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Pebble in the Sky

With apologies to Asimov, the title of this editorial comments upon the odd controversy in which I have been injected. Of course, I took it upon myself to write a few words concerning the situation, so I am not entirely beyond the role of devil's advocate;

At the outset, I never held the position that the Teotomic Strain Theory (TST) was entirely without merit, and in fact have made statements to this effect on several occasions; However, since my criticisms have seen print, several individuals have taken my comments as personal affronts upon their integrity, and have chosen to respond in a rather personal manner, a manner in which I

mimicked quite effectively.

Recently, I have been asked to write an article on the TST for a major UFO journal, and my thanks are due to Jerry Clark for his offer. Because of this. I will not detail my constructive criticisms of the TaT at this point, and I will refer the reader to some references of note; listed at the end of this editorial: I will, however, describe the sequence of events leading up to this

present situation.

Michael Persinger has been writing articles on the theme of the TST for many years now, and I first read some of his work in the journal, Perceptual & Motor Skills, in the later 1970's, This was roughly coincidental with the publication of the book he coauthored with Gyslaine Lafreniere, titled Space-Time Transients and Unusual Events. It was an interesting effort to quantify Fortean research using statistical analyses performed on computer, bringing together UPOm, bigfoot, poltergeists, fish falls and practically everything else, advancing the theory that abnormal geophysical conditions produce or are otherwise catalysts to produce these transient events. A nice theory, but how did it mesh with reality? My concern at that time was that it seemed to try and link everything together, and I didn't think that the universe was that simple to allow a geophysical explanation for everything.

Coincidentally, about the same time, I was studying Lumar Translent Phenomena (LTP) at the Glemlea Astronomical Observatory, and found that Persinger made enggestions about their cause, based on his statistical calculations using geophysical data, in particular the solar wind's influence, Most ufologists do not know that one of the major contributors to the knowledge of LTP was none other tham J. Allen Hynak, who was head of a project at Correlitos Observatory for a time. At any rate, the most favored explanation for LTP boils down to a combination of the solar wind and poor seeing conditions, although I have argued that residual outgassing from the interior of the Moon may be a contributing factor. Persinger's calculations showed that less than 25% of the variance of geomegnetic events and LTP turned up, a value that he himself describes as "marginal". The statistics failed to show anything but a very weak correlation, probably because the data he used involved so many other variables. such as seeing conditions. In other words, it was the data that was at fault, not Persinger.

It wasn't until some time later that I began examining the TST in any great detail. Possibly it was the infamous NOVA episode on UFOs that sparked my curiosity more fully. In it, Persinger implied that Travis Walton's experience and reported abduction was; due merely to the effect of electromagnetic activity on Walton's brain, essentially, shorting him out. On the same show, Brian Brady showed how small spark-like lights (he insisted they were not sparks) could be produced by a rock sample stressed to the breaking point. It was implied that this was what Val Johnson saw near Grand Forks (actually near Stephen, Minnesota), but on a larger scale; Immediately, I was intriqued; Rock under stress, near Grand Forks? Fascinated, I telephoned Brady in Colorado, seeking more information. I found him quite pleasant to talk with, and he

described some of his current experiments. I asked him about Persinger, and he admitted that Persinger's theory did tend to stretch things "a bit", but was otherwise sound. He sent me some of his ourrent papers, and I read them with interest. But I found that nowhere did he address the problem of the light creation directly in those papers; Essentially, the NOVA demonstation had never

been described in scientific journals.

Now, I'd be the first to say that that fact was not significant, if it wasn't that Persinger was continuing to publish articles citing Brady's work. And, I asked some geologists about the mechanics of the TST, to which I received some astomishing replies. Some harumphed, and others laughed; most didn't want to get involved with something as silly as UPOs, least of all a psychologist who published papers on geophysics and UPOs. The psychologists I spoke with were even worse: they didn't want to get involved, period, since geophysics was not

The pattern emerged slowly; Persinger consistently cited himself and Brudy in his articles; Geophysicists weren't reading them and psychologists couldn't follow them. Even statisticians found them diff cult to fathom. Something was

intuitively wrong somewhere.

