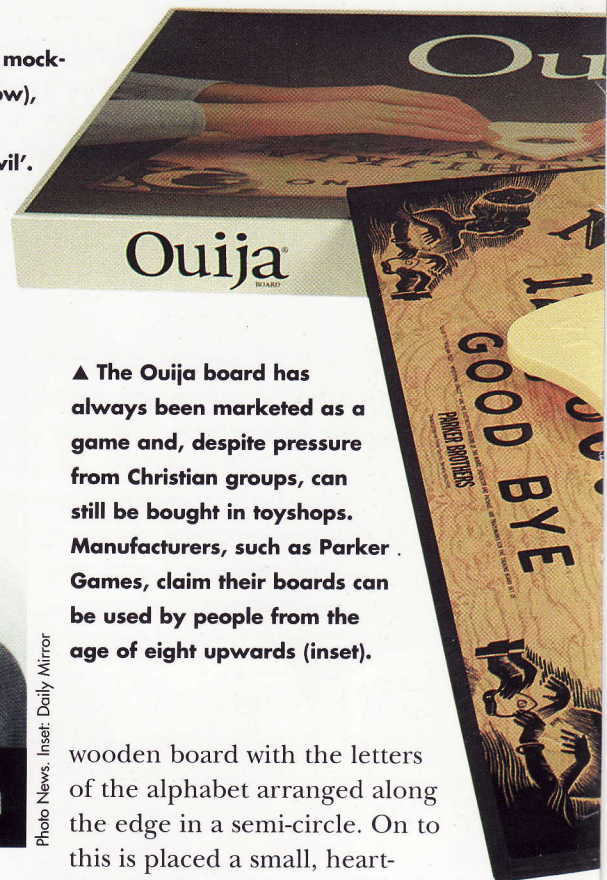
body was wrapped in bedclothes and dumped at a block of flats in south-east London.

McCallum was arrested and tried for the killing. But he was not charged with murder; claiming that voices in his head made him do it, he received a charge of manslaughter, and was sent to Broadmoor, a high-security facility for the criminally insane.

McCallum was obviously influenced by the macabre and the occult – much of the music he listened to contained lyrics

involving satanic rituals, and scrawled on his television in marker pen were the words 'Devil Man killer. 666 Slayer. Iron Maiden'. But was his obsession with the Ouija board responsible for turning the 20-year-old into a killer?

The Ouija – which takes its name from the French 'oui' and German 'ja', both meaning 'yes' – usually consists of a flat polished



▲ The Ouija board has always been marketed as a game and, despite pressure from Christian groups, can still be bought in toyshops. Manufacturers, such as Parker Games, claim their boards can be used by people from the age of eight upwards (inset).

wooden board with the letters of the alphabet arranged along the edge in a semi-circle. On to this is placed a small, heart-shaped board on casters or felt. 'Players' place a finger on this pointer, which moves apparently of its own accord – or on the direction of the dead – and spells out the answers to questions asked of the Ouija.

Interestingly, the Ouija board was never officially intended as a tool to contact the dead. Although the ancient Egyptians were known

“

The words spelt out by the Ouija are often concerned with death and blood. There's a morbid curiosity... death has some kind of lure

Gordon Wright, Counsellor for Occult Victims

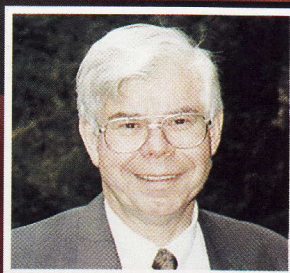
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to have used a similar device to contact their ancestors – a ring suspended on a piece of thread was held over a board etched with symbols, and the dead supposedly spelled out their messages – the board as we know it today was invented as a 'parlour game'. It

Witness

DR GEOFFREY SCOBIE

From his base at the University of Glasgow, Dr Scobie treats patients who have become disturbed as a result of dabbling in the occult. The X Factor asked him what attracts so many people to dabble in the occult:



The risk factor definitely attracts people to using Ouija boards, but also the fear of the unknown is attractive and exciting in itself. The control element is another alluring influence. Attempts to control the uncontrollable can be incredibly thrilling.

So how can playing with a Ouija board lead to danger?

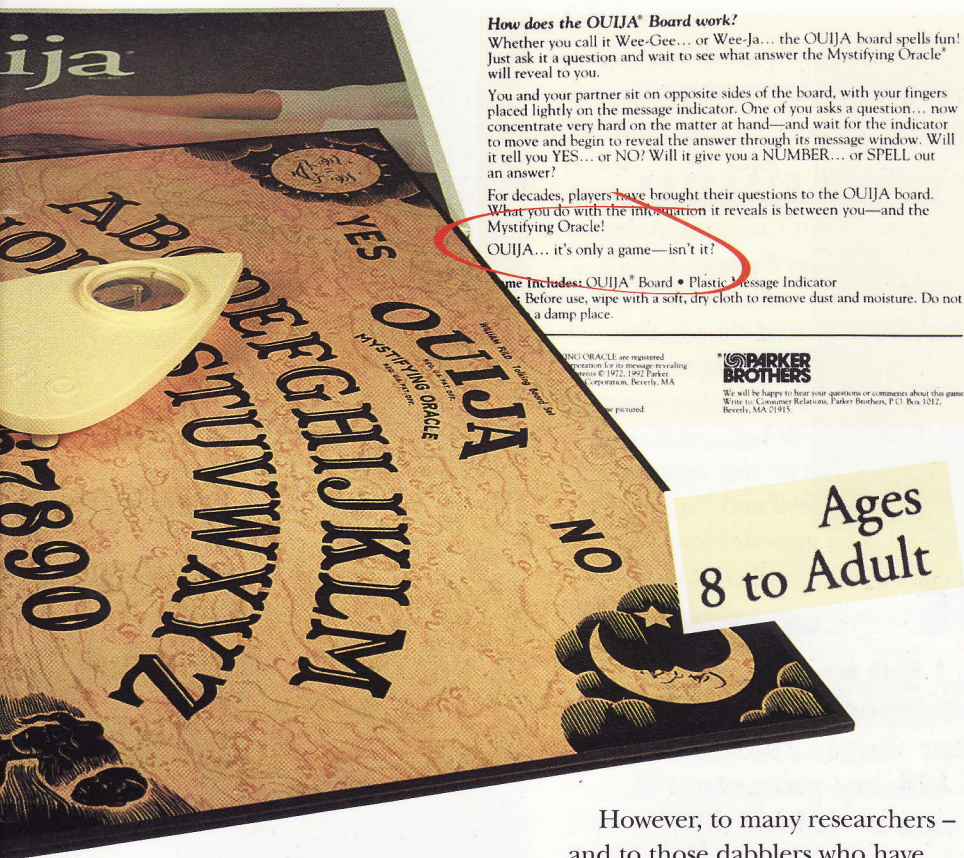
There are two strands to the causes of mental illness in people obsessed with the occult. The first is that Ouija boards open you up to the possibility that the inexplicable can occur. And secondly, it gives you the

ability to take instances which arise whilst using the Ouija board, and incorporate them into your own philosophy as if they regularly occurred. Essentially, these are the prerequisites for addictions of all kind.

And do you believe that there is any truth to Ouija boards?

Whether you think there is anything paranormal to Ouija boards depends on your beliefs. The possibility that there may be a spirit world is enticing, but you are unsure whether you are dealing with a good or bad spirit.

Dr Geoffrey Scobie



Parker Brothers/MC Picture Library

How does the OUIJA® Board work?

Whether you call it Wee-Gee... or Wee-Ja... the OUIJA board spells fun! Just ask it a question and wait to see what answer the Mystifying Oracle® will reveal to you.

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PARKER BROTHERS

We will be happy to hear your questions or comments about this game.
Write to: Consumer Relations, Parker Brothers, P.O. Box 1012,
Beverly, MA 01915.

Ages
8 to Adult

was the brainchild of William and Isaac Fuld of Baltimore, Maryland, who went into production of the boards in 1898.

With the advent of the two world wars, the demand for Ouija boards increased – owing to the need for widows to contact their husbands killed in combat – and the Fuld brothers could barely keep up with demand. Then, in 1966, the US games manufacturer Parker Brothers bought the rights to the board, and it has been estimated that 25 million have since been sold across America and Europe.

MIND OVER MATTER?

Significantly, the Ouija falls under the category of paranormal phenomena that can be easily simulated. And even when not faked, there may be other explanations. James Randi, the stage magician who is sceptical of all claims of the paranormal, has suggested that natural and involuntary muscle twitches known as ideomotor actions are responsible for the movements of the pointer across the board.

However, to many researchers – and to those dabblers who have experimented themselves with the Ouija – it seems doubtful that these slight spasms would cause a hand to move over the Ouija board and spell coherent sentences. Also, this theory presupposes that any messages received through the Ouija would come from the user's

subconscious. Yet there are many cases where the Ouija has reportedly revealed information not known to any of the participants. And judging from the number of cases where the use of the Ouija has left players traumatized and mentally disturbed, there is more to the 'game' than just muscle spasms.

GATEWAY TO HELL?

It may be only a game, but to some the Ouija is considered a dangerous tool when used in the wrong hands. David Farrant, head of the British Psychic and Occult Society, views the Ouija as a gateway to powerful, malevolent forces. 'If you tap into these entities using the Ouija without knowing what you are doing, they can literally come to life and take possession of whoever is trying to contact them.'

Farrant's casebook is full of newspaper cuttings and journal reports detailing the misuse of the Ouija. 'These forces actually exist. When I've been involved in the use of the Ouija, it's been done properly, under controlled conditions. You need to be

Analysis

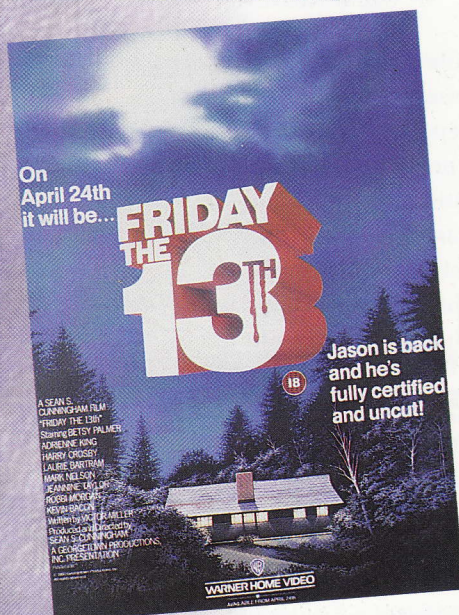
SATANIC SURVEYS

Dr Leslie Francis, a statistician from Trinity College, Carmarthen, and the occult writer and researcher Andrew Boyd, carried out a survey of occult interest in 14- and 15-year-old children from schools in England and Northern Ireland. The results, and those of similar surveys by Anglican minister Kevin Logan and German psychologist Jergen Hilse, paint a disturbing picture of teenage involvement in the occult:

- One in 50 teenagers admitted to using a Ouija board on a regular basis, with half of these doing it at least once a week
- 27 per cent had no objections to using a Ouija board 'to try to

contact spirits', and 21 per cent had actually tried this

- 89 per cent read their horoscope every day
- Only 8.5 per cent strongly believed in Satan, but one in seven considered Satanism 'just as good as any religion'
- A frightening 36 per cent expressed an impatience to experience the afterlife, a worrying statistic, claims Andrew Boyd, given the ever increasing number of teenage suicides
- 88 per cent watched movies with occult subjects
- 87 per cent claimed to have watched 'video nasties', a third of whom still claim to do so on a regular basis
- 13 per cent listened to heavy metal music on a daily basis
- 44 per cent read books with occult or horror themes



▲ Films with supernatural themes such as *Friday the 13th* and, more recently, *Child's Play 3*, have been blamed for glamorizing death and the occult, and for pushing disturbed and unstable viewers over the edge.

initiated into the occult, and understand the general principles... and that's just the first step.'

Farrant's observations seem to be borne out by over half a century of fatal cases. One of the first reported claims of possession through the Ouija comes from 1933, when 15-year-old Mattie Turley shot and killed her father. In a 'game' of Ouija with her mother, the 'spirits' spelled out to

Mattie that she should kill her father to allow her mother to marry 'a cowboy'.

SPELLING DISASTER

In a more recent case, yet another 15-year-old, Colin Roberts, was found hanged from a tree in the grounds of a Belfast church after the Devil allegedly spoke to him through the Ouija. The last thing he told his friends before killing himself was that he had made a pact with the Devil and 'had a party to go to'. This episode came just

“

I felt as though I'd changed and began to hear voices telling me to kill my parents. I'll never dabble in the occult again.

Anonymous Teenager after Ouija Session

”

one month after goats were found slain in a nearby Catholic church on the night of a full moon.

