

MAKING FRIENDS WITH E.T. COULD LAND YOU IN JAIL



Love bridges the galaxy gap between Elliott (Henry Thomas) and E.T. But even though this friendship is loved by moviegoers, it could have put the boy behind bars in real life.

BELIEVE it or not, if you touch a being from outer space like E.T., as Elliott, the boy-hero of the hit movie did, you'll be in for BIG trouble.

And don't even think about trying to hide the adorable alien in your bedroom, closet — because if you do, Uncle Sam's going to throw you in jail.

That's right. Anyone who thinks E.T.'s Elliott is a hero is dead wrong.

He's a criminal of the highest order according to NASA, which has started a campaign to discourage kids (and adults) from picking up strange alien beings they might find on the roadside.

"This is really no joke, it's a very serious matter," says Dr. Brian T. Clifford, a physicist and consultant to the Pentagon.

There are strict laws on the books forbidding anyone to go near any rocket, spaceship or satellite that lands on earth after traveling near any other heavenly body.

The laws, passed by Congress at the urging of NASA, are particularly tough on humans who might approach any creature or thing that might have dropped in for a visit.

So you see, in real life, Elliott would have been slapped with a \$5,000 fine and a one-year prison term.

"The E.T. situation could have been very dangerous," says Dr. Clifford, who was involved in drawing up the laws.

"We have no idea how contaminated a creature or vessel from outer space might be. It might be carrying a virus to which human beings or other earth life forms have no immunity."

What? E.T. a threat to the human race? "Yes," says Dr. Clifford. "He might very well have been carrying some form of microbiotic life on his person, though such a virus might be quite harmless to E.T."

"It would not concern him because over generations, perhaps over millions of years on his home planet, E.T.'s race would have built up total immunity to it.

"But if the virus carried by E.T. was totally new and unknown on earth — and that is most likely — then we would be vulnerable to it.

"It could even wipe out the human race, or a good part of it. It might spread with amazing speed. And that is why anything landing from outer space must be kept in quarantine until we are absolutely certain that it is safe."

Dr. Clifford warns people not to be taken in by any alien they might

NASA lays down the law on what you should do with a visitor from space

encounter. "Of course, E.T. was a delightful little person, charming," he says.

"He wanted to be friends and he certainly meant no harm. Everyone sympathizes with the little boy for helping and hiding E.T."

"But, in fact, that little boy could have been doing a great disservice to the human race."

Not only would E.T. have been whisked off into quarantine had he really arrived on earth, but Elliott would have gone along with him.

Says NASA official Brad Marman: "The same thing applies to any person who comes into contact with the surface or atmosphere of such an object or creature."

"This is to protect earth from any germ that might have been picked up."

"It might be that humans could survive such a germ but dogs, say, could not. We wouldn't want the dog population wiped out. We have to be very careful and protect everything."

After watching the movie E.T., NASA lawyers had a short inter-office conference to decide how UFOs or spaceships from other planets fit into the regulations.

They decided that although it might be stretching the point, the regulations would apply to them, too.

"If a spaceship from another planet landed here," says Marman, "you could assume that the U.S. military would be there first. They would check it out and they wouldn't let anyone near it."

But as bad as things here on earth would be for E.T., there is one ray of hope.

NASA regulations state that anyone in quarantine after an extraterrestrial contact is entitled to telephone access and the right to notify family and legal counsel.

So if they'd caught E.T., he could at least have insisted on being allowed to phone home.

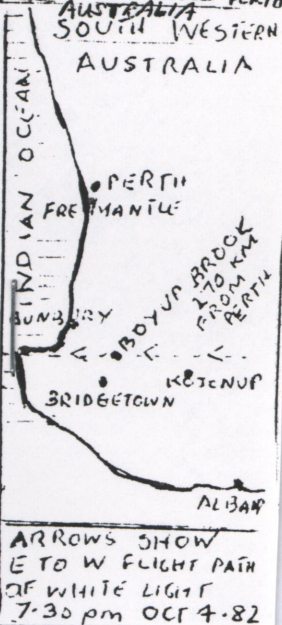
Daily News, Tuesday, October 5, 1982 - PERTH

Farmer tells of UFO

A BRIGHT white light moving very fast in the sky and accompanied by a loud roaring noise has Boyup Brook — Tonebridge residents wondering.

Farmer Geoff Hincks said he did not know what to make of the light and sound which travelled past his house for about two seconds at about 7.30pm yesterday travelling from east to west.

Nearby farmers John and Doris Chapman also heard the roaring sound but by the time they got out of the house there was nothing to see.



ARROWS SHOW E TO W FLIGHT PATH OF WHITE LIGHT 7.30 pm OCT 4.82