Out of determination to understand the theory, I took it upon myself to study the TST in detail, drawing on the resources of psychologists, geophysicists and statisticisms for explanations and advice. I even took an advanced geophysics course to understand the mechanics involved. At this point, I wondered if Brady Persinger had stumbled onto a great discovery, since they were being generally ignored by the scientific community. I was even surprised to receive several telephone calls from Persinger himself at my work number (how he got it as anyone's guess). He was pleasant, although somewhat abrupt, and was pleased that I had set out to substantiate the TST, using Manitoba data. This was not untrue, since at the time, my reasoning included the idea that if the TST could explain UPOs, then why were there UPO reports in the tectorically-inactive province of Manitoba? Persinger assured me that he had found that his theory worked for Hamitoba UFOs as well. He encouraged me to use statistical methods to show this for Manitoba.

Except that there are no tectonic events above normal background noise in Mamitoba, My advisors found the entire notion absurd. No seismic events, but lots (and lots) of UPO reports; Hence: the TST cannot be universally correct;

But Persinger insists that his TST does not require selemic events to be present, only a "strain field". Not surprisingly, I found that selemologists don't understand the mechanics of a strain field very well, and I soon found myself in the reals of earthquake prediction. Persinger had also found himself at this point, since he began associating with John Derr, a reputable geophysicist who has written extensively on earthquake lights. In fact, as s good ufologist should. I had read Derr's papers such earlier as a matter of course. Recently, Derr presented a paper at the AGU, suggesting that UFOs and earthquake lights are caused by the same process. Except that UPOs are caused by events; of less; than magnitude 2, and probably magnitude 1. Oh, yes, such events; are generally not detectable.

And then there's Devereux. Paul Devereux has published his own book, and some articles in New Scientist, describing his piesoelectric theory of UPOs as: due to rock stresm. As one might guess, he cited both Persdager and Brady in support of his theory. But once again, if the UPOs in Britain were caused by rock under stress and this stress could not be detected, and there was no one-to-one correspondence between UFO report and selsmic event, then how could it be determined that the stress was the cause, and not something else

entirely?

Persinger did something similar; he correlated raw UFO data with tectoric events, and found a high correlation, although his high correlations are so-so correlations to other statisticians. But, as I pointed out, raw UFO data includes a large percentage of misidentifieds like planes and stars,

At any rate, I mentioned Devereux's work (and that of the Vestigia group in the USA) in my major paper reviewing the TST for the U of M. I also mentioned Devareux in the paper I wrote on the TST for the CUPOS Newsletter. Devereux wrote a letter to CUPOS, rebutting my remarks and defending his version of the TST, while cautiously pointing out differences between the versions of himself and Persinger. He, like Persinger, lightly dismissed critics of his theory without addressing the major concerns.

The most recent development is that Persinger has published a seven-page "Reply to Rutkowski" in Perceptual & Motor Skills (V.60, 1985, p.575-582), using the concept of filibuster as an art form. While not saying that my criticisms were invalid, he complains that such criticisms stand in the way of inmovation and analytic techniques, himdering the discovery process. He is effectively challenging me to reply in print, but this has left me stymied. It seems that Perceptual & Motor Skills is a "pay journal", and authors must submit payment to see articles in print. It cost se over \$150 to publish my three-page article, not including the time and effort spent doing research. Persinger, being the head of the Department at Laurentian, can use departmental funds to publish or perish. Plus, he is (as he reminds us) a PhD, while I have only scratched the surface of s Master's, Clearly, he is the expert, to a certain degree.

So, where does this leave the TST? Persinger, Derr, Brady and Devereux. continue to publish articles, citing each other because no other supportive remarch exists. I still say that it's not a bad theory, but it needs a great deal more atudy and testing before it should be endorsed by the ufological and scientific communities.

