Celebration '84

On January 25, 1984, Winnipeg got a large doae of ufology when the Paculty of Science at the University of Manitoba featured two UFO lecturers for its participation in Celebration '84. The main attraction was Stanton Friedman, making his first appearance in Manitoba, with me as a supplement for local interest. As usual, however, UMSU acrewed up the promotional advertising, and as a result, little had been announced a week previous to Stan's arrival. But Deanne Troaky, Science Students' Association VP, came to the reacue and singlehandedly launched a media campaign that resulted in a deluge of media interest. With the push, Stan's evening lecture drew an overflow crowd in the largest lecture hall in the Faculty.

There's no question that the public's interest in the subject still rides high, despite the lack of sightings over the past few years. The sudience that night was an odd mixture of students and middle-aged individuals from the lay community. I recognized only a few professors, and these were among the more open-minded on campus. No one from the Manitoba Planetsrium, nor from any astronomy department, came to listen to Stan's thre-hour orstorial. Too bad; he was a sheer delight.

Stan is basically a pure nuta-and-bolts ufologist, clearly emphasizing his belief that "Flying Saucers Are Reall". His talk centered on his evidence that various governments are witholding information about UFOs, and deliberately misleading the public. He discussed Blue Book Special Report 14, in which statistics were selectively ignored to avoid the conclusion that UFOs are a real, characteristically different phenomenon than the conventional phenomena used to explain them. But his most puzzling presentation was on the infamous Roswell Incident, in which a flying saucer reportedly crashed in New Mexico, and the US Government has kept it secret since then. Stanton has over seventy-five signed affdavits by witnesses involved in the case, all giving testament to its reality.

Personally, I've never been comfortable with the conspiracy theory, mostly because of its unprovable nature. At some point, the theory evolves into a religious argument, based entirely on faith since the object of belief is not observable. (I recognize that black holes fall into this same category, but you know what I mean.) Even if the arguments that derive logically from one another suggest the story is true, the fact that the proverbial "little green men in pickle jars" are not forthcoming is a major stumbling block in the path of acceptance of the theory. In its support, however, is evidence which suggests that the various governments have indeed been witholding information on its investigations of the phenomenon. This is the "saucergate" that Stan comments on in his presentations.

I had the opportunity to talk with Stan at length while he was in town, and we discussed a wide range of topics, often including UPOs. He had also attended the talk I had given and he was able to give me some constructive criticism. I had changed my Manitobs-only talk to one with a broader coverage of the UFO phenomenon, and it was most unastisfactory. The next talk I gave was my original, and it of course went much better. I had not adhered to the first law of adjustment: If it works, don't fix it! C'est la vie.

Stan has had many years of experience doing the lecture circuit, and knows how to play the audiences. He said I had a distinctly Hynek-like lecture style, and I had to agree. There's no question that my several meetings with Dr. Hynek have had a certain effect on my approach to

ufology. There is a definite contrast between the Hynek and the Priedman UFO lectures: the former discusses IFOs in some depth, injects humor with cartoons and discusses a multitude of ufological topics; the latter ignores IFOs and concentrates solely on the point of presentation about the evidence he has gathered. One is an overview and the other is a specific approach, in two distict styles. Both are real crowd pleasers, but for different reasons.

Stan and I swapped a few stories over dinner at Cathay House (and we both asy that the food is every bit as good as they say it is). We talked of all the aspects of ufodom, from HIB to classic cases and the individuals involved. In particular, we spoke about the state of ufology today.

c 1984 by Chris Rutkowski

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The Status of UPO Research



By now, most of the regular SGJ readers will have recognised my somewhat cynical attitude towards most things. Call it a character flaw, if you wish. This cyniciam, when applied to ufology brings out the very serious nature and consequences of the subject.

