FACTOID BOOKS

ALLEGEDLY TRUE TALES OF PARANORMAL PHENOMENA!

THE BIG BOOK OF THE UNEXPLAINED



BY
DOUG MOENCH
and OVER 40 OF THE WORLD'S TOP COMICS ARTISTS!

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An Introduction

GREETINGS TO TUNNEL-VISIONED SKEPTICS AND GULLIBLE BELIEVERS ALIKE. SAD TO SAY, NEITHER APPROACH TO THE WORLD IS THE RIGHT ONE.

MY NAME IS CHARLES FORT. BETWEEN MY BIRTH IN 1874 AND MY DEATH IN 1932, I CATALOGUED A "PROCESSION OF THE DAMNED," MEANING UNSTUDIED ODDITIES AND "IMPOSSIBLE" OCCURRENCES--

--PHENOMENA WHICH SCIENCE "EXPLAINS AWAY" BY IGNORING, SUPPRESSING, OR DISCREDITING INCONVENIENT DATA AND EVIDENCE.

HERE LIE

RIP

AS H. L. MENCKEN NOTED: "FOR EVERY COMPLEX PROBLEM THERE IS A SOLUTION WHICH IS SIMPLE, NEAT, AND WRONG"—REMINDING US THAT UNEXPLAINED MYSTERIES ARE NEVER SIMPLE JUST BECAUSE SOMEONE EXPLAINS THEM AWAY WITH AN UNCOMPLICATED ANSWER.

SIR JOHN HERSCHEL PUT IT THIS WAY: "WE OUGHT TO DISMISS ANY PRECONCEIVED NOTION OF WHAT ***OUGHT TO BE***, AND CONTENT OURSELVES WITH OBSERVING, AS A PLAIN MATTER OF FACT, WHAT ***IS***."

INDEED—NO MATTER ***WHAT*** IT IS WE SEE.

"THE KNOWN IS FINITE, THE UNKNOWN INFINITE," WROTE THOMAS HUXLEY. I AGREE. IN THE COURSE OF MY OWN OBSERVATION AND COMMENTARY, I FOUND ***ALL MANNER*** OF DAMNED WEIRDNESS.

I COINED THE WORD "TELEPORTATION," FOR EXAMPLE --

--AND I WAS THE FIRST TO SUGGEST THAT STRANGE NOCTURNAL LIGHTS AND DAYTIME DISCS MIGHT CONTAIN REPRESENTATIVES FROM ALIEN WORLDS OR FOREIGN REALITIES.

I EVEN ADVANCED THE UNPOPULAR NOTION THAT OUR WORLD MIGHT BE NOTHING MORE THAN A PLANET-SIZED ***PANTRY***--

--STOCKED WITH ***US***.

WAS I *KIDDING*? YOU BET, BUT I WAS NEVER MORE SERIOUS EITHER—AND NOW I'M *BACK*.

MY "PROCESSION OF THE DAMNED," YOU SEE, HARDLY HALTED WHEN I DIED.

IF ANYTHING, THE ASSEMBLAGE OF MYSTERIES HAS RECENTLY BECOME AN UNRULY MOB—MAKING IT HIGH TIME FOR THIS UPDATE.

OUR ODYSSEY THROUGH THE A-TO-Z-FILES OF HIGH STRANGENESS WILL BE SOMETIMES WONDROUS, SOMETIMES CHILLING, OFTEN ABSURD AND ALMOST ALWAYS INEXPLICABLE—BUT NEVER BORING.

HI-YO, NESSIE—*AWAY!*

HOARY INDEED ARE SOME OF THE CHESTNUTS FALLING AHEAD, BUT THERE IS ALSO MUCH WHICH IS NEW, AS WELL AS FRESH SLANTS ON ANCIENT ODDITIES.

CALL IT A FAMILIAR JOURNEY INTO NEW REALMS OF THE ETERNALLY ENIGMATIC.

ONE MAJOR DIFFERENCE THESE DAYS, FOR BETTER OR WORSE, IS THAT BLIND SKEPTICISM HAS BEEN INCREASINGLY REPLACED BY BLIND BELIEF.

AND SINCE OUR EPISODIC TOUR IS BEST UNDERTAKEN WITH A CERTAIN BALANCE, LET A SINGLE CAUTION BE YOUR GUIDE:

VENTURE NO FARTHER WITH YOUR MIND CLOSED, BUT NEITHER OPEN IT SO FAR THAT YOUR BRAINS SPILL OUT.

AND NOW, SINCE ONE MEASURES A CIRCLE BEGINNING ANYWHERE, FEEL FREE TO DIP INTO THIS COMPENDIUM AT WILL, WHERE AND AS YOU PLEASE.

FOR THOSE OF A MORE METHODICAL BENT, OUR LONG STRANGE TRIP BEGINS ON THE NEXT PAGE...

CHAPTER ONE

HIGH STRANGENESS

We begin with the simply yet profoundly weird: crop circles and synchronicities, ley lines and mysterious megaliths, crystal power and locomotive stones, anomalous rainfalls and the Super-Sargasso Sea, Out-of-Place Artifacts and ancient civilizations, astrology and teleportation. These are the phenomena for which our "normal" paradigms find no room. These things empirically *cannot be*, and yet — apparently — they *are*. Contemplating such enigmas, science shivers, then scoffs. In no particular order, we do both or neither — and *then* some. And by the end of this chapter, we also harbor our first suspicions that all of this strangeness is either sheer bunk... or somehow *linked*.

AS THE PRINCIPLES OF ZEN INFORM US, NOT ALL MESSAGES ARE MEANT TO BE UNDERSTOOD—SOMETIMES IT IS BETTER TO SIMPLY PONDER AND APPRECIATE PURE FORM AND ELUSIVE MYSTERY.

ON THE OTHER HAND, THERE MAY WELL BE A CERTAIN CIRCULAR LOGIC, AND EVEN WISDOM, EMBODIED IN THOSE--

AGGRAVATING AGRIGLYPHS

FULLY APPRECIATED ONLY FROM ABOVE AND FIRST NOTICED IN LATE-70S ENGLAND, CROP CIRCLES ARE MYSTERIOUS DEPRESSIONS OCCURRING OVERNIGHT, PERHAPS IN MERE SECONDS, PRIMARILY IN FIELDS OF WHEAT, RYE, BARLEY, AND RAPESEED.

THE ANATOMY OF A SIMPLE CIRCLE IS CHARACTERIZED BY A CLOCKWISE OR COUNTER-CLOCKWISE SWIRL OR SPIRAL OF FLATTENED BUT NOT CRUSHED STALKS, OFTEN INTRICATELY WOVEN OR EVEN "BRAIDED."

THE STEMS OF AFFECTED PLANTS ARE TYPICALLY BENT (BUT NOT BROKEN) CLOSE TO THE GROUND, AS IF MADE MOMENTARILY MALLEABLE AND THEN SOMEHOW REHARDENED.

SINCE THESE FLATTENED CEREAL PLANTS CONTINUE TO GROW AND ARE ROUTINELY HARVESTED (REAPING NOT AT ALL WHAT WAS SOWN), CROP CIRCLES ARE LITERALLY *CONSUMED* BY HUMAN BEINGS.

YUM-- BREAD FOR THE *HEAD?*

MANY 70S AND EARLY-80S FORMATIONS INCLUDED "GRAPESHOT" DEPRESSIONS SCATTERED OR CLUSTERED AROUND THE MAIN CIRCLE.

NOT PRESENT WERE ACCESS TRAILS OR EVEN FOOTPRINTS.

ALTHOUGH WIDELY NOTED AND PUBLICIZED ONLY IN RECENT YEARS, RECORDED CIRCLES ARE APPARENTLY NOTHING NEW

AS WITNESSED IN THIS 1678 ILLUSTRATION OF "THE MOWING DEVIL."

August 22th, 1678.

PAGAN AND CELTIC MYTH (OR HISTORY) IS RICH WITH TALES OF "FAIRY RINGS" AND "ROUND DANCES" ATTRIBUTED TO UNEARTHLY "WEE FOLK."

STOMP THAT CIRCLE *SPRIGHTLY*, SPRITES!

VIRTUALLY EVERY CULTURE ON EARTH OBSERVED *SOME* FORM OF CIRCULAR WORSHIP, AS DOCUMENTED IN PETROGLYPHS, CAVE PAINTINGS, AND OTHER ANCIENT GRAFFITI.

THIS IS THE ICKFIELD MOOR "CUP AND RING" STONE IN YORKSHIRE--

--WHILE IN NORTH AMERICA, LAND OF "MEDICINE WHEELS," WE FIND THIS SPIRAL INCISED IN ROCK BY PRECURSORS OF THE HOPI INDIANS.

HISTORY'S NUMEROUS "CULTS OF THE DISK" WERE NO DOUBT INSPIRED BY THE SUN AND THE MOON--

--AND—JUST MAYBE—BY CROP CIRCLES.

INDEED, SINCE THE OVERWHELMING PREPONDERANCE OF RECENT CEREAL FORMATIONS HAVE APPEARED IN THE VICINITY OF FAR MORE ANCIENT CIRCLES--

--MYSTERIOUS CONSTRUCTS LIKE ANGLO EARTHMOUNDS AND HEDGES OF STONE MAY WELL BE REPRESENTATIONAL MONUMENTS TO LONG-AGO CROP CIRCLES WHICH ARE NOW RECURRING.

IN A REVERSAL (OR REPETITION) OF THIS POSSIBILITY, CROP FORMATION OF JULY 11, 1992 PRECISELY MIMICKED THE ORIGINAL STATE OF AVEBURY HENGE.

BUT LET'S NOT GET AHEAD OF OURSELVES...

IT WAS NOT UNTIL THE LATE-80S THAT RECENT CIRCLES EVOLVED TO THEIR NEXT ORDER OF COMPLEXITY—SIMPLE CONCENTRIC RINGS AND "SATELLITE" DEPRESSIONS.

AFTER THAT, ALL HELL (OR HEAVEN) BROKE LOOSE IN A STUNNING SERIES OF WILDLY ELABORATE "PICTOGRAMS" OR "AGRIGLYPHS" WHICH CONTINUE TO APPEAR AND EVOLVE TO THIS VERY DAY.

AND THE PROGRESSION FROM SIMPLE CIRCLES TO COMPLEX SYMBOLS WAS HIGHLY INTRIGUING, EVEN SUGGESTIVE OF RESPONSE TO HUMAN THOUGHT.

WHEN THE FIRST MODEST DEPRESSIONS WERE BLAMED ON "RUTTING HEGDEHOGS," FOR EXAMPLE, THE CIRCLES PROMPTLY GREW TO MAMMOTH PROPORTIONS.

THIS'D TAKE A LOT OF HORNY HEDGEHOGS!

THE SUBSEQUENT "HELICOPTER PROP-WASH" THEORY CRASHED AND BURNED IN THE WAKE OF SUDDEN SATELLITE AND RING FORMATIONS.

THIS SOLUTION WILL *NEVER* FLY!

AND AS SOON AS DR. TERENCE MEADEN ADVANCED HIS METEOROLOGICAL "PLASMA THEORY"

WIND VORTICES SWEEPING OVER *HILLSIDES!*

THE FORMATIONS COUNTERED WITH BARS AND RECTANGLES.

(SORRY, DOC— *STRAIGHT LINES* DO NOT OCCUR IN NATURE!)

IT WAS AS IF THE COSMIC TRICKSTER DELIGHTED IN MOCKING THE THEORISTS, PERVERSELY DEMOLISHING EACH SUCCESSIVE SOLUTION AND FORCING US TO SCRATCH OUR HEADS EVER HARDER.

BUT WAS THE TRICKSTER *TRULY* COSMIC —OR PERHAPS ALL TOO *HUMAN...?*

WORLDWIDE HEADLINES IN 1991 TRANSFORMED THE "HOAX THEORY" INTO THE FINAL SOLUTION WHEN TWO CHAPS NAMED DOUGLAS BOWER AND DAVID CHORLEY "CONFESSED":

WE DID 'EM!

LATE NIGHTS AFTER THE *PUB!*

ALTHOUGH DOUG AND DAVE HAVE DEMONSTRATED THE CREATION OF SIMPLE (AND CRUDELY CRUSHED) CIRCLES, THEY HAVE NEVER DUPLICATED THE INTRICACY OR COMPLEXITY OF CEREALOLOGY'S MORE HAUNTING SUBJECTS--

--AND, IN FACT, HAVE DENIED ANY ASSOCIATION WITH THE MOST SPECTACULAR FORMATIONS, A FACT WHICH HAS *NOT* MADE WORLDWIDE HEADLINES.

KRKT

KRSH

WITH A MURKY MOTIVE AMOUNTING TO NOTHING MORE THAN A LARK, DOUG AND DAVE DID RECEIVE MONEY FOR THE CELEBRATED *STORY* OF THEIR ALLEGED HOAXING—EVEN THOUGH ARITHMETIC AND GEOGRAPHY FURTHER ELIMINATE THEM FROM THE PICTOGRAM PICTURE.

FORMATIONS SCATTERED ACROSS BRITAIN ALONE NUMBER IN THE *THOUSANDS,* WITH OTHERS APPEARING AS FAR AFIELD AS JAPAN AND AUSTRALIA—LITERALLY ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD AND HARDLY A PLAYFUL HOP, SKIP, AND JUMP FROM THE LOCAL PUB.

WITH DOUG AND DAVE NOW RETIRED, THE CIRCLES CONTINUE TO APPEAR—WHILE ONE RESEARCHER MAINTAINS THEY RECEIVED PAYMENT FROM AN ALLEGED FRONT FOR BRITISH INTELLIGENCE.

DISCREDIT THOSE DAMNED *CIRCLES*—ON GROUNDS OF *NATIONAL SECURITY!*

WHITEHALL DEPARTMENT OF SUBTERFUGE

OTHER HOAXERS INCLUDE JIM SCHNABEL (WHO BLAMED SATANISTS FOR THOSE CIRCLES HE DID *NOT* CREATE) AND THE BRITISH ARMY (FOR REASONS OR RESEARCH STILL UNEXPLAINED)--

HOAXING PLAN № 2001

--BUT EVEN IN PROVEN HOAXES, THERE MAY BE SOMETHING WEIRD AT WORK.

SEVERAL PROFESSED CIRCLE MAKERS (INCLUDING DOUG BOWER) HAVE ADMITTED TO BEING "INSPIRED" BY UNKNOWN FORCES--

I HAVE OFTEN ASKED MYSELF WHERE THE IDEAS *CAME FROM.*

--WHILE OTHERS FEEL THEY HAVE BEEN "USED LIKE A TOOL."

IS THERE A TRICKSTER *BEHIND* THE TRICKSTERS—ANOTHER COSMIC GIGGLE UNDERLYING THE HEADLINES?

IF SO, IT'S IRONIC THAT *SCIENCE ITSELF* INDICATES THE PRESENCE OF A GENUINE PHENOMENON IN THE MAJORITY OF CIRCLES.

PHOTOMICROGRAPHS OF "NORMAL" AND "CIRCLED" PLANTS REVEAL CHANGES ON A CELLULAR LEVEL.

'Normal'

'Circled'

RADIOACTIVE ANOMALIES HAVE ALSO BEEN OBSERVED IN AFFECTED PLANTS--

--AS WELL AS EVIDENCE OF RAPID INTERNAL HEATING, NOT TO MENTION ALTERED SEEDS AND STEM NODES, ALL CAUSED BY NO KNOWN DISEASE.

RESEARCHER COLIN ANDREWS REPORTS "TRILLING" AND "THE RUSTLING OF STATIC ELECTRICITY" IN AND NEAR CIRCLES—INDICATIVE OF A MYSTERIOUS ENERGY DETECTED BY VARIOUS OTHER MEANS.

YAOW! WHAT'S WITH THE *FEEDBACK?!*

ELECTRO-MAGNETISM— FROM THE *LEY LINES.*

THIS BRINGS US TO THOSE INFERNAL FLYING SAUCERS —LONG ASSOCIATED WITH OTHER ELECTROMAGNETIC EFFECTS (SUCH AS STALLED CAR ENGINES), AS WELL AS EARLY "SAUCER NESTS," RESEMBLING BUT REPORTED LONG BEFORE MODERN CROP CIRCLES.

I GOT YOUR PROP-WASH, TERRANS!

ALSO LINKED TO UFOS ARE *ICE RINGS,* AQUA-SOLID ANALOGS OF CROP CIRCLES WHICH LOOK LIKE THE FLASH-FROZEN RIPPLES OF A STONE TOSSED INTO WATER—BUT WHICH PROBABLY ARE CONCENTRIC MELTINGS.

AND THESE STRANGE RINGS APPEARED IN 1991 ON A ROCK PLATEAU IN PUERTO RICO, UFO HOT-SPOT AT THE TIME.

WE'VE ALREADY COMPARED CROP CIRCLES TO EARTHMOUNDS SEEN FROM ABOVE, BUT THE *PROFILE* OF ANCIENT GLASTONBURY TOR BEARS AN UNCANNY RESEMBLANCE TO A UFO RECENTLY SEEN ABOVE A CROP FORMATION IN BRISTOL.

(AND BY THE WAY, UFO NIGHT SIGHTINGS ARE OFTEN FOLLOWED BY CROP CIRCLES IN THE MORNING...)

SMALL LUMINOUS WHITE SPHERES HAVE BEEN REPEATEDLY OBSERVED (AND VIDEOTAPED AT LEAST TWICE) ZIPPING AND DIPPING ABOVE AND WITHIN RECENT FORMATIONS.

MINI-PROBES DISPATCHED TO OBSERVE UFO HANDIWORK? RESIDUAL ENERGY FROM WHATEVER "NATURAL FORCE" CREATED THE FORMATIONS? OR JUST A FEW CURVE BALLS PITCHED BY THE COSMIC TRICKSTER?

FINALLY, CAN WE FIND EVIDENCE OF AN EXTRATERRESTRIAL CONNECTION (OR AT LEAST SOME MYSTERIOUS UNIVERSAL PHYSICS) IN THE SIMILAR SPIRALS OF GREAT GALAXIES AND SWIRLED CEREAL?

PROBABLY NOT...BUT WHO KNOWS?

AND ALL "PHYSICAL TRACE" EVIDENCE ASIDE, ARE ALIENS *TRULY* THE LORDS OF THE RINGS AND CIRCLES?

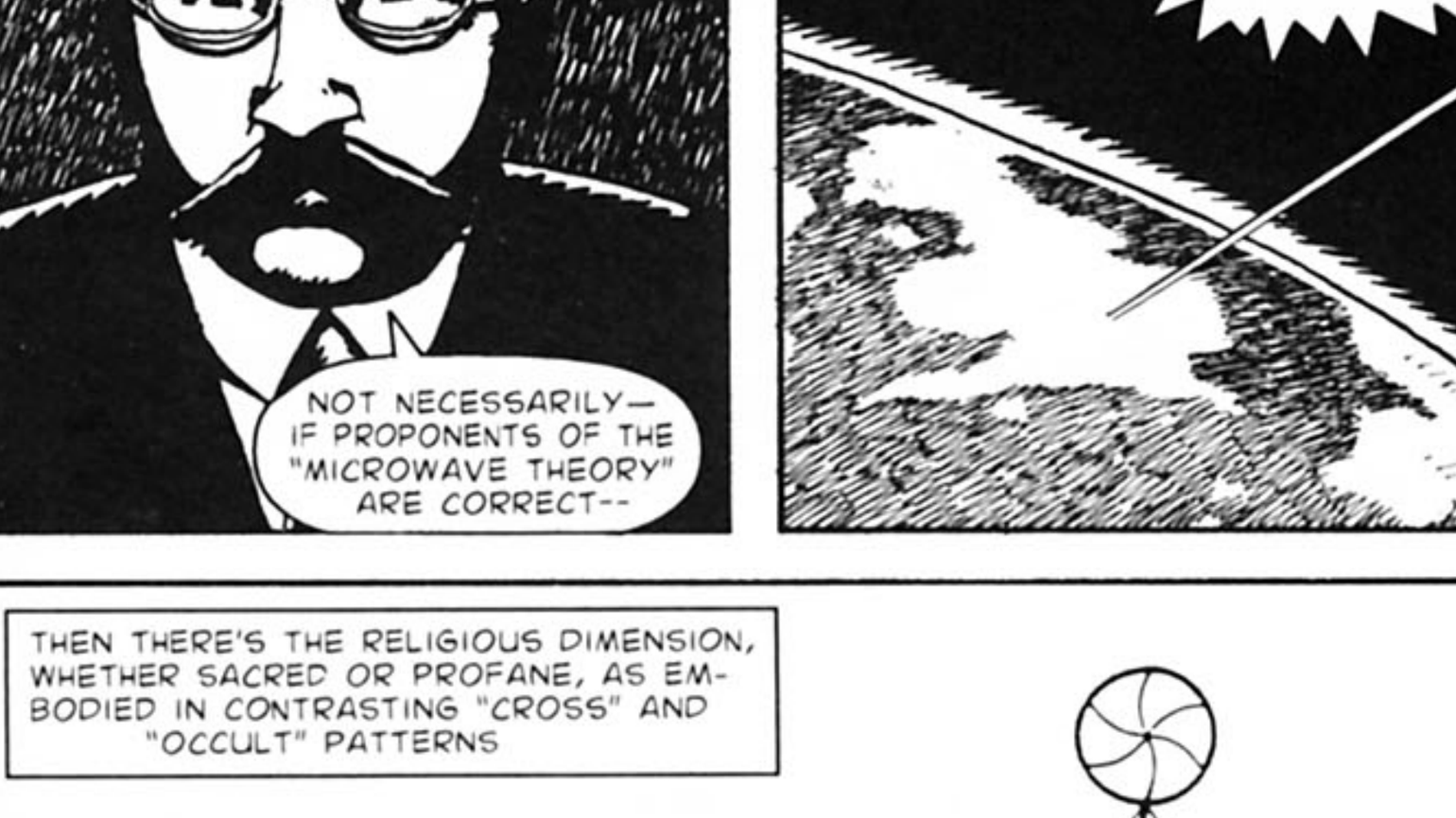
NOT NECESSARILY— IF PROPONENTS OF THE "MICROWAVE THEORY" ARE CORRECT--

--BECAUSE MICROWAVES WERE A PRIME COMPONENT OF PRESIDENT REAGAN'S ALL-TOO-HUMAN "STAR WARS" PROGRAM.

HAH! WAIT'LL THEY SEE *THIS* MASTERPIECE IN THE MORNING.

(IF NOT THE DELIBERATE DOODLES OF ORBITING PSYCHOLOGICAL WARFARE, MIGHT THE CIRCLE DESIGNS BE *SIDE-EFFECTS* OF MICROWAVE IRRADIATION TESTING—UNFORESEEN EVEN BY THE TESTERS THEMSELVES?)

THEN THERE'S THE RELIGIOUS DIMENSION, WHETHER SACRED OR PROFANE, AS EMBODIED IN CONTRASTING "CROSS" AND "OCCULT" PATTERNS



BEGGING THE QUESTION: ARE CROP FORMATIONS CALLS TO FAITH OR HARBINGERS OF MILLENNIAL DOOM—THE WORK OF *ANGELS* OR *DEMONS*?

CLOSER TO DEMONS, GIVEN RESEARCHERS MICHAEL J. STRAINIC AND LINDA MOULTON HOWE'S CONNECTION BETWEEN CIRCLES AND ANIMAL MUTILATIONS.

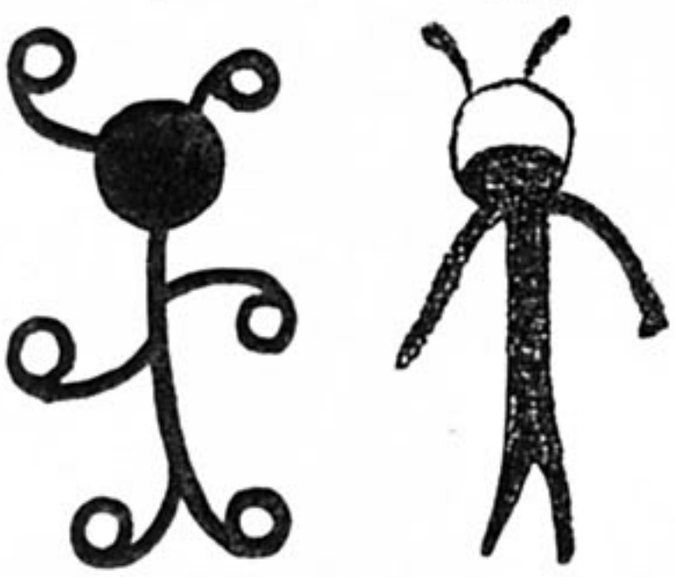
INCLUDING A DECAPITATED DOG NEAR *ONE* CIRCLE...

LET'S HOPE *THESE* CIRCLES *ARE* HOAXES.

BUT IF SOME AGRIGLYPHS TRULY COMPRISE AN EXTERNAL PHENOMENON, IS IT COSMIC GRAFFITI OR COMPELLING COMMUNICATION?

Crop Circle 'Insectogram'

Anasazi Rock Art



REPEATED MIMICKRY OF ANCIENT SYMBOLS MAY WELL ARGUE FOR THE LATTER.

INDEED, MANY CIRCLES LOOK LIKE NOTHING LESS THAN MYSTIFYING MANDALAS FOR MEDITATION ON HIGHER PLANES OF REALITY.

SHORTLY AFTER ONE CEREALOLOGIST STAMPED THE MESSAGE *"SPEAK TO US"* IN A FIELD OF GRAIN, THIS FORMATION (DUBBED "THE INSCRIPTION") APPEARED NEAR MILK HILL.

ARCHEOLOGIST MICHAEL GREEN OFFERED AN HEBRIAC TRANSLATION: "THE CREATOR, WISE AND KIND."

THE MOST STUNNING FORMATION OF ALL, HOWEVER, WAS THIS "MANDELBROT SET" NEAR CAMBRIDGE —A HIGHLY COMPLEX MATHEMATICAL CONSTRUCT RELATED TO FRACTALS AND CHAOS THEORY.

MATHEMATICS, OF COURSE, IS THE "UNIVERSAL LANGUAGE."

THE ANCIENT SUMERIAN "DIN-GIR" SYMBOL REPORTED ON THE SIDE OF A NEW MEXICO UFO BY PATROLMAN LONNIE ZAMORA IN 1964 ALSO APPEARED IN AN EAST MEON CROP FORMATION OF 1992.

"DIN-GIR" MEANS "FIERY CHARIOT OF THE GODS."

FINALLY, THE "GAIA HYPOTHESIS" SEES THE CIRCLES AS AN *INTERNAL* PHENOMEMON—MESSAGES FROM SENTIENT EARTH HERSELF.



ACCORDING TO COLIN ANDREWS AND OTHERS, THE PLANET IS SICK, PERHAPS DYING, AND HUMANS ARE THE DISEASE.

IF THIS IS TRUE, THEN THE CIRCLES MAY BE SYMPTOMS OF THE DISEASE—BIZARRE "STIGMATA" OR BEAUTIFUL SORES AFFLICTING THE PLANET'S FRAGILE SKIN.

EITHER THAT, OR PAINFULLY POIGNANT CRIES FOR RELIEF.

ONLY ONE THING IS CERTAIN: IF THE CIRCLES *ARE* SOME FORM OF COMMUNICATION—WHETHER AN INVITATION TO THE WILDEST PARTY IMAGINABLE OR ANGRY RANTS AGAINST POLLUTERS AND VEGETARIANS--

--THUS FAR WE'VE BEEN UNABLE TO HARVEST THE MESSAGE.

PSYCHOLOGIST CARL JUNG DEFINED **SYNCHRONICITY** AS "MEANINGFUL COINCIDENCE".

BUT WHAT ABOUT **ABSURD** COINCIDENCES? IMAGINE, IF YOU CAN, ANY **POSSIBLE** MEANING- OR **CAUSE**- BEHIND THESE SEEMINGLY --

C.G. JUNG

SENSELESS SYNCHRONICITIES

IN EDGAR ALLAN POE'S 1838 STORY, "THE NARRATIVE OF ARTHUR GORDON PYM OF NANTUCKET," THREE STARVING SHIPWRECK SURVIVORS MURDER AND CONSUME THEIR COMPANION, NAMED RICHARD PARKER.

IN 1884, THREE REAL-LIFE SHIPWRECKED SAILORS WERE TRIED FOR THE MURDER OF THE FOURTH SAILOR.

HIS NAME WAS ALSO RICHARD PARKER AND HE WAS ALSO EATEN.

AT LONDON'S SAVOY HOTEL IN 1953, NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST IRV KUPCINET WAS STARTLED TO FIND ITEMS BELONGING TO AN OLD FRIEND OF HIS, IMPRESARIO HARRY HANNIN.

WELL, I'LL BE!

TWO DAYS LATER KUPCINET RECEIVED A LETTER FROM THE SAME HARRY HANNIN, STAYING AT THE HOTEL MEURICE IN PARIS: "YOU'LL NEVER BELIEVE THIS, BUT I'VE JUST OPENED A DRAWER HERE AND FOUND A TIE WITH YOUR NAME ON IT."

ON AN UNUSUALLY EMPTY TRAIN IN PERU IN THE 1920s, THREE ENGLISHMEN WERE SURPRISED TO FIND THAT--

I'M BINGHAM.

I'M POWELL.

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, GENTS, I'M BINGHAM-POWELL.

IN THE MONTH LEADING UP TO THE ALLIED INVASION OF EUROPE ON JUNE 6, 1944, SOLUTIONS TO CLUES IN LONDON'S **DAILY TELEGRAPH** CROSSWORD PUZZLES INCLUDED: NEPTUNE, OMAHA, UTAH, MULBERRY, AND OVERLORD--

--ALL TOP-SECRET D-DAY CODEWORDS — ALL PUBLISHED BY PURE COINCIDENCE.

JOHN STOTT'S 1985 CAR CRASH WAS WITNESSED BY BERNARD STOTT, INVESTIGATED BY POLICE OFFICER TINA STOTT, AND ADMINISTERED BY DESK SERGEANT WALTER STOTT.

GREAT STOTT!

THE FOUR WERE NOT RELATED.

JILTED BY HER LOVER, HENRY ZIEGLAND, A TEXAS WOMAN KILLED HERSELF IN 1883.

BANG!

SEEKING REVENGE, HER BROTHER WENT AFTER ZIEGLAND--

BANG!

--AND THEN TOOK HIS OWN LIFE--

BANG!

--UNAWARE THAT HIS FIRST BULLET HAD MISSED ZIEGLAND AND EMBEDDED IN A TREE.

THIRTY YEARS LATER, IN UNLUCKY 1913, HENRY ZIEGLAND DECIDED TO FELL THE TREE WITH DYNAMITE--

BOOM!

--WHEREUPON THE LONG-LOST BULLET, PROPELLED BY THE EXPLOSION, FINALLY FOUND ITS MARK ON THE SECOND TRY--

BANG!

--KILLING ZIEGLAND "INSTANTLY."

A FISHMONGER IN CAMBRIDGE, ENGLAND TUGGED A STILL-LEGIBLE BOOK (BOUND IN SAILCLOTH) FROM THE BELLY OF A FISH CAUGHT IN 1626.

IT PROVED TO BE A THEOLOGICAL TREATISE WRITTEN BY JOHN FRITH A HUNDRED YEARS EARLIER.

CRITICS!

FRITH'S WRITINGS HAD CAUSED HIM TO BE BURNED AT THE STAKE AS A HERETIC IN 1533.

THE MANUSCRIPT HAD BEEN WRITTEN WHILE FRITH WAS IMPRISONED AT OXFORD - IN A CELLAR USED TO STORE FISH--

PEE-YEW!

--WHERE OTHER PRISONERS HAD ACTUALLY **DIED** FROM THE STENCH.

TO HONOR THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF ITS COMPOSITION AND DELIVERANCE, THE BOOK WAS REPRINTED IN 1627 AS **VOX PISCIS** - LITERALLY, "VOICE OF THE FISH."

VOX PISCIS

THE BOOK WAS **NOT** BURNED.

BEFORE IMMERSING HIMSELF IN PARANORMAL RESEARCH, 19th CENTURY FRENCH ASTRONOMER CAMILLE FLAMMARION WAS WRITING HIS MAJOR WORK, L'ATMOSPHÈRE--

WHOOOOOSH

-- WHEN A GALE OF WIND ABRUPTLY BLEW HIS WINDOW OPEN AND SUCKED AWAY THE PAGES HE HAD JUST COMPLETED.

THE WIND DEPOSITED THE PAGES IN THE STREET NEAR A PASSING MESSENGER EMPLOYED BY FLAMMARION'S PUBLISHER.

IS CAMILLE SAVING ME A TRUDGE UP HIS STAIRS?

BUT SINCE THIS HAPPENED BEYOND THE ASTRONOMER'S SIGHT--

-- HE WAS ASTOUNDED TO LATER RECEIVE PROOFS OF WHAT HE HAD ASSUMED WAS GONE WITH THE WIND.

SACRE BLEU! OR, SHOULD I SAY, SACRE BLEW!

HE WOULD NOT, AFTER ALL, BE FORCED TO REWRITE HIS CHAPTER ON "THE FORCE OF THE WIND."

WHEN THE FAMOUS LOCH NESS "FLIPPER" PHOTO WAS CAPTURED BY ROBERT RINES'S MOTION-TRIGGERED UNDER-WATER CAMERA IN 1975, PROMINENT BRITISH NATURALIST SIR PETER SCOTT PRONOUNCED THE "LOCH NESS MONSTER" A LIVING SPECIES.

SCOTT WAS SO CONVINCED OF THE CREATURES' REALITY, IN FACT, THAT HE GAVE THE SPECIES A NAME: NESSITERAS RHOMBOPTERYX- "NESS MONSTER WITH DIAMOND-SHAPED FIN."

THERE CAN NO LONGER BE ANY DOUBT IN THE FACE OF SUCH SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE.

I BELIEVE IN THE LOCH NESS MONSTER

IN THE FACE OF OVERWHELMING ODDS, HOWEVER, NESSIE'S NEW GREEK APPELATION WAS ALSO A PERFECT ANAGRAM FOR: "MONSTER HOAX BY SIR PETER S."

A COMPUTER AT ARGOED HIGH SCHOOL IN NORTH WALES RANDOMLY ASSIGNED THE NUMBER "007" TO A 15-YEAR-OLD CANDIDATE FOR EXAMINATIONS IN 1990.

RIGHT-NOW WHERE'S PUSSY GALORE?

007

THE STUDENT'S NAME WAS, OF COURSE, JAMES BOND.

STOPPING BY CHANCE AT A RESTAURANT OUTSIDE MILAN ON JULY 28, 1900, ITALY'S KING UMBERTO I WAS ASTONISHED TO ENCOUNTER HIS DEAD-RINGER DOUBLE--

--THE RESTAURANT'S OWNER, WHO WAS ALSO NAMED UMBERTO AND WHO HAD BEEN BORN IN THE SAME TOWN WITH THE SAME BIRTHDAY.

FOURTEENTH OF MARCH, 1844.

I TOO, YOUR MAJESTY!

BOTH MEN HAD MARRIED WOMEN NAMED MARGHERITA ON THE SAME DAY - APRIL 22, 1868 - AND BOTH SIRED SONS NAMED VITTORIO.

HOW IS IT THAT WE HAVE NEVER MET BEFORE?

BUT WE HAVE MET, YOUR MAJESTY- TWICE!

BOTH HAD TWICE BEEN DECORATED FOR BRAVERY, AND BOTH TIMES AT THE SAME CEREMONIES - ONCE IN 1866 AND AGAIN IN 1870.

AND THE DAY OF MY CORONATION--

-- WAS THE SAME DAY I OPENED THIS RESTAURANT!

WHEN AMAZED RESTAURATEUR UMBERTO LEFT TO FETCH THE MEALS, AMAZED KING UMBERTO PROCLAIMED--

I INTEND TO MAKE THAT MAN A CAVALIERE OF THE CROWN OF ITALY TOMORROW!

BUT WHEN HE ASKED ABOUT HIS DOUBLE THE NEXT DAY, THE KING WAS SHOCKED TO LEARN --

HE HAS JUST BEEN KILLED IN A SHOOTING ACCIDENT, YOUR MAJESTY.

THAT'S TERRIBLE! WHEN IS THE FUNERAL?

THE VERY NEXT MOMENT, THE ROYAL UMBERTO ALSO DIED — SHOT THREE TIMES BY AN ASSASSIN.

BANG!
BANG!
BANG!

LIKE ME, YOU HAVE PROBABLY IMAGINED MANY POSSIBLE "MEANINGS" FOR EACH OF THE FOREGOING SYNCHRONICITIES, BUT SURELY THEY CAN SHARE ONLY A SINGLE "CAUSE" --

-- THE COSMIC TRICKSTER ENJOYING SOME LAUGHS.

MOVING MEGALITHS

ANCIENT MEGALITHIC STRUCTURES— DEMANDING THE LONG-DISTANCE TRANSPORT OF MANY-TON STONES— BEG TWO QUESTIONS: WHY WERE THEY BUILT? AND HOW WAS THIS DONE WITH PRIMITIVE TECHNOLOGY?

LET'S ADMIT IT: THE METHODS THEORIZED BY MAINSTREAM ARCHEOLOGISTS— THOSE INVOLVING ROPES, WOODEN SLEDGES, AND HUMAN SWEAT— ARE PROBABLY CORRECT.

BUT IT STILL SEEMS INCREDIBLY IMPRACTICAL. COULD THERE HAVE BEEN OTHER WAYS? LET'S CONSIDER A WACKY ALTERNATIVE...

MEGALITHIC CIRCLES, HENGES, AND STANDING STONES WERE ALWAYS ERECTED ON "SACRED SITES"— AND EARLY CHRISTIAN CHURCHES WERE ALMOST ALWAYS BUILT ATOP MEGALITHIC RUINS AT THESE SAME SITES.

BUT WHY? WHAT WAS SO SPECIAL ABOUT THESE SPECIFIC PLACES?

DOWSERS AND PSYCHIC-SENSITIVES CLAIM THEY CAN DETECT "ENERGY" AT THESE SITES.

YIKES! THE ROD'S JERKING IN MY HAND!

OOOH! FEEL THE VIBES!

MAPS SHOW THAT SACRED SITES CAN BE LINKED BY THE DOZENS IN STRAIGHT LINES ACROSS HUNDREDS OF MILES— BUT **WHY** ARE THEY LOCATED ON THESE INVISIBLE "TRACKS"?

RESEARCHERS CLAIM THAT EARTH'S ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY TRAVELS IN "LEY LINES" STRETCHING BETWEEN "NODES" WHERE THE ENERGY IS MORE STRONGLY MANIFESTED.

THESE "ENERGY NODES," THEN, WERE SOMEHOW DETECTED BY THE MEGALITH BUILDERS AND BECAME THE PLANET'S "SACRED SITES."

I DON'T CARE *HOW* FAR THE QUARRY IS! STONEHENGE GOES *HERE!*

GRRR!

BUT WHY PIERCE THE GROUND AT THESE "LEY NODES" WITH STONES OF ENORMOUS SIZE?

(HERE COMES THE WACKY PART...)

LET'S SAY THE EARTH'S "LEY NODES" ARE EQUIVALENT TO THE HUMAN BODY'S SEVEN MAJOR AND MANY MORE MINOR **CHAKRAS**, OR "ENERGY CENTERS."

AND IF THE BODY'S ENERGY FLOW IS ENHANCED BY THE INSERTION OF ACUPUNCTURE NEEDLES AT CHAKRA POINTS, MAYBE LEY LINES FLOW BETTER WHEN THE EARTH'S SKIN IS "PUNCTURED" AT NODE POINTS BY MEGALITHIC STONES.

JUST AS THE HUMAN BODY IS KEPT HEALTHY AND ENERGIZED BY THE PROPER FLOW BETWEEN CHAKRA POINTS, SO TOO MIGHT THE EARTH BE "TUNED" BY THE PROPER FLOW OF ITS "HARMONIC" ENERGY-GRID.

AIMÉ MICHEL CATALOGUED A PREPONDERANCE OF UFO SIGHTINGS ALONG EARTH'S LEY LINES, SUGGESTING THE UFOs WERE ATTRACTED TO ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY— BUT MAYBE THEY WERE JUST **REFUELING**.

AND FINALLY, MAYBE THE MEGALITH-BUILDERS **ALSO** KNEW HOW TO EXPLOIT THIS LEY LINE **EM** ENERGY— IN THE TRANSPORT OF THEIR STONE "NEEDLES" FROM ONE NODE POINT TO ANOTHER AND ANOTHER ALL AROUND THE WORLD.

NO ROPES, NO WOODEN SLEDGES, NO HUMAN SWEAT.

BINGO!— ONE MONOLITHIC MYSTERY INSTANTLY **SOLVED**, LEAVING ONLY THIS CHICKEN-OR-EGG POSTSCRIPT:

WHICH CAME FIRST—THE *ENERGY* OR THE *ACUPUNCTURE*?

ALAS, POOR READER! I KNEW HIM *WELL*, A FELLOW OF INFINITE JEST, OF MOST *EXCELLENT FANCY!*

BUT WHERE IS HE *NOW?* OF HIS GIBES AND FLASHES OF MERRIMENT, ONLY *THIS* REMAINS...

PRECURSORS OF TODAY'S CRYSTAL-VIBE NEW AGERS, THE ANCIENT GREEKS ASCRIBED MYSTERIOUS POWERS AND PROPERTIES TO WHAT THEY CALLED *CRYSTALLOS*--

MEANING "CLEAR ICE."

AND WAY BACK IN 4000 B.C., EGYPTIAN MUMMIES WERE GIVEN A "THIRD EYE" OF QUARTZ CRYSTAL—SO THE SOUL COULD FIND ITS WAY TO ETERNITY.

HEY, IT'S A *LONG TRIP!*

INDEED, AS A SYMBOL OF ETERNITY, QUARTZ CRYSTAL IS HARD TO BEAT, RANKING ON THE HARDNESS SCALE ONLY SLIGHTLY BELOW TILL-DEATH-US-DO-PART DIAMOND.

I'M *TOUGHER!*

SEZ *YOU!*

BUT NOTHING LASTS LONGER THAN DEATH, HERE EMBODIED BY THE LIFE-SIZED "MITCHELL-HEDGES" SKULL OF DOOM, CARVED FROM PURE QUARTZ CRYSTAL AND WEIGHING MORE THAN 11 POUNDS.

JUST LIKE A FORTUNE-TELLER'S CRYSTAL BALL, THE MITCHELL-HEDGES SKULL SUPPOSEDLY HOLDS VISIONS OF THE FUTURE, WHICH CAN BE SEEN THROUGH THE "LENSES" OF ITS EYESOCKETS.

IT SUPPOSEDLY CAN ALSO ALTER A PERSON'S MOOD AND THOUGHTS —AND EVEN CAUSE DEATH.

THERE ARE ACTUALLY *TWO* CRYSTAL SKULLS, THIS LESSER ONE EXHIBITED IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM SINCE 1898, AND ATTRIBUTED TO "POSSIBLY AZ-TEC ORIGIN"—ALTHOUGH WITH NO WAY TO POSITIVELY DATE CRYSTAL, CU-RATORS HAVE NO REAL CLUE.

POOH-POOHING ANY NOTION OF MYSTICAL PROPERTIES, CURATORS ADMIT THEIR SKULL HAS BEEN THE MUSEUM'S MOST POPULAR ATTRACTION SO FAR, HOLDING VISITORS SPELLBOUND FOR A CENTURY--

NO *SWEEPIN'*, MATE, TILL THAT BLOODY THING'S COVERED.

AS *USUAL*.

--WHILE NIGHT CLEANING CREWS REFUSE TO WORK UNDER ITS GRUESOME GAZE.

IN CONTRAST TO THE CRUDER BRIT MUSEUM SKULL (WITH ITS "MERE INDICATIONS OF TEETH CHARACTERISTIC OF ANCIENT MEXICAN ART"), THE M-H SPECIMEN IS SO ANATOMICALLY PRECISE THAT IT COULD BE AN ACTUAL SKULL, SOMEHOW "TRANSMUTED" TO CRYSTAL.



WHILE A SINGLE MARK ON ONE TOOTH OF THE BRIT MUSEUM SKULL MAY BE EVIDENCE OF A RELATIVELY MODERN BOW-AND-STRING CUTTING TOOL, THE ALLEGEDLY OLDER M-H "MAYAN" SKULL BEARS NO TOOL MARKS AT ALL.



AND IF THE M-H SKULL WAS PAINSTAKINGLY GROUND AND POLISHED BY HAND AND SAND ALONE, IT WOULD HAVE TAKEN 150 TO 300 YEARS TO DO THE JOB!

THERE'S A SKULL IN THIS CHUNK *SOMEWHERE*— NOT THAT *I'LL* LIVE TO SEE IT.

IS IT *MY* TURN YET?

EVEN WITH TODAY'S TECHNOLOGY, IT WOULD TAKE THREE YEARS TO MAKE A SIMILAR SKULL.



FACED WITH SUCH AN IMPOSSIBLE ARTIFACT, SOME RESEARCHERS WONDER IF ANCIENT STONEMASONS POSSESSED HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED TOOLS AND EVEN "STONE-SOFTENING LIQUIDS."

BUT IS THIS SKULL ACTUALLY MAYAN? THE ANSWER IS EITHER "MAYBE" OR "PROBABLY," WITH WEIRDER OPTIONS LURKING BEYOND.

IN 1927, ADVENTURER-EXPLORER F.A. "MIKE" MITCHELL-HEDGES TOOK HIS ADOPTED DAUGHTER ANNA TO EXCAVATE THE "LOST CITY" OF LUBAANTUM IN HONDURAS, NOW BELIZE.

I *LOVE* RUINS, DADDY!

DIGGING IN TEMPLE RUINS ON HER 17TH BIRTHDAY, ANNA SIFTED THROUGH THE RUBBLE OF A COLLAPSED ALTAR AND GLIMPSED THE GLITTER OF SOMETHING ASTOUNDING.

LOOK, DADDY! A SKULL OF CRYSTAL —WITH NO LOWER JAW!

THREE MONTHS LATER, NEAR THAT SAME SPOT, ANNA MADE ANOTHER DISCOVERY.

LOOK, DADDY! A LOWER JAW!

THE TWO MADE A PERFECTLY HINGED FIT.

SO PERFECT, IN FACT, THAT MAYAN PRIESTS COULD HAVE ROCKED THE SKULL BACK FOR AN OPEN-MOUTHED "SPEAKING" EFFECT.

PAY NO ATTENTION TO THE *VENTRILOQUIST BEHIND THE SKULL!* JUST GIVE ME YOUR *BEATING HEART!*

AUTHORS ADRIAN GILBERT AND MAURICE COTTERELL SUGGEST THE SKULL COULD HAVE ACTED AS A HUGE MAGNIFYING GLASS TO FOCUS SUNLIGHT—ENABLING IT TO LITERALLY "BREATHE FIRE."

BEHOLD THE MAGIC POWER OF *DEATH!*

YAAAH!

SKEPTICS, HOWEVER, DOUBT THE ARTIFACT'S AUTHENTICITY, SUGGESTING THAT MIKE MITCHELL-HEDGES MAY HAVE GOOSED THE TRUTH AND PLANTED THE SKULL AS A BIRTHDAY PRESENT FOR HIS DAUGHTER.

HEH HEH HEH ...WON'T *SHE* BE SURPRISED?

IF SO, IT COULD HAVE COME FROM ANY PLACE AND ANY TIME UP TO 1927.

TO WHICH ANNA REPLIED IN 1987:

NONSENSE! MY FATHER WOULD NOT HAVE SPENT MANY THOUSANDS OF POUNDS ON AN EXPEDITION JUST TO BURY A CRYSTAL SKULL.

BEFORE HIS DEATH IN 1959, MITCHELL-HEDGES HIMSELF HAD THIS TO SAY, SUPPOSEDLY PASSED ON FROM LOCAL DESCENDANTS OF THE MAYA:

IT IS AT LEAST 3,600 YEARS OLD AND ACCORDING TO LEGEND WAS USED BY THE HIGH PRIEST WHEN PERFORMING ESOTERIC RITES.

WHEN HE WILLED DEATH WITH THE HELP OF THE SKULL, DEATH INVARIABLY FOLLOWED. IT HAS BEEN DESCRIBED AS THE EMBODIMENT OF ALL EVIL.

IF TRUE, THEN THE SKULL CAME FROM A CITY ABANDONED MORE THAN 1000 YEARS AGO—AND "3,600 YEARS OLD" MAKES THE SKULL A THOUSAND YEARS OLDER THAN *ANY* MAYANS, LET ALONE THE HIGH CIVILIZATION OF A.D. 700 TO 900.

FURTHERMORE, WITH ITS MORTAR-LESS CONSTRUCTION AND COMPLETE ABSENCE OF CHARACTERISTIC STATUES, STELES, AND HIEROGLYPHS, LUBAANTUM IS UNLIKE EVERY KNOWN MAYAN SITE.

INDEED, AUTHOR-EXPLORER DAVID HATCHER CHILDRESS SAYS LUBAANTUM MAY NOT BE MAYAN AT ALL—BUT SOMETHING FAR OLDER.

MOST SUPRISINGLY, AFTER STUDYING THE M-H SKULL FOR SIX YEARS, HEWLETT-PACKARD CRYSTALOGRAPHER FRANK DORLAND CONCLUDED:

IT COULD BE *12,000 YEARS OLD.*

HIS OTHER FINDINGS ARE EVEN MORE STUNNING.

WHEN DORLAND TOOK THE SKULL HOME, HE DISCOVERED THAT IT "PRODUCED SOUNDS"—"HIGH-PITCHED SILVER BELLS," CHANTING AND "A CAPPELLA CHOIRS," THE SOUNDS OF "PROWLING JUNGLE CATS"--

--ALL CLEARLY HEARD (BY OTHERS AS WELL) YET IMPOSSIBLE TO TAPE-RECORD.

DORLAND ALSO SAYS THE SKULL HOLDS "VISIONS" FOR MANY PEOPLE: "I HAVE BEEN SHAKEN UP A BIT MYSELF, BECAUSE I HAVE SEEN A LONG THING LIKE A COFFIN, WITH MAYBE A DOZEN SKULLS ON IT."

DORLAND ALSO SAW FACES AND HIGH MOUNTAINS WITHIN THE CRYSTAL SKULL —AND ONCE PHOTOGRAPHED AN "AURA" OR ENERGY-GLOW AROUND IT.

OTHERS DESCRIBE A GREENISH OR "COTTONY HAZE" GLOW WITHIN THE TEMPORAL LOBE AREA—AND THERE ARE ALLEGEDLY PHOTOS OF THIS GLOW FORMING UFOS ABOVE THE ANCIENT TEMPLES OF CHICHEN ITZA.

DORLAND SAYS THESE ARE "INKBLOT-LIKE SCENES"— DISTORTED REFRACTIONS AND REFLECTIONS OF NORMAL OBJECTS IN THE ROOM.

"THE SKULL MAKES PEOPLE THIRSTY," DORLAND SAYS, WHILE OTHER COMMONLY REPORTED PHYSICAL EFFECTS INCLUDE ACCELERATED PULSE AND A "TUGGING OF THE EYES FROM THEIR SOCKETS."

HALLLLP!

DORLAND: "I WOULD SAY THAT THE MASS OF CRYSTAL TRIGGERS CERTAIN REFLEXES IN THE BRAIN, TO HEAR THINGS, SEE THINGS"—WHICH MAY BE WHY THE MAYANS PRIZED CRYSTAL FOR ITS "MAGICAL" ABILITIES.

IT'S A BELIEF SHARED BY RUMANIAN GYPSIES (ORIGINALLY FROM INDIA) AND OTHER FORTUNE-TELLERS THROUGH THE AGES.

I SEE A TALL DARK MAN...

BIGFOOT OR MAN IN BLACK?

"SCRYING" (FROM *DESCRY*: "TO CATCH SIGHT OF") IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A SEER STARES AT ANY REFLECTIVE SURFACE—WATER, METAL, GLASS, EVEN A SOAP BUBBLE, AS WELL AS CRYSTAL BALLS—UNTIL THE FUTURE IS DISCERNED.

GEORGE KUNZ SUGGESTS A "SCIENTIFIC" EXPLANATION FOR SCRYING: AFTER PROLONGED STARING AT ANY POLISHED SURFACE, THE OPTIC NERVES MAY BECOME FATIGUED OR EVEN PARALYZED, CEASING EXTERNAL TRANSMISSIONS TO THE BRAIN.

NORMAL SIGHT IS THEN REVERSED, WITH THE STARVED BRAIN SUPPLYING INTERNAL IMAGES WHICH ARE "PROJECTED" ONTO OR INTO THE REFLECTIVE OBJECT, THERE TO BE SEEMINGLY SEEN.

WITH UNIQUE PIEZOELECTRIC PROPERTIES (IDEAL FOR RADIOS AND WRISTWATCHES), CAN QUARTZ CRYSTAL SOMEHOW "CHANNEL THE FREQUENCY" OF BRAINWAVES WITHIN THE GAZER'S SKULL?

FRANK DORLAND FEELS THAT CRYSTAL DOES INDEED ACT AS AN "AMPLIFIER FOR PSYCHIC ENERGY"—WHILE CRYSTAL RESEARCHER NICK NOCERINO BELIEVES THE M-H SKULL ACTUALLY "RECORDS VIBRATIONS OF EVENTS OCCURING AROUND IT," ACTING AS A "CAMERA."

(MAKING ONE MAN'S "INKBLOT" ANOTHER MAN'S HOLOGRAPH.)

SO CRYSTAL'S *WEIRD*—BUT *HOW* WEIRD? CAN ITS "VIBES" BRIDGE THE GULF TO ANOTHER REALITY, CO-EXISTING WITH OUR OWN SPACE AND TIME BUT AT A "DIFFERENT FREQUENCY?"

DOES THE SKULL "TUNE IN" THAT FREQUENCY, JUST AS A RADIO-CRYSTAL TUNES THE FREQUENCIES OF DIFFERENT BROADCAST STATIONS?

MAYBE THE SKULL'S CRYSTALLINE CURVATURE REFLECTS "MIRAGES" FROM THAT OTHER SPACE-TIME —JUST AS THE CURVATURE OF EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE ABOVE BRISTOL, ENGLAND, REFLECTS A MIRAGE OF THAT CITY IN THE SKY OVER ALASKA.

THE AUTHORS OF "MYSTERY OF THE CRYSTAL SKULLS REVEALED" GET WEIRDEST OF ALL, SUGGESTING THE M-H SPECIMEN IS ONLY ONE OF THIRTEEN HIGH-TECH MYSTICAL SKULLS ONCE KEPT IN TIBET—BUT ORIGINALLY FROM *ATLANTIS*.

THE "MYTH" OF THE GREAT CATACLYSM IS SHARED BY THE ANCIENT PEOPLES OF MEXICO, CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA —AS IS THE FOLLOW-UP STORY OF THE WHITE-SKINNED BEARDED "GOD" COMING FROM THE SEA IN A "BOAT WITHOUT PADDLES" TO TEACH CIVILIZATION.

THE MAYANS KNEW THIS GOD AS "KUKULCAN"—WHILE HE WAS "QUETZALCOATL" TO THE AZTECS AND "VIRACOCHA" TO THE INCAS.

AUTHOR GRAHAM HANCOCK HINTS THAT THESE "GODS" WERE ACTUAL MEN FROM SOME HIGHLY ADVANCED ANCIENT CIVILIZATION—PERHAPS SUNKEN ATLANTIS —PASSING ON THE LEGACY OF THEIR DESTROYED CULTURE.

THE ANCIENT SUMERIANS (EARTH'S FIRST CIVILIZATION, WHICH MYSTERIOUSLY APPEARED "OVERNIGHT") TOLD THE SAME POST-FLOOD STORY OF "GODS" ARRIVING TO TEACH WRITING, AGRICULTURE, BUILDING, MARRIAGE—EVERYTHING.

AND THE HIGH PRIESTS OF ANCIENT EGYPT TOLD PLATO FLAT-OUT THAT ALL THEIR SCIENCE AND MYSTICISM WAS TAUGHT BY "ELDERS FROM ATLANTIS" TRACING A STRAIGHT LINE ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN BETWEEN THE WORLD'S TWO GREAT "PYRAMID CULTURES."

MIKE MITCHELL-HEDGES' PURPOSE IN LUBAANTUM, BY THE WAY, WAS TO "SEARCH FOR EVIDENCE OF ATLANTIS"— AND HIS DAUGHTER MAY HAVE FOUND IT.

AND SO, WHILE IT'S EASY TO DISMISS TODAY'S CRYSTAL-HUGGING REINCARNATED ATLANTEANS, JUST REMEMBER: RULERS HAVE ALWAYS RELIED ON SCRYERS—AND EMPIRES HAVE RISEN AND FALLEN BASED ON WHAT THEY'VE SEEN.