Stop that comet

Allowing Halley's comet to bring new disasters would be foolish

The world has enough threatening crises to confront world economy and the environment. Businessmen are since before history began. Halley's missile is now racing to earth at 73,000 miles per hour. It must be stopped, preferably by a pre-emptive nuclear strike.

A comet like Halley's, some say, brought extinction to the dinosaurs. Others reckon it was the precursor of Herod's slaughter of the innocents. In 1066, Halley's comet was unarguably the harbinger of King Harold's defeat. In 1456, Pope Calixtus III condemned it as an agent of the devil. And in 1910—as it streaked across Nightingale and King Edward VII died.

Calixtus was right. With the power of nuclear destruction at its fingertips, the world cannot afford to risk allowing Halley's comet to return in 1986. The credulity of comet-struck crowds in the third world will be exploited by unscrupulous politicians and holy men. Elsewhere, it will again bring vapours to our weaker sex. In 1910, women in Chicago boarded themselves into their houses to escape comet gas. People who last year bought more than 1m Boy George records and watched many hours of Dallas cannot be immune.

Annihilation aside, Halley's comet will damage the towards acomet-free future.

without accepting yet another. Here comes Halley's busily preparing to turn valuable raw materials into comet, a phenomenon that has heralded catastrophes comet memorabilia. Because much of the memorabilia will be produced in Asia and turned to garbage in America, it will increase the strains caused by America's worsening trade deficit as well as add to the pollution of the environment, both of which are undesirable in a mid-term election year.

Protection from such dangers is by itself worth the vast resources which a nuclear strike against the comet will require. But the endeavour will also leave lasting benefits. For peace, it will help overcome a psychologithe skies of Sarajevo-Mark Twain, Tolstoy, Florence cal barrier facing the Geneva talks: instead of dismantling their hard-won missiles, generals will be able to see them off in a blaze of glory. For Dr Strangeloves, the comet-stopping mission will provide real star-wars experience. And there is power to win.

> Any nation willing to send the products of the best minds of a generation and a significant portion of its gnp hurtling into space to blast a ball of ice three miles across will be treated very carefully by its neighbours. The nation that hits the comet, at a distance of 37m miles, will gain new respect worldwide. Let next Monday be the day when statesmen take the first step

Although researchers studying the UFO phenomenon usually don't examine paranormal(PSI) events such as extrasensory perception(ESP), paychokenisis (PK) or apparitions, these two areas of the unexplained exhibit many similarities.

The most common and puzzling characteristic shown by both UFOs and PSI is their apparent ability to defy presently known laws of physics during the course of performing a certain task. This is best demonstraited by the common ability of UFOs to accelerate to incredible speeds from practically a stand still or to execute right angle maneuvers while crusing at speeds well above any presently known flying technology. This apperent disruption of physical laws also occurs in PSI happenings. PSI events consist mainly of the ability to recieve or transmit information without the use of the five senses. Also included is the ability of living beings to influence animate or inanimate matter at a distance without physical contact. Such events as ESP,PK,apparitions and psychic healing as with UFOs, seem to be pointing out flaws in the way we are

presently interpreting reality.

The other parallet between UFO and PSI phenomena which incidentally has also been the most frustrating, is the lack of evidence which would enable one to demonstrait scientific proof in the eyes of scientists. With UFOs the evidence usually consists of a photograph, physical evidence or eye witness accounts. This evidence is usually dismissed as fraud, misidentifications or psychological delusions. The same is true and even more so with parapsychology. Unlike with UFOs, with PSI one is examining a process rather than a object. As a result parapsychologists can examine the phenomena under strictly controlled conditions, changing specific variables to determine their effect on the outcome of the experiment. Yet as with UFO evidence, the critics are never satisfied. They argue that the statisics are being manipulated to suit the outcome or that the statistics are not significant. Most criticized is the lack of repeatability and experimenter fraud. As with UFO evidence most

of the criticisms are unwarrented and weak, yet they continue to exsist.