Pirat of all, UPO reports have not altogether stopped coming in, although they are at a trickle. I just recieved the latest from Lou Parish's clipping service, and it contains pages and pages of reports. I think we can still be allowed to ask why reports are being made after 37 years of the "modern UFO ers". This is the essiest question, and its answer is obvious from reflection upon the data at hand. There have always been and always will be UPO reports; the human system is remarkably fallable, and it will always from time to time encounter unknown atimuli. I would suggest that the present trickle of reports is the background level above which UFO flaps must rise. This is not too unexpected, as intense research by Vallee, Planmonde, Keel and others has uncovered (at the very least) a continous trickle of reports dating back into the 19th century and earlier into historical records. Even without proper reporting mechanisms, the reports have been recorded. The meaning of this is also quite clear. Since we know that most UPO reports are IPOs. the continous atream of reports does not mean a continous record of extraterrestrial visitation. It most likely means that there will always be misidentifications. Now, this is not quite Sheaffers's "where there's amoke, there's amoke" attitude, because we know that statistically, a amall fraction of reports are true unknowns (although I think that even this point needs examination). Sheaffer ignores these by implying that the unknowns are just a statistical variation within the background noise, and that the unknowns can never be totally eliminated due to the nature of the reporting mechanism. He assumes this mechanism is flawed, but does not recognise that the mechanism also produces high-quality observations of sircraft, satellites and meteors. In fact, the exact same mechanism enables satronomers to track bolides and pinpoint meteorite falls. Of course, bolides are photographed by all-sky camereas whereas UPOs are not. (Or are they? All-sky photographic surveys are designed to ignore snything except meteors. Even astellite tracking stations admit they detect unknown targets, but if the targets have snything less than a conventional trajectory, they ignore it.)

The next major question concerns the value of the UPO reports themselves. For example, how useful are UPO report catalogues? The importance of this came to light recently when I wrote an article criticizing Persinger's statistical studies on earthquakes and UPOa (see previous issues of SGJ). The studies used UPOCAT and a list of reports published in Fate magazine for their data sources. Hendry made a comment in his UPO Handbook that UPOCAT cannot be used for atatistical studies because of flaws in its makeup. If true, then UPOCAT, a primary data source for UPO reports, is essentially worthless, as are all other such files.

I have often struggled over this problem, considering its implications. UFOCAT is composed of several kinds of data: a) reports from investigators; b) newspaper clippings; c) articles in journals (including Fate); and d) other UFO report catalogues. Although there is some standardization, the quality of the reports varies considerably, since they are only as good as the investigator who files them. Hence, in this way, Hendry is right; UFOCAT does possess flaws which might reduce its usefulness as a data source. Statisticians sometimes forget that bad data gives equally good distributions and correlations as good data, so that analyses of data tell us nothing sbout the data itself. In computerese: GIGO (Garbage In, Garbage Out).

The trouble with UPO data is that the information usually available is not necessarily the most useful. It is commonplace to have dates, times and locations of UPO events, sa well as reported characteristics such as colors, shapes and types of objects seen. But because the UPO is observed by a human system. "feelings" and attitudes are important, and not always included in a report. As a matter of fact, there are so many variables involved, deciding what is important and what is not is not sn easy task. But accepting everything as dats id not the best choice to make either. (One example that comes to mind is Project URD's huge, coded UFO report form that leaves nothing out. A computerized data bank with that amount of data per case would be huge as well, perhaps needing 100 times the strorage space of UPOCAT. Another example is the narrative file, in effect a listing of UFO cases in text form, much like a book. The advantage of such a file is that the coding of UPO reports is not needed, since actual words are used: John Smith asw a red nocturnal light on May 3, 1983, etc. If John Smith said that it looked like a burning aircraft, the file would have that on record. The serious disadvantage of this type of file is that it would be enormous, and perhaps would need 1000 times the present UFOCAT storage space.)

But all this does not mean that UFO data has no merit. We have lots of data on what time people report UFOs, where and how many. UFO data files are therefore catalogues of sociological information. Is this useful in itself? Well, it is, depending on what you use the data to show. Persinger uses UFO dats for geophysical studies, assuming that the data is important and accurate. I personally feel that sociologists are missing out on a ripe field for study. The belief system for entire countries is up for grabs in UFO investigators' files.

Vallee used this information to support his ultraterrestrial hypotheses. The "manipulators" in his scenarios are therefore directly influencing our sociological structure. UFOs could thus be merely a global reaction mechanism to the new space age (even though they existed before the space age!). Or is the UFO phenomenon a response to the nuclear age instead?

Pinally, let me get sround to mentioning the prime source for many theories, namely, the extraterrestrial hypothesis. I do not hold the ETH untenable in any respect. In fact, the recent opportunities I have had to examine some government documents concerning UPOs have tended to pull me in the ETH direction slightly, despite my misgivings about it as a theory. But I'm not fully convinced. Yet.



flom any ghosts lately?

Who ye games call?

Wall, you can start with the Manitoha Mysteries Research Association at 455-940, says spokesman Chris Ruthowski

The newly formed group with the jaw-builing name has been set up quartheally to co-crimine the reporting and study of unusual phenomena such as UFOs, Sanquatch, lake monsters, psychic phecomena, and natural marvels tike meteors and boilets.

"In Canada it's the first organization of this type," said Rutkowski,

a professional astronomer. "It's an ambitious effort. We're bringing accural kinds of reasearchers together. We'll be sharing costs and drawing on each other's

The MMRA will be officially introduced Oct.
9 at 7 p.m. in Room 234,
University Centre,
University of Manitoba.