ALL OF WHICH MAKES ONE THING *CRYSTAL-CLEAR*--

--THAT NANCY REAGAN AND HILLARY CLINTON WERE SIMPLY UPHOLDING PALACE TRADITION BY INVITING "NEW AGE KOOKS" TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

NO IT'S *NOT* A BOMB— IT'S A *CRYSTAL BALL!* I'M HERE TO SEE THE *FIRST LADY*—AND THE *FUTURE TOO!*

WE ALL KNOW WHAT GRAVITY CAN DO TO A BOULDER, BUT SOME ROCKS APPARENTLY MOVE BY OTHER MEANS.

CHECK OUT THE FOLLOWING--

Reeling Rocks & Rolling Stones

THE ONLY SPEEDSTERS ON DEATH VALLEY'S "RACETRACK PLAYA" ARE ROCKS—WHOSE MOVEMENTS, ALTHOUGH NEVER WITNESSED, ARE CHARTED BY CLEARLY DEFINED TRACKS.

Yeah, sure.

MOST FOLLOW A FAIRLY STRAIGHT COURSE.

SOME ROCKS, HOWEVER, HAVE EXECUTED "IMPOSSIBLE" RIGHT-ANGLE TURNS.

OTHERS HAVE APPARENTLY SPUN OUT OF CONTROL, ROCKIN' 'ROUND THE CLOCK IN FRENZIED GYRATIONS.

SO WHAT'S THE DEAL HERE?

I'm all shook up!

GEOLOGIST ROBERT P. SHARP DECIDED TO FIND OUT IN 1969, TAGGING AND MARKING THE POSITIONS OF THIRTY DIFFERENT ROCKS WEIGHING UP TO 600 POUNDS.

MICK

KEEF

CHARLIE

FRED

SHARP'S SEVEN-YEAR STUDY FOUND THAT 28 OF THE 30 ROCKS MOVED, THE LONGEST TRACK MEASURING 860 FEET—ALTHOUGH THIS WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN STAGES.

MICK

KEEF

CHARLIE

SHARP THEORIZED THAT RARE RAINS CREATE SLICK MUDDY WATERS ON THE DRIED LAKE BED, ALLOWING WIND TO PROPEL THE ROCKS AT MAXIMUM VELOCITY OF THREE FEET PER SECOND.

land shark

♪ How does it FEEL, to be out on your own... ♪

♪ Just like a ROLLING STONE... ♪

Hang 10, dude!

GEOLOGIST JOHN REID DISAGREES, INSISTING THAT ONLY THIN SHEETS OF ICE CAN ACCOUNT FOR THE ROCK TOURS.

BUT EITHER WAY— WIND AND RAIN OR WIND AND ICE—THOSE WERE MERELY *SLIDING* STONES.

WHAT ABOUT THE INEXPLICABLY *ROLLING* VARIETY?

THESE ANCIENT STONE BALLS OF COSTA RICA—SOME EIGHT FEET IN DIAMETER AND WEIGHING SIXTEEN TONS—WERE NOT DISCOVERED UNTIL THE 1930'S, WHEN DENSE VEGETATION WAS CLEARED FOR BANANA PLANTATIONS.

?

THE NEAREST SOURCE OF SUCH STONE IS MANY MILES DISTANT, WHERE THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF QUARRY ACTIVITY.

VOLCANIC ACTIVITY CAN PRODUCE ROUGHLY SPHERICAL BOULDERS—AND IT'S POSSIBLE THAT HUMANS FINISHED NATURE'S WORK BY CHISELING SUCH ROCKS INTO SMOOTH, GEOMETRICALLY PERFECT SPHERES.

BURP!

BUT *WHY*? WHAT WAS THE *POINT*? AND IF HUMANS *WERE* INVOLVED, HOW DID THEY TRANSPORT THESE GIANT BALLS OVER SO MUCH ROUGH TERRAIN? WHY ARE THERE NO RUINS NEARBY?

THE TRUTH IS—WE JUST DON'T KNOW.

EVEN MORE MYSTERIOUS ARE THESE GIANT BOULDER-HEADS FOUND IN MEXICO AND SUPPOSEDLY DEPICTING ANCIENT MAYAN ANCESTORS CALLED "OLMECS," YET CLEARLY DISPLAYING NEGROID FEATURES.

DID PRE-MAYANS CARVE THE LIKENESSES OF AFRICANS VISITING MEXICO MORE THAN 3000 YEARS AGO? WERE THE "OLMECS" THEMSELVES ACTUALLY AFRICAN? OR DID THE STONE HEADS SOMEHOW *COME* FROM AFRICA?

HARD TO SAY, BUT IT APPEARS--

--THAT THE ROLLING STONES ARE NOT THE ONLY "ROCK ACT" TO HAVE *BLACK ROOTS*.

THAT *WATER* SHOULD FALL FROM THE SKY IS ODD ENOUGH, IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, YET HISTORY DOCUMENTS MANY "RAINS" OF FAR MORE UNUSUAL THINGS, BOTH ORGANIC AND INORGANIC.

HEADS UP AS WE EXAMINE SOME STRANGE RAINS WHICH ARE--

NOT QUITE CATS & DOGS

IN THE BEGINNING THERE FELL RAIN, SLEET, AND SNOW--

BONK

YOWTCH!

--THEN ALL HAIL BROKE LOOSE.

BUT WHEN PEOPLE BEGAN REPORTING STONES, ROCKS, AND EVEN **BOULDERS** PLUNGING FROM THE HEAVENS--

SPLAMM

YIKES!

--THEY WERE DISMISSED BY THE WORLD SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY AS LIARS, SOTS, OR LOONS--

ROCKS DO *NOT* FALL FROM THE SKY!

--AT LEAST UNTIL SCIENTISTS THEMSELVES EXPERIENCED THE PHENOMENON--

SPLAT

--WHEREUPON THESE LEARNED CLEAR-THINKERS PROMPTLY EMBARKED ON THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF METEORITES.

UHHH... MAYBE ROCKS *DO* FALL FROM THE SKY?

INDEED.

BUT SINCE "CELESTIAL PHENOMENA" ENCOMPASSES MUCH MORE THAN JUST VISITATIONS OF ANGELS OR UFOs, WE'VE HARDLY SCRATCHED THE SURFACE. FOR EXAMPLE--

ALMOST 2000 YEARS AGO, THE GREEK WRITER ATHENAEUS REPORTED A RAIN OF FROGS IN THE TOWNS OF PAEONIA AND DARDANIA.

EVENTUALLY, SAID ATHENAEUS, THE PEOPLE "COULD NOT SET FOOT ON THE GROUND AMIDST THE HEAPS OF FROGS PILED UP, AND BEING OVERCOME WITH DISGUST AT THE SMELL, THEY FLED THE COUNTRY."

YUCK!

BUT EVEN THEN, FROGFALLS WERE NOTHING NEW, AS SHOWN BY THE BIBLICAL ACCOUNT OF THE SECOND PLAGUE THAT BEFELL EGYPT--

PHARAOH, LET MY PEOPLE GO!

NO!

--THE PLAGUE OF FROGS!

THEN CROAK ON THIS!

YUCK!

AND LEST WE GET THE IMPRESSION THAT FROG SQUALLS OCCURRED ONLY IN ANTIQUITY--

--A TOWN IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE, ENGLAND REPORTED A DELUGE OF PINK-COLORED FROGS IN 1987.!

SOME "EXPERTS" SAID THE PINK FROGS ARRIVED WITH WINDBORNE SAND FROM THE SAHARA, "POSSIBLY CARRIED IN ATMOSPHERIC GLOBULES OF WATER."

NATURALIST IAN DARLING CLAIMED THE PINK FROGS WERE ACTUALLY WHITE— "AN ALBINO STRAIN" WHOSE BLOOD SHOWED THROUGH THEIR SKINS.

ACTUALLY, WE'RE *BLUSHING*— MORTIFIED BY "EXPERT" OPINIONS.

NOW PLAYING
THE LOVE CHILD

IN CHELTENHAM, LIFE IMITATED ART WHEN ANOTHER FALL OF PINK FROGS COINCIDED WITH THE RELEASE OF A MOVIE WHOSE POSTER SHOWED FALLING PINK FROGS AND FEATURED A FICTIONAL BAND (AND SOUNDTRACK SONG) CALLED "THE PINK FROGS."

W. A. WALKER TELLS OF A SUDDEN STORM AT AN ARKANSAS GOLF COURSE IN 1926 WHICH CONTAINED AN UNUSUAL "ADDED INGREDIENT:

"... A SHOWER OF TINY FROGS ABOUT THE SIZE OF NICKELS..."

"WE COULDN'T BELIEVE OUR EYES AS WE WATCHED THOUSANDS OF FROGS COME RIGHT DOWN WITH THE RAIN, ALIVE AND HOPPING

HEY, *THIS* AIN'T PAR FOR THE COURSE!

FROM THE BIBLE TO YESTERDAY'S NEWSPAPER, HISTORY IS PACKED WITH SIMILAR ACCOUNTS OF BIZARRELY BETRACHIAN WEATHER PATTERNS--

--BUT LET'S SHIFT OUR ATTENTION TO THE OTHER MOST COMMONLY REPORTED SKY ANOMALY — TORRENTS OF *FISH*.

FALLS OF FISH (LIKE RAINS OF FROGS) ARE BOTH WORLDWIDE IN SCOPE AND AS OLD AS TIME--

--ALTHOUGH WITNESSES ARE USUALLY DISMISSED AS WACKY ALARMISTS.

SOME FISHFALLS, LIKE THE 1861 SINGAPORE SHOWER, ARE ACCOMPANIED BY HEAVY RAINS FOLLOWING EARTHQUAKES.

SCARY, YES — ESPECIALLY FOR THE CHINESE MAN WHO WAS KILLED BY A THREE-POUND CARP SMASHING HIS HEAD.

MORE RECENT FISHFALLS, LIKE THE 1984 DOWNPOUR ON THE SANTA MONICA FREEWAY, HAVE STALLED TRAFFIC, SHATTERED WINDSHIELDS, AND EVEN CAUSED ACCIDENTS.

LIKE FISH OUT OF THEIR DEPTHS, CONFUSED AUTHORITIES FLOUNDER FOR RATIONAL EXPLANATIONS, USUALLY SETTLING FOR "PRANKSTERS WITH CATAPULTS", "TORNADOS", OR "SPILLS FROM PASSING DELIVERY TRUCKS."

AND THUS IT EVER WAS — EVEN IN THE 18TH CENTURY, WHEN A TRANSYLVANIAN FISHFALL WAS BLAMED ON THE SAME SATANIC FORCES ALLEGEDLY RESPONSIBLE FOR VAMPIRES.

BUT AMIDST ALL THE HAILS OF HADDOCK, RAINS OF ROE, STORMS OF STURGEON, DOWNPOURS OF DARTERS, PRECIPITATIONS OF PERCH, FLOODS OF FLOUNDER, AND SHOWERS OF SARDINES --

--THERE IS, STRANGELY ENOUGH, ONE SPECIES OF FISH WHICH IS *NEVER* REPORTED IN MYSTERY FALLS--

THE FLYING FISH.

THE CULPRITS IN OTHER ANOMALOUS FALLS ARE CHUNKS OF ICE (FAR LARGER THAN ANY RECORDED HAILSTONES) THAT OFTEN PLUMMET FROM PERFECTLY CLEAR SKIES.

I DON'T THINK OUR INSURANCE COVERS *THIS*!

FUSH

SUCH ICEFALLS ARE ROUTINELY "EXPLAINED" AS EJECTA FROM PASSING JETLINERS--

--DESPITE NUMEROUS HISTORICAL ACCOUNTS *PREDATING* THE DEVELOPMENT OF AIRCRAFT.

AT THE CORE OF A CHUNK THAT FELL ON DUBUQUE, IOWA IN JUNE OF 1882 WERE TWO FROGS THAT HOPPED AWAY AFTER THE ICE MELTED.

PUTTING ASIDE ALL THINGS ORGANIC FOR A MOMENT, THERE'S LITTLE TO EXPLAIN THE RAINS OF CERTAIN MANMADE OBJECTS--

--LIKE THE GENTLE SPRINKLING OF COINS THAT FELL NEAR SAINT ELIZABETH'S CHURCH IN ENGLAND.

PENCES FROM HEAVEN, THEY ARE!

A METAL SPHERE WHICH APPARENTLY FELL ON FLORIDA IN 1974 HAS BEEN LINKED TO "GIANT GYROS" FOUND IN AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND IN THE WAKE OF UFO SIGHTINGS--

--BRINGING US TO THE "EXTRATERRESTRIAL SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH" THEORY.

DIDN'T I TELL YOU TO WAIT UNTIL WE REACHED *WATER* BEFORE DISPOSING OF THOSE MARINE SPECIMENS?!

OOPS.

ABSURD? YES.

AND BESIDES, ANY SATISFACTORY EXPLANATION MUST EMBRACE THE ENTIRE SPECTRUM OF MYSTERY FALLS: EELS, TOADS, CRABS, PERIWINKLES, PENNIES, PAPER CURRENCY, FUNGI--

--MAGGOTS, "MANNA", INSCRIBED STONES, "ANGEL-HAIR", BLOBS AND "PROTOPLASMS", BLOOD AND LUMPS OF FLESH, BLACK, RED, AND BLUE RAIN, CRUCIFIXES AND OTHER RELIGIOUS ARTIFACTS, MASKS--

--MARBLE CYLINDERS, COOKIES, OIL, CANDLE WAX, "STAR JELLY", MEAT, "BOG BUTTER", LICHEN, GRAINS, SEEDS, ALABASTER, SHARDS OF GLASS AND METAL, MUSSELS, WORMS, LIZARDS, TURTLES, SALAMANDERS--

--CANDY, BLACK EGGS, SNAILS, COAL, AND FROZEN DUCKS —— TO MENTION JUST A FEW.

ICHTHYOLOGIST E.W. GUDGER PROPOSED FOUR EXPLANATIONS: LAND-MIGRATORS SUCH AS THE "WALKING CATFISH; BURIED FISH BURROWING TO THE SURFACE; FISH STRANDED BY FLOODS OR OVERFLOWS; AND WATERSPOUTS.

OVERLOOKING THE FACT THAT GUDGER ADDRESSES ONLY FISH, HIS FOURTH EXPLANATION SEEMS PROMISING.

A WATERSPOUT SUCKS UP SURFACE WATER AND FISH, TRAVELS OVER LAND AND DUMPS ITS LOAD.

YET MOST MYSTERY FALLS CONSIST OF *IDENTICAL* CLONE-LIKE SPECIMENS —— SOMETIMES DEEP-SEA SPECIES — AND OFTEN OCCUR VAST DISTANCES FROM THE OCEAN.

WATERSPOUTS ARE HARDLY SO SELECTIVE, NOR CAN THEY REACH SO DEEPLY INTO THE OCEAN OR TRAVEL SO FAR INLAND.

SO WHAT ABOUT A PSYCHIC FACTOR? MANY WEIRD FALLS ARE PRECEDED (OR SIGNALED) BY A LOUD REPORT, THUNDERCLAP, OR --

BOOM

SOUNDS LIKE YUH BETTER BREAK OUT THE *CAST-IRON UMBRELLAS*, MAW!

AND FURIOUSLY SELECTIVE SHOWERS OF PEBBLES HAVE LONG BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH POLTERGEIST ACTIVITY.

RAKTRAKATRAKT

THAT *DOES* IT, PAW! CALL THE *EXORCIST!*

INDEED, OTHER THAN WHISTLING PAST THE GRAVEYARD —— OR PERHAPS *SINGIN' IN THE RAIN* —— NO OTHER RESPONSE SEEMS RATIONAL.

BUT WHAT ABOUT A THEORY FROM *THE BOOK OF THE DAMNED* CONCERNING A MYSTERIOUS REGION CALLED "THE *SUPER-SARGASSO SEA?*"

IT'S A REGION SOMEWHERE ABOVE, IN WHICH GRAVITY IS INOPERATIVE AND INTO WHICH THINGS FROM THIS EARTH ARE RAISED, AND THINGS CAST FROM OTHER WORLDS ARE COLLECTED --

-- UNTIL SHAKEN LOOSE BY STORMS, TO DROP LITERALLY "OUT OF THE BLUE."

POIT

MATCHING WEATHER PATTERNS WITH ANOMALOUS ACTIVITY, WRITER DAMON KNIGHT PROPOSED A "PARALLEL UNIVERSE" LOCATION FOR THIS SUPER-SARGASSO SEA--

--WHENCE ODD THINGS PERIODICALLY POPPED INTO OUR REALITY VIA "ELECTROMAGNETIC TELEPORTATION."

KNIGHT'S "SCIENTIFIC" GROUNDING OF THE SUPER-SARGASSO SEA WAS ENTIRELY SERIOUS, EVEN THOUGH THE ORIGINAL THEORY MAY HAVE BEEN INTENDED TO MERELY--

RIB IT!

--POKE FUN.

IS IT POSSIBLE THAT ADVANCED CIVILIZATIONS HAVE RISEN AND FALLEN IN CYCLES DEFINED BY GREAT CATACLYSMS? TODAY'S HISTORIANS SAY NO.

INDEED, THE ONLY PARTS OF PLATO'S HISTORIES DISMISSED AS FICTION ARE HIS DESCRIPTIONS OF ATLANTIS, ONE OF MANY "IMPOSSIBLE" HOMES FOR--

ANCIENT MAN

AND YET THE EGYPTIANS TOLD PLATO THEY HAD LEARNED THEIR CULTURE FROM THE "ANCIENT ONES"— WISE MEN "WHO CAME BEFORE" AND WHO WERE CALLED "ATLANTEANS."

DESERT WIND EROSION LEAVES HORIZONTAL "SCOURING" MARKS BETWEEN LIMESTONE STRATA, BUT THE SPHINX BEARS ***VERTICAL*** MARKS— CLEAR EVIDENCE OF ***WATER*** EROSION.

AND THE LAST TIME EGYPT'S CLIMATE INCLUDED ENOUGH RAINFALL TO CAUSE SUCH EROSION WAS SOME 12,500 YEARS AGO— 8,000 YEARS BEFORE THE EGYPTIANS SUPPOSEDLY BUILT THE SPHINX.

SO IF SOMEONE ELSE BUILT IT, WHY NOT "ATLANTEANS?"

COULD THEIR TECHNOLOGY HAVE ADVANCED TO THE POINT OF SPACE-FLIGHT, ENABLING THEM TO CARVE A ***SECOND*** "SPHINX" ON THE SURFACE OF MARS?

KILROY THE ATLANTEAN WAS HERE.

HEY, WHY ***NOT?*** SOME BELIEVE THE GIANT FIGURES ETCHED INTO THE NAZCA PLAINS OF PERU — WHICH CAN BE SEEN ONLY FROM ABOVE — WERE CREATED BY OR FOR "ANCIENT AIRBORNE GODS."

FLYING BY "AIR ATLANTIS?"

SO WHERE WAS ATLANTIS? SEER EDGAR CAYCE PREDICTED ITS RUINS WOULD APPEAR IN 1968-69— PRECISELY WHEN THESE UNDERWATER STRUCTURES WERE DISCOVERED IN THE CARIBBEAN.

AND THESE ROWS OF HUGE UNDERWATER BLOCKS OFF THE COAST OF BIMINI MAY BE THE REMNANTS OF SUNKEN WALLS OR ROADS.

THE PIRI REIS MAP OF 1513 SHOWS ANTARCTICA AS IT EXISTS **UNDER THE ICE** — A LANDMASS OUTLINE "UNKNOWN" UNTIL GEOLOGICAL SURVEYS OF THE 1950'S.

THIS MAP WAS COPIED FROM THE MUCH OLDER MAPS OF THE "ANCIENT SEA KINGS" — WHO SUPPOSEDLY CHARTED EARTH LONG BEFORE THE EXPLORERS OF **OUR** HISTORY.

AND, AS NOTED ELSEWHERE, THE INCAS, MAYAS, AND AZTECS ALL CLAIMED THEY LEARNED EVERYTHING FROM "WHITE-SKINNED BEARDED GODS" WHO CAME FROM THE SEA.

VIRACOCHA!

KUKULCAN!

QUETZALCOATL!

ANCIENT SEA KINGS? SURVIVORS OF SUNKEN ATLANTIS? OR BOTH?

A RECENT THEORY HOLDS THAT VIRTUALLY ALL OF EARTH'S "MYTHS" AND "LEGENDS" CONTAIN EMBEDDED CODES PRESERVING AND TRANSMITTING ADVANCED KNOWLEDGE FROM THE REMOTE PAST.

BUT WHAT ABOUT MORE CONCRETE PROOF OF HIGH-TECH ANCIENTS?

OOPS, WE GOT **O.O.P.A.**s — OUT-OF-PLACE ARTIFACTS SUCH AS THIS 2,000 YEAR-OLD "BAGDAD BATTERY," CAPABLE OF GENERATING ENOUGH JUICE FOR GOLD ELECTROPLATING.

OR HOW ABOUT THIS ANCIENT DIGITAL COMPUTER FOUND OFF THE COAST OF A GREEK ISLAND... AND DATING BACK TO 87 B.C.?

X-RAYS REVEALED THIS **OOPA**, EMBEDDED IN ROCK STRATA 500,000 YEARS OLD, TO BE A SPARKPLUG-LIKE DEVICE.

OTHER EVIDENCE SUGGESTS THAT ADVANCED INTELLIGENT LIFE EXISTED ON EARTH MANY MILLIONS OF YEARS BEFORE CONVENTIONAL DARWINIAN EVOLUTION PERMITS HOMO SAPIENS TO EXIST.

GOOD SPOT TO BUILD A SPHINX!

YEAH— BUT ONLY AFTER WE RELOCATE THE DINOSAURS!

THIS ORNATELY-INLAID BELL-SHAPED VESSEL, FOR INSTANCE, WAS BLASTED FROM FIFTEEN FEET OF SOLID ROCK IN 1852--

-- WHILE THIS "METAL TUBE" WAS FOUND IN A 65-MILLION-YEAR-OLD CHALK BED IN FRANCE.

EVEN MORE ASTOUNDINGLY, THIS GROOVED METALLIC SPHERE FROM SOUTH AFRICA WAS FOUND IN A PRE-CAMBRIAN DEPOSIT 3 BILLION YEARS OLD.

A MARBLE SLAB CUT FROM A QUARRY NEAR PHILADELPHIA IN 1831 CONTAINED THIS SYMMETRICAL INDENTATION WITH UPRAISED "SYMBOLS" OR "GLYPHS."

FOR ALL WE KNOW, OOPAs COULD BE ARTIFACTS OF SOME ANCIENT "LOST EXPEDITION" FROM ANOTHER WORLD--

PHONE HOME?

-- WHILE MODERN UFOs COULD BE LONG-DELAYED RESCUE MISSIONS SEARCHING FOR THEIR LOST EXPLORERS.

THE SIMPLEST EXPLANATION, OF COURSE, IS THAT OOPAs ARE HOMEGROWN.

BUT WHETHER FROM THE BARREL OF AN ALIEN OR ATLANTEAN GUN, SOME BULLET APPARENTLY CREATED THE NEAT ENTRY AND LARGE EXIT-BLAST THROUGH THIS SKULL — OF A NEANDERTHAL MAN.

OUR CIVILIZATION IS LESS THAN 10,000 YEARS OLD, WHICH MEANS LITERALLY THOUSANDS OF OTHER CIVILIZATIONS COULD HAVE RISEN AND FALLEN DURING THE 65 MILLION YEARS SINCE THE ALLEGED EXTINCTION OF THE DINOSAURS.

WAS ONE SUCH CIVILIZATION DEVELOPED BY EVOLVED (RATHER THAN EXTINCT) DINOSAURS THEMSELVES? ARE SUCH "INTELLIGENT DINOSAURS" STILL HERE, MASQUERADING AS THE "REPTILIAN ALIENS DESCRIBED BY UFO ABDUCTEES?

A CALIFORNIA TOMB FOUND IN THE 1890'S CONTAINED THE FOSSILIZED SKELETONS OF WOMEN 7½ FEET TALL — WITH EXTRA BONES AT THE SPINAL BASE INDICATING TAIL-LIKE APPENDAGES.

OTHER GIANT SKELETONS FOUND DURING THE 1880s IN PENNSYLVANIA SPORTED *HORNS* — OR "BONEY PROTUBERANCES" TWO INCHES ABOVE THE EYESOCKETS.

CREATING AN UPROAR FOR SCIENCE AND RELIGION ALIKE, THESE DINOSAUR AND HUMAN FOOTPRINTS ARE MINGLED SIDE BY SIDE IN THE SAME TEXAS ROCK BED.

AND YET, IF ADVANCED HUMANS *DID* EXIST WAY BACK THEN, WHY DID THEY TRAIPSE AROUND *BAREFOOT?*

OTHER FOOTPRINTS, NAMED "PHENANTHROPUS MIRABILIS" (OR "MIRACULOUSLY HUMAN-LOOKING") BY DR. WILBUR GREELY BURROUGHS, ARE DATED 250 MILLION YEARS OLD — A LONG WAY FROM GRAUMAN'S CHINESE THEATRE.

PENNSYLVANIA

TURKEY

MEXICO

CARSON CITY

Cary Grant

BUT THE OLDEST PRINT OF ALL COMES FROM THE CAMBRIAN ERA — 500 MILLION YEARS AGO AND PREDATING THE DINOSAURS BY 300 MILLION YEARS — AND INCLUDES A TRILOBITE CRUSHED UNDER THE SOLE OF A HUMAN-SIZE SHOE.

SO MAYBE PLATO *WASN'T* LYING ABOUT ANOMALOUS ATLANTIS AFTER ALL --

-- AND MAYBE ATLANTIS WAS ONLY THE LEGACY OF OTHER CIVILIZATIONS EVEN *MORE* ADVANCED AND ANCIENT.

AS ABOVE, SO BELOW

IF THE MOON'S GRAVITY CREATES THE TIDES OF EARTH'S OCEANS — AND IT DOES — CAN MORE DISTANT CELESTIAL BODIES AFFECT THE EARTH, AND EVEN **US**?

FROM *THE ZOHAR*, TRANSLATED BY ISAAC MEYER: "ALL THAT WHICH IS FOUND UPON THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH HAS ITS SPIRITUAL COUNTERPART ALSO TO BE FOUND ON HIGH--

"--AND THERE DOES NOT EXIST THE SMALLEST THING IN THIS WORLD WHICH IS NOT ATTACHED TO SOMETHING ON HIGH, AND IS NOT FOUND IN DEPENDENCE ON IT."

WHEN THE ANCIENTS FIRST STUDIED THE HEAVENS, THEY FOUND CORRELATIONS WITH WHAT WAS HAPPENING ON EARTH — CHANGING SEASONS, FLOODING DELTAS, THE LENGTHS OF DAY AND NIGHT, AND SO ON.

THUS SEEING EARTH CONDITIONS AS A "REFLECTION" OF THE **CHANGING** NIGHT SKY, THE ANCIENTS JUMPED TO A CAUSE-AND-EFFECT CONCLUSION, ASSUMING THE HEAVENS **CREATED** OR AT LEAST INFLUENCED CHANGES ON EARTH.

Auriga
PLEIADES
Lepus
Orion
Columba
Aries
Taurus
Eridanus
Hydra
Canis Major
Gemini
Monoceros
Cetus
Hydra
Aquila
Aestivalis
Sagittarius
Libra
Delphinus
Capricornus
Virgo
Sagitta
Cygnus
Ophiuchus
Serpens

THE HEAVENS WERE, AFTER ALL, THE HOMES OF THE GODS — AND THEY CREATED EVERYTHING.

THIS HEAVENLY INFLUENCE WAS EXTENDED TO INDIVIDUALS WHEN STAR CONSTELLATIONS BECAME THE SIGNS OF THE ZODIAC — WHOSE POSITIONS AT A PERSON'S BIRTH DICTATED HIS FUTURE AND EVEN HIS BASIC NATURE.

THE BELIEF WAS NO DOUBT TAKEN TO EXTREMES WHEN LINKS WERE DRAWN BETWEEN ZODIAC SIGNS AND HUMAN BODY PARTS — BUT **CAN** OVERALL DESTINY BE "WRIT IN THE STARS?"

THE 23-DEGREE TILT OF EARTH'S AXIS ACCOUNTS NOT JUST FOR THE SEASONS BUT ALSO FOR THE SHIFTING AGES OF THE ZODIAC, MOVING US RIGHT NOW THROUGH THE END OF THE AGE OF PISCES TOWARD THE DAWN OF AQUARIUS.

23°
N
E
W
S

FROM ABOVE, TWO OF GIZA'S THREE PYRAMIDS ARE PERFECTLY ALIGNED, YET THE THIRD IS SLIGHTLY OFFSET— JUST LIKE THE THREE STARS IN ORION'S BELT SEEN FROM BELOW.

(TO THE ANCIENT EGYPTIANS, ORION WAS KNOWN AS "OSIRIS.")

AND WHEN THE CONSTELLATION OF ORION/OSIRIS WAS DIRECTLY ABOVE THE GREAT PYRAMID 12,500 YEARS AGO--

--THE ENIGMATIC GAZE OF THE LION-BODIED SPHINX WAS PERFECTLY ALIGNED WITH THE CONSTELLATION OF LEO THE LION — INDICATING TRULY ADVANCED AND ANCIENT KNOWLEDGE OF BOTH ASTROLOGY AND ASTRONOMY.

LEO

BUT WHILE WIDESPREAD BELIEF IN ASTROLOGY EXISTS EVEN TODAY, MODERN SCIENTISTS — ESPECIALLY ASTRONOMERS — ARE, WELL, "ABOVE" SUCH QUAINT NOTIONS.

PURE BUNKUM!

WHAT'S YOUR SIGN?

INDEED, FRENCH STATISTICIAN MICHEL GAUQUELIN SET OUT IN 1950 TO PROVE THAT THE BIRTH-POSITIONS OF THE STARS AND PLANETS EXERT NO INFLUENCE WHATSOEVER ON ONE'S FUTURE DEVELOPMENT.

UTTER NONSENSE

HIS OWN STATISTICS, HOWEVER, PROVED HIM WRONG — WITH FIVE MILLION TO ONE ODDS AGAINST PURE CHANCE, FOR INSTANCE, SHOWING THAT GREAT SOLDIERS TENDED TO HAVE THE WAR GOD MARS ASCENDANT IN THEIR HOROSCOPES.

YOU WILL FIGHT!

SO **ARE** WE SOMEHOW LINKED TO THE SUN AND MOON AND STARS? IS THERE GOOD REASON WHY ANCIENT MYSTICS AND '60s HIPPIES ACHIEVED "COSMIC" ALTERED STATES OF BEING "ONE WITH THE UNIVERSE?"

FARRR OUT!

WHO KNOWS? BUT JUST AS ALCHEMY LED TO CHEMISTRY, ASTROLOGY BEGAT ASTRONOMY, SO MODERN SCIENTISTS SNEERING AT "ANCIENT WISDOM" ARE ALSO DISRESPECTING THEIR PARENTS — AND MAYBE, JUST MAYBE--

--FATHER **DOES** KNOW BEST.

FACTOID BOOKS

IF MATTER *CAN* TRULY TRAVEL BY UNKNOWN OR INVISIBLE MEANS --

IN NO SPACE/TIME FLAT

-- THEN IT'S A PHENOMENON SO INCREDIBLE IT LEAVES ONE BESIDE ONESELF.

TELEPORTATION, DEFINITION: DISAPPEARANCE FOLLOWED BY REAPPEARANCE ELSEWHERE.

COOL!

FAIR ENOUGH, YOU SAY, BUT *IMPOSSIBLE* BY DEFINITION. AFTER ALL, SUCH A THING HAS NEVER REALLY *HAPPENED* — OR HAS IT?

AH, BUT THERE ARE THOSE WHO CLAIM IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME, AT LEAST ON THE SUBATOMIC LEVEL.

ANOTHER DISAPPEARING ATOMIC PARTICLE — NOW YOU *SEE* IT, NOW YOU *DON'T*.

SPEAK FOR YOURSELF! *I* SEE IT OVER *HERE!*

INDEED, QUANTUM PHYSICISTS INSIST THAT TELEPORTATION IS A VERY REAL PHENOMENON, BOTH OBSERVABLE AND MEASURABLE.

SOME ATOMIC PARTICLES EVEN APPEAR TO TELEPORT THROUGH TIME, MATERIALIZING AT POINT B BEFORE DISAPPEARING FROM POINT A!

HOW DID I GET *THERE* FROM *HERE* WHEN I HAVEN'T EVEN *LEFT* YET?

THIS IS EVEN **MORE** REMARKABLE THAN "INSTANTANEOUS" TELEPORTATION.

BUT IF TELEPORTATION OCCURS ON THE MICRO-ATOMIC LEVEL — AND IF EACH OF US IS NOTHING BUT BILLIONS OF AGGREGATE ATOMS — CAN IT ALSO OCCUR IN OUR LARGER MACRO REALITY?

ABSOLUTELY!

ON OCTOBER 25, 1593, A SPANISH SOLDIER ASSIGNED TO A REGIMENT IN THE PHILIPPINES WAS ARRESTED IN MEXICO --

HIS UNIFORM IS *STRANGE!* TAKE HIM FOR INTERROGATION TO *MEXICO CITY!*

MEXICO CITY? BUT THIS IS *MANILA!*

THE BEWILDERED SOLDIER WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE MOST HOLY TRIBUNAL OF THE INQUISITION.

MANILA IS NINE THOSAND MILES AWAY! HOW DID YOU *GET* HERE?

I DON'T *KNOW* HOW I GOT HERE— I THOUGHT I WAS STILL *THERE!*

HOW LONG DID IT *TAKE?*

LESS TIME THAN IT TAKES A *COCK TO CROW.*

IMPOSSIBLE!

I WALKED TO THE PALACE GARRISON IN *MANILA,* ONLY TO ENCOUNTER MEN TELLING ME I WAS IN *MEXICO*— SO IT HAD TO HAVE HAPPENED DURING *ONE* OF MY STEPS.

WHY WERE YOU WALKING TO THE MANILA GARRISON?

TO REPORT FOR GUARD DUTY AFTER THE ASSASSINATION OF HIS EXCELLENCY DON GOMEZ PEREZ DASMARINAS, GOVERNOR OF THE PHILIPPINES.

LOCK HIM UP! THE MAN IS A *LIAR,* A *DESERTER,* AND UTTERLY *MAD!*

WHY DO YOU SAY HE IS *MAD?*

HE *MUST* BE! WE HAVE RECEIVED NO NEWS OF ANY SUCH ASSASSINATION OF THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNOR.

BUT, UNLIKE THE HAPLESS SOLDIER, NEWS TRAVELLED SLOWLY IN THOSE DAYS--

--AND, SOME *TWO MONTHS LATER--*

NEWS FROM *MANILA!* HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR OF THE PHILIPPINES WAS ASSASSINATED ON THE NIGHT OF *OCTOBER TWENTY-FOURTH!*

--WHICH WAS ONLY HOURS BEFORE THE APPEARANCE OF THE STRANGELY UNIFORMED SOLDIER WITH HIS "MAD" STORY.

*FURTHER INVESTIGATION LOCATED WITNESSES IN MANILA WHO HAD **SEEN** THE SOLDIER ON THAT VERY NIGHT.*

HE WAS HERE JUST AFTER THE ASSASSINATION!

I SAW HIM *TOO!*

LAST SEEN MARCHING OFF FOR *GUARD DUTY* AT THE *PALACE GARRISON!*

SO THE MOST HOLY TRIBUNAL OF THE INQUISITION IN MEXICO WAS FORCED TO THE ONLY "LOGICAL" CONCLUSION --

THE SOLDIER WAS MERELY OBEYING ORDERS AND... *GOT LOST.* SEND HIM BACK TO THE *PHILIPPINES.*

AWW... NO BLOOD *AT ALL?*

THERE SEEMED TO BE NO OTHER CHOICE.

HAS ANYTHING SIMILAR EVER HAPPENED *ELSEWHERE?* THE ANSWER IS, *YES.*

WAY *NORTH* OF THE BORDER, IN SOUTH BEND, INDIANA, TOM LERCH'S FARMHOUSE WAS THE SCENE OF A PARTY ON CHRISTMAS EVE, 1890.

OLLIE — GO FETCH SOME *WATER* FROM THE *WELL,* SON.

ALL RIGHT, MA — I'LL TAKE *BOTH* BUCKETS.

SINCE THAT WAS APPARENTLY THE LAST ANYONE EVER SAW OF 20-YEAR-OLD OLIVER LERCH, "TELEPORTATION" IS JUST ONE OF THE POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS TO HIS FATE --

--"MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE" AND "ABDUCTION" BEING OTHERS.

ABDUCTION SEEMS TO GET THE NOD ON THE BASIS OF OLIVER'S SUBSEQUENT CRY, STRIDENT ENOUGH TO CUT THROUGH THE REVELERS' CHRISTMAS CAROL.

HELP! HELP! IT'S *GOT* ME!

OLIVER'S SINGLE SET OF TRACKS HALTED, WITH NO SIGN OF A STRUGGLE, HALFWAY TO THE WELL. ONE BUCKET, BUT NOT THE OTHER, LAY NEARBY.

THIS EVIDENCE, PLUS THE LOUD CRY FOR HELP, SEEMS TO INDICATE SOME BIZARRE AND ABRUPT "ABDUCTION *VIA* TELEPORTATION" — BUT THEN WE ARRIVE AT THE *TRULY* EERIE ASPECT OF THE CASE.

OLIVER'S VOICE RESUMED ITS PITIABLE PLEAS FOR A FULL **FIVE MINUTES** —— LOUDER, THEN SOFTER, SCREAMING, THEN MOANING, AT TIMES FAR AWAY, THEN ALARMINGLY CLOSE, THEN DISTANT AGAIN — BUT ALWAYS SOUNDING FROM THE **SKY**--

HELP! OH PLEASE... HELP MEEEEEE...

--A SKY IN WHICH ABSOLUTELY **NOTHING** COULD BE SEEN AND FROM WHICH, FINALLY, NOTHING MORE WAS HEARD.

NEIGHBORS WERE ROUSTED FOR AN INTENSIVE SEARCH —— BUT NEITHER OLIVER NOR THE MISSING BUCKET WAS EVER FOUND.

WITH OLIVER LERCH THUS LEFT IN THE LURCH, CONTEMPORARY WRITERS PROPOSED SOME **WEIRD** THEORIES: PREDATION BY GIANT EAGLE, GRAPNEL-SNATCHING BY A PASSING HOT-AIR BALLOON, AND SLOW-MOTION SLIPPAGE INTO ANOTHER DIMENSION.

MORE RECENTLY, RESEARCHERS SUCH AS M.K. JESSUP HAVE SUGGESTED THAT OLIVER WAS THE SUBJECT OF AN EARLY — AND PERMANENT — UFO ABDUCTION.

OF COURSE, IT *IS* POSSIBLE THAT OLIVER BACKTRACKED THROUGH HIS OWN SNOW-PRINTS, HID AROUND A CORNER OF THE HOUSE UNTIL HIS FRIENDS AND FAMILY RUSHED OUT--

--THEN THREW HIS VOICE FOR FIVE MINUTES, BEFORE FINALLY RUNNING AWAY FROM THE *FRONT* OF HIS HOUSE.

ANOTHER POSSIBLE EXPLANATION IS THE VORTEX THEORY. FOR EXAMPLE, IN DECEMBER 1873, MR. AND MRS. THOMAS B. CUMPSTON CHECKED INTO THE VICTORIA HOTEL IN BRISTOL, ENGLAND — AND WERE IMMEDIATELY DISTURBED BY STRANGE NOISES.

BOOM

WOOP

BEEBONG

WAHOOOAH

THE WEIRD SOUNDS RESUMED AT THREE IN THE MORNING, THIS TIME ACCOMPANIED BY A LITERAL "SINKING" FEELING — AS THE FLOOR OPENED UP TO SWALLOW THE BED.

HURRY REEEEE! JUMP UMP UMP!

THEIR SHOUTS ECHOING STRANGELY, THE CUMPSTONS BARELY ESCAPED BY LEAPING OUT OF THEIR ROOM —— WHICH WAS LATER FOUND TO BE PERFECTLY NORMAL.

WRITER HAROLD T. WILKINS SUGGESTS THE POSSIBILITY OF A "VORTEX THROUGH SOLID MATTER."

HERE

THERE

HE SAID: "A PERSON DRAWN INTO SUCH A VORTEX MIGHT BE DEPOSITED THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM HIS STARTING POINT."

THE BIBLE SAYS "ELIJAH WENT UP BY A WHIRLWIND INTO HEAVEN."

YEEEEHAH!

OTHER BIBLICAL FIGURES, INSTANTLY TRANSPORTED OVER LONG DISTANCES, WERE "CARRIED BY ANGELS"--

--WHILE THE RESURRECTED JESUS SOMEHOW DISAPPEARED FROM HIS TOMB TO ABRUPTLY APPEAR BEFORE HIS APOSTLES.

THESE SEEM TO BE EARLY EXAMPLES OF "CONTROLLED TELEPORTATION," THE CONTROL EXERTED EITHER BY EXTERNAL "SUMMONERS" OR THE TELEPORTER HIMSELF.

ANY CONTROL OVER THE 1959 JAUNT TAKEN BY AN ARGENTINE BUSINESSMAN, HOWEVER, WAS DEFINITELY EXTERNAL.

MADRE DE DIOS!

STARTING HIS CAR OUTSIDE A HOTEL ON NATIONAL ROUTE 2, HE FOUND HIMSELF SUDDENLY ENVELOPED IN A WEIRD CLOUD.

THE NEXT THING HE KNEW, HE WAS ON AN UNFAMILIAR ROAD — WITH HIS CAR NOWHERE IN SIGHT.

PLEASE, CAN YOU GIVE ME A RIDE?

ONLY A FEW MINUTES HAD PASSED ACCORDING TO HIS WRISTWATCH.

NEVERTHELESS, WHEN HE TOLD A PASSING TRUCK DRIVER WHERE HE HAD "LEFT" HIS CAR--

SORRY, SEÑOR, BUT THAT IS MORE THAN *SIX HUNDRED MILES AWAY!*

THE DAZED MAN ACCEPTED A LIFT TO THE NEAREST POLICE STATION. WHEN A LONG-DISTANCE CALL WAS PLACED TO THE HOTEL, HE WAS TOLD THAT HIS CAR WAS RIGHT OUTSIDE--

--ITS ENGINE **STILL RUNNING!**

ACCORDING TO **FIVE** WITNESSES, INCLUDING A TOKYO BANK MANAGER, A SIMILAR CLOUD ENGULFED ANOTHER CAR ON THE FUJISHIRO BYPASS IN NOVEMBER OF 1963. THE CAR IN THIS CASE, A LIMOUSINE, WAS **MOVING**--

WHAT THE--?!

--AND WHEN THE MYSTERY CLOUD DISAPPEARED, THE DRIVER, PASSENGER, AND LIMO ITSELF HAD **ALL** VANISHED.

YIKES!

SINCE THE LIMO WAS NEVER IDENTIFIED, IT IS NOT KNOWN WHERE — IF ANYWHERE — IT EVER REAPPEARED.

MAYBE THE CAR WAS TELEPORTED TO THE SAME MYSTERIOUS REALM THAT FISH AND AMPHIBIANS SO OFTEN AND INEXPLICABLY FALL *FROM*.

JAPANESE LIMO? HOPPED OVER IT JUST LAST TUESDAY!

OR IF IT REAPPEARED OVER THE MIDDLE OF AN OCEAN--

--WHO WOULD EVER KNOW?

NEAR MIDNIGHT IN ARGENTINA ON JUNE 3, 1968, DR. GERALDO VIDAL AND HIS WIFE RAFFO WERE TRAVELING ON THE SAME NATIONAL ROUTE 2 MENTIONED EARLIER.

DRIVING INTO A "CONFUSING" CLOUD OF "THICKLY SWIRLING MIST," THEY APPARENTLY FELL ASLEEP--

--AND AWAKENED THE NEXT MORNING TO FIND THE PAINT SCORCHED FROM THEIR CAR, "AS IF A BLOWTORCH HAD BEEN TAKEN TO IT."

ACAPULCO

MEXICO CITY

TIJUANA

THEY DISCOVERED, TO THEIR AMAZEMENT, THAT THEY WERE IN MEXICO.

GIVEN THAT THEY WOKE UP 4,000 MILES FROM THEIR NODDING-OFF POINT, IT SEEMS THE VIDALS HAD SOMEHOW DRIVEN THEIR CAR ALL NIGHT LONG, NONSTOP, (WHILE ASLEEP) AT SPEEDS EXCEEDING 500 MILES PER HOUR.

EITHER THAT, OR THEY HAD A LITTLE HELP FROM THAT FAMILIAR "CLOUD OF MIST."

IN JANUARY OF 1969, A BRAZILIAN COUPLE ENCOUNTERED THE SAME VAPORS--

BRAZIL

MEXICO

--AS DID YET *ANOTHER* BRAZILIAN COUPLE, MR. AND MRS. MARCILO FERRAZ, NEAR THE URUGUAY BORDER.

THIS GIVES NEW MEANING TO "ILLEGAL ALIEN!"

WELCOME TO MEXICO

WHILE SUCH CASES CLEARLY LEAVE US IN A FOG, OTHER EXAMPLES OF "TELEPORTATION" ARE SEEMINGLY ENGINEERED BY INTELLIGENT AGENCIES--

--WHETHER SEEN OR UNSEEN.

IN THE "SEEN" CATEGORY ARE STRANGE LIGHTS OR UFOs, WHETHER ALIEN SPACECRAFT OR ENERGY FALLOUT FROM SOME UNKNOWN PHENOMENON.

MOOO!

(ABDUCTEES CLAIMING THEY'VE BEEN TELEPORTED THROUGH WALLS HAVE REPORTED UFOs CONCEALED IN "CLOUDS OF MIST.")

WILDEST OF ALL MAY BE THE PHYSICALLY **POSSIBLE** SCIENTIFIC EXPLANATION: MATTER CONVERTED TO ENERGY AND TRANSMITTED TO A DIFFERENT LOCATION FOR RECONVERSION--

SHIPPING ELEPHANT NOW!

RECEIVING ELEPHANT NOW!

--MUCH AS RADIO WAVES ARE SENT FROM TRANSMITTER TO RECEIVER.

AND EVEN THOUGH THERE'S NEVER BEEN AN EXPLANATION WHICH ITSELF DIDN'T REQUIRE EXPLAINING, SCI-FI IS NEVER TOO SHY TO TRY.

BEAM ME *DOWN*, SCOTTY!

IF THERE EXISTS A FOURTH DIMENSION, WHETHER "TIME" OR ANOTHER ASPECT OF SPACE, CAN THINGS SLIP (OR GET SUCKED) INTO IT VIA "PORTALS" OR "WINDOWS"

--THEN POP BACK INTO OUR THREE-DIMENSIONAL REALITY AT A DIFFERENT TIME AND/OR PLACE?

GLP!

IN GEORGE LANGELAAN'S CAUTIONARY STORY, "THE FLY" (FILMED SEVERAL TIMES), A SCIENTIST ACCIDENTALLY SHARES HIS TELEPORT BOOTH WITH AN UNNOTICED TRAVELING COMPANION — TO THEIR MUTUALLY SCRAMBLED REGRET.

D'OH!

BUZZ-BUZZ!

HELP MEEEEE!

INDEED, WHEN IT COMES TO INSTANTANEOUS TRANSPORT, TRUSTING TECHNOLOGY MAY NOT BE THE WISEST COURSE.

AFTER ALL, ONE COULD HARDLY TRAVEL WITH SAY, A SET OF GOLF CLUBS — LET ALONE A SUITCASE.

HONG KONG

L.A.

N.Y.

PARIS

CHAPTER TWO

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

Whether created by alien technologies so advanced they might as well be supernatural, or spawned by wilder forces which really *are* supernatural, the UFOs over our heads cast heavy shadows indeed. These anomalous aerial objects cannot fail to inspire wonder or fear (usually both). How we react to them may reveal the nature of our psyches and souls.

Nothing new, UFOs are in fact older than history and may have been here forever. The recent abduction epidemic and rumors of government-alien cover-ups, then, are but small pieces of the phenomenon's overall puzzle. Moreover, both puzzle pieces may be nothing but paranoia and false memories as a result of growing UFO awareness. And if this is how we respond to UFO reality, then there is arguably good reason for cover-ups and secrecy. Most humans simply can't handle UFOs. But *we* can, can't we?

Off we go, into the wild black and blue yonder...

CLASSIFIED QUOTES

IF THE GOVERNMENT REALLY *IS* SUPPRESSING UFO REALITY, SKEPTICS ASK, THEN WHY HASN'T ANYONE LET THE COSMIC CAT OUT OF THE BAG?

ANSWER: THE CAT'S **LOOSE**, AND IT'S BEEN ON THE PROWL FOR A LONG TIME, AS WE'LL SOON SEE!

THE AMAZING PHENOMENON REPORTED IS SOMETHING REAL AND NOT VISIONARY OR FICTITIOUS.

GEN. NATHAN TWINING, CHIEF OF STAFF, U.S. AIR FORCE, IN HIS AIR MATÉRIEL COMMAND REPORT, 23 SEPTEMBER 1947.

THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICE OF THE 509th BOMBARDMENT GROUP AT ROSWELL ARMY AIR FIELD, NEW MEXICO, HAS COME INTO POSSESSION OF A CRASHED FLYING DISK.

LT. COL. WALTER HAUT, BASE PRESS OFFICER. (OFFICIAL PRESS RELEASE, 8 JULY 1947, LATER RETRACTED.)

THE WRECKAGE WAS STREWN OVER AN AREA THREE-QUARTERS OF A MILE LONG. WE REALLY COULDN'T FIGURE OUT WHAT IT WAS.

MAJOR JESSE MARCEL, U.S. ARMY INTELLIGENCE, ROSWELL, WHO CLAIMED THE RETRACTION OF HAUT'S PRESS RELEASE WAS PART OF A "COVER STORY."

I MUST INSIST UPON FULL ACCESS TO DISCS RECOVERED. THE ARMY GRABBED ONE AND WOULD NOT LET US HAVE IT FOR EVEN A CURSORY EXAMINATION.

HANDWRITTEN MEMO FROM FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER, 15 JULY 1947 (ALTHOUGH HE MAY HAVE BEEN REFERRING TO A HOAXED DISC).

PILOTS HAVE REVEALED CASES WHEN A UFO WOULD FLY RIGHT OFF THEIR PLANE'S WING.

HIGHLY SECRET GOVERNMENT UFO INVESTIGATIONS ARE GOING ON THAT WE DON'T KNOW ABOUT.

SENATOR BARRY GOLDWATER, WHO FURTHER CLAIMS HE WAS DENIED ACCESS TO "THE BLUE ROOM" AT WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, WHERE UFO ARTIFACTS ARE ALLEGEDLY STORED UNDER EXTREMELY TIGHT SECURITY.

THE EVIDENCE IS NOW SO CONSISTENT AND SO OVERWHELMING THAT NO REASONABLY INTELLIGENT PERSON CAN DENY THAT SOMETHING UNEXPLAINED IS GOING ON IN OUR ATMOSPHERE.

MORE THAN TEN THOUSAND SIGHTINGS HAVE BEEN REPORTED. I AM CONVINCED THESE OBJECTS DO EXIST AND THAT THEY ARE NOT MANUFACTURED BY ANY NATION ON EARTH.

LORD HILL-NORTON, ADMIRAL OF THE BRITISH FLEET, CHAIRMAN OF THE NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE, 1974-77.

A 1954 STATEMENT BY AIR CHIEF MARSHAL LORD DOWDING, COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF THE RAF DURING THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN.

"UFOs ARE INTERPLANETARY IN ORIGIN." — AIR TECHNICAL INTELLIGENCE CENTER, SITUATION ESTIMATE DOCUMENT, DATED 5 AUGUST 1948 --

--WHICH GEN. HOYT VANDENBERG, USAF, ORDERED DESTROYED FOR FEAR IT WOULD "CAUSE PANIC."

IF YOU COULD SEE THE REPORTS COMING IN FROM THE AIRBORNE GENDARMERIE, THE MOBILE GENDARMERIE, AND THE GENDARMERIE CONDUCTING INVESTIGATIONS, THEN YOU WOULD SEE IT IS ALL PRETTY DISTURBING.

INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH MINISTER OF DEFENSE ROBERT GALLEY, 1974.

FLYING SAUCERS EXIST. THE MATTER IS THE MOST HIGHLY CLASSIFIED SUBJECT IN THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, RATING EVEN HIGHER THAN THE H-BOMB.

CANADIAN SCIENTIST WILBERT SMITH, IN A 1950 GOVERNMENT MEMO LABELED "TOP SECRET."

UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECTS ARE A VERY SERIOUS SUBJECT WHICH WE MUST STUDY FULLY.

1967 TELEVISED STATEMENT BY PROFESSOR FELIX ZIGEL, MOSCOW AVIATION INSTITUTE.

IT IS MY VIEW THAT THE UFO SITUATION HAS POSSIBLE NATIONAL SECURITY IMPLICATIONS WHICH TRANSCEND THE INTERESTS OF A SINGLE SERVICE.

MEMO TO NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL FROM GEN. WALTER BEDELL SMITH, DIRECTOR OF CIA, 1950-53.

FOR THE LAST SIX MONTHS WE HAVE BEEN WORKING WITH A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING OFFICIAL SECRECY CONCERNING PROOF THAT UFOs ARE REAL MACHINES UNDER INTELLIGENT CONTROL.

CENSORED

MAJOR DONALD KEYHOE DURING A LIVE CBS BROADCAST, 1958, ALTHOUGH HIS AUDIO WAS CUT OFF MID-STATEMENT FOR "REASONS OF NATIONAL SECURITY."

BEHIND THE SCENES HIGH-RANKING AIR FORCE OFFICERS ARE SOBERLY CONCERNED, BUT THROUGH OFFICIAL SECRECY AND RIDICULE, CITIZENS ARE LED TO BELIEVE UFOs ARE NONSENSE.

REAR ADMIRAL ROSCOE HILLENKOETTER, DIRECTOR OF CIA, 1947-50.

UFOs DO EXIST, ARE VERY REAL, AND ARE SPACESHIPS FROM ANOTHER OR MORE THAN ONE OTHER SOLAR SYSTEM.

PROFESSOR HERMANN OBERTH, FORMER GERMAN ROCKET SCIENTIST AND "FATHER OF AMERICAN SPACE TRAVEL."

IT SEEMED TO MOVE TOWARD US, THEN PARTLY AWAY, THEN RETURN, THEN DEPART. IT WAS BLUISH, REDDISH, AND LUMINOUS.

UFO SIGHTING REPORT, 1969, BY THEN-GOVERNOR JIMMY CARTER.

THE PRESIDENT SAID THAT IF THE EARTH FACED AN INVASION BY EXTRATERRESTRIALS, THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION WOULD JOIN FORCES TO REPEL IT.

YEP, THAT'S WHAT I SAID—AT LEAST THREE TIMES!

MIKHAIL GORBACHEV AND UFO-WITNESS RONALD REAGAN AT THE GENEVA SUMMIT, 1985.

WE DEAL NOW NOT WITH THINGS OF THIS WORLD ALONE, BUT WITH ULTIMATE CONFLICT BETWEEN A UNITED HUMAN RACE AND THE SINISTER FORCES OF SOME OTHER GALAXY.

GEN. DOUGLAS MACARTHUR, IN HIS ADDRESS TO THE MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT, 1962.

WITH ALL THESE LIGHTS AND SOUNDS AND FORMS, ALL THESE SIGHTINGS AND OFFICIAL STATEMENTS, WHAT'S ***REALLY*** GOING ON WITH ***UFOs***?

YOU MIGHT SAY THAT SOMEONE IS USING THE EARTH TO GO FISHING!

FACTO

THE NEW GUINEA SYNCHRONICITY

THE BIZARRE IS NOTHING NEW IN NEW GUINEA.

BACK IN 1959, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WERE 79 MAJOR UFO INCIDENTS IN THE PAPUA AREA ALONE — BUT NONE WEIRDER THAN THE 80TH --

UNCONVINCED BY ALL THE UFO REPORTS, THE REVEREND WILLIAM GILL, HEAD OF PAPUA'S BOIANAI MISSION, SAID SO IN A JUNE 26, 1959 LETTER TO A FRIEND: "MY SIMPLE MIND STILL REQUIRES SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE BEFORE I CAN ACCEPT THE OUTER-SPACE THEORY."

SIGNING THE LETTER "DOUBTING WILLIAM," GILL STEPPED OUTSIDE (AT 6:45 PM) TO LOOK FOR VENUS — WHICH HE FOUND NEAR A SECOND "VERY BRIGHT AND SPARKLING LIGHT... DESCENDING TOWARD THE MISSION."