But are these cases evidence that the Ouija opens the floodgates for marauding entities to access the living world, as some claim? In the case of Mattie Turley, a more obvious explanation for her



Redferns

actions is that her mother moved the pointer herself and spelled the instructions to Mattie to kill her father. With her husband dead, the mother was free to marry her 'cowboy' lover.

However, in the case of Colin Roberts, all reports paint a picture of an intelligent, pragmatic teenager who was in no way schizophrenic or suffering from any other mental illness. So could Roberts have really used the Ouija board to contact the Devil?

Father Dominic Walker, a psychologist and former advisor on exorcism to the Bishop of Southwark, claims to have dealt with over a thousand people whose lives have been affected by the paranormal. 'I don't believe that Ouija boards contact spirits,' Father Dominic told *The X Factor*,

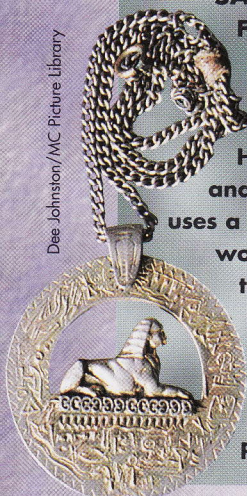
VIEW POINT

SAFETY MEASURES

For practitioners of the occult, contacting the spirit world is not a game. David Farrant, Head of the British Psychic and Occult Society, always uses a combination of symbols, words and talismans (left) to protect him from harmful spirits. Other responsible occultists also strongly advise against inexperienced people using the Ouija

board to contact the dead. In their view, anyone determined to use it should at the very least take some basic precautions to ward off any evil spirits:

- Wear some silver jewellery or use a silver coin as the pointer.
- Use candles to form a circle (or draw a circle in chalk) around the board and the 'sitters'.
- Always sit in a well-lit room.
- Say goodbye to the spirit you have contacted so that it does not stay around after the session has ended.
- Do not take any information given at face value – the Ouija is notoriously unreliable.





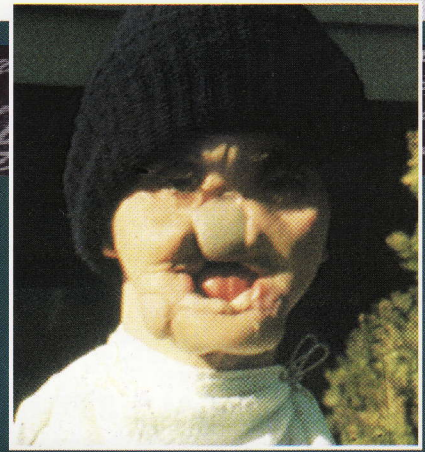
CASE notes

SATANIC VERSES

In the US journal *Cult Awareness News*, Dr Paul King, a Professor of Psychiatry, stated that 84 per cent of his young patients listened regularly to heavy metal music. He claimed that this 'music portrays the power and glory of evil. Adolescents with... problems become further involved in... acts of cruelty and Satan worship.'

Although rock music has been branded as Satanic by many since the 1950s, the 1980s saw a surge in cases linking music and the occult:

- Tommy Sullivan – a 14-year-old whose hobbies were collecting heavy metal music and reading books on Satanism – murdered his mother in a mock-occult ceremony. Sullivan's father recalled hearing his son singing a song 'about blood and killing your mother' in the weeks leading up to the killing.
- In December 1985, after listening to the album *Stained Class* by the



heavy metal group Judas Priest (left), James Vance and Raymond Balknap shot themselves in the face. Miraculously, Vance survived, although with hideous injuries (inset). His family tried to sue the band's record company, claiming the subliminal message 'Do it' was hidden behind the music, but failed to win the case.

- Ozzy Osbourne's song *Suicide Solution*, which contains the line 'Suicide is the only way out', has been blamed for the deaths of at least 21 teenagers. However, the occult-influenced singer has never yet lost a court case against him.

© 1988 David Van Taylor/3-D Documentaries

'but I do believe that they contact material in our minds, which is why they're so dangerous.'

Many other psychologists and psychiatrists agree that dabbling in the occult can be damaging to anyone who is potentially unstable mentally. 'I've spoken to many adults and children who have attempted suicide or have mutilated themselves,' states Gordon Wright, a counsellor for occult victims. 'They have described not an impulsive act but something they feel almost drawn to like a magnet. It becomes obsessional: something they almost have to do. And this has been linked to the occult.'

In his ground-breaking book, *Dangerous Obsessions*, writer and researcher Andrew Boyd also questions the paranormal power of

the Ouija. By conducting one of the largest surveys on the role of the occult in society, Boyd has concluded that 'some individuals who step into the occult, with its ill-defined, confusing and often contradictory concepts of reality, may lose themselves within a supernatural shadowland of myth, magic and morbidity. They may well be working to actively undermine their own psychological well-being.'

INSANITY CLAUSE

On the whole, it can be argued that the less stable members of the community are those affected most by their dabbling in the occult. Dr Geoffrey Scobie, a psychologist from the University of Glasgow, sums up the debate: 'highly suggestible people, about ten per cent of the population, are

putting themselves at risk from their psychological powers.' But does he rule out the possibility that a 'spirit world' could be responsible for the dangers?

'I don't preclude that as a possibility,' he claimed. 'People who are already psychologically on the border are those who tend to become victims. For such people, dabbling with Ouija boards can become an addiction.'

For many people, the obsession with the occult has gone beyond playing with a Ouija. Indeed, it has become a way of life or a profession – a religion every bit as valid as Christianity or Islam – for the participants.

INVESTIGATION CONTINUES

In the next issue, THE PARANORMAL examines what happens when dabblers in the occult turn to Satanism, black magic and the serious dark arts.

POISON ON TAP

**ARE CHEMICALS BEING
ADDED TO OUR DRINKING
WATER FOR SINISTER
PURPOSES? EVIDENCE
SUGGESTS THAT WE ARE
BEING MEDICATED SECRETLY
WITH DRUGS THAT MODIFY
OUR BEHAVIOUR**

If it was suggested to you that, without your knowledge, you were being regularly medicated with a substance more poisonous than lead, which could lead to brittle bones, cancer and a catalogue of other illnesses, and is a central ingredient in mind-altering drugs, you would probably be more than a little alarmed. Yet this is what some qualified doctors and health advisors are alleging is happening to millions of people in the UK and around the world. The offending substance? Fluoride in our drinking water.

Most of us know fluoride as the 1950s discovery that was to save teeth from decay. And it was added to most UK toothpastes in the 1970s, supposedly to reduce unpleasant childhood visits to the dentist. Yet there is a rather sinister side to fluoride's history.

TRUTH DECAY

Evidence suggests that fluoride can harden the surface enamel of teeth, but the chemical is also highly toxic, and has been linked to a large number of physical and mental ailments. Published studies have shown that half the amount of the fluoride currently added to UK drinking water (hexafluorosilicic acid) can cause genetic damage.

Since World War II, no thorough research has gone into the potentially lethal effects of fluoride. However, a number of scientists, including Dr Hans

Moolenburgh, one of the most vocal anti-fluoride campaigners in the Netherlands, are deeply concerned that many countries in the West are in effect enforcing a dangerous and sinister mass-medication scheme first developed in Nazi Germany.

During the darkest days of World War II, hundreds of thousands of innocent people were exterminated in German and Russian concentration camps. Death from disease, starvation and extreme brutality was an everyday occurrence, and this was regularly compounded by the use of drugs and chemicals. Nazi scientists, keen to maintain a climate of fear, had found an easy method of controlling the behaviour of camp inmates.

BRAIN DRAIN

Repeated doses of very small amounts of fluoride were discovered to affect the brain, slowly poisoning and narcotizing people, making them submissive. Eager to exploit the effects of the drug, both German and Russian camp commanders added fluoride to water supplies.

The effects of fluoridated water greatly impressed German and Russian intelli-

gence. They considered fluoridated water the ideal means of controlling Allied populations once their countries had been invaded by German forces. Anticipating victory in the war, the German chemical manufacturers I. G. Farben, based in Frankfurt, became responsible for mass-producing fluoride for the death camps and other possible future uses.

GLOBAL MIND CONTROL

At the end of World War II, the US sent Charles Eliot Perkins, a research worker in chemistry, pathology and physiology, to study the mind-control technology of I. G. Farben. Perkins drew several shocking

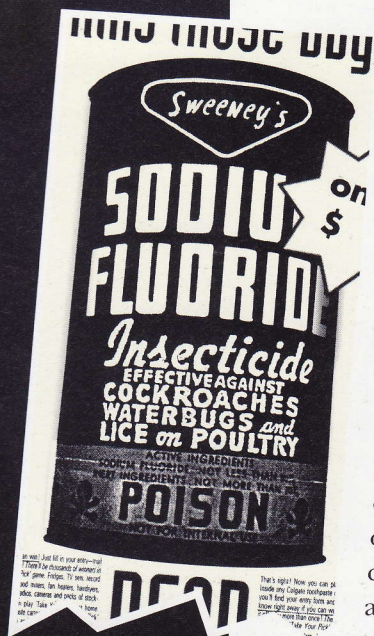
The real purpose behind water fluoridation is to reduce the resistance of the masses to domination and control and loss of liberty

Charles Eliot Perkins, Chemical Engineer

conclusions from his investigations in Germany. He reported that 'when the Nazis, under Hitler, decided to go into Poland... the German General Staff and the Russian General Staff exchanged scientific and military ideas, plans and personnel and the scheme of mass control through water

Medical experts claim fluoridated drinking water is perfectly safe, yet they also recommend a 'safe' amount for daily intake. Critics argue that this is absurd - people drink different amounts of water every day, and that therefore there cannot be a safe, regulated daily intake of the chemical. It has also been pointed out that, despite medical claims for fluoride's safety, it is the principal ingredient in rat poison (inset).

Basic image, Garry Hunter/Tony Stone



EXCLUSIVE Witness

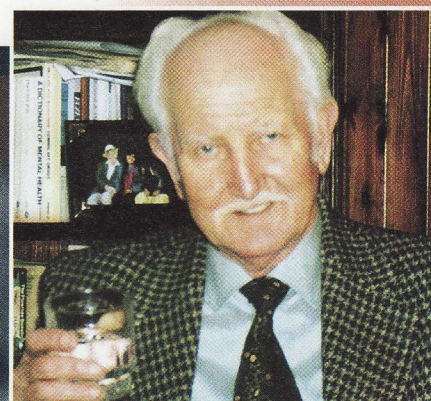
DENNIS EDMONDSON

Dennis Edmondson (right) was prescribed 'Exspansyl spansule' between 1970 and 1976 for asthma caused by repeated exposure to chlorinated chemicals after volunteering for the King's Royal Rifles in World War II. Unknown to him at the time, Exspansyl contained 'Stelazine', a fluoridated compound with major tranquillizing effects. *The X Factor* asked him how this chemical has effected his life:

Horrendously. The fluoride in my medication increased its potency 25 times, and I was basically taking the equivalent of 100 milligrams of fluoride a day for six years. I have subsequently been diagnosed as having hypothyroidism, osteoporosis, kyphosis, scoliosis, spondylosis, generalized osteophytosis, an enlarged heart, candidiasis, glaucoma of one eye and a calcified prostate gland. I have also been sexually impotent since starting the medicine in 1970, and I had to end my job as a gardener in 1980 due to back and joint pains.

What official steps have you taken to bring this problem to light?

I've been in dispute with the War Pensions Board since 1977, claiming my conditions are due to medication prescribed without my knowledge. So far only a further ten per cent disability has been conceded in respect of the candidiasis and glaucoma. I am also independently approaching the drugs company for recompense. But in addition to my painful conditions, I've also lost three inches in height. Can you tell me how to remedy that?



Dennis Edmondson

medication was seized upon by Russian Communists because it fitted ideally into their plans to communize the world...'

Perkins did not directly implicate Allied intelligence in his investigation of Russian global mind control, but a closer investigation of I. G. Farben and their industrial relations throws up some suspicious international connections.

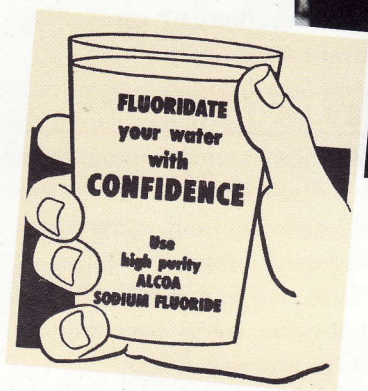
WESTERN BACKING

I. G. Farben expanded massively in the 1920s as it merged with the Wall Street concerns of the likes of Henry Ford's motor company, J. P. Morgan's General Motors and Standard Oil, owned by the Rockefeller family.

