

history. It was from the USA, so often called the "Land of the Almighty Dollar", that one began to hear, a few years ago, awful tales. It was alleged that, if you were so unlucky as to get run over by a bus there, the folk at the nearest hospital might be inclined to want to take a peep inside your wallet before taking you in.

I am not suggesting that matters are any better here in Britain, because we are already seeing the rapid spread of it all here, along with the astounding new habit of suing each other and taking each other to court, at the drop of a hat. And all that certainly did start a good many years ago in America. It was there, in the years after WWII, that we began to hear of people banging on the whole time about "asserting oneself" and "claiming one's rights" (but never about their "obligations to society"). This disease has now spread to Britain, along with various other tendencies such as the appearance of more and more murderous children particularly in Scotland, well equipped with knives. At the same time, the arrival in Britain of the lottery habit and the proliferation of TV and radio "quiz" programmes with large prizes - all this has vastly inflamed the general climate of greed here.

Meanwhile, on the agricultural scene, our farmers are in an unparalleled state of collapse. Today the level of suicide among the British farmers is higher than it is in any other class of society in our country. Surely, then, these poor fellows would desperately clutch at any possible source of compensation if they found themselves so unlucky as to have crop-circles on their fields! Why then is it that we never hear of a case of such a claim by a farmer or of such a claim being met by compensation from any source?

If anybody knows of such a case, will they please report it to us! (See also our book review in FSR 45/1) -Ed.

ADDENDUM: MAGNETIC PARTICLES FOUND ON CROP-CIRCLES.

From the MUFON UFO JOURNAL for January 2000 we learn that two of their field investigators, Joanne Scarpellini and Gary P. Hart of Missouri, examined a small crop circle (9ft. diameter) on a large farm in Southern Missouri. Date of the circle July 1999.

As is known, crop circles are frequently found to yield magnetic particles, usually between micron size (about 50 microns) up to as much as 1 mm. However in the case of this Missouri farm, while some of the particles were only of micron sizes, most of them were very large - being of as much as 2 mm.

The particles recovered there were described as "irregularly shaped, rounded globules that appear rusty to the naked eye. Under magnification with a microscope they appear very much like slag, as would be found in the spray from a dirty cut made by an acetylene torch. Magnified, the particles are, as stated, rusty, somewhat glazed, with the glazed areas being dark brown to black. They are quite smooth and appear to have melted and then cooled as a heavy spray. The *surface* of the entire circle was estimated to carry 53.1 gm. (1.87 oz) of the magnetic particles while the *embedded* amount of the particles is estimated at 213.36 gm. (7.48 oz), with the total of the surface and the embedded material amounting to an astounding 265 gm (over 9 oz).

A control sample taken at a distance of 1,000 ft from the crop circle did not yield any magnetic particles at all."■

THE "MYSTERY WHINE" THAT ONLY WOMEN CAN HEAR! BY GORDON CREIGHTON.

Many, many times in the 45 years of FSR's existence, we have carried press reports, from various regions of England (I recall none from Scotland or Wales or Ulster) about baffling and curious "humming" or "buzzing" noises for which no reason can ever be found.

Quite frequently, it seems, that such a hum may plague the life out of the occupants of just one single terraced house and yet never be heard by anyone in any of the neighbouring houses on either side. We recounted in FSR that one poor man, an English author named Edward Hyams, was reported by the British newspapers to be at his wits' end plagued by the hum at his home in Kent (S.E. England) and was consequently planning to move to another part of the country. (Whether that helped, we never heard).

No explanation for any of these mysterious noises has ever been forthcoming and consequently many folk have concluded that the cause can only be either secret operations of our Government or the activities of aliens or alien UFOs.

It has been some years since we last noted press

accounts about such humming noises, but there was a particularly curious one reported in the *Daily Express* on December 31 1998.

This was described by the paper as "*the mystery whine that only women can hear*". It is a high-pitched sound, and the paper said a dozen separate cases of it had been logged by environmental health officers in Warrington, Cheshire (N.W. England) during the latter months of 1998.

In every case, women had complained about the mysterious droning which kept them awake, while the men living in the same houses said they never could hear a thing.

Officials from the local council's noise-abatement department had investigated, totally without success in locating the source of such a noise.

Anne Heeson, aged 55, told the newspaper that the noise had become so bad that she was now planning to move house. She described it as "a high-pitched, pulsating, humming sound, and it turns me into a nervous wreck".

