

though it is not yet determined, and even though the individual will have a hand in structuring it". Davies invokes Einstein's Theory of Relativity to support his theory that in some way the future already exists.

He continues: "It is conceivable that advanced communities elsewhere in the universe have long since abandoned the notions that time passes or that things change ... It is probable that if we encountered such beings we would be unable to communicate much of common understanding."

The book ends on a high note. If time really does have the richer structure that some scientists and others perceive, "the nature of reality, of time, space, mind and matter, will suffer a revolution of unprecedented profundity".

Dr Davies' book is recommended for anybody interested in the cosmos, whether from a philosophical, astronomical or scientific viewpoint, or the stand-

point of "Are we alone? Is there anybody out there?" It is refreshing to read a work such as this in a world that is still dogged by orthodox thinking.

* Dr Paul Davies' other books include the following:-
The Physics of Time Asymmetry
Space and Time in the Modern Universe
The Runaway Universe. (Titled also *Stardom* on paperback edition.)

The Forces of Nature

The Search for Gravity Waves

God and the New Physics (Penguin paperback, 1983).

Incidentally, I can confirm that Dr Paul Davies has "sat in with us" (and on several occasions) when a small group of "Mafiosi" have met together in London, in the apartment of an FSR Consultant, to spend an evening with Dr Allen Hynek during his many visits here. — Editor

PRESUMED PHYSICAL MEDIUMSHIP AND UFOs

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CONTRARY to some popular accounts, the early serious UFO literature paid little heed to possible paranormal aspects of close encounters. Despite the plethora of subjective data, the paucity of solid objective data was and is notable. However, the journals and file cabinets soon became replete with detailed and sometimes fanciful subjective accounts of UFO experiences. Still the mystery of the origin, purpose, and *modus operandi* of UFOs was as obscure as ever. In many ways, the same can be said for psi.

Careful study of contactees reveals that many had claimed high-quality psi *after* their UFO experiences.¹ However, deeper scrutiny also yields evidence for many psi experiences *before* their alleged UFO contacts. The common contactee attributes for dissociation, capability for entering a deep hypnotic trance, hypersuggestibility, *etc.* are also found in many high quality sensitives. The overlap between various psychic phenomena such as telepathy, precognition, telekinesis, materialization, dematerialization, teleportation, *etc.* have their analogies in many UFO experiences. Despite the appealing practical and theoretical relationships between psi and close UFO encounters, little has been written about the UFO experiences of *documented* gifted sensitives. Although known almost exclusively for their UFO-related experiences, there is a wealth of anamnestic psychic information for Stella Lansing, Betty Hill and Dr. Herbert Hopkins.¹

One spectacular psi case that I studied involved alleged materialization, dematerialization, cloning, bending a key and coin "melting", writing on a picture window, and paranormal audiotape effects pertaining to UFOs and the experients. In this example, the torrent of events was precipitated by the suicide of a young man who had betrayed his two paramours ... each of whom did not know how, at the time, they were being used.

The second precipitating factor was the death of the principal young woman's father who, on his death bed, had importuned his daughter to learn all she could about life-after-death experiences. She sought help from the American Society for Psychical Research, read Jane Roberts' *Seth* books and finally, with her friend, resorted to the ouija board. Per instructions received from the board, an array of psychical events, including several alleged paranormal tapes, ensued. In a few cases, the psychodynamic and psychic factors were that apparent and, in some instances, very tragic.

Despite the multiplicity of alleged genuine psi, there was little that was directly observed by the researcher: i.e. numerous instances when an office telephone rang even when the cut-off switch was open and it should have been electrically impossible; and some experiments¹ involving one of the protagonists to these events and UFO abductees Betty Hill and Marianne Casio.