WITHIN MOMENTS, REVEREND GILL WAS STARING POINT-BLANK AT A "CABRIOLET FLYING SAUCER" WITH FOUR HUMANOID FIGURES MOVING ABOUT ON ITS TOP DECK — FROM WHICH INTERMITTENT "BLUE BEAMS" SHOT SKYWARD.

CALLING OUT IN EXCITEMENT, GILL WAS JOINED BY MISSION STAFF MEMBERS STEPHEN MOI, ERIC LANGFORD AND OTHERS — SOME OF WHOM CLAIMED TO SEE "PORTHOLES" AROUND THE HOVERING OBJECT.

AT 7:30 PM, PERHAPS SUMMONED BY THE BLUE BEAM, SEVERAL SMALLER (OR MORE DISTANT) DISKS APPEARED AROUND THE MAIN UFO — "SATELLITES," GILL SUGGESTED, OF THE "MOTHER SHIP."

LASTING MORE THAN FOUR HOURS, THE SPECTACULAR MULTIPLE-WITNESS SIGHTING ENDED ONLY WHEN THE OBJECTS DRIFTED OFF AND DISAPPEARED INTO THE OVERCAST SKY.

BUT THE VERY NEXT NIGHT, JUST AFTER SUNSET AT 6:02 PM, THE MISSIONARY AGAIN BUMPED HEADS WITH THE UNKNOWN.

DID I *REALLY* CALL MYSELF *"DOUBTING WILLIAM?"*

OTHERS QUICKLY CAME RUNNING.

IN ALL, 38 WITNESSES SIGNED SWORN TESTIMONY THAT WHEN REVEREND GILL RAISED AN ARM TO WAVE, ONE OF THE UFO HUMANOIDS WAVED RIGHT BACK!

SOON, EVERYONE ON THE GROUND WAS SHOUTING AND WAVING, AND ALTHOUGH NO SOUND EVER CAME FROM THE UFO, ALL FOUR HUMANOIDS RETURNED THE WAVES.

REVEREND GILL LATER WROTE: "TWO SMALLER UFOs WERE SEEN AT THE SAME TIME. ON THE LARGE ONE, TWO OF THE FIGURES SEEMED TO BE DOING SOMETHING IN THE CENTER OF THE DECK, ADJUSTING OR SETTING UP SOMETHING."

WHEN REVEREND GILL TRIED "SIGNALLING WITH A TORCH" (A FLASHLIGHT), THE UFO RESPONDED BY SWINGING BACK AND FORTH IN A "PENDULUM MOTION."

AT 6:30, GILL AND THE OTHERS WENT OFF TO DINNER— AND WHEN THEY RETURNED A HALF HOUR LATER, THE UFO WAS JUST A DISTANT SPECK.

SKEPTICS FOUND IT INCREDIBLE THAT DINNER COULD BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN A FLYING SAUCER, TO WHICH GILL RESPONDED: "WE WERE A BIT FED UP THAT THEY WOULDN'T COME DOWN AFTER ALL THE WAVING."

AT 10:40 PM, GILL WAS LITERALLY SHAKEN OUT OF BED BY A TREMENDOUS EXPLOSION RIGHT OUTSIDE THE MISSION--

BOOM

--ALTHOUGH "NO LIGHTNING WAS SEEN."

TO THE SAME FRIEND HE'D WRITTEN THE NIGHT BEFORE, GILL NOW WROTE: "YESTERDAY I EXPRESSED OPINIONS RE: THE UFOs. NOW, I HAVE CHANGED MY VIEWS. THERE IS NO DOUBT WHATSOEVER THAT UFOs ARE HANDLED BY BEINGS OF SOME KIND.

GILL DESCRIBED HIS ENCOUNTER AS "ABSOLUTELY BREATHTAKING"— AND THIS TIME, INSTEAD OF "DOUBTING WILLIAM," HE SIGNED OFF

CHEERS, CONVINCED BILL

AND SOMEWHERE, NO DOUBT, THE COSMIC TRICKSTER SNICKERED.

WITHOUT EVEN COMMENTING ON GHOST PORTRAITS, VAGUE OR HAZY BY DEFINITION, WE CAN UNCONDITIONALLY GUARANTEE--

The Best PHOTOS Are Always BLURRY

...BLURRY...
...BLURRY...
...BLURRY...

--AND THE *"EVEN BETTER"* PHOTOS ARE (ALMOST) ALWAYS *FAKES.*

LET'S LOOK AT A FEW EXAMPLES OF EACH.

"IF THE McMINNVILLE, OREGON PHOTOS OF MAY 11, 1950 ARE WIDELY REGARDED AS THE BEST EARLY EVIDENCE FOR FLYING SAUCER REALITY, WHY ARE THEY SO TEASINGLY BLURRY?"

WHY DOES THE 1952 BARRA DE TIJUCA "DAYLIGHT DISC" REMAIN SO FRUSTRATINGLY INCONCLUSIVE — EVEN WHEN ENHANCED?

WERE ITS ET PILOTS SIMPLY TOO SECRETIVE OR SHY TO PROPERLY POSE?

AND WHAT'S WITH THIS MID-50s OFFICIAL AIR FORCE SHOT OF THE "PHOENIX, ARIZONA CRESCENT"?

WAS IT AN OBJECT FROM ANOTHER DIMENSION THAT COULD NOT BE CLEARLY PHOTOGRAPHED IN OUR REALITY?

THIS 1957 SHOT OF A B-47 WAS TAKEN BY A PILOT WHO DIDN'T SEE THE "SURVEILLANCE UFO" UNTIL THE PHOTO WAS DEVELOPED — A *HUGE* EMBARRASSMENT FOR THE AIR FORCE.

THOUGH CLEAR WHEN BLOWN UP, THE UFO IMAGE REMAINS JUST VAGUE ENOUGH TO BE EXPLAINED AWAY AS A LENS OR FILM FLAW.

"THE BRAZILIAN NAVY PHOTOGRAPHED THIS SATURN-SHAPED OBJECT NEAR TRINDADE ISLAND IN 1958."

IS IT A SUNDOG OR SOME OTHER MIRAGE WHICH ONLY LOOKS SOLID ON FILM?

"THE ZACK HAMILTON 'BIGFOOT' PHOTO IS A CLASSIC BLURRY SHOT.

"BUT FOR ALL WE KNOW, IT COULD BE A FUGITIVE CHIMP ESCAPED FROM SOME ZOO."

THE 1967 ROGER PATTERSON BLUFF CREEK FILM REMAINS THE BEST EVIDENCE FOR BIGFOOT'S ELUSIVE EXISTENCE.

IT'S BEEN CALLED "SHOCKINGLY CONVINCING," BUT IT'S STILL SHORT OF IRREFUTABLE PROOF.

"THIS 1976 'NESSIE' PHOTO IS CLEAR--

--CLEARLY SIMILAR TO BRONTOSAURUS MODELS SOLD IN MUSEUM GIFT SHOPS!

THE FAMOUS "SURGEON'S PHOTO" OF NESSIE FROM 1934 WAS APPARENTLY DISCREDITED BY THE RECENT DEATHBED CONFESSION OF A "MODELMAKER."

YET, AS DETAILED ELSEWHERE, THE *REAL* HOAX MAY WELL BE THE *CLAIM* OF HOAX, KEEPING *EVERYTHING* BLURRY.

EARLY "CONTACTEE" GEORGE ADAMSKI CLAIMED THIS OBJECT CAME FROM VENUS IN 1952.

Before

BUT ADAMSKI'S "VENUSIAN SCOUT SHIPS" UNCANNILY RESEMBLE COMMON CHICKEN BROODERS!

After

IN THE EARLY '70s, AN ALABAMA POLICE CHIEF PHOTOGRAPHED THIS 'SPACEMAN' ON A DARK ROAD--"

--BUT SUBSEQUENTLY ADMITTED IT WAS THE LATEST ALUMINUM FOIL FASHION, MODELED BY AN ALL-TOO-HUMAN HOAXER.

SWISS FARMER EDUARD MEIER, WHO CONTINUES TO PRODUCE CALENDAR-QUALITY PHOTOS OF "PLEIEDIAN BEAMSHIPS," HAS BEEN THE SUBJECT OF A RECENT EXPOSÉ.

FINALLY, THE JURY IS STILL OUT ON THE RECENT, EXTREMELY VIVID "ALIEN AUTOPSY" FOOTAGE ALLEGEDLY FROM THE LATE '40s.

SOMETHING WAS FORENSICALLY DISSECTED — BUT *WHAT?*

IT MAY BE TRUE THAT THE CAMERA NEVER LIES — BUT CAMERA *OPERATORS* DO IT CONSTANTLY!

ALTHOUGH CURRENT UFO ABDUCTION LORE IS FILLED WITH ENCOUNTERS OF THE CLINICAL KIND, THE HARVEST OF HUMAN SPERM IS NOTHING NEW.

THE GRAND-DADDY OF ALL HYBRIDIZATION HORROR STORIES IS A WARM AND INTIMATE AFFAIR STARRING THE--

SOUTH AMERICAN STUD to the STARS

KLAK-KLOP-KA-KLOP

THE STUD IN QUESTION, A SAO PAULO, BRAZIL FARMER, 23 YEARS OLD IN 1957, WAS ONE ANTONIO VILLAS BOAS.

I *RESENT* THE WAY THE PRESS HAS TREATED MY EXPERIENCE AND THE UFO SUBJECT IN *GENERAL*.

ON THE NIGHT OF OCTOBER 5, 1957, VILLAS BOAS AND HIS BROTHER, WERE UNNERVED BY "BRIGHT FLUORESCENT LIGHT" FILLING THEIR ROOM THROUGH A SHUTTERED WINDOW.

WHAT CAN IT BE BROTHER?

I DO NOT WANT TO LOOK, ANTONIO.

THE LIGHT SOON DISSAPPEARD--

-- ONLY TO REAPPEAR ON THE 14TH WHEN VILLAS BOAS (FOLLOWING THE LOCAL CUSTOM OF SLEEPING THROUGH THE HOT DAYS) WAS CULTIVATING HIS FIELD AT NIGHT.

CHUG-A-CHUG-A-CHUG!

THE LIGHT WAS NOW LIKE A "BRIGHT RED STAR" INTERMITTENTLY FLASHING BEAMS "IN ALL DIRECTIONS."

CURIOUS, VILLAS BOAS ATTEMPTED CLOSER OBSERVATION - BUT EACH TIME HE APPROACHED, THE LIGHT JUMPED TO A FAR END OF HIS FIELD.

ZEEEEOOM EEEEEEE

AFTER SOME TWENTY TRIES, HE GAVE UP.

BUT THE NEXT NIGHT, THE LIGHT APPROACHED *HIM* SO CLOSELY THAT IT COULD BE SEEN AS A SOLID OBJECT — A LUMINOUS, "EGG-SHAPED" CRAFT WITH A ROTATING DOME.

THE OBJECT SHIFTED FROM RED TO GREEN AS IT SLOWED AND DESCENDED, ILLUMINATING THE FIELD "AS BRIGHT AS DAY"

THIS TIME IT WAS THE FARMER WHO TRIED TO FLEE—ONLY TO HAVE HIS TRACTOR GO DEAD.

COME ON—START!

CHUGA

CHAGUITA

ALTHOUGH VILLAS BOAS WAS NOT AWARE OF IT, STALLED VEHICLES AND OTHER ELECTROMAGNETIC EFFECTS ARE COMMON FEATURES OF UFO REPORTS.

LEAPING FROM HIS TRACTOR TO ESCAPE ON FOOT, VILLAS BOAS WAS SEIZED BY A SMALL FIGURE IN A STRANGE GRAY SUIT AND A HELMET.

LET GO OF ME!

HE STRUGGLED FIERCELY--

--BUT WAS QUICKLY OVERWHELMED BY THREE OTHER BEINGS, WHO HELPED THE FIRST DRAG VILLAS BOAS ABOARD THE NOW-LANDED CRAFT VIA A "FLEXIBLE METAL LADDER."

INSIDE A METALLIC, OVAL-SHAPED ROOM, VILLAS BOAS "CURSED WITH LOUD YELLS" AS HIS ABDUCTORS FORCIBLY STRIPPED HIM.

SOMEHOW SUBDUED (THIS POINT IS VAGUE), VILLAS BOAS THEN ENDURED A SPONGE-BATH OF "CLEAR, THICK, LIQUID" WHICH SWIFTLY EVAPORATED FROM HIS NAKED SKIN.

SLOPP! SLOPP!

HE LATER SURMISED THAT IT MUST HAVE BEEN SOME SORT OF APHRODISIAC.

HE WAS THEN TAKEN INTO A DIFFERENT, "SQUARE" ROOM WHERE HE SAT ON A "STRANGELY HUMPED COUCH" WHILE "SMALL RUBBER PIPES" WERE USED TO EXTRACT BLOOD SAMPLES FROM HIS CHIN--

SLOPP!

SLOPP!

BLIP!

BLORP!

--UNDERSTANDABLY MAKING HIM FEEL LIKE A LAB ANIMAL, ALTHOUGH THE PRECISE NATURE OF THE EXPERIMENT WAS STILL FAR FROM CLEAR.

THE BEINGS LEFT THE ROOM THROUGH AN AIRTIGHT DOOR LEAVING VILLAS BOAS ALONE.

KAFF!

KOFF!

AFTER HALF AN HOUR, HE WAS ASSAILED BY THE FOUL ODOR OF "BURNING PAINT RAGS" AS "GRAY SMOKE" PUMPED INTO THE ROOM.

ALTHOUGH THE STRANGE VAPORS EVENTUALLY DISPERSED, VILLAS BOAS VOMITING ON THE FLOOR.

HUUALLP

THEN A NAKED WOMAN ENTERED THE ROOM. SAID VILLAS BOAS: "HER BODY WAS MUCH MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN ANY I HAVE EVER SEEN. IT WAS SLIM, AND HER BREASTS STOOD UP HIGH AND WELL SEPARATED."

"HER WAISTLINE WAS THIN, HER BELLY FLAT, HER HIPS WELL DEVELOPED." **YOW!**

HER TRIANGULAR FACE, HOWEVER, WAS DOWNRIGHT WEIRD—WITH POINTED CHIN, HIGH CHEEKBONES, AND LARGE SLANTED EYES, BUT ALMOST NO LIPS, NOSE OR EARS.

ALTHOUGH HER HAIR WAS WHITE, ANTONIO LIKENED HER TO "AN ARABIAN PRINCESS." (TODAY SHE'D BE SEEN AS A "GRAY" IN PLATINUM BLONDE DRAG).

ASSUMING THE "GRAY SMOKE" ENABLED THE WOMAN TO BREATHE IN THE BUFF, VILLAS BOAS WATCHED AS SHE SILENTLY APPROACHED.

"THIS SOUNDS INCREDIBLE CONSIDERING THE CIRCUMSTANCES," ADMITS THE EARTHMAN, "BUT I FELT HER MOVING BODY GLUED TO MINE AND I BEGAN TO GET EXCITED."

IT WAS THEN THAT ANTONIO VILLAS BOAS UNDERSTOOD THE PURPOSE OF HIS ABDUCTION—AN ACT THAT WOULD GIVE NEW MEANING TO THE PHRASE "CLOSE ENCOUNTER."

Doink!

BOOM!

CHOO! CHOO!

BOOM

BANG!

KA-BAM!

"WE ENDED UP ON THE COUCH... AND SHE RESPONDED AS ANY WOMAN WOULD." EXCEPT FOR TWO CURIOUS DETAILS--

FIRST, "THE GROWLS THAT CAME FROM HER NEARLY SPOILED EVERYTHING, AS THEY GAVE ME THE IMPRESSION OF LYING WITH AN ANIMAL."

AND SECOND, THERE WAS NO KISSING, ALTHOUGH THE WOMAN DID NIBBLE HIS CHIN (A SPACE VAMPIRESS ENJOYING TRACES OF BLOOD FROM THE SAMPLE EXTRACT?)

VILLAS BOAS NEVERTHELESS PERSEVERED AND PERFORMED WELL ENOUGH FOR A SECOND ROUND, AFTER WHICH HIS SPACE MATE COLLECTED SPERM SAMPLES — "APPARENTLY FOR FREEZING."

WHEN SHE'D HAD ENOUGH, THE WOMAN POINTED AT HER BELLY, SMILED WEIRDLY, THEN POINTED STRAIGHT UP — WHICH VILLAS BOAS INEXPLICABLY INTERPRETED AS "I'LL BE BACK FOR YOU."

MORE PLAUSIBLE: "UP **THERE**, MAN, IS WHERE I'M GONNA HAVE YOUR **HYBRID BABY.**"

AFTER THE WOMAN LEFT, THE OTHER BEINGS RETURNED AND ALLOWED VILLAS BOAS TO PRESS, THEN GAVE HIM A "TOUR" OF THE CRAFT.

DING A DING A DING!

KNOWING HIS STORY WOULD NEVER BE BELIEVED, HE ATTEMPTED TO SECURE PROOF — BUT WAS STOPPED FROM FILCHING A SOUVENIR "CLOCK-LIKE DEVICE."

DUMPED BACK IN HIS FIELD, VILLAS BOAS WATCHED THE LUMINOUS CRAFT SLOWLY RISE, DOME SPINNING AND LANDING GEAR RETRACTING.

AT AN ALTITUDE OF SOME 30 METERS, IT BRIEFLY HOVERED, SHIFTING FROM GREEN TO RED AS ITS ROTATION ACCELERATED TREMENDOUSLY --

-- THEN IT SHOT OFF ACROSS THE SKY "LIKE A BULLET."

MORE THAN FOUR HOURS HAD PASSED.

IN THE AFTERMATH OF HIS EXTRAORDINARY EXPERIENCE, VILLAS BOAS WAS PLAGUED WITH MALAISE - FATIGUE, NAUSEA, NIGHTMARES, AND STRANGE VIOLET SORES ON HIS BODY.

AFTER A MONTH, HE CONTACTED JOURNALIST JOAO MARTINS AND DR. OLAVO FONTES, WHO NOTED SMALL SCARS ON THE PROFESSED ABDUCTEE'S CHIN AND DIAGNOSED HIM AS SUFFERING FROM MILD RADIATION SICKNESS.

MARTINS AND FONTES WERE BOTH IMPRESSED BY THE YOUNG FARMER'S EMBARRASSED SINCERITY AND NEITHER COULD SHAKE OR FAULT HIS STORY - NOR COULD THEY HELP.

ALTHOUGH ADVISED HE COULD SELL HIS WILD TALE TO THE POPULAR PRESS, VILLAS BOAS INSTEAD RETURNED TO HIS FARM, NEVER SEEKING TO PROFIT FROM HIS ONE-NIGHT STAND WITH THE SUCCUBUS FROM SPACE.

INDEED, WHEN HE FINALLY BROKE HIS SILENCE 23 YEARS LATER, IT WAS ONLY TO EXPRESS RESENTMENT AT THE TREATMENT HE HAD RECEIVED - INCLUDING THE ULTIMATE LOW OF STARRING IN A FRENCH COMIC STRIP.

OUI! OUI! MON STALLION STUD FROM ZEE BACKWARD PLANET EARTH!

BY 1980, VILLAS BOAS HAD UNDERGONE A STARTLING TRANSFORMATION FROM POOR BACHELOR FARMER TO MARRIED ATTORNEY AND FATHER OF FOUR (KNOWN) CHILDREN. WHEN ASKED HOW SHE'D FEEL IF HER HUSBAND HAD MORE DISTANT OFFSPRING, ANTONIO'S WIFE REPLIED:

RATHER PROUD.

AT FIRST, CONTEMPORARY RESEARCHERS SELF-CENSORED THE NOW-QUAINT STORY FOR BEING "TOO WILD AND IMPROBABLE," EVEN FOR THE UFO FIELD.

BUT SEEDS HAD BEEN SOWN FOR INCREASINGLY MORE BIZARRE ACCOUNTS TO BE REAPED IN THE FUTURE.

IN ANOTHER EXAMPLE OF MIX-AND-MATCH PHENOMENA — A SPLICING OF *MYSTERIOUS DISAPPEARANCE* AND *UFO* — WE LEARN THAT NO ALL ABDUCTEES *RETURN*, AND THAT SOME ALLEGED ABDUCTIONS INVOLVE MORE THAN JUST A PERSON.

SOMETIMES THINGS LIKE CARS OR EVEN AN *AIRPLANE* CAN DISAPPEAR, AS IN THE CHILLING CASE OF--

N2612

THE VALENTICH VANISHING

NASA DEPUTY PUBLIC RELATIONS DIRECTOR ALBERT M. CHOP CATEGORICALLY STATED: "WE ARE BEING WATCHED BY *BEINGS FROM OUTER SPACE.*"

OF COURSE, IT'S A SHORT JUMP FROM WATCHING TO *INTERACTING*...

WHICH BRINGS US TO THE EVENING OF OCTOBER 21, 1978, WHEN 20-YEAR-OLD PILOT FREDERICK VALENTICH PREPARED FOR A SOLO FLIGHT FROM MOORABBIN AIRPORT IN MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA ACROSS BASS STRAIT--

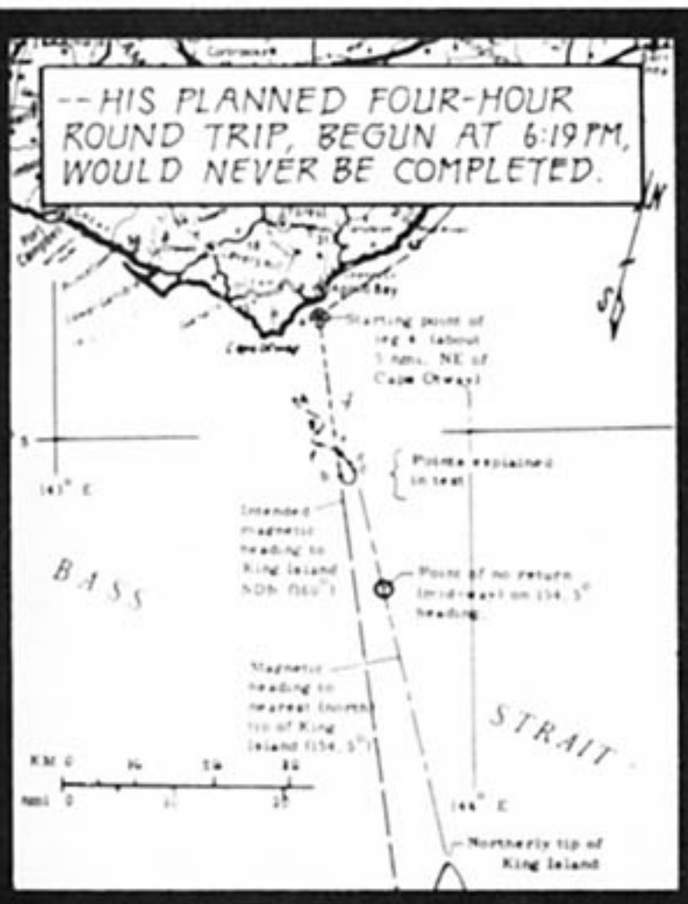
WHERE YOU *OFF TO*, FREDERICK?

N2612

KING ISLAND — TO COLLECT SOME *CRAYFISH* FOR THE *AIR TRAINING CORPS OFFICERS* — BE BACK BY *10:00*!

EVEN THOUGH HIS BLUE AND WHITE CESSNA 182 WAS CONSIDERED A "HIGHLY RELIABLE WORKHORSE" AND WEATHER CONDITIONS FAVORED AN "IDEAL NIGHT FOR FLYING"--

--HIS PLANNED FOUR-HOUR ROUND TRIP, BEGUN AT 6:19 PM, WOULD NEVER BE COMPLETED.



THE FOLLOWING SIX-MINUTE RADIO EXCHANGE, FROM A VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT OF THE ACTUAL TAPE, BEGAN AT 7:06 PM, WHEN STEVE ROBEY OF GROUND CONTROL FIRST HEARD FROM THE CESSNA, TAGGED "DELTA SIERRA JULIET":

MELBOURNE, THIS IS DELTA SIERRA JULIET. IS THERE ANY KNOWN TRAFFIC BELOW FIVE THOUSAND FEET?

DELTA SIERRA JULIET, *NO KNOWN TRAFFIC.*

SEEMS TO BE A *LARGE AIRCRAFT* BELOW FIVE THOUSAND.

WHAT *TYPE* OF AIRCRAFT *IS* IT?

I CANNOT AFFIRM, IT IS FOUR BRIGHT... SEEMS TO ME LIKE *LANDING LIGHTS*.

HALF A MINUTE PASSED BEFORE ROBEY AGAIN HEARD FROM VALENTICH.

MELBOURNE, THIS IS DELTA SIERRA JULIET— THE AIRCRAFT HAS JUST PASSED *OVER* ME, AT LEAST A *THOUSAND* FEET ABOVE.

ROGER—AND IT IS A LARGE AIRCRAFT, *CONFIRMED?*

ER... *UNKNOWN*, DUE TO THE *SPEED* IT'S TRAVELING. IS THERE ANY *AIR FORCE ACTIVITY* IN THE VICINITY?

NO KNOWN AIRCRAFT IN THE VICINITY.

MELBOURNE, IT'S APPROACHING NOW FROM DUE EAST *TOWARDS* ME.

DELTA SIERRA JULIET--?

BUT THERE WAS NO RESPONSE FOR ANOTHER HALF MINUTE.

THEN:

IT SEEMS TO ME THAT HE'S PLAYING SOME SORT OF *GAME*— HE'S FLYING OVER ME TWO, THREE TIMES AT SPEEDS I COULD NOT *IDENTIFY*.

AND YOU CONFIRM YOU CANNOT *IDENTIFY THE AIRCRAFT?*

AFFIRMATIVE.

SOME TEN SECONDS LATER:

MELBOURNE, IT'S *NOT AN AIRCRAFT.*

IT IS--

AND VALENTICH FROZE ON THE OPEN MICROPHONE.

DELTA SIERRA JULIET, CAN YOU *DESCRIBE* THE... ER... AIRCRAFT?

AS IT'S FLYING PAST, IT'S A *LONG SHAPE*... CANNOT IDENTIFY MORE THAN IT HAS *SUCH SPEED*...

IT'S *BEFORE ME RIGHT NOW*, MELBOURNE!

ROGER — AND HOW *LARGE* WOULD THE... ER... OBJECT *BE?*

NO RESPONSE FOR FIFTEEN SECONDS, THEN:

MELBOURNE, IT SEEMS LIKE IT'S *STATIONARY*. WHAT I'M DOING RIGHT NOW IS *ORBITING* AND THE THING IS JUST ORBITING ON *TOP* OF ME *ALSO*.

IT'S GOT A *GREEN LIGHT* AND SORT OF *METALLIC LIKE* — IT'S ALL *SHINY* ON THE OUTSIDE.

THEN, AT 7:10 AND 46 SECONDS, VALENTICH REPORTED:

IT'S JUST *VANISHED!*

MELBOURNE, WOULD YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF *AIRCRAFT* I'VE GOT? IS IT A *MILITARY* AIRCRAFT?

DELTA SIERRA JULIET, CONFIRM THE...ER... AIRCRAFT JUST *VANISHED*.

IT'S... NOW *APPROACHING FROM THE SOUTHWEST*.

THE ENGINE IS *ROUGH-IDLING*. I'VE GOT IT SET AT *TWENTY-THREE TWENTY-FOUR* AND THE THING IS *COUGHING*.

ROGER — WHAT ARE YOUR *INTENTIONS?*

MY INTENTIONS ARE... AH... TO GO TO *KING ISLAND*... AH... MELBOURNE--

THAT STRANGE AIRCRAFT IS *HOVERING ON TOP OF ME AGAIN* — IT IS *HOVERING* AND IT IS *NOT AN AIRCRAFT*.

DELTA SIERRA JULIET--?

MELBOURNE--

GNRRRRRRR

YEOW!

AND THAT WAS VALENTICH'S LAST WORD, CUT OFF AS HIS OPEN MICROPHONE TRANSMITTED A 17-SECOND BURST OF LOUD "METALLIC" NOISE, ENDLESSLY ANALYZED BUT UNEXPLAINED TO THIS DAY.

THE NOISE, HOWEVER, DOES SUGGEST THE SAME KIND OF ELECTROMAGNETIC INTERFERENCE SO OFTEN ASSOCIATED WITH STALLED CAR ENGINES DURING UFO ENCOUNTERS.

WAS FREDERICK VALENTICH THE VICTIM OF AN AWESOME, EVEN HORRIFYING, UFO ABDUCTION —— PLANE AND ALL?

WHATEVER THE PILOT'S ACTUAL FATE, FLIGHT CONTROLLER ROBEY STATED THAT BY THE END OF THE TRANSMISSIONS--

--HE WAS *DEFINITELY* CONCERNED FOR HIS SAFETY.

DESPITE AN EXTENDED AIR/SEA SEARCH AT THE TIME — AND REPEATED DIVING EXPEDITIONS SINCE — NO TRACE OF PILOT OR PLANE HAS EVER BEEN FOUND.

AS IT HAPPENS, 1978 FEATURED ONE OF THE MOST SPECTACULAR "UFO FLAPS" IN AUSTRALIAN HISTORY, ONGOING FOR SOME THREE MONTHS PRIOR TO VALENTICH'S FATEFUL FLIGHT--

--AND WITH THE HIGHEST CONCENTRATION OF SIGHTINGS COMING FROM THE SAME BASS STRAIT VICINITY.

INDEED, CORROBORATION OF HIGH STRANGENESS ON THE VERY NIGHT OF THE VALENTICH FLIGHT IS MANIFOLD, INCLUDING SEVERAL PHOTOS SNAPPED BY ROY MANIFOLD--

--SHOWING UNIDENTIFIED OBJECTS RIPPING FROM THE SURFACE OF BASS STRAIT AT SUNSET — JUST MINUTES BEFORE VALENTICH'S FIRST RADIO TRANSMISSION.

THE ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE SAID THE PHOTOS DEPICT A *CUMULUS CLOUD.*

BUT WITH SUNSET MEASURING THE TIME SEQUENCE OF THE MANIFOLD PHOTOS, THE ALLEGED CLOUD WOULD HAVE BEEN MOVING AT *200 MPH* —— IN CONDITIONS OF *"LIGHT SEA BREEZES."*

IN ANY CASE, AT LEAST TWENTY OTHER WITNESSES AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS AROUND BASS STRAIT REPORTED A LUMINOUS GREEN OBJECT AT THE SAME TIME VALENTICH WAS DESCRIBING HIS OWN GREEN LIGHT ENCOUNTER.

ANOTHER UFO REPORT? IS EVERYONE DRUNK TONIGHT?!

MELBOURNE POLICE

ONE OF THE MORE BIZARRE REPORTS CAME FROM A BANK MANAGER AND HIS WIFE, WHO DESCRIBED A MYSTERIOUS GREEN OBJECT IN THE SHAPE OF A STARFISH.

BACK IN 1920, WHEN A SCHOONER DISAPPEARED IN BASS STRAIT, OTHER SHIPS REPORTED "LARGE FLARES." CAPTAIN J. STUT AND SGT. A.G. DALZELL PROMPTLY FLEW TO THE AREA.

LIKE VALENTICH AND HIS CESSNA, THEY AND THEIR PLANE WERE NEVER SEEN AGAIN, NOR WAS THE SCHOONER — ALTHOUGH MANY HAVE SINCE SEEN THE "FLARES."

RESPONDING TO REPORTS OF AERIAL LIGHTS IN THE SUMMER OF 1942, A ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE PILOT WATCHED A "SHINING BRONZE" UFO WITH A "PLEXIGLASS CANOPY" BURST FROM THE CLOUDS AND PLUNGE INTO BASS STRAIT.

YOW.

AND IN FEBRUARY 1944 (STILL MORE THAN 30 YEARS PRIOR TO THE VALENTICH INCIDENT), A BEAUFORT BOMBER SUFFERED LOSS OF RADIO AND NAVIGATION WHEN A UFO PACED IT AT 100 FEET FOR TWENTY MINUTES ABOVE BASS STRAIT--

-- BEFORE BLOWING AWAY AT "TREMENDOUS SPEED."

COMMENTING ON OTHER PLANES WHICH DISAPPEARED WITHOUT TRACE IN THE SAME VICINITY DURING WORLD WAR II, AUSTRALIAN RESEARCHER BILL CHALKER POINTS OUT:

THE BASS STRAIT AREA WAS NOT LINKED TO ANY SIGNIFICANT ENEMY ACTIVITY.

AT LEAST NOT KNOWN ENEMIES.

BUT WHETHER OR NOT BASS STRAIT IS ONE OF THE WORLD'S "WINDOWS ON THE WEIRD," THE FREDERICH VALENTICH CASE REMAINS ONE OF THE MOST SHOCKING AND TRAGIC UFO INCIDENTS ON RECORD--

-- WITH NO SOLUTION IN NORMAL SIGHT.

EITHER WE'RE UNDER FULL-SCALE ALIEN INVASION OR THERE MUST BE SOME **OTHER** EXPLANATION FOR THE ONGOING EPIDEMIC OF UFO KIDNAPPING CLAIMS.

LET'S RUN THROUGH A QUICK CHECKLIST OF POSSIBILITIES WITH THESE--

ALIEN ABDUCTION ALTERNATIVES.

HALLUCINATION— ENTIRELY SUBJECTIVE.

WOW, I MUST BE **SEEING THINGS**, SO I GUESS I'LL GO TO **BED**.

FACT: TRUE HALLUCINATIONS ARE FAST AND QUICKLY FADE AND CANNOT LEAVE SCARS OR OTHER PHYSICAL TRAUMA.

HYPNAGOGIC TRANCE OR "NIGHT TERRORS."

I KNOW I'M **AWAKE**, BUT I'M **PARALYZED**, SO I MUST BE **DREAMING**.

DRAWBACK: IT'S UNLIKELY SO MANY PEOPLE WOULD SUDDENLY EXPERIENCE SUCH WEIRDLY IDENTICAL NIGHTMARES.

THE "ABDUCTION EXPERIENCE" AS EMBODIED IN FOLKLORE.

GEE, THIS IS JUST LIKE THOSE OLD STORIES OF BEING WHISKED OFF TO SOME **MAGIC REALM** BY THE **LITTLE PEOPLE**.

COUNTER-ARGUMENT: MAYBE "FOLKLORE" IS ACTUALLY **HISTORY**- FROM A TIME WHEN "ALIENS" WERE CALLED GNOMES, ELVES, SPRITES, LEPRECHAUNS, OR FAIRIES.

POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS SYNDROME.

THIS IS GETTING **SCARY**- I DON'T **LIKE** IT!

FLAW: MOST ABDUCTEES HAVE NO PRIOR HISTORY OF ABUSE, RAPE, OR MAJOR TRAUMA OF ANY KIND.

EPILEPSY, SCHIZOPHRENIA, OTHER NEUROLOGICAL CONDITION.

THIS IS **CRAZY**!

FACT: THE OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF ABDUCTEES EXHIBIT **NO OTHER** SYMPTOMS OF MENTAL ABERRATION.

SCREEN MEMORIES – INDUCED TO HIDE THE REALITY OF GOVERNMENT MIND CONTROL EXPERIMENTS.

ARE YOU REALLY... UNCLE SAM?

TRUTH: HEY, ANYTHING'S POSSIBLE WITH THE CIA.

SEXUAL FANTASIES.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING DOWN THERE?!

WEAKNESS: FEW ABDUCTEES HAVE BEEN TURNED ON BY THE COLDLY INTRUSIVE ALIEN "GYNECOLOGICAL PROCEDURES."

FLASHBACKS OF PAST MEDICAL PROCEDURES.

YOWTCH!

PROBLEM: THE "MEDICAL EXAM" COMPRISES ONLY ONE ELEMENT OF THE COMPLEX AND EXTENDED ABDUCTION EXPERIENCE.

RELIGIOUS ECSTASY OR VISIONS.

GLORY HALLELUJAH! AMEN!

ILLOGICAL: ALTHOUGH THEY MAY COME FROM HEAVEN, UFO ABDUCTORS ARE OFTEN MORE DEMONIC THAN ANGELIC – AND MANY OF THEIR VICTIMS ARE NOT AT ALL RELIGIOUS.

CONFABULATION – INDUCED BY A HYPNOTIST'S BELIEFS (AND LEADING QUESTIONS).

THEY REALLY ABUSED YOU, DIDN'T THEY?

FLAW: MOST ABDUCTEES EXPERIENCE CONSCIOUS RECALL **BEFORE** CONSULTING A HYPNOTIST, WHILE MANY **NEVER** UNDERGO HYPNOSIS.

HOAX – FOR FAME AND FORTUNE.

HOOHAH! THOSE TABLOIDS SURE **PAY** A BUNDLE!

TRUTH: VERY FEW ABDUCTEES EVER SEEK TO PROFIT FROM THEIR EXPERIENCES, AND MOST AVOID PUBLICITY OF ANY KIND.

REAL ABDUCTIONS, JUST AS DESCRIBED – BY CUNNING KIDNAPPERS FROM BEYOND.

RELAX, BABE – WE'RE **NOT** **REALLY** HAPPENING.

YEAH, WE'RE ALL IN YOUR **MIND**, TOOTS.

COUNTER-ARGUMENT: IT SIMPLY **CAN'T** BE TRUE! SO SLEEP **TIGHT** – AND DON'T LET THE **BEDBUGS** BITE...

WE'VE ALL SEEN MAINSTREAM MEDIA'S PORTRAIT OF THE TYPICAL UFO WITNESS—A WHITE-TRASH DRUNKEN DOOFUS FROM SOME TRAILER PARK ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF HICKSVILLE.

ACTUAL EYEWITNESSES, HOWEVER, INCLUDE SOBER AND RESPONSIBLE INDIVIDUALS FROM ALL WALKS OF LIFE.

RIGHT NOW, LET'S FOCUS ON SOME POSSIBLE ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN--

THE ASTRONAUTS AND THE ALIENS

BACK IN 1951, FUTURE ASTRONAUT DONALD "DEKE" SLAYTON CHASED SOMTHING WHILE TEST-PILOTING A P-51 NEAR MINNEAPOLIS.

LOOKS LIKE A WEATHER BALLOON.

"BUT AS SOON AS I GOT BEHIND THE DARN THING IT DIDN'T LOOK LIKE A BALLOON ANYMORE. IT LOOKED LIKE A SAUCER, A DISK. I TRACKED IT A LITTLE WAY, AND THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN THE DAMN THING PULLED A 45-DEGREE TURN AND JUST FLAT DISAPPEARED."

AFTER REPORTING THIS TO INTELLIGENCE, SLAYTON SAID, "I NEVER HEARD ANYTHING MORE ON IT."

SEVENTEEN YEARS LATER, HOUSTON MISSION CONTROL DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING EITHER...FOR SIX AGONIZING MINUTES.

APOLLO, ARE YOU THERE?

IT WAS CHRISTMAS DAY, 1968.

FINALLY, APOLLO 8 ASTRONAUT JAMES LOVELL BROKE THE SILENCE WITH A CRYPTIC COMMENT FROM ONE WORLD TO ANOTHER:

HOUSTON, WE'VE JUST BEEN TOLD SANTA CLAUS EXISTS!

MEDICAL MONITORS SHOWED A DRASTIC AND ABRUPT JUMP IN LOVELL'S PULSE RATE.

GORDON COOPER HAS STATED THAT WHILE MOST ASTRONAUTS ARE UNDERSTANDABLY RELUCTANT TO DISCUSS THE SUBJECT--

SEVERAL OF US DO BELIEVE IN UFOS.

THE FACT THAT MANY EXPERIENCED PILOTS HAVE REPORTED STRANGE SIGHTS WAS ONE OF THE REASONS I WANTED TO BECOME AN ASTRONAUT.

"I DID HAVE TWO DAYS OF OBSERVATION OF MANY FLIGHTS OF (UFOS), OF DIFFERENT SIZES, FLYING IN FIGHTER FORMATION, GENERALLY FROM EAST TO WEST OVER EUROPE."

SINCE COOPER'S SIGHTINGS OCCURRED IN PRE-ASTRONAUT 1951 - THE SAME YEAR DEKE SLAYTON CHASED A DISK OVER MINNEAPOLIS - WE PONDER A CHILLING QUESTION...

WAS THE "RIGHT STUFF" IMPLANTED IN THESE FLYBOYS?

FOLLOWING ATTENDANCE AT A 1978 UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON UFOS, COOPER WROTE: "I BELIEVE THAT THESE EXTRATERRESTRIAL VEHICLES AND THEIR CREWS ARE VISITING THIS PLANET FROM OTHER PLANETS."

JULY 21, 1969: WHEN MAN FIRST LANDED ON THE MOON - IN THE PERSONS OF APOLLO 11 ASTRONAUTS NEIL ARMSTRONG AND BUZZ ALDRIN - MAN MAY NOT HAVE BEEN ALONE. BEFORE COMMUNICATION WAS INEXPLICABLY GARBLED, ONE OF THE ASTRONAUTS MADE REFERENCE TO "A LIGHT" IN OR FROM A CRATER.

WHEN MISSION CONTROL (HARDLY A SEA OF TRANQUILITY AT THIS POINT) REQUESTED MORE INFORMATION, THE ONLY RESPONSE WAS A CACOPHONY OF WHISTLES AND ODD MECHANICAL SOUNDS, PROMPTING THE QUESTION:

APOLLO, DO YOU HAVE ANY **COMPANY** UP THERE?

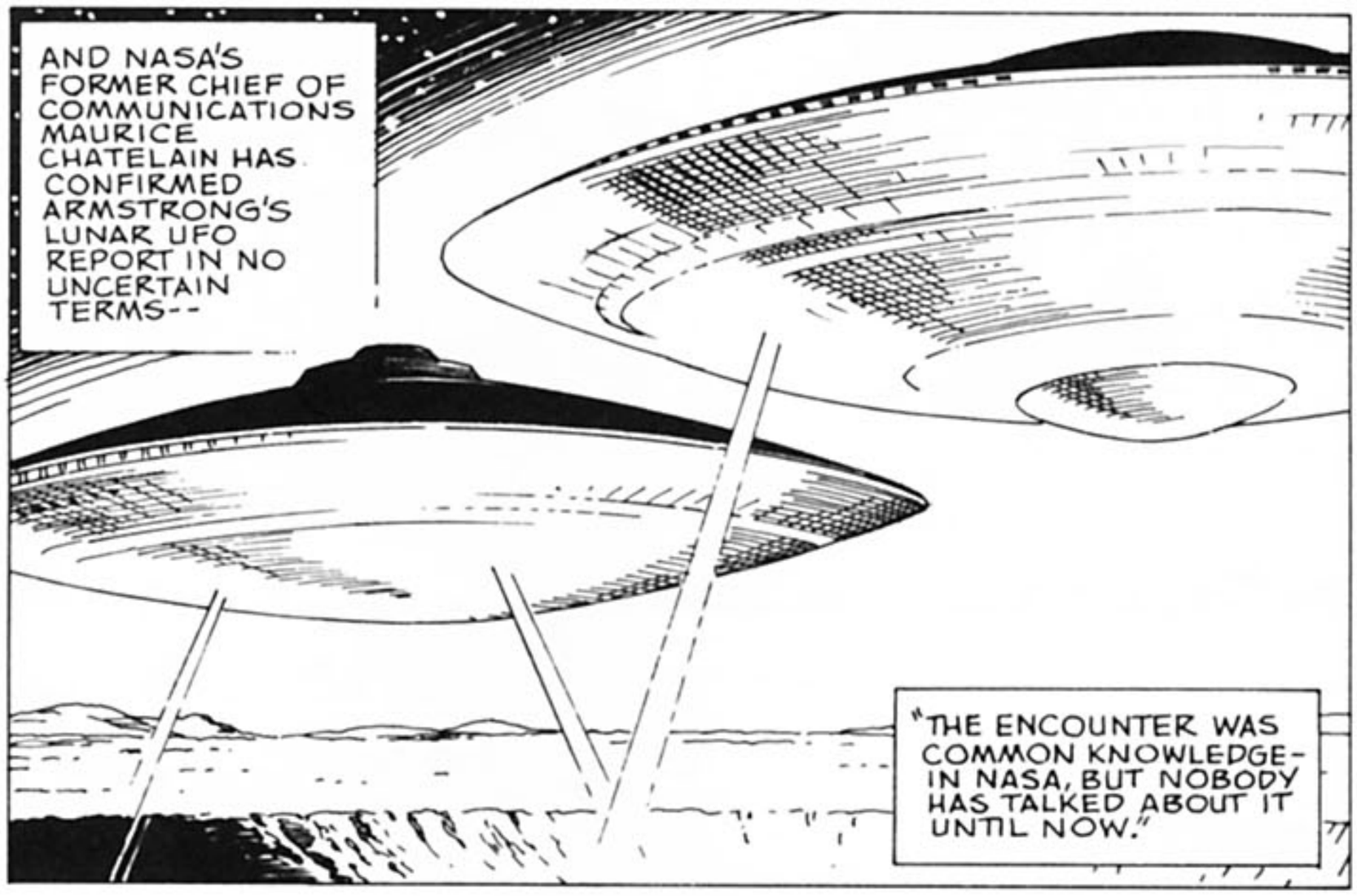
THE ANSWER WAS AN EMPHATIC BUT SECRET YES, ACCORDING TO FORMER NASA EMPLOYEE OTTO BINDER, WHO QUOTED THIS SECURE-CHANNEL TRANSMISSION:

THESE BABIES ARE HUGE, SIR.. **ENORMOUS!** OH, GOD, YOU WOULDN'T *BELIEVE* IT! I'M TELLING YOU THERE ARE *OTHER SPACECRAFT* OUT THERE... LINED UP ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE *CRATER EDGE*...

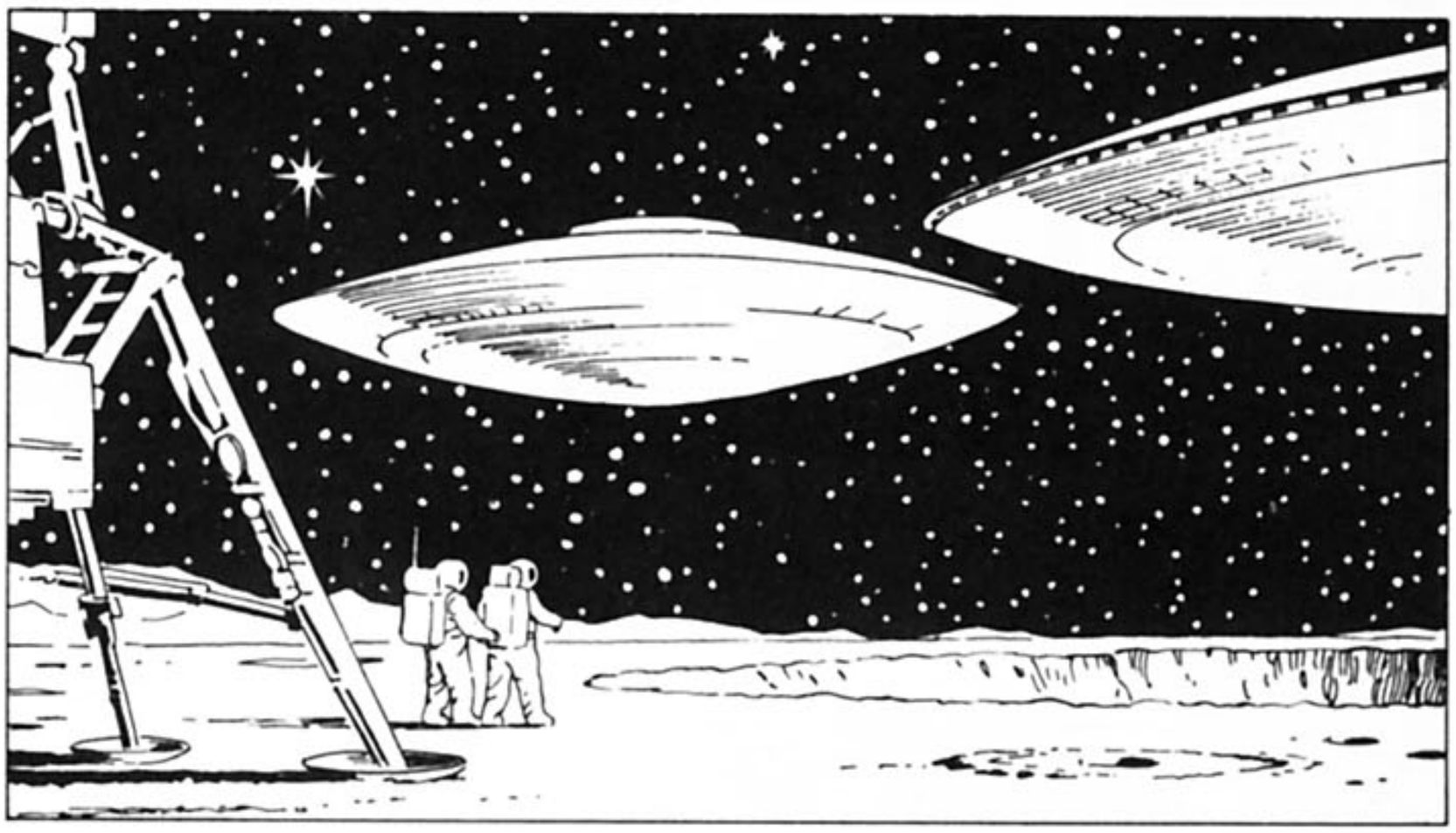
THEY'RE ON *THE MOON WATCHING US!*

WHILE THE ALLEGED TRANSMISSION MAY WELL BE BOGUS, NASA'S CHIEF OF PUBLIC INFORMATION JOHN McLEAISH ADMITS THAT SOME ASTRONAUT CONVERSATIONS ARE NEVER RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC.





FURTHER CONFIRMATION CAME FROM SOVIET PHYSICIST DR. VLADIM AZHAZHA: "ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, THE ENCOUNTER WAS REPORTED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE LANDING OF THE MODULE... BUT WAS NEVER HEARD BY THE PUBLIC—BECAUSE NASA CENSORED IT."



ANOTHER SOVIET, DR. ALEKSANDR KAZANTSEV, CLAIMS BUZZ ALDRIN CAPTURED THE UFOS ON COLOR MOVIE FILM FROM BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE MODULE.



BOX OFFICE DYNAMITE - IF SUCH FILM TRULY EXISTS.

DR. GLENN SEABORG, THEN PRESIDENT OF THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION, ALLEGEDLY REVEALED IN DECEMBER, 1969 THAT APOLLO 11 HAD DISCOVERED "SUSPICIOUS TRACKS" ON THE LUNAR SURFACE--



--CLEAR EVIDENCE OF AN UNKNOWN VEHICLE.

A YEAR EARLIER, DURING APOLLO 8'S FIRST MANNED ORBIT OF THE MOON, BEAMS OF LIGHT WERE SEEN SHINING FROM MOUNT PICKERING.



A LANDING BEACON FOR SANTA CLAUS?

MAURICE CHATELAIN COMES RIGHT OUT WITH IT: "ALL APOLLO AND GEMINI FLIGHTS WERE FOLLOWED, BOTH AT A DISTANCE AND SOMETIMES QUITE CLOSELY, BY SPACE VEHICLES OF EXTRATERRESTRIAL ORIGIN."



AS QUOTED BY RESEARCHER TIMOTHY GOOD, "AN ANONYMOUS SOURCE WITH SECRET CLEARANCE" CLAIMED SCOTT CARPENTER TOLD HIM THAT "AT NO TIME" WERE THE ASTRONAUTS ALONE IN SPACE.

ACCORDING TO DR. GARRY HENDERSON OF GENERAL DYNAMICS, WHILE NASA "HAS MANY ACTUAL PHOTOS" OF E.T. CRAFT "TAKEN AT CLOSE RANGE," THE ASTRONAUTS HAVE BEEN SWORN TO A STRICT POLICY OF SILENCE.

THIS POLICY WAS ALLEGEDLY BROKEN BY NEIL ARMSTRONG HIMSELF IN CONVERSATION WITH AN UNNAMED PROFESSOR:

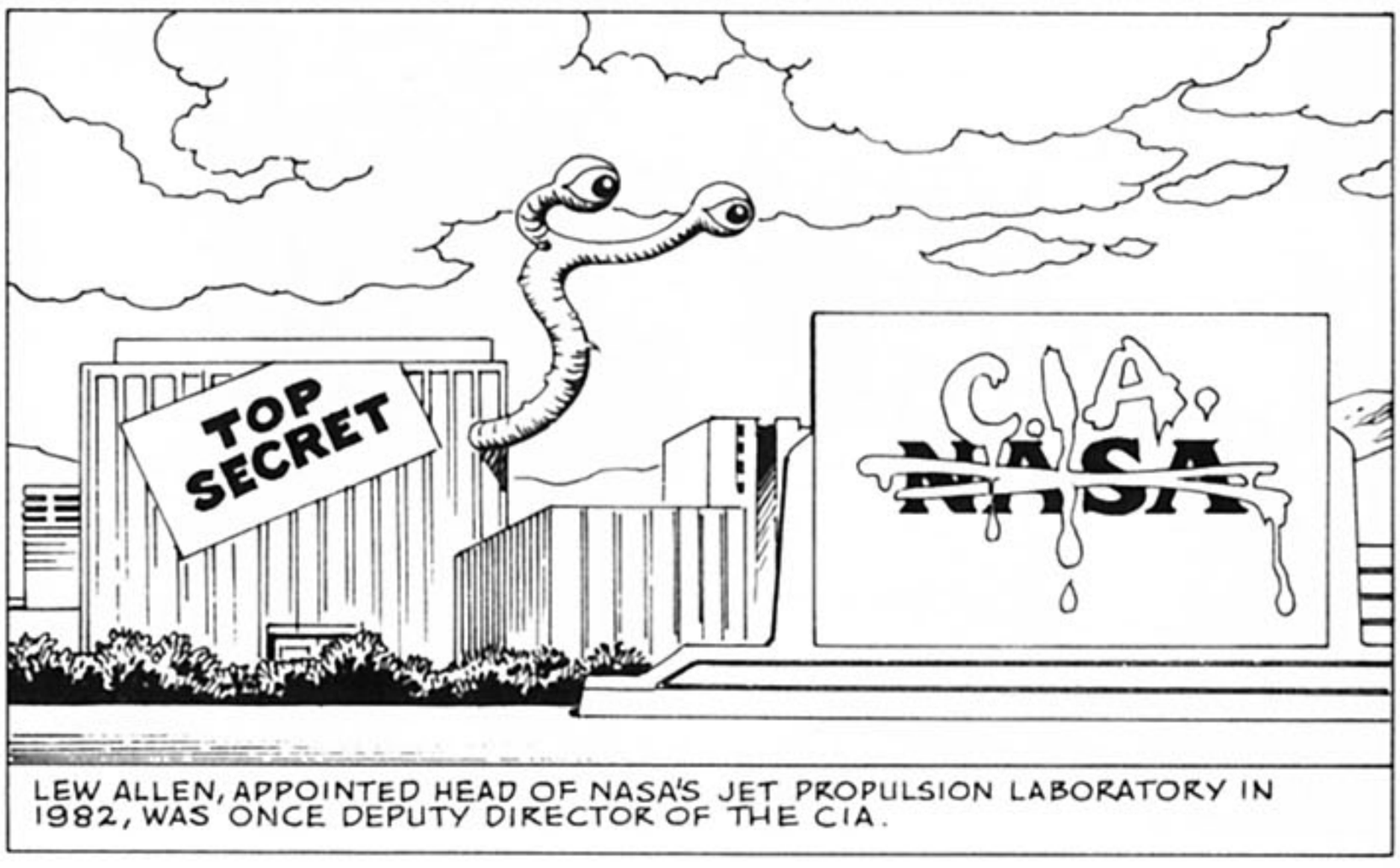


ARMSTRONG SUPPOSEDLY CONTINUED: "THERE WAS NEVER ANY QUESTION THEN OF A SPACE STATION OR A MOON CITY." I CAN'T GO INTO ANY DETAILS EXCEPT TO SAY THAT THEIR SHIPS WERE FAR SUPERIOR TO OURS BOTH IN SIZE AND TECHNOLOGY. BOY, WERE THEY BIG... AND MENACING."

PUBLICLY, NEIL ARMSTRONG HAS THIS TO SAY:



BUT THE ANONYMOUS PROFESSOR INSISTS THAT ARMSTRONG LATER ADMITTED TO A COVER-UP ORCHESTRATED BY THE CIA.



LEW ALLEN, APPOINTED HEAD OF NASA'S JET PROPULSION LABORATORY IN 1982, WAS ONCE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE CIA.

SOMEONE ELSE MAY HAVE TRIED TO SILENCE APOLLO 17 ASTRONAUT EUGENE CERNAN AND HARRISON SCHMITT WHEN THEIR LUNAR ROVER'S HIGH-GAIN ANTENNA EXPLODED.