Another common characteristic is the ability to influence matter or gravity. This is usually accomplished through materializations, dematerializations and levitations. Besides the ability to hover stationary for extended periods of time, reports of UFOS instantly vanishing or appearing have been documented. These characteristics are comparable to poltergeist outbreaks where heavy objects have known to have been levitated and hurled across the room. Also a few famous psychics such as D.D. Home and religous figures have been observed self levitating infront of witnesses. A few rare physical mediums have been known to make objects appear or disappear. A similar phenomenon has also been witnessed in poltergeist incidents where stones have been known to appear from nowhere raining on or even in a home. Other phenomenon although extremly rare are the reports of fires or puddles of water appearing with no apparent cause.

Finally although not the last similarity shared by UFOs and PSI is ESP. In some contactee cases witnesses claim the occupants communicated nonverbally with them. They believe that during that time they could understand what the occupants weretrying to communicate to them. ESP whether spontaineous or controlled in a laboratory environment, suggests that man has the undeveloped ability to know what his fellow man is

thinking.

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UFO and PSI phenomena have many interesting parallels. The purpose of comparing UFOs and PSI was arbitrary, I could have used Big foot and the Loch Ness Monster as a example of two phenomena which have definite similarities. This article demonstraits that benifits may be derived by overlapping ones area of study with other similar areas inorder to profit from and contribute to other researchers. As it is true in the field of medicine it is likewise true when applied to the unexplained; all the individual areas must be examined in order for the whole to be understood.

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Geophysical warshies and human behavior: XVI. Some criticisms. Perceptual & Mour Skills, 1984(Jun), Vol 58(3), 80-842.

—Contends that there are several prohibems with obtaining adequate data to test the textonic strain theory (TST) of unidentified flying object (UFO) reports. The statistical studies that suggest a correlation between UFO report numbers and geophysical phenomena show relationships between the variables only when the optimal increments of time and space are used. Countless other variables may be present or occur within the strain field's perimeter, and these may influence any correlated effects. A rare geophysical phenomenon called earthquake lightning displays some reported UFO characteristics (e.g., luminous bodies of light), however, this phenomenon only occurs shortly before or after an earthquake. UFO data come from sources of varying degrees of credibility and have inherent flaws in design (e.g., subjective observations). It is suggested that the TST may be used in studies of masidentifications of ordinary phenomenas and geophysical effects to discover the interactions between these phenomenas and the buman brain. (11 ref) — P. D. Barke.

Psych. Abstracts V. 72

> lerusalem, 6000 CE - Highly placed sources announced today that the Creator of the Universe has decided to recall the human race, effective immediately. Citing "operational faults" not covered by the Creator's original warrantyknown as the Rainbow Covenant - a spokesman for the Creator, Mashiach Ben David, said the recall was announced with "profound regret." He added, "Apparently nobody bothered to read the Instructions" (a thick booklet known as 'the Bible'), and cited such breaches as war, famine, racism, and television commercials. Representatives of the human race reacted with disappointment to the announcement, but lions and lambs were seen celebrating into the night. (Steve Lipman)





'Library' on block

CINCINNATI — The home of a wuman once found trapped in a cave-in of her 60-tame collection of newspapers may be sold to pay the city for the cost of hauling the paper away, the mardian of the wuman's estate said.

Laura Muckerbeide died last week at age 74 as police were taking her from a hotel where she had been living to a state hospital. The death was attributed to natural causes.

The unwappers, stacked from floor to calling, were discovered in April 1802 when mightons saw her legs sticking out her front door. She had been trapped for enveral hours by a cave-in what she called her "remarch libersy."



"Ооооооооооооо!"



"Do you believe in booze on other planets?"



37

HUMANITY / SUN RA

AM NOT of this plungs, I am another order of bulng. I can stell you things you won't before.

Twenty years ago I told them all the achook would be closed.

There would be trouble in the callegas, brouble in the deriverway schools. I tried to sell people men would well the moon. And they told me, "Ther's ridiculous,", But it happened, And they still say it's ridiculous, I was only trying to get them to see the coming ago.

They wouldn't accept thus.