In a brilliant study, Jules Eisenbud has expatiated on the significance of presumed psychic filmic effects produced by Casio and other alleged UFO experimenters.² Puharich³ has detailed many fascinating UFO aspects in his study of Uri Geller. In 1973, Gordon Creighton⁴ wrote an article for *F.S.R.* on Uri Geller and his remarkable abilities. In a later study, Creighton's son Philip⁵ speculated on the significance of "paranormal metal bending" and ideas of "parallel worlds". In his own book, Geller⁶ said surprisingly little about his UFO experiences. Those who are interested in the interface between UFO experiences and gifted sensitives might consult Woodrew's⁷ account and some spectacular field trip observations by Lee Pulos.⁸ Also, Nandor Fodor,⁹ the highly creative psychoanalyst and psychic researcher, has detailed various UFO relevant aspects of physical mediumship in his classic compilation written long before the terms 'flying saucer' and 'UFO' were invented.

I. SORRAT (Society for Research on Rapport and Telekinesis)

One of the best documented, long-term studies of spectacular physical psi concerns the SORRAT group based at Skyrim Farm, near Columbia, Missouri.¹⁰ The leading protagonists are Dr. and Mrs. John Thomas Richards, Mrs. Alice Thompson, daughter of the late eminent Dr. John Neihardt,¹¹ founder of SORRAT, and Joseph Mangini. They have been in the centre of a whirlpool of high-grade psi. The veteran parapsychologist and world-renowned expert on telekinesis, engineer, magician and associate of J. B. Rhine, William Edward Cox,¹² has studied SORRAT for years and has, with capable assistance, built various devices so that he could obtain hard evidence on motion picture film of materialization, dematerialization, teleportation, levitation, direct writing, blowing up and knotting of balloons, linkage of unsealed rings, spontaneous combustion, reversal of clock hands, etc. Recently James McClenon, who spent considerable time in Missouri studying SORRAT, completed his analysis of the fascinating alleged direct writing of the entities, usually in response to various typed or written questions.¹³

Dr. Richards and I corresponded for six years until we briefly met in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1983. Finally, I went to Rolla and to Skyrim Farm from December 15-18, 1985. While there, it was possible to meet the above-mentioned SORRAT protagonists, scrutinize the locations, and instrumentation, and to observe various examples of alleged psi, including the linkage of painted metallic rings prepared by a leading metallurgist. This event is described elsewhere.¹⁴

With these factors in mind, it seemed to be of more than passing interest to ufologists to prepare a brief account of the UFO experiences of this group which has been so intensively and extensively studied.

1. Mrs. Alice Thompson. As reported in the *Columbia Tribune* of August 18, 1970, at 10.00 p.m. on August 17, 1970, Mrs. Thompson suddenly heard her colt, which is kept outside with a mare, running and acting excited. She got up to take a look and then heard a strange noise like a "pop" which reminded her of a cork coming out of a bottle. She said it was a hollow sound and sounded like it could have been some distance away. She rushed to look out the back door of the trailer, which faced east. Just as she opened the door, she saw an intense light, shining through a nearby tree, which illuminated the inside of her trailer. She also saw something behind the tree. The object moved from behind the tree. It was large and completely round, she said, and either looked like a ball of fire or an intensely illuminated object some ten to twenty times as bright as the moon. She also saw something, which looked like a long piece of rope, possibly with another small object at the end, hanging from the object in the sky. The object was low in the sky, at perhaps the altitude of a small plane, but made no noise. It seemed to be less than an eighth of a mile away and she added, "I'm accustomed to planes because I was a LINK training instructor in the WAVES". At this point, Mrs. Thompson said she called Mr. W. B. Cook, who was sitting in the living room, and he, too, saw the object. As they watched the object, it moved north across the sky at a moderate rate of speed and then suddenly disappeared, according to Mrs. Thompson's account. She had seen it for about a minute.

On December 15, 1985, Mrs. Thompson, in response to my (BES) questions, described her experience as reported above and, in a letter written February 17, 1986, she enclosed copies of the newspaper articles, and wrote that the "object moved into the clear space between two hickory trees. The round space between the trees was about twelve to fifteen feet in diameter and was filled by the round, glowing globe. However, this round glowing object was some distance up, of course. The 'rope' hung down in a triangle effect; at the end was something which reminded me of a basket. I can still 'see' the object clearly in my mind. It was bright, glowing orange-red, with dark spots all over it. Remember — I was very close. The light was blinding (yet I saw clearly). Then it moved north across the front of my trailer and then north-east across our little lake, and seemed to disappear".

