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A CONFIDENTIAL REPORT ON A RECENT "CONTACT" CLAIM

On July 9th of this year, your SAUCER NEWS Editor made a visit to a large Eastern city (which shall remain unnamed), in an effort to investigate a weird series of "space contacts" which allegedly had been experienced by a flying saucer research group there. Accompanying your Editor on the trip was Richard E. Wallace, one of our associate editors.

The build-up to this event was fascinating. For months we had been hearing stories about how one member of the group, whom we shall call Nick, had been going into trances during which his body was taken over by various beings from outer space. During some of these sessions, mysterious lights were seen - even by skeptical outsiders. A New York area researcher had visited the group just a week before our trip, and had witnessed both the trance phenomenon and the light, and had returned home very impressed by both. As a matter of fact, he had been so frightened by what he saw and heard that he cut short his investigation and returned to New York rather hurriedly.

On the afternoon of July 9th, we visited Nick's home. Present also were a co-researcher of his whom we will call Ed, as well as a few other members of the group. Nick soon went into a trance during which his body was taken over by a space being called Zayron, one of several such entities which appear to vie for control of him during these exhibitions. Ed, who had witnessed most of the previous trances, narrated for us as Nick strutted around the room, breaking and overturning objects, occasionally threatening those present with bodily harm, answering questions about life on other planets - and in general acting like a poor imitation of a bad science-fiction movie.

We had been told that Nick exhibited strange characteristics during these trances that his eyes rolled back in his head in a way that no human's eyes ordinarily do; that he was insensible to pain; and that he was able to take falls that no one could ordinarily sustain without serious injury. Nick's friends also claimed that he exhibited knowledge far beyond that of an ordinary mortal.

However, it took us only a few minutes to realize that this must be an act, and a rather poorly-contrived one at that. The mysterious light which other researchers had seen failed to appear for us, although we were shown photographs of it (which, incidentally, had no point of reference visible, and therefore proved nothing!) In addition, we found that all the details of Nick's actions while in trance had been grossly exaggerated. Not only did he fail to exhibit any unusual knowledge, but the controlling entity actually contradicted himself on several points, and gave no information about anything which could not be arrived at by pure quesswork, by any person who is a little bit familiar with flying saucer literature and lore.

Specifically, Zayron - who is from a planet either 2 million or 200 million light years away (Zayron wasn't sure!), told us that there is no intelligent life in our solar system. But I later learned that Nick claims to have made trips to Mars via astral projection, and to have found a highly-advanced civilization there, with buildings "one to two miles in height," covered by non-reflective domes!

Our first feeling was that Nick and Ed were in on the hoax together, for the purpose of bringing more attention to themselves and their saucer club. However, through recent correspondence, we have learned that Ed was apparently sincerely taken in by Nick's act, and that he is only now beginning to see through it. Be that as it may, we are hoping that this whole line of nonsense, which is an insult to the intellectual capacity of any intelligent person, will cease, - and that the group in question will give up these weird experiments and get back to serious UFO research.