BAM

SOMETHING FLYING OVER JUST BEFORE - IT'S STILL--

GOD! I THOUGHT WE'D BEEN HIT BY A— BY A—LOOK AT THAT STUFF!

LATER, AT A 1973 PRESS CONFERENCE, CERNAN RATHER CRYPTICALLY REMARKED:

I'M ONE OF THOSE GUYS WHO HAS NEVER SEEN A UFO, BUT I'VE BEEN ASKED--

--AND I'VE SAID PUBLICLY I THOUGHT THEY WERE SOMEBODY ELSE, SOME OTHER CIVILIZATION.

THE AMERICANS AND THE SOVIETS BOTH ENDED THEIR MOON PROGRAMS WITHIN A SIX-MONTH SPAN IN 1972-73— THE USA WITH APOLLO 17 AND THE USSR WITH LUNAKHOD 2...

CAN'T HELP BUT WONDER WHY...

WRITERS BRAD STEIGER AND SCOTT CORRALES POINT OUT THAT BEFORE ALL CONTACT WITH LUNAKHOD 2 WAS MYSTERIOUSLY LOST, THE PROBE HAD EXAMINED A HIGHLY UNUSUAL LUNAR FEATURE NEAR THE TAURUS MOUNTAINS.

A SMOOTH SLAB OF PRESUMED ROCK WHICH RESEMBLED "A MODERN HOUSE PANEL", IT WAS ALSO REMINISCENT OF THE ALIEN MONOLITH FROM CLARKE AND KUBRICK'S **2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY.**

SAID MONOLITH, YOU MAY RECALL, WAS THE TRIGGER FOR CONVERTING INNOCENT APE TO EVOLVED MAN--

THAT'S IT, EARTHLING— TOUCH THE **FORBIDDEN** FRUIT.

--WHILE A SECOND MONOLITH ON THE MOON TRANSFORMED TECHNOLOGICAL MAN INTO CHILD OF THE COSMOS.

FINALLY READY FOR THE APPLE'S **SECOND BITE?**

WAS **2001** PRESCIENT? DID LIFE IMITATE ART? OR, CONTRARY TO MOVIE OPTIMISM, WAS THE REAL-LIFE SLAB SOME SORT OF COSMIC VENDING MACHINE WE REALLY WERE FORBIDDEN TO TOUCH?

BARELY NOTICED AMIDST 1994'S MORE IMPORTANT NEWS, NASA RESUMED ITS MOON PROGRAM WITH AN UNMANNED PROBE NAMED "CLEMENTINE."

HEY, IF BANK TELLERS CAN BE REPLACED BY CASH MACHINES, WHY NOT ASTRONAUTS BY ROBOTS?

·Daily poop·

O.J. WITH CAST OF "FRIENDS" IN BOSNIA?

RETURN TO MOON

AS RESEARCHER GEORGE ANDREWS POINTS OUT, CLEMENTINE'S PRICETAG (NEARLY HALF THE BUDGET OF WATERWORLD) SHOULD HAVE CAUGHT OUR ATTENTION—AND YET OUR RETURN TO THE MOON MIGHT AS WELL BE A SECRET.

CLEMENTINE $75 MILLION

OOF!

JOHN Q TAXPAYER

BUT WHY ARE WE GOING BACK NOW—SO LONG AFTER WE WERE SUPPOSEDLY "WARNED OFF?"

HAS THE DANGER PASSED—OR HAVE WE LOST OUR FEAR?

THE ANSWER MAY LIE IN THE NATURE OF CLEMENTINE'S MISSION—TO TEST "DEFENSIVE HARDWARE" SPUN OFF FROM THE SDI "STAR WARS" PROGRAM.

OR ARE WE FINALLY READY TO EVICT THE MOON'S PRESENT TENANTS?

MAYBE SO—BUT IT MAY BE WISE TO REMEMBER THE WORDS OF THAT OLD SONG--

NO TRESPASSING

--OH M'DARLIN' CLEMENTINE! YOU ARE LOST AND GONE FOREVER, DREADFUL SORRY, CLEMENTINE!

MOON OR BUST

INDEED, BEFORE CLEMENTINE COULD COMPLETE HER MISSION, ALL CONTACT WAS LOST WHEN SHE FELL INTO A USELESS SOLAR ORBIT--

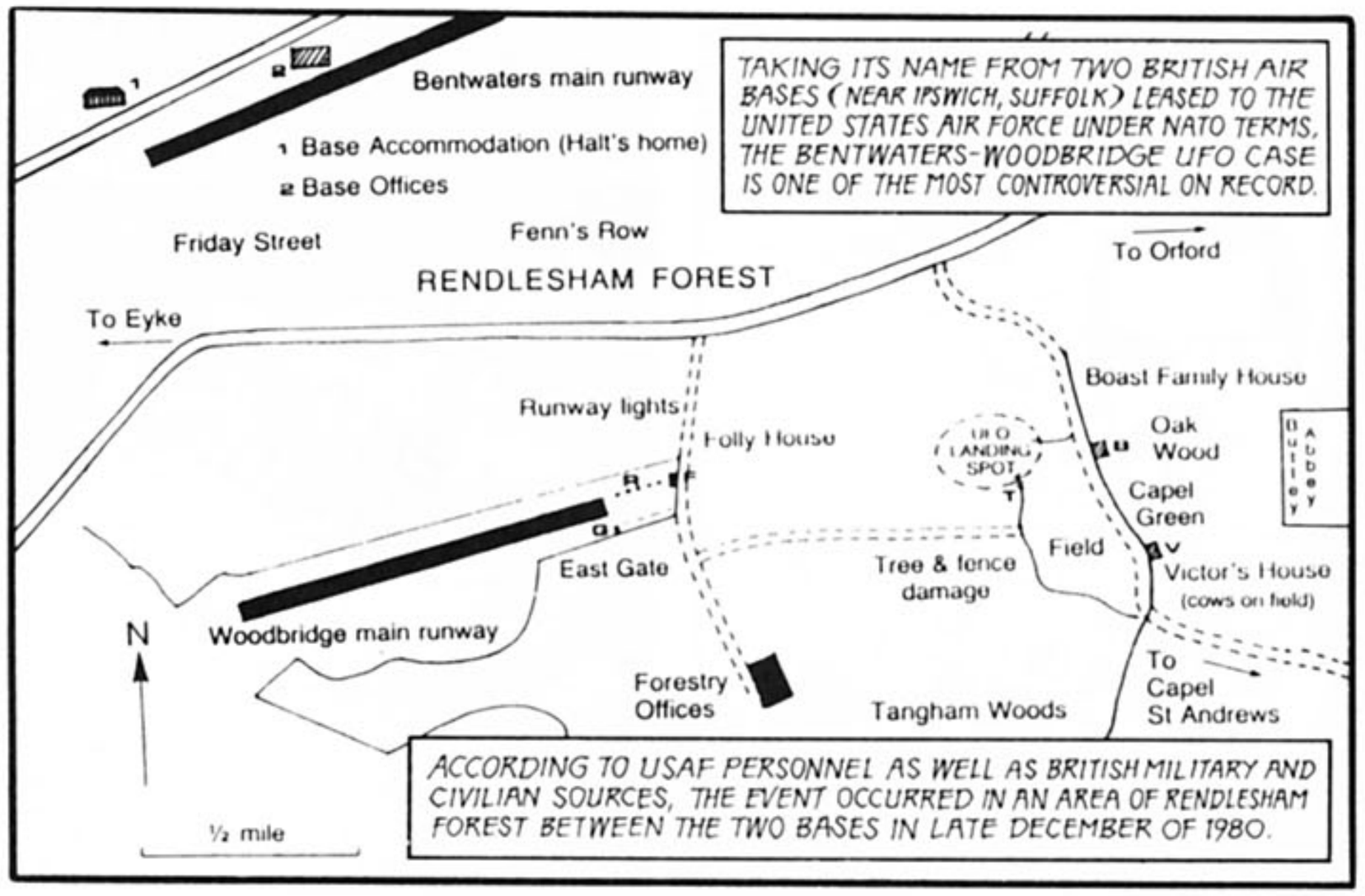
--VICTIMIZED EITHER BY NASA INCOMPETENCE—OR BY LUNAR FORCES STILL MORE THAN A MATCH FOR ANY TRESPASSER!

FACTOID BOOKS

TO HELL WITH DAMNED SCIENCE AND FULL SPEED AHEAD, AS WE IMMERSE OUR-SELVES IN THE--

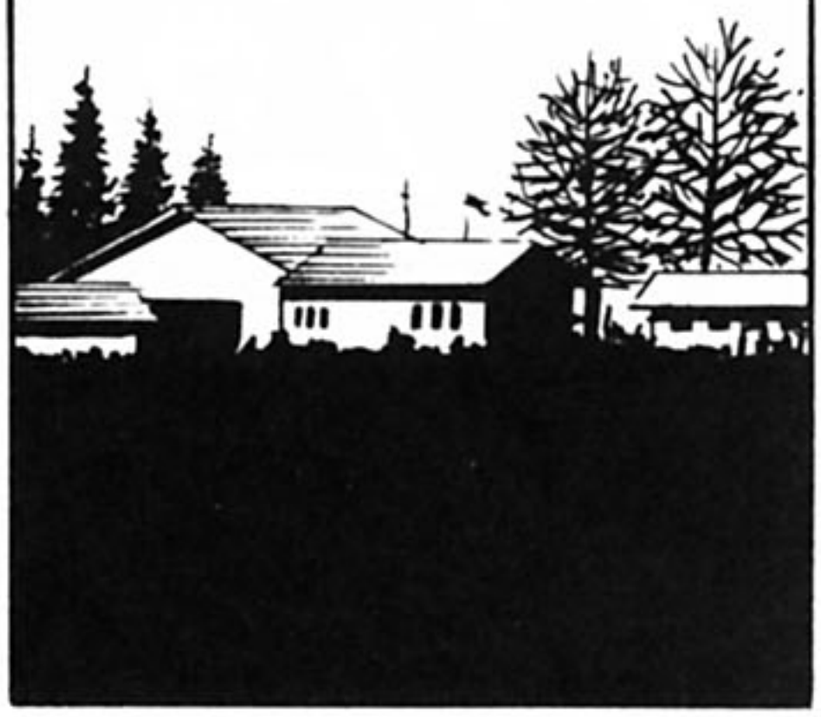
WATERS OF BENT REALITY

TAKING ITS NAME FROM TWO BRITISH AIR BASES (NEAR IPSWICH, SUFFOLK) LEASED TO THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER NATO TERMS, THE BENTWATERS-WOODBRIDGE UFO CASE IS ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL ON RECORD.



ACCORDING TO USAF PERSONNEL AS WELL AS BRITISH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SOURCES, THE EVENT OCCURRED IN AN AREA OF RENDLESHAM FOREST BETWEEN THE TWO BASES IN LATE DECEMBER OF 1980.

THE FOLLOWING ACCOUNT, AS REPORTED BY RESEARCHERS JENNY RANDLES, TIMOTHY GOOD, RAYMOND BOECHE, AND LAWRENCE FAWCETT, IS PIECED TOGETHER FROM THE STATEMENTS OF SOME THIRTY PROFESSED WITNESSES.



WHILE THE PRECISE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS IS DIFFICULT TO DETEMINE (AND MAY INVOLVE TWO SEPARATE NIGHTS), THE INCIDENT BEGAN WHEN TWO USAF SECURITY MEN AT WOODBRIDGE SPOTTED UNUSUAL LIGHTS OVER RENDLESHAM.



ASSUMED TO BE A SMALL PLANE, THE LIGHTS SEEMED TO CRASH.

ACCORDING TO SERGEANT LARRY WARREN, STATIONED AT BENTWATERS, "IT LOOKED LIKE A FIRE IN THE FOREST."



LED BY WOODBRIDGE DEPUTY BASE COMMANDER LT. COL. CHARLES HALT, THREE USAF PERSONNEL ENTERED THE FOREST FOR A CAT-AND-MOUSE GAME WITH A WEIRDLY ELUSIVE RED LIGHT.



BRITISH SQUADRON LEADER (AT BENTWATERS) DONALD MORELAND ADMITTED THE REALITY OF THE CHASE, BUT INITIALLY DOWNPLAYED IT AS "A FEW LIGHTS FLIPPING AMONG THE TREES."

OTHERS WHO JOINED THE HUNT, HOWEVER, WERE FAR LESS DISMISSIVE OF THE ENSUING AND SPECTACULAR "EXPLOSION OF LIGHT."

AIRMAN JOHN BURROUGHS SAID: "IT WAS INCREDIBLE. YOU CAN NEVER EXPLAIN TO ANYBODY ELSE THE TRUE AWE OF WHAT IT WAS LIKE."



THE "IT" IN QUESTION HAD ABRUPTLY BECOME A "TRIANGULAR" UFO, ACCORDING TO AIRMEN "STEVE ROBERTS" AND "JAMES ARCHER", WITH A RED LIGHT ON TOP AND BLUE AND WHITE LIGHTS AT MIDDLE AND BOTTOM.

"ARCHER" WAS CERTAIN SOMETHING WAS INSIDE, FURTHER CLAIMING "THE SHAPES DID NOT LOOK HUMAN."

MEANWHILE, SGTS. LARRY WARREN AND ADRIAN BUSTINZA HAD ROLLED TO AN EERIE HALT WHEN THEIR JEEP AND SEVERAL HIGH-POWERED "LIGHT-ALLS" ABRUPTLY DIED.

BUSTINZA LATER SAID: "IT WAS KIND OF LIKE ALL THE ENERGY WAS DRAINED OUT."

AT THIS POINT, MANY OF THE WITNESSES REPORT ANIMALS "RUNNING THROUGH THE FOREST" AND "RAISING A RUCKUS ON A NEARBY FARM."

LARRY WARREN SAID: "I WAS GLAD THAT HAPPENED. IT GAVE ME BACK A SENSE OF REALITY."

EN ROUTE TO JOINING THE OTHER SEARCHERS, WARREN AND BUSTINZA ENCOUNTERED A STRANGE YELLOW MIST "LIKE NOTHING (WE'D) EVER SEEN BEFORE."

ENTERING A CLEARING, THEY FOUND AN OBJECT "SUDDENLY JUST THERE"— BUT THE "TRIANGULAR" UFO WAS NOW A "TRANSPARENT ASPIRIN TABLET" FILLED WITH "BRIGHT PULSATING MIST" AND ADORNED WITH "RAINBOW LIGHTS."

"IT WAS A TREMENDOUS SIZE," WARREN SAYS. "IT SURPRISED ME THAT IT WAS ABLE TO FIT INTO THE CLEARING."

MOTION PICTURE FILM AND PHOTOS WERE SHOT, SOME BY TWO BRITISH POLICE OFFICERS -- CONFISCATED FROM THE BOBBIES ON ORDERS FROM LT. COL. HALT.

BUSTINZA AND HALT BOTH CLAIM THAT ALL PHOTOGRAPHIC RECORDS OF THE EVENT **WERE LATER FLOWN** TO USAF EUROPEAN HQ AT RAMSTEIN, WEST GERMANY.

A PENTAGON OFFICIAL ADMITTED IN MARCH 1985 THAT "SOME OF THESE PHOTOS, BUT NOT ALL," WERE FOGGED.

BACK IN THE CLEARING, A RED LIGHT APPROACHED AND THE "ASPIRIN TABLET" ABRUPTLY VANISHED--

--LEAVING AN INTRICATELY TEXTURED DOMED DISC RESTING ON TRIPOD LEGS.

(THE NEXT DAY, LT. COL. HALT AND OTHER USAF INVESTIGATORS FOUND THREE INDENTATIONS IN THE CLEARING, EACH SLIGHTLY RADIOACTIVE.)

(FRESHLY DAMAGED TREES WERE ALSO DISCOVERED.)

WARREN AND OTHERS WERE FASCINATED BY THEIR WEIRDLY WARPED SHADOWS AS THEY WALKED AROUND THE MYSTERY OBJECT.

A STRANGE BALL OF LIGHT APPEARED ABOVE THE HEAD OF ONE SHADOW, THEN MOVED TO EACH OF THE OTHER SHADOWS "LIKE SOMETHING IN A VIDEO GAME."

MOST BIZARRE OF ALL WAS THE FACT THAT THE SHADOWS WERE SOMEHOW "OUT OF PHASE"--

--AND EACH TIME THE MEN HALTED, THEIR SHADOWS WOULD CONTINUE MOVING ONE MORE PACE.

HIS OWN "TIME-TRAVELING SHADOW" WAS THE LAST THING LARRY WARREN REMEMBERED BEFORE WAKING UP IN HIS BARRACKS BED THE NEXT MORNING--CAKED IN MUD UP TO THE KNEES.

WARREN SAYS HE WAS TESTED FOR RADIATION AND FORCED TO SIGN A SECRECY OATH--OBVIOUSLY SINCE BROKEN.

HE AND OTHERS WERE THEN SHOWN HIGH-QUALITY GUN CAMERA FILM OF UFO EVENTS, INCLUDING THE DOWNING OF A SOVIET MiG FIGHTER BY A CLASSIC FLYING SAUCER.

WARREN'S "MISSING TIME" OF THE NIGHT BEFORE IS FILLED IN BY OTHER WITNESSES WHO SAY THEY WERE ORDERED TO FORM A "PERIMETER" AROUND THE OBJECT AT 15-FOOT INTERVALS.

BASE COMMANDER COL. GORDON WILLIAMS THEN ARRIVED AND "COMMUNICATED" WITH THREE SILVER-SUITED BEINGS SUSPENDED IN A SHAFT OF LIGHT EMANATING FROM THE DISC.

AS DESCRIBED AND SKETCHED, THE BEINGS WERE IDENTICAL TO THE FAMILIAR "GRAYS" OF ABDUCTION LORE.

ALTHOUGH COL. WILLIAMS DENIES HIS PRESENCE, OTHERS SWEAR TO IT--

--ADDING THAT USAF PERSONNEL THEN ASSISTED THE BEINGS IN "MAKING REPAIRS TO THEIR CRAFT"!

THIS SMACKS OF LATER AND EVEN MORE EXTRAVAGANT CLAIMS THAT HUMAN MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE WORKING SIDE BY SIDE WITH ALIENS IN VAST COMPLEXES DEEP BELOW THE SOUTHWESTERN UNITED STATES, ALWAYS TO SINISTER ENDS.

(PERHAPS PREDICTABLY, LARRY WARREN SAYS HE WAS TAKEN TO A SUBTERRANEAN BASE UNDER BENTWATERS.)

IN ANY CASE, THE ENCOUNTER IN RENDLESHAM CONCLUDED AFTER SOME 30 MINUTES TO AN HOUR WHEN THE OBJECT WAS "GONE IN A FLASH"--

--LEAVING ONLY "A COLD BLAST OF WIND WHICH BLEW FOR FIVE OR TEN SECONDS"... AND, IF WE BELIEVE THE WITNESSES, MORE THAN THIRTY SKULLS CRAMMED WITH NIGHTMARES.

THUS ENDS AN EXTREMELY CONFUSED AND CONFUSING TALE, WHICH FORMER BRITISH MINISTRY OF DEFENCE OFFICIAL RALPH NOYES LIKENS TO:

A DRUG-INDUCED NIGHTMARE.

NOYES NEVERTHELESS SEES ENOUGH TRUTH IN IT TO CAUSE ALARM...

OFFICIAL REACTION TO THE BENTWATERS-WOODBRIDGE EVENT AMOUNTED TO THE STANDARD "NO THREAT TO NATIONAL DEFENSE" POSITION--

--UTTER NONSENSE, AS BOTH NOYES AND JENNY RANDLES POINT OUT, IF THE COLLECTIVE TESTIMONY IS ACCURATE, THEREBY CONFIRMING UFO REALITY...

...AND EQUAL NONSENSE IF THE TESTIMONY IS FALSE, THEREBY ENTRUSTING NATO SECURITY TO THE WHIMS OF HALLUCINATING MADMEN.

BEAM US *UP*, GHOULIES!

EITHER ALTERNATIVE, OF COURSE, CONSTITUTES A **SEVERE** THREAT TO SECURITY.

EVEN SQUADRON LEADER DONALD MORELAND EVENTUALLY CONCEDED AN "INEXPLICABLE PHENOMENON," STATING THAT WHATEVER THE OBJECT WAS, "IT PERFORMED FEATS IN THE AIR WHICH NO KNOWN AIRCRAFT IS CAPABLE OF DOING."

(SUCH AS SPLITTING INTO PIECES -- AND ZIGZAGGING OFF AT HIGH SPEED AND ACUTE ANGLES.)

SINCE THIS WAS CLEARLY UNACCEPTABLE, BRITISH SCIENCE WRITER IAN RIDPATH SAVED THE DAY BY BLAMING THE WHOLE MESS ON ORFORD NESS -- A LIGHTHOUSE FIVE MILES AWAY ON THE SUFFOLK COAST.

TAKE-ME-TO--YOUR-LEADER--BEFORE-I--FLIP-THROUGH--THE-TREES!

MUCH CLOSER TO HOME, RESEARCHERS BUTLER, STREET, AND RANDLES INTERVIEWED LOCAL RESIDENTS WHO REPORTED ELECTRIC INTERFERENCE AND MILITARY ACTIVITY AT THE TIME IN QUESTION.

IT'S *TRUE.*

DISTURBED ANIMALS, *TOO.*

HARDLY CONCLUSIVE PROOF OF ANYTHING, OF COURSE...

BUT THEN, IN RESPONSE TO A 1983 FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST, THE FIRST OF TWO OFFICIALLY VERIFIED BOMBSHELLS BLEW THE BENTWATERS CASE WIDE OPEN.

INDEED, THE "HALT MEMO" VERIFIES MUCH OF THE PRECEDING NARRATIVE, ALBEIT WITHOUT FEATURING COL. WILLIAMS AND HIS ALIEN PALS.

EVEN MORE COMPELLING WAS THE LATER RELEASE OF THE "HALT TAPE," PURPORTEDLY RECORDED IN EXCITED VOICES AS THE EVENTS OCCURRED.

IT IS DEFINITELY *COMING THIS WAY!* PIECES OF IT ARE *SHOOTING OFF!* THIS IS *WEIRD!*

TWO LIGHTS!

YEAH...*STRANGE!*

LATER ON THE TAPE:

NOW WE'RE OBSERVING WHAT APPEARS TO BE A *BEAM* COMING DOWN TO THE GROUND. THIS IS *UNREAL!*

THE ONE TO THE SOUTH LOOKS LIKE IT'S LOSING ALTITUDE...

HEAVILY EDITED BEFORE RELEASE, THE 18-MINUTE TAPE SPANS SEVERAL HOURS OF ACTUAL TIME — SO, WHAT'S MISSING?

ARMED WITH LT. COL. HALT'S ASSURANCE THAT SOIL SAMPLES AND "LANDING MARK PLASTER CASTS" EXISTED, RESEARCHER RAYMOND BOECHE APPEALED TO SENATOR J. JAMES EXON OF THE U.S. SENATE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE.

IF IT WAS JUST THE RETRIEVAL OF SOVIET SPACE JUNK, *TELL* US.

AFTER INVESTIGATING, EXON CONCLUDED:

WHILE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON THE BENTWATERS AND OTHER UNEXPLAINED UFO INCIDENTS MAY EXIST, I CAN FIND NO EVIDENCE OF A COVERUP.

IN BRITAIN, RALPH NOYES COMMENTED: "SEN. EXON TOOK A HARD LOOK, BUT WAS HORRIFIED BY WHAT TURNED UP..."

GIVEN THE SEQUENCE OF DELIBERATE LEAKS, RELEASES, AND ESCALATING REVELATIONS —ALL IN STARK CONTRAST TO TYPICAL DEBUNKING AND "TOP SECRET" REBUFFS— JENNY RANDLES WONDERS:

WAS IT ALL A *STAGE SHOW?*

AND IF SO, PERPETRATED BY WHOM? GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS? ALIENS? OR BOTH?

WITNESSES SAY THE OFFICERS SEEMED TO *EXPECT* THE UFO LANDING AND DISPLAYED KEEN INTEREST IN THE REACTIONS OF THE ENLISTED MEN.

HMMM...

WAS THE EVENT AN EXERCISE--PART OF SOME PROGRAM TO GRADUALLY REVEAL THE TRUTH AND "CONDITION THE PUBLIC TO UFO REALITY"?

OR WAS THE WHOLE THING NOTHING BUT DISINFORMATION DESIGNED TO COVER THE TEST OF NEW TECHNOLOGY AND/OR AN EMBARRASSING ACCIDENT?

OOPS. BREAK OUT THE *UFO COVER STORY*, BOYS — AND BETTER GET THE *GEIGER COUNTERS* TOO!

WE MAY NEVER KNOW.

ALTHOUGH THE VARIOUS WITNESSES WERE SCATTERED TO OTHER BASES AFTER 1980, LT. COL. HALT STANDS BY HIS MEMO AND TAPE TO THIS DAY.

AS DOES FORMER BASE COMMANDER WILLIAMS-- WHO WAS PROMOTED FROM COLONEL TO GENERAL, EVIDENTLY IN REWARD FOR WEIRD WORK WELL DONE.

FACTOID BOOKS

WHAT DID THE ANCIENT MAYA KNOW THAT WE DON'T?

APPARENTLY PLENTY, SUCH AS CERTAIN CHILLING DETAILS CONCERNING--

THE DEATH of the FIFTH SUN

ACCORDING TO THE MAYA, THE WORLD UNDERGOES CYCLIC DESTRUCTION AND CREATION, EACH "NEW AGE" LAUNCHED BY THE DEATH AND REBIRTH OF **NUMBERED SUNS.**

THE CULTURE OF THE MAYA MYSTERIOUSLY VANISHED LONG BEFORE THE PREDICTED DEATH OF THE **FOURTH SUN** IN 1519. THEY HAD ALSO PROPHESIED AN ENSUING **FIFTH SUN** OF "DARKNESS AND IGNORANCE."

¡HIJO DE PUTA!

OATS

FOLLOWING CORTES' CONQUEST OF THE POST-MAYAN AZTEC EMPIRE IN 1519, VAST KNOWLEDGE WAS LOST WHEN VIRTUALLY ALL AZTEC AND MAYAN ILLUMINATED (OR ILLUSTRATED) RECORDS WERE DESTROYED.

THE DEATH OF THIS **FIFTH SUN** OF IGNORANCE WAS PINPOINTED BY THE MAYA FOR JULY 11, 1991—THE DATE OF A RARE **TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE** LASTING SIX MINUTES, 45 SECONDS.

ONE OF THE FEW SURVIVING MAYAN DOCUMENTS—THE "DRESDE CODEX" OF 755 A.D.—FORETOLD THAT THE DEATH OF THE **FIFTH SUN** AND BIRTH OF THE **SIXTH SUN** WOULD HERALD "EARTH CHANGES" AND "COSMIC AWARENESS" CREATED BY ENCOUNTERS WITH "THE MASTERS OF THE STARS."

DOUG MOENCH

COMICS JOURNAL

ON JULY 11, 1991 IN MEXICO CITY—THE WORLD'S LARGEST METROPOLIS, BUILT ATOP THE CONQUERED AZTEC CAPITAL OF TENOCHTITLAN—CROWDS GATHERED TO VIEW THE **SOLAR ECLIPSE.**

A NUMBER OF THESE **MODERN** MEXICANS, DESCENDANTS OF THE MAYA AND THE AZTECS WERE EQUIPPED WITH VIDEO CAMCORDERS..

--ALL POINTED **UPWARD.**

HISTORY'S LONGEST AND BEST-DOCUMENTED UFO FLAP THUS BEGAN WHEN SEVENTEEN DIFFERENT VIDEOTAPES SHOWED THE SAME UFO HOVERING UNDER THE ECLIPSE (OR "DYING") FIFTH SUN. IT WAS VISIBLE FOR 23 MINUTES.

JUL 11 1991

BY 1997, THE MEXICO CITY SIGHTINGS ENCOMPASSED AT LEAST SEVEN **DIFFERENT** UFO TYPES, LITERALLY MILLIONS OF WITNESSES, THOUSANDS OF VIDEOTAPES, AND HUNDREDS OF HOURS OF FOOTAGE.

FAR FROM FEARFUL (AND PERHAPS SLIPPING INTO "COSMIC AWARENESS") THE MEXICAN PEOPLE SEEM AWED AND DELIGHTED BY THE PERPETUALLY-HOVERING UFO'S.

SINCE 1991, THE "MASTERS OF THE STARS" HAVE BEEN SEEN AND TAPED MOST OFTEN ABOVE MEXICO CITY AND NEARBY MOUNT POPOCATEPETL --

--WHICH TURNED **ACTIVE VOLCANO** SHORTLY AFTER THE ECLIPSE, AS IF FULFILLING THE PROPHESIED "EARTH CHANGES."

IF THIS IS THE FIRST YOU'VE HEARD OF ALL THIS IT'S NOT SURPRISING. THE WORLDWIDE MAINSTREAM MEDIA HAS LARGELY IGNORED IT.

DAILY STAR

HUNDREDS OF UFO'S SEEN OVER MEXI

Ahhh, JEST THEM CRAZY **MESKINS!**

HOWEVER, **JAIME MAUSSAN**— A HIGHLY RESPECTED REPORTER ON THE MEXICAN VERSION OF **60 MINUTES**— TAKES THE MATTER QUITE SERIOUSLY.

SONY

IT WOULD APPEAR THAT THE ANCIENT MAYAN PROPHECY IS FULLY ACCURATE.

IF SO, THEN OUR CURRENT SIXTH SUN WILL DIE IN 2012— THE SAME YEAR (ACCORDING TO ASTROLOGICAL AND ASTRONOMICAL PREDICTIONS) THE EARTH TRANSITS FROM THE ORDERED AGE OF PISCES INTO THE CHAOS OF AQUARIUS, AS MEASURED BY THE 28,000-YEAR AXIAL-TILT PHENOMENON KNOWN AS THE "PRECESSION OF THE EQUINOX."

THIS "PRECESSION," BY THE WAY, HAS BEEN BLAMED FOR PAST CATACLYSMS RANGING FROM FLOODS TO POLE-SHIFTS.

FINALLY, SIX IS **IT.** AFTER THAT—ACCORDING TO THE MAYA—THERE ARE **NO MORE SUNS.**

FACTOID BOOKS

POET OF THE PARANORMAL

AGAIN, IF A GOVERNMENT COVER-UP OF **UFO** REALITY TRULY EXISTS, WHY HASN'T SOMEONE IN AUTHORITY BLOWN THE WHISTLE BY NOW?

THE FACT IS, LITERALLY HUNDREDS OF WHISTLEBLOWERS **HAVE** SOUNDED SHRILL ALARMS, THE LATEST COMING FROM BRITAIN'S--

THE XYZ FILES

MEET **NICK POPE**, WHO JOINED THE BRITISH **M**INISTRY OF **D**EFENSE IN 1985 AND WAS INVOLVED IN POLICY MAKING DURING THE GULF WAR AND THE BOSNIAN-SERB CONFLICT.

I WAS GENERALLY SKEPTICAL ABOUT THE PARANORMAL.

I DIDN'T **BELIEVE** IN **UFO**s.

BUT THEN, IN THE SUMMER OF 1991, POPE WAS APPOINTED TO A NEW POST AT WHITEHALL— SECRETARIAT AIR STAFF, DEPARTMENT 2A--

WHOA— ALL THESE REPORTS FOR **ME**?

--FAMILIARLY KNOWN AS "THE UFO DESK."

UNTIL THEN, POPE SAYS: "MY OPINION OF UFOs WAS BASED ON LITTLE MORE THAN THE MOVIE **CLOSE ENCOUNTERS**," BUT HE SOON DISCOVERED:

TRUTH REALLY IS MUCH, **MUCH** STRANGER THAN FICTION! I CAME IN AN OPEN-MINDED SKEPTIC AND ENDED UP A BELIEVER!

SECRET'S FILES

INDEED, AFTER SITTING AT THE **UFO DESK** FOR THREE YEARS, POPE CONCLUDED:

THEY'RE REAL!

IT **DOESN'T** REQUIRE **ANY** LEAP OF FAITH. THE EVIDENCE IS HERE **NOW!**

OFFICIALLY, POPE WAS CHARGED WITH ASCERTAINING WHETHER UFO'S POSED A THREAT TO THE U.K.'S DEFENSE — BUT UNOFFICIALLY, HE WAS EXPECTED TO SIMPLY DISMISS THE SIGHTINGS.

TELL THE PUBLIC IT'S NOTHING BUT FALSE ECHOES, RADAR ANGELS, SWAMP GAS, AND THE PLANETS VENUS, MARS AND JUPITER.

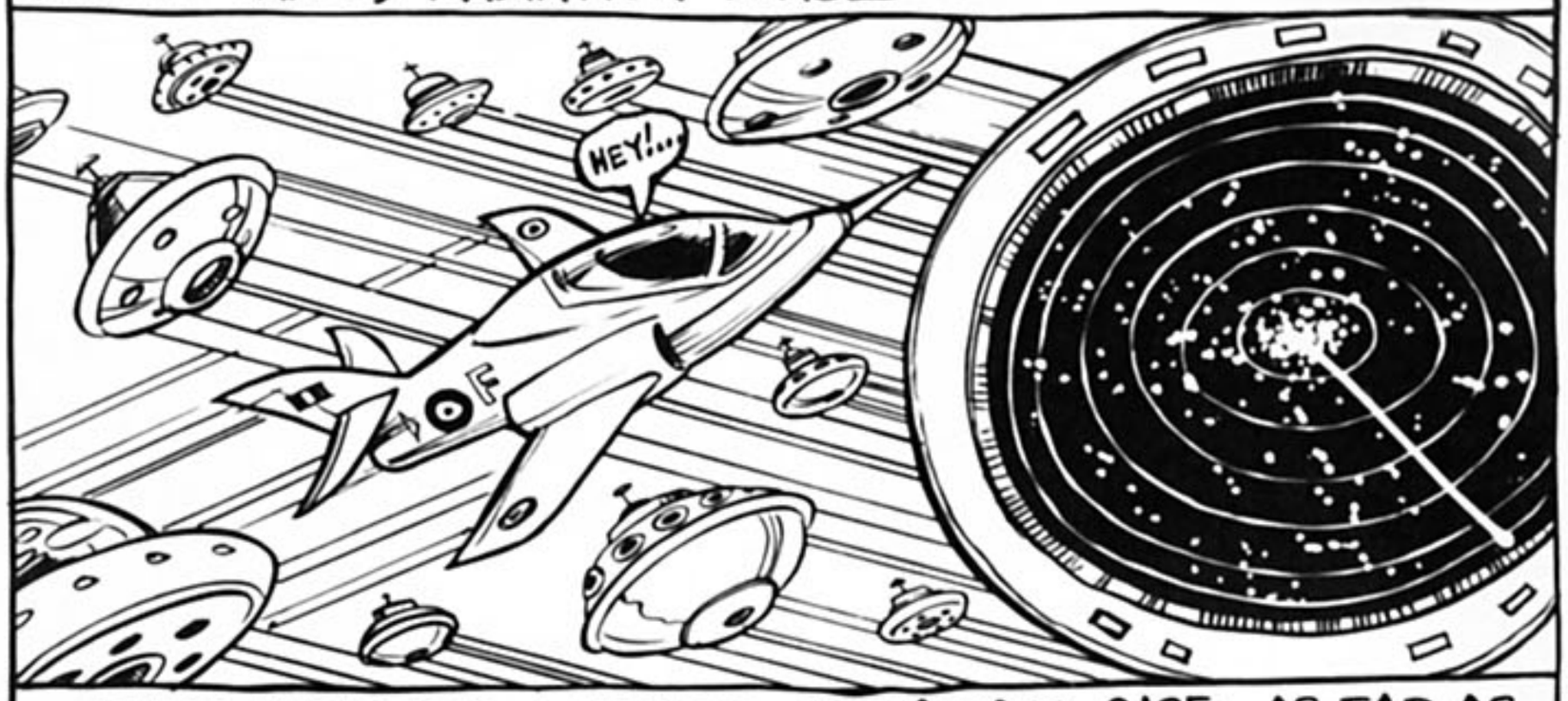
IT WAS **WHEN** HE BUCKED THE SYSTEM, POINTING OUT THE DANGEROUSLY DUBIOUS WISDOM OF SUCH POLICY, THAT POPE FIRST GOT INTO TROUBLE.

I TOOK THE VIEW THAT YOU COULDN'T MAKE A VALID JUDGMENT UNTIL YOU'D MADE SOME REAL AND SUBSTANTIAL EFFORT TO FIND OUT WHAT THE PHENOMENON WAS!

POPE SAYS HE BECAME "A BIT OF A MAVERICK, A LOOSE CANNON WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT, VIEWED WITH A MIXTURE OF SUSPICION AND DISTRUST."



NEVERTHELESS, POPE STUCK TO HIS CANNONS = "WHEN YOU ADDED TOGETHER ALL THE EYEWITNESS TESTIMONY— RELIABLE STUFF FROM PILOTS, MILITARY PERSONNEL, AND POLICE OFFICERS— WITH ALL THE PHOTOS, VIDEOS, RADAR TAPES, RADIATION TRACES--



--THEY MADE FOR A REALLY CONVINCING CASE, AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED."

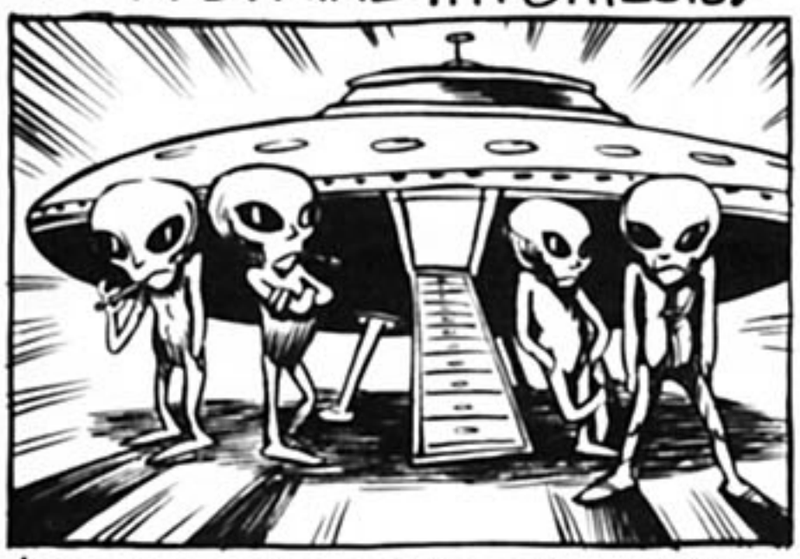
POPE'S FELLOW M.O.D. WORKERS BEGAN HUMMING THE TWILIGHT ZONE THEME IN HIS PRESENCE— AND AFTER THE X-FILES DEBUTED, HE ACQUIRED A NEW NICKNAME...



EVENTUALLY, POPE SAYS, "I GOT DRAWN INTO VARIOUS OTHER ODDITIES. BECAUSE I DID UFOS, I GOT QUITE A BIT ABOUT CROP CIRCLES, AND EVEN THE ODD GHOST STORY."



BUT POPE'S PRIMARY CONCERN REMAINED UFOS: "ON THE BASIS OF THE EXTRAORDINARY CASES I'VE SEEN, I'VE COME DOWN ON THE SIDE OF THE EXTRA-TERRESTRIAL HYPOTHESIS."



"I DO THINK THAT THE REAL UFOS ARE EXTRATERRESTRIAL SPACECRAFT— AND THAT HAS MADE ME VERY UNPOPULAR."

FURTHERMORE, POPE FEELS THESE CRAFT CONSTITUTE "A POTENTIAL THREAT— AND THAT MAKES ME VERY WORRIED."



HE SAYS = "YOU'VE GOT TO FIGURE THAT IF A CRAFT SLIPS THROUGH YOUR DEFENSIVE SCREEN OF RADAR AND AIR DEFENSE FIGHTERS, ITS TECHNOLOGY IS PROBABLY BEYOND YOURS."

POPE ALSO SAID, "I HAD A 'DEEP THROAT' CHARACTER, A SYMPATHIZER I COULD DISCUSS THINGS WITH."



"SOMEONE IN A SENIOR POSITION? LET'S JUST SAY HE WAS WELL-PLACED ENOUGH TO DISCUSS THE MORE INTERESTING OPTIONS."

WHILE POPE SEES THE BRITISH "COVER-UP" AS ONE OF BLINDNESS RATHER THAN SECRECY, HE'S NOT SO SURE ABOUT THE UNITED STATES: "I KNOW THE CONSPIRACY THEORISTS SAY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT IS UP TO ITS EYEBALLS IN CRASHED SAUCERS AND ALIENS--



"--BUT IT'S NOT A WORLD ON WHICH I HAVE ANY WINDOW. UNFORTUNATELY, I COULDN'T GET ACCESS TO ANY AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS, ALTHOUGH I DID TRY."

POPE'S TOUR OF WEIRD DUTY CAME TO AN END IN THE SUMMER OF 1994, WHEN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE PROMOTED HIM TO A FINANCIAL DEPARTMENT.



"I HAD MIXED FEELINGS — BUT AN AWFUL LOT OF PEOPLE WERE GLAD TO SEE THE BACK OF ME, I CAN TELL YOU!"



INDEED — BUT FOR ALL HIS CANDOR, POPE IS PRESUMABLY STILL BOUND BY BRITAIN'S OFFICIAL SECRETS ACT, MAKING ONE WONDER WHAT HE HASN'T SAID!

IN ANY CASE, SUCH IS THE STRANGE (IF PARTIAL) STORY OF NICK POPE — REAL-LIFE GOVERNMENT COUNTERPART TO A "PARANOID" CHARACTER ON A "TOTALLY FICTIONAL" TV SHOW.



WEIRD ENOUGH, TO BE SURE, BUT THERE'S ONE LAST TWIST...

POPE CONTINUES INVESTIGATING UFO ACTIVITY, HE CONCEDES, "PARTIALLY TO EXPLAIN SOME ANOMALOUS EVENTS IN MY OWN PAST--"



"--EVENTS WHICH THE UFO LOBBY WOULD SAY ARE FACTORS PRESENT IN CASES OF ABDUCTION, BUT I WANT TO STAY ON THE FENCE UNTIL I KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO ME."

IN THE MEANTIME, POPE'S FINAL WORDS REMAIN RELATIVELY CONSERVATIVE:

EYES OF THE BEHOLDER

IF WE COUNT CAVE PAINTINGS, THEN UFO REPORTS ARE OLDER THAN HISTORY ITSELF — THE *SAME PHENOMENON* PERCEIVED FOR MILLENNIA, YET DESCRIBED *DIFFERENTLY*.

WHY CAN'T WE AGREE ON THE *NATURE* OF THESE MYSTERIOUS AERIAL OBJECTS? THE ANSWER MAY LIE IN THE--

TO METEOROLOGISTS, UFOs ARE NOTHING BUT LENTICULAR CLOUDS, THE AURORA BOREALIS, BALL LIGHTNING, IONIZED PLASMA, OR "THERMAL INVERSIONS."

TRUST ME—I'M A *TV WEATHER PERSONALITY!*

PRE-BIBLICAL OR "PRIMITIVE" CULTURES MAY HAVE INTERPRETED UFOs AND THEIR OCCUPANTS AS THE GODS THEMSELVES, DESCENDING FROM HEAVEN.

HEY, LOOK UP IN THE *SKY!*

IT'S THE DOGON GODS!

NO, IT'S *RA*, *ISIS*, AND *OSIRIS* IN THEIR *SKY-BOATS!*

THE DRAGON LORDS!

THE *GREAT SPIRIT* IN HIS *MEDICINE WHEEL!*

VISHNU IN HIS VIMANA!

THOR, GOD OF THUNDER!

IT'S *KUKULKAN!*

IT'S *QUETZALCOATL!*

AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGISTS ERICH VON DANIKEN, ZECHARIA SITCHIN, AND OTHER PROPONENTS OF THE "ANCIENT ASTRONAUT" THEORY CARRY THIS TORCH RIGHT INTO THE PRESENT, ADDING A TECHNO-ALIEN SPIN BY CONNECTING THESE BELIEFS IN "GODS" TO MODERN UFO SIGHTINGS.

TO BIBLICAL-ERA JEWS, MOSLEMS, AND CHRISTIANS, UFO BEINGS MAY HAVE BEEN THOUGHT TO BE ENTITIES FROM HEAVEN, ALTHOUGH DEMOTED BY MONOTHEISM TO EITHER--

ANGELS OF GOD IN WHEELS WITHIN WHEELS OF *HEAVENLY LIGHT!*

--OR--

FALLEN-ANGEL *DEMONS* IN VESSELS OF *INFERNAL FIRE!*

TIME ALLEGEDLY MARCHES ON, BUT EVEN ADHERENTS OF THE VERY CONTEMPORARY "NEW AGE" RELIGIONS SEEM TO BE IN THE SAME BOAT.

SPACE BROTHERS FROM THE *ASHTAR COMMAND*--

--COME TO SAVE EARTH FROM NUCLEAR AND ECOLOGICAL *DOOM!*

I WANT TO BELIEVE

TO RADAR OPERATORS, UFOs CAN BE "FALSE ECHOES", "GROUND CLUTTER", "DOPPLER ANGELS", OR EVEN ENEMY SALVOS.

HOOBOY... LOOKS LIKE THE RUSSKIES FINALLY *PUSHED THE BUTTON!*

FOR PSYCHICS, IT'S ALL JUST PARANORMAL PHENOMENA.

THE "CRAFTS" ARE ***SPIRIT BALLS***, WHILE THE "ALIEN ENTITIES" ARE ***POLTERGEISTS, GHOSTS***, AND THOUGHT-FORM ***TULPAS***.

GEOLOGISTS SEE UFOs AS "EARTHLIGHTS"— ELECTROMAGNETIC ENERGY PRODUCED BY THE GRINDING OF TECTONIC PLATES --

SAN ANDREAS FAULT

--AKIN TO SPARKS STRUCK FROM QUARTZ CRYSTALS IN THE DARK, ALBEIT ON A MUCH GRANDER SCALE.

PSYCHIATRISTS DIAGNOSE UFOs AS HALLUCINATIONS, FANTASIES, DELUSIONS, PSYCHOSES, AND OTHER MENTAL ABERRATIONS.

MOST PROBABLY INDUCED BY CHILDHOOD SEXUAL TRAUMA — OR POOR POTTY TRAINING.

TO AN OPTOMETRIST, THE UFO IS A SURE SIGN OF CONTINUED BUSINESS.

HERE, TRY *THESE* — YOU'LL SEE *EVERYTHING* CLEARLY!

FOR HOAXERS, UFOs CAN MEAN QUICK CASH FOR THE INVARIABLY BLURRY PHOTO.

HOLD THAT DAMN HUBCAP *STILL*, WILLYA?

FISHIN' LINE'S SO *THICK*, MAN, IT'S *CATCHIN' THE WIND!*

AS FAR AS TABLOID "JOURNALISTS" ARE CONCERNED, UFOs ARE ELVIS-FATHERING LITTLE GREEN GODSENDS WHO REGULARLY VISIT THE WHITE HOUSE.

WEEKLY GROCERY GASPER
ALIENS IN OPRAH'S FRIDGE
LIVING ON HEALTHY LEFTOVERS

HEY, I PAID TWO SOURCES.

MORE "RESPECTABLE" JOURNALISTS TREAT UFOs AS OBJECTS OF VIRULENT RIDICULE.

IT'S ALL *BUNKUM FROM DRUNKS* — OUR GOVERNMENT SOURCES *SAY SO!*

PRESS

TO PIONEERING PSYCHOLOGIST CARL JUNG, UFOs WERE EVIDENCE OF ARCHETYPES — SYMBOLS OF UNCONSCIOUS THOUGHTS AND FANTASIES.

THEY'RE MYTHS MADE PHYSICALLY REAL — BUT DON'T ASK *ME* HOW!

FOR BEDEVILED WORLD WAR II PILOTS — ON BOTH SIDES — UFOs CAME IN THE FORM OF MYSTERIOUS BALLS OF LIGHT DUBBED "FOO FIGHTERS."

ACH! DER ALLIES HAFF DEVELOPED A NEW SECRET VEAPON!

LOOK OUT! ANOTHER NEWFANGLED *NAZI INVENTION!*

TODAY'S TECHNO-BUFFS ARE ALSO CONVINCED THAT UFOs ARE ACTUALLY SECRET WEAPONS OF A TERRESTRIAL KIND.

AREA 51
THIS AREA DOES NOT EXIST

HOO-*WEE* — TALK ABOUT YOUR *STEALTH AIRCRAFT, BABY!*

BUT THE MODERN MILITARY INSISTS THAT UFOs "CONSTITUTE NO THREAT TO NATIONAL SECURITY." BUT IS THAT WHAT THEY REALLY THINK? VARIOUS GOVERNMENT AGENCIES HAVE CONTRADICTINGLY DESCRIBED UFOs AS A PHENOMENON THAT IS "NON-EXISTENT," BUT ALSO "OF THE GREATEST IMPORTANCE."

NO THREAT TO *WHOSE* SECURITY?

THEY SAY THAT UFOs ARE SOMETHING THAT SHOULD BE "RIDICULED AND IGNORED," BUT WARN THAT IF "STRICT GUIDELINES GOVERNING ENCOUNTER REPORTS" ARE NOT FOLLOWED, "A $10,000 FINE AND TEN YEARS IMPRISONMENT" COULD BE LEVIED.

DOWN-TO-EARTH ASTRONOMERS SEE NOTHING BUT NATURAL OCCURRENCES.

MORE OF THOSE *ANOMALOUS* METEORS SWOOPING AROUND THE MOON AND ZIGZAGGING DOWN TOWARD *MACHU PICCHU!*

OOPS — TWO METEORS SPLITTING OFF, ONE FOR *EASTER ISLAND*, THE OTHER FOR *STONEHENGE!*

TO ANCIENT ROMAN CENTURIONS, FLYING SAUCERS WERE "BURNING SHIELDS STREAKING THROUGH THE SKY."

WHILE, TO CONTEMPORARY SCI-FI GEEKS, THEY ARE BUG-EYED MONSTERS HELLBENT ON WAR-OF-THE-WORLD CONQUEST.

PARANOID CONSPIRACY THEORISTS (WISE MEN?) SEE UFOs AS PROOF OF SINISTER PLOTS AND COVERT COVER-UPS.

IT'S A *COSMIC WATERGATE!* THE CATTLE-MUTILATING CIA HAS BEEN IN CAHOOTS WITH THE ZETA RETICULANS FOR *DECADES!*

INDEED, TO THE CIA, FBI, NSA, ONI, ATD, MI-6, KGB, AND ALL THE OTHER ALPHABET SOUP INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES, UFOs ARE THE SUBJECT OF VOLUMINOUS REPORTS, STUDIES, PROJECTS, DOCUMENTS, AND DOSSIERS--

--FEW OF WHICH OFFICIALLY EXIST AND NONE OF WHICH HAVE EVER BEEN FULLY DECLASSIFIED—— OFTEN IN OPEN CONTEMPT OF THE FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT.

PROJECT SIGMA

CRASH RETRIEVALS (UPDATE)

MAJ... IET

PROJECT BLUE BOLT

ABOVE TOP SECRET

PROJECT SIGN

EYES ONLY

PROJECT GARNET

BLUE BOOK REPORT 13

PROJECT GLEEM

OPERATION DREAMLAND

CLASSIFI...

MAJESTIC-12 BRIEFING FOR THE PRESIDENT

MAJIC CLEARANCE

AS FOR POLITICIANS, THEY SEE UFOs AS NOTHING BUT NO-WIN HOT POTATOES.

HERE—— *YOU* OPEN THE CLASSIFIED FILES!

NO—— YOU!

DEMO

GOP

TO THE SADISTIC (AND USUALLY MISOGYNISTIC) CRETINS IN CHARGE OF HISTORY'S VARIOUS INQUISITIONS AND WITCHHUNTS, UFOs WERE OCCULT PROOF OF STEAMY AFFAIRS WITH THAT SUPERNATURAL STUD NAMED SATAN.

WITCH-LIGHTS—— IT'S *SORCERY!* DRAG THAT DEVIL'S DAUGHTER FROM YON HOUSE AND *BURN HER AT THE STAKE!*

BUT ONLY *AFTER* WE STRIP-SEARCH HER FOR A THIRD NIPPLE AND DEMON HICKEYS, *RIGHT?*

GLOOM AND DOOM WORRYWARTS, ALARMISTS, AND END-TIMERS ALWAYS INTERPRET UFOs AS SIGNS OF THE LOOMING APOCALYPSE.

OH *NO*—— IT'S EXACTLY THE TEN-THOUSANDTH "PORTENT IN THE SKY" SINCE I WAS *BORN!*

THE END IS *NIGH!*

TO FOLKLORISTS, "ALIENS" ARE NOTHING BUT MODERN MYTHS — THE SPACE AGE INCARNATION OF FAIRIES, GOBLINS, GNOMES, TROLLS, BROWNIES, DJINNS, AND ANY NUMBER OF OTHER ENTITIES FROM THE PAST.

INDEED, THE WEE FOLK HAVE BEEN ABDUCTING DISORIENTED HUMANS TO OTHERWORLDLY "FAIRY RINGS", DISC-LIKE MOUNDS, AND "UNDERGROUND BASES" FOR CENTURIES.

RESEARCHERS OF "NEAR DEATH EXPERIENCES" SUSPECT ALIEN ENTITIES MAY BE VISITORS FROM THE "AFTERLIFE"--

WAIT! I'M NOT DEAD YET!

--POSSIBLY "ANOTHER DIMENSION," THEY FEEL, IN WHICH "BEINGS OF LIGHT" MAY RESIDE.

IN REMOTE AREAS OF AFRICA, THINGS EMERGING FROM LANDED UFOs ARE THOUGHT TO BE "SPIRITS OF DEAD ANCESTORS" — WHILE AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINES INSIST THEY ARE "DWELLERS FROM THE DREAMTIME."

WHY DO *WE* GOTTA *WALKABOUT* — WHEN *THEY* GET TO *FLYABOUT*?

WESTERN DREAM RESEARCHERS PEG ALIENS TO BE A RESULT OF HYPNAGOGIC AND D HYPNOPOMPIC MENTAL STATES IN WHICH THE HALF-ASLEEP BRAIN HAS SURREAL VISIONS, LIKE THOSE INVOLVING WHAT THEY CALL "NIGHTMARE HAGS".

BOO!

FOR SMUGLY SUPERIOR "SKEPTICS" AND DEBUNKERS, UFOs ARE SIMPLY BORING AND MUNDANE.

MISIDENTIFICATIONS OF PERFECTLY ORDINARY THINGS — PLANES, SATELLITES, MOON-GLOWING GEESE, AND *VENUS ITSELF* RATHER THAN -SNICKER CHORTLE- *VISITORS* FROM VENUS.

TO UFO RESEARCHERS PRACTICING HYPNOTHERAPY ON THE SIDE, THE AERIAL OBJECTS ARE CLEARLY MOBILE LABORATORIES CREWED WITH OMNIPOTENT ALIEN ABDUCTORS.

THE ABDUCTION EPIDEMIC APPEARS TO INVOLVE WIDESPREAD GENERATIONAL GENETIC EXPERIMENTS AIMED TOWARD THE CREATION OF *HUMAN-ALIEN HYBRIDS*.

TO NO-NONSENSE ENGINEER, THE INERTIA-DEFYING HYPERSONIC PLATTERS REPRESENT EXOTIC TECHNOLOGY, POSING INTERESTING PROPULSION PROBLEMS TO PONDER.

EUREKA! A NUCLEAR-CHARGED ANTI-GRAVITY HARMONIC WAVEFORM *ENERGY SYSTEM!*

FOR SOME QUANTUM PHYSICISTS, U-FOLK COULD BE OUR OWN DESCENDANTS USING TIME MACHINES TO COME BACK AND VISIT US.