Millions of US dollars were invested in these concerns in the 1930s, and this relationship continued throughout World War II. Coincidentally, it is interesting to note that no I. G. Farben factories or plants were bombed, sabotaged or even damaged by the Allies during the war. It has been claimed by researcher and author Ian E. Stephens that specific instructions were given to bombing mission commanders, possibly from the higher levels of the US government, to avoid these buildings. But for what reason?

Since the US economic depression of the late 1920s, organizations such as the Rockefeller Foundation and the Ford family were publicly encouraging long-term policies in population control. It is also

► Young survivors of the Auschwitz concentration camp await their release as Allied forces liberate the Nazi's prisoners. The Germans and the Russians 'doctored' their death camps' water supplies with fluoride, which acted as a sedative and kept the prisoners passive. Despite this legacy, fluoridated water is still promoted in countries around the world today (below). Fluoride is also used as an active ingredient in some of the most powerful tranquillizers (inset).



known that a number of influential figures in US commerce and industry invested a substantial amount of time and money in I. G. Farben projects before and after the war. Among them was the Mellon family.

The Mellon family, founders of the Mellon Institute, established itself in 1913 as an organization independently sponsoring advances in science and industry. The institute was also to 'discover' that fluoride was an 'amazing tooth-decay preventative'.

FINANCIAL GAIN

Coincidentally, the Mellon family also founded the Aluminum Company of America (ALCOA). Fluoride is the highly toxic byproduct of aluminium manufacture (as well as of many other industrial processes), and ALCOA were frequently – and successfully – sued for poisoning cattle, crops and waterways. Safe disposal proved expensive, so what could be done to eliminate these costs and, perhaps, even

CASE notes

CHALLENGING PARLIAMENT

Despite widespread opposition, two water fluoridation schemes were established in Northern Ireland in 1973, but no record regarding the value of these schemes has been kept. In 1995, The Department of Health admitted that 'no definitive research has been carried out to evaluate the benefits of the two existing fluoridation schemes in Northern Ireland'.

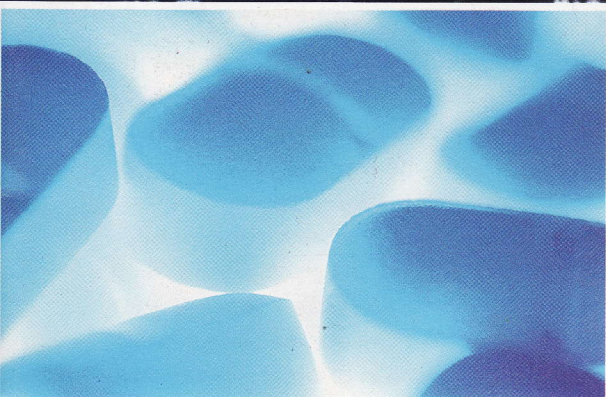
With assistance from the National Pure Water Association, *The X Factor* asked Democratic Unionist MP Peter Robinson (above) to address Parliament over water fluoridation in Ireland. We posed the following questions: Is the House aware that there has been no original research proving the effectiveness and safety of water fluoridation? Is the House aware that there is original work proving the harmfulness and inefficacy of fluoridated water? At the time of publication, no answer had been received.



Jonathan Player/Rex Features



Popperfoto/Reuter. Inset: Peter Poulides/Tony Stone



turn in a profit from the waste material?

ALCOA and other fluoride-producing industries funded research which appeared to indicate that small quantities of the chemical were not harmful to humans. Eventually, research suggested that fluoride reduced tooth cavities. Promoters concentrated on what they saw as health benefits, completely ignoring the known adverse cumulative effects of this highly toxic substance.

SELECTIVE RESEARCH

Scientists working for the American Dental Association (ADA) on behalf of Alcoa continued promoting fluoride, despite its abuse by the Germans and Russians. Although dozens of scientists and pressure organizations disputed the claims of the pro-fluoride lobby, public opinion quickly embraced the alleged qualities of the new

dental saviour.

To the alarm of many scientists who strongly disputed the alleged health benefits, the American Dental Association launched a campaign to promote fluoride. Endorsement by the United States Public Health Service (USPHS) strengthened public confidence in the new 'wonder drug', and by the mid 1940s a handful of major US sites had begun fluoridating their water supplies. Propagandists obtained 'endorsements' from institutions who accepted the health claims without question, and the greenlight was given for a nationwide fluoridation campaign.

MEDICAL DOUBTS

From the late 1950s, the USPHS channelled millions of US taxpayers' dollars to other countries to promote fluoridation, and many nations – including the UK – leapt on to the bandwagon. But most European countries rejected fluoridation out of hand, and others that tried it soon stopped because of adverse health effects and general ineffectiveness.

The common belief is that treatment with fluoride is effective for a lifetime, yet

EVIDENCE

OFFICIAL RECOGNITION

In November 1996, 10-year-old Kevin Isaacs (right) won a £1,000 'goodwill' payment from toothpaste manufacturers Colgate-Palmolive.

Kevin was diagnosed as suffering from dental fluorosis, a visible sign of fluoride poisoning caused by over-exposure to the chemical.

Fluoritic teeth are 'mottled' and stained, and can become pitted and brittle. For the past five years, a further 300 families have been pursuing claims for damages from manufacturers of fluoride products.

Despite mounting evidence, the British Medical Association (BMA) is adamant that the addition of fluoride to water and dental



products is not harmful (below). The BMA also intends to increase pressure on the government to convince more UK water companies to add fluoride to their water. This policy contradicts many medical experts, who remain split over the benefits of fluoridating drinking water.

Dario Wiltieri

The Guardian

BMA backs fluoride despite payout

Stuart M...

... company denies liability through fear of legal action by campaigners

research shows that any protection disappears before the person enters their 20s. In fact, a number of medical and dental experts say there is no evidence that fluoride benefits teeth at all.

To the acute embarrassment of the US National Institute of Dental Research (NIDR), independent analysis of a 1988 NIDR report on dental data of 39,107 US children showed that there was virtually no difference in the number of tooth cavities in children from fluoridated and non-fluoridated areas.

So what purpose does fluoridated water serve? Its high toxicity is widely recognized, and recent declassified documents released in the US confirm that the military knew of fluoride's adverse effects on the brain as early as 1944.

AVAILABLE ON PRESCRIPTION

Investigation into other uses of fluoride is revealing. Since World War II, tranquillizers, ranging from the mild sedatives prescribed for depression to the potent mind-altering drugs, have become a multi-million dollar industry.

Over 60 tranquillizers on the market contain fluoride, which profoundly increases the potency of other substances. Fluoridating the ubiquitous tranquillizer



Popperfoto, Inset: Popperfoto/Reuter

▲ According to fluoride researcher Ian E. Stephens, Prime Minister Thatcher (inset) tripled the water-fluoridation budget in Northern Ireland during the mid-80s. Stephens speculated that this was not motivated by concern for dental health, but an attempt to pacify political activists in the area.

Diazepam (Valium) produces a new, stronger tranquillizer, Rohypnol. Both are manufactured by Roche Products, another subsidiary of I. G. Farben, along



with other similar drugs. The powerful fluoridated tranquillizer Stelazine is widely used in retirement homes and mental institutions around the world.

As more information about water fluoridation is revealed, the more the public's anxiety appears to increase. Proponents quote hundreds of studies proving fluoride's effectiveness in negating tooth decay, but the union of professional scientists at the US Environmental Protection Agency point to deliberate cover-ups of grave risks to human populations and the denigration – and even sacking – of ethical scientists who dare to speak up.

TROUBLED WATERS

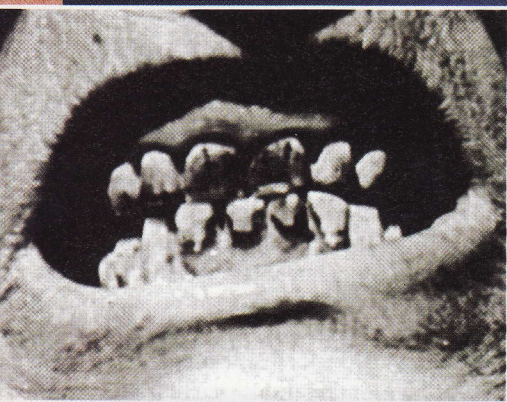
To most dentists, fluoridation is a 'wonder drug', counter-acting poor oral hygiene and dietary problems. To others, it is an insidious and cynical method of modifying our behaviour and a means of allowing industry to profit from a dangerous waste product. Many lay people regard fluoridation as enforced mass-medication. The deliberate denial of risks by health officials has led others to regard fluoridation as a form of social control. They point to the history of fluoridation and its documented links with what is perhaps one of the most evil regimes of this century.



Analysis

FLUORIDE FACTS

- Fluoride is more toxic than lead, whose value in drinking water should not exceed 0.5 parts per million (ppm). The level of fluoride put into domestic drinking water is 1.5ppm.
- A report published by the Florida International University states: '0.45ppm of sodium fluoride solution is enough to slow down sensory and mental reactions.'
- A correlation between areas of high water fluoridation and appalling dental health (below) has been found in Sicily.



- Around 5.5 million people drink artificially fluoridated water in the UK, mainly in the Midlands, the north east and areas of Ireland.
- The US Food and Drug Administration considers fluoride an unapproved drug for which there is no proof of safety or effectiveness. They do not consider it an essential dietary nutrient.




ANCIENT ASTRONAUTS?

THERE ARE INTRIGUING SIGNS THAT EARTH WAS VISITED BY INTELLIGENT EXTRATERRESTRIAL LIFE THOUSANDS OF YEARS AGO. MICHAEL WHITE EXAMINES THE EVIDENCE

Picture the scene: a giant UFO hovers over the desert. Laser beams extend from under the craft and manoeuvre huge stone slabs into position as astonished nomads look on. Later, when the craft has left, three huge pyramids remain in the sand. And for generations, the confused and amazed tribes-people recount the events in their legends and their sacred texts describing the alien craft as fiery messages from the gods, and their pilots as angels in golden chariots.

According to some, this scene could really have been enacted some 5,000 years ago at Giza, the site of the great pyramid in Egypt, and at different times elsewhere in the world – at Stonehenge in England, on Easter Island and in South America. Precisely why an advanced civilization would help the indigenous people to build these

vast structures is a mystery, but theories for their use range from cosmic transmitters to gateways to the stars.

Some enthusiasts of the ancient astronaut theory even go so far as to suggest that the human race itself was seeded by alien visitors. These visitors, it is claimed, arrived on the planet hundreds of thousands of years ago and gave evolution a nudge – as depicted in the opening scenes of Arthur C. Clarke's novel *2001: A Space Odyssey*.

ALIEN ANCESTORS

These ideas are not new. The concept of advanced civilizations from the stars influencing human progress has been around since at least Victorian times when, members of the Theosophy Society, an occult group, imagined an alternative history for the human race. But the concept first made



▲ The image of a 'flying' god on an Aztec ceremonial knife, and the 'helmeted' Columbian figurine (inset), are thought by many to be representations of ancient astronauts and not – as we have been led to believe – of mythological gods.

Alan Allford. Inset: WFA/David Bernstein Fine Art, NY

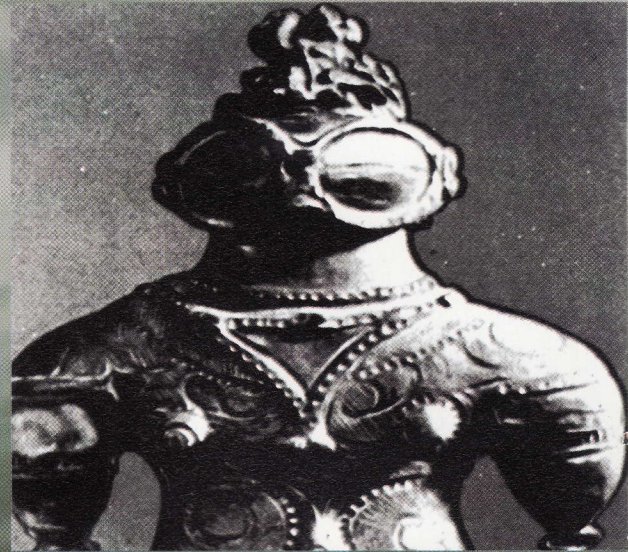
THE GALLERY OF ANCIENT SPACEMEN

Were the gods of antiquity really ancient astronauts who visited earth and influenced evolution? The strongest evidence that that they were comes from archaeological sites around the world that have yielded a growing collection of records.



