

BRUCE CATHIE PROVES MORE THAN MATCH FOR SCIENTIFIC CRITICS OF "HARMONIC 33":

As was to be expected, the publication, against all odds, of Bruce Cathie's book "Harmonic 33" rocked the Scientific Establishment to its foundations and a few of the more courageous members of this profession dared to openly criticize it - only to be suitably scalped by the author, who had done his homework very thoroughly and was able to talk back at them in their own language of mathematics! We are indebted to the New Zealand Airlines Pilots' Association for permission to publish the following account of one such encounter, as it appears in the Oct. 1969 issue of their journal "ALPA":

"It is not often that an active airline pilot writes a book and a successful one at that. The honour falls here to Captain D.L. Cathie with his "Harmonic 33" which to date is about to enter into its 4th edition. Although this controversial publication has already been widely read by N.Z. pilots, because there seemed to be a nice intangibility to both non-matter and UFOs, the Editor presented a copy to his twin brother, Dr. David King, both for his interest and in the hope of gaining a reasonably authoritative review. This, he was persuaded to do within the limits of his field, for besides his position on the faculty of the University of Tennessee as Professor of Physics, he is Director of Union Carbide's Research Laboratory at Oak Ridge where, during World War II, the first practical atomic reactor was built and today it is a national monument. Dr King expressed himself verbally as lost in admiration for Capt. Cathie's enthusiasm in attempting a treatise on such a subject as an amateur, but nevertheless gave the following criticism.

"In making a contribution to the literature of UFOs, Capt. Cathie is aware (p. 205) of the close scrutiny to which the Condon group has subjected all published UFO reports. Since the findings of the Condon group lead to scepticism regarding visitors from outer space, it behoves a writer in this subject area to be extremely careful. Regretfully, Capt. Cathie has not exercised this care. He blithely dismisses the notion of meteoric impact origin for terrestrial craters similar to that near Winslow, Arizona (p. 37, 39), thereby denying a large body of conclusive analysis. The further suggestion (p. 43) that Lake Pontchartrain, La. has arisen from some kind of explosion is untenable. The author is on safer ground in discussing the possible nuclear nature of energy release in the 1908 Tunguska explosion (p. 41), since the annihilation of a 1-lb. antimatter meteorite (p. 201) in the atmosphere would be equivalent to a 3-megaton TNT detonation. On this basis, it is unnecessary to invoke a visiting Saucer or attribute any special significance to the locations in diagram 2 (p. 98). Another body of misleading material is contained in Ch. 8 where it is averred that the triggering of nuclear reactions is dependent on geometric position and solar altitude. This is so contrary to common experience of criticality in fissile material as to require no comment.

"It is appropriate here to remark on books in which the theme is developed through mathematical reasoning. With such a powerful mode of expression, it is a clear responsibility of the publishers and their referees to ensure that the derivations are relevant and correct. Presumably their editor would expunge misspellings and split infinitives, by the same token he should remove - $\log 2948 = 4.695$ (p. 95) - and if the author protests, the publisher should thereupon refuse to publish. With a text containing some hundreds of such mis-statements and other mathematical non-sequiturs, the publisher has plainly been derelict in his function."