QUARKS TRAVEL THROUGH TIME ALL THE *TIME!*

WE ARE *YOU* — HARVESTING HEALTHY ANCESTRAL DNA TO BREAK THROUGH THE DEAD END TO WHICH WE HAVE EVOLVED IN THE *FAR FUTURE!*

CUT! THAT'S A *WRAP!*

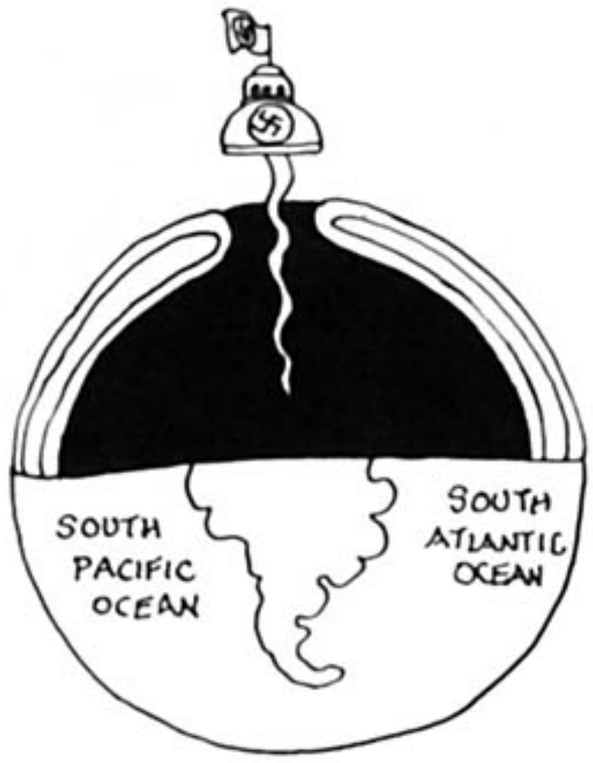
TO HOLLYWOOD AND THE BOOB TUBE, UFOs AND ALIENS ARE BOFFO BOX OFFICE AND BIG-TIME TV.

TO THE BLINDERED ROBOTIC EYES OF **NASA** (RECENT DISCOVERERS OF PROBABLE LIFE ON MARS), UFOs ARE SO FAR BEYOND THE CURRENT LEVEL OF TECHNOLOGY (THE SHUTTLE AND VARIOUS MALFUNCTIONING PROBES) THAT THEY CAN'T POSSIBLY BELIEVE THEY EXIST.

NASA

ALIEN MICROBES, *YES* — HUMANOIDS, *NO!*

THAT'S WHAT *YOU* THINK!



AND TO STILL OTHERS, UFO PEOPLE AND THEIR CRAFT ARE ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING — SECRET DESCENDANTS OF SUNKEN ATLANTIS, ARYANS FROM THE HOLLOW EARTH, INTERDIMENSIONAL VEHICLES, LEFTOVER NAZI DEVICES... GET THE PICTURE?

THE LIST GOES ON FOREVER — AS EACH BEHOLDER'S EYE SEES SOMETHING DIFFERENT. AND IF UFOs ARE WHATEVER WE *MAKE* OF THEM, WE MIGHT AS WELL BE BLIND MEN GROPING AN ELEPHANT — *NEVER* DISCERNING THE TRUTH.

YET IN ONE SENSE WE KNOW *PRECISELY* WHAT UFOs ARE — THEY ARE *MIRRORS*, REFLECTING EACH BEHOLDER'S INDIVIDUAL BELIEFS AND PERSONAL WORLDVIEW.



SO ASK YOURSELF: IF AND WHEN YOU ENCOUNTER THE SHINY FACE OF THE UNKNOWN... WHAT WILL *YOU* SEE?

CHAPTER THREE

IMPOSSIBLE ENTITIES

Much of this chapter may prove only temporarily weird, since many of today's "impossible" cryptozoological creatures could well become tomorrow's "mere" animals. The existence of "living fossils," for example — such as dinosaurs in the Congo — is hardly out of the question. The same holds true for mystery primates like Bigfoot and Yeti — and for aquatic "monsters" like Nessie, whether ultimately identified as plesiosaurs or presently unknown species of giant slugs and eels. But on the other hand, what do we make of Kentucky goblins, Men in Black, Mothman, and the Goatsucker? It is difficult to imagine niches in the natural scheme of things for such bizarre entities. And even Sasquatch and the Loch Ness Monster, for that matter, may prove to be far weirder than most of us can imagine...

CRYPTO-CRITTERS!

HOODOO VOODOO

CRYPTOZOOLOGY IS THE STUDY OF MYSTERY ANIMALS — OR "CRYPTIDS" — WHOSE EXISTENCE IS SUGGESTED BUT NOT PROVEN BY VARYING DEGREES OF EVIDENCE.

HEREWITH A BRIEF TOUR THROUGH THE BESTIARY OF FORMER AND CURRENT--

SEVEN YEARS AFTER NATURALIST GEORGES CUVIER ANNOUNCED THAT "THERE IS LITTLE HOPE OF DISCOVERING NEW SPECIES OF LARGE QUADRUPEDS," HE WAS FORCED TO DEAL WITH THE WHITE-BACKED TAPIR OF INDIA.

NOTHING NEW UNDER THE SUN, EH?

SIMILARLY, THE EXISTENCE OF THE PIG-EATING KOMODO DRAGON (WORLD'S LARGEST LIZARD AT TEN FEET) WAS DENIED UNTIL 1912, THE GIRAFFE-RELATED OKAPI WENT UNRECOGNIZED UNTIL 1900, AND CHINA'S GIANT PANDA BECAME KNOWN (TO THE WESTERN WORLD) ONLY IN 1937.

THESE AND MANY OTHER "ABSURD MYTHOLOGICAL CREATURES" (AS WELL AS THE GORILLA, HIPPO, AND ORANGUTAN) ACHIEVED REALITY ONLY AFTER BITING WESTERN SCIENCE IN THE BUTT.

THIS BATRACHIAN BEHEMOTH — THE GOLIATH FROG — CAN WEIGH UP TO EIGHT POUNDS.

HARD TO MISS, YET IT WAS OVERLOOKED BY THE EXPERTS UNTIL 1906.

EVEN MORE AMAZING IS HOW THE PA BEUK — THE WORLD'S LARGEST FRESHWATER FISH — ESCAPED ZOOLOGICAL DETECTION UNTIL 1930--

--WHILE THE OCEAN'S MEGAMOUTH SHARK WAS UNKNOWN AND UNSUSPECTED UNTIL 1976.

THE 400-MILLION-YEAR-OLD LOBE-FINNED COELACANTH WAS THOUGHT EXTINCT FOR 64 MILLION YEARS — AS LONG AS THE DINOSAURS — UNTIL MADAGASCAR FISHERMEN STARTED SNAGGING THEM IN 1938. THEIR TASTE--?

MUSKY, BUT NOT BAD.

CROCODILES HAVE IMPRESSIVELY SURVIVED SINCE THE DAYS OF THE DINOSAURS, BUT THE TUATARA OF NEW ZEALAND ACTUALLY *PREDATES* DINOSAURS. ONE SPECIES WAS NOT EVEN KNOWN UNTIL 1989.

BETTER LATE THAN NEVER.

ALLEGEDLY RESIDING NOT FAR FROM SAUROPOD-SURVIVOR MOKELE-MBEMBE'S AFRICAN STOMPING GROUNDS, THE STEGOSAURUS-LIKE MBIELU-MBIELU-MBIELU IS DESCRIBED AS "ANIMAL WITH PLANKS GROWING FROM ITS BACK."

("STEGOSAURUS" MEANS "SHINGLED LIZARD.")

PERSISTENTLY REPORTED FOR CENTURIES, PTEROSAUR-LIKE CREATURES SOARING THE TEXAS SKIES COULD WELL ACCOUNT FOR NATIVE AMERICAN "THUNDERBIRD MYTHS."

ACTUAL BIRDS — HUGE AND PREDATORY — HAVE BEEN ACCUSED OF SNATCHING LIVESTOCK AND EVEN CHILDREN ALL OVER THE WORLD.

SINCE TODAY'S LARGEST KNOWN BIRD IS THE RELATIVELY PUNY CONDOR, THESE RAPTORS — IF REAL — MAY BE SOME PREHISTORIC SURVIVOR, SOMETHING LIKE THIS SPECIMEN OF *ARGENTAVIS MAGNFICENS*.

ANOTHER "LONG EXTINCT" CREATURE AND ERSTWHILE CRYPTID, THE GOBLIN SHARK, BECAME A VERIFIED "LIVING FOSSIL" ONLY AT THE TURN OF THE 20TH CENTURY.

ONE OF THE LEAST PROBABLE PREHISTORIC SURVIVORS IS THE NEW GUINEA **ROW**, AN ABSURD AMALGAM OF DIPLODOCUS, TRICERATOPS, AND STEGOSAURUS.

\+ + =

INTERESTINGLY, THE RIDICULOUS **ROW** HAS BEEN REPORTED ONLY BY WHITE SETTLERS, NEVER BY NEW GUINEA NATIVES.

FAR MORE PLAUSIBLE ARE SOUTH AMERICAN AND AFRICAN REPORTS OF GIANT AGGRESSIVE SNAKES REACHING LENGTHS OF 100 FEET AND MORE.

WHEN IT COMES TO AQUATIC SNAKES, SCIENCE IS APPARENTLY UNABLE TO LEARN A LESSON, STILL SCOFFING AT THE THOUSANDS OF "SEA SERPENTS" AND "SEA MONSTERS" REPORTED THROUGHOUT HISTORY.

ALTHOUGH MANY OF THESE SIGHTINGS ARE PROBABLE MISIDENTIFICATIONS OF GIANT EELS AND SQUIDS, THE COELACANTH AND GOBLIN SHARK PROVE THAT SOME SEA MONSTERS COULD EASILY BE PREHISTORIC SURVIVORS.

THE "SACRAMENTO SEA MONSTER" OF 1877, FOR EXAMPLE, LOOKED AS MUCH LIKE THE MARINE DINOSAUR TYLOSAURUS AS FRESHWATER NESSIE RESEMBLES A PLESIOSAUR.

HARD TO IMAGINE, YOU SAY, EVEN IN THE VASTNESS OF THE OCEANS OR THE IMPENETRABLE DEPTHS OF LOCH NESS?

THEN CONSIDER THIS: FOUND AND PHOTOGRAPHED ONLY IN 1992, GIANT ELEPHANTS IN NEPAL MAY REPRESENT SURVIVING **STEGODONTS**, SUPPOSEDLY LONG EXTINCT.

AND BACK IN THE OCEAN, WHILE THE MONSTROUS KRAKEN REMAINS MIRED IN MYTH, THE NEARLY IDENTICAL GIANT SQUID IS NOW A FORMER CRYPTID, GRADUATING TO SCIENTIFIC LEGITIMACY IN 1849 UNDER THE NAME **ARCHITEUTHIS**, AND MEASURING UP TO SIXTY FEET IN LENGTH.

THE LAST THYLACINE (OR "TASMANIAN TIGER-WOLF") SUPPOSEDLY DIED IN CAPTIVITY IN 1936, YET SOMETHING VERY SIMILAR IS STUBBORNLY REPORTED (AND FUZZILY PHOTOGRAPHED) IN THE WILD TO THIS VERY DAY.

THE WORLD'S LARGEST BEETLE, THE TITAN LONGHORN, WAS CONSIDERED EXTINCT UNTIL 1910, WHEN A FRESHLY EATEN SPECIMEN WAS DISCOVERED INSIDE THE STOMACH OF A FISH.

32¢

GETTING WEIRDER, THE "ALPINE TATZELWURM" HAS BEEN REPORTED FOR CENTURIES — ELUDING CAPTURE FOR JUST AS LONG.

(AND PROBABLY FOREVER.)

A BIZARRE 1970s OUTBREAK OF "PHANTOM KANGAROOS" IN WISCONSIN CAME COMPLETE WITH MULTIPLE EYE-WITNESS REPORTS, VERIFIED FOOTPRINTS, AND EVEN BLURRY PHOTOS — BUT NO ZOO ESCAPES.

XING

A CLEAR PHOTO OF "LOYS APE" TAKEN ON THE BORDER OF VENEZUELA AND COLOMBIA REPRESENTS EITHER A NEW PRIMATE SPECIES OR A HOAX CREATED BY ALTERING THE CARCASS OF A SPIDER MONKEY.

WASHED UP ON A FLORIDA BEACH IN 1896, THE "ST. AUGUSTINE GLOBSTER" REMAINS ON THE BOOKS AS FIVE TONS OF MYSTERY MUSH — AND THE "NEW ZEALAND GLOBSTER" OF 1968 WAS EVEN BIGGER AND MESSIER...

...WHILE 1988'S EXTREMELY TOUGH "BERMUDA BLOB" DULLED FOUR PATHOLOGIST KNIVES BEFORE SURRENDERING A FINGER-SIZED SPECIMEN OF STILL-UNIDENTIFIED TISSUE.

FINALLY, IF "YETI" AND "BIGFOOT" ARE SURVIVING SPECIMENS OF SUPPOSEDLY EXTINCT GIGANTOPITHECUS, AS MANY RESEARCHERS FEEL, IT'S HARDLY SURPRISING THAT THEY AVOID HUMAN CONTACT.

16"

ACCORDING TO ANTHROPOLOGISTS, GIGANTOPITHECUS WAS WIPED OUT BY THE SMALLER BUT MORE AGGRESSIVE PITHECANTROPUS — OUR ANCESTORS.

AND YET, IF CRYPTOZOOLOGY'S PAST IS ANY INDICATION, BIGFOOT — AND NESSIE TOO — MAY SOMEDAY SHARE ZOO SPACE WITH THE TAPIR AND THE OKAPI.

FRANKLY, I PREFER THEM RIGHT WHERE THEY ARE, LURKING IN THE SHADOWS OF TWILIGHT REALITY, FORCING US TO THINK ... AND *WONDER.*

WHETHER UNRECOGNIZED SIMIAN SPECIES OR WANDERER FROM ANOTHER REALM, THE ELUSIVE BIGFOOT IS NOT **ALWAYS** SHY ABOUT MEETING OTHERS, AS WITNESSED IN THIS WILD YARN ~...

THE BIGFOOT SLEEPING BAG SNATCH!

MICA MOUNTAIN, BRITISH COLUMBIA, 1955: A PROLONGED ENCOUNTER WITH A FEMALE BIGFOOT ENDS WHEN WILLIAM ROE CANNOT SHOOT.

IT'S TOO ***HUMAN*** ~... I'D NEVER ***FORGIVE*** MYSELF IF I ***KILLED*** IT!

BUT NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS OF ROE'S EXPERIENCE BROUGHT FORTH ANOTHER WITNESS, 64-YEAR-OLD ALBERT OSTMAN ~... WHO TOLD THIS AMAZING TALE.

YOU WERE ***KIDNAPPED*** AND HELD ***CAPTIVE*** BY A WHOLE ***FAMILY*** OF BIGFEET?!

YEP, MORE'N THIRTY YEARS AGO.

OSTMAN'S ACCOUNT OF HIS 1924 ADVENTURE BEGAN WITH THE HIRING OF AN INDIAN GUIDE TO SEARCH FOR A LOST GOLD MINE NEAR BRITISH COLUMBIA'S TOBA INLET.

THERE ARE MANY ***SASQUATCH*** AROUND HERE ~... ***BIG*** PEOPLE WITH ***HAIR ALL OVER THEIR BODIES.***

DO TELL.

HAVING DELIVERED PROSPECTOR OSTMAN TO THE DESIRED VICINITY, THE INDIAN GUIDE DEPARTED ~...

I WILL COME FOR YOU IN ***THREE WEEKS.***

~... LEAVING OSTMAN TO SET UP CAMP ON HIS OWN.

ON THE SECOND MORNING, OSTMAN FOUND FOOD MISSING FROM HIS PACK ~... EVEN THOUGH IT WAS STILL HANGING ON A POLE WELL OUT OF SCAVENGER REACH.

HMPH!

THAT NIGHT, HE GOT INTO HIS SLEEPING BAG WITH THE PACK AND HIS RIFLE, DETERMINED TO KEEP WATCH. ~...

ZZZZ

~... BUT HE SOON FELL ASLEEP.

OSTMAN WAS JERKED AWAKE WHEN SOMETHING SNATCHED HIM UP "LIKE A PUPPY IN A PAPER BAG."

HUH~~? WHUZZAT?!

AT FIRST HE THOUGHT HE WAS BEING SLUNG OVER THE BACK OF A HORSE ~~ BUT THEN, HE SAID, "I COULD FEEL WHOEVER IT WAS, WAS **WALKING**."

UNFF!

SCRUNCHED IN A BALL, HIS LEGS NUMB AND HIS BACK GOUGED BY HIS PACK OF CANNED GOODS, OSTMAN CLUNG TO THE RIFLE FOR FOR WHAT HE ESTIMATED WAS THREE HOURS~~

OUCH! OOTCH!

~~ MUCH OF IT BEING DRAGGED OVER ROUGH TERRAIN.

FINALLY HIS ABDUCTOR DUMPED HIM AND BEGAN "CHATTERING" WITH THREE OTHER BEINGS.

UBBA-GLUB!

OOOF!

SH'L-U-M'P!

WITH THE WIND KNOCKED OUT OF HIM AND HIS LEGS CRAMPED UP, THE PROSPECTOR CONFRONTED HIS CAPTORS.

AAAHH!

AS DAWN BROKE, OSTMAN REALIZED HE WAS IN THE PRESENCE OF FOUR HAIRY HUMANOIDS ~~ TWO ADULTS AND TWO "YOUNG ONES," EACH PAIR MALE AND FEMALE.

YOU MUST BE THOSE "SASQUATCH" THE GUIDE WAS TALKIN' ABOUT!

CALLING THEM A "FAMILY," OSTMAN DESCRIBED THE YOUNG ONES AS BEING AFRAID OF HIM, THE ADULT FEMALE "OBVIOUSLY DISPLEASED" WITH HIS PRESENCE, AND THE ADULT MALE "THE ONE I HAD TO WORRY ABOUT."

WHEN HIS HIRSUTE HOSTS DRIFTED AWAY, OSTMAN DISCOVERED HE WAS IN A TEN-ACRE BASIN SURROUNDED BY MOUNTAINS ~...

EXIT!

~...WITH A V-SHAPED OPENING IN THE WALL THROUGH WHICH HE MUST HAVE BEEN CARRIED.

IT WAS AT THIS OPENING ~ THE ONLY WAY OUT ~ THAT THE ADULT MALE KEPT GUARD, COUNTERING OSTMAN'S EVERY APPROACH WITH THE SAME GESTURE AND A SINGLE WORD.

SOKA, SOKA!

OSTMAN BELIEVED HE HAD BECOME A BIGFOOT *FAMILY PET.*

ONE DAY DURING HIS ORDEAL, OSTMAN CHANCED UPON A SHELF IN THE BASIN'S EAST WALL ~... WHERE THE TWO BIGFOOT KIDS WERE SLEEPING, HE SAID, ON "BLANKETS WOVEN FROM CEDAR BARK."

SNUG AS TWO BUGS IN A RUG!

GRADUALLY LOSING ITS FEAR, THE YOUNG MALE INITIATED A SORT OF FRIENDSHIP WITH OSTMAN, OFFERING HIM SOME FRESH-PLUCKED ROOTS.

IN RETURN, OSTMAN GAVE HIM SOME SNUFF ~...

NO! DON'T EAT IT!

OOK?!

THIS GAVE OSTMAN AN IDEA.

A FEW DAYS LATER, OSTMAN SAW HIS PLOY SUCCEED AS BIGFOOT MADE LUNCH OF THE STUFF.

OOK!

DOWN THE HATCH!

PAPA BIGFOOT HIT THE GROUND, ROLLING AROUND IN SEVERE DISTRESS AND "SQUEALING LIKE A STUCK PIG."

SKWEEEEE!

IT WAS THE CHANCE OSTMAN HAD WAITED FOR.

HE SNATCHED UP HIS THINGS AND BOLTED FOR THE VALLEY OPENING ~...

~~WITH THE ADULT FEMALE IN HOT PURSUIT, GIVING HIM SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE WISDOM OF SNUFFING MRS. BIGFOOT'S SPOUSE.

RUAAAHH!

YOW!

BUT HE SHOOK HER PURSUIT WITH A WELL-PLACED SHOT TO THE ROCK WALL~~

BEEYANG

PTING

KRAK

BARONG OD!

YEEEK!

~~AND THEN RAN LIKE HELL FOR HOURS ~~

~~ESCAPING WITH A FANTASTIC TALE HE WOULD NOT TELL FOR THIRTY YEARS.

TRUE OR NOT, OSTMAN'S FIRST-PERSON ACCOUNT INSPIRED UNDERGROUND CARTOONIST R. CRUMB TO CREATE A SPICED-UP VERSION ENTITLED "WHITEMAN MEETS BIGFOOT."

HUP!

AS AL SAID IN 1957:

IN 1924 THERE WERE FOUR SASQUATCHES, BUT IT MIGHT BE ONLY *TWO* NOW. THE OLD MAN AND THE OLD LADY MIGHT BE *DEAD*.

AND IF THEY'RE NOT, AL HIMSELF CERTAINLY *IS*.

FOR THIRTEEN PARANORMAL MONTHS IN 1966 AND 1967, THE WEST VIRGINIA TOWN OF POINT PLEASANT WAS ANYTHING BUT.

IT WAS, IN FACT, A TIME AND PLACE OF CHILLING WEIRDNESS EARMARKED BY--

THE MOTHMAN VISITATIONS

A QUIET TOWN OF 6,000 IN THE OHIO RIVER VALLEY, POINT PLEASANT BOASTED DOZENS OF CHURCHES BUT NO BARS. SILVER BRIDGE, BUILT IN 1928, SPANNED THE RIVER SEPARATING WEST VIRGINIA FROM OHIO.

FORESHADOWING OUR MAIN STORY, A SOCIALLY PROMINENT WEST VIRGINIA WOMAN AND HER FATHER WERE DRIVING ON ROUTE 2 IN 1961 --

-- WHEN THEY CAME UPON WHAT SEEMED TO BE A MAN IN THE ROAD AHEAD.

BUT AS THEY DREW CLOSER, THEY SAW A GRAY FIGURE MUCH LARGER THAN A MAN — AND WHEN IT UNFOLDED A PAIR OF WINGS, THE WOMAN SAID, "THEY PRACTICALLY FILLED THE WHOLE ROAD."

"IT ALMOST LOOKED LIKE A SMALL AIRPLANE."

AFTER THE THING "TOOK OFF STRAIGHT UP," SHE CONTINUED, "I STEPPED ON THE GAS AND RACED OUT OF THERE. WE WERE BOTH TERRIFIED."

SEVERAL YEARS LATER, AN EXCITED SEVEN-YEAR-OLD RAN TO TELL HIS MOTHER:

MOMMY, I JUST SAW AN *ANGEL* — A *MAN WITH WINGS!*

AND, ALTHOUGH THERE WERE OTHER MID-SIXTIES REPORTS OF "GIANT BIRDS" AND "GIANT BUTTERFLIES" IN THE AREA, IT WAS ALL MERE PRELUDE — WITH THE REAL STORY SPLASHING IN 1966...

AT 10:30 PM ON NOVEMBER 15, 1966, NEWELL PARTRIDGE'S TV ABRUPTLY WENT HAYWIRE. "A HERRINGBONE PATTERN APPEARED," HE SAID, "AND THE SET STARTED A LOUD WHINING NOISE."

AT THE SAME TIME, HIS DOG BANDIT HOWLED OUTSIDE

WHEN PARTRIDGE INVESTIGATED, HIS FLASHLIGHT PICKED UP "TWO RED CIRCLES, OR EYES, WHICH LOOKED LIKE BICYCLE REFLECTORS." AND JUST AS THE SIGHT WAS GIVING HIM "COLD CHILLS"--

--HIS DOG SNARLED AND LUNGED FOR THE TWO RED ORBS.

BANDIT! BANDIT, COME BACK HERE!

BUT THE DOG DISOBEYED...AND PROBABLY DIED.

ONE HOUR LATER, NEARBY IN WHAT WAS CALLED THE "TNT AREA"—AN ABANDONED WW II MUNITIONS COMPLEX — A MAN AND HIS WIFE CAME UPON TWO RED-GLOWING SPOTS ATTACHED TO SOMETHING LARGE.

"IT WAS SHAPED LIKE A MAN," ROGER SCARBERRY LATER TOLD POLICE, "BUT BIGGER, MAYBE SEVEN FEET TALL."

"IT HAD WINGS FOLDED AGAINST ITS BACK AND ITS EYES WERE HYPNOTIC. FOR A MINUTE WE COULD ONLY STARE."

GRAY IN COLOR WITH MANLIKE LEGS, BUT NO VISIBLE HEAD (ITS GLOWING EYES SEEMINGLY SET IN ITS CHEST), THE CREATURE THEN TURNED AND "ODDLY SHUFFLED" TOWARD THE DOOR OF AN OLD GENERATOR PLANT.

ROGER SCARBERRY HAD SEEN MORE THAN ENOUGH.

HE PUNCHED THE GAS FOR POINT PLEASANT, PASSING A DEAD DOG ALONG THE ROAD (POSSIBLY POOR BANDIT).

BUT THE HORRIFYING ENCOUNTER HAD JUST BEGUN, AS LINDA SCARBERRY WAS FIRST TO NOTICE--

IT'S FOLLOWING US!

ACCORDING TO ROGER, THE WINGED MONSTROSITY KEPT EFFORTLESS PACE AT SPEEDS UP TO 100 MPH, EMITTING WEIRD SHRIEKING SOUNDS, BUT NEVER ONCE FLAPPING ITS WINGS.

SHREEEEEE

IT LEFT — OR DISAPPEARED — ONLY WHEN THE CAR REACHED THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN.

BY THE TIME SHERIFF'S DEPUTY MILLARD HALSTEAD INVESTIGATED, THE BIZARRE HUMANOID WAS LONG GONE — AND SO WAS THE DEAD DOG. BUT FROM HALSTEAD'S POLICE RADIO THERE SUDDENLY CAME THE SOUNDS OF "A SPEEDED-UP PHONOGRAPH RECORD

THANKS TO MARY HYRE, REPORTER FOR THE ATHENS, OHIO MESSENGER AND LOCAL ASSOCIATED PRESS STRINGER, THE STORY SPLASHED WORLDWIDE.

AND BY THE NEXT DAY, THE DESOLATE "TNT AREA" — PERFECT AS A MONSTER HAUNT AND BORDERED BY A 2500-ACRE ANIMAL PRESERVE — WAS MOBBED BY GAWKERS AND PRESS ALIKE.

THAT NIGHT TWO FAMILIES, THE WAMSLEYS AND THE BENNETTS, DROVE OUT TO VISIT THEIR FRIENDS, THE THOMASES, AT THEIR ISOLATED HOME IN THE "TNT AREA.

RAYMOND WAMSLEY DECIDED TO GIVE THE THOMASES A SCARE BY PLAYING MONSTER AT THEIR WINDOW, BUT BEFORE HE COULD DO SO--

-- THE REAL MONSTER APPEARED NEAR THEIR CAR. "IT ROSE UP SLOWLY," MRS. BENNETT SAID, "A GRAY THING...WITH TERRIBLE GLOWING RED EYES."

WHEN THE HORRIFIC APPARITION ROSE TO ITS FULL HEIGHT, MRS. BENNETT WAS SO TRANSFIXED THAT SHE DROPPED HER TWO-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER TO THE GROUND.

"THE THING HAD HER IN SOME KIND OF TRANCE," MR. WAMSLEY SAID. "SHE COULDN'T MOVE."

THE PANICKED VISITORS SCOOPED UP THE CHILD, RUSHED INTO THE HOUSE AND CALLED FOR HELP — AS HUGE GLOWING EYES STARED IN THROUGH THE WINDOWS.

BUT THE THING SHUFFLED OFF LONG BEFORE THE POLICE ARRIVED.

TRAUMATIZED AND FORCED TO SEEK MEDICAL HELP, MRS. BENNETT WAS LATER HAUNTED BY RECURRING DREAMS AND BELIEVED THE CREATURE REPEATEDLY CAME TO HER OWN HOUSE.

SHREEEEEEEEE

"I CAN FEEL IT," SHE SAID, "AND I'VE HEARD IT — A TERRIBLE SOUND THAT GOES RIGHT THROUGH YOUR BONES, LIKE A WOMAN SCREAMING."

NOW THE STORY REALLY EXPLODED — AND THE CREATURE, FIRST CALLED "THE BIRD", WAS RENAMED "MOTHMAN" AFTER A CAMPY VILLAIN ON THE "BATMAN" TV SHOW.

MORE THAN A HUNDRED PEOPLE WOULD EVENTUALLY CLAIM ENCOUNTERS WITH MOTHMAN AND THEIR DESCRIPTIONS WERE REMARKABLY CONSISTENT:

LARGER THAN A MAN, GRAY WITH (USUALLY) BATLIKE WINGS, NO HEAD, MANLIKE LEGS, LARGE SELF-LUMINOUS EYES, "SHUFFLING" OR "WADDLING" GAIT, "SHRIEKING" OR "SQUEAKING" CRIES, AND IMPOSSIBLE FLYING SPEEDS WITH NO WING MOVEMENT.

ALSO CONSISTENT WAS MOTHMAN'S EFFECT ON WITNESSES — SUCH AS VIRGINIA THOMAS, WHO FOUND HERSELF PARALYZED. "IT TOOK OVER MY THINKING," SHE SAID. "TOOK IT AWAY FROM ME."

ROGER SCARBERRY WAS LATER PLAGUED BY DREAMS OF A MENACING EYEBALL IN THE SKY.

STRANGELY ENOUGH, WEST VIRGINIA HAD HOSTED ANOTHER GLOWING-EYED ENTITY BACK IN 1952 — "THE FLATWOODS MONSTER."

DESCRIBED AS "TEN FEET TALL WITH A BRIGHT GREEN BODY AND BLOOD-RED FACE," THE BEING SPORTED A SNAZZY COLLAR "LIKE THE ACE OF SPADES."

AS FOR MOTHMAN, 18-YEAR-OLD CONNIE CARPENTER WAS THE FIRST AND ONLY WITNESS TO CLEARLY SEE THE THING'S FACE — ON NOVEMBER 27, 1966 — WHEN IT STREAKED STRAIGHT AT HER WINDSHIELD IN BROAD DAYLIGHT.

"IT WAS HORRIBLE," SHE SAID, " LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A MOVIE. THOSE EYES WERE FIXED ON ME. IT'S A WONDER I DIDN'T HAVE A WRECK." THE CREATURE VEERED OFF ONLY AT THE LAST SECOND.

CONNIE CARPENTER WAS ALSO THE ONLY MOTHMAN WITNESS TO SUFFER **KLIEG CONJUNCTIVITIS** — THE ULTRAVIOLET RAY "EYEBURN" COMMONLY REPORTED AFTER UFO SIGHTINGS.

AS USUAL, SKEPTICS WERE QUICK TO OFFER OTHER EXPLANATIONS FOR WHAT THE CREATURE COULD BE — SANDHILL CRANE, GIANT OWL, GLIDER, THE NATIVE AMERICAN "THUNDERBIRD", EVEN A SURVIVING PTERODACTYL — ALL OF WHICH WERE REJECTED BY THE WITNESSES.

ALSO AS USUAL, NONE OF THE ARMCHAIR DEBUNKERS ACTUALLY VISITED THE AREA.

ENTER JOHN KEEL, UFO AND PARANORMAL RESEARCHER, WHO IN DECEMBER OF 1966 DECIDED:

THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT WHAT'S GOING ON — GO INTO THE FIELD AND *INVESTIGATE FIRSTHAND.*

ALONG WITH THE SENSATIONALLY COVERED MOTHMAN SIGHTINGS, KEEL FOUND THAT THERE WERE ONGOING UFO SIGHTINGS IN THE POINT PLEASANT AREA — UNTIL THEN UNREPORTED IN THE PRESS.

TO KEEL, THE UFOs SEEMED LESS LIKE ALIEN SPACESHIPS THAN "MASSES OF ENERGY PLAYING GAMES WITH HUMAN MINDS."

SPOTTING A NUMBER OF UFOs HIMSELF, IN THE "TNT AREA" AND ELSEWHERE, KEEL BLINKED HIS FLASHLIGHT AT ONE--

HUNH!

--WHEREUPON THE NOCTURNAL LIGHT PROMPTLY BLINKED BACK.

WHEN KEEL USED MORSE CODE TO BEAM D-E-S-C-E-N-D, THE THING IMMEDIATELY DROPPED IN A WAFTING ZIG-ZAG — THE CLASSIC UFO "FALLING LEAF" DESCENT.

THE DEEPER KEEL DUG, THE MORE WEIRDNESS HE FOUND, RUNNING THE PARANORMAL GAMUT FROM EARLY ANIMAL MUTILATIONS ("SURGICAL INCISIONS, ALL BLOOD DRAINED") AND SIMPLE CROP CIRCLES (THEN CALLED "SAUCER NESTS")--

--TO POLTERGEIST ACTIVITY AND THE PRESENCE OF THOSE SINISTER BEINGS KNOWN AS "MEN IN BLACK."

ON FEBRUARY 22, 1967, HER EYE PROBLEMS GONE, CONNIE CARPENTER WAS APPROACHED BY A BLACK BUICK— TWENTY YEARS OLD, BUT SEEMINGLY BRAND-NEW. ASSUMING THE DRIVER NEEDED DIRECTIONS, SHE WENT TO THE CAR--

--AND WAS ABRUPTLY SEIZED BY THE DRIVER.

GET IN HERE!

AFTER A TERRIFYING STRUGGLE, CONNIE BROKE FREE, RAN HOME AND LOCKED HERSELF IN.

IN RESPONSE TO A LOUD KNOCK THE NEXT DAY, SHE FOUND A NOTE SLIPPED UNDER HER DOOR.

PRINTED IN BLOCK CAPITALS, IT READ: "BE CAREFUL, GIRL. I CAN GET YOU YET."

OTHER MOTHMAN AND UFO WITNESSES RECEIVED VISITS FROM "MEN IN BLACK" POSING AS CENSUS TAKERS, PHOTOGRAPHERS, AND BIBLE SALESMEN.

TELL ME WHAT YOU SAW.

YOU SAW NOTHING

TELL NO ONE WHAT YOU SAW.

OTHER WITNESSES WERE SUDDENLY CREEPED OUT BY HAYWIRE PHONES AND TVs, FLOATING BALLS OF LIGHT, ODD SMELLS, WEIRD BEEPINGS AND THUMPINGS, THE EERIE SOUNDS OF SPEEDED-UP PHONOGRAPHS, THE CRIES OF PHANTOM BABIES, LOCKED DOORS OPENING BY THEMSELVES, MOVING OR LEVITATING OBJECTS, AND OTHER POLTERGEIST MANIFESTATIONS.

Aint Misbehavin

ON JANUARY 19, 1967, TEETOTALER TAD JONES HAD A TWO-MINUTE ENCOUNTER WITH A METAL SPHERE HOVERING JUST ABOVE HIGHWAY 64 IN BROAD DAYLIGHT.

DULL ALUMINUM IN COLOR WITH A SMALL WINDOW, FOUR "LANDING LEGS WITH CASTER-LIKE WHEELS," AND A BOTTOM "PROPELLOR"; THE OBJECT EVENTUALLY ROSE OFF INTO THE SKY.

JONES FOUND A SINGED NOTE SLIPPED UNDER HIS DOOR THE FOLLOWING DAY. WHETHER PRANKSTERS OR "MiBs", THEIR SPELLING WAS "WANTING."

WE KNOW WHAT YOU HAVE SEEN AND WE KNOW THAT YOU HAVE TALKED YOU'D BETTER KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT!! YOU WANT BE WARNED AGAIN

JOHN KEEL BEGAN RECEIVING OPENED AND RESEALED MAIL, SOMETIMES CONTAINING XEROXES OF PERSONAL LETTERS STOLEN BY AGENTS UNKNOWN.

I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHY SO MANY UFO BUFFS ARE *PARANOID.*

INDEED.

KEEL'S FRIENDS RECEIVED CALLS FROM HIM WHICH HE'D NEVER MADE — AND HIS OWN PHONE, LATER FOUND TO HAVE TWO TAPS ON IT, BEGAN MAKING STRANGE NOISES AND CONVEYING EVEN STRANGER CALLS.

THIS IS *JOHN KEEL* SPEAKING!

MAY I SPEAK TO *JOHN KEEL?*

ONE CALL IN OCTOBER 1967 WAS FROM A SELF-PROFESSED "UFO ENTITY," WHO WARNED:

THERE WILL BE A MAJOR DISASTER ON THE *OHIO RIVER*. MANY WILL *DROWN*.

THE WEIRD VOICE PREDICTED THE TROUBLE WOULD OCCUR ON DECEMBER 15, 1967.

KEEL RELATED THE PREDICTION TO REPORTER MARY HYRE, WHO MENTIONED DREAMS OF PLEADING FACES AND CHRISTMAS PACKAGES FLOATING ON DARK WATERS.

VIRGINIA THOMAS, WHO HAD BEEN "PARALYZED AND HYPNOTIZED" BY MOTHMAN, WAS ALSO HAVING NIGHTMARES OF PEOPLE DROWNING IN THE OHIO RIVER.

ON A DRIVE TO LONG ISLAND, KEEL CHOSE A MOTEL AT RANDOM — ONLY TO FIND THAT HE WAS INEXPLICABLY EXPECTED.

WE HAVE A LOT OF *MESSAGES* FOR YOU, MR. KEEL.

VACANCIES

THE NOTES, KEEL SAYS, WERE ALL "NONSENSICAL."

FACED WITH A HUNDRED MOTHMAN WITNESSES AND THOUSANDS OF UFO SIGHTINGS IN THE SAME AREA, KEEL CONCLUDED THE TWO WERE CONNECTED — YET THERE WAS ONLY A SINGLE DIRECT LINK.

BACK ON MAY 19, 1967, TWO WOMEN SAW MOTHMAN RISE FROM A TREE TO "MEET A BIG RED LIGHT" HOVERING OVER THE "TNT AREA" — WHEREUPON THE UFO FLEW OFF TO THE NORTH.

AT EVENING RUSH HOUR ON DECEMBER 15, 1967 — THE DATE PROPHESIED FOR DISASTER AND 13 MONTHS TO THE DAY SINCE THE SCARBERRY SIGHTING — SILVER BRIDGE WAS PACKED WITH 31 VEHICLES --

-- MANY OF THEM BEARING CHRISTMAS SHOPPERS.

AT 5:05 PM, THE RICKETY SUSPENSION BRIDGE COLLAPSED — AND, JUST AS JOHN KEEL HAD BEEN WARNED, JUST AS MARY HYRE AND VIRGINIA THOMAS HAD DREAMED, FLOATING CHRISTMAS PACKAGES BROKE RESCUE WORKERS' HEARTS.

THE DEATH TOLL WAS AT LEAST 46 AND PERHAPS 52, WITH SIX MISSING PERSONS NEVER ACCOUNTED FOR.

JOHN KEEL PEGS POINT PLEASANT, WEST VIRGINIA AS A "WINDOW AREA"—A PLACE OFFERING GLIMPSES OF OTHER REALITIES.

SUCH WINDOW AREAS ARE PLAGUED (OR BLESSED) WITH UFO AND ENTITY SIGHTINGS, AS WELL AS ALL MANNER OF OTHER PARANORMAL ACTIVITY.

KEPT SECRET AT THE TIME, THE IGLOO-LIKE CONCRETE MOUNDS OF THE "TNT AREA" WERE USED TO STORE WASTE FROM AN OHIO NUCLEAR PLANT.

WAS POINT PLEASANT'S "WINDOW" SOMEHOW OPENED BY NUCLEAR RADIATION? OR DID STRANGE BEINGS OPEN THE WINDOW FROM THE OTHER SIDE, PERHAPS ATTRACTED OR ALARMED BY THE NUCLEAR WASTE? DID THESE BEINGS SOMEHOW CAUSE THE SILVER BRIDGE DISASTER?

IF NOT—AND IF THE NUKE WASTE WAS IRRELEVANT—WAS THERE SOME *OTHER* PURPOSE BEHIND THE MOTHMAN VISITATIONS? DID THE WEIRDNESS CONSTITUTE A PORTENT OF IMPENDING TRAGEDY? WERE THE DREAMS HYPNOTICALLY IMPLANTED?

CLAIMING "HUNDREDS" OF EVENTUAL MOTHMAN ENCOUNTERS, EARLY WITNESS LINDA SCARBERRY SAYS: "IT DOESN'T WANT TO HURT YOU. IT JUST WANTS TO COMMUNICATE."

IF SO, THE RESULTS WERE GARBLED AT BEST

IN ANY CASE, SIGHTINGS DWINDLED TO ZERO IN THE WAKE OF THE TRAGIC BRIDGE COLLAPSE.

WHETHER CONCERNED FRIEND OR INTIMIDATING FOE, MOTHMAN APPARENTLY DISAPPEARED... AT LEAST UNTIL THAT OTHERWORLDLY WINDOW IS OPENED AGAIN.

LET'S BRACE OURSELVES SHALL WE, AS WE EXAMINE THIS SCARY CHARACTER, CRYPTOZOOLOGY'S LATEST AND GREATEST PARANORMAL PREDATOR, A PRETERNATURAL NIGHT-GOBLIN WHICH HAS BEEN DUBBED EL CHUPACABRAS —WHICH IS SPANISH FOR--

THE GOATSUCKER

It began in the spring of 1995, with the alarming discovery of bloodless carcasses on the island of Puerto Rico.

MUERTE!

Exsanguinated victims rapidly climbed into the hundreds, not all of them sacrificial goats.

There were also sheep, cattle, horses, dogs, cats, rabbits, ducks, geese, chickens, and various other farm and domestic animals — anything, in short, containing the elixir vitae **blood**.

It was a strange Puerto Rican variant of cattle mutilations — but instead of laser-clean surgical incisions, the victims bore small deep circular puncture wounds--

--through which all blood had been drained ... or sucked.

The authorities quickly blamed some mundane suspects: Packs of wild dogs and "savage Rhesus monkeys escaped from an experimental laboratory."

But many Puerto Rican people familiar with the signs of normal predation did not agree.

When veterinarian Carlos Soto explained in scientific terms that normal animal biting would have produced some mauling of the skin--

--the official culprit then became "a single-fanged dog."

But according to researcher Jorge Martin, whatever creates the characteristic puncture "seems to cauterize the wound" while preventing "natural inflammatory processes," rigor mortis, and coagulation of remaining blood traces.

NO KNOWN ANIMAL SPECIES ON EARTH CAN **DO** THIS.

Ignoring these claims, the authorities changed their opinion to "vultures."

Rejecting the authorities' shifting views, the people began reporting what their own eyes had seen.

"At first I thought it was a dog," said one witness...

"But then it **stood up**--"

MADRE DE DIOS!

--and it soon became known as **El Chupacabras**—named for its goatsucking proficiency.

From composite descriptions, Martin says the nightmarish 4-foot-tall Goatsucker is a winged biped with coarse black hair.

It has clawed forelimbs, strong hind legs, and spinal appendages "like quills with fleshy membranes which change color from blue to green, red, and purple."

Its oddly fanged oval head has an elongated jaw and huge glowing red eyes with green pupils.

(In the face of this, the authorities tried to explain it away as "big cats" or "vampire bats.")

Since the predation sites lacked signs of struggle, it has been suggested that the Goatsucker's victims are "mesmerized" into submission by its penetrating stare.

GAZE INTO MY EYES —DEEPLY INTO MY EYES...

Others claimed they were made "sleepy and faint" by the Goatsucker's "weird hissing sound."

HSSSSSSSS

During a broad daylight encounter on April 2, 1995, one witness actually passed out as a group of others experienced "extreme nausea."

And on May 8, 1996, Lt. Victor Santiago was utterly stumped by the deaths of 20 blood-sucked chickens in Villalba, Puerto Rico.

IT IS DIFFICULT TO CATCH A **SINGLE** CHICKEN SLEEPING ON A TREE LIMB, SO IMAGINE WHAT IT TAKES TO CATCH **20**.

THIS IS A VERY STRANGE EVENT... A **COMPLEX** CASE.

The Goatsucker reportedly "gallops" at extreme speed and is capable of leaping more than 20 feet in a single bound. Some even say it can fly.

HERE I **COME**, MY MESMERIZED **PLASMA-SACK!**

Lucy Batista describes the Goatsucker's inhuman scream as "the combined sound of a cat's yowling and a goat's braying."

MRAAA-EE-OWLL!

It caused her, she admits, to "feel fear."

Scott Corrales interviewed Dona Maria de Gomez, a woman who interrupted the Goatsucker's attack on a puppy outside her home near El Yunque rain forest.

HSSSSS

YAP YAP

She said, "It was the ugliest thing I'd ever seen."

Face to face with the thing, Mrs. Gomez found herself bitterly thinking:

IF YOU'RE EL CHUPACABRAS, YOU'RE A SORRY EXCUSE FOR A CREATURE!

PENDEJO!

As if reading the woman's mind— and wounded by her mental epithets— the grotesque creature stumbled back, drawing a protective wing across its face --

-- then leaped onto her terrace rail and flew off into the night.

Researcher Corrales learned that other strange entities had been seen on the Gomez plantation --

--including a Bigfoot-like creature glimpsed a few years before the encounter with the Goatsucker.

Perhaps strangest of all, Mrs. Gomez and her daughter had also seen silver-suited "alien Greys" holding hands as they "jumped" over a fence on their property.

The woman believes all these beings came from the rain forest, either angered or drawn by the "nauseating odor" from an illegal dumpsite near her home.

Corrales also interviewed Mr. Jesus Sanchez, a man who raised back-yard rabbits in the town of Gurabo--

--until something opened the cages and drained the bunnies.

Sanchez staked out the cages and caught the blood-thief red-handed at 4 a.m. a few nights later.

Blinded by Sanchez's light, the mysterious predator fled in panic, receiving two vengeful machete hacks before it could escape.

CHOK

TOK

"The blows," Sanchez said with a shudder, "sounded like hits on a drum."

Sanchez may have thought about running for his machete again when a Department of Natural Resources official warned him that--

YOU WILL BE **PROSECUTED** IF YOU KILL A **PROTECTED** CREATURE.

HOW CAN YOU **PROTECT** A CREATURE WHICH YOU CLAIM DOES **NOT EXIST**?

AND IF YOU **DO** PROTECT IT, YOU WILL BE GUILTY OF **COMPLICITY** IN HUNDREDS OF ANIMAL KILLINGS!

Recalling his hellish confrontation (with the Goatsucker, not the bureaucrat), Sanchez has no doubt that El Chupacabras is an "agent of Satan."

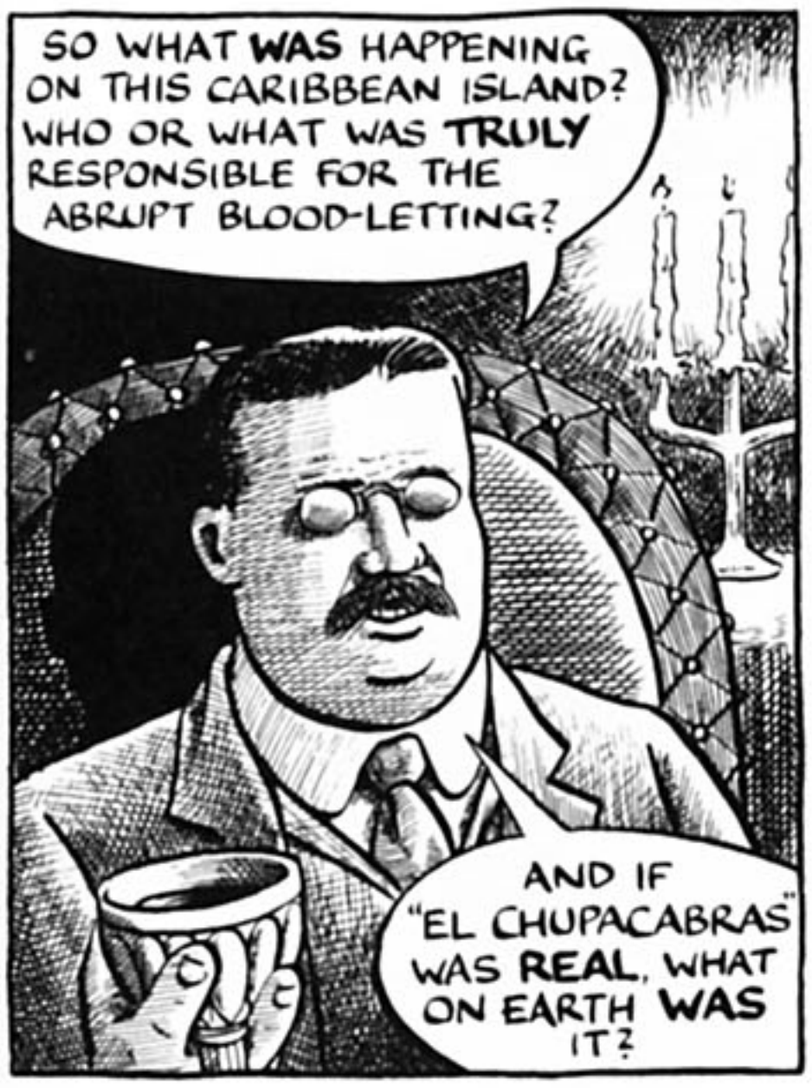
Bloodless carcasses continued to be found—sometimes after nights filled with the horrible sounds of shrieking livestock.



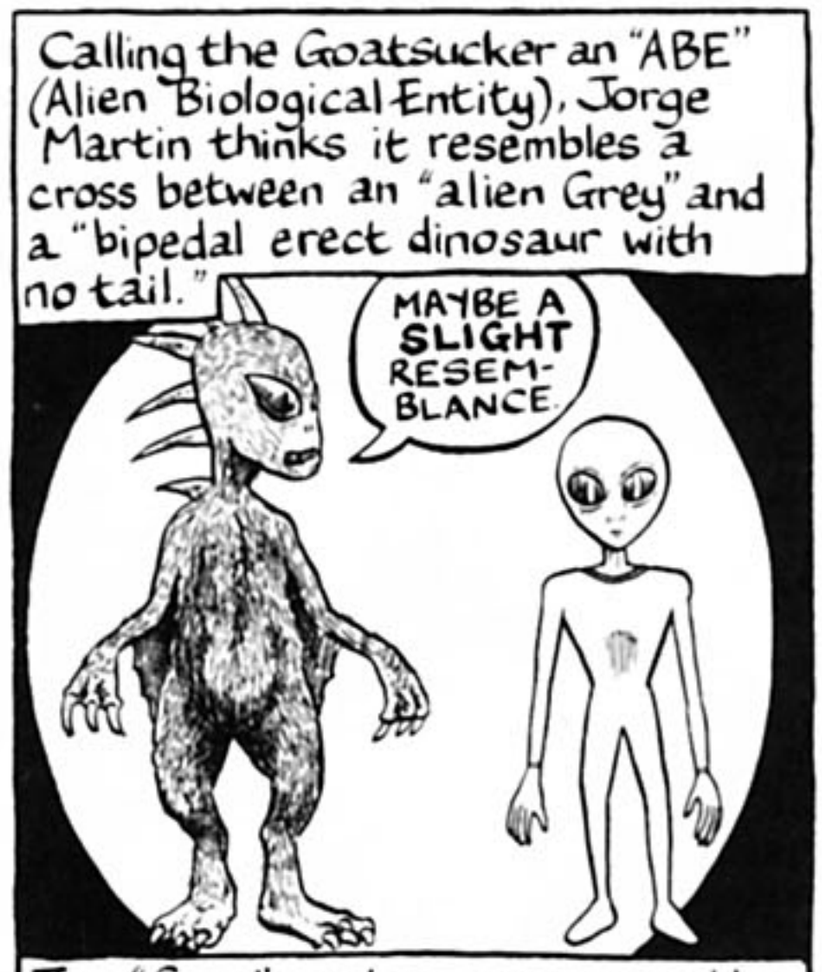
The authorities came up with a new scapegoat: "Satanic sects."



Considering the numbers and widespread nature of the killings, Puerto Rico was apparently suffering from an **incredible** influx of dedicated devil-worshippers.

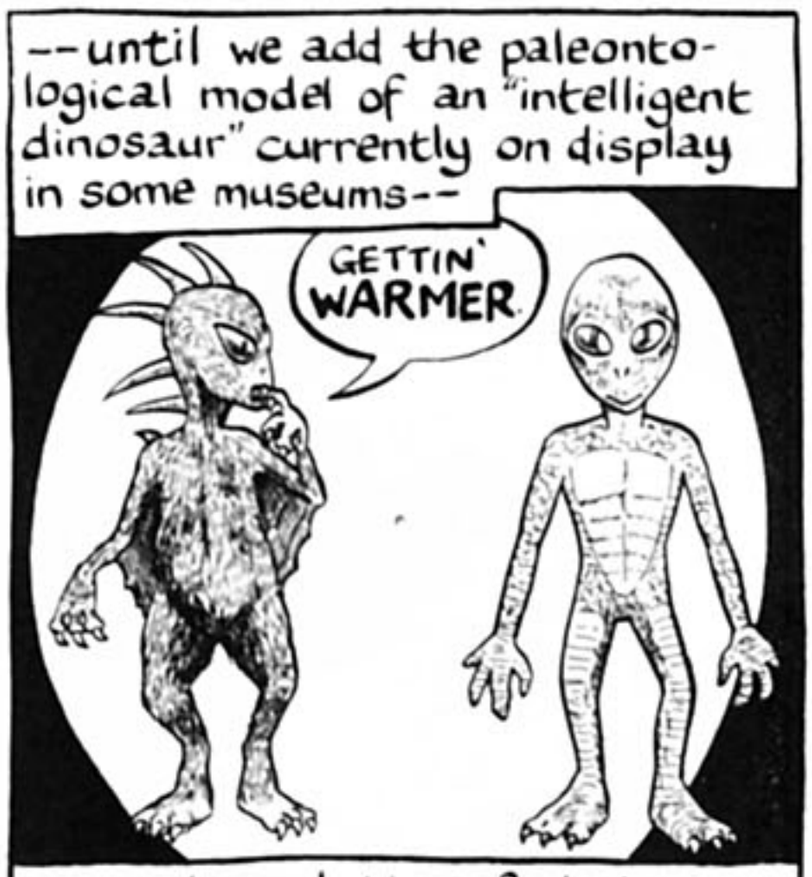


Calling the Goatsucker an "ABE" (Alien Biological Entity), Jorge Martin thinks it resembles a cross between an "alien Grey" and a "bipedal erect dinosaur with no tail."



The "Grey" analogy may seem like a stretch--

--until we add the paleontological model of an "intelligent dinosaur" currently on display in some museums--



--an extrapolation of what a small bipedal dinosaur would look like had it continued evolving rather than going extinct.

The similarity, however, is closest between "evolved dinosaur" and "alien Grey" — and UFO abductees have, in fact, described "reptilian Greys" in command of plain-vanilla Grey "drones."



Could El Chupacabras be a "hybrid offshoot" of the "reptilian Greys"? The authorities also tried a more down-to-earth version of this possibility, suggesting an "escaped biogenetic experiment."

And Martin cites the "electronic" genetic scrambling done by Chinese-Russian scientist Dr. Tsian Kanchen--

--in which "high-frequency biological linking" has produced cross-species plants and animals such as corn-wheat, chicken-ducks, and rabbit-goats.

Furthermore, UFOnauts have already been blamed for the creation of another mystery humanoid, supposedly splicing human and ape DNA to make Sasquatch, Yeti, or Bigfoot.

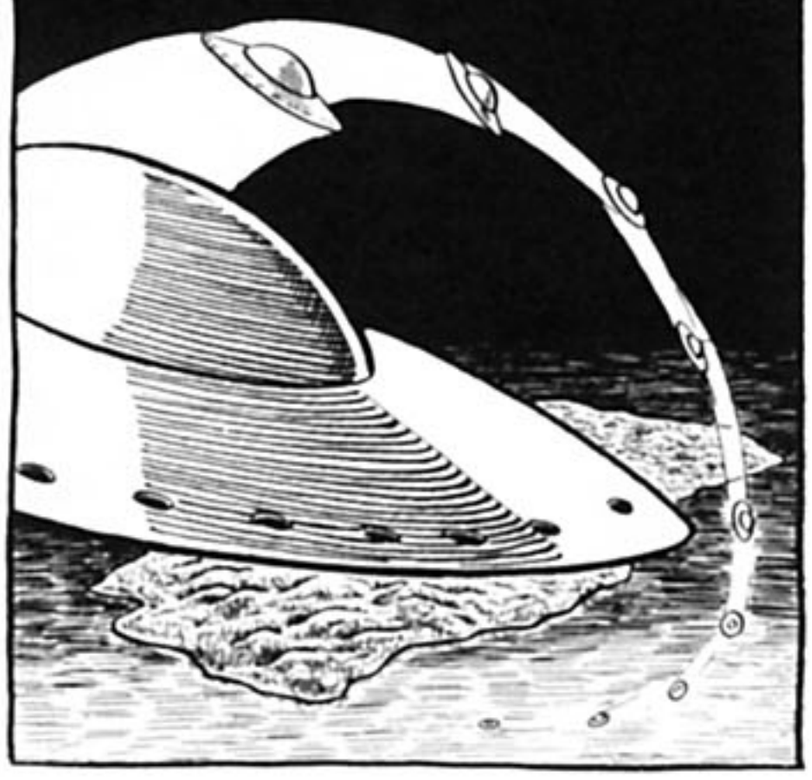


And two other weird humanoids associated with UFOs – West Virginia's "Mothman" and "the Jersey Devil" – both share the Goatsucker's large red-glowing eyes.