Erich von Däniken

▲ 1 A carving on the lid of a tomb from the ancient Maya Temple at Palenque in Mexico shows a human figure seated in what looks like a modern space capsule. The figure is squeezed into a small space jammed with levers and what could be interpreted as control panels. However, experts in Maya mythology believe the image is a symbolic representation of the dead man's descent into the Underworld.



▲ 2 A Japanese Dogu sculpture – estimated to be over 5,000 years old – shows a figure wearing what appears to be an astronaut's helmet. Experts are particularly puzzled by the 'goggles', as such equipment could not have been invented during the Japanese Stone Age.

▲ 3 The Lolladoff plate, a 4,000-year-old dish from Nepal, clearly shows what some believe to be disk-shaped UFOs. The 'extraterrestrial' on the rim of the plate also resembles the classic description of the 'Greys' who feature in modern abduction cases.



Robert Dean

EXCLUSIVE

Witness

ERICH VON DÄNIKEN

In his book, *The Eyes of the Phoenix*, Erich von Däniken restates his belief that the gods of antiquity were flesh-and-blood extraterrestrials. *The X Factor* asked him when his interest in the ancient astronaut theory began:

As a teenager, I was intrigued by references in the Old Testament which seemed to suggest God travelled by various means of sophisticated transport. After a lot of research, I found that many other ancient peoples recorded similar stories about god-like beings. I decided that the gods must therefore be extraterrestrials.

Weren't the gods purely symbolic?

That's impossible. These 'heavenly beings' gave mankind a lot of advanced knowledge – astronomy, for instance – at the dawn of civilization. This is not symbolism. It is fact.



Erich von Däniken

global headlines in the 1970s with the work of the Swiss author, Erich von Däniken. Von Däniken has written a series of highly successful books, beginning with *Chariots of the Gods?* in 1969, in which he presented evidence for alien visitations in ancient times.

UNIFORM IMAGES

Although much of von Däniken's work has since been discredited, some UFOlogists believe that at the core of his findings is a nugget of truth – that advanced beings indeed visited earth and left their mark

here at the dawn of civilization. But, what is the evidence?

At the centre of von Däniken's theory and the ideas of all enthusiasts of the ancient-astronauts theory is the remarkable consistency of the images and icons of ancient peoples. There is also a uniformity to their legends and the characteristics of their gods that – believers insist – could not be put down to chance.

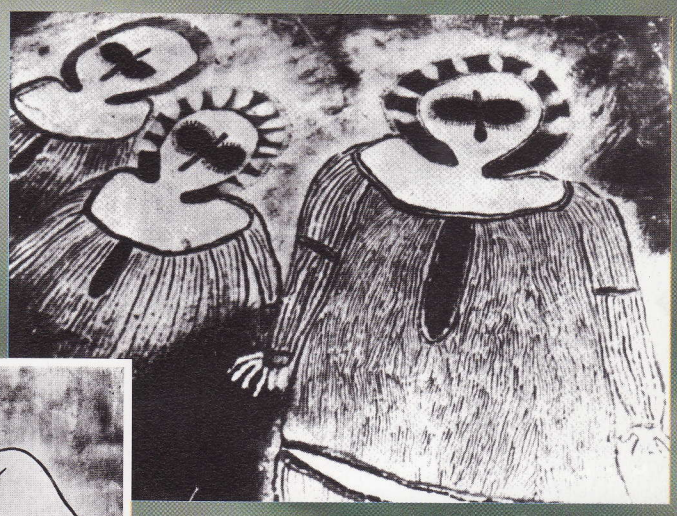
They point to the similarity of accounts from sources as diverse as the ancient Egyptians, the Maya and the ancient Chinese, all of whom had no contact with each other.



▼ **4** Is this 3,000-year-old deformed skull, one of several exhibited at the museum of Ica in Peru, just a freak mutation – as some scientists maintain – or the product of genetic engineering by aliens? In Erich von Däniken's opinion the skull is remarkably similar to those depicted on ancient Egyptian reliefs, which, he believes, were deliberately stretched to resemble the shape of head of the alien visitors.



Erich von Däniken

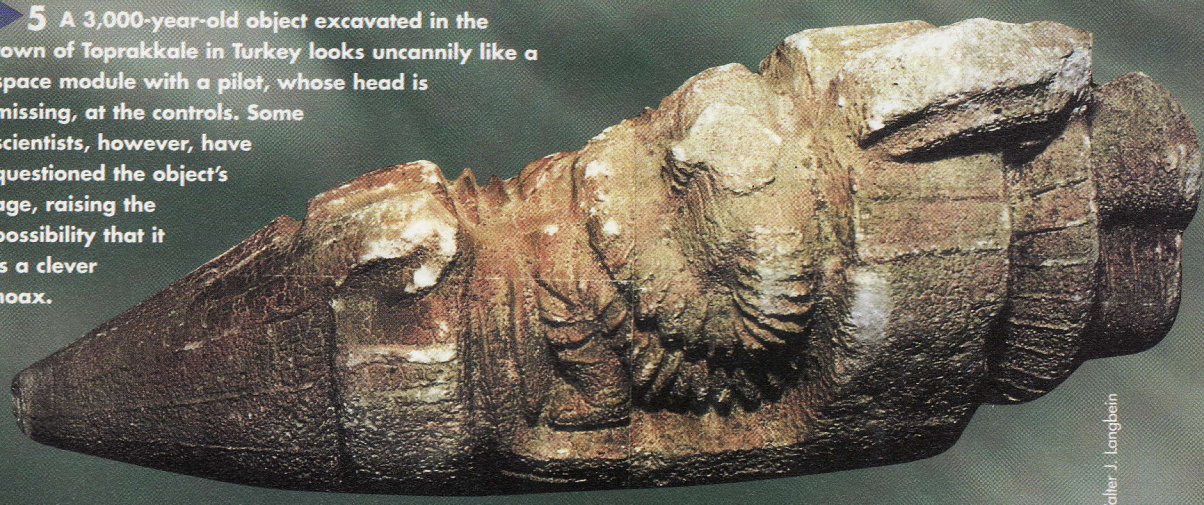


Topham: Inael Fortean Picture Library



▲ **6** An ancient Australian Aborigine cave drawing, possibly 5,000 years old, is believed by some ancient-astronaut enthusiasts to represent helmeted extraterrestrial space travellers. A remarkably similar image (inset), dating from about 6,000BC, was found on the other side of the globe in Tassili in the Sahara Desert, North Africa.

▶ **5** A 3,000-year-old object excavated in the town of Toprakkale in Turkey looks uncannily like a space module with a pilot, whose head is missing, at the controls. Some scientists, however, have questioned the object's age, raising the possibility that it is a clever hoax.



Walter J. Langbein



One of the best descriptions of what some enthusiasts believe to be alien visitors is to be found in the ancient Indian text, the *Mahabharata*.

ANCIENT TEXTS

At several points in the text, the authors describe what are called *Virmanas*, a word meaning 'flying machines'. In the text, the *Virmanas* are sometimes described as flying vehicles used for military purposes and are often piloted by Indian gods. One of these is called the *Agneya* weapon and it appears in

one particularly striking passage:

A blazing missile possessed of the radiance of smokeless fire was discharged. A thick gloom suddenly encompassed the hosts. All points of the compass were suddenly enveloped in darkness. Evil bearing winds began to blow. Clouds reared into the higher air, showering blood. The very elements seemed confused. The sun appeared to spin round. The world, scorched by the heat of that weapon, seemed to be in a fever.

At first glance, this could easily be interpreted as a nuclear weapon

exploding, which, because we have only recently known about such weapons, has led enthusiasts to conclude that the *Virmanas* must be of extraterrestrial origin.

SUPPORTING EVIDENCE

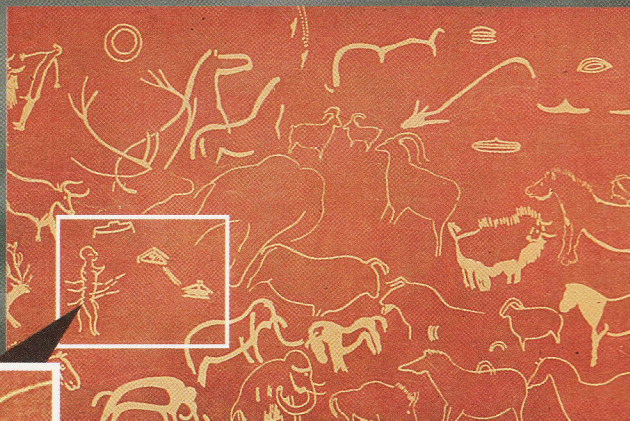
However, this passage – like so much of the lore behind ancient-astronaut theories – is entirely open to interpretation. It is also possible that this account could have originally described a natural phenomenon such as a volcanic eruption, and the tale has been adulterated by numerous reinterpretations.



MC Picture Library

7 Hieroglyphic symbols on the ceiling of the ancient temple of Abydos in Egypt (circa 3,000BC) clearly show what some believe to be an example of the sophisticated military technology of the gods – a helicopter (A), gun boat (B), a submarine (C) and a gun (D).

8 A Neolithic cave painting (circa 3,000BC) from south-west France depicts a landscape rich in wildlife – and dotted with what appear to be UFOs. Experts are at a loss to explain why the humanoid figure surrounded by three 'flying craft' (magnified) also appears to have a tail.



Bob Dean

9 To the modern eye, the 3,000-year-old, 25cm tall ceramic figure found on a site on the Ecuador-Bolivia border looks astonishingly like a man in a space suit. But critics of the ancient-astronaut theory argue that the idea of 20th-century technology being used thousands of years ago flies in the face of everything that is known about the history of mankind.



Bob Dean

But, claim the enthusiasts, there is plenty of other evidence.

According to some supporters of the ancient-astronaut theory, primitive man seems to have been obsessed with space-suited figures. Drawings of what look like astronauts are to be found in cave dwellings in the Americas, Europe, Africa, the Far East and Australia.

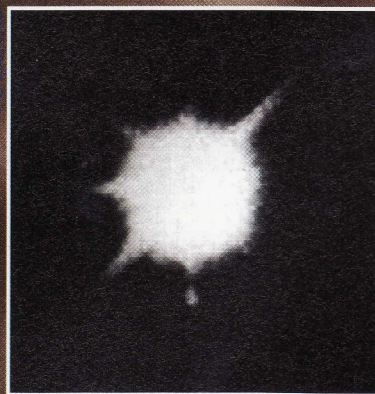
To support this evidence, claimants have researched what they believe to be ancient landing sites for UFOs. The best known example is the Plain of Nazca in Peru, which is only fully identifiable as an overall

EVIDENCE

STAR WITNESS

In his book, *The Sirius Mystery* (1976), American researcher Robert Temple revealed that the West African Dogon tribe had long known of the existence of a star called Sirius B, one of three stars in the Sirius star system. What is remarkable about this discovery is that Sirius B can only be seen with the aid of a powerful telescope.

Furthermore, the tribesmen knew that this star was a member of a binary star system – a star that orbits another, in this case the much brighter Sirius A (right). They even knew the duration of the star's orbit –



Lick Observatory/SPL

around 50 years.

Scientists believe the Dogon acquired their knowledge by pure chance. However, Robert Temple believes the Dogon may have learned about Sirius B from the ancient Egyptians some 5,000 years ago. Others have even suggested that this information was passed on to the Pharaohs by alien visitors.



Bob Dean



Forensic Picture Library

10 A cave painting (circa 2,000BC) found on the border between Russia and China shows what American UFOlogist Robert Dean believes is a space-suited astronaut holding a disc-shaped communication device. In the centre of the drawing, a tiny figure, with two antennae protruding from a 'helmet', stands beneath a UFO emitting a plume of smoke.

11 Ancient myths worldwide relate how the gods descended from the heavens bringing with them advanced knowledge and skills, some of which they gave to humanity. The Kayapo Indians of Brazil – a tribe that has been in existence for at least 4,000 years – still commemorate this event. The ceremonial costume represents the 'teacher from heaven'.



Erich von Däniken

12 One of several thousand stones with ancient petroglyphs in the Toro Muerte desert in Peru shows what Erich von Däniken believes to be a space-suited astronaut. The similarity between this figure and the 'astronaut' from a pre-historic rock carving near Capo di Ponte, Italy, (inset) is striking.

structure from aerial photographs.

Orthodox archaeologists insist that the Nazca markings are Inca roads, but this is hard to reconcile with the fact that these roads lead nowhere. These markings also include some very odd configurations – nothing like roads – which the more determined enthusiasts have suggested could be 'parking bays' for aircraft or space vehicles.

The biggest problem with the concept of alien visitation, ancient or modern, is the conundrum of how aliens could travel vast interstellar distances to get here. Even

supporters of the alien visitation theory accept that the nearest home for another civilization must be at least 4.2 light years away (the nearest star to our Sun).

