

# THE NIGHT THE UFOs CAME TO LAGUNA

By JIGZ F. RECTO

**D**O YOU BELIEVE in UFOs? Do they really exist?

For long, stories about unidentified flying objects — their sightings, landings and supposed encounters with human beings and the ETs boarding those mysterious spacecraft — have baffled many. These stories have even become good copies for publications, TV and the movies.

There had been numerous reports of UFO sightings and landings from many parts of the world. But not much was known to the public for several reasons. Security reason is pointed out as one. Authorities fear that a formal declaration and admission of UFO sightings, landings and encounters with human beings would create panic. Because of this, UFO information is safely guarded from the public; it is talked about only in hush-hush.

Meanwhile, the research and investigation of the UFO phenomenon go on.

Many are assumed to have seen UFOs, their landings and close encounters with humans. But they are not willing to come forward and authenticate their stories for fear of being ridiculed by the still great majority who believe that UFOs are only for the nuts.

Many still demand scientific and actual proofs of such occurrences. But the fact that reports of UFO sightings, landings and

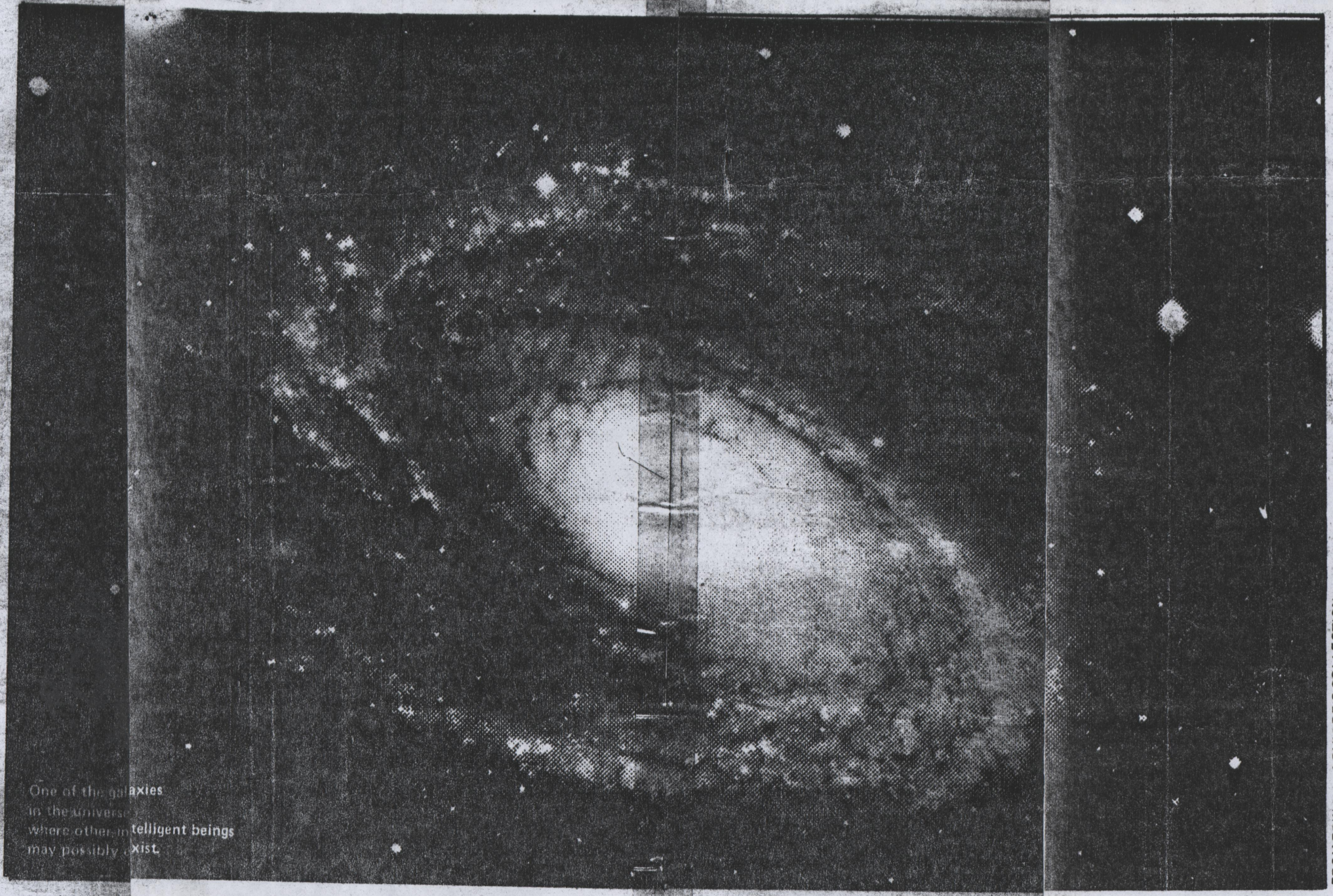
close encounters are increasing can not be denied.