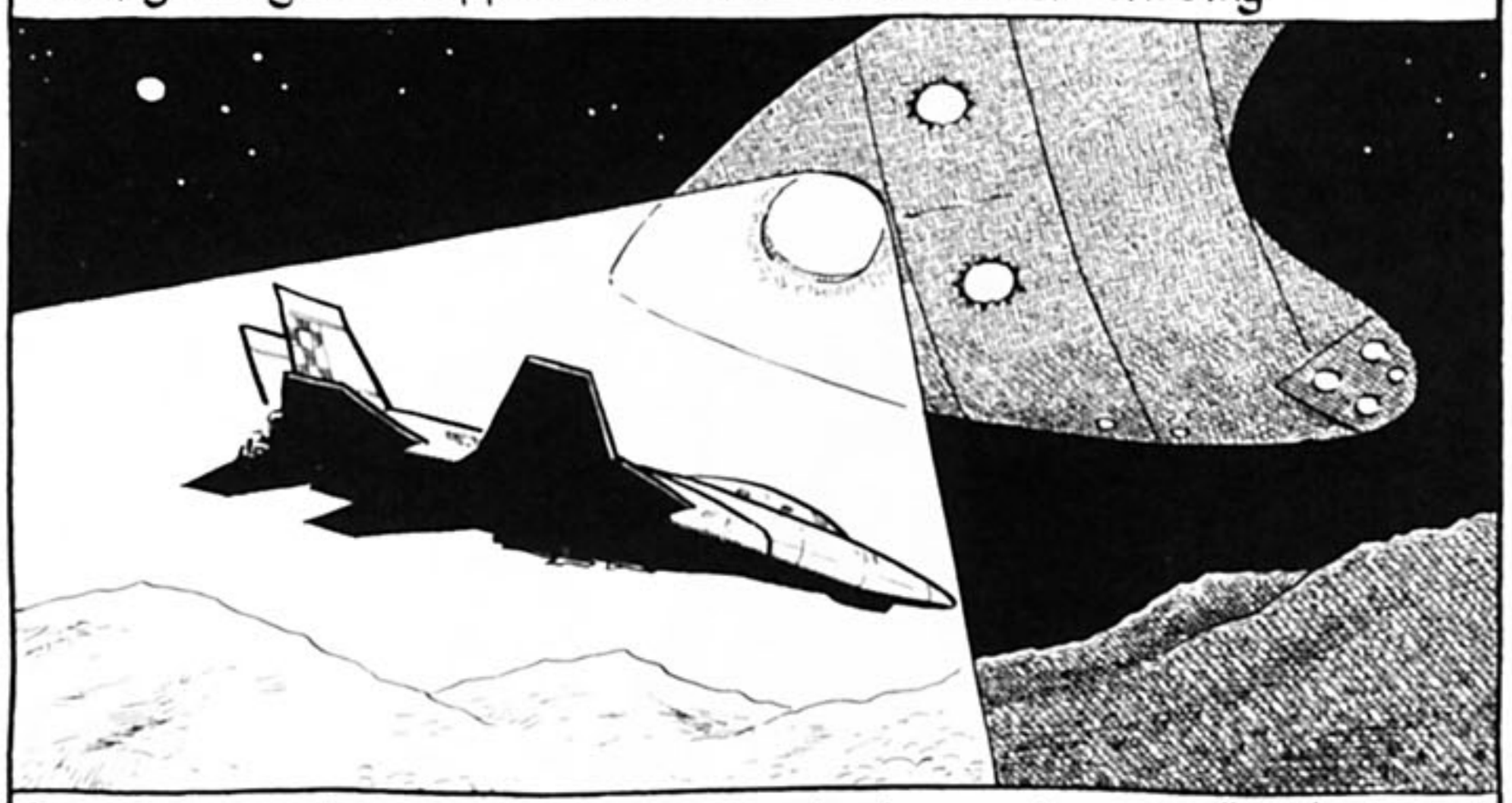


But is there any evidence of serious UFO activity in Puerto Rico? Actually, **there is**.

Puerto Rico has long been a UFO hot-spot. In the 90's continuous sightings have even spawned rumors of alien activity at a local U.S. military base.



Shortly before the Goatsucker's first appearance, witnesses saw a U.S. fighter jet "disappear into a UFO" it had been "chasing."



Investigators disagree as to whether the jet was "captured" or "docking."

In early November of 1995, amidst sightings of triangular and pyramidal UFOs as well as luminous discs, Martin and others claim that "at least two" Goatsuckers were captured in El Yunque rainforest.



Both were allegedly taken alive to the U.S. mainland.

Also in November, and heavily reported in the media, a UFO was seen hovering above the antenna of an AM radio station in Barranquitas.



The press omitted one aspect: Nearby encounters with "ABE creatures" minutes before and after.

A woman in Canovas claimed that a Goatsucker "jumped, flew, and entered a round luminous object" above her car:

Men in Black (who, according to Martin, were from "bogus UFO groups organized by U.S. Intelligence") quickly and predictably materialized to "disseminate disinformation":

THE CHUPACABRAS ARE ALIENS WHO CREATED THE AIDS VIRUS TO DESTROY THE HUMAN RACE.

But why would the blood-feeders pollute their own meals? Let's remember that all the people involved don't exactly get together and meet to make their theories all jibe with each other:

THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING. MY FIRST SLIDE IS...

Some officials, such as Canovas Mayor Jose Soto, took El Chupacabras more seriously.

WHAT-EVER IT IS, IT IS HIGHLY INTEL-LIGENT.

Mayor Soto organized citizen militias of up to 100 men, and even baited a cage with a bloody goat carcass--

--unfortunately catching nothing but ridicule for his efforts.

Even so, a member of the Puerto Rican House of Representatives, Juan E. Lopez, introduced House Resolution 5012 on Nov. 9, 1995:

RESOLUTION

To order the House of Representatives Agriculture Committee to do a profound and exaustive investigation to clarify the unknown phenomenon and account the damages caused by "Chupacabras" to the farmers of this country.

Even policemen became believers—especially the Canovas officer whose .357 Magnum painted a wall with Goatsucker blood.

BLAMMO

After the wounded creature fled, the cop was "so shocked" that he "immediately cleaned up the mess."

Analysis of blood collected from a nearby fence, however, produced this, according to Martin: "Sample #3. The blood is in no way compatible with human blood--

"--nor with any other blood type belonging to any animal species known to science."

Beginning in February of 1996, hundreds more bloodless animals began turning up — but now in **Mexico**.

Mexican authorities tried blaming Haitian-spawned voodoo and Santeria practitioners—but again, only an army of converts could account for all the sudden carnage.

Besides, animal sacrifice makes for one hell of a mess, whereas the Chupacabras mystery is distinguished by the complete absence of blood.

Catholic representatives, specifically Archbishop of Morelia, Alberto Suarez Inda, called for calm.

THERE EXISTS VERY STRANGE PHENOMENA WHICH ARE COMPLICATED TO INVESTIGATE AND DEMAND ALL AVAILABLE TIME AND MEANS TO BE SOLVED.

This hardly stopped cosmopolitan Mexicans from pronouncing the matter settled, although there had been no serious investigation--

CHUPACABRAS IS **ALL TALK**.

IT IS **BOOL-SHEET**.

--even as their rural brethren were reporting slow-moving globes of light in areas where drained carcasses were later found.

Called "brujas"—meaning "witches"—these light-balls have been seen for centuries.

Meanwhile, in Peru, weird mandrill-like creatures, called "Isnashi," have reportedly been exsanguinating their prey.

After Costa Rican Erlinda Vega claimed that a Goatsucker-like being attacked her (a bloodless heifer was also found at the site), sociologist Francisco Escobar blamed it on a vampire bat and superstition.

MADRE DE DIOS, AM I STUPID TO BE SEEING **YOU**!

"The real Chupacabras," Escobar said, "is poverty and lack of education"— even though "significant radiation" has been detected at Costa Rican and Guatemalan Chupacabras sites.

Even as the Goatsucker rampaged through Puerto Rico, Mexico, Central America and South America, the phenomenon occurred in Florida, Texas, and California.



Possibly supporting the superstition theory, the U.S. reports invariably come from Hispanic or Latino communities.

So if the Goatsucker is a thought-form "Tulpa" or an "archetype" created by Jung's "collective unconscious"... then what the devil is going on in Hispanic heads these days?



Maybe El Chupacabras is merely a Latino counterpart of the European vampire myth...?

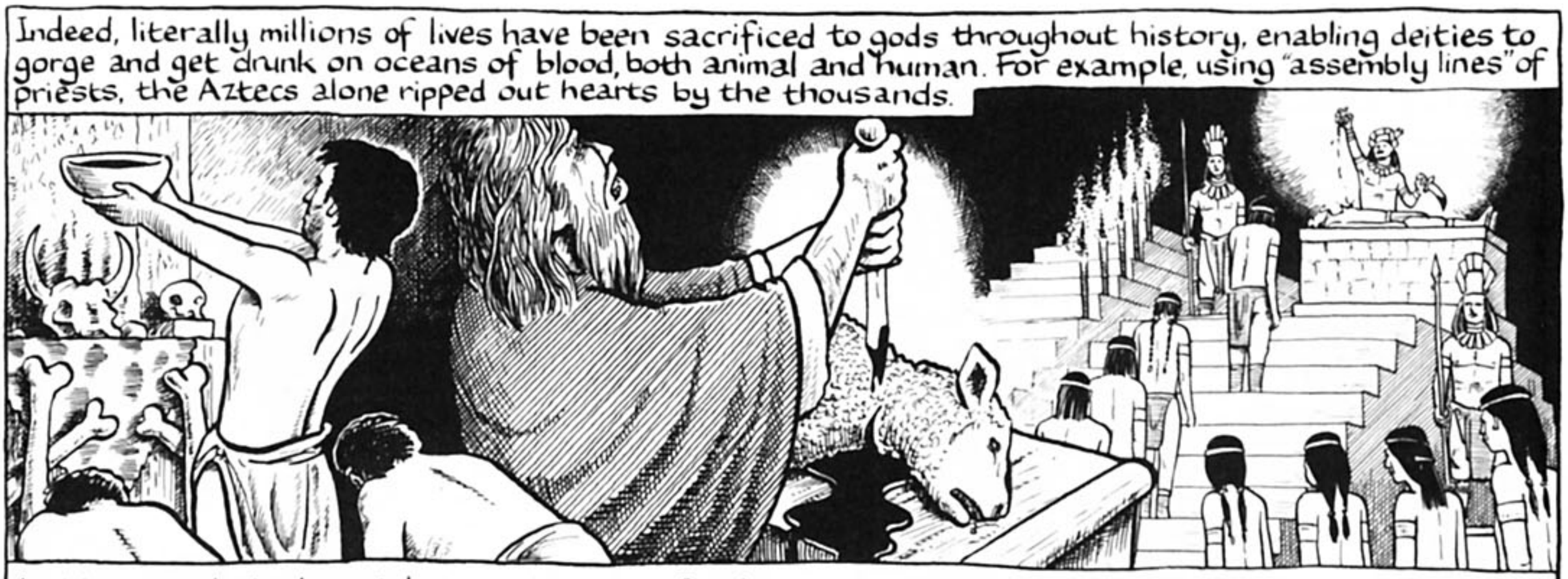


Given its Pan-like legs, as well as reports of "the strong smell of sulphur," some suggest that the Goatsucker is not just a vampire, but a "**demon**"—or worse yet, a "**god**."



After all, is the gargoyle-like Chupacabras any different from the goat-hooved Satyr of ancient Greece? And what about the goat-headed god-demon Baal? Both reveled in blood and excess.

Indeed, literally millions of lives have been sacrificed to gods throughout history, enabling deities to gorge and get drunk on oceans of blood, both animal and human. For example, using "assembly lines" of priests, the Aztecs alone ripped out hearts by the thousands.



And lest we think the grisly practice is confined to "superstitious pagan cultures," remember that the Bible is crammed with blood sacrifice.

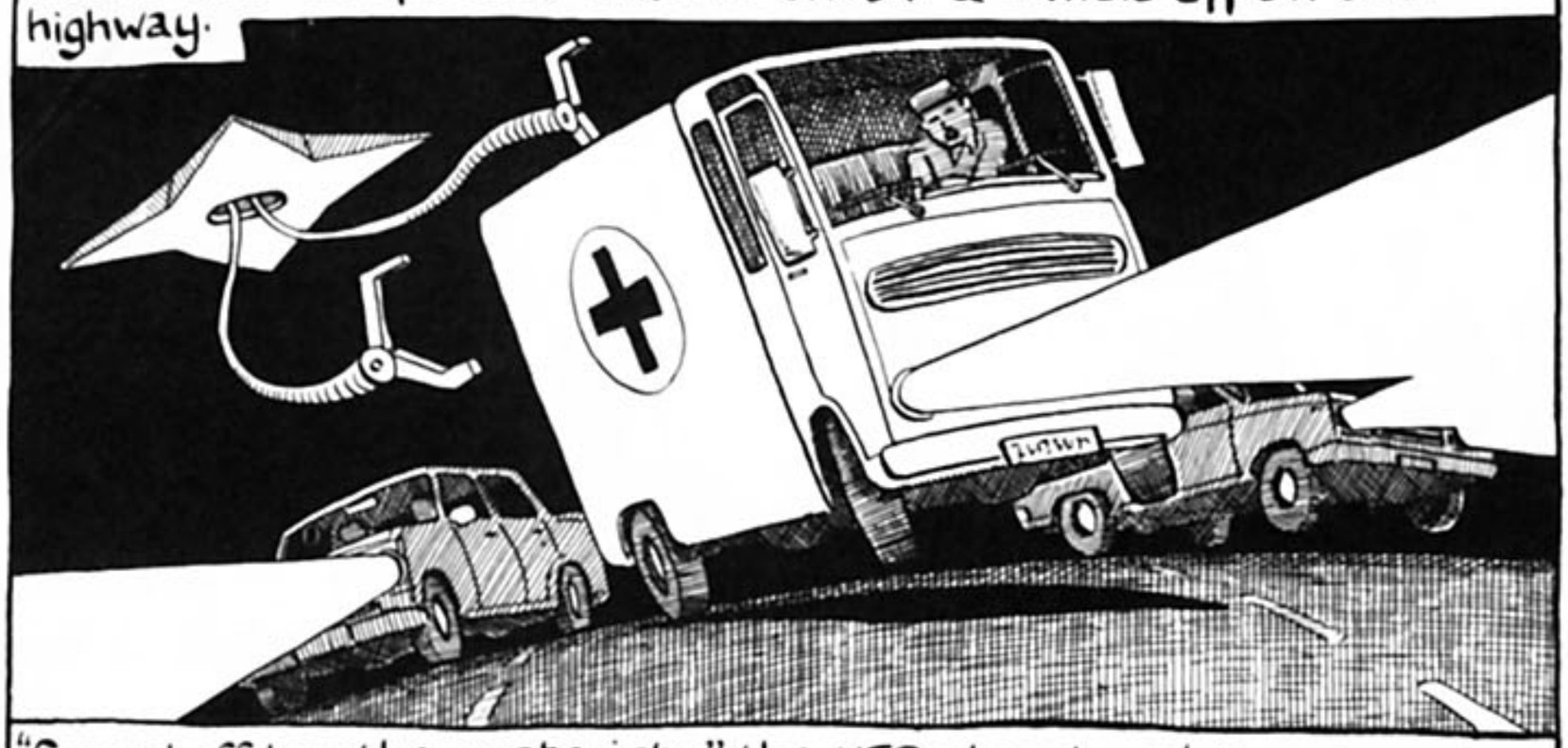
The gods have always demanded blood—and if belief in aliens constitutes a "new religion," as many posit, then the UFO-linked cattle mutilations fit right in.



UFO abductees (who often awaken with pillow-staining bloody noses) routinely complain of aliens stealing sperm, ova, blood, and other "vital fluids" from their paralyzed and "mesmerized" bodies.



And a 1967 UFO incident (surely the most absurd on record were it not for multiple independent witnesses) involved a wacky sky-craft whose "extended pincers" tried to snatch a vehicle off an Ohio highway.



"Scared off by other motorists," the UFO abandoned its prey—which was a **Red Cross bloodmobile.**

But why this creepy, constant fixation with blood? What's the addiction? Researcher Salvador Freixado believes there is a "life-force" in blood—a mix of "subtle energies" which supernatural beings crave and perhaps even require.



In the absence of sacrifice, Freixado suggests, the "gods" may take matters into their own bloodstained hands, "extracting some vital substance, some drug, some energy required to materialize in our dimension."



And if blood does contain some "magic ingredient," is it released by fire?



Is this why "burnt offerings" were de rigueur in so many cultures?

Indeed, occult practitioners have always used blood to "open gateways to other realms," to conjure supernatural beings, to appease demonic forces--

--or simply to emulate their dark gods.

Dracula decreed, "For the blood is the life," and in it he consumed something which rendered him immortal.

OOOH, DRACULA... BABY...

And his victims **loved** it.

To Greek and Roman gods — who also "lived forever" — blood was "sacred wine" or the "nectar of life."

And we find the same beliefs in ancient Egypt, China, Sumeria, India, Africa, everywhere — gods and demons sustaining their immortality by preying on the mortal blood and life of humans.

In a curious reversal, the Christian rite of communion symbolically enables mortals to consume the blood of the god Jesus, which supposedly bestows "everlasting life" in the afterworld of heaven.

The same crimson feast with the tables turned.

Finally, during the earlier Puerto Rican mutilation epidemic of 1974-75, Freixado says, "Many other strange phenomena were occurring... the appearance of large unknown animals, mysterious explosions, apparitions of the Virgin, religious icons that wept or bled, bizarre disappearances...

"All these things are more than merely related; they proceed from the same source."

WHAT THAT SOURCE IS, IS ANYBODY'S GUESS. SO HERE'S TO THE **GOATSUCKER** AND ALL THE **OTHER** BLOODY GODS — AND TO OUR OWN **BIZARRE BELIEFS.**

CHEERS!

MESSING WITH MINDS ALREADY SHAKEN, MYSTERIOUSLY APPEARING WITH THE WORST TIMING POSSIBLE, AND EVER LURKING ON THE PERIPHERY OF THE PARANORMAL...HERE COME--

THOSE SINISTER MEN IN BLACK

THE TYPICAL *"MiB,"* AN ABSURD BUT CHILLING BOGEYMAN TIMESLIPPED FROM THE PARANOID '50S, IS MOST OFTEN ENCOUNTERED AFTER A *UFO* SIGHTING.

IT IS UNDERSTOOD YOU HAVE WITNESSED A FLYING SAUCER.

NOT WISE.

ALL *MiB*s ARE MYSTIFYING, BUT FEW ARE ANY WORSE THAN B-MOVIE HEAVIES DESIGNED TO INTIMIDATE WHILE SELDOM (IF EVER) CAUSING ACTUAL HARM.

SAY NOTHING ABOUT THE ANOMALOUS AERIAL OBJECT YOU NEVER SAW IF YOU WANT YOUR WIFE TO STAY AS PRETTY AS SHE IS.

HUH?

JUST KIDDING!

ATYPICAL BUT HARDLY UNKNOWN ARE THOSE TIMELOST *MEN IN BLACK* WHO WEAR CLOTHING RADICALLY OUT OF STYLE—*OR NOT YET IN FASHION.*

I'M A *MEDIEVAL MiB...*

...WHILE *I* TAUGHT *DARTH VADER* EVERYTHING HE *KNOWS.*

ALL *MiB*s INDUCE PARANOIA, BUT SOME PRY FOR INFORMATION (AS IF AGENTS *CHASING* UFOS), WHILE OTHERS TRY TO SUPPRESS THE SAME INFO (AS IF AGENTS *FROM* UFOS)...

YOU REALLY *SAW* IT? FLYING SAUCERS ARE *REALLY REAL?!?*

YOU SAW *NOTHING!* FLYING SAUCERS *DO NOT EXIST!*

SOME *MiB*s KNOW FAR TOO MUCH ABOUT WITNESSES' PERSONAL AND PRIVATE LIVES.

I KEEP SEEING *MOTHMAN* AND YOUR JULY 9TH HOBOKEN CLAMBAKE WITH HERB AND WALLY WILL SUFFER *NULLIFICATION.*

HOW DID YOU...?

BACK IN THE '50S, *MiB*s SILENCED WITNESSES AND CONFISCATED EVIDENCE BY POSING AS AIR FORCE AND INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS.

YOUR FILM WILL BE DULY RETURNED... *NOT.*

(SUCH CASES WERE INVESTIGATED BY THE *CIA*, BUT THE FINDINGS REMAIN CLASSIFIED.)

MANY *MiB*s DRIVE ANTIQUE CARS (USUALLY BLACK), WHICH SEEM AND EVEN *SMELL* BRAND-NEW.

FRESHLY MINTED ABOARD OUR UNIDENTIFIED FLYING OBJECT!

MIB

*MiB*s ARE OFTEN DESCRIBED AS "ASIAN-LOOKING," WITH EXCEPTIONALLY LONG FINGERS AND "METALLIC" OR "ELECTRONIC" VOICES WHICH SPEAK IN STILTED PHRASES AND OUTMODED SLANG.

HUBBA HUBBA.

23 SKIDOO.

MiB EYES—*ALL-SEEING BUT RARELY SEEN*—ARE EITHER "SLANTED" OR "POPPING" AS IF FROM A BERSERK THYROID.

PEEKABOO!

WHAT ARE *YOU* GAWKING AT?!

WHEN NOT SINISTER, *MiB* BEHAVIOR CAN BE QUITE BIZARRE—EITHER *EXCESSIVELY* FURTIVE OR OPEN TO THE POINT OF GHASTLY GRINS AND UNSETTLING GIGGLES.

I'M NOT HERE.

WULL, I SHORE AM, *HYUK HYUK!*

*MiB*s ARE OFTEN BAFFLED BY COMMONPLACE ITEMS SUCH AS BALLPOINT PENS, EATING UTENSILS, AND EVEN *FOOD* ITSELF.

THIS DEVICE EXERTS NO DISCERNIBLE *EFFECT*.

YOWTCH!

WHAT? THIS IS *WRONG*?

FAR MORE CHILLING IN THE ABDUCTION-CRAZY '90S, 23 SEPARATE POLICE AGENCIES HAVE JOINED FORCES TO TRACK DOWN *MiB*s POSING AS SOCIAL WORKERS.

WE HAVE COME TO TAKE CUSTODY OF YOUR CHILD.

LIKE HELL, MEL!

(FORTUNATELY, NO CHILDREN HAVE BEEN SURRENDERED — BUT NOR HAVE THE "PHANTOM SOCIAL WORKERS" BEEN CAPTURED OR EVEN IDENTIFIED.)

AND FINALLY, ONE *MAN IN BLACK* EVEN PASSED HIMSELF OFF AS THE HARMLESS *NARRATOR* OF A *LARGE* AND TRULY *EXCELLENT* BOOK ON CONSPIRACIES.

BUY IT *NOW*, BEFORE *I* COME FOR A *VISIT!*

IN THE PAST THEY WERE CALLED "KELPIES" OR "WATER HORSES" OR EVEN "DRAGONS" —— BUT TODAY WE KNOW SCOTLAND'S "LONG-NECKEDIE BEASTIES" AS--

THE MONSTERS of LOCH NESS

THE THIRD LARGEST LAKE IN EUROPE AND THE LARGEST IN THE U.K., LOCH NESS IS SOME 23 MILES LONG, MORE THAN A MILE WIDE, AND 800-1,000 FEET DEEP (MORE THAN THE HEIGHT OF THE EIFFEL TOWER) WITH A VOLUME VAST ENOUGH TO HOLD THE WORLD'S ENTIRE POPULATION.

DENSELY SUSPENDED PARTICLES OF PEAT MAKE VISIBILITY NEAR ZERO.

MYSTERIOUS WATERS INDEED, BUT COULD THEY ACTUALLY HIDE A MONSTER?

WHAT DO *YOU* THINK, LADS AND LASSIES?

WITNESSES AND PHOTOS SAY YES.

THE MODERN ERA OF NESSIE SIGHTINGS BEGAN IN 1933 WITH THE OPENING OF A NEW ROAD ALONG THE LOCH —— WHEREUPON MR. AND MRS. JOHN MACKAY REPORTED "AN ENORMOUS ANIMAL ROLLING AND PLUNGING" IN THE DARK WATERS.

HOOT!

MON!

TWO MONTHS LATER, MR. AND MRS. GEORGE SPICER SAW "A LARGE LONG-NECKED CREATURE ACTUALLY LURCHING ACROSS THE NEW ROAD.

WHILE AUTHOR CONSTANCE WHYTE CALLS NESSIE "MORE THAN A LEGEND," THE CREATURE HAS APPARENTLY INSPIRED SEVERAL — INCLUDING THE 565 A.D. ACCOUNT OF ST. COLUMBA (WHO BROUGHT CHRISTIANITY TO SCOTLAND) DRIVING OFF A "CERTAIN WATER MONSTER" WITH THE "POWER OF PRAYER"--

--AND A LATER MEDIEVAL STORY TELLING OF A "LONG-NECKED WATER DRAGON" TRAPPED AND SLAIN IN A CASTLE MOAT.

BUT EVEN IF NESSIE WAS NOTHING NEW, THE 1933 ROAD AFFORDED GREATER ACCESS TO THE LOCH, RESULTING IN MORE FREQUENT SIGHTINGS AND EVEN PHOTOGRAPHS — THE BEST OF WHICH ARE TYPICALLY BLURRY, BUT UNDENIABLY INTRIGUING.

GRAY · 1933

STUART · 1951

COCKRELL · 1958

O'CONNOR · 1960

WHILE MOST WITNESSES REPORT A CREATURE ROUGHLY 30 FEET IN LENGTH, THE 1955 MACNAB PHOTO SHOWS "HUMPS" AS LONG AS 64 FEET!

(THE PHOTO COULD SHOW **TWO** CREATURES, OF COURSE, OR EVEN A SINGLE FLOATING LOG.)

THE MOST FAMOUS NESSIE IMAGE OF ALL — THE 1934 "SURGEON'S PHOTO" SNAPPED BY LT. COL. ROBERT WILSON (A LONDON SURGEON) — SEEMS TO SHOW THE DISTINCTIVE HEAD AND NECK OF A PLESIOSAUR, OSTENSIBLY EXTINCT FOR 65 MILLION YEARS.

IF LOCH NESS DOES HOST A "SURVIVING DINOSAUR," IT IS UNLIKELY TO BE A SINGLE IMMORTAL SPECIMEN — BUT RATHER A GROUP OF NESSIES OF DIFFERENT GENDERS AND AGES, WHICH COULD ACCOUNT FOR THE REPORTED VARIATIONS IN SIZE, COLOR, AND SHADING.

BUT A COLONY OF PREDATORY DINOSAURS WOULD REQUIRE AN ENORMOUS FOOD SUPPLY — FAR MORE FISH THAN MURKY LOCH NESS WAS LONG THOUGHT TO CONTAIN--

--UNTIL SONAR AND OTHER STUDIES CONFIRMED A FISH POPULATION HUNDREDS OF TIMES GREATER THAN SUSPECTED — ENOUGH SALMON AND CHAR, IN FACT, TO SUSTAIN 200 NESSIE-SIZE CREATURES!

YET SIMILAR "MONSTERS" HAVE LONG BEEN SEEN IN OTHER LOCHS TOO SMALL OR OTHERWISE INCAPABLE OF SUPPORTING EVEN A **SINGLE** PLESIOSAUR.

HOW CAN I *BE?*

A POSSIBLE ANSWER JUST DISCOVERED IN EARLY 1997: UNDERWATER TUNNELS LINKING LOCH NESS WITH LOCH MORAR AND OTHER, EVEN SMALLER MONSTER-INFESTED LOCHS!

IN OTHER RECENT NEWS, THE "SURGEON'S PHOTO" WAS BRANDED A HOAX IN A "DEATHBED CONFESSION" — NOT BY THE PHOTOGRAPHER, BUT BY A "MODEL-MAKER" CLAIMING THE USE OF MATERIALS NOT YET INVENTED IN 1934.

PLASTIC WOOD!

FURTHER SUGGESTING A HOAXED HOAX IS THE FACT THAT A STATIC MODEL COULD HARDLY ACCOUNT FOR THE CHANGES SEEN IN THE RARE **SECOND** SURGEON'S PHOTO.

DEFINITELY NOT HOAXED: THE 1960 DINSDALE FILM — AND SONAR SCANS — SHOWING SOMETHING "LARGE, ALIVE, AND MOVING" ON AND BELOW THE LOCH'S SURFACE. BUT ARE THEY TRULY DINOSAURS?

OTHER NESSIE THEORIES ARE LARGELY CRYPTOZOOLOGICAL, RANGING FROM UNKNOWN "GIANT SALAMANDERS" TO UNKNOWN "GIANT ORMS" OR WORMS.

BUT JUST AS THE FOCUS WAS SHIFTING AWAY FROM PLESIOSAURS, DR. ROBERT RINES RIGGED AN UNDERWATER STROBE-CAMERA TO BE TRIGGERED ONLY BY SONAR RETURNS FROM "LARGE MOVING OBJECTS" --

--AND, IN 1972, CAPTURED A SHOT OF WHAT LOOKS LIKE A FLIPPER MOVING RIGHT PAST THE CAMERA.

LOCH NESS "FLIPPER"

PLESIOSAUR FLIPPER

MORE EMPHATICALLY RETURNING THE SPOTLIGHT TO PLESIOSAURS WERE RINES' 1975 "GARGOYLE" AND "FULL BODY" PHOTOS — BLURRIER BUT EVEN MORE STUNNING THAN THE "FLIPPER" SHOT.

WHAT IMAGES MIGHT SHOW

TWO YEARS LATER OFF THE COAST OF NEW ZEALAND, A JAPANESE TRAWLER SNAGGED THIS CARCASS — A DEAD RINGER FOR A PLESIOSAUR.

SKEPTICS, HOWEVER, CLAIM IT'S ACTUALLY A SHARK WITH PORTIONS ROTTED AWAY TO CREATE THE ILLUSION OF A LONG-NECKED, SMALL-HEADED CREATURE.

WE'LL NEVER KNOW FOR SURE — SINCE THE FANTASTIC CARCASS WAS ALMOST IMMEDIATELY DUMPED BACK IN THE OCEAN WHEN THE FREAKED-OUT CREW COMPLAINED OF ITS UNBEARABLE STENCH AND WEIRDNESS.

THIS REPEATED NEAR-MISS ELUSIVENESS LED RESEARCHER F.W. HOLIDAY TO SUSPECT THAT WATER CREATURES MIGHT BE SUPERNATURAL ENTITIES.

INDEED, WITCHES HAVE TRIED TO SUMMON THE BEAST AS IF CONJURING A DEMON — WHILE OTHERS HAVE SOUGHT TO "EXORCISE" THE LOCH OF THE SERPENT.

OTHERS EXPLAIN NESSIE'S FRUSTRATING PEEKABOO REALITY BY CLAIMING THE CREATURE EXISTS ONLY AS A TOURISM SCAM — EVEN THOUGH MOST EARLY WITNESSES WERE TOURISTS THEMSELVES, NOT LOCAL INNKEEPERS.

AND, LIKE NESSIE, OTHER LAKE MONSTER "TOURIST SCAMS" SOMEHOW DATE BACK TO ANCIENT LEGENDS: CANADA'S CHAMP, OGOPOGO, AND CADBOROSAURUS, JAPAN'S ISSIE, AND IRELAND'S MANY "PEISTES."

APPARENTLY DWELLING IN SOME TWILIGHT REALM BETWEEN "NORMAL" CRYPTOZOOLOGY AND PARANORMAL WEIRDNESS, THESE CREATURES MAY NOT EXIST AT ALL, BUT AS A LOCH NESS LOCAL ONCE OBSERVED --

IF THAT WASNIE THE *MONSTER*, THEN THERE'S SOMETHIN' MIGHTY *QUEER* IN THE LOCH!

EVEN IN THE BIBLE, ENCOUNTERS WITH OTHERWORLDLY ENTITIES ARE RARELY PLEASANT OR PRETTY.

BUT FOR UNBRIDLED WEIRDNESS, NOTHING BEATS THE GUN-BLAZING STANDOFF BETWEEN ELEVEN TERRIFIED FOLKS AND A COUPLE OF STRANGERS IN--

the Kentucky Goblin Spree

THIS MOST SPECTACULAR OF MULTIPLE-WITNESS ENCOUNTERS OCCURRED AT A CLAPBOARD FARMHOUSE IN ISOLATED KELLY, KENTUCKY, SEVEN MILES FROM HOPKINSVILLE--

--ON THE NIGHTS OF AUGUST 21 AND 22, 1955.

THE ELEVEN WITNESSES, INCLUDING SEVEN ADULTS, WERE MEMBERS OF THE RELATED SUTTON AND LANKFORD FAMILIES AND THEIR FRIENDS, THE TAYLORS.

WHILE FETCHING SOME WATER AT 7 PM, BILLY RAY TAYLOR WAS ASTONISHED TO SEE A "SHINING" AERIAL OBJECT WHICH EMITTED AN EXHAUST "ALL THE COLORS OF THE RAINBOW."

BUT WHEN HE TOLD THE OTHERS THAT IT HAD COME DOWN IN A NEARBY GULLY, THEY SAID:

JUST A FALLING STAR, BILLY RAY.

AND NO ONE BOTHERED TO INVESTIGATE.

THE DOG WENT BERSERK AN HOUR LATER, BARKING FURIOUSLY AT THE DARKNESS--

RAHR RAHR RAHR

--BEFORE FLEEING IN TERROR FROM THE APPROACH OF A STRANGE GLOW. IT WAS COMING FROM THE GULLY, AND IT WAS CAUSED BY--

--A GOBLIN. ROUGHLY THREE FEET TALL, IT SEEMED TO BE MADE OF GLOWING SILVER METAL, EXCEPT FOR ITS ENORMOUS EYES, WHICH GLOWED YELLOW.

THE GOBLIN APPROACHED SOUNDLESSLY WITH HANDS HELD HIGH, EITHER IN MENACE OR SURRENDER.

BILLY RAY TAYLOR AND ELMER SUTTON RESPONDED WITH AUTOMATIC XENOPHOBIA.

BAOUM

KRAK

APPARENTLY HIT, THE FREAKISH CREATURE FLIPPED BACKWARD--

--AND SCURRIED OFF ON ALL FOURS AS THE TWO MEN RETREATED INTO THE FARMHOUSE.

SHORTLY THEREAFTER, WHEN THE SAME CREATURE (OR ANOTHER JUST LIKE IT) APPEARED AT A WINDOW--

BOOOM

--A SHOTGUN BLAST THROUGH THE SCREEN BLEW IT BACK INTO THE NIGHT.

ALMOST IMMEDIATELY, THERE WAS A SOUND FROM ABOVE.

ON THE ROOF!

SKUTTLE

AND WHEN THE MEN RUSHED BACK OUTSIDE, A TALONED HAND REACHED DOWN— AS IF TO FEEL BILLY RAY TAYLOR'S HAIR.

LOOK OUT!!

KAT

BILLY RAY AND ELMER SWIFTLY BLASTED THE THING RIGHT OFF THE ROOF--

KRAK

BAOUM

--AND LATER SWORE THAT IT SLOWLY FLOATED TO A FENCE FORTY FEET AWAY.

AND ONLY WHEN THE GOBLIN WAS SHOT OFF THE FENCE DID IT FINALLY FLEE.

KRAK

BOOM

ANOTHER CREATURE, SPOTTED ON THE LIMB OF A MAPLE TREE, WAS ALSO SUBJECTED TO THE PRIME DIRECTIVE OF "SHOOT FIRST, ASK QUESTIONS LATER."

KRAK

BOOM

THEN, EVEN AS ONE GOBLIN SCURRIED FROM THE TREE, ANOTHER CAME AROUND A CORNER OF THE HOUSE — AGAIN REACHING FOR THE DARK SKY.

THIS ONE WAS HIT POINT-BLANK, WHICH MADE THE SOUND OF "BULLETS ON A METAL BUCKET."

BAOUM

KTANK

AND WHEN YET ANOTHER (OR THE FIRST) GOBLIN WAS SHOT OFF A BARREL, BILLY RAY TAYLOR HEARD HIS .22 RIFLE BULLET RICOCHET RIGHT OFF ITS HARD HIDE.

KRAK

BYANG

"THE LITTLE MAN FLOATED TO THE GROUND," TAYLOR SAID, "AND ROLLED UP LIKE A BALL." HE ALSO CLAIMED THE GOBLINS GLOWED BRIGHTER WHENEVER THEY WERE SHOT OR SHOUTED AT.

HAVING SEEN MORE THAN ENOUGH, THE TWO MEN RETREATED INSIDE, BOLTING THE DOORS FOR WHAT WOULD PROVE TO BE A NERVE-WRACKING SIEGE.

EVEN AS THE OCCASIONAL GLOWING GOBLIN ROAMED AROUND OUT IN THE DARK, 50-YEAR-OLD GLENNIE LANKFORD COUNSELED AN END TO THE SHOOTING.

THEY HAVEN'T TRIED TO *HURT* US — SO MAYBE THEY'RE ONLY BEING *FRIENDLY*.

BUT AS THE SURREAL SIEGE WORE ON, THE CHILDREN BECAME INCREASINGLY HYSTERICAL.

THE BREAKING POINT CAME AT 11 PM, WHEN THE HOUSEFUL OF HUMANS MADE A DESPERATE DASH FOR THEIR CARS AND "HIGH-TAILED IT" TO THE HOPKINSVILLE POLICE STATION SEVEN MILES AWAY.

THERE, A MEDICALLY-TRAINED INVESTIGATOR DETERMINED THAT BILLY RAY TAYLOR'S PULSE RATE WAS:

TWICE NORMAL!

HOPKINSVILLE POLICE

FORD

CHIEF OF POLICE RUSSELL GREENWELL LATER STATED, "THESE WERE NOT THE SORT OF PEOPLE WHO NORMALLY RAN TO THE POLICE... SOMETHING FRIGHTENED THEM, SOMETHING BEYOND THEIR COMPREHENSION."

WHEN GREENWELL AND FIVE OTHER POLICE OFFICERS ACCOMPANIED THE ELEVEN WITNESSES ON THE DARK ROAD BACK TO THE FARM, TWO STREAKS OF LIGHT SHOT OVERHEAD WITH "THE SOUND OF ARTILLERY FIRE."

B-BOOM B-BOOM

ALTHOUGH BULLET HOLES AND SPENT CASINGS WERE ABUNDANT AT THE SITE, THE POLICE FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF A "FLYING SAUCER."

NOR WERE SHOTGUN-SPLATTED GOBLINS STREWN ALL OVER THE PROPERTY.

THEY DID FIND A STRANGELY GLOWING PATCH OF GROUND, HOWEVER, RIGHT WHERE ONE OF THE GOBLINS HAD ALLEGEDLY TUMBLED.

THAT'S MIGHTY STRANGE.

CHIEF GREENWELL LATER STATED: "IN AND AROUND THE WHOLE AREA, THERE WAS A WEIRD FEELING. EVERYONE HAD IT... THESE WERE BRAVE MEN I'VE BEEN IN DANGEROUS SITUATIONS WITH. THEY FELT IT TOO."

(RESEARCHER JENNY RANDLES CALLS THIS "THE OZ FACTOR"— REPEATEDLY ASSOCIATED WITH UFO AND PARANORMAL EVENTS)

HAMPERED BY DARKNESS THE POLICE LEFT AT 2 AM.

WE'LL BE BACK TO INVESTIGATE SOME MORE TOMORROW.

BUT THE NIGHT WAS STILL YOUNG...

AT 2:30, BEFORE GLENNIE LANKFORD COULD FALL ASLEEP, A PERSISTENT GLOW ALERTED HER TO A GOBLIN OUTSIDE HER BEDROOM. SHE CALLED OUT SOFTLY TO THE OTHERS--

ELMER! BILLY RAY! HERE'S ONE AT MY WINDOW!

--AND AGAIN IMPLORED FOR PEACE WHEN ELMER SUTTON RUSHED IN WITH HIS SHOTGUN.

PLEASE, ELMER-- DON'T SHOOT!

BUT HE DID--

BAOUM

--AND THE NIGHTMARISH SIEGE RESUMED THROUGHOUT THE REMAINDER OF THE NIGHT.

THE LAST CREATURE WAS SEEN AT 4:45 AM, AND BY SUNRISE--

I DO BELIEVE THEY'RE *FINALLY* GONE!

LATER THAT DAY, ANDREW "BUD" LEDWITH, ENGINEER/ANNOUNCER AT RADIO STATION WHOP, SENSED A WHOPPER OF A STORY OUT ON THE SUTTON FARM.

I'M GOING OUT TO *TALK* TO THESE FOLKS.

WHOP

WHOP

INTERVIEWING THE SEVEN ADULT WITNESSES IN THREE ISOLATED GROUPS, LEDWITH RECEIVED AND RENDERED A REMARKABLE CONSISTENCY OF DESCRIPTION--

--ALTHOUGH THE WOMENFOLK DID FAVOR A THICKER WAIST, AND BILLY RAY TAYLOR *INSISTED* ON THE ADDITION OF ANTENNAE.

LEDWITH BELIEVED THE WITNESSES — UNLIKE MOST REPORTERS.

PRESS

NO, THEY WERE *NOT* "LITTLE GREEN MEN FROM OUTER SPACE."

THEY WAS *SILVER.*

THE WILD ACCOUNT WAS PARTIALLY CORROBORATED BY A NEIGHBOR WHO HAD SEEN STRANGE LIGHTS MOVING ON THE SUTTON SPREAD, ADDING: "I'M GLAD I DIDN'T GO OUT THERE — I MIGHT HAVE BEEN SHOT."

INDEED — AND PERHAPS MORE THAN ONCE.

SEEKING NEITHER PROFIT NOR PUBLICITY, THE WITNESSES ENDURED A SECOND SIEGE OF MORE MUNDANE ENTITIES WHO VARIOUSLY BLAMED THE ENCOUNTER ON BOOZE, INSANITY, RELIGIOUS HYSTERIA, OR FUGITIVE MONKEYS.

THE MORE SENSATIONAL PRESS ACCOUNTS PREDICTABLY PORTRAYED THE FARMHOUSE UNDER CONSTANT AND ABSURDLY BLOOD-CURDLING ATTACK BY AS MANY AS FIFTEEN "LITTLE GREEN MEN."

BUT THE WITNESSES — WHOSE STORY HAS NEVER WAVERED IN FORTY-PLUS YEARS — DESCRIBED NO SUCH THING.

IN TRUTH (BEFORE REFUSING TO DISCUSS IT FURTHER), THEY INSISTED THAT NO MORE THAN TWO CREATURES WERE EVER SEEN SIMULTANEOUSLY.

AND WHILE THE HUMANS WERE ADMITTEDLY QUICK TO SHOOT, THEY ALSO ADMIT THAT THE ENTITIES NEVER "ATTACKED" OR DEMONSTRATED HOSTILITY OF ANY KIND.

AT MOST, THEY DISPLAYED EXTREMELY PERSISTENT CURIOSITY IN THE FACE OF SEVERE REJECTION.

AND SO WE CAN ONLY WONDER HOW THE ENCOUNTER (SURELY AN EVENT OCCURRING BUT ONCE IN A KENTUCKY BLUE MOON) WAS VIEWED FROM THE *OTHER* SIDE--

I THINK THAT WENT WELL, DON'T YOU?

--WHILST KEEPING OUR PARANOID POWDER DRY... JUST IN CASE.

SHERLOCK HOLMES CREATOR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE ALSO WROTE "THE LOST WORLD," A STORY ABOUT A REMOTE JUNGLE PLATEAU SWARMING WITH PREHISTORIC SURVIVORS.

LET'S EXPLORE A REAL-LIFE "LOST WORLD" DEEP IN THE AFRICAN CONGO, A MISTY REALM OF DENSE SWAMPS, JUNGLES, AND, JUST MAYBE, A--

DINOSAUR ALIVE

STORIES OF MOKELE-MBEMBE, A DINOSAUR-LIKE CREATURE SUPPOSEDLY HAUNTING THE CONGO SWAMPS, HAVE BEEN TOLD FOR AT LEAST 200 YEARS— ACCEPTED BY LOCAL AFRICANS, REJECTED BY THE REST OF THE WORLD.

THE MOST PERSISTENT AND SENSATIONAL ACCOUNT DATES FROM 1959, WHEN A GROUP OF PYGMIES ALLEGEDLY ENGAGED MOKELE-MBEMBE IN A TERRIFIC STRUGGLE ENDING WITH THE CREATURE'S DEATH.

(IN SOME VERSIONS OF THE STORY, THE VICTORIOUS PYGMIES ATE THE SLAIN CREATURE— AND PROMPTLY DROPPED DEAD.

DR. ROY P. MACKAL, UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO BIOLOGIST AND FAMED "HUNTER" OF THE LOCH NESS MONSTER, DECIDED:

SINCE THE CONGO'S CLIMATE HAS BEEN STABLE FOR MORE THAN 70 MILLION YEARS, A SMALL GROUP OF SURVIVING DINOSAURS IS *NOT* IMPOSSIBLE.

INDEED, DESCRIPTIONS OF MOKELE-MBEMBE WERE REMARKABLY SUGGESTIVE OF A SAUROPOD DINOSAUR— WHOSE PICTURE WAS INCLUDED AMONG THOSE OF MANY OTHER ANIMALS SHOWN TO WITNESSES.

AND ALTHOUGH IT WOULD HAVE BEEN EXTINCT FOR MORE THAN 60 MILLION YEARS, THE LONE DINOSAUR IN THE LINE-UP WAS UNANIMOUSLY FINGERED BY WITNESS AFTER WITNESS, IN VILLAGE AFTER VILLAGE.

WHEN WITNESSES DESCRIBED MOKELE-MBEMBE AS ONLY 30-40 FEET, HOWEVER — ROUGHLY HALF THE LENGTH OF A FOSSILIZED BRONTOSAURUS — MACKAL BEGAN TALKING ABOUT A "PYGMY SAUROPOD."

ALSO INTRIGUING ARE ASHANTI GOLD-WEIGHTS, ANCIENT IN HUMAN TERMS, AND ALL BUT ONE MODELED ON KNOWN ANIMALS — MONKEYS, LIONS, AND SO ON, THE SOLE EXCEPTION LOOKING EXACTLY LIKE A BABY SAUROPOD.

COMBINING A REPTILIAN BODY WITH BIRD-LIKE FEET IN DISTINCTLY DINOSAURIAN FASHION, THE **SIRRUSH** (WHICH APPEARS ON THE RUINS OF A BABYLONIAN STRUCTURE CALLED "THE ISHTAR GATE" MAY HAVE BEEN MODELED, SOME ARGUE, ON DESCRIPTIONS OF MOKELE-MBEMBE.

NOTING A STORY FROM THE BIBLICAL APOCHRYPHA — IN WHICH DANIEL STRANGLES A "DRAGON" IN THE BABYLONIAL TEMPLE OF BEL — OTHER RESEARCHERS WONDER IF SURVIVING DINOSAURS MIGHT EXPLAIN WHY DRAGONS APPEAR IN SO MANY CULTURE'S MYTHOLOGIES.

SEEKING ANSWERS, ROY MACKAL LED A 1980 AND A 1981 EXPEDITION TO THE CONGO'S LIKOUALA SWAMPLANDS, ONE OF THE LEAST EXPLORED REGIONS ON EARTH.

ALTHOUGH MACKAL NEVER REACHED LAKE TELE, SITE OF MOST OF THE REPORTED MOKELE-MBEMBE ENCOUNTERS, ANOTHER GROUP, THE REGUSTERS EXPEDITION, DID. THEY CLAIMED CLOSE SIGHTINGS OF A SAUROPOD DINOSAUR — BUT BROUGHT BACK NO PROOF.

INDEED, PROOF POSITIVE HAS ELUDED EVERY EXPEDITION — INCLUDING MACKAL AND OTHERS LIKE NUGENT, AGAGNA, AND GIBBONS — ALTHOUGH TRAILS AND CRUSHED VEGETATION HAVE BEEN FOUND NEAR PROVOCATIVE FOOT-PRINTS LIKE THIS.

GIANT BIRD OR DINOSAUR? *YOU* DECIDE.

AS FOR ROY MACKAL, HE CONCLUDED IN 1980:

MOKELE-MBEMBE IS A REAL ANIMAL, NOT A MYTH. WE OBTAINED EYEWITNESS REPORTS AS RECENTLY AS 1979.

MOST ZOOLOGISTS, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO SCOFF--

-- JUST AS THEY SCOFFED WHEN AFRICAN WITNESSES DESCRIBED "HAIRY WILDMEN" — CONSIDERED FOLKLORE UNTIL A 1901 SIGHTING BY A "CIVILIZED" NATURALIST SETTLED THE DEBATE. THE CREATURE, UNKNOWN AT THAT TIME TO EUROPEAN AND WESTERN SCIENTISTS, WAS THE MOUNTAIN GORILLA.

THE MORAL OF OUR TALE? SINCE THE NATIVES *LIVE* THERE, MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T DISMISS WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT THEIR HOME TURF, EVEN IF IT INCLUDES "WILDMEN" — OR ***LIVING DINOSAURS.***

EVERY MYSTERY IN THIS BOOK MAY BE SOMEHOW RELATED—DIFFERENT FACES AND FACETS OF THE SAME HOLOGRAPHIC WHOLE.

IF SO, WE ARE BLIND MEN GROPING A COSMIC ELEPHANT WHOSE TOTALITY WE CAN NEVER FATHOM—EXCEPT, PERHAPS, WHEN WE PASS ON TO THAT GREAT BUTCHER SHOP IN THE SKY.

RIGHT NOW, LET'S FOCUS ON JUST TWO MYSTERIES—WHICH MAY WELL BE EPIPHENOMENA OF EACH OTHER, WHICH WE'LL CALL--

CRYPTO-CRITTERS
UFOS
YETI/BIGFOOT
PSI POWERS
TELEPORTATIONS
CROP CIRCLES
GHOSTS
NESSIE
SEA SERPENTS
MIB'S
TIME SLIPS

THE SASQUATCH SAUCERS

WHETHER CALLED YETI, MOMO, ALMAS, BIGFOOT, SKUNK-APE, OR YOWIE, "MYSTERY ANTHROPOIDS" ARE USUALLY TREATED AS OUTRIGHT NONSENSE OR ACTUAL FLESH AND BLOOD (NON-PARANORMAL) TERRESTRIAL (NON-ALIEN) CREATURES.

ANTHROPOLOGIST GROVER KRANTZ EVEN SUGGESTS DECLARING THEM AN ENDANGERED SPECIES—*GIGANTOPITHECUS CANADENSIS*.

BUT *THIS* STORY ISN'T ABOUT *THAT*.

OUR STORY IS ABOUT SOMETHING FAR, FAR *WEIRDER*—AND IT BEGINS AT A BEACH NEAR ERIE PA., ON JULY 31, 1966--

--WHEN FIVE PEOPLE IN A CAR SAW A HAIRY HUMANOID SHORTLY AFTER A UFO LANDING.

FAR OUT, MAN!

DURING THE SUMMER OF 1972, STAN GORDON INVESTIGATED A DOZEN "LARGE APE" REPORTS IN OR NEAR A CEMETERY IN PENNSYLVANIA'S WESTMORELAND COUNTY—SITE OF A MAJOR UFO FLAP IN APRIL AND MAY.

POLICE AT THE SAME TIME CHASED "A NIGHT PROWLER" MAKING SOUNDS LIKE "A MAN SCREAMING IN PAIN AT THE TOP OF HIS LUNGS."

JULY OF 1973 BROUGHT A RASH OF GLOWING-EYES-AND-STENCH-AT-THE-WINDOW REPORTS. THE EYES WERE RED AND THE STINK WAS "ROTTEN EGGS," "SOMETHING DEAD," OR "SULPHUR."

YIKES!

PEE-YEW!

THE COMBINATION OF GLOWING EYES AND TERRIBLE SMELL—ASSOCIATED WITH BIG-FOOT, MOTHMAN, THE FLATWOODS MONSTER, GOATSUCKER, AND OTHER PARANORMAL HUMANOIDS—IS SHARED BY THE "CHIMERA" OF GREEK MYTH--

--SAID TO HAVE "FIERY RED EYES," THE SCENT OF "FIRE AND BRIMSTONE," AND THE ABILITY TO VANISH AS SUDDENLY AS IT APPEARED.

WHEN THE POLISH MEDIUM KLURSKI ALLEGEDLY MATERIALIZED AN "APE-LIKE HUMANOID" IN SEANCE, THE MULTIPLE WITNESSES ALL REPORTED THE SAME "OVERWHELMING STENCH."

QUICK! SOMEBODY INVENT THE *LEMON-FRESH AEROSOL ROOM DEODORIZER!*

FOUL ODOR ATTENDS MANY PARANORMAL EVENTS—AND FLORIDA'S VERSION OF SASQUATCH IS EVEN CALLED "SKUNK-APE."

SNF SNF! THAT *YOU*, EARL?

NOPE...AH THOUGHT IT WAS *YEW!*

MEANWHILE, BACK IN PENNSYLVANIA, BIGFOOT WITNESSES EXPERIENCED STRANGE SCRATCHING SOUNDS, THE CRIES OF PHANTOM BABIES, FLICKERING LIGHTS, AND OTHER POLTERGEIST PHENOMENA.

DO WE CALL THE *POLICE* OR *GHOST-BUSTERS?*

NEITHER —UNTIL WE *CATCH THE PHONE!*

SEPTEMBER 1, 1973: AFTER SNATCHING HER BABY AWAY FROM AN APPROACHING "APELIKE CREATURE" IN ANOTHER PENNSYLVANIA CEMETERY, A WOMAN JUMPED IN HER CAR AND SPED FIVE MILES TO HER FATHER'S HOUSE.

AN HOUR AFTER HER ARRIVAL, SEVERAL WITNESSES REPORTED AN (APPARENTLY PERSISTENT) "APELIKE CREATURE" PEERING AROUND THE CORNER OF THE HOUSE.

FROM JUNE OF 1973 THROUGH FEBRUARY OF 1974, STAN GORDON'S PENNSYLVANIA UFO GROUP DOCUMENTED 118 HAIRY HUMANOID SIGHTINGS BY 245 WITNESSES.

DURING THE SAME PERIOD, THERE WERE NEARLY 600 UFO REPORTS.

IN EARLY SEPTEMBER OF 1973, THREE WOMEN DRIVING THROUGH A WOODED AREA ALLEGEDLY WATCHED A RAMP EMERGE FROM THE SIDE OF A LARGE RECTANGULAR OBJECT RESTING ON THE GROUND.

THREE "APELIKE, HAIR-COVERED CREATURES"—ABOUT SEVEN FEET TALL—RAN DOWN THE RAMP AND INTO THE WOODS.

YEEHAH! FREE AT LAST!

BEAVER COUNTY, SEPTEMBER 27: TWO TEENAGE GIRLS SAW A "WHITE HAIR-COVERED CREATURE WITH RED EYES" (ALBINO BIGFOOT?) HOLDING A "LUMINOUS SPHERE." A UFO WAS ALSO REPORTED NEARBY.

CARE FOR YOUR *FORTUNES TOLD*, EARTHLINGS?

THE MOST FAMOUS BIGFOOT/UFO INCIDENT—THE "GREENSBURG CASE"—BEGAN AT 9PM ON OCTOBER 25, WHEN FIFTEEN PENNSYLVANIANS WATCHED A "LARGE RED BALL" DESCEND INTO A FARM PASTURE.

"STEPHEN PULASKI" (A PSUEDONYM), A 22-YEAR-OLD FARMER GRABBED HIS RIFLE AND DROVE OUT TO THE PASTURE WITH 10-YEAR-OLD TWIN NEIGHBORS, WHERE THEY FOUND A 100-FOOT DIAMETER UFO—"DOME-SHAPED, LIKE A BIG BUBBLE"—RESTING ON THE GROUND, NOW GLOWING WHITE AND EMITTING SOUNDS LIKE "A LAWN MOWER MOTOR."

THERE WERE ALSO "CRYING SOUNDS"—AND THE SMELL OF "BURNING RUBBER"—JUST BEFORE ONE OF THE TWINS SHOUTED AND POINTED ALONG THE FENCE--

LOOK!

--AT TWO HAIRY, GLOWING-EYED ENTITIES, EIGHT AND SEVEN FEET TALL.

THE SHAGGY BEINGS WERE "WHINING BACK AND FORTH" AS THEY APPROACHED ALONG THE WIRE FENCE.

spak spak

STEPHEN FIRED TWICE ABOVE THEIR BIZARRE HEADS.

AND WHEN THE THINGS KEPT COMING, HE PUMPED THREE SLUGS DIRECTLY INTO THE CHEST OF THE LARGER ONE.

SPAK SPAK SPAK

"I KNOW I HIT IT," HE SWORE.