SCIENTIFIC PUZZLE

Such vast distances mean that, even if a civilization discovered a way of travelling at close to the speed of light, it would take them over 8 years for a round trip – hardly practical for a casual visit. One suggestion is that advanced beings have developed ways to bend the laws of physics that put an upper speed

limit on interstellar travel.

A more probable theory is that an advanced civilization – travelling relatively slowly – passed this way thousands of years ago en route to colonising other worlds. Perhaps if aliens did visit the Pharaohs or the Maya, they hopped off their mother ship for a short time and left some indelible marks on human history.

INVESTIGATION
CONTINUES

In the next issue, UFO FILE investigates one of the most recent UFO crash retrievals at Varghina, Brazil.

IN THE SHADOW OF THE WEREWOLF

**DR KARL SHUKER
EXAMINES LEGENDS OF
WEREWOLVES AND
LYCANTHROPY AND ASKS
ARE THEY MYTH, MAGIC
OR MEDICAL CONDITION?**

Only a few more minutes and he would be home, safe behind closed doors. Only a few more minutes – but it was already too late. Above, a layer of clouds drifted apart – exposing, in all its majesty, the silent silver-hued moon.

As he yelled in terror, his voice began to change, transforming into the spine-chilling howl of some primitive beast. But that was not all. His howling mouth was itself changing, effortlessly stretching into a long muzzle, filled with sharp white teeth, and surmounted by a broad nose with bristling whiskers.

He was still running, but he was now on all fours, and as he ran his body grew more powerful, bursting through his clothes. He was now entirely covered in dense brown fur, from his flattened head down to the tip of the long, hairy tail. His transformation into a wolf was complete.

CHANGE FOR THE WORSE

Bodily transformation of a human into a wolf (or any other animal) is, of course, a physical impossibility. Yet belief in werewolves was widespread throughout medieval Europe, with werewolf legends

“
The origin of lycanthropy
cannot be traced to a point
in historic time... It is in
the human psyche

Nandor Fodor, Psychoanalyst

”



◀ The belief in werewolves – humans possessing the occult ability to transform themselves into wolves – stretches back thousands of years, and still exerts a powerful hold over our imaginations, as the success of films such as *An American Werewolf in London* (inset) attests.

and lore emanating from Scandinavia, France, Germany, Sicily, central and eastern Europe, the Balkans and Greece. And long before Columbus reached the New World, the native American peoples feared their own werewolf equivalents.

It seems most likely that the werewolf concept originated in the custom of prehistoric human hunters wrapping themselves in wolf skins in the belief that they would be imbued with the hunting prowess of this formidable predator. The tradition persisted, albeit in an atrophied version, in later werewolf legends, which tell of how humans could become werewolves if they wore a magic belt or cloak made from wolf skin.

CRY FOR THE MOON

Another werewolf tradition, its transformation at full moon, probably originated in prehistoric times too. When humans began domesticating wild wolf-like dogs to hunt with them, they would have undoubtedly observed their dogs' delight in howling at the moon during hunting forays.

Throughout mankind's social development, the moon, hunting, and wolves have become entwined within increasingly complex mythologies. In many legends, the moon goddess was also a huntress (as with

Analysis

VAMPIRES AND WITCHES

There are a number of links between legends of vampires, witches and werewolves (shown right, being burned at the stake in a 1590 woodcut).

Only a century ago, it was widely believed in Greece that battlefields were plagued by vampires in the shape of werewolves that sucked the blood seeping from dying soldiers. In addition, in medieval Europe it was commonly believed that male witches or warlocks could transform themselves into wolves in order to attack their enemies without fear of recognition.



Even today, in parts of rural Poland and Germany, it is believed that corpses have the power to revitalize themselves and break out of their coffins as undead, vampiric werewolves.

And, according to Slavic folklore, after a werewolf dies it returns to life as a vampire.

VIEWPOINT

MASK OF THE WEREWOLF

In 1990, werewolf researcher Hugh H. Trotti offered a highly original explanation for the werewolf myth. He noted that the ancient Egyptian cult of Anubis, whose priests wore a wolf-like mask representing this jackal-headed god of death, eventually became established in Rome, where Anubis became known as Hermanubis. By the 1st century AD, moreover, many statues of jackal-headed humans

representing Hermanubis had been erected there.

Accordingly, as suggested by Trotti, Germanic troops recruited into the Roman armies who saw priests of Hermanubis wearing their lupine masks, and who also observed the jackal-headed statues would certainly have remembered and referred to them long after the fall of the Roman empire. In turn, it would not be difficult for distorted accounts of these priests and statues to give rise in time to stories of men who could transform into wolves.

the Roman Diana, the Greek Artemis, and the Babylonian Ishtar), whose hunting dogs were often men who had been magically changed by her into wolves, so leading to the birth of the werewolf concept.

WEREWOLF DELUSION

▼ Severe cases of skin complaints such as impetigo, in addition to hairy features, could have been behind some of the many cases of werewolves reported in the Middle Ages.

A major influence in the werewolf concept's evolution and often wrongly assumed to be synonymous with werewolfism is lycanthropy (translating as 'the wolf-man condition'). Yet whereas 'genuine' werewolves are confined to the realms of folklore, lycanthropy is a real, abnormal psychological condition, and was recognized as long ago as the 2nd century AD by the scholar Marcellus Sidetes.

A person so afflicted (termed a lycanthrope) suffers from the delusion that he is a wolf or that can turn himself into one. Depending upon the severity of the case, lycanthropes will rip apart raw meat with their teeth, howl and shriek at the full moon, and attack other people with ravaging bloodlust, tearing at their victims'

David Pescod



throats in an uncontrollable frenzy.

The historical chronicles bulge with werewolf reports, which reached their peak in the Middle Ages. This is vividly demonstrated by the amazing fact that in France alone, between 1520 and 1630, an incredible 30,000 *loup-garou* (werewolf) trials occurred. In reality, however, lycanthropy and other mental illnesses resulting in cannibalism and serial murder were the true villains, sponsored by ignorance and superstition.

BLOODY HISTORY

Take, for example, the case of a teenage shepherd called Jean Grenier, from southern France's Bordeaux region. During his trial in 1603, Grenier boasted that, after assuming the guise of a wolf, he had slaughtered and devoured over 50 children, and claimed to have acquired his shapeshifting power from a mysterious dark stranger that he had met deep in the forests a few years earlier. The stranger, identified in many accounts of this case as the Devil, supposedly gave Grenier a salve and a wolf skin – and when, at dusk, Grenier rubbed his body with the salve and placed the skin over himself, he became a wolf.

Detailed questioning during his trial, however, showed that Jean Grenier was



Chuck Pelley/Tony Stone

▲ Even in modern times, belief in the ability of humans to change themselves into wolves persists, especially in strongholds of werewolf folklore.

evidently half-witted, given to inventing all manner of wild stories and afterwards believing them to be true. After consulting with medical specialists, the judge decided that Grenier was not a werewolf but a lycanthrope. Accordingly, he ordered that Grenier should be given over to the care of the monks at a Franciscan monastery in Bordeaux for the rest of his days rather



AP

▲ Children born with thick facial hair, like two-year-old Abyss de Jesus, were once said to suffer from 'human werewolf syndrome'.

than being burnt at the stake, the fate of countless other lycanthropes.

One of the most tragic cases of lycanthropy occurred in the village of Eccleshall, Staffordshire. In April 1775, 17-year-old apprentice joiner, Andrew Prinold, stabbed himself through the heart with a knife, terrified that he was starting to transform into a werewolf.

MARK OF THE BEAST

The abundance of werewolf reports in medieval Europe no doubt stemmed from

the vast number of features by which, according to folklore, a person could be unmasked as a werewolf. Tell-tale traits to look out for when staring into the face of a suspected werewolf in human form included small pointed ears, protruding teeth, and broad eyebrows that joined on the bridge of the nose. Shaking a suspect's hand offered a good opportunity to check for more clues, such as hairy palms, long curved fingernails tinged with red, and an unusually long third finger.

But how did one become a werewolf in the first place?

CASE notes

SOUTHEND WEREWOLF

Bill Ramsey, a builder from Southend, Essex, hit the headlines in 1987 when he was found snarling and howling like a wild animal.

Ramsey's lycanthropic attacks began at the age of nine, when he bit through a wire fence with his bare teeth. 'I don't howl at the moon or turn into a hairy beast at midnight, but I do claw, snarl and bare my teeth at anything that moves,' Ramsey claims. His attacks would be marked by displays of superhuman



MSL Inset: Daily Telegraph

strength. Once, he claims to have gone 'on the rampage, [and] tossed eight policemen in the air like confetti'.

In 1989, Ramsey underwent an exorcism (above) to try and cast out the beast within.

'Werewolf' strikes fear into police

A MAN said to have acted

Ancient legends provided a variety of possibilities. Quite apart from deliberate activities such as wearing magical cloaks of wolf skin, or participating in magical rituals, there were many ways in which the unwary could fall victim to this malign metamorphosis.

Anyone drinking water from puddles formed in wolves' tracks, or from streams frequented by wolves, would surely become a werewolf. So, too, might a person hungry enough to eat the flesh or brains of a wolf, or even the flesh of a sheep killed by a wolf.

No doubt medieval Europeans took heart from the claim that werewolves could be kept at bay by the presence of a sprig of wolfsbane over or the door of a house. Also, these creatures were believed to be mortal, and could be killed if shot with a blessed bullet.

RABID WOLF

In modern times, a number of medical explanations in addition to lycanthropy have been offered for belief in werewolves. Two supposed characteristics of a werewolf are its foaming mouth and its ability to turn anyone it bites into a werewolf. This scenario is indicative of a

► There was a time when Yu Zhenhuan would have been deemed an infant werewolf by the more fanatical members of society. Even babies born feet first, or those with pointed canine teeth, ran the risk of being stigmatized as werewolves.



China Pictorial

rabies-linked origin, because a rabid wolf would certainly froth at the mouth, and anyone bitten by such a beast during the medically-backward Middle Ages would most likely contract this horrific illness and eventually display the same symptoms.

It is also possible that, in medieval times, peasants eating rye contaminated with ergot fungus may have suffered LSD-

like hallucinations that they were actually changing into wolves or other animals.

GLAMOROUS CREATURE

Once, the werewolf was a hideous, diabolical creature of dread. Today, thanks to images created by Hollywood, it has its place in popular culture. Like the movie vampire, the werewolf of the wide screen is increasingly slick, suave and sexually-charged – but how, and why?

In this technological age, the fears and fancies of the unsophisticated past have no place. Exposed as unrealistic, and often downright ludicrous, werewolf legends have been rendered safe – still a little scary, perhaps, but nothing more. We now recognize that the true, shapeshifting werewolf existed only in folklore – we are never going to be assaulted by a licentious *loup-garou*.

From nightmarish monster of the past to enduring megastar of the present, and probably the future, the lore of the wolf has undergone a transformation as dramatic as any accomplished by the werewolf in bygone eras.



CASE notes

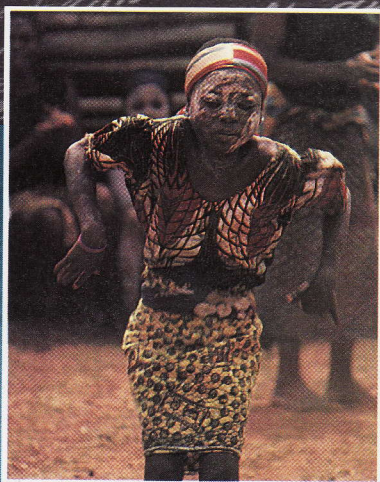
WORLDWIDE WEREBEASTS

Humans turning into wild predatory creatures are so intrinsic to our ancestral beliefs that in countries lacking wolves, other carnivorous beasts fulfil this role instead.

Throughout tropical Africa, for instance, many native tribes even today live in very real terror of werelions, -leopards, and -hyenas.

Wereleopard traditions in West Africa (right) centre around the leopard-men societies, whose members dress in leopard skins, arm themselves with iron claws, and mutilate their enemies in emulation of the beasts into whose likeness they claim the ability to transform themselves.