Because of segregation, I have only a vegas browledge of the white world and that browledge is experitche, Because I know more about black than I do white, I know my result and returning, I know my insultion is to be what it is rartural for me to be — that is the law of rarture everywhere. There are different orders of being, and I call upon the forces of return to widness that I have existent and I have sold that no order has a right to brivings upon the rights of enotine order of being, for each order has its own vegand weigh of being, but as each colour has its own vibration. My remainment of race is rate of vibration—beams, rays… in the scheme of things even the least of the brothers has his day, and when you realise the resembling of that day, you will feel the progress of an angel in disease.

I never section to be a part of planet Earth, and I did empthing not to be a part of it, I never wanted their movey or their fame, and anything I do for this planet is because the Creator of the Universe is making me do it_If I can just void it, then you have a clean spot in the Universe where Earth once was, and If I have my way I'll void it, so I can make the Bible full truth. Because it has never done anything for me but try to stop me, try to make my ex-called Life ugly like it did the rest of black people, and tried to make me worthip a god that they made, and now the force of the Universe are tightening up on planet Earth, and they are in partiest agreement with me and I om a witness against this planet, because they are not worshipping the Creatur and they have no excuse for fighting against me, and all I wanted to do was help, Everything they did I'm going to put on the books, on the books of human Itself, bussum there is no excuse for people being the way they are, and I am not going to forgive anybody. I don't care whether they are purple, yellow, green, black, white, or any other colour I've never even before . . . When people try to distroy the kindness and love in a garage, they deserve the cruellest dimensions that the Creator can cast upon them, I am not going to pray for them, because enough good men have preyed for them and died for them. I am not seeking power, I am not seeking landership - I will lead nothing like humans. The only remon I'm here is that the Creator got me here against my will. If I can get out of in any way enlightening this planet I'll do so with the greatest of pleasure and let them stay in their darkness, cruelty, hetred, ignorance and the other things they got in their houses of deceit. We need to get off this planet as fast as possible. We'd better be

out there when here blows up.

COULDN'T approach black people with the truth because they like lies. They live lies. They will be the doing "Love thy neighbour as thyself", but I don't see them doing that. I don't think of Negroes as my brothers... I'm admon.

They repect that, I'm going to best the augmentality out of them. I'm going to best them and best them and best them. If you see me playing infore black folks, you'll see they're uply I comfortable brane I'm playing branty and they're uply. I can deve Meyram and whites too with my sounds. A good brainwash would be lovely for them,

At one time I felt that white people were to blame for everything, but then I found out they're just pupped and pavers of some other greats from, which has been using them And giving them a lot of make them feel, "Oh well, I'm express." It fooled them — made a fool out of THEM too — and also made a fool out of black people. Some force is having a good time off both of them, and looking, enjoying feelf in a reserved seet, wondering, "I wonder when they're going

to verify spirit. And the street and the street and the spirit sp

But paople always earn to reject the good Wings in the world. It's very hard to develop a man who speaks of love and non-violence, like Martin Lurder King, Very hard, And then the world distroys him . . . Something will have to take his place, And a time will come when the forces that give things will say, "they don't want anything groovy, so they shall have correcting bad,"

This is where the hippins come in, They know that, They don't know exactly what it is but they feel it, bucause this netural irethrat selfs them, "You have got to change this, you've got to go enother way." And they know that, It's a good sign for a race when you have some people who really recognize that, You haven't had that too much in the black race.

I think in terms of a natural being, I don't think in terms of a sepreme being, because everything is pert of him. He wouldn't be expreme; It's just out of pert of him. Not respectively 'divine', Divine seems to be synonymous with something good... Whatever is controlling this whole thing is not recomerily good... This natural being is neither really good nor evil. Don't think of people as bed or good. None of them are good, but they can do some good things. I would say none of them are bad, but they can do some bed things.

When somebody's loved, they don't destroy.
I would tell people on this planet that there are forces: their job is to slow you up. And you supposed to keep moving.