UPON IMPACT, THE LARGER CREATURE WHINED AND RAISED ITS HANDS TOWARD THE SMALLER ONE--

--WHEREUPON THE MOTOR SOUND IMMEDIATELY DIED AND THE UFO DISAPPEARED--

--LEAVING A CIRCULAR GLOWING AREA ON THE GROUND.

THE TWO CREATURES THEN TURNED AND SLOWLY SHAMBLED BACK TOWARDS THE NEARBY WOODS.

HAD THEY JUST MISSED THEIR RIDE?

STEPHEN AND ONE OF THE TWINS (THE OTHER HAD ALREADY FLED) THEN EXPERIENCED EYE IRRITATION AS THEY WENT TO CALL THE POLICE.

BY 9:45 THE GLOWING GROUND PATCH HAD FADED, BUT WAS STILL BRIGHT ENOUGH, ACCORDING TO A PENNSYLVANIA STATE TROOPER, "TO READ A NEWSPAPER BY."

TROOPER BYRNE NOTICED FARM ANIMALS AVOIDING THE AREA, AND THE TWO MEN ALSO DECIDED TO LEAVE WHEN THEY HEARD RUSTLING SOUNDS FROM THE WOODS.

I'LL CALL STAN GORDON'S UFO STUDY GROUP FROM THE BARRACKS.

THE GLOW WAS COMPLETELY GONE BY 1:30AM, WHEN GORDON'S TEAM ARRIVED, AND INVESTIGATOR GEORGE LUTZ'S RADIATION TEST REVEALED--

NOTHING— NORMAL BACKGROUND LEVELS.

THE FARM ANIMALS WERE STILL SPOOKED, HOWEVER, AND CONTINUED TO SHY AWAY FROM THE AREA.

ALL HELL BROKE LOOSE AT 2:00AM WHEN THE FARM'S BULL WAS SUDDENLY SCARED, THE DOG CAUGHT A SCENT, AND STEPHEN PULASKI STARTED SHAKING AND RUBBING HIS FACE.

MRAW RUAHHH...

WHEN STEPHEN BEGAN GROWLING LIKE A BEAST, HIS FATHER AND GEORGE LUTZ WENT TO HIS AID— ONLY TO BE VIOLENTLY THROWN OFF BY THE ABRUPTLY BERSERK FARMER.

...RAHRRR

GORDON AND THE OTHERS NOTICED, AMONG OTHER THINGS, THE SMELL OF "VERY STRONG SULPHUR." INVESTIGATOR DENNIS SMELTZER THEN TURNED TO STAN GORDON AND SAID:

HEY, STAN ...I'M STARTING TO FEEL *LIGHT-HEADED.*

MEANWHILE, STEPHEN WAS SNARLING AND FLAILING HIS ARMS LIKE A WILD ANIMAL.

RAOWR

GET *AWAY* FROM ME! IT'S *HERE!*

STEPHEN THEN COLLAPSED FACE-DOWN INTO FRESH MANURE, PROVING THAT IF IT WAS ALL JUST AN ACT, HE WAS A VIRTUOSO.

Splutch

STEPHEN LATER CLAIMED THAT HE HAD SEEN A FIGURE "IN A BLACK HAT AND CLOAK, CARRYING A SICKLE."

IF MAN DOESN'T *STRAIGHTEN UP,* THE END WILL COME *SOON!* THE WHOLE WORLD WILL *BURN!*

PSYCHIATRIST BERTHOLD SCHWARZ NOTES THAT THE GREENSBURG ENTITIES RESEMBLED A CROSS BETWEEN THE TYPICAL SASQUATCH AND A MEDIEVAL WEREWOLF.

GRRRRRR!

GARRR!

RRRR!

AND ALTHOUGH STEPHEN CLAIMED NO PHYSICAL BITES, HE CERTAINLY BEHAVED AS IF "INFECTED" OR "POSSESSED," ACTING MORE LIKE AN ANIMAL THAN THE HUMANOIDS DID.



WERE PEOPLE IN THE PAST SIMILARLY TRANSFORMED? DID SOME LONG-AGO SASQUATCH-SAUCER ENCOUNTER INSPIRE THE LYCANTHROPHY LEGEND OF "WEREWOLVES" AND "WITCH-BALLS?"

FURTHERMORE, STEPHEN'S "SICKLE FIGURE" WAS A CROSS BETWEEN THE CLASSIC GRIM REAPER AND UFO LORE'S MYSTERIOUS "MAN IN BLACK."

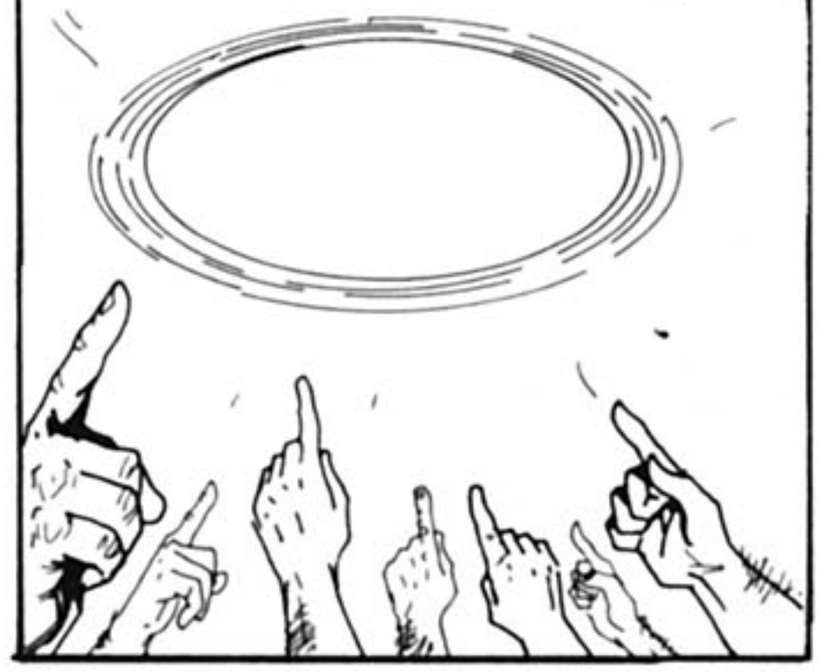
GLOOM AND *DOOM!*

THE *SKY IS FALLING!*

TELL *EVERYONE* BUT SAY *NOTHING!*

THE DIRE WARNING WAS THE SAME MESSAGE RECEIVED BY EARLY "FLYING SAUCER CONTACTEES," MORE RECENT "UFO ABDUCTEES," AND SCHIZOPHRENICS ALIKE.

A WEEK AFTER THE GREENSBURG CASE, MORE THAN A HUNDRED PEOPLE SAW A LARGE DISC-SHAPED OBJECT ABOVE THE NEARBY MIDLAND AREA, WHERE POLICE WERE INVESTIGATING "STRANGE ANIMAL" REPORTS.



TWO HUNTERS FOUND A 42-FOOT RING OF DEPRESSED GRASS THE FOLLOWING DAY--

--ONLY 250 YARDS FROM A TRAIL OF LARGE THREE-TOED FOOTPRINTS DISCOVERED EARLIER BY OTHERS.

A YEAR LATER IN NEARBY UNIONTOWN, A WOMAN INVESTIGATING NOISES ON HER PORCH ENCOUNTERED A SEVEN-FOOT-TALL "APELIKE CREATURE"--

CHOOM

--WHICH *DISAPPEARED* AFTER TAKING A SHOTGUN BLAST.

THE WOMAN'S SON-IN-LAW REVEALED A SIMILAR ENCOUNTER FROM THE PREVIOUS NOVEMBER. IN THAT CASE, THE BEING COULD BE HEARD RUNNING AWAY *AFTER* IT TURNED INVISIBLE.

BAM BAM BAM

EXPLORING CANADA IN 1924, JAMES RENNIE REPORTED BIGFOOT-LIKE TRACKS "SPRINGING INTO BEING AS THEY CAME TOWARDS ME."

THE INCIDENT ENDED, RENNIE SAID, WHEN A "LARGE BLOB OF WATER HIT ME IN THE FACE."

THE SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DESERT, SPRING OF 1968: AWAKENED BY AN EXPLOSION TWO PROSPECTORS SAW A "RED, CIRCULAR FLYING SAUCER."

BAOUMM

FOLLOWING THE RED LIGHT TO AN ADJACENT CANYON, THE MEN FOUND THE SAUCER HOVERING ABOVE ENTITIES WITH "GLOWING RED EYES" MARCHING IN SINGLE FILE.

ALTHOUGH UFO AND ENTITIES ALIKE WERE SILENT, THE PROSPECTORS COULD HEAR MECHANICAL CLANKING SOUNDS AND SOMETHING LIKE "A CHURCH BELL."

THE PROSPECTORS SAID THEY WERE SHOCKED TO FIND "TWO OF THE THINGS STANDING RIGHT BEHIND" THEM—AND WHEN THE BEINGS "JUST STOOD THERE," THE MEN FLED.

DECEMBER 2, 1974: DRIVING TO HIS WISCONSIN FARM, FREDERICK BOSAK ENTERED DENSE FOG TO FIND A TRANSPARENT DOME-SHAPED OBJECT ON THE ROAD.

"I'VE NEVER SEEN A WEIRDER CONTRAPTION," HE SAID.

INSIDE WAS A HAIRY HUMANOID—THAT SEEMED TO BE "STRUGGLING," AS IF TRYING TO ESCAPE.

BOSAK CONSIDERED RAMMING THE OBJECT, BUT CHANGED HIS MIND WHEN THE INSIDE OF HIS CAR TURNED "PITCH BLACK" AND HE HEARD A "WHOOSHING." HE SAID, "YOU CAN BET I GOT OUT OF THERE FAST."

AT THIS POINT, IT'S PROBABLY NO SHOCK TO FIND SASQUATCH FITTING INTO YET ANOTHER PARANORMAL PUZZLE--NAMELY, MYSTERY MUTILATIONS.

YUM YUM!

COLORADO FARMERS "JIM AND SUSAN EVANS" (BOTH PSEUDONYMS) WERE PLAGUED BY UFOS IN 1975, SEEING AS MANY AS NINE DISCS HOVERING A-BOVE THEIR HOUSE AT ONE TIME.

THEY ALSO RECEIVED NUMEROUS VISITS FROM A SASQUATCH ENTITY --WHO ONCE MIMICKED SUSAN AS SHE SHADED HER EYES TO PEER AT THE THING.

AFTER FOUR OF HIS CATTLE HAD BEEN MUTILATED, JIM ARGUED WITH THE LOCAL SHERIFF, WHO ALLEGEDLY BLURTED:

IT'S BEING DONE BY *EXTRATERRESTRIALS!* THE FBI *KNOWS* ABOUT IT!

ONE NIGHT JIM AND ANOTHER MAN CAME UPON A BLACK BOX "BUZZING LIKE A BUNCH OF ANGRY BEES"—AND THEN, BACKING OFF, ENCOUNTERED TWO "NORDIC TYPE" UFO BEINGS WHO SPOKE "VERNACULAR ENGLISH."

HOW NICE OF YOU TO COME.

YOU DID THE RIGHT THING BACKING AWAY FROM THE BOX.

"IT WAS WHAT I CALL AN IM-PLIED THREAT," JIM SAID.

THE "SPACEMEN"—FIVE AND A HALF FEET TALL, BLOND, "EFFEMINATE BUT COMPLETELY SELF-ASSURED"—NODDED TO A "BIGFOOT," WHO BEGAN WALKING TOWARD THE BUZZING BLACK BOX.

"THE BOX CHANGED TONE," JIM SAID, "AND BIGFOOT DROPPED."

AS YOU CAN *SEE*, THEY ARE QUITE *LETHAL*.

(AND USED, PERHAPS, TO RUSTLE CATTLE?)

WHILE DOING A "KARNAK"-TYPE ROUTINE IN 1974, CALIFORNIA PSYCHIC JOYCE PARTISE WAS GIVEN A SEALED ENVELOPE CONTAINING A SASQUATCH PRINT PHOTO.

THESE THINGS ARE COMING FROM OUTER SPACE!

YOU KNOW THOSE HAIRY THINGS THAT RUN AROUND—THE *APE-MAN*? HE'S *NOT* AN APE!

"THERE'S THOUSANDS OF THEM," PARTISE WENT ON. "THEY'RE FROM ANOTHER CIVILIZATION LONG AGO AND HAVE MUTATED. NOW THEY'RE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH THOSE IN OUTER SPACE..."

"THERE'S A HOLE IN THE MOUNTAIN. THESE ALIENS ARE USING THEM FOR LABORERS, BUT I CAN'T TELL WHAT THEY'RE BUILDING."

NO *SLACKING*, MONKEY-MEN!

RESEARCHER PAUL RUSSELL CLAIMS SASQUATCH IS "AN INTERDIMENSIONAL BEING WHO GUARDS DOORWAYS TO PARALLEL UNIVERSES."

TICKET, PLEASE.

UFOLOGIST MARK MORAVEC OFFERS OTHER POSSIBILITIES: THAT THERE ARE DIFFERENT UFO ENTITIES, SOME RESEMBLING THE "REAL" SASQUATCH BY SHEER COINCIDENCE.

OR: UFOS ARE "STUDYING" BIGFOOT AS WELL AS HUMANS.

SOME ABDUCTEES REPORT "GRAYS" USING HAIRY HUMANOIDS TO PERFORM THE "HARD PHYSICAL TASKS."

YOW!

IF BOTH PHENOMENA ARE FROM THE SAME "OTHER DIMENSION," MAYBE THE PARANORMAL ANTHROPOIDS ARE NOTHING BUT ESCAPED PETS OR ZOO SPECIMENS.

THERE IT IS!

YIKES!

FINALLY, THE UFO-LINK MIGHT ANSWER SASQUATCH SKEPTICS' BIGGEST QUESTION:

IF THESE THINGS PHYSICALLY EXIST, WHY HASN'T ANYONE STUMBLED ON A *CARCASS* BY NOW, OR AT LEAST SOME *BONES*?

PERHAPS LIKE THE CAVALRY, UFOS SIMPLY REFUSE TO LEAVE THEIR DEAD *BEHIND*.

BIGFOOT DISPOSAL

FACTOID BOOKS

CHAPTER FOUR

FROM THE BEYOND

Ghosts and psychic phenomena may or may not be related, but they appear together in this final chapter anyway — seemingly part and parcel of the same invasive and invisible mystery.

Simultaneously and paradoxically, the notion of dead-but-undead apparitions is both terrifying and optimistic. Death is the Great Unknown, and its denizens — ghosts, spirits, poltergeists — are just as alien as UFO occupants. And yet, if they truly exist, then they are vivid proof that death is *not* the end.

Unless they're *something else* — other-dimensional Cosmic Tricksters perhaps, working the ultimate con game by merely masquerading as the souls of body-dead humans, and perhaps by concocting *all* inexplicable paranormal events...

EVER GET THE SINKING FEELING THAT WE'VE ALL BEEN PUT HERE FOR THE TWISTED AMUSEMENT OF SOME HIGHER BEING?

IF SO, GET IN ON THE JOKE WITH THESE--

COSMIC TRICKSTER Quickies

BELIEF IN THE LOST CONTINENT CALLED LEMURIA, NOW CONSIDERED SHEER FANTASY, WAS PROMPTED BY A SCIENTIFIC THEORY EXPLAINING THE DISJOINTED DISTRIBUTION OF LEMURS AROUND THE WORLD.

GOO GOO GA JOO - I AM THE EGGMAN, I AM THE *LEMURIAN*...

GENESIS FIGURE AND FAMED SODOMITE, LOT, ALLEGEDLY HAD HIS WIFE TURNED INTO A PILLAR OF SALT BY GOD. BUT HE MAY HAVE BEEN A BIGAMIST--

--AT LEAST IF THE NUMEROUS DEAD SEA PILLARS OF SALT ARE ANY INDICATION.

SEPARATED AT BIRTH? THE ANCIENT EGYPTIAN GOD SEBEK - AND LONG BEACH'S JAKE THE ALLIGATOR MAN.

AT LAST - MY *BETTER HALF!*

BY HIS OWN ADMISSION, PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN FOLLOWED ADVICE RECEIVED FROM SPIRITS AT SEANCES.

TAKE THE NIGHT OFF, ABE, GO TO THE THEATER, BLOW YOUR MIND...

AND HERE'S A 1.15-MILLION-YEAR-OLD HUMAN SKULL (EVEN THOUGH HUMANS HAVE SUPPOSEDLY EXISTED FOR ONLY 100,000 YEARS) FOUND BY HANS RECK IN AFRICA'S OLDUVAI GORGE--

--COMPARED WITH THE CONTINENT OF AFRICA ITSELF.

PRETTY CLOSE. JUST ANOTHER CRAZED COINCIDENCE FROM THE COSMIC TRICKSTER.

MESS WITH ME, MODERN PUNKS, AND YOU DIE!

TUT, TUT, TUT, BOY KING, LET'S NOT GET AHEAD OF OURSELVES! AFTER ALL, WE'VE YET TO DETERMINE WHETHER YOUR SO-CALLED REVENGE IS MERE MUMMERY OR A GENUINE—

CURSE OF THE MUMMY'S BOY

WHEN THE ARABS FIRST ENTERED EGYPT IN THE SEVENTH CENTURY, THEY WERE AWED BY ALREADY ANCIENT WONDERS AND PROFOUND MYSTERY.

YOW!

STRANGE CARVINGS OUTSIDE LABYRINTHINE VAULTS WERE SAID TO EMBODY SUCH CURSES AS: "DEATH SHALL COME ON SWIFT WINGS TO ANYONE WHO VIOLATES THE PHARAOH'S TOMB!"

STRANGER STILL WERE THE HEIROGLYPHIC PICTOGRAMS INSIDE THE TOMBS — ANCIENT COMIC STRIPS PORTRAYING MYSTICAL CEREMONIES OF MUMMIFICATION AND LITERAL RESURRECTION FROM DEATH.

CLEARLY, THE ARABS DECIDED, THESE VANISHED EGYPTIANS HAD BEEN EXTREMELY MAGICAL DUDES!

THE ARABS FURTHER BELIEVED THAT "INVISIBLE TOMB TREASURES" COULD BE MATERIALIZED BY HEIROGLYPHIC INCANTATIONS—SINCE THE OLD WORD FOR EGYPT WAS **KEME**, MEANING "BLACK LAND" (THE FERTILE STRIPS ALONG THE NILE), THIS MAGICAL EGYPTIAN MATTER WAS CALLED:

AL KEME!

LATER, "ALCHEMY" BECAME THE BELIEF THAT MATTER COULD BE ALTERED IN STRUCTURE AND APPEARANCE VIA SPELLS AND POTIONS.

SURELY THE CURSES OF SUCH POTENT SORCERERS MEANT THAT THE DEAD WOULD LITERALLY RISE TO PUNISH ANYONE DISTURBING THEIR REST.

WAKE ME UP TRYIN' TO ROB MY CRIB, WILLYA?!

YAIEEE!

QUAINT SEVENTH CENTURY SUPERSTITION, YOU MIGHT SAY, WITH NO RELEVANCE TO OUR ENLIGHTENED MODERN TIMES?

HAH! THINK AGAIN! AS WE ZOOM AHEAD TO THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

IN 1922, GEORGE E.S.M. HERBERT, FIFTH EARL OF CARNARVON, BECAME A PATRON OF ARCHAEOLOGIST HOWARD CARTER.

I'M THE MONEY!

I'M THE MAN!

BANKROLLED BY LORD CARNARVON TO SEARCH FOR THE TOMB OF THE YOUNG PHARAOH TUTANKHAMUN, (WHO DIED AT AGE 18 IN 1352 BC), HOWARD CARTER CELEBRATED BY BUYING HIMSELF A CANARY.

THIS YELLOW SINGING BIRD WILL BRING US LUCK!

INDEED, BY EARLY NOVEMBER, IN THE VAST DESERT MORTUARY KNOWN AS THE VALLEY OF THE KINGS, CARTER'S TEAM HAD EXCAVATED SIXTEEN SUNKEN STEPS LEADING STRAIGHT DOWN TO THE SEALED DOOR OF TUT'S TOMB.

NOTIFIED IN ENGLAND, LORD CARNARVON ARRIVED AT LUXOR ON NOVEMBER 23.

IT WAS THEN THAT DISASTER, SUPPOSEDLY FORETOLD, STRUCK: A COBRA DEVOURED CARTER'S LUCKY CANARY — AND, SINCE EGYPTIAN ROYALTY WAS TRADITIONALLY PROTECTED BY THE COBRA GODDESS WADJET, THE WORKERS PREDICTED THERE WOULD BE:

DIRE DEATH!

THE FEVERISH WORK NEVERTHELESS PROCEEDED — UNTIL THE SANCTUM WAS FINALLY BREACHED ON FEBRUARY 17, 1923, REVEALING THE MAGNIFICENT TREASURES OF TUTANKHAMUN FOR THE FIRST TIME IN 3000 YEARS.

THERE ARE SOME MARVELOUS OBJECTS HERE, LORD CARNARVON.

YES, CARTER, WONDERFUL THINGS!

AN UNDERSTATEMENT, TO SAY THE LEAST!

AT SOME POINT DURING THE DAY, IN A FLAGRANTLY VAMPIRIC ACT—

SHLURRP!

A MOSQUITO FEASTED ON LORD CARNARVON'S LEFT CHEEK.

BUT AMIDST SUCH EXQUISITE TREASURE — INCOMPARABLE ARTISTRY IN GOLD AND PRECIOUS STONES—THE MOSQUITO BITE SEEMED INCONSEQUENTIAL.

FINEST STUFF IN ALL OF EGYPT, MILORD—LET'S GET IT OUT OF HERE!

ABSOLUTELY—YEOWCH!

SLAP!!

AND THUS WAS ONE OF THE VALLEY'S LAST UNTOUCHED TOMBS FINALLY LOOTED BY THIEVES WITH A NEW NAME—

HUP, HUP!

STEP LIVELY!

"ARCHAEOLOGISTS."

PERHAPS DISTRACTED BY THE DAZZLING PLUNDER, LORD CARNARVON NICKED HIS MOSQUITO BITE WHILE SHAVING.

OUCH! DAMMIT ALL!

SKRT

BUT STILL HE PAID NO HEED, RETURNING TO SEE TUT'S TOMB STRIPPED TO THE FUNGUS-COVERED WALLS.

CAREFUL, MAN!

THERE WAS TROUBLE WITH THE EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES WHEN CARTER AND CARNARVON INSISTED THAT THE DIG WAS "THEIR PROPERTY," THEREBY STEALING NOT JUST ITS CONTENTS BUT THE ENTIRE TOMB ITSELF!

GRRR!

GNASH!

SNARL!

WHEN THE DISPUTE LED TO A NEWS BLACKOUT ON THE SENSATIONAL TUT FIND, THE PRESS RESORTED TO INVENTING ITS OWN STORIES—

The [illegible] Times

TUT TOMB DEATH CURSE?

—SUCH AS GOTHIC NOVELIST MARIE CORELLI FORETELLING THE DEATHS OF ALL INVOLVED WITH THE OPENING OF THE TOMB, AS AN EVITABLE RESULT OF THOSE CURSES WHICH HAD SO ALARMED THE SEVENTH-CENTURY ARABS.

IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT TUTANKHAMUN'S TOMB BORE NO HEIROGLYPHIC WARNING— AND SUCH "DIRE CURSES" WERE NEVER MEANT TO BE TAKEN LITERALLY IN THE FIRST PLACE.

BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...

LORD CARNARVON'S MOSQUITO BITE BECAME INFECTED, DEVELOPED INTO PNEUMONIA AND KILLED HIM IN HIS CAIRO HOTEL ROOM ON APRIL 5, 1923, JUST A MONTH AFTER THE TOMB LOOTING.

THE ENTIRE CITY OF CAIRO BLACKED OUT AT THE EXACT MOMENT OF HIS DEATH.

ALSO AT THAT MOMENT, IN ENGLAND, LORD CARNARVON'S FOX TERRIER SUPPOSEDLY LET OUT A "FRIGHTFUL HOWL"—

AROOOOOO!

— BEFORE DROPPING DEAD, TO THE CONSIDERABLE SHOCK OF HIGHCLERE CASTLE'S HOUSEKEEPER.

HOOT MON!

EVEN AS THE PRESS JUMPED ALL OVER THE CURSE STORY, A BLEMISH WAS REPORTEDLY FOUND ON THE LEFT CHEEK OF TUTANKHAMUN'S MUMMY — IN THE SAME SPOT AS LORD CARNARVON'S FATALLY INFECTED VAMPIRE BITE.

YOU WERE WARNED, MODERN PUNK!

BLASTED AS BUNKUM FROM THE BEGINNING, THE NOTION THAT A MOSQUITO COULD BE THE INSTRUMENT OF AN ANCIENT MUMMY'S REVENGE WAS NEVERTHELESS BOUGHT AND BELIEVED BY MANY.

THEN OTHER DEATHS STARTED PILING UP: PROFESSORS BREASTED AND LA FLEUR DIED AFTER VISITING THE TOMB, AS DID THE AMERICAN MILLIONAIRE GEORGE JAY GOULD—

CARTER'S ASSISTANT A.C. MACE WAS STRICKEN WITH FEVER AND EVENTUALLY DIED—

ANOTHER ASSISTANT, RICHARD BETHELL, DIED AT THE AGE OF 45—

LORD CARNARVON'S NURSE DIED, EVEN YOUNGER, AT 28.

IN ALL, DEATH CLAIMED SOME 23 PEOPLE LINKED TO THE TOMBS, WHILE MANY OTHERS SUFFERED VARIOUS MISFORTUNES.

MEANWHILE, IN A BIZARRE COMBINATION OF BEAUTY AND BAD TASTE, TUTANKHAMUN AND ALL THINGS EGYPTIAN INFLUENCED EVERYTHING FROM ART TO ARCHITECTURE DURING THE DECO CRAZE OF THE 20's AND 30's--

PARFUM

SIS

KARLOFF
THE MUMMY

--WHILE HOLLYWOOD SHUFFLED ONTO THE BANDWAGON WITH A SERIES OF MUMMY-CURSE POTBOILERS BEGINNING IN 1932.

A RATIONAL MIND WOULD PROBABLY DISMISS THE "TUT CURSE" AS NOTHING BUT A COMBINATION OF COINCIDENCE AND THE "BAD AIR" THEORY.

PEOPLE DO DIE, AFTER ALL, WHETHER THEY'VE DEFILED EGYPTIAN TOMBS OR NOT—

—AND SUCH TOMB OPENINGS MAY WELL UNLEASH MILLENNIA-OLD BACTERIA, FUNGI AND TOXINS ON THE ELDERLY, INFIRM AND OTHERWISE SUSCEPTIBLE.

LORD CARNARVON, FOR EXAMPLE, MAY HAVE CARELESSLY RUBBED ANCIENT COOTIES FROM THE CAVERN WALL INTO HIS NICKED MOSQUITO BITE.

AND YET, YEARS LATER, SHORTLY AFTER DEBUNKING CURSE-DEATHS AS NOTHING BUT FUNGAL INFECTIONS DR. EZZEDIN TAHA DIED IN A 1962 CAR CRASH IN THE MIDDLE OF NOWHERE BETWEEN CAIRO AND SUEZ.

UNDAUNTED, EGYPTIAN DIRECTOR OF ANTIQUITIES DR. GAMAL EL-DIN MEHREZ DECLARED IN 1972:

LOOK AT ME! INVOLVED WITH TOMBS AND MUMMIES ALL MY LIFE— SURELY THE BEST PROOF THAT IT IS NOTHING BUT COINCIDENCE!

FOUR WEEKS LATER, WITH THE TUT TREASURES COINCIDENTALLY EN ROUTE TO ENGLAND FOR A 50TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION, THE HALE AND HEARTY MEHREZ ABRUPTLY DROPPED DEAD.



MISFORTUNE ALSO DOGGED THE RAF CREW WHICH TRANSPORTED TUT RELICS. IAN LANSDOWN, FOR EXAMPLE, KICKED THE DEATHMASK CRATE IN DEFIANCE OF THE CURSE, ONLY TO BREAK THE SAME LEG IN A LATER FREAK ACCIDENT.

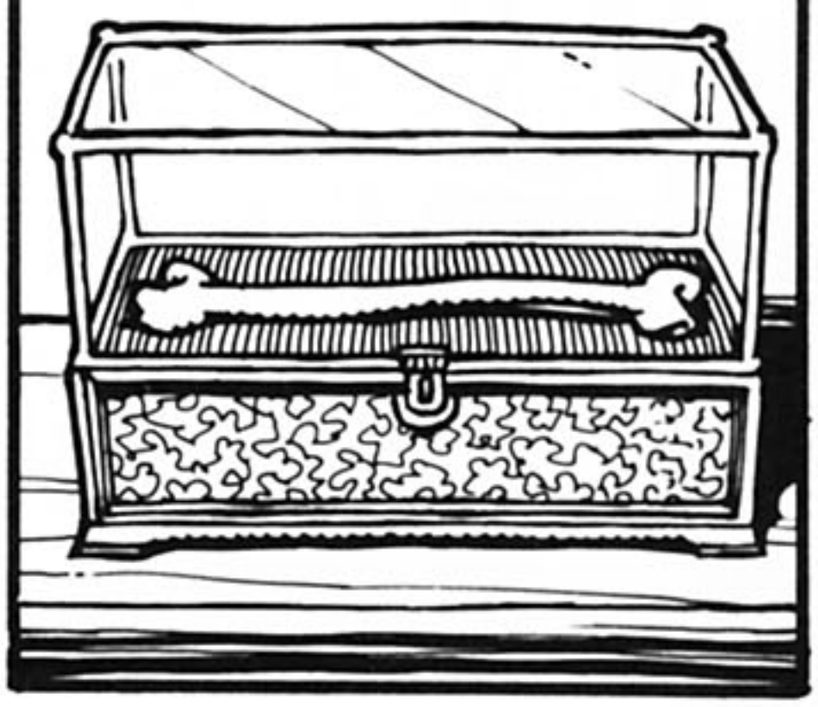


TWO OTHER CREW MEMBERS SUFFERED HEART ATTACKS, AND ANOTHER BLAMED HIS DIVORCE ON KING TUT: "THE CURSE WAS JUST A BIG LAUGH DURING THE FLIGHT, BUT NOW IT'S NOT SO FUNNY."

IN 1936, A DIFFERENT TOMB WAS OPENED AT GIZA, FROM WHICH A MUMMY BONE WAS PURCHASED BY SIR ALEXANDER SETON AND HIS WIFE ZEYLA.



THE COUPLE RETURNED TO EDINBURGH, WHERE THEY DISPLAYED THE SINISTER SOUVENIR IN THEIR DRAWING ROOM.



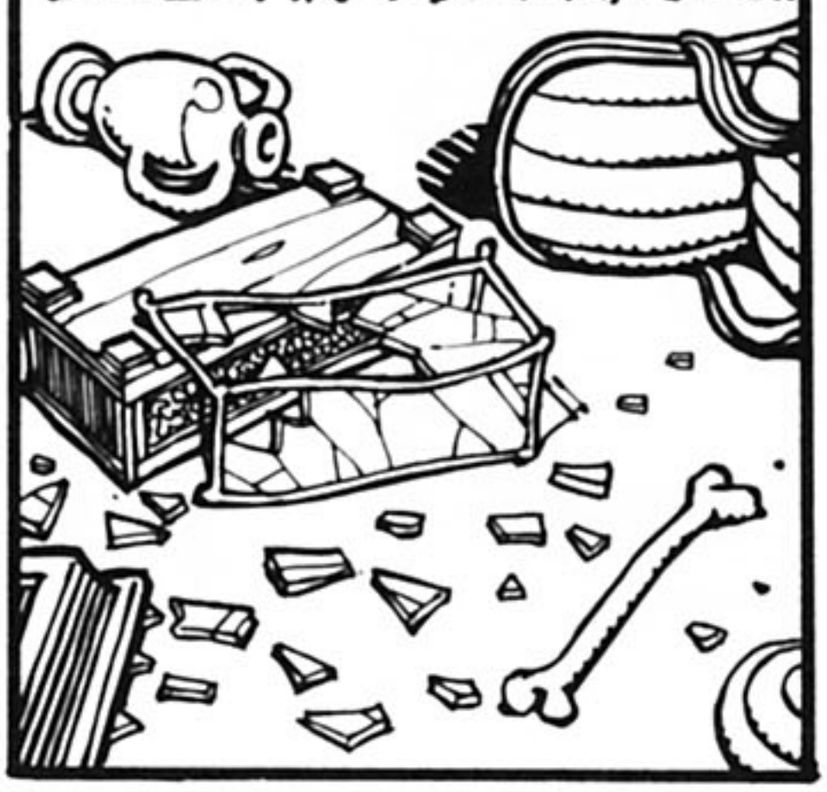
SOON AFTER, THEY BOTH FELL SERIOUSLY ILL, THEN, MYSTERIOUS FIRES BEGAN BREAKING OUT IN THEIR HOME.



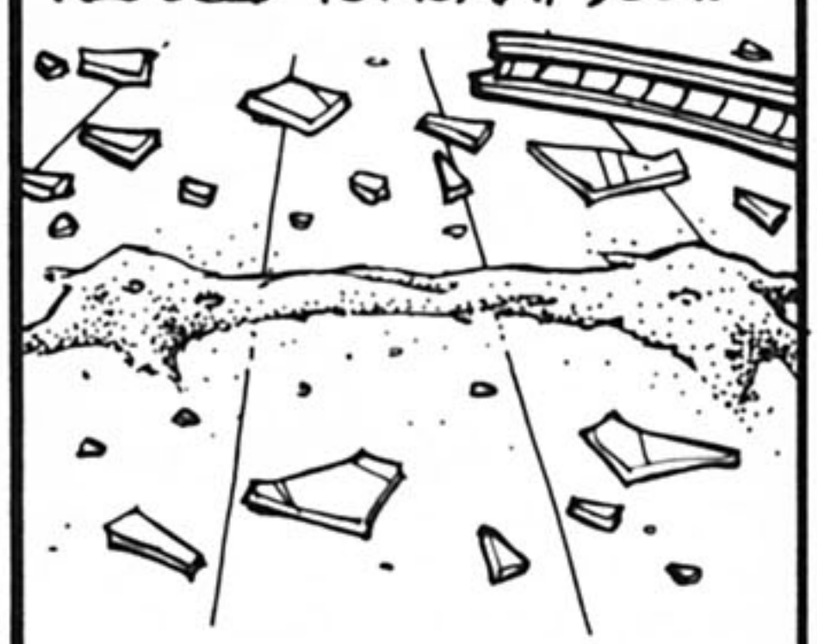
A NINE-YEAR-OLD VISITOR CLAIMED HE SAW A STRANGELY-ROBED FIGURE IN THE DRAWING ROOM, WHEN THERE WAS NO ONE ELSE AT HOME.



POLTERGEISTS APPARENTLY INFESTED THE HOUSE, MOVING AND BREAKING VARIOUS OBJECTS AND FURNITURE, INCLUDING THE BONE'S FIRST DISPLAY CASE.



IT ENDED ONLY WHEN THE SECOND DISPLAY CASE ALSO SHATTERED FOR NO APPARENT REASON— AND THE BONE WAS FOUND REDUCED TO MUMMY DUST.



THE SETONS EVENTUALLY DIVORCED.

ANOTHER ALLEGED CURSE IS ATTACHED TO A THEBAN PRIESTESS OF AMEN-RA, WHOSE "HAUNTED SARCOPHAGUS" WAS PURCHASED BY DOUGLAS MURRAY IN THE 1860's —



— WHEREUPON HE LOST AN ARM IN A SHOOTING ACCIDENT.

WHEN A LONDON JOURNALIST BORROWED THE SARCOPHAGUS LID, HER MOTHER IMMEDIATELY DIED, HER ENGAGEMENT WAS BROKEN, AND SHE FELL MYSTERIOUSLY ILL.



MURRAY DECIDED TO DONATE THE DAMNED THING TO THE BRITISH MUSEUM — WHERE AN EGYPTOLOGIST REPORTEDLY DIED WHILE STUDYING IT.

THEN A PHOTOGRAPHER CLAIMED HE DEVELOPED FILM SHOWING THE LID'S FACE WICKEDLY TWISTED INTO AN EXPRESSION OF MALEVOLENCE.



OFFICIALLY, THE MUSEUM TODAY SAYS THIS IS RUBBISH.

SO WHAT DO WE MAKE OF IT ALL? LORD CARNARVON DIES AND THE LIGHTS GO OUT — BUT THE POWER FREQUENTLY FAILS IN CAIRO, EVEN TODAY.

HIS DOG HOWLS AND DIES AT THE SAME MOMENT — ODD TIMING, BUT ALL DOGS HOWL AND DIE.



MOST EMPHATICALLY REPUDIATING ANY MUMMY'S REVENGE IS THE FACT THAT THE MAIN MAN AND "CHIEF PLUNDERER," HOWARD CARTER HIMSELF, LIVED TO A RIPE OLD AGE.

CURSED BE ANY CURSE THAT CURSES ME!



SHORTLY AFTER LORD CARNARVON'S 1923 FUNERAL, HIS SON WAS LESS DEFIANT, TELLING OF A VISIT FROM AN UNKNOWN WOMAN.



THE SON OBEYED, FORSAKING HIS DAD FOREVER.

SO WHO KNOWS? SELECTIVE CURSE OR CURIOUS COINCIDENCES? PERHAPS THE PHARAOH TUTANKHAMUN HIMSELF SHOULD HAVE THE FINAL WORD, ALTHOUGH THE WORD IS --



1242
1770
1901

IF INSTANTANEOUS JAUNTS THROUGH SPACE ARE CALLED TELEPORTATIONS, WHAT DO WE CALL 'IMPOSSIBLE TRIPS THROUGH TIME?

BEATS *ME*— BUT HERE'S ONE SUCH EXAMPLE POPULARLY KNOWN AS--

The Versailles Timeslip

IN THE SUMMER OF 1901, TWO MIDDLE-AGED ENGLISHWOMEN, BOTH RESPECTED ACADEMICS, DECIDED TO HOLIDAY IN FRANCE.

Paris

Versailles

MISS ANNE MOBERLEY WAS THE PRINCIPAL OF ST. HUGH'S COLLEGE AT OXFORD--

--WHILE MISS ELEANOR JOURDAIN WAS HEAD OF A GIRLS' SCHOOL IN WATFORD.

AFTER TOURING THE AWESOMELY OVER-DONE PALACE OF VERSAILLES ON AN EXTREMELY HOT AUGUST DAY, THE TWO WOMEN WERE STILL UP FOR MORE.

LET'S GO VIEW THE *PETIT TRIANON*.

YES, *LET'S*.

BUILT BY LOUIS XV AND GIVEN TO HIS MISTRESS MADAME DU BARRY, THE PETIT TRIANON LATER BECAME A FAVORITE HAUNT FOR MARIE ANTOINETTE--

--BEFORE SHE LOST HER HEAD.

A NORMALLY EASY -TO-REACH GOAL--

IT WAS TO BE A PLEASANT STROLL FOR MOBERLEY AND JOURDAIN—BUT ON THIS DAY, APPARENTLY, EACH STEP FORWARD WOULD TAKE THEM AT LEAST TWO STEPS BACK...IN TIME.

MY, IT'S *HOT*.

I THINK WE'RE LOST—LET'S TRY THIS *SIDE LANE*.

ALTHOUGH SHE DID NOT MENTION IT AT THE TIME, JOURDAIN LATER WROTE OF "A HEAVY DREAMINESS" WHICH SEEMED OPPRESSIVE. "I BEGAN TO FEEL AS IF I WERE WALKING IN MY SLEEP."

MOBERLEY ALSO FELT WEIRD.

THEY PASSED A CORNER IN THE LANE, WHERE A WOMAN SHOOK A WHITE CLOTH FROM THE UPPER WINDOW OF AN OLD BUT NEW-SEEMING BUILDING.

WHY DIDN'T YOU ASK THAT WOMAN FOR DIRECTIONS?

WHAT WOMAN?

THE ONE IN THE *WINDOW*.

WHAT WINDOW?

IN THAT BUILDING AT THE CORNER OF THE LANE.

WHAT BUILDING?

NEVER MIND.

MOBERLEY AND JOURDAIN SOON PASSED TWO ODDLY DRESSED MEN WHOM THEY TOOK TO BE GARDENERS—AND AT THIS POINT, WITHOUT DISCUSSING IT, BOTH WOMEN EXPERIENCED "A FEELING OF DEPRESSION AND LONELINESS."

IT WAS, JOURDAIN LATER ELABORATED, "AN IMPRESSION OF SOMETHING UNCANNY AND FEAR INSPIRING."

BOTH WOMEN PERCEIVED AN EERIE "FLATNESS" TO THE LANDSCAPE, AN UNSPOKEN IMPRESSION THAT THE SCENERY HAD BECOME "TWO-DIMENSIONAL."

THEY SOON CAME UPON A CIRCULAR "GARDEN KIOSK" ON WHOSE STEPS SAT A STRANGELY GARBED MAN IN BLACK.

THE CREEPY SENSATION WHICH HAD BEEN DOGGING THEM NOW BECAME NEARLY OVERWHELMING AS "THE MAN SLOWLY TURNED HIS HEAD..."

HIS FACE WAS "MARKED BY SMALLPOX, HIS COMPLEXION DARK," JOURDAIN WOULD WRITE, DESCRIBING HIS EXPRESSION AS "VERY EVIL."

"I FELT A REPUGNANCE TO GOING PAST HIM."

WHEN BOTH WOMEN HEARD "RUNNING FOOTSTEPS FROM BEHIND," THEY FOUND THE PATH EMPTY, AND THE STEPS SUDDENLY SILENT.

BUT WHEN THEY TURNED FORWARD, THEY FOUND ANOTHER MAN IN BLACK ABRUPTLY STANDING IN FRONT OF THEM.

HE SEEMED "EXCITED" AS HE DIRECTED THEM ONWARD WITH A "PECULIAR SMILE."

AND WHEN THEY TURNED BACK TO SAY THANKS, HE WAS GONE.

(FOR WHATEVER REASONS, THE WOMEN HAD STILL EXCHANGED NO COMMENTS ON THE SHARED WEIRDNESS.)

THEY SOON PASSED A WOMAN SEATED ON THE GRASS, APPARENTLY SKETCHING. MOBERLEY WAS LATER ABLE TO DESCRIBE THE WOMAN'S OUTMODED ATTIRE IN DETAIL.

MOBERLEY FURTHER NOTED THAT WHILE "RATHER PRETTY," THE WOMAN'S FACE WAS UNPLEASANT AND "NOT YOUNG."

JOURDAIN, IT TURNED OUT, NEVER EVEN SAW HER.

THEY WERE FINALLY GREETED BY A MAN "WITH THE AIR OF A FOOTMAN" WHO OFFERED TO SHOW THEM AROUND.

IT ALL ENDED WHEN THEY FOUND THEMSELVES CAUGHT UP IN A LIVELY WEDDING PARTY AT THE PETIT TRIANON, THEIR SPIRITS NOW BRIGHTENING AS QUICKLY AS THEY HAD GLOOMED.

PERHAPS RELIEVED THAT IT WAS OVER, THEY STILL SAID NOTHING ABOUT THEIR SIMPLE VENTURE WHICH HAD SOMEHOW BECOME AN ADVENTURE.

IT WASN'T UNTIL THE FOLLOWING WEEK, WRITING HER ACCOUNT OF THE DAY, THAT MOBERLEY WONDERED:

MISS JOURDAIN, DO YOU THINK THE PETIT TRIANON IS *HAUNTED?*

I DO *INDEED*, MISS MOBERLEY.

THEY DECIDED TO COMPARE NOTES, ONLY THEN LEARNING HOW THEIR PERCEPTIONS MATCHED AND DIFFERED.

MYSTERIOUS MEN IN BLACK, *YES*— BUT A SKETCH-ARTIST WHO LOOKED LIKE *MARIE ANTOINETTE?*

VERSAILLES VILLAGERS HAD REPORTEDLY SEEN MARIE ANTOINETTE IN THE SAME GARDENS, DRESSED MUCH LIKE THE WOMAN SKETCHING. MOBERLEY AND JOURDAIN DECIDED TO RETURN TO THE SCENE OF THE TIME-CRIME.

ATTEMPTING TO RETRACE THEIR STEPS, THEY FOUND THE GARDEN LAYOUT CHANGED, THE KIOSK GONE, SIMILAR-BUT-DIFFERENT BUILDINGS, AND A LARGE SHRUB WHERE THE WOMAN HAD SKETCHED ON BARE GRASS.

THIS ISN'T THE SAME PLACE *AT ALL!*

NOT *NOW* IT ISN'T!

THEY ALSO LEARNED OTHER DETAILS— THAT TRICORNER HATS, FOR EXAMPLE, WERE NOT WORN BY GARDENERS IN 1901.

BUT THEY WERE IMMEDIATELY DISMISSED BY SKEPTICS AS DOTTY BRIT DAMES HALLUCINATING A ROMANTIC FOLLY--

EVEN THOUGH BOTH WOMEN WERE QUITE SOBER AND NO-NONSENSE IN THEIR EFFORTS TO SOLVE THE MYSTERY.

EVENTUALLY IN 1911, THEY PUBLISHED A BOOK ON THEIR EXPERIENCES AND SUBSEQUENT INVESTIGATION, WHICH ELEANOR SIDGWICK (OF THE SOCIETY FOR PSYCHICAL RESEARCH) FOUND--

MUDDLED.

AN ADVENTURE

MOBERLEY JOURDAIN

BUT AFTER SIMILAR FIGURES IN 1700S GARB WERE SEEN BY OTHERS IN 1910 AND 1938, RESEARCHER G.W. LAMBERT REINVESTIGATED THE MATTER AND DECIDED THAT THEIR EXPERIENCE DID NOT SEEM TO BE A GHOSTLY VISITATION BECAUSE THEIR DESCRIPTIONS MATCHED THE HISTORICAL REALITY OF MARIE ANTOINETTE'S 1770.

HAD THE WOMEN WALKED THROUGH SOME INVISIBLE TIME-PORTAL, LITERALLY STEPPING 130 YEARS INTO THE PAST?

N

1770

1901

THE "KIOSK" BECAME A BACK-AND-FORTH STICKING POINT WHEN SKEPTICS CLAIMED IT HAD NEVER EXISTED IN *ANY* TIME —FOLLOWED BY THE DISCOVERY OF *PLANS* FOR SUCH A STRUCTURE. THEN EVIDENCE WAS FOUND THAT THE PLANS WERE *SCRAPPED*—WHILE *OTHER* EVIDENCE SUGGESTED THE KIOSK *WAS* BUILT AFTER ALL.

WE MAY NEVER KNOW THE TRUTH, BUT IF THE KIOSK *DID* EXIST IN THE PAST--

--THE WOMEN MAY HAVE EXPERIENCED "RETROCOGNITION," OR "KNOWING THE PAST," THE OPPOSITE OF "PRECOGNITION," OR "KNOWING THE FUTURE."

I SEE A TALL DARK HANDSOME MAN IN YOUR FUTURE...

THAT'S NICE— BECAUSE I JUST SAW A TALL DARK *UGLY* MAN FROM THE *PAST*...

AS LAMBERT NOTED, CHANGES IN THE TRIANON ENVIRONMENT ARGUED AGAINST THE "GHOST" THEORY IN FAVOR OF "TIME-SLIPPAGE"—BUT WHAT IF THE WOMEN SAW THE "GHOSTS" OF BUILDINGS, GARDENS, AND PATHS AS WELL AS PEOPLE?

INTERACTIONS WITH SUCH "PHANTOM SCENERY" HAVE BEEN REPORTED ALL OVER THE WORLD.

IT MAY BE THAT EVENTS OF A PARTICULAR TIME ARE "RECORDED" ON THE PLACE THEY OCCUR, AND ARE LATER "PLAYED BACK" UNDER CERTAIN CONDITIONS (EXTREME HEAT?)--

YOU SEE *THAT?!*

NOPE, BUT IT SURE IS *HOT.*

--PERHAPS PERCEIVED ONLY BY THOSE "SENSITIVE" TO SUCH "RECORDINGS."

ON THE OTHER HAND, MAYBE THE HEAT ADDLED THE WOMEN'S MINDS, INDUCING "DAYDREAM VISIONS."

ARE *WE* THE GHOSTS—OR ARE *THEY?*

A BETTER QUESTION MIGHT BE ...*WHO'S* DREAMING *WHOM?*

BUT THEN WE'D NEED AN ESP-ELEMENT FOR THE LARGELY IDENTICAL SHARED HALLUCINATION, MERELY "EXPLAINING" ONE ENIGMA WITH ANOTHER.

WHATEVER THE REALITY OF THEIR EXPERIENCE, THE WOMEN SUFFERED FROM IT THE REST OF THEIR LIFETIMES.

LET 'EM EAT *CAKE!*

OFF WITH THEIR *HEADS!*

THE FOLLOWING PHENOMENA HAVE BEEN CONFUSED WITH GHOST PHOTOS, YET SEVERAL OF THE IMAGES THAT FOLLOW HAVE *NOTHING* TO DO WITH GHOSTS, AND *NONE* OF THEM IS ON FILM.

INDEED, SUCH PICTURES EXISTED *HUNDREDS OF YEARS* BEFORE PHOTOGRAPHY WAS INVENTED. THESE "MAGIC IMAGES" MIGHT BEST BE CALLED--

MAGICS

UNEXPLAINED SCORCHMARKS ON CHURCH DOORS—SUCH AS THESE ON BRITAIN'S BLYTHBURGH CHURCH —HAVE LONG BEEN SEEN AS SIGNS OF THE DEVIL'S FRUSTRATION--

--WHILE SPONTANEOUS IMAGES OF CROSSES IN GLASS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AS SIGNS OF GOD'S DELIVERANCE.

SUCH IMAGES WERE PREVALANT IN EUROPE AFTER THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR, AND "COULD NOT BE WASHED OFF, PROVING RESISTANT EVEN TO ACID."

THIS IMAGE, BEARING A STRIKING RESEMBLANCE TO THE MADONNA, APPEARED ON NOTHING BUT AIR, OUTLINED BY TREE BRANCHES AND THE SIDE OF A CHURCH IN METZ, FRANCE.

IN THE VOSGES AREA OF FRANCE, THE ABBÉ GUENIOT WAS SUMMONED TO WITNESS A STRANGE FALL OF HAILSTONES ON MAY 26, 1907.

THE HAILSTONES FELL AS IF MATERIALIZING IN MIDAIR.

BEFORE THE ALMOST PERFECT SPHERES MELTED, WITNESSES BEHELD INCREDIBLE IMAGES STAMPED INTO THE ICE.

IT WAS LIKE THE VIRGIN OF THE HERMITS.

"THE OUTLINES OF THE IMAGES WERE...VERY BOLDLY DRAWN."

A PHOTO OF A BOMBER MISSION DURING THE KOREAN WAR INCLUDED THIS SKY-IMAGE SUPPOSEDLY FORMED BY "NATURAL" CLOUD FORMATIONS.

IN AUGUST 1971, MARIA GOMEZ PEREIRA WAS ASTONISHED TO FIND A STRANGE MARK SPONTANEOUSLY APPEARING ON THE STONE FLOOR OF HER KITCHEN IN BELMEZ, SPAIN.

THE MARK GRADUALLY RESOLVED INTO THE IMAGE OF A STARING FACE WHICH WAS DESCRIBED AS "SAD AND HAUNTING" WITH AN "ANGUISHED EXPRESSION."

IT WAS WASHED OFF— ONLY TO FORM AGAIN.

AFTER THE AUTHORITIES WERE CALLED, WORKMEN REMOVED AND REPLACED THE STUBBORNLY-STAINED SECTION OF FLOOR.

BUT THE SAME FACE REAPPEARED ON THE *NEW* FLOOR—JOINED IN THE FOLLOWING MONTHS BY FOUR OTHERS, ALL SIMILARLY TORMENTED.

MYSTERIOUS AND DISTURBING SOUNDS BEGAN TO FILL THE FARMHOUSE, INCLUDING THE VOICE OF A CHILD.

INVESTIGATORS THEORIZED THAT THE FACES WERE CREATED BY MARIA HERSELF, "MENTALLY IMPRINTING" THEM ON THE STONE.

WHEN IT WAS DISCOVERED THAT THE FARMHOUSE HAD BEEN BUILT ATOP AN OLD CEMETERY, HUMAN REMAINS WERE EXCAVATED FROM THE SITE--

--INCLUDING THE SKELETONS OF *FIVE* VICTIMS MURDERED IN THE 17TH CENTURY—ONE OF WHOM WAS A CHILD.

IN 17TH CENTURY ROME, CITIZENS MARVELED AT THE "STRANGE AND WONDERFUL" COMET WHICH STREAKED THROUGH THE NIGHT SKY DURING DECEMBER, 1680.

IN A BIZARRE SYNCHRONICITY, A BRITISH NEWS ACCOUNT REPORTED, "A PRODIGIOUS EGGE WAS LAID BY A YOUNG PULLET, WITH A PERFECT COMET IN IT, AND MANY STARS, IN THE SAME FORM AS THE FIGURE SHOWS" ON DECEMBER 11, 1680.

THE STORY SPECIFIED THAT THE IMAGE WAS NOT ON THE OUTER SHELL, BUT "WITHIN THE EGGE, MOST CLEARLY EXPREST"—MAKING THE DIAGRAM, PRESUMABLY, A HARD-BOILED CROSS-SECTION.

WHEN CREWMEN JAMES COURTNEY AND MICHAEL MEEHAN DIED ABOARD AN OIL TANKER ON DECEMBER 4,1924, THEY WERE GIVEN A TRADITIONAL BURIAL AT SEA.

S.S. WATERTOWN

WHAT FOLLOWED, HOWEVER, WAS ANYTHING BUT TRADITIONAL.

IT BEGAN THE NEXT DAY, WHEN THE FACES OF COURTNEY AND MEEHAN TOOK SHAPE IN THE SWELLING SEA ITSELF, DISAPPEARING AND REAPPEARING BUT ALWAYS KEEPING PERFECT PACE WITH THE SHIP THROUGHOUT ITS VOYAGE.

SEEN BY *ALL* OF THE REMAINING CREWMEMBERS, THE IMAGES WERE EVEN PHOTOGRAPHED, ALTHOUGH THE GHOSTLY FACES WERE APPARENT IN ONLY ONE OF THE SIX NEGATIVES EXPOSED.

IN 1923, TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER THE DEATH OF OXFORD'S DEAN LIDDELL, HIS IMAGE SPONTANEOUSLY APPEARED ON A WALL OF CHRIST CHURCH.

IT WAS STILL THERE THREE YEARS LATER, WHEN *CASSELL'S WEEKLY* REPORTED: "IT IS AS IF DRAWN BY THE HAND OF A MASTER ARTIST, YET IT IS NOT ETCHED NOR SCULPTED, BUT IT IS PLAIN FOR ALL EYES TO SEE."

AND FINALLY, THE SCALE COLORATION ON THE TAIL OF THIS BUTTERFLY FISH SPELLS OUT A PERFECT SENTENCE IN ARABIC SCRIPT: "THERE IS NO GOD BUT GOD."

WHEW! WITH PICTURES LIKE THESE, WHO NEEDS FILM?

WHETHER SIMPLE SYNCHRONICITY OR MORE PREDETERMINATION, *SOMETHING* WEIRD GUIDED THE PROCESS OF--

RMS TITANIC

PUTTING THE "ICK" IN TITANIC

THERE WERE TWO VESSELS, STRIKING IN THEIR SIMILARITIES. AS THE WORLD'S LARGEST LUXURY LINER (882 FEET, DISPLACING 66,000 TONS) THE *TITANIC* WAS CONSIDERED "UNSINKABLE."

SIMILARLY, THE *TITAN* - 880 FEET, DISPLACING 75,000 TONS - WAS DESCRIBED AS "INDESTRUCTIBLE."

TITANIC

WITH THREE PROPELLERS AND TWO MASTS, THE *TITANIC* STEAMED FROM SOUTHAMPTON, ENGLAND ON HER MAIDEN VOYAGE IN APRIL OF 1912.

IDENTICALLY EQUIPPED WITH THREE PROPELLERS AND TWO MASTS, THE *TITAN* WAS ALSO LAUNCHED IN APRIL.

THE *TITANIC* CARRIED ONLY 20 LIFE-BOATS, LESS THAN HALF THE NUMBER REQUIRED FOR HER PASSENGER CAPACITY OF 3000.

THE *TITAN* "CARRIED AS FEW LIFEBOATS AS WOULD SATISFY THE LAW" -- 24, LESS THAN HALF NEEDED FOR HER 3000 CAPACITY.

MOVING TOO FAST AT 23 KNOTS, THE *TITANIC* STRUCK AN ICEBERG ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 14, 1912 IN THE FOGGY NORTH ATLANTIC.

