

A CLOSE ENCOUNTER CAN MAKE YOU BLIND

STAR STRUCK

The two hysterical women in a Texas hospital casualty ward in America had obviously been exposed to intense radiation. Their faces were scaly and bright red. Their eyes were puffy. Their hair was falling out in clumps.

What doctors found hard to believe was the victims' account of how it had all happened.

The severely-burned patients, Betty Cash, 51, and Vickie Landrum 57 said they had been driving to their home when they noticed an intense light several kilometres ahead, just above a line of trees. They lost sight of the light several times. Then, rounding a bend, they were suddenly confronted by an immense diamond-shaped object hanging in the sky.

"The thing was so bright it lit up everything like a summer's day," said Betty.

Urging Vickie's frightened seven-year-old grandson, Colby, to stay calm, the two women stepped out of the car for a closer look at what they believed to be some new type of aeroplane.

However, when they saw sheets of belching flame and heard the uncanny beeping noise the craft was emitting, they tried to scramble back into the car. But the door handles were so hot that Betty scorched her hand and was finally to use her leather coat as a pad to open up.

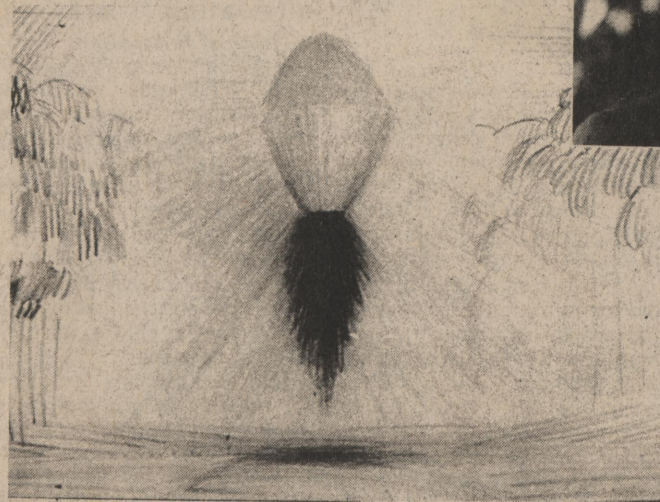
Inside the car Vickie recalled, the atmosphere was "hotter than an oven". It was a bitter winter's night.

As the women drove off at great speed, they heard a roar like a cyclone. Looking back, they saw that the UFO was surrounded by dozens of helicopters, apparently trying to observe the strange craft.

This brief, but tragically close, encounter occurred two years ago, but it has permanently changed the lives of the trio in that car.

Vickie along with Betty and Colby — is still being treated for radiation effects.

For several days after they were admitted to hospital, the friends could find no one to believe their story. US Air Force officials denied that large numbers of helicopters had flown on the night of December 29, 1982. And there were no other witnesses to what had allegedly hap-



Vickie and Betty claim they were blasted by a diamond shaped UFO that looked something like this drawing



NASA engineer John Schuessler.

John Schuessler believes, nevertheless, that UFOs have been making people sick for a long time. He quotes these examples:

October 24, 1887: A Venezuelan family exposed to a brightly-lit craft suffered burns, hair loss, vomiting and swelling.

May 20, 1967: Canadian prospector Stepen Michalak came upon a landed UFO and suffered burns, vomiting, and swelling. He remained ill for many months.

October 3, 1973: A Missouri truck driver saw a UFO so dazzling that it blinded him for several days. His vision was impaired for a year.

Many of the stories on the VISIT project's case list sound like wild tales from the fringes of science fiction.

But the high qualifications of the project's medical scientists, physicists and engineers suggest that they know more about UFOs than sceptics who have never bothered to conduct research.

Contd. on page 18

"Possibly, thousands of people are abducted, medically examined and returned by UFO scientists every year," he said. "In most cases their memories have been wiped out hypnotically. They come back normal and unharmed."

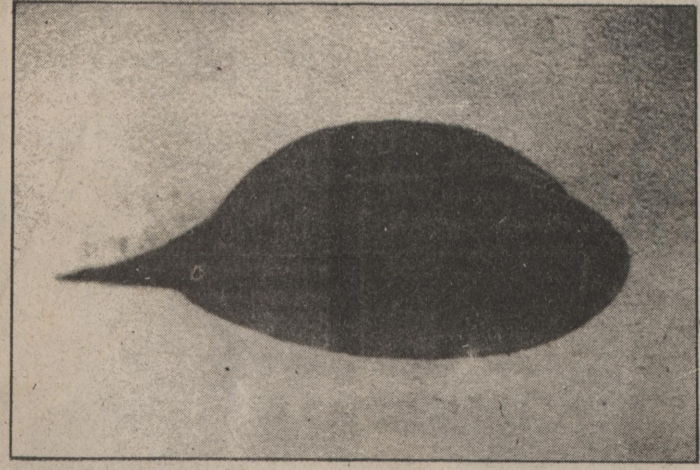
"I believe the radiation sickness we were seeing is not caused maliciously. It may result from the few UFO contacts that go wrong — in much the same way as someone gets hurt going too close to an unshielded nuclear reactor."

Flying saucer 'kidnap' victims Vickie Landrum, left, and Betty Cash are still being treated for radiation effects.



Contd. from page 20

SICKNESS FROM THE STARS



An artist's impression of a UFO seen over a nuclear power plant in Texas in 1979.