Ruthovski said the association is an umbrella group composed of UFORUM (Ufology Research of Manitoba), Manitoba Sasquatch Research Centre, and Manitoba Parusarmal

cont'd

wpg. Sun 5 Oct. 84

We are all aware of the opinion of Dr. Carl Sagan regarding UPOs. Although he is a firm believer in ETI, and frequently lobbies for the continued funding for SETI research, he is firmly opposed to the theory that some UFOs are extraterrestrial. Recently, a thought experiment led me to the conclusion that Sagan may lose his argument with Tipler, the scientist who believes that terrestrial life is unique in the galaxy (if not the entire universe). The reasoning is as follows: There are somewhere around 100 billion stars in our galaxy, which has an age of about 15 billion years. We also know that a typical star remains on the main sequence (i.e. capable of supporting life) for about 10 billion years and that life on Earth has taken about half that to develop to where it is today (if you call this developed). This leaves us able to survive on Earth for 5 billion years more, barring some natural or man-made catastrophe. Now, since some stars will have begun the main sequence earlier than our Sun, it is logical that any evolutionary mechanism will have begun sooner as well. If we assume (and this is an sdmittedly major assumption) that life will evolve in most stellar systems, then it is also logical that life around a star older than our Sun will be more advanced than we are. Life sufficiently advanced might also have developed interstellar travel, and may be presently exploring the galaxy (this assumes that interstellar travel is possible). If so, there is a significant probability that we will be visited by extraterrestrial voyagers at some point in our history. And, since there is a greater probability that this will occur outside the present, then we could have been visited already, and Arthur C. Clarke's black monolith might in fact be waiting for us after all.

But this brings up a rather interesting point in turn. SETI research assumes that life exists, but cannot cross the vast distances of space. Yet there are indications that this is not so. Mankind is already exploring the solar system, and there is no reason to think that interstellar travel will not be attempted in the future. If so, then why have we not already been contacted by advanced civilizations? In effect, some UFOs must be extraterrestrial in order to support the hypothesis that extraterrestrial life exists at all in any evolutionary stage! Therefore, if UFOs do not exist, as Sagan claims, then mankind is unique and Sagan's SETI research is all for naught! Either we are unique, or we are presently under observation by an extraterrestrial race.

Sorry for that digression. I was in the middle of a discussion about my theories of ufology and got hung up there for a bit. I am beginning to favor a more "unified theory of ufology". Really. I believe that only a theory which allows for all the various aspects of ufology can come close to accurately modelling the phenomenon. This means that the ETH must be combined with ultraterrestrialism, and seasoned with liberal doses of geophysics, cover-ups, spritualism and whatnot, all to compensate for each theory's separate drawbacks. Now, I don't for a moment suggest I have such a theory already formulated. This is my "gut" feeling, one that I have acquired after having my feet wet for several years. And it's not a cop-out, either. I'm saying that there is a solution, with definite parameters that can be eventually determined.

Maybe.

Newspaper Articles

Bird, Bradley. "Mystery Hovers Over Rash of UFO Sightings". Winnipeg Free Press, July 25, 1984, p.32. A rather sensationalized commentary coming as a result of a lengthy conversation about all aspects of Manitoba mysteries, but for some reason dealing only with a slight increase in UFO reports.

Miller, David. "Are We Being Watched by UFOs?". Toronto (Sunday) Star, July 8, 1984, p.A8. A full-page of interviews with Hynek, Friedman, McNamara and Rutkowski, giving a fairly objective overview.

free page

Investigations, along with several private

The MMRA is intended to be a cambre whose people can report sightings of unusual phenomena to individuals seriously interested in the observations, he said.

Next Tuesday, nembers of the research groups will give briefings on their statics and of recent sightings, the some unconfurmed aughtings this summer of a sea moraler at the mouth of Winnipag River, and Rathewalt.

ent.



Authorities were fleded with calls shortly after 9 p.m. yesterday from people who thought they spotted E.T.'s gleaming spaceship floating over

Environment Canada, however, quelled peo-

ple's excitement, saying it was only a common weather balloon en route to Lethbridge,

Spokesman Phil Wright said the sunlight reflected off the balloon equipped with scientific instruments to study the polar easterlies wind. It

was cruising at 90,000 feet when people spotted

The balloon was launched by the National Research Council in Gimli at 6 p.m.

"We've gotten 6,000 or so calls from people thinking they saw a UFO," Wright said.