ALSO ON AN APRIL NIGHT IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC, THE *TITAN* HIT AN ICEBERG WHILE TRAVELLING AT 25 KNOTS.

THE "UNSINKABLE" *TITANIC* SANK - AND MORE THAN HALF OF HER 2,207 PASSENGERS DIED SCREAMING FOR HELP.

THE "INDESTRUCTIBLE" *TITAN* ALSO SANK - MORE THAN HALF OF HER 2500 PASSENGERS DROWNING, THEIR "VOICES RAISED IN AGONIZED SCREAMS."

BUT WHILE THE *TITANIC* WAS AN ACTUAL SHIP, THE *TITAN* WAS ENTIRELY FICTIONAL - CREATED IN 1898 FOR A NOVEL BY MORGAN ROBERTSON.

INSPIRED BY A "VIVID TRANCE VISION" AND ENTITLED *THE WRECK OF THE TITAN; OR, FUTILITY*, THE NOVEL WAS PUBLISHED *14 YEARS* BEFORE THE REAL-LIFE *TITANIC*'S VOYAGE.

WHY CAN'T SOME BURIED COFFINS JUST SIT STILL? CAN WE BLAME IT ON CLAUSTROPHOBIC CORPSES OR SPITEFUL SPIRITS? PSYCHOKINESIS OR TELEPORTATION? EARTHQUAKE, FLOOD, OR SECRET SOCIETY HOAX?

SURELY *ONE* OF THESE FACTORS FUELED THE--

R.I

CREEPING *of the* restless coffins DEAD...

THE SUN-DRENCHED CARIBBEAN ISLAND OF BARBADOS WAS THE UNLIKELY VENUE FOR THE DARK DOINGS TO FOLLOW.

THERE, THE CHASE FAMILY TOMB, MADE OF LARGE CEMENTED CORAL BLOCKS SUNK INTO THE GROUND, RESTS NEAR CHRIST CHURCH ON THE SOUTH SHORE OF BARBADOS.

BUILT IN 1807, THE TOMB HAD TWO MEMBERS OF THE FAMILY—MRS. THOMASINA GODDARD AND INFANT MARY ANNA MARIA CHASE—ALREADY INSIDE IT BEFORE THE TRAUMATIC INTERMENT OF DORCAS CHASE ON JULY 6, 1812.

WHEN THE HUGE MARBLE CAPSTONE, LAST CEMENTED INTO PLACE IN 1809, WAS PRIED LOOSE--

--GRIEF WAS RUDELY BANISHED BY A SUDDEN SHOCK.

WH-WHO... WHO *MOVED* THEM?!

BOTH LEAD-SHEATHED COFFINS HAD BEEN DISTURBINGLY REARRANGED —EVEN THOUGH IT HAD ORIGINALLY TAKEN EIGHT STRONG MEN TO CARRY THE LARGER OF THE TWO.

SINCE THE CORPSES THEMSELVES HAD BEEN UNTOUCHED, THE COFFINS WERE SIMPLY PLACED BACK IN ORDER, ALONG WITH THE NEW ARRIVAL, AND THE TOMB WAS AGAIN SEALED.

BUT THE MYSTERY WAS FAR FROM OVER...

TWICE MORE OVER THE NEXT SEVERAL YEARS, THE CHASE FAMILY CRYPT WAS FOUND IN SIMILAR DISARRAY, ITS HEAVY CASKETS IMPOSSIBLY SCATTERED AS IF BY SOME FURIOUS FORCE.

THE "MOVING COFFINS OF BARBADOS" SOON BECAME NOTORIOUS AND TOURISTS FLOCKED TO THE TOMB. UNSURPRISINGLY, A MOB OF MACABRE ONLOOKERS ATTENDED THE FUNERAL OF THOMASINA CLARKE ON JULY 17,1819.

TEN TO ONE THEY'RE ALL OVER THE PLACE.

AMONG THEM WAS THE VISCOUNT COMBERMERE, GOVERNOR OF BARBADOS, WHO HAD BEEN OUTRAGED BY PREVIOUS DESECRATIONS.

THE DEAD HAVE A RIGHT TO *LIE IN PEACE!*

BUT IT WAS CLEAR THAT SOMEONE OR SOMETHING DID NOT AGREE—FOR THE CHASE COFFINS, LEFT NEATLY ARRANGED WHEN THE VAULT WAS LAST SEALED, WERE AGAIN STREWN ABOUT IN CHAOTIC DISORDER.

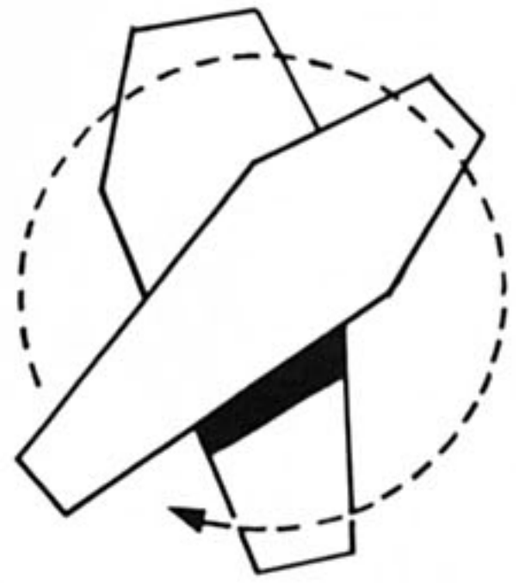
BEFORE

AFTER

OF THE "SCIENTIFIC" EXPLANATIONS, FLOATING WAS MOST FAVORED—EVEN THOUGH THERE WAS NO WATER DAMAGE IN THE VAULT, NOR ANY OTHER EVIDENCE OF FLOODING ELSEWHERE IN THE GRAVEYARD.

AS FOR EARTHQUAKES, IT'S HARD TO IMAGINE SEISMIC ACTIVITY SELECTIVE ENOUGH TO MOVE THE CHASE COFFINS WITHOUT AFFECTING THE VAULT ITSELF—LET ALONE OTHER COFFINS AND CRYPTS.

WRITER ERIC FRANK RUSSELL SUGGESTED THAT THE LEAD COFFINS WERE "SPUN AROUND BY SOME FORCE GRAVITATIONAL, GYROSCOPIC, ELECTROMAGNETIC OR GOODNESS KNOWS WHAT."



BUT WHAT INDEED?

WHEN SCIENCE FAILED, SOME WERE PREDICTABLY QUICK TO BLAME "VAMPIRES AND WEREWOLVES."

HELP!

WISH THEY'D ADD THE COFFIN-TOSS TO THE OLYMPICS!

YEAH, BUT IT'D HAVE TO BE AN EVENING EVENT!

SHERLOCK HOLMES CREATOR SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE SUGGESTED--

SUPERNATURAL POWERS RESIDING IN THE BODIES OF THE PREMATURELY DEAD?

ELEMENTARY, MY DEAR DOYLE-DAD!

BUT AUTHOR GEORGE HUNT REJECTED "MALEVOLENT SPIRITS" AND PROPOSED "GAS FROM DECOMPOSING BODIES."

BRAAP!

MUST HAVE BEEN SOMETHING I ATE.

MOST INTRIGUING IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE COFFINS NEVER ACTUALLY BUDGED, MAKING THE WHOLE AFFAIR NOTHING BUT AN ELABORATE MASONIC HOAX—EVEN THOUGH NATHAN LUCAS CLAIMED IN 1820: "IT HAPPENED AND I WAS AN EYEWITNESS."

BUT LUCAS ALSO STATED: "I EXAMINED THE WALLS, THE ARCH AND EVERY PART OF THE VAULT AND A MASON STRUCK EVERY PART WITH HIS HAMMER AND ALL WAS SOLID"--

CLINK

--WHICH WRITER JOE NICKELL LIKENS TO VARIOUS ARCANE, MASONIC RITUALS, WHICH CONTAIN REFERENCES TO "THE SOUND OF THE HAMMER" AND A "CURIOUSLY ARCHED SECRET VAULT OF SILENCE AND DARKNESS."

THIS MASONIC HOAX THEORY GAINS SOME CREDENCE FROM THE ALLEGED OPENING OF A DIFFERENT TOMB, ALSO ON BARBADOS, IN 1843.

CHP CHP CHP

HIRED BY FREEMASONS WISHING TO PAY THEIR RESPECTS TO ALEXANDER IRVINE, WORKERS SUPPOSEDLY BROKE THROUGH THE BRICKED-UP ENTRANCE TO HIS TOMB--

TUNKT

--ONLY TO ENCOUNTER FURTHER RESISTANCE.

ONE COFFIN HAD SOMEHOW BLOCKED THE ENTRANCE FROM WITHIN, WHILE IRVINE (A FREEMASON FOUNDER) AND HIS COFFIN WERE SUPPOSEDLY MISSING, APPARENTLY TRANSPORTED—AS THE MASONS CLAIMED—TO SOME MYSTICAL HIGHER PLANE.

BUT IF BOTH MOVING-COFFIN ACCOUNTS WERE INDEED NOTHING BUT MASONIC TALL TALES, THEN BARBADOS GOVERNOR COMBERMERE WAS APPARENTLY A WILLING ACCOMPLICE.

LET'S TAKE ANOTHER LOOK AT THE CHASE TOMB IN 1819...

OOMF!

ONCE AGAIN THE COFFINS WERE PUT BACK IN THEIR PROPER PLACES, BUT THIS TIME COMBERMERE ORDERED THE TOMB FLOOR COVERED WITH A LAYER OF FINE SAND.

IF VANDALS OR GHOULS ENTER THIS CRYPT, I WANT THEM TO LEAVE *FOOTMARKS!*

SAND

AND AS A FURTHER PRECAUTION, HE IMPRESSED HIS PERSONAL SEAL (AS WELL AS OTHERS) INTO THE FRESH CEMENT AROUND THE CAPSTONE.

MY TOMB! NOBODY COMES IN!

NINE MONTHS LATER, WITH THE SEALS STILL INTACT BUT WITHOUT WAITING FOR ANOTHER FUNERAL, THE CRYPT WAS REOPENED FOR INSPECTION—AND WAS AGAIN IN CHAOS, ONE COFFIN NOW SHATTERED AND ANOTHER DAMAGED BY APPARENTLY VIOLENT IMPACT AGAINST A WALL.

THE CARPET OF SAND, HOWEVER, REMAINED AS SMOOTH AS VIRGIN SNOW.

AS USUAL, THE CORPSES HAD NOT BEEN MOLESTED—JUST THE COFFINS—BUT COMBERMERE NEVERTHELESS THREW IN THE TOWEL--

C

THERE WILL BE NO MORE BURIALS *HERE!*

--REMOVING THE DECEASED FOR INTERMENT ELSEWHERE AND ORDERING THE EMPTY TOMB PERMANENTLY SEALED.

AND TO THIS DAY NO ONE KNOWS HOW OR EVEN IF THE COFFINS OF BARBADOS ACTUALLY MOVED—OR WHO CARVED THE LARGE QUESTION MARK INTO THEIR FORMER CRYPT--

--BUT A GOOD GUESS WOULD HEDGE ALL BETS.

TIME FOR A FEW MORE QUEASY GIGGLES FROM THE LAND OF BIZARRE OCCURRENCES - BECAUSE, AS EVER, THE JOKE'S ON US!

THE COSMIC TRICKSTER RETURNS

FAMILY RESEMBLANCE? COMPARE THIS THIRD CENTURY BC MASK (DESCRIBED AS AN "ABSTRACT ANIMAL HEAD") FOUND AT A CELTIC SITE IN THE CZECH REPUBLIC--

-- WITH WHITLEY STRIEBER'S ALIEN ABDUCTOR.

WHEN A SWISS VICAR FOUND HIS CHIMNEY TWISTED IN SEPTEMBER OF 1980, A BAFFLED BUILDER HELPFULLY RESPONDED: "IT'S AMAZING! THE OTHER TWO CHIMNEYS ARE NORMAL!"

SPONTANEOUS-*CAT*-BUSTION: WHEN A SLEEPING CAT ABRUPTLY EXPLODED AT A LONDON OLD FOLKS' HOME IN 1986, NO CAUSE COULD BE FOUND.

BLAMMO!

ONE BRIGHT FIREMAN NEVERTHELESS BLAMED "STATIC BUILD-UP IN THE FUR."

POWER FAILURE IN THE SAUCER'S SAMPLE-SCOOP? A CLEANLY CUT HOLE (MEASURING TEN BY SEVEN BY TWO FEET) WAS FOUND ON A FARM IN WASHINGTON STATE ON OCTOBER 18, 1984--

-- WITH ITS PERFECT-FIT EARTH-PLUG NEATLY RESTING 73 FEET AWAY.

?

73 FEET

ON A VISIT TO HER MOTHER'S GRAVE IN 1954, A BRITISH WOMAN SNAPPED A PHOTO OF HER HUSBAND ALONE IN THE CAR.

WHEN DEVELOPED, IT SHOWED DEAD MUM IN THE BACK SEAT, RIGHT WHERE SHE'D ALWAYS SAT WHEN ALIVE. THERE'S NO SHORTAGE OF WEIRDNESS, FOLKS!

CAR WITHOUT A REBEL

IF HOUSES ARE HAUNTED BY THEIR MURDERED OCCUPANTS, CAN DEAD DRIVERS HAUNT THE CARS THEY DIED IN?

MAYBE, AS WE'LL SEE IN THIS CASE OF THE SEEMINGLY CURSED--

THE CAR IN QUESTION BELONGED TO JAMES DEAN--

--WHO IS STILL A HOLLYWOOD ICON MORE THAN FORTY YEARS AFTER HIS UNTIMELY DEATH.

IF A MAN CAN BRIDGE THE GAP BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH... I MEAN, IF HE CAN LIVE ON AFTER HE'S DIED, THEN MAYBE HE WAS A GREAT MAN.

EVEN THOUGH HE STARRED IN ONLY THREE MOVIES, DEAN HAS BECOME THE OBJECT OF CULT WORSHIP.

WHILE STILL ON THE SET OF HIS LAST MOVIE, "GIANT," DEAN FILMED A CAUTIONARY PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:

YOU KNOW, I USED TO FLY AROUND QUITE A BIT ON THE HIGHWAYS...

I TOOK UNNECESSARY CHANCES, BUT NOW WHEN I DRIVE, I'M EXTRA CAUTIOUS. I DON'T HAVE THE URGE TO SPEED.

SO TAKE IT *EASY* WHEN YOU DRIVE. THE LIFE YOU SAVE MIGHT BE *MINE*.

SHORTLY AFTER SPEAKING THESE WORDS OF WISDOM, ON SEPTEMBER 30, 1955, DEAN JUMPED INTO HIS NEW PORSCHE 550 SPIDER AND HIT THE HIGHWAY AT 85 MPH.

DO AS I *SAY*, KIDS, NOT AS I *DO*!

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PORSHE

EN ROUTE TO THE SALINAS CAR RACES, DEAN WAS STOPPED FOR A SPEEDING CITATION, THEN SPED ON— AND, AT 5:50 PM, HE CRASHED INTO A FORD DRIVEN BY ONE DONALD TURNUPSEED.

FORD

THE 24-YEAR-OLD DEAN FULFILLED THE MANY PREMONITIONS OF EARLY DEATH HE HAD VOICED TO FRIENDS.

NOT ONLY HAD DEAN PREDICTED HIS DEATH IN REAL LIFE, BUT IN "REBEL WITHOUT A CAUSE" HE SPOKE THESE IMMORTAL WORDS:

YOU KNOW SOMETHING--? I NEVER FIGURED I'D LIVE TO SEE *EIGHTEEN*.

WARNER BROS. CHALLENGING DRAMA OF TODAY'S TEENAGE VIOLENCE!

"THERE WAS A SENSE OF DOOM TO JIMMY," SAID ONE FRIEND. THE PUBLIC AGREED.

TWO OF HIS THREE FILMS WERE RELEASED AFTER HE'D GONE SOMEWHERE EAST OF EDEN, CREATING A POST-HUMOUS SENSATION. HOLLYWOOD'S BIGGEST STAR WASN'T AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS.

DEAN INSPIRED AN INSTANT NECROLATRY. SOME FANS TRIED TO JOIN THEIR IDOL BY SLEEPING ON HIS GRAVE, OR EVEN COMMITTING SUICIDE.

JAMES B. DEAN
1931—1955

MEANWHILE, THE VEHICLE OF HIS DEATH (AND CELLULOID IMMORTALITY) WAS CARVING ITS OWN DOOM-LADEN LEGEND.

WHEN CAR BUFF GEORGE BARRIS PURCHASED THE CRUMPLED WRECK, IT PROMPTLY SLIPPED FROM ITS TOW TRUCK AND BROKE A MECHANIC'S LEG.

#*@! DAMN THING'S GOT A *LIFE OF ITS OWN!*

BARRIS THEN SOLD THE PORSCHE'S ENGINE TO AN AMATEUR RACER--

--WHO SPUN OUT OF CONTROL AND NEARLY DIED.

THE JINX CONTINUED WHEN ANOTHER RACE CAR GOT TWO OF THE PORSCHE'S TIRES.

THIS DRIVER ACTUALLY DID DIE — WHEN THE TIRES BLEW OUT SIMULTANEOUSLY.

AND WHEN THE DEATH-CAR'S CRUMPLED FRAME WAS SENT ON DISPLAY TO PROMOTE HIGH-WAY SAFETY--

LOOK OUT!

--IT BROKE ITS MOUNTINGS AND INJURED A TEEN'S HIP.

ANOTHER FATALITY OCCURRED IN A MULTI-CAR PILE-UP WHILE THE DERELICT PORSCHE WAS BEING LOADED ONTO ITS TOUR TRUCK.

THE SAME TRUCK THEN SUFFERED UNEXPLAINED BRAKE LOSS, SWERVED OUT OF CONTROL AND SLAMMED INTO A STOREFRONT.

NEARLY A MILLION TICKETS WERE SOLD WHEN THE WRECK WAS PUT ON GHOULISH EXHIBIT IN A CARNIVAL. PIECES OF THE TWISTED, BLOODSTAINED HULK WERE PRIED OFF AS MACABRE SOUVENIRS--

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--UNTIL THE REMAINS ABRUPTLY FELL APART INTO ELEVEN PIECES.

WHOA!

THE TOUR ENDED.

THEN, SOMEHOW, DURING THE RETURN TRAIN TRIP TO HOLLYWOOD--

--THE ELEVEN PIECES OF JAMES DEAN'S DEATH-CAR MYSTERIOUSLY VANISHED.

DOOMED CAR AND DEAD DRIVER WERE BOTH GONE NOW, PERHAPS REUNITED AT LAST AS COOL GHOST-RIDERS IN THE SKY.

WHATEVER THE TRUTH IS, YOU'VE GOTTA LIVE *FAST!*

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IF THE *MEDIUM* IS TRULY THE *MESSAGE*, THEN GHOSTS THEMSELVES HAVE VERY *LITTLE* TO SAY.

AND IF STEPLADDERS CAN BE PHOTOGRAPHICALLY ERASED, THEN WE CANNOT IN GOOD CONSCIENCE DEVOTE MORE THAN A SINGLE PAGE TO --

the MIRACULOUS MIRABELLI

YOUNG BRAZILIAN CARMINE MIRABELLI LOST HIS JOB IN A SHOE STORE WHEN THE STOCK REFUSED TO STAY ON THE SHELVES.

SORRY! I CANNOT ALWAYS CONTROL MY POWERFUL PSYCHIC ABILITIES!

SENSING A DIM FUTURE AS A JOBLESS POLTERGEIST CONDUIT, HE INSTEAD OPTED TO BECOME A CONJURER WHO MANIFESTED "GHOSTS" ONSTAGE.

IT IS *MIRACULOUS!* MIRABELLI MAKES THE *DEAD VISIBLE!*

LOOKS LIKE A GUY IN A CLOWN SUIT AND A LADY BALLERINA TO ME.

AND THE MARVELS DID NOT STOP THERE!

IN ADDITION TO PRODUCING SPIRITS, MIRABELLI WAS SAID TO POSSESS CERTAIN OTHER PSYCHIC POWERS, SUCH AS THE ABILITY TO *LIQUEFY* SOLID OBJECTS.

WOSH!

THANKS FOR THE LIQUID HAT.

IN FACT, MIRABELLI *DID* APPEAR TO EXHIBIT TELEKINESIS, MOVING OBJECTS THE WAY A POLTERGEIST WOULD.

LEVITATE, *LEVITATE!*

THE LARGEST SUCH OBJECT WAS NO DOUBT HIS OWN BODY, WHICH MIRABELLI ALLEGEDLY FLOATED THROUGH THIN AIR TO THE MIRACULOUS HEIGHT OF EIGHT FEET.

NO SHOES UP HERE!

WHILE A CAMERA CAUGHT MIRABELLI IN THE ACT, SKEPTICS SAY THE REAL TRICK WAS THE REMOVAL OF A STEPLADDER FROM THE PHOTO.

IN ANY CASE, THE MIRACLES CEASED IN 1951 — WHEN MIRABELLI FAILED TO LEVITATE OUT OF THE PATH OF A SPEEDING CAR.

OOPS.

THUS FAR, HIS GHOST HAS NOT MATERIALIZED.

HOME IS WHERE YOU *LIVE*, UNLESS YOU'RE *DEAD*— IN WHICH CASE IT BECOMES A PLACE TO *HAUNT*.

A PRIME CANDIDATE FOR THE WEIRDEST HOME IN HISTORY IS THE "WINCHESTER MYSTERY HOUSE," NEVER FINISHED BUT ETERNALLY HAUNTED BY--

BULLET GHOSTS

IF GHOSTS ARE SPIRITS TRAPPED ON EARTH BY TRAUMATIC DEATHS, NAMELY MURDER, THEN OUR TITLE CHARACTERS HAVE BEEN MULTIPLYING LIKE JACK-RABBITS EVER SINCE THE INVENTION OF THE GUN--

BEHOLD-- DEATH INCARNATE!

SCARY!

--WHILE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WINCHESTER *REPEATING* RIFLE IN THE 1800s CAUSED A BULLET GHOST POPULATION *EXPLOSION*!

ALL THESE GHOSTS HAD TO HAUNT *SOMEONE*, SO WHY NOT THE WIDOW OF THE RIFLE'S CREATOR?

WHEW! THIS SURE IS A *LOT* OF BLOOD MONEY!

ENTER SARAH WINCHESTER, WHO INHERITED THE ENTIRE WINCHESTER REPEATING ARMS FORTUNE UPON THE DEATH OF HER HUSBAND WILLIAM IN 1884.

SEEKING COMFORT, WILLIAM'S GRIEVING WIDOW ATTENDED A SEANCE AND WAS TOLD BY THE HELPFUL MEDIUM:

THE SOULS OF THE VICTIMS KILLED BY YOUR HUSBAND'S RIFLES— AND THERE ARE *THOUSANDS* OF THEM— SEEK *REVENGE*!

WH-WHAT... WHAT SHOULD I *DO*?

ALREADY THE SPIRITS MATERIALIZE— AND YOUR LIFE WILL BE *CURSED* UNLESS YOU BUY A *HOUSE* AND CONTINUE *ENLARGING* IT FOR THE *REST OF YOUR LIFE*!

SOMEHOW THIS MADE SENSE TO SARAH.

MAYBE SHE WAS ALREADY FEELING CRAMPED BY ECTOPLASMIC INVASION OF HER PRIVATE SPACE.

YOU THE RIFLE LADY?

Y-Y-YES...?

GOOD— JUST THE ONE WE WANNA HAUNT!

SARAH WINCHESTER PROMPTLY PURCHASED A MODEST 8-ROOM FARMHOUSE IN SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA, AND USED HER VAST WEALTH TO HIRE AN ARMY OF CARPENTERS.

GET TO WORK, BOYS — ROUND-THE-CLOCK SHIFTS, AND DON'T STOP FOR A SECOND!

SOLD!

SARAH'S WHACKY MEDIUM, YOU SEE, HAD PROMISED SAFETY FROM THE SPIRITS ONLY SO LONG AS THE SOUND OF HAMMERING FILLED THE HOUSE.

WAK! WAK! WAK! WAK

THUS BEGUN 38 YEARS OF NONSTOP HOME IMPROVEMENT.

GREAT-- SHE'S RENOVATING THE HAUNT!

APPARENTLY THERE WAS A DOUBLE METHOD TO THE MADNESS.

UNDERTAKEN WITH VIRTUALLY LIMITLESS FUNDS, MANY OF THE NEW ROOMS WERE QUITE ELEGANT, DESIGNED TO APPEASE "HIGH-CLASS" SPIRITS --

CHARMED, I'M SURE.

BELCH!

-- BUT JUST AS MANY WERE INTENDED TO CONFUSE AND REPEL EVIL, LOW-RENT SPOOKS.

THIS DELIBERATELY BAD CONSTRUCTION (WHICH WOULD NEVER PASS TODAY'S BUILDING CODES) EVEN INCLUDED SUCH ARCHITECTURAL BOOBY-TRAPS AS DOORS OPENING ON AIRSHAFTS.

HAH! LIKE GRAVITY APPLIES TO GHOSTS!

OTHER DOORS OPENED ONTO NOTHING BUT SOLID WALLS.

DOESN'T SHE KNOW WE DON'T NEED DOORS?

AND SINCE GHOSTS WERE SUPPOSEDLY ATTRACTED TO CUPBOARDS, SARAH FILLED HER INCREASINGLY BIZARRE HOUSE WITH 2000 OF THEM, ALL IN AWKWARD SHAPES AND MANY ONLY AN INCH DEEP.

FEH! CUPBOARDS ARE FOR CUPS!

WHILE SOME STAIRWAYS LED STRAIGHT TO A SOLID CEILING, OTHERS LITERALLY WENT **NOWHERE**.

GOING UP!

AND STILL THE HAMMERS WHACKED-- TO THE TUNE OF EIGHT FLOORS AND 750 ROOMS SPRAWLING ACROSS SIX ACRES, WITH 2000 DOORS, 10,000 WINDOWS, 47 FIREPLACES, 52 SKYLIGHTS, 40 STAIRWAYS, 6 KITCHENS, 3 ELEVATORS... AND ONE SHOWER.

NOT TO MENTION SIX SAFES— SINCE WINCHESTER GUNS WERE STILL SELLING LIKE LETHAL HOTCAKES.

AND SO IT WENT— WITH SARAH SPENDING MUCH OF THE FORTUNE EARNED BY GUN SALES IN A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO ELUDE THE GHOSTS CREATED BY THE GUNS SOLD.

IT BECAME A VICIOUS CIRCLE TWISTED INSIDE-OUT.

MORE GUN SALES, MORE MONEY--

MORE GUNS, MORE MURDERS --

BANG

BANG

MORE MURDERS, MORE GHOSTS--

GUESS I SHOULD GET ON OVER TO SARAH'S HOUSE.

MORE GHOSTS, MORE GUILT--

YOU **SHOULD** BE ASHAMED, RIFLE LADY!

ADD IT ALL UP— SALES, MONEY, GUNS, MURDERS, GHOSTS, GUILT--

--AND IT EQUALS THE LOONIEST HAUNT EVER BUILT, AND BUILT, AND BUILT--

--MAKING WINCHESTER MANSION AND ITS PERPETUALLY IMPROVISED ADDITIONS THE HOUSE THAT COULDN'T KEEP UP WITH ITS OWN HAUNTING.

THIS MUST BE THE PLACE — OUR **NEW HOME**— AND YOU SURE CAN'T **MISS** IT!

AS SARAH SAW IT, EACH NEW ROOM FILLED UP WITH SPIRITS EVEN AS IT WAS COMPLETED.

YOU'VE GOT TO BUILD **FASTER THAN THE GHOSTS ARE CREATED!**

HEY, LADY, GIVE ME A BREAK!

SO WHY DIDN'T SHE JUST **MOVE**— OR BETTER YET, **STOP SELLING GUNS?**

(A CONUNDRUM RIVALING BOB DOLE'S VIEW THAT EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE GUNS IN **REAL LIFE**, BUT DON'T YOU **DARE** SHOW THEM IN THE **MOVIES!**)

THE PARADOX WAS NOT RESOLVED UNTIL 1922, WHEN SARAH WINCHESTER FINALLY PASSED ON.

ONLY THEN DID THE HAMMERS FINALLY STOP POUNDING.

DID ECTOPLASMIC SPOOKS LITERALLY ROAM WINCHESTER HOUSE? PROBABLY NOT. BUT WAS SARAH HAUNTED BY THE SPIRITS OF THOSE SLAIN BY HER HUSBAND'S GUNS? **DEFINITELY.**

AND IF YOU'RE EVER IN SAN JOSE, TOURS OF THIS HOME FOR RETIRED BULLET GHOSTS ARE NOW AVAILABLE— BUT EVEN THE **GUIDES** GET LOST!

THANKS TO SUPERMARKET TABLOIDS AND *TONIGHT SHOW* MONOLOGUES, THE SPIRITS OF ELVIS AND MARILYN ARE QUICKLY WEARING OUT THEIR EARTHLY WELCOMES.

Sunset Blvd.

BUT WHAT ABOUT THE SUPERNATURAL MANIFESTATIONS OF *OTHER* STARS? HEREWITH A PEEK AT SOME LESSER-KNOWN--

Hollywood Haunts

ONE OF HOLLYWOOD'S EARLIEST LUMINARIES WAS SILENT SCREEN SHEIK RUDOLPH VALENTINO, WHOSE EVERY (SEEMINGLY CHARMED) CAREER MOVE WAS DICTATED BY HIS ANCIENT-EGYPT SPIRIT GUIDE, "MESELOPE."

I'LL TELL YOU WHAT FILM TO DO NEXT...

WHEN THE "GREAT LOVER" TOOK A WIFE, SHE WAS ALLEGED SPIRIT MEDIUM NATACHA RAMBOVA.

TILL NOT EVEN *DEATH* DO US PART!

NATACHA CLAIMED THAT RUDY, TOO, POSSESSED PSYCHIC POWERS.

VALENTINO'S SUDDEN DEATH IN NEW YORK CITY ON AUGUST 24, 1923 FROM A RUPTURED APPENDIX AND PERITONITIS SPARKED AN ALMOST SUPERNATURAL PANDEMONIUM AMONG SOME 80,000 SHOCKED AND GRIEVING FANS.

(IT WAS A DISPLAY OF MASS HYSTERIA UNRIVALED UNTIL THE SIMILARLY PREMATURE DEATH OF STAR JAMES DEAN.)

INEVITABLY, MEDIUM NATACHA CLAIMED THAT RUDY CONTACTED HER FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE.

HE SAYS THERE IS NO DEATH AND NO SEPARATION—ONLY THE BEAUTY AND PERFECTION OF THE AFTERLIFE.

THIS WAS, OF COURSE, HIGHLY SUSPICIOUS.

LESS EASY TO DISMISS ARE THE MANY VISUAL ENCOUNTERS WITH VALENTINO'S SPIRIT IN AND AROUND FALCON'S LAIR, HIS FORMER HOME IN THE HOLLYWOOD HILLS.

B-BUT... YOU'RE *DEAD!*

AND *LOVING* IT!

ACTOR GLENN FORD'S GARDEN WAS PLEASANTLY HAUNTED BY THE REPLAYING OF A PARTY FROM HOLLYWOOD'S GOLDEN AGE. FORD AND HIS WIFE HEARD LAUGHTER, THE TINKLING OF GLASSES, AND SMELLED VALENTINO'S UNMISTAKABLE PERFUME.

SNF SNFF

THE EARTHY SASS OF OUTRAGEOUS SEX GODDESS MAE WEST WAS BELIED BY A DEEP AND LASTING INTEREST IN MORE SPIRITUAL MATTERS.

IS THAT A *GUN* IN YOUR POCKET OR ARE YA JUST HAPPY TO *SEE* ME?

AFTER WEST'S DEATH IN 1980, ACCORDING TO PSYCHIC CLARISSA BERNHARDT, THE FORMER STAR BECAME A MEMBER OF THE "CROSSOVER CLUB," A GROUP OF SPIRITS DEDICATED TO HELPING THE NEWLY DECEASED REACH THE OTHER SIDE.

THAT'S RIGHT, SUGAR— COME ON UP AND *SEE* ME.

APPARENTLY LESS BENIGN WAS ANOTHER "BAD GIRL" OF HOLLYWOOD, THE NOTORIOUS EMBODIMENT OF THE WILD-PARTY "FLAPPER"--

WHADDA YA MEAN *COLA*? I WANNA *DRINK*!

--JOAN CRAWFORD.

CRAWFORD'S DAUGHTER (AND FUTURE BEST-SELLING AUTHOR) CHRISTINA CLAIMS THAT HER CHILDHOOD HOME WAS HAUNTED BY TRULY HORRIFYING ENTITIES.

HOW *DARE* YOU INTERRUPT ME?!

I'M *FRIGHTENED*, MOMMY— I KEEP *SEEING THINGS*!

STOP CRYING, YOU WICKED CHILD!

IN A WEIRD DOUBLE WHAMMY, "MOMMIE DEAREST" MAY HAVE PUNISHED CHRISTINA FOR THE MISDEEDS OF THE VERY GHOSTS THAT WERE TERRIFYING HER.

FURTHERMORE, CHRISTINA'S PORTRAIT OF HER ABUSIVE MOTHER — "THE LOOK ON HER FACE WHEN SHE TRIED TO KILL ME" — IS CLEARLY THE DESCRIPTION OF A WOMAN POSSESSED.

TO THIS DAY, PSYCHICS CLAIM THE CRAWFORD HOUSE IS "ASTRAL CENTRAL" FOR A HOST OF NEGATIVE SPIRITS. SUBSEQUENT OWNERS REPORT POLTERGEIST ACTIVITY, INCLUDING SPONTANEOUS *FIRES* ERUPTING FROM THE WALL AGAINST WHICH JOAN CRAWFORD'S HOT HEADBOARD ONCE BUMPED.

MULTIPLE WITNESSES REPORT THAT THE FORMER HOME OF TWO OTHER STARS FROM HOLLYWOOD'S GLAMOROUS HEYDAY--

SHE'S BARBARA STANWYCK.

AND HE'S ROBERT TAYLOR.

--ALSO CONTINUES TO MANIFEST SIGNS OF GHOSTS.

INVESTIGATING THE PHENOMENA-PLAGUED HOUSE, PARAPSYCHOLOGIST BARRY TAFF WAS TOLD THAT "BOOKS JUST FLEW AROUND BY THEMSELVES."

BUT THE 1976 INVESTIGATION ONLY MADE THINGS WORSE, CATALYZING A PSYCHIC STORM OF FLYING ICE-TRAYS, SHOWER HEADS, PEWTER GOBLETS, AND COINS.

MOST IMPRESSIVE, THE NEW OWNER REPORTED, WAS THE FACT THAT HIS HOUSEBOY HAD JUST QUIT AFTER "CABBAGES CHASED HIM AROUND THE HOUSE."

YOU MAKE YOUR OWN COLE SLAW, BOSS!

SHORTLY AFTER PURCHASING YET ANOTHER HAUNTED HOUSE, DANCER-ACTRESS MITZI GAYNOR INSTALLED NEW CRYSTAL CHANDELIERS, WHICH WERE PROMPTLY SENT CRASHING TO THE FLOOR BY THE DISAPPROVING GHOST OF "MRS. WALKER", THE FORMER OWNER.

KRASH

ON THE OTHER HAND, GAYNOR SAYS, "MRS. WALKER" **DOES** LIKE CERTAIN CHANDELIERS — AND DUSTING THEM IS "ONE CHORE THE MAIDS NEVER HAVE TO DO."

TLNK KNK TNK PLK

YOU MIGHT SAY HOUSEKEEPING HERE IS A *BREEZE*.

LIKE MARILYN MONROE, JAYNE MANSFIELD FOUND HERSELF TRAPPED IN SHALLOW SEXBOMB ROLLS. FRIENDS SAY SHE WAS WILLING TO TRY *ANYTHING* TO CHANGE THE COURSE OF HER CAREER.

ENTER ANTON LAVEY, HIGH PRIEST OF THE CHURCH OF SATAN, AND AN EQUALLY VIVID CELEBRITY OF THE DAY.

THE *DEVIL* MADE ME DO IT!

THE STARLET AND HER LOVER SAM BRODY VISITED LAVEY IN NOVEMBER, 1966 WHEN MANSFIELD ALLEGEDLY SOLICITED HELP FROM THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS.

BUT BRODY OFFENDED LAVEY BY FONDLING A "HOLY" STATUE OF A NUDE WOMAN.

WHEN LAVEY ORDERED HIM TO STOP, BRODY BLEW OUT SEVERAL OF THE BLACK CANDLES SURROUNDING THE STATUE.

ACCORDING TO MANSFIELD'S FRIEND MAY MANN, LAVEY SAID BRODY HAD INSULTED SATAN AND WOULD DIE WITHIN THE YEAR, AS WOULD MANSFIELD IF SHE DID NOT END HER RELATIONSHIP WITH BRODY.

THE PAIR LAUGHED OFF THE "CURSE" UNTIL MANSFIELD'S NEW SPORTS CAR (A GIFT FROM BRODY) WAS TOTALED. THE LOVERS WERE LUCKY TO SURVIVE THE CRASH.

AS IF THAT WEREN'T ENOUGH, MANSFIELD'S 5-YEAR-OLD SON ZOLTAN WAS THEN MAULED BY A "TAME" LION AS SHE POSED FOR PUBLICITY PHOTOS.

ROWR

ALTHOUGH HER SON SURVIVED EMERGENCY SURGERIES, MANSFIELD INDEED FELT "CURSED" AS SHE FOUND HERSELF AT THE EYE OF WHIRLING MISFORTUNE.

UNPAID

SUMMONS CHILDABUSE

MY GOODNESS!

DELINQUENT TAXES

IN RAPID SUCCESSION SHE ENDURED ACCUSATIONS OF ABUSE LODGED BY HER DAUGHTER JAYNE MARIE, CHARGES OF TAX EVASION, BAD PUBLICITY FROM THE FALSE CHARGE OF AN UNPAID HOTEL BILL, THE THEFT OF HER PRECIOUS DIAMONDS, AND MORE--

--ALL OF WHICH CULMINATED WHEN SHE WAS MOBBED IN RIO DE JANEIRO, STRIPPED TO THE WAIST, AND NEARLY TORN TO PIECES BY HER "FANS."

AS FOR BRODY, HE WAS ON HIS WAY TO MEET MANSFIELD WHEN HE BROKE HIS LEG AND SEVERAL RIBS IN ANOTHER CAR WRECK.

ONE WEEK LATER—ON JUNE 29, 1967, LESS THAN A YEAR AFTER HE HAD "INSULTED SATAN"—BRODY WAS WELL ENOUGH TO DRIVE AGAIN.

HE SLAMMED INTO A PARKED TRUCK, KILLING HIMSELF INSTANTLY, SHEARING THE ROOF OFF HIS CAR, AND DECAPITATING JAYNE MANSFIELD.

(HER THREE CHILDREN IN THE BACK SEAT MIRACULOUSLY SURVIVED.)

WHILE INVESTIGATING THE ACCIDENT, PRIVATE DETECTIVE MILO SPERIGLIO FOUND THAT "JUST BEFORE MANFIELD'S DEATH, LAVEY HAD 'ACCIDENTALLY' CUT THE HEAD OFF A PICTURE OF THE ACTRESS."

SINGER ENGLEBERT HUMPERDINCK BOUGHT MANSFIELD'S "PINK PALACE" HOME, WHERE HE CLAIMS HE HAS SEEN THE GHOST OF ITS FORMER OWNER.

"I WAS ABOUT TO SAY, 'HELLO, JAYNE,' WHEN I REALIZED SHE WAS DEAD. I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING. THEN SHE FADED OUT."

ANOTHER HOLLYWOOD HAUNTING BEGAN WHEN 1930s SEX SYMBOL JEAN HARLOW MARRIED PRODUCER PAUL BERN, A MAN TWICE HER AGE.

TWO MONTHS LATER, BERN WAS FOUND DEAD IN THEIR BEDROOM. HIS ALLEGED SUICIDE NOTE SUPPOSEDLY REFERRED TO "SEXUAL VIOLENCE" RESULTING FROM IMPOTENCE, ALTHOUGH SOME FEEL THIS WAS CONCOCTED AFTER HIS MURDER.

THIRTY-FOUR YEARS LATER, THE BERN HOUSE BELONGED TO HAIRDRESSER JAY SEBRING, WHOSE LOVER, SHARON TATE, WAS DISTURBED ONE NIGHT BY STRANGE NOISES AND A "FUNNY FEELING."

TURNING ON A LAMP, SHE WAS TERRIFIED TO SEE A GHOST: "I SAW THIS CREEPY LITTLE MAN. HE LOOKED LIKE PAUL BERN."

TATE FLED THE BEDROOM AND RUSHED DOWN THE STAIRS INTO EVEN GREATER HORROR —— ANOTHER SPECTRAL FIGURE, THIS ONE TIED TO THE STAIRCASE AND GUSHING BLOOD FROM ITS SLASHED THROAT.

WHILE SHE COULD NOT IDENTIFY THE HOODED FIGURE, TATE SOMEHOW "KNEW" WITH COLD DREAD THAT IT WAS EITHER HERSELF OR HER LOVER JAY SEBRING.

TWO YEARS LATER, SHARON TATE CHANGED HOUSES WHEN SHE MARRIED ROMAN POLANSKI, WHO HAD JUST MADE THE BLACK MAGIC AND DEMONISM MOVIE ROSEMARY'S BABY.

EVEN AFTER BECOMING PREGNANT, SOME SOURCES SAY, TATE CONTINUED EXPERIMENTS WITH DRUGS, "BLACK MAGIC", AND "KINKY SEX." AND, ON THE NIGHT OF AUGUST 9-10, 1969, WITH HUSBAND POLANSKI OUT OF THE COUNTRY, SHARON TATE WAS RITUALLY SLAUGHTERED (ALONG WITH FORMER LOVER JAY SEBRING) BY FOLLOWERS OF REAL-LIFE SATANIST CHARLES MANSON.

HELTER SKELTER

JOHN LENNON, WHOSE FATALLY MISCONSTRUED MUSIC "INSPIRED" THE MANSON FAMILY'S BLOOD ORGIES, WAS MURDERED ELEVEN YEARS LATER OUTSIDE HIS HOME--

--NEW YORK'S SUPPOSEDLY HAUNTED DAKOTA BUILDING, THE SAME PLACE WHERE ROSEMARY'S BABY HAD BEEN CONCEIVED BY THE DEVIL.

A "CURSE" ATTACHED TO THE MOVIE POLTERGEIST IS SAID TO BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DEATHS OF SEVERAL PRINCIPAL ACTORS, INCLUDING YOUNG HEATHER O'ROURKE--

THEY'RE HE-ERE!

--WHILE THE SAME FILM NEARLY KILLED NOMINAL DIRECTOR TOBE HOOPER'S CAREER--

--AFTER RUMORS CLAIMED THE REAL DIRECTOR WAS STEVEN SPIELBERG, RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ALIEN EPIC E.T. THE EXTRATERRESTRIAL (SET AT THE WITCHES' SABBATH OF HALLOWEEN), AND WHO HAS THIS TO SAY:

I'VE NEVER SEEN A UFO, BUT GHOSTS... THAT'S ANOTHER STORY.

AND ONLY ONE OF MANY, AS WE'VE SEEN, IN HAUNTED HOLLYWOOD.

LOST AGE. CREEN! WOOD INGS

SHARON TATE MANSFIELD

STILL ABLE TO APPRECIATE ABSURDITY? STILL FEEL THAT IF SOMEONE UP THERE IS PULLING THE STRINGS, THAT HE (OR SHE) IS A FEW BRICKS SHORT OF A LOAD? GOOD, BECAUSE--

THE COSMIC TRICKSTER GIGGLES AGAIN

THIS HAITIAN TEMPLE VOODOO ALTAR IS ADORNED WITH SYMBOLS FROM CHRISTIANITY, JUDAISM, VARIOUS "ALL-SEEING EYE" CULTS, AND EVEN FREEMASONRY. ARE THEY **ALL** IN CAHOOTS?

IT'S A CONSPIRACY!

THIS THIRTY-TON OBJECT WHICH WASHED UP ON A BRITISH BEACH WAS NEVER IDENTIFIED OR REPORTED MISSING.

NOT EXACTLY SOMETHING YOU'D LOSE AND **FORGET**...

SOMEONE GOT SCREWED BIG TIME!

IN AN AREA OF WYOMING WHERE SHOSHONE AND CROW INDIANS ONCE TOLD LEGENDS OF TINY PEOPLE, THIS BIZARRE MUMMY WAS FOUND SEATED ON A CAVE LEDGE.

IT IS 14 INCHES TALL.

ON FEBRUARY 9, 1855, PEOPLE IN ENGLAND AWOKE TO FIND THE EVENLY SPACED TRACKS OF A "HOOVED BIPED" ACROSS FIELDS AND OVER ROOFS AND HIGH WALLS — IN ALL, THE TRACKS SPANNED OVER A HUNDRED MILES!

THESE MYSTERIOUS AERIAL OBJECTS ABOVE A CATTLE MUTILATION SITE WERE INVISIBLE TO THE NAKED EYE, APPEARING ONLY IN DEVELOPED PHOTOGRAPHS.

ONE IS TEMPTED TO DRAW A LINK WITH SIMILAR PHENOMENA ABOVE ENGLAND'S CROP CIRCLES - AND AS A MATTER OF FACT, **THOSE** HAVE BEEN **SEEN** AS WELL AS PHOTOGRAPHED.

KISS THE ♡ COOK

Afterword

AND THERE YOU HAVE IT, WHATEVER "IT" MAY BE — THE BIZARRE, THE UNEXPLAINED, PARANORMAL PHENOMENA, THE SUPERNATURAL — CALL IT WHAT YOU WILL, IT WILL NEVER BE TRULY NAMED.

?

AND SINCE EVERY TWIST AND TURN OF ITS KALEIDOSCOPIC MAZE HAS BEEN MARKED BY THE COSMIC TRICKSTER, EVEN AT THE END WE REMAIN LOST.

IN ANY CASE, I TRUST YOU'VE ENJOYED THIS SERIES OF SIGHTS NOT SEEN BY EVERY EYE, AS WELL AS A TANTALIZING WHIFF OF THE UTTERLY STRANGE--

--A WILD RIDE FIT FOR NEITHER THE FAINT OF HEART NOR THE HARDENED OF MIND.

WE'VE CONFRONTED PHANTOMS AND ALIENS, MONSTERS AND ANGELS, POLTERGEISTS AND PREMONITIONS, UFOS AND UNKNOWN ANIMALS, COMMUNICATING CROPS AND SINISTER SYNCHRONICITIES--

--AN ENTIRE HOST OF MORE THINGS THAN ARE DREAMT OF IN **ANY** PHILOSOPHY.

LONG AFTER SHAKESPEARE, ALDOUS HUXLEY CONCURRED WITH THE BARD'S SENTIMENT: "WE HAVE LEARNT THAT NOTHING IS SIMPLE AND RATIONAL, THAT SCIENCE 'EXPLAINS' NOTHING--

"--THAT THE MORE WE KNOW, THE MORE FANTASTIC THE WORLD BECOMES, AND THE PROFOUNDER THE SURROUNDING DARKNESS."

I CAN ONLY ADD THAT A MIND ONCE EXPANDED NEVER CONTRACTS.

AND I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT YOUR NEURONS, NOW SPARKED BY NEW LIGHT, WILL NEVER BE SMALL AGAIN...

FACTOID BOOKS

BIOGRAPHIES

WRITERS

DOUG MOENCH
Doug Moench has been obsessed with his own unexplained past ever since he was abducted from a hillside of Scottish heather at the age of 7 and again in the north woods of Manitoba at the age of 12. Orange globes seem to dog him, and a Bigfoot apparition recently invaded his Pennsylvania home (although he has yet to spot the Loch Ness monster).

ARTISTS

BILL ALGER
Former child televangelist and current liquor-soused vagrant, Bill Alger draws kids' comics for a childless society. (Page 98)

BRENT ANDERSON
June 1955. Born. Grew. Read. Drew. Wrote. Drew more. Read comics. UFO abductee. Wrote and drew comics. Hypnosis successful. 1976. Professional. Waiting. 1994. Married. 1995. Kid. Tired. 'Bye. (Page 55)

SERGIO ARAGONÉS
Sergio is the creator of the award-winning comic *Groo*. His comics and illustrations have appeared in *MAD* and in numerous other comics over the years. (Page 36)

HILARY BARTA
Hilary lives with his husband Joe Staton — wait, that isn't right... (Page 167)

DONALD DAVID
While working on pages for this book, Donald was abducted by a Venusian Love Goddess. She offered to take him to her Love Planet, but Donald had to refuse because he had a Paradox Press assignment to finish. Now that's dedication! (Page 68)

DAVE DEVRIES
Dave is not too well.
He wears his shorts until they smell.
He eats fried beans and stirs the air
To suffocate bugs that live in his hair.
AAAAAARRRGH!
(Page 163)

D'ISRAELI D'EMON DRAUGHTSMAN
D'Israeli still lives in Sheffield with his mummy, but his nice kitty has fled. Perhaps that business with the bulldog clips was too much for him. (Page 8)

RANDY DuBURKE
Randy's work for DC Comics includes covers of *Animal Man, The Darkstars, Ms. Tree,* and *The Shadow*. He drew the story "Tunnel Rats" for the DC/Vertigo anthology *Weird War Tales,* as well as *Hunter's Heart,* a graphic novel in the Paradox Mystery line. (Page 42)

HUNT EMERSON
Hunt Emerson lurks 100 feet in the air, in sight of the New Hindu Temple on Soho Road. At night, the dome is lit from below in blue light. (Page 84)

JIM FERN
Jim started as an inker on various Marvel titles in 1983. He began pencilling in 1987, and has drawn *L.E.G.I.O.N '90, Detective Comics, Adventures of Superman,* and the *Scarlett* series for DC. (Page 146)

GARY FIELDS
Gary turned to cartooning after an unsuccessful attempt at becoming an Olympic volleyball player. He lives with his wife, Cindy, and two children, Aimee and Max. (Page 28)

BOB FINGERMAN
When Bob isn't drawing weird stuff for Paradox, he's illustrating his comic *Minimum Wage* from Fantagraphics. So just go buy it. (Page 122)

RICK GEARY
Rick's illustrations appear occasionally in *MAD*. He continues to write and illustrate a series of children's books featuring "The Mask" for Dark Horse Comics. His next graphic novel is *The Borden Tragedy* for NBM. (Page 147)

PAUL GUINAN
Once a cynical, bitter, raging punk, Paul now lives with his wife in a quiet house with a picket fence. He blames their dog's secret brain ray for the turnabout. (Page 50)

PAUL GULACY
Gulacy is well known for getting Helfer's butt out of the sling in crunch-time situations. (Page 76)

FRED HARPER
Animal Man, for DC/Vertigo, *Marvel Comics Presents, Ghost Rider,* and *Dr. Strange* for Marvel, *Culture Clash* and *Lady Justice* for Big Entertainment, and *The Big Book of Little Criminals* for Paradox Press. (Page 171)

RUSS HEATH
Russ's career includes work for Harvey Kurtzman's *MAD, Blazing Combat, National Lampoon,* and long stints on *Sgt. Rock* and other DC war comics. Recent work: *The Punisher* and *Legends of the Dark Knight*. (Page 70)

GRAHAM HIGGINS
Graham began drawing comix for Birmingham Arts Lab Press in the mid-'70s under the name "Pokkettz." His work has appeared in almost every Big Book in the series. He is a very fine fellow and has never been abducted by aliens. (Page 102)

RAFAEL KAYANAN
Currently pencilling *Turok* for Acclaim Comics, an *X-Files* adaptation for Topps, and the *Turok* game manual for the Nintendo Playstation. (Page 134)

STEVEN LIEBER
Steven pronounces his surname LEE-burr, not LYE-burr. He's worked on *Hawkman, Lady Justice, Detective Comics, Dark Horse Presents, Roadways,* and a three-part *Grendel Tales* story arc due out in '97. (Page 19)

STEVE LEIALOHA
Steve has been in the comics biz long enough to draw many stories in the Big Book series as well as the DC Comics time-travel series *Chronos*. He is a faithful subscriber to the *Fortean Times*. (Page 154)

GRAHAM MANLEY
Graham is believed to be in hiding from the police somewhere in Scotland. He is wanted for crimes against the comic strip form. (Page 176)

STEVE MANNION
Steve says he has no idea what is going on. (Page 58)

TED NAIFEH
Ted is most noted for *The Machine* from Dark Horse's super-hero line. (Page 168)

JOE ORLANDO
Joe edited all those great DC comics in the '60s and '70s that didn't have super-people in them, like *Angel and the Ape,* and the original *House of Secrets*. He recently retired after being a big VP and Creative Director. And you thought his only asset was his good looks. (Page 53)

TAYYAR OZKAN
Tayyar has drawn *Bushwhacked, Pet,* and *Cave Bang* for Eros, as well as inking the "Weird Romance" story arc for *The Dreaming*. His book *Caveman: Evolution Heck* recently came out from NBM. He also drew *La Pacifica,* written by Joel Rose and Amos Poe, the first graphic novel in the Paradox Mystery line. (Page 159)

JEFF PARKER
Parker loves to draw thugs, but is most happy writing and drawing his own adventure comic *Great Divide*. (Page 21)

RICK PARKER
Rick drew *MTV's Beavis and Butt-head* for Marvel, and many Big Book stories for Paradox. He is, as those who know him will attest, both unexplained and inexplicable. (Page 82)

JOE PHILLIPS
In his ten years in comics Jeff has drawn *Ex-Mutants, Speed Racer, Justice League, Fantastic Four, Spider-Man,* and many others. He recently did *The Heretic,* which was published by Dark Horse. (Page 136)

GORDON PURCELL
Gordon is inexplicably entering his tenth year as a comics artist. He has worked on three *Star Trek* titles, *Flash, Silver Sable,* and currently *The X-Files*. Why he spends January in Minnesota with his wife and child is truly unexplained. (Page 182)

JOE SACCO
Joe is the author of *Palestine,* which won a 1995 American Book Award and is published by Fantagraphics. Currently, he is working on a series of stories about his experiences in Bosnia. (Page 111)

ERIC SHANOWER
Eric's current comics work can be seen in *Weird War Tales, Harlan Ellison's Dream Corridor,* and *Oz-Story*. He is working on a major comics project involving the most beautiful woman in the world. (Page 5 and 183)

TED SLAMPYAK
Ted created, wrote, and drew *Jazz Age Chronicles* for Caliber Press, penciled *Neil Gaiman's Mr. Hero* for Big Entertainment, and *Roadways* for Cult Press. He lives in Bristol, Pennsylvania with poet/writer Rachel Astarte Piccione. (Page 30)

ROBIN SMITH
Robin was the art director for *2000 AD,* and an artist on *Judge Dredd*. He is the illustrator of the recently released *Green Candles* and forthcoming book *The Bogie Man,* two graphic novels in the Paradox Graphic Mystery line. (Page 15)

STEVE SMITH
Steve has been using the alphabet for many years. Other examples of his penmanship and pictures may be found in *Negative Burn, Aesop's Desecrated Fables,* and along the 101 freeway. (Page 162)

JOE STATON
Joe has worked for Marvel on *The Incredible Hulk,* and for DC, illustrating *Superman, Batman, Plastic Man, Green Lantern,* and many others. Joe illustrated *Family Man,* a graphic novel in the Paradox Mystery line written by Jerome Charyn. (Page 124)

TOM SUTTON
Sutton should get more money than the other artists. He uses three times as much ink. Is India Ink made from real Indians? It's getting darker. (Page 172)

WARD SUTTON
Ward is: a syndicated cartoonist *(Ward's Cleaver, Schlock 'N Roll),* a comic book author *(Ink Blot),* a rock poster artist (for Pearl Jam and Beck) and a freelance illustrator *(Rolling Stone, Entertainment Weekly,* and others). (Page 40)

S.M. TAGGART
Girded against the coming apocalypse, Mr. Taggart asks that you all knock before entering his bunker as this would allow him time to load his rifle. (Page 128)

ANDREW WENDEL
Andrew was a portrait artist for *The New Yorker* and is fueled by passions for music, cycling, and the bizarre. His work has also appeared in three Paradox Big Books: *Urban Legends, Death,* and *Conspiracies*. (Page 94)

J.H. WILLIAMS III
Penciler J.H. Williams III was born in Roswell, New Mexico and has been known to see little green men on occasion. However, his extraterrestrial inker Mick Gray isn't sure if these are actually close encounters of the drunken kind. (Page 63)

GAHAN WILSON
Gahan's cartoons have appeared in *Playboy, The New Yorker, Gourmet, Punch, Paris Match,* and many others. He has had sixteen collections of his cartoons published. He is also the author of *The Big Book of Freaks* from Paradox Press. (Page 87)

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