Belief in werehyenas is so



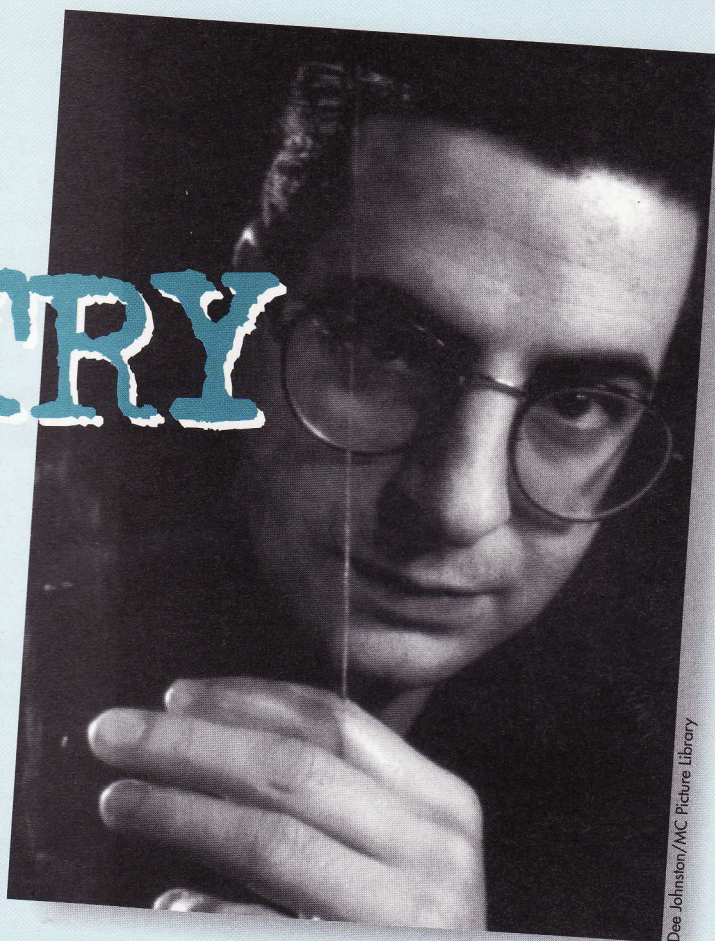
Parker/Hutchison Library

entrenched within the traditional lore of the Bornu people of north-eastern Nigeria that their language even contains a special word, 'bultungin', which translates as 'I change myself into a hyena.'

Assam and Myanmar, meanwhile, are home to tiger-men cults, parallelling Africa's leopardine counterparts.

THE MAN FROM THE MINISTRY

MANY UFOLOGISTS CRITICIZE GOVERNMENTS FOR COVERING UP THE 'REALITY' OF ALIEN LIFE. BUT THE REVELATIONS OF THE MOD'S NICK POPE HAVE LED TO A REASSESSMENT OF THIS POSITION.



Dee Johnston/MC Picture Library

Since joining the Ministry of Defence (MoD) at the age of 19, Nick Pope has filled a number of positions, from preparing briefing material for senior officers to involvement in the policy initiative enabling women to fly as pilots in the Royal Air Force. But it was his work between 1991 and 1994 that made Pope such a controversial figure. During that time, at the Ministry's Secretariat (Air Staff) 2a office, based in the MoD's London headquarters in Whitehall, he was responsible for investigating UFO sightings. His task was to evaluate whether or not there was any evidence of a threat to the United Kingdom, and his conclusions – that some UFOs were indeed extraterrestrial in origin – were startling from one in an official capacity, and attracted a lot of media attention.

Pope still works for the MoD, where he holds the rank of Higher Executive Officer, the equivalent of a Major in the British Army. But he has kept his ties with the UFO community, writing two books about his

MoD findings and appearing at dozens of UFO conferences worldwide. Some of his MoD colleagues call him 'Spooky', while

Nick Pope's bestselling book, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, tells the story of his official research into the UFOs phenomena.

many UFO researchers see him as a brave individual. Along the way, Pope has picked up his fair share of admirers – who see him as a real-life Fox Mulder, spilling the beans on Britain's X Files – and critics, who view him as a minor government stooge with little of real importance to say.

In a rare quiet moment during a UFO conference in the north of England, *The X Factor* caught up with Pope and asked him how he got the job as the UFO investigator at the Ministry:

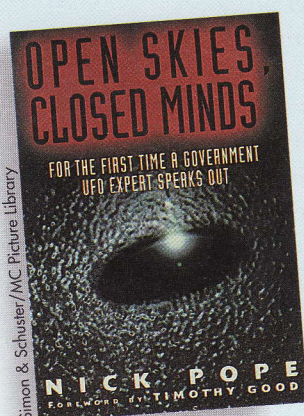
“ I'd worked in some interesting jobs since I joined the MoD in 1985, and I'm posted to a different job every few years. I was due to be moved in 1991 and was asked to be the Department's resident expert on UFOs. I didn't even know there was such a post.

What was your opinion about UFOs before you started investigating sightings officially?

When I started the job, I didn't know much about the UFO phenomenon and had no strong views on the subject. My first question was why the Ministry concerned itself with this subject at all. It turned out to be wrapped up with issues of national security.

What were the MoD concerned about?

All UFO reports are looked at to see whether there's any evidence of threat to the defence of the United



Simon & Schuster/MC Picture Library

Kingdom. When I started looking back through the files, there seemed to be an absence of investigation, and a reliance on sending out standard letters when a report of a UFO arose. To me, this seemed strange – how could anyone say that UFOs were not a threat if they didn't know what the objects were? I decided to take a closer look.

What struck you most about your new job?

The first thing that surprised me was how many reports we received. On average, there were between 200 and 300 every year, and this is in a situation where most people won't report a sighting at all, either through fear of ridicule or simply because they don't know who to contact. The reported sightings are undoubtedly the tip of a huge iceberg. Those who did report a UFO would normally contact the police or a military establishment or a civil airport. These reports eventually made their way to the MoD.

How did you investigate a sighting?

When a UFO sighting came to light, it was easy for me to carry out detailed investigations because of my official position. I would check with civil and military air traffic controllers to see whether there were any aircraft in the area at the time. The Royal Observatory at Greenwich would see if there was any astronomical explanation for sightings – meteors and fireballs have explained a number of reports. I liaised with the Ballistic Missile Early Warning Centre at RAF

Fylingdales in Yorkshire, who could tell me about satellite activity and any space debris re-entering the earth's atmosphere. I could also impound radar tapes, check weather balloon launches and try to correlate sightings with airship flight plans.

How many UFO reports did you think could be satisfactorily explained?

When investigated thoroughly, about 90 per cent of sightings were explained as misidentifications of

known objects and phenomena. But this left a hard core of cases which defied any conventional explanation. The official position is 'Object Unexplained, Case Closed'. That is to say, we simply don't know.

Unidentified flying objects are potentially the most important issue currently facing the human race

But you weren't content to leave it at that...

No. I was unhappy at our lack of success in these cases, so I launched a range of initiatives to improve the chance of finding some answers. The main task was making the public aware that there was someone at the MoD who wanted to hear about their sightings. I also plotted sightings on a map and looked for patterns. There were no real surprises there – sightings were concentrated around cities, where there are more people to see UFOs. I also forged good working relationships with civilian UFO research organizations, such as BUFORA [British UFO Research Association] and Quest International, so we could compare data.

How did your experiences affect your outlook on UFOs?

I'd begun the job with an open mind, but by 1993 I believed that some UFOs were extraterrestrial craft. No single case changed my mind, but rather the cumulative effect of all the evidence I encountered: the witnesses, the photographs, the videos, the radar evidence. There were some UFO sightings that included structured craft displaying a technology – in terms of manoeuvrability and speed – that went way beyond the cutting edge of even our best prototype aircraft. What was the craft that Belgian Air Force tried to intercept in 1990? What was the craft that passed over an RAF base one night in 1993, firing beams of light? It all added up.



Timothy Good

Truth Seekers Review, thinks that Pope 'knows a lot more than he is telling us,' and claims to have proof that many UFO reports are investigated by the military before they reach Pope's old department.

Author Timothy Good (above) is also convinced of Pope's honesty and calls him 'a true pioneer' for furthering the UFO debate. However, he adds 'I doubt that civil servants in Sec (AS)2a are kept fully informed.'

VIEWPOINT

SAVIOUR OR STOOGES?

It seems that for every UFOlogist who acclaims Nick Pope as a pioneering insider investigating the unknown, there are those who take a less charitable view.

Leading researcher Graham Birdsall sees Nick Pope as a brave individual, 'who must have experienced tremendous pressure from his superiors, but who stuck to his views.'

Others have asked why he was allowed to express his views, and suggest that Pope has been used as a stooge by a government who wish to promote a UFO threat.

Matthew Williams, editor of

CASE notes

THE RENDLESHAM INCIDENT

In his first book, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, Pope examines what he calls 'the British Roswell' – the supposed landing of a UFO in Rendlesham Forest in the Suffolk countryside. On 27 December 1980, patrolmen at the nearby military base in Woodbridge reported seeing lights silently making their way through the forest. On further investigation, they came across a bright triangular craft in a clearing. Two days later, a larger

group of men, including the Deputy Base Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, also witnessed the object, and filed a report (right). A tape-recording made during this second encounter recounts the men's experience as they came within 150 metres of the object:

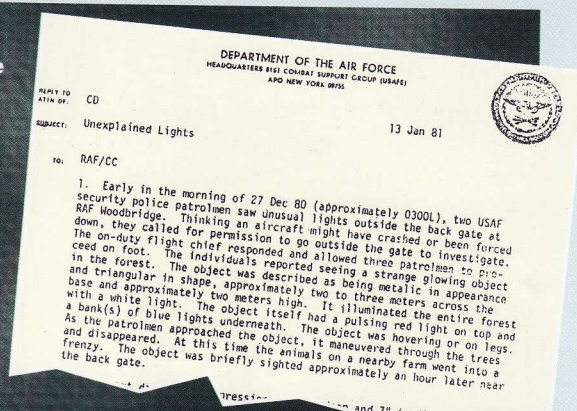
'Strange flashing light ahead.'

'No, it's yellow.'

'Weird.'

'It's... coming this way.'

Geiger-counter readings taken from the scene also registered background radiation levels at ten times the norm.



Despite the strong testimony and tantalizing evidence, critics have claimed that the light was nothing more than that of a distant lighthouse. But Nick Pope remains convinced that this is 'the most validated of sightings outside of the US'.

Is it unusual for witnesses from the military to come forward?

Yes, the fear of professional ridicule seems to be a major deterrent. But many RAF pilots have admitted to me that they've seen things in the sky that they're at a loss to explain. And their qualities as trained observers make them impressive witnesses when they do encounter something unexplained.

What is the most convincing individual case you have ever encountered?

This occurred in Rendlesham Forest – in the heart of the Suffolk countryside – in 1980, near the RAF bases at Woodbridge and Bentwaters. When military police from the US Air Force went to investigate lights in the forest, they saw pulsating lights moving through the trees.

On closer examination, the witnesses saw a triangular, metallic object in a clearing in the forest. It was about 3 metres wide and 2 metres tall, and, when they approached it, it took off into the sky. The Deputy Base Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Charles Halt, filed a report entitled *Unexplained Lights* in January 1981, but the official investigation that followed decided there was no threat to national security and so the case was closed.

Were you involved in research for this case?

Not at the time, but I reopened the investigation. The Defence Radiological Protection Service confirmed to me that the levels of background radiation measured at the landing site by the team of soldiers were ten times higher than normal. I now truly believe it to have been an alien landing.

How did your superiors at the Ministry react to your widely-publicized views?

My views weren't popular with them. I was posted elsewhere in the summer of 1994, but I've continued my research privately. As for the Ministry, I'm told that many of my initiatives have been reversed, and that the Department have, despite the overwhelming evidence, effectively closed the investigations. However, I still believe, like Fox Mulder, that the truth is out there.

What makes you think you were top of the UFO ladder? Who's to say your superiors didn't know what was really going on?

If anything was being covered up, it was only their ignorance, their lack of knowledge.

Were they happy that you published a book about your time at the Ministry?

Some of them were horrified, but most of my colleagues supported me. I believe that if military figures are allowed to write books about the Gulf War then I can write a book about my experiences.

Are you still involved in UFO research?

Yes, I'm still asked for my views on a wide range of UFO-related questions. I'm often invited to speak at UFO conferences, and I'm working with a number of people who claim to have been abducted by aliens.

What is your conclusion about abductions?

I think this is the most fascinating part of the UFO mystery. After years of official and private research, I've concluded that abductions are indeed real.

SPACE JUNK

In February 1996, Russia's Proton rocket blasted apart in the final stage of its journey into space. It was a disaster for the Russian space programme, but it was not just the rocket scientists who hung their heads in dismay at this latest space calamity. At least 200 large metal fragments from the exploded Proton were now in orbit around earth – all increasing the danger of rockets and satellites being destroyed by space junk.