Arrack Blamed on krael

NEW YORK-Following the destruction of 90% of civilization last week in a nuclear attack by flying saucers, the United Nations Security Council today passed a resolution claiming that "Israel's got to be to blame." United States Ambassador Jeanne Kirkpatrick. citing the "unparalleled support of our government for the State of Israel", cast an abstaining vote. Meanwhile, the French government invited the commanders of the flying saucers to Paris to discuss the purchase of additional nuclear fuel and technology.



How You Can Explore Higher Dimensions of Space and Time by T.B. Pawlicki. Prentice-Hall, N.J. 1984. 188 p. \$9.95 Reviewed by W. Ritchie Benedict.

The sub-title of this book is "An Introduction To The New Science of Hyperspace For Trekkies of All Ages", and it is by the same author who wrote "How To Build a Plying Saucer". Normally anything with equations and formulae tends to make my eyes glaze over. However, I am interested in anything dealing with science that relates to parapsychology, particularly anything that is coherent and readable. This book, like its predecessor, fits the bill admirably, even if the author in his preface does seem to take the attitude that everyone should be good at mathematics.

Surprisingly, I found myself understanding the meaning of this book, so I must be more of a mathematician than I thought. Else, it is the basic problem of semantics: before you understand the problem, you must understand the terms. Religion has been great for using the terms of soul, spirit and rebirth without generating any great understanding as to what they are in practical terms. No wonder people regard mystics and philosophers as wooly-minded.

Any attempt to understand the paranormal before the 20th century was doomed to failure, simply because we did not have the necessary information. Pawlicki discusses how the universe resembles a giant hologram. Only the invention of the laser about 1960 made 3-D holograms possible. He points out that the co-existence of many realities within a single area of space is quite an alien concept to the average person as well. At least it was until the advent of radio and TV. The only 19th century personality who might have had some hope of understanding the nature of reality was Lewis Carroll (1832-1898), who was, after all, a mathematician. Into the rabbit hole fell Alice - sort of a symbolic or intuitive representation of light being sucked into a black hole, if one wishes to view it from that perspective. Certainly, the concepts of the new physics, as contained in this book, are as fantastic in their implications as Alice in Wonderland.

Mankind may always have had a knowledge of the workings of the universe even if it could not always express it in precise terms. Many of the fundamental concepts have surfaced in an intuitive manner, such as the ides everything is organized in a hierarchical system with various levels and intelligences. One of the more fascinating chapters in this book deals with the operation of the pineal gland, long known by occultists as "The Third Eye". Pawlicki claims this is linked with the awareness of the creativity of the right brain. He says that people who have this ability have been largely suppressed by the crazy society we have on this planet. His athletic abilities have led him to conclude that the mastery of these skills are because the person who is able to reach "the point of stillness" within himself becomes a superconductor of cosmic energy. I have noticed something similar in writing: if you can just get into the right "mode", it becomes easy instead of a constant effort.

This book is a step further out - beyond "How to Build a Flying Saucer" and a cousin to "The Tao of Physics", "Stalking the Wild Pendulum" and "The Excalibur Briefing". I can't say that I agree with all of the conclusions reached, but Pawlicki is never dull. The science is impeccable, and you will know a lot more about gravity, wave theory and enlightenment by the time you are finished. Yes, even dreams, fairies and ghosts have a place here, as does the nature of God and Salvation. How does Star Trek get into the act? In the final chapter, we are taken aboard the Enterprise and then through a Black Hole - a charming illustration of what to expect when we pass the Event Horizon.

This book covers a lot of ground in just IAA pages, and deserves to be reread several times. A clear, informative explanation, of what makes the supernatural "super".

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Little, Gregory.

no hinges, has only ONE moving part.
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CERCLE 86 ON READER SERVICE CARD

Wally Nilsson has given me his report on the Time-Out Floatation Centre, at 835 Ellice Avenue. Once inside, you are led to a tank 8 feet long, 4 feet high and 4 feet wide, with liqid inside at a level of about a foot. You float in a 30% solution of epsom salts and water at 93.5 degrees P, for about an hour. You can lay in the dark in silence, or listen to prerecorded cassettes with titles like "Lemurian Sunrise", "Tonal Alchemy" and "Rainbow Butterfly". All this for only \$20.00. Peyote is extra (just kidding; I saw that movie too).

Dr. R. Altemeyer, who teaches first year psychology at the University of Manitoba, has assigned Volume 6, Number 2, of the Skeptical Inquirer as one of the required textbooks. Sigh.

The second annual Keycon will be held May 17-19, 1985 at the Marlborough Inn in Winnipeg. For further information, contact the Manafields at Pendragon Gamea.