The Quantavolution Books

In the mid-1960's Alfred de Grazia, then one of the leading Professors of Social Theory in the United States, became aware of the books written by Doctor Immanuel Velikovsky, who claimed that catastrophic planetary collisions had occurred a few thousand years ago. Velikovsky believed these collisions had shaped the Earth's Surface and human history.

The violent reaponse of university scientists to Velikovsky's work aroused de Grazia's curiosity. He checked Velikovsky's work and found it to be sound. Soon, de Grazia, too, was exploring the consequences of catastrophic interplanetary events as shapers of both the environment and of human culture.

Cosmic Catastrophism, especially if recent, still has not found favour with most scholars despite much physical evidence acquired in space. Catastrophism is harder to ignore in 1985 than before the Space Ags when Velikovsky wrote Worlds In Collision.

Readers will find de Gracia's story interesting and believable. In his books de Gracia's grants only a million year history to the Earth, and for humankind he suggests a much shorter cultural lifetime than is common elsewhere.

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I also became involved recently in an argument regarding the evolution of science fiction literature and fandom itself. I suppose the beginning was when Mike Daly made some rather disparaging comments about the Winnipeg Science Fiction Society, in a letter to Garth Spencer (Maple Leaf Rag #9). His rather bad innaccuracies sent several people scrambling to their typewriters, myself included, in order to set the record straight. The summary of the corrected version of the history of Winnipeg SF was published by Garth Spencer (Maple Leaf Rag #11, Jan. 1985), and included comments by me, Randy Reichardt and Chester Cuthbert. (I note that even this published version does not mention the major contributions of Garth Danielson, including his publication of BOOWATT over a period of several years, nor the work of Steve George, who published Universe, Zozma and now SFEAR.

The major bone to pick, though, seemed to be the changes that SF had gone through since "the good old days" of the 1970's (remember them?). David Hartwell has described this change in his recent book, Anatomy of Wonder, where he observes that SF has become increasingly "pop"-oriented. Recent SF cons have included fantasy, gaming, D&D, Elfquest, comics and whatnot, seemingly lacking the SF they proclaim themselves to be. A possible exception to this is the inclusion of Trek material. Ben Bova has defended this shift in a recent letter to Publisher's Weekly, where he expressed pleasure that SF was evolving to reflect interests in video games and the rise in roleplaying games. Of course, hard-core SF fans rarely read any Bova, so the matter becomes an argument of taste.

I think the main reason for the complaints is because so much science fiction literature is being largely ignored in favour of trivial works destined for predetermined markets of uncritical consumers of one or more particular genres. These formula books are generally unimaginative, though addicts of the fields concerned swear by their high quality. The best analogy is probably the Harlequin Romance novel, in comparison to romance literature of considerably more merit. But, you can't convince a Harlequin reader to stop reading her interest. So why bother? The answer is simple: if you have a horse, don't call it a cow!

Ufology Today

Since the last issue of SGJ, several things of note have occurred. Stanton Friedman came to Winnipeg for a visit during the winter; I received word that J. Allen Hynek has moved the CUPOS office to Phoenix; Michael Persinger has published a lengthy reply to my brief criticism of his TST; I have spoken at a Psychic Fair in Winnipeg, and shared a booth with Roy Bauer; the Manitoba Mysteries Research Association died an early death in March, 1985, due to a decision made by one of its former members. In its place has risen, like a Phoenix, the Manitoba Mysteries Group, headed by Roy Bauer and myself, with a few others who don't want any PR (Roy is in charge of the paranormal research, and I the "other stuff").

LoCs

Paul Devereux (through CUFOS; his letter is printed verbatim in CUFOS Associate Newsletter, v.6, #2, 1985); Jerome Clark (3); Richard Heiden; Steve George (sorry I don't have the room to print your letter this ish, Steve); Michael Anteski; A.J. Gevaerd; W. Ritchie Benedict (any more reviews?); Steuart Campbell (2).

In the Geophysical Variables and Human Behavior series in Perceptual and Motor Skills

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CHRIS RUTKOWSKI BOX 1918 WINNIPEG, MANITOBA CANADA RIC 382