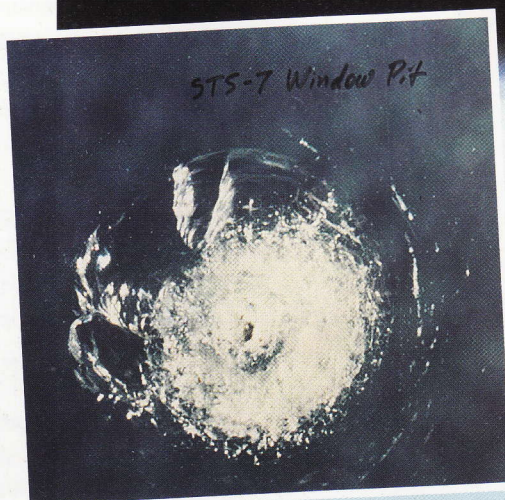
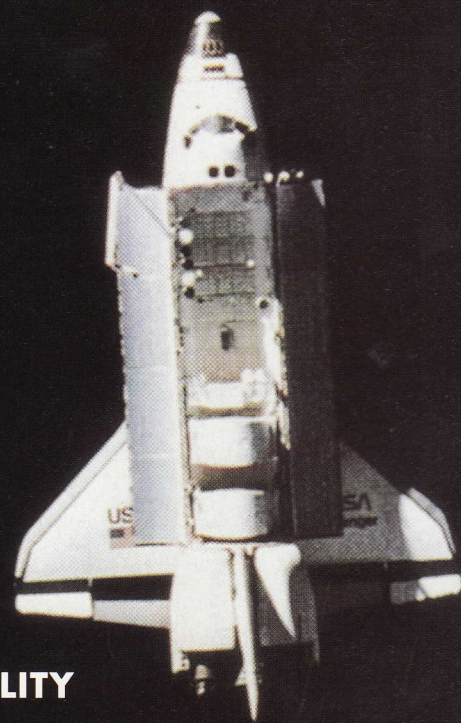
SPACE COLLISION

All spacecraft suffer impacts with orbital debris, be it man-made or natural. But the dire consequences of such a collision were forcefully brought home when the Space Shuttle Columbia landed at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida in November 1995. During its 16-day mission in space, something had collided with the shuttle causing a crater 2 cm across and 6 mm deep. A few millimetres deeper could have been fatal for the seven Columbia crew members.

Later analysis revealed that

► The orbiter Columbia returns to earth in 1995 loaded with research samples. A magnified photograph (inset) shows the damage caused by tiny orbital debris. The impact of larger items of space junk poses a terrible risk to hugely expensive and time-consuming space projects.

THERE USED TO BE ONLY A FAINT POSSIBILITY OF ROCKETS, SATELLITES AND THE EARTH BEING STRUCK BY METEORITES. NOW, THE ODDS ON A COLLISION ARE RISING AS MAN-MADE SPACE DEBRIS THREATENS LETHAL DAMAGE





the shuttle had been hit by a piece of electronic circuit board from a rocket or satellite that had exploded in space. Travelling through space at 5 kilometres per second, it was extremely fortunate that the projectile did not cause an air leak or an explosion by puncturing the shuttle.

GROWING DANGER

Space missions have become so common that the world hardly notices when rockets launch or touch down these days. Every year, around 100 new satellites are sent into space and NASA runs eight Space Shuttle missions. On top of this, there is a growing number of private space ventures to launch satellites, such as the Iridium project for mobile telephone communications.

Even so, space flight is far from routine. Apart from having to negotiate their rockets and satellites past natural obstacles such as meteorites and asteroids, scientists have been aware since the early 1970s of an increasingly unpredictable mass of man-made debris, too.

Space junk comes from a number of sources. Some of it has been deliberately dumped in space, like special casing designed

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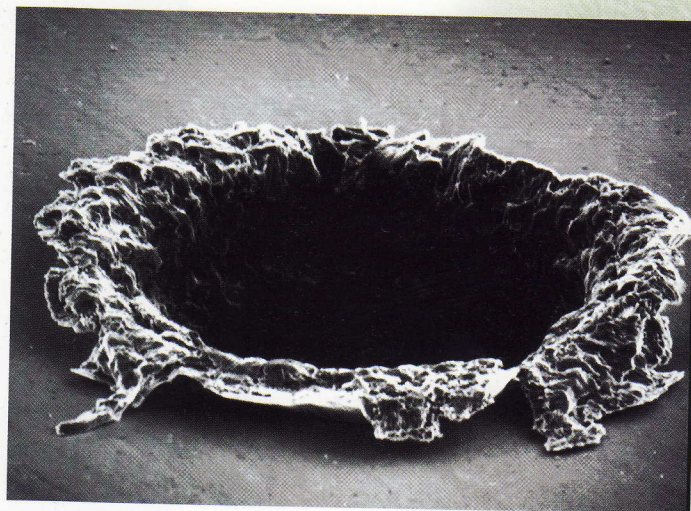
I'm afraid that future astronauts will have to fly through orbiting minefields

Arthur C Clarke, author and space expert

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to prevent damage to sensitive instruments during take-off and bodily waste from past space missions. Other junk results from explosions in space. Some of these are accidental, such as the Proton rocket. Other explosions are intentional, such as when rocket stages from a satellite launch are

► **This mini-crater was one of many found on the surface of the Solar Maximum Mission Satellite (SMMS), which returned to earth in April 1984. The holes were caused by hyper-velocity impacts with loose flakes of paint.**



NASA

jettisoned or when countries deliberately destroy their old spy satellites, as the Russians have been known to. Like anything else, space hardware also wears away and breaks down over time.

Some space debris is so small – dust, in fact – that it can usually be tackled by protective shielding. But such measures are not enough on their own, especially when serious damage can be done by a flake of paint travelling at six times the speed of sound.

MAN-MADE JUNK

While large chunks of debris can be spotted quite easily, once the smaller particles are taken into

account nobody really knows how much man-made junk is hurtling about in space. The actual number of objects is likely to be in the millions, and this can only increase as space exploration and satellite launches continue.

International concern about space junk is strong enough for several high level initiatives to be under way. Efforts are being made to harmonize research activities between the UK, France, Germany and Italy, and there was a second European conference on the problem at Darmstadt in Germany in March 1997.

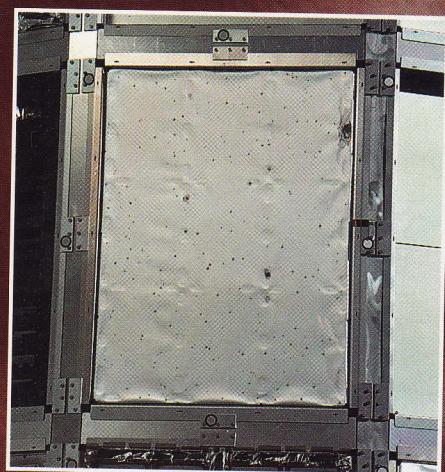
In February 1996, the White House produced a report on space

EVIDENCE

SPACE HIT-AND-RUN

One confirmed victim of space debris is the French spy satellite Cerise. In 1996, a 10-year-old chunk of an Ariane rocket, travelling at 50,000km/h, collided with the satellite, vaporizing its stabilization boom and sending it off course. When it was launched in July 1995, the French satellite should have lasted for two and a half years.

Part of the problem is that, with so many pieces of junk in space, it has become impossible to predict all possible collisions. But in an effort to improve its information, NASA sent up a target satellite and left it in space for six years. The Long



NASA/SPL

Duration Exposure Facility (above), which was about the size of a bus, returned to Earth with over 1,000 craters on its surface. From this, NASA was able to ascertain the sources of orbital debris and the rate at which its composition is changing.

debris, outlining options to cut down on space junk. The report suggests, among other measures, better rocket design to lessen the creation of junk, and shifting old spacecraft into 'graveyard' orbits out of harm's way. But, although

“

Rather than the cascade reaction happening within the next 20 to 50 years, we could expect it perhaps to occur in the next 10 to 20 years

Richard Crowther, British Defence Research Agency

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some redesigning will limit the chances of spacecraft destruction, the experts recognize that the possibility of disaster cannot be removed entirely. The report concludes that 'the overall debris population will increase.'

PROJECT ORION

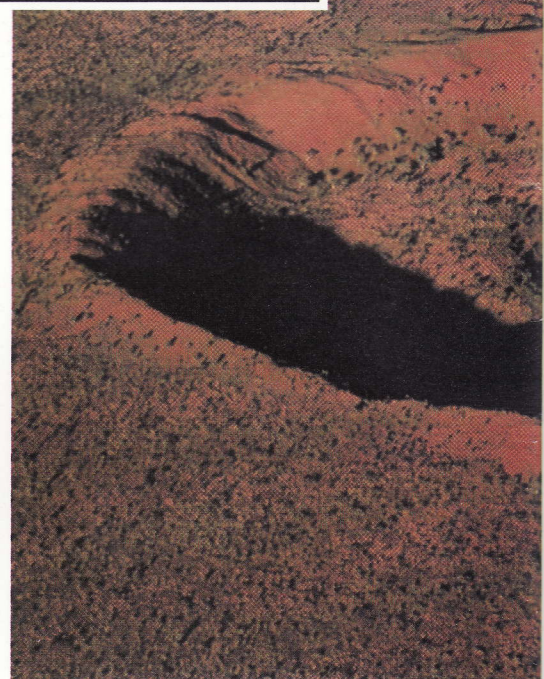
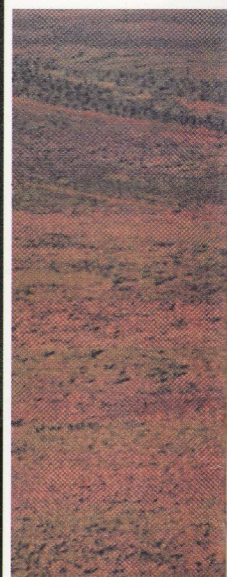
At NASA's Marshal Space Flight Centre in Huntsville, Alabama, Dr Jonathon Campell is heading Project Orion. Its aim is to rid the heavens of dangerous space debris through the use of sophisticated

► **Wolf Creek Crater, in Australia, was formed thousands of years ago when a meteorite crashed. Shooting stars (inset) are a sign that space debris has entered the earth's atmosphere.**

radar and laser beams.

Once a dangerous piece of debris has been located by radar, ground based lasers would be fired at the target, with the aim of altering the junk's course, if not destroying it altogether. The laser is specially designed to take account of the distortion to the beam caused by passing through earth's atmosphere into space.

'We already have equipment that would allow us to clear all



CASE notes

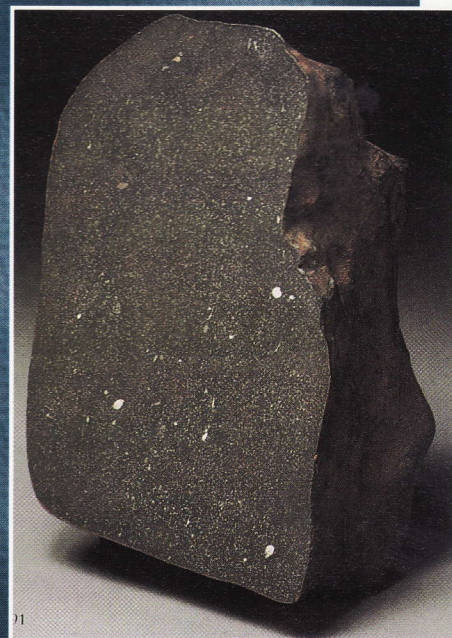
SPACE WEALTH

Although meteorites and man-made debris in space can be a health hazard, back on earth such exotic flotsam and jetsam can reap the lucky owners rich rewards.

Only 12 meteorites have been discovered on earth, weighing a total of just 41 kg. Fragments of these 12 can be found in seven museums across the world, including the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C. and London's Natural History

Museum. A moratorium has been based on the sale of these meteorites between the museums because of their scarcity and scientific significance.

Thus it was not surprising that a unique auction on 14 December 1996 in New York should cause such a stir. Under the hammer was the only private collection of Martian meteorites in the world. The highest bid was \$1.1 million, below the owner's reserve price, so the auction house is now in private negotiations over the sale. The large, 8 kg fragment, is 22.5cm tall (right), and is the largest part of a meteorite. It was found in June 1983 by a farmer in South Dakota, USA.



Phillips, New York



UK. Griffiths also points out Project Orion-type lasers are also potential anti-satellite weapons, thus raising the question of international security.

DOWN TO EARTH

Apart from worrying about collisions with debris in space, scientists are also mindful of the consequences of such objects falling to earth. According to Nicholas Johnson, chief scientist of the Kaman Sciences Corp, there have been over 15,000 re-entries into earth's atmosphere since the start of the space age, all of which were sizeable, man-made objects.

