

# Sightings of strange orange light over City <sup>W</sup> 7/1

A STRANGE, fast moving orange light had appeared twice over Pietermaritzburg within a week.

Drive-in patrons were startled by the light on Monday, six days after a similar sighting in Berg Street.

The light was first spotted on Tuesday, July 15 at 7.10 pm. It appeared from Sweetwaters and moved over the City, growing bigger as it got closer. Then it turned and rose in the sky, travelling northwards.

"It was an orange light like fire, and moved off at a fantastic speed," said Geraldine de Jager, who watched it outside her Berg Street home for four minutes.

She saw it a second time for 30 seconds from her garden. By then it looked like "a tiny star".

On Monday, July 21 at 8.20 pm two families at the Star Drive-In saw "a rectangular-shaped orange light" approaching from World's View. It moved off east towards Wartburg, according to the Roberts Road resident who described it.

"We forgot about the movie," he said. "The people next to us jumped out of their car to watch it. We were amazed how bright it was."

He said the light was visible for four to five minutes.

It was hard to tell if it made a noise as the drive-in speakers drowned out everything, he said.

Vice-chairman of the

Durban branch of the worldwide UFO monitoring body Contact International, Mr Walter Pople, said there had been a general dearth of UFO sightings since November last year.

But on Wednesday, July 2, there were two independent sightings of an orange light in the Pinetown area.

He said the Pietermaritzburg sightings were interesting. The fact that the objects turned ruled out the possibility of a satellite.

It was fairly common to receive reports of several UFO sightings over a short period of time, Mr Pople said. — WR.