As a senior executive of the McDonnell Aircraft Company, John Schuessler has been project manager on NASA spaceflights ranging from Gemini to the Space Shuttle. He holds degrees in engineering, psychology and management — and is a winner of the NASA new space technology award.

"Like all the other sceptics I used to believe that only nuts gave credence to UFOs," he said.

"But as a scientist I finally stopped trying to blind myself to the evidence. Evidence which suggests (although nothing is finally proved) that aliens are watching our world".

By hypnotically regressing those who have been abducted, Schuessler's VISIT team believe they may slowly be learning what the interiors of alien craft look like.

"We were always sceptical, because we know hypnotic results can be misleading," he said. "But the alleged kidnap victims we have studied have told fascinating similar stories."

In one dramatic case probed by VISIT, three Kentucky women, driving home from a teetotal party, claimed they had blacked out, only to wake an hour later, feeling sick and shaken. Doctors found severe burns on the women's necks and faces.

"We have learned to take a deep interest in any report from people who have mysteriously lost a few minutes or hours of time. Our consultant psychologist, Dr Leo Sprinkle of the University of Wyoming, regressively hypnotised the women in separate sessions," Schuessler said.

"In trance they all seemed to

remember the same events. They said they had seen what resembled a flaming plane plunging out of the sky. Moments later, it proved not to be a plane at all, but a flaming, dish-shaped craft which circled the car and then lifted them abroad.

"The hypnotised subjects were asked (again separately) to describe and draw what they had seen inside the craft. They produced fairly similar pictures of an operating theatre with levers, whose main furniture was a slab which seemed to project out of nowhere.

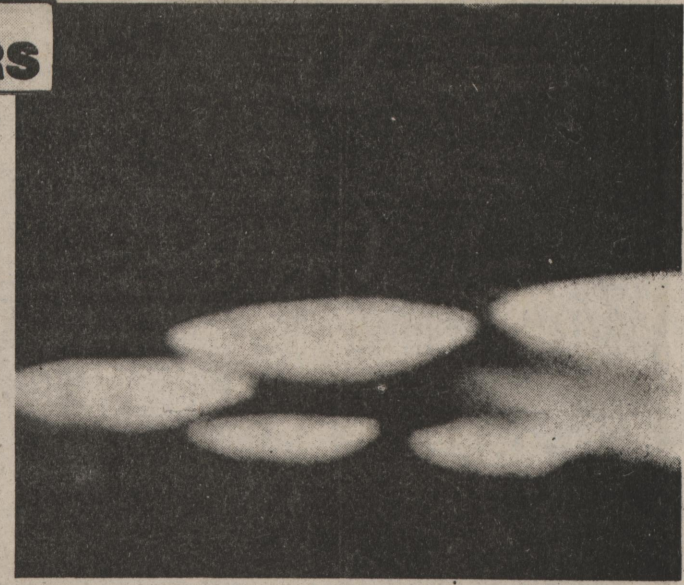
"They all claimed they had been medically examined by humanoid creatures about a metre tall. This kind of description — of the theatre and the tiny creatures — runs like a consistent thread through most abduction cases on our records.

"One of the three victims, Elaine Thomas, said a painful probe had been inserted into her chest. She never recovered from the ordeal. Although she had been in perfect health before the abduction, she died within 20 months.

"The other women have also been sick since the incident, Louise Smith had had several strokes and is partially paralysed. Mona Stafford has become lethargic, without energy or zest," Schuessler said.

As a scientist, John Schuessler refused to commit himself to an unequivocal statement that alien doctors are conducting research with human "guinea pigs".

He is also keeping an open mind about numerous reports from men and women who say they have been forced to have sex with their unearthly captors.



This spectacular flying saucer, was photographed over Oregon in 1950.

(Several of the men have said they cooperated willingly!)

"There could be deep psychological explanations for some of these accounts," he said. "But psychology won't explain away the burns, the sickness and the eye damage.

"One case that raises particularly tough problems for sceptics is the story told by Betty and Barney Hill.

"They claimed, like hundreds of others, that they had been taken from their car, lifted into a UFO and subjected to medical probing.

"A key part of Berty Hill's testimony was that the aliens had inserted a needle into her naval — telling her they were checking to see if she was pregnant. Betty Hill described this experience in 1961.

"Not until years later did doctors develop a technique of extracting fluid to test the status of an unborn baby.

"There are two possible explanations. Either Betty Hill's imagination was running gears ahead of its time or her story about the kidnapping was true."

SUN SPOT

Men, like bullets, go farthest when they are smoothest.

* * *

Have friends not for the sake of receiving but of giving.

* * *

It is more dishonourable to distrust a friend than to be deceived by him.

CURIOUS FACTS



BOREDOM RELIEVED

Bored with waiting in a Chicago railway station, Angelo Thurman decided to show his mates how to tell if a train was coming. He jumped down on to the tracks, placed his ear to the electrified rail and was instantly electrocuted.

CURIOUS FACTS

MENTAL FORMULAS

Officials of a Wisconsin (USA) mental hospital admit that a patient, James Multate, has been using the institution's print shop to publish a 22-page pamphlet which he has been selling through magazine advertisements at \$10 a copy for the past six years.

The pamphlet, called *The Mad Man's Book Of Formulas*, gives recipes for home-made knock-out drops—laughing gas and napalm.