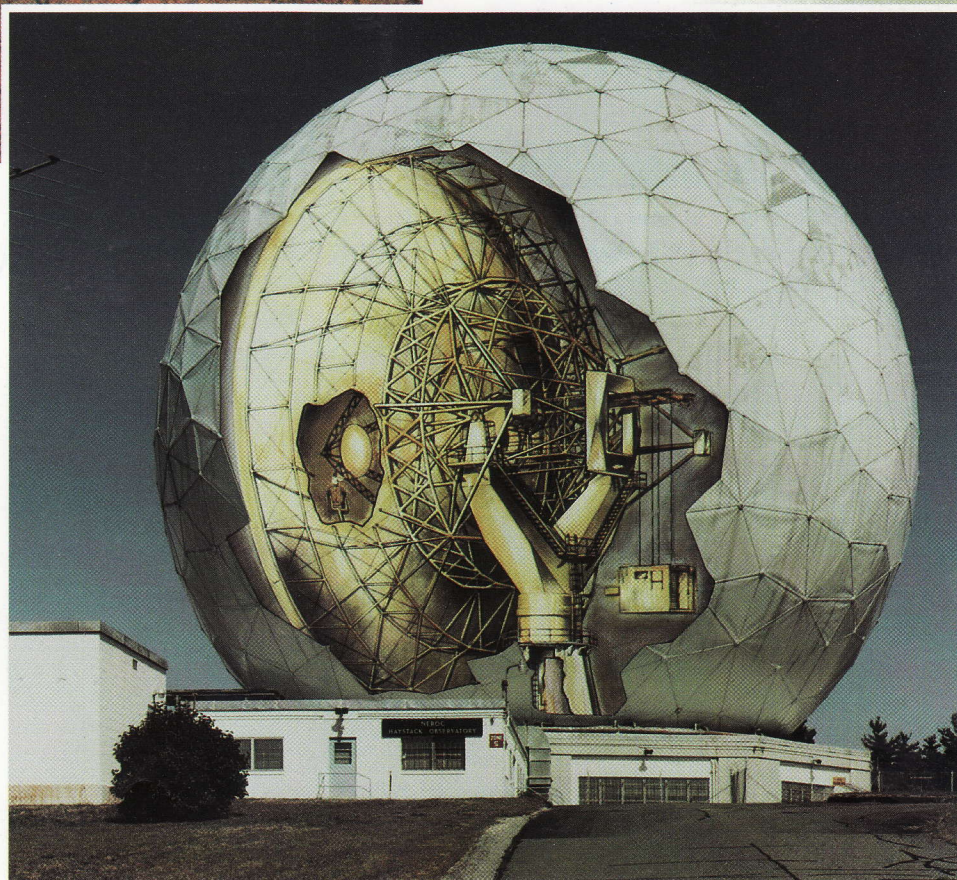
In March 1996, a failed Chinese spy satellite, the size of a small car and weighing two tonnes, caused worldwide panic as it headed back to earth. Scientists calculated that the satellite would hit the ground at 650 km/h, leaving a crater

▼ **The Haystack radar at Tyngsboro, Massachusetts, USA, has been used by NASA since 1990 to track space debris. It can pinpoint objects as small as 5 mm across, 1000 km away.**

Bill Bachman/SPL. Inset: Pekka Parvainen/SPL

debris... below an altitude of 800 kilometres,' says Dr Campell. This would help protect many satellites and manned space stations which orbit at 500 km. The system could also be adapted to destroy hazardous meteorites. The only problem is that it has yet to be tested, so nobody knows for sure if it will work as well in practice as on paper. And it won't be able to cope with large objects, such as an asteroid or rogue space station.

'In the short-term, the only economic method of dealing with space debris is prevention,' says Andrew Griffiths, a researcher with the Department of Space Sciences at the University of Kent in the



Reprinted with permission of MIT Lincoln Laboratory, Lexington, Massachusetts

30 metres wide and destroying everything within 100 metres. On this occasion the satellite splashed down harmlessly in the mid-South Atlantic Ocean. Similarly when the Skylab space station crashed back to earth in 1979 it landed in remote western Australia, causing no fatalities.

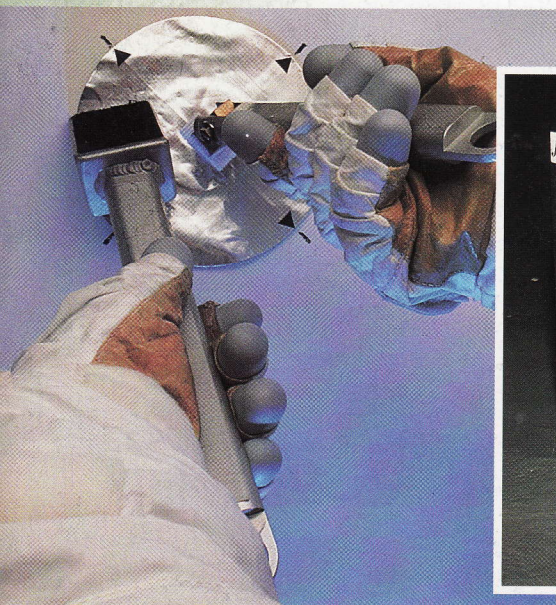
Indeed, the only death caused so far by falling space debris was that of a cow in Cuba in 1962. The debris was from a prototype of the American Saturn V rocket, and the Cubans gave the cow a full state funeral as a victim of imperialist aggression.

ASTEROID ATTACK

The potential for destruction caused by the larger meteorites and asteroids colliding with earth, though, is no laughing matter. At least 200 craters on earth have been caused by asteroid impacts.

It is believed that the dinosaurs' rule on earth was brought to an abrupt end 65 million years ago, when a 160km-wide asteroid, travelling at 33,000 km/h, crashed off the coast of Mexico. And, in 1908, when an object estimated to be just 30 metres across struck Tunguska in Siberia, it laid waste

▼ Among preventative methods are patches which can repair holes in Space Stations, and a 'bumper' or outer sheet (inset) system which protects spacecraft.



Analysis

THE CASCADE EFFECT

Two projects to put over 1000 satellites into low Earth orbit in the run-up to the year 2000 is raising the spectre of the 'cascade effect,' should one of them accidentally explode.

The problem is that they will all be crowded into the same low altitude (above) and pass through the same regions of space. This significantly raises the chances that the ring of orbiting engineering could disintegrate as debris from one explosive collision has a disastrous knock-on effect.

to an area more than 50 km across.

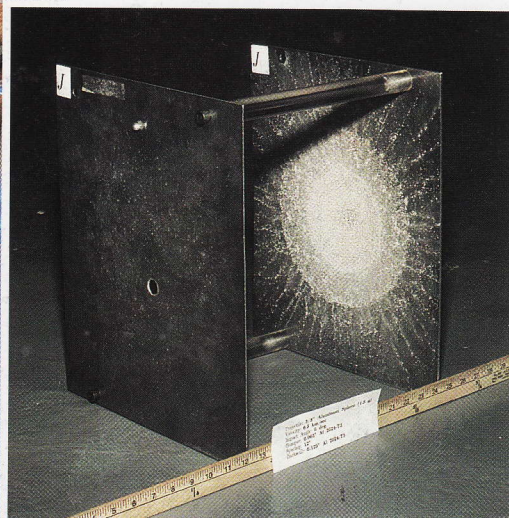
In 1998, NASA plans to launch the International Space Station. It will take four years to build and will be in space for around ten years, so engineers know that it will have to be tough enough to stand up to a barrage of space debris.

To deal with this they have developed a 'meteor bumper' – a metal sheet placed a few centimetres from the station's hull to act as a shield. Tests so far have

shown the bumper to stand up well to impact.

In November 1999, scientists believe that earth will be struck by a shower of over 10,000 meteors. The space station can shift its position so as to present as small a surface area to the oncoming storm as possible, but it cannot be protected completely.

It has been calculated that there is a one in ten chance of the space station being punctured by debris during its 10-year lifetime. In fact, some scientists are coming around to thinking that the best way to tackle such asteroid threats is to stage a nuclear explosion in space.



Bruce Frisch/SPL. Inset: NASA

BIZARRE!

LIFE'S STRANGE STORIES

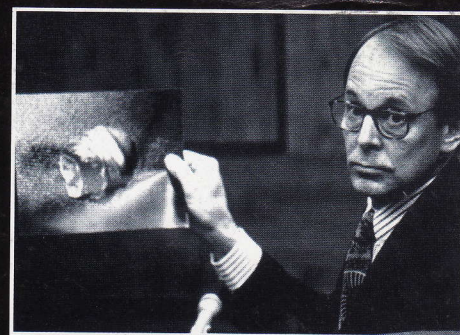
REMOTE VISIONARY

Courtney Brown, author of *Cosmic Voyage* and science professor at Emory University in Atlanta, USA, has been making some remarkable claims to his local paper. In an interview carried by the *Kansas City Star* in June 1996, Brown stated that he could journey through space and time, speak with Jesus and explore distant galaxies, all using the method of 'remote viewing'.

This skill, investigated by both the

CIA and the KGB since the 1950s, is the ability to travel great distances and view people and events using just the power of the mind.

In defence of his work, Brown states, 'I'd be crazy if I went public without being certain about what's going on.' But despite this caution, Brown is happy to share his conviction that Martians are currently residing in the New Mexico desert.



Archive Photos

MEMBERS ONLY

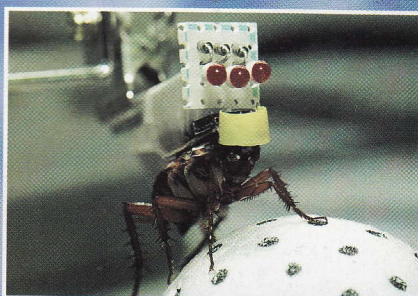
Lorena Bobbit rose to dubious stardom after she sliced off her bullying husband's penis in June 1993. Bizarrely, after being acquitted of all charges relating to the attack, Lorena has become a cult figure in Brazilian feminist circles, so much so that many oppressed women are emulating her emasculating style:

- The 17-year-old schoolgirl lover of Joao Carlos Mattos, 27, amputated his penis with a knife hidden under a hotel room mattress after he ended their relationship. Terrified, Mattos plunged his blood-spurting organ into an ice bucket and telephoned the police. His girlfriend is being held in a juvenile detention centre.
- Eva Maria Pires hacked off her husband's left testicle in three swipes and flushed it down the toilet after he attempted to force himself upon her in a drunken state. From his hospital bed, he has forgiven her, saying she is just 'highly strung'.
- A 19-year-old woman threw boiling water over her adulterous husband's penis after she had found lipstick on his collar. He suffered shock and second-degree burns.

ROBO ROACH

The *Daily Mail* reported in January 1997 how a team of scientists at Tokyo University has invented a remote-controlled bionic cockroach. The antennae and wings of the American cockroach bred by the team are replaced with a microchip containing minuscule microprocessors and electrodes that can respond to remote control commands.

In the future, Roboroaches could be fitted with a mini-camera allowing them to do anything from photographing top-secret information to seeking



AP

survivors in earthquake zones. The microchips weigh twice as much as the cockroaches, but according to the leader of the research team, Raphael Holzer, 'They can lift 20 times their own weight.'

Response tests are still being done as the Roboroaches are not quite picking up the correct signals, and Professor Holzer adds that 'they are a bit smelly'.

BIRDS OF A FEATHER...

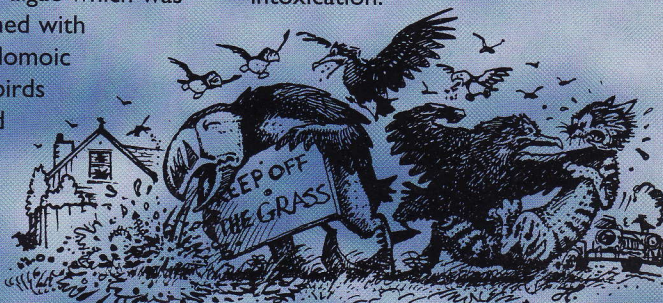
The October 1995 issue of *Fortean Times* reported how swarms of psychotic birds plagued the Californian coastal resort of Rio del Mar in 1961. Puffins collided into houses, smashed car headlights, shattered windows and harassed people in the streets. Eight people were hurt in the attack.

At the time, it was believed that the birds had been disorientated by dense fog, and were attracted to the bright lights of the town. Now Dr David Garrison, a marine biologist at the

University of California, claims the birds' diet of anchovies was to blame.

The birds would feed on anchovies which in turn fed on algae which was unfortunately poisoned with naturally occurring domoic acid. This made the birds aggressive, demented and generally obnoxious, not too different from inebriated humans.

As well as becoming antisocial, the birds vomited chunks of anchovies across the town, and many died from intoxication.



Julek Heller