In follow-up articles dated August 19 and 21, 1970, *The Columbia Tribune* reported eight other sightings in that area at that approximate time. The Weather Bureau considered unlikely such explanations as balloons, satellites, airplanes, coal company equipment or possible pranks.

2. Dr. and Mrs. John Thomas Richards. The following is from a letter to me (BES) from Dr. Richards,

based on notes taken at the time. The account was also recalled by Mrs. Richards and Joe Mangini. Maria Hanna was not interviewed. "The UFO experience which included Elaine, Joe Mangini, Maria Hanna and me, happened when we were on our way to Columbia from Skyrim Farm. Briefly, we had enjoyed a pleasant table levitation SORRAT session, and left Skyrim (and Alice Thompson) about 11.10 p.m. Driving south on U.S. 63 toward Columbia, we were about two miles from the city limits when we noticed a wavering, brilliant light travelling from west to east at about the speed of an ordinary private prop-driven airplane. The light resolved itself as it drew nearer; we could see that it consisted of bars of light flying parallel to one another and moving very slightly up and down, as though they were separate, not part of some rigid structure. It resembled a Venetian blind moving sideways — that is, the bars of light were like closely-spaced, very bright fluorescent tubes arranged so that they stood upright, vertically, like this: IIIIIII, and wavered slightly on the vertical plane as they moved together horizontally. This light moved at about a height of six hundred to eight hundred feet, although it might have been more; the length was about as long as the Goodyear blimp, and we supposed that it was, in fact, a huge advertising sign on the side of a blimp.

The lights crossed the highway; we parked behind a truck, the driver of which had gotten out of the cab and was watching the lights, too. We watched the lights circle first toward the north, then east, then, finally, south-west, three-quarters of a circle. During this time, there was no engine noise, as would be present if the craft had been a blimp or an airplane. Then the bars of light pulled together to form a single ball of intense white light, which flew off to the south-west faster than any jet which I have ever seen.

We drove around the highway to where the city lights would not obscure our vision, but we could not see any further sign of the UFO. We then stopped at the Howard Johnson's restaurant in Columbia and were eating ice-cream and drinking coffee when four or five people came in and sat nearby. They were very excited and described the lights in the sky which they had seen — from their account, they had seen them from a street in Columbia, looking north and west.

The next day, there was a short article in the *Columbia Tribune* about odd lights in the sky, but no further account or explanation. We took no photographs. In looking over my notes for this event, on August 15, 1976, I find that the successful SORRAT experiment ended at 10.30 p.m., but that we stayed at Skyrim and talked with Alice for a while, so the actual sighting of the lights was about 11.30 p.m."

II. Joe A. Nuzum

Since 1974, I have studied a gifted presumed telekinetic sensitive, Joe A. Nuzum, age twenty-eight, an unemployed iron foundry worker.¹⁵ While completing my report on Nuzum, twelve key books on telekinesis disappeared from my office. Nuzum has been observed and, in some cases, videotaped while performing psychic metal-bending, levitating matches and metal paper clips, presumably draining a magnet of its power, exhausting a 9-volt transistor-battery, presumably opening new combination locks by telekinesis, changing the hands of a watch, stopping the second hand of an electric clock for several seconds, in addition to other various and sundry psychic effects.

Early in the course of the investigations, Nuzum reported an early evening event that involved his girlfriend and himself. They were walking along the railroad tracks near his former place of employment when, "all of a sudden, a glowing, sizzling form of energy came past my head and fell in front of us. It rolled across our pathway, went on sizzling and gliding and then disappeared into nothing. It was like a golden basketball and lasted seconds". There were no discernible after-effects and both Nuzum and his girlfriend remained alert. A second, similar episode occurred during the week of February 16, 1986, when "I was at home, asleep in bed, late at night when I suddenly woke up and saw a big, glowing ball surging with energy, hovering in the air". This event lasted seconds and there were no apparent after-effects.

III. Peter Sugleris

On August 28, 1985, I observed Peter Sugleris, age twenty-two, in a public demonstration of his alleged psychic abilities. On several occasions he, without touching, apparently bent quarters in the hands of other people, levitated a pencil and a page in a telephone book, started watches, including my wife's broken wrist-watch, and bent and snapped spoons brought in by members of the audience.

Later, I examined Sugleris and videotaped some of his feats in my Florida office: i.e. moving a compass needle thirteen times without touching the compass, bending spoons and keys and causing a methylene blue pill to disappear. While interviewing Mr. Sugleris about these and other spontaneous events, including four episodes of alleged total body levitation (three supposedly were videotaped or filmed), he told me of his UFO experiences. Many of his videotaped comments coincided with data monitored from audiotaped radio interviews made shortly after the alleged events in January of 1984. There were no conflicts.

His manager, Mr. Bhupendra Patel, a native of India, independently described the experiences on the radio show and said that he witnessed them in Mr. Sugleris's home while preparing for the East Brunswick (New Jersey) High School performance on February 13, 1984. During the radio interview, Patel said, "I asked him if he knew about UFOs. Peter concentrated and I heard something. Peter said, 'Yes, I'm talking to them'. After a while, the door slammed and cracked, a light bulb broke, and the tapes went (askew). I got scared and asked Peter to stop. His brother, Angelo, came running. In attempting to explore what happened, Peter said, 'When in the trance, I communicated with the aliens and asked them why, if they are intelligent and claim to be so above our race, they create natural disasters that cause deaths. They told me that in the past contacts that was what they did. It's hard for me to communicate with them, but easy for them to communicate with me. Every time I ask questions, it breaks the state of concentration. After I asked them questions, they got angry. Everything went crazy in the room, which I was not aware of. They revealed to me that cave paintings have pictures of flying machines. I do not know much about UFOs. As a youngster, I considered them a hoax. In my youth, I made drawings of UFOs in my notebooks (that I still own) and wrote my name below. I do not know if this was because I would some day come in contact with them. In other contacts with the aliens, they said that if there are more sightings, the governments will not harm them for the mistakes of the past. Now they want me to reveal a few messages . . . to tell the media and public. Every time I come in contact with them, my powers are stronger for a few days afterwards; if I bent a key for you now it might take seconds instead of five minutes or it might take only two to three seconds concentration to levitate a ring or other object'. When looking at some of Mr. Sugleris's oil paintings, including one of a UFO, I met his fifteen-year-old cousin, who volunteered the information that he witnessed Peter in his trance and, while painting, "for a while the paint brush was moving all by itself." As reported by Puharich with Uri Geller, and in some cases which I have studied, Mr. Sugleris also had audiotapes with "screeching sounds" and which subsequently disappeared.

IV. Katie

Since the spring of 1984, I have studied a young Florida housewife and her family, who prefer to remain anonymous. The woman, the tenth of twelve siblings, had to discontinue her education in the third grade in order to care for her ill mother. In addition to data derived from her personal and family history, she has demonstrated a spectacular array of psychic talents, some of which have been videotaped during her entrancement. She has germinated seeds in her

cupped hands, as well as in the cupped hands of others, bent metal directly (and also in sealed jars); and she has produced apports of various objects.

She has had stigmata of crosses, linear markings and, on three occasions, a drawing of a Viking ship covered her whole abdomen (and once covered her back). She has had gold leaf-like material cover parts of her body and she has telepathically produced clues helpful in police investigations, including correctly prophesying the exact location and day for the appearance of marijuana bales on the shoreline. Other alleged effects have included healings, paranormal tape recordings, presumed production of a color photograph of her recently deceased brother in his coffin in a location hundreds of miles away, Katie's alleged teleportation to a distant area, and "bringing back orange clay on her feet from the area she was visiting", and presumed direct writing. In one instance, she observed a capped nylon-tipped pen writing unaided in medieval French which was identified by Stewart Robb¹⁶ as coming from an early edition of Nostradamus. She has demonstrated automatic writing in German, with proper capitalization of the nouns, and has spoken a few words of Dutch. During one of the videotaped sessions in January of 1986, Katie, in her trance, was in alleged contact with various UFO entities. She drew pictures of them.