"Dear Mr. Rutkowski, I have been graced with a broad new insight, conceptualization and understanding of the solar system ... " Thus begins a letter I received forwarded to me at work. You don't want to know the

The word from the AAAS meeting in New York is rather dull news. USA Today (May 30, 1984) ran a short column on the meeting, with a third of it on UPOs. James Oberg said "most UFO sightings have been explained". Allen Hynek said that reported properties of UFOs are not consistent with "those of everyday objects". The consensus: "There is no proof that a spaceship from another planet has visited Earth."

By now, most of you will have heard that the Soviet Union has set up a UFO probe commission in its Academy of Sciences. The news came on May 29th in the Russian newspaper Trud.

Version 1 (Dec. 83) of the Archives for UFO Research UFOCODE classification ayatem has been out for a while now, although I don't know how it is being generally received. Considerably more detailed than UFOCAT, it is a coding system for UFO literature, including UFO reports. I personally do like it, and it may be a viable alternative to text narratives as ita hard-copy retention and reduction in storage space in computer memory is reduced as well.

The Manitoba Planetarium is still presenting its aummer show: The Search For Extraterrestrials". A moderate effort, it discusses Von Neuman machines and radio astronomy.

The Edmonton Space Sciences Centre (which, incidentally, looks like the mother ship from Close Encounters), is now open, and I'm told it's really magnificent. I had the opportunity to tour the place before its completion, and it still was impressive at that time. It includes an IMAX projector/screen theatre, a planetarium with superbly comfy seats, a large hands-on exhibit hall, a state-of-the-art production centre and a bookstore (note!).

Gene Duplantier's latest 1985 book catalogue just came to me (September). New features: issue #1 of Delve, Gene's latest fortzine, and a whole slough of new book titles. Included in these are gems titled: "Flying Saucers from Khabarah Koom", "Secreta of the Popes" and "The Martian Alphabet".

It is with great sadness that I report the recent death of A. Bertram Chandler, a science fiction writer who is regarded by many as the beat hard-science writer around. He frequently would inject his stories with brilliant humor, especially through his characters' problems in dealing with the opposite sex. His main character, Commodore Grimea, survived many an adventure in Chandler's universe, including many bizarre acenarios set on the now-famous Kinsolving's Planet, where time and space went awry. I well recall reading Grimea' encounters with malevolent bicycles, religious zealots and dirigible dogfights. Grimea mct a varied ensemble in his adventures, including the beelike Shaara, kangaroo women and had somewhat strange meetings with Sherlock Holmes, Zeus and, of course, A. Bertram Chandler! Grimes' history in print lasted several decades, first appearing as a character in the 1950's. Chandler's voluminous publishing record began back in the 1930's, although he never gained the popularity of other writers who have been around as long, since the "golden age". We salute you, Captain Chandler, in that great steamer in the sky. May Mathilda waltz with you forever. The Commodore is dead! Long live the Commodore!

In the mail: a poster from CPDV (Centro Para Peaquiaas de Discos Voadorea) in Brazil, advertizing their 5th annual Symposio Brazileiro de Ufologia. held on June 16-17 of this year. White on black, with impressive graphics of a saucer against a starry background. The top caption in one-and-a-half-inch letters: DISCOS VOADORES, and underneath: e ae elea existirem? How's your Portuguese?

Also in the mail from APU, its Bestlandsliata 1983 Library Catalogue. This is the most thorough listing of UFO books I have seen. It is a multilingual listing, with over 1100 entries, all giving author, title and bibliographic information. There are many illustrations of covers as well. Extraneous text is, of course, in Swedish.

It seems that the RCMP does have a policy on UPOs. after all, separate from fireball aightings. According to their operations manual, Section I.3.E.10.B.1, they must notify the NRC Meteor Centre by a priority unclassified message, including the Date, Time, Place, Duration, Description, Condition of Sky and the Identity of Observers. Also included must be "Commenta on the Reliability of the Witnesses". It is not known whether officers receive instruction or guidelines for criteria to judge this reliability.

Metron Canada ia a book service in Lethbridge, Alberta, that caters to Velikovskiian catastrophista. Its recent book list includes volumes by a Professor Alfred de Grazia, describing reversing currents, the burning of Troy, a "fully electric" theory of astronomy and a psychiatric analysis of Moses. Prices range between \$20 and \$30 per volume.

er Could be a Space Alien, Say Experts" rer on June 24th, 1984. Out of the 10 at to Brad Steiger, my favorites include: est and using correction fluid to paint fing noticed.

ints" proclaimed the 10 signs to watch out :: eating French fries fingernails. And I

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