She continued: "The noise-abatement officer drove me around the area to try to isolate the sound. We stopped outside one building - a water-treatment works. I can actually hear *three* noises, but only one of them is really annoying. The noise-abatement officer thought the sound could be from one of the generators.

"It's been going on for 18 months now, and it has had such an effect on my life that I'm going to move house. It is very bad in our front bedroom, but my husband can't hear it at all."

Eleven other women living within a two-mile radius had lodged similar complaints, all of which were being investigated by the Council's Chief Environmental Health Officer, Andrew Gilbert. Mr. Gilbert admitted to the journalist that the experts were worried by the noise, but he said he also wondered whether the problem was not perhaps principally due to the fact that the women tended to spend more time in their homes than their men did?

Mr. Gilbert said: "It seems strange that all the complaints came from women, but women's sensitivities do differ from those of men. Women tend to be annoyed by certain noises, and a lot of it is to do with the psychology of noise and stress. If women spend more time at home they will be more irritated by noise intrusion. It is certainly *my* experience that we receive more complaints from women about low-frequency noises."

(Mr. Gilbert conceded that he had ruled out the possibility that the noise could be emanating from the women's husbands!)

The report stated, in conclusion, that the women had been given diaries so that they could record the whine when they heard it, and have also had tape-recorders placed in their homes. *So far it had been revealed that the noise is stronger in their bedrooms than anywhere else, and is more common on cold, frosty nights.*

Mr. Gilbert said: "*The women are definitely hearing something - whether it is actual or perceived, and we have to apply objective analysis to find out where it is coming from. We have not closed the file yet.*"

NOTE BY EDITOR.

We have heard no more about this case and seen no more reports. Perhaps our readers in Cheshire can tell us whether there have been any further developments.

ADDENDUM.

A new report just in from the USA about the famous "Taos Hum" is interesting. (See the *Taos News*, Taos, New Mexico of January 6, 2000).

A survey by Dr. James Kelly of the University of New Mexico's Health and Sciences Department established that 2% of the people in Taos County could hear it. The hum had first become famous when a photographer named Bob Saltzman and his wife were so annoyed by it that they moved away to Southern California. (But in *Northern* California, a young woman at Willits next claimed that she has been hearing precisely the same hum all day, every day for the past four months).

The Taos people who hear it describe it as "a pulsing sound sometimes like a church organ and sometimes like a diesel engine."

Sara Allen, who is herself an engineer for KTAO, even swears that she hears it day and night everywhere she goes, from New Jersey to Florida, and has been hearing it since 1992. She says: "It's not an acoustical sound or a physical force that can be measured, It's in the quantum realm!"

In their report on the Taos hum, the scientists from the University of New Mexico say "an intensive set of measurements, including acoustic, seismic, electromagnetic, electrostatic, and magnetic, all failed to turn up anything that correlated with the sound being perceived by the hearers. But the sound (real) was easily recorded by the very sensitive microphones that we were using."

On October 13, 1999, two separate groups of campers at the Great Sand Dunes National Monument in Southern Colorado heard a deep humming sound "which was coming from the ground and so loud that it vibrated signs in the camping-ground and freaked us out."■

SIX MORE PLANETS FOUND OUTSIDE OUR SOLAR SYSTEM. BY GORDON CREIGHTON.

According to a report in the *Astrophysical Journal* (Jan. or Feb. 2000), at the University of California (Santa Cruz) four astronomers, Geoffrey Marcy, Paul Butler, Kerry Apps, and Steven Vogt, have found six more planets outside our own solar system, but orbiting around "relatively near-by stars".

This brings up to 28 (but one report says 33) the total number of such planets found outside our own solar system.

Steven Vogt says: "These new planets are orbiting around stars that in size, age, and brightness, are similar to our own Sun, and are at distances from us ranging from 65 light-years to 192 light-years. And the masses of the six new planets range from slightly smaller than

Jupiter to several times the size of Jupiter.

They are probably similar to Jupiter in their composition - basically gigantic balls of two gases, hydrogen and helium."

Like most of the other planets discovered so far, the six new planets were found by means of Doppler Spectroscopy, which detects the evidence for a "wobble" in the parent star's movement due to the gravitational force or pull exercised by the orbiting planet

The orbits of the six new planets tend to be quite eccentric, following trajectories which are rather more *oval* than circular.

one of the six new planets, orbiting around a star listed as HD222582, has the most eccentric orbit known so far.