Once during the height of telekinetic activities in the home, Katie's fifteen-year-old son observed, early in the evening, "orange globes the size of a basketball in the orchard in the backyard". The son was once videotaped bending spoons with his mother and a third person. The stem of one of the son's spoons split so that a sliver of paper could be inserted through the tiny crack. On another occasion, when at his home the son asked his mother if it was possible "to go back in time". With her approval, he immediately went into her walk-in closet, closed the door, lay on the floor and presumably entered a trance. According to what he told me in an audiotaped telephone report shortly after the event, "I wanted to see what it was like in the 1920s and the next thing I knew I was by a Christmas tree and there was an old, bald-headed man nearby. I knocked over an oil lamp, but grabbed a cardboard box when I woke up". Now, apparently the box returned to 1985 with him. Upon opening the box, he discovered (and I later confirmed on personal examination) that it was an "ostrich skinned" cigarette lighter and gold leather pouch inscribed: "Compliments Moragues Bay City, Inc., Mobile, Ala., Christmas 1928."

In a separate videotaped interview of Katie's parents, the mother, who is part Cherokee Indian, recalled an event in an isolated rural area of Tennessee at the end of World War I. "They made peace. We all saw it. It was in the newspaper. We looked at the sky and there were two suns, then three suns, three moons, three rainbows and stars. This was at 10.00 a.m. and then it got all dark and hazy." To date, it has

been impossible to trace this Fátima-like, possibly mass psychic hallucinatory(?) event, to either confirm or deny what many supposedly witnessed and Katie's mother and others recalled. The family history had other unusual possible paranormal events which, in and of themselves, would not arouse undue curiosity if there was not ample videotape documentation of many of Katie's feats.

Discussion. Unfortunately, the need for brevity prevents a more systematic, detailed report and analysis. However, it would seem that the study of documented gifted sensitives can yield a wealth of high quality psi that is entirely analogous to many UFO experiences. By psychiatric study and experiments of these gifted persons, more might be learned about the *modus operandi* of the UFO experiences which, like psi, encompasses a wide variety of enigmatic phenomena.

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CONTINUED ABDUCTIONS AT MIRASSOL, BRAZIL

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(Translation from Portuguese)

FSR 30/1, published in October 1984, contained Senhora Irene Granchi's account, *Abduction At Mirassol*, describing the case of the Brazilian Negro Antônio Carlos Ferreira.

According to a fresh report which appeared in the local Mirassol newspaper, *Diário Da Região*, of 12/18 June 1986, this man has now told Professor Ney Matiel Pires (who has been studying the case since 1979) that he has been picked up again by a UFO twice during the past twenty days, namely in the early morning of Sunday May 25, 1986, and again in the course of Saturday, June 7. This latter episode took place at the Ibraco Furniture Factory in Mirassol, when the alien beings even left marks on the door of the plant and inside the section where Antônio Carlos is employed.

Professor Ney Matiel Pires says he has not yet completed his report on these two latest episodes, and adds that in July of this year some investigators are due to arrive from the U.S.A. to look into this case, when it is planned to have a further session of hypnotic regression with Antônio Carlos in the hope of extracting details about the two events. (The subject claims to have no recollection of what happens to him during these "trips" with the aliens).

On the first of these two occasions, namely in the very early morning of Sunday, May 25, 1986, Antônio Carlos, who, as will be recalled, is employed as a night-watchman at the furniture factory, has told Professor Ney Matiel Pires that he even tried to draw his revolver, as he could no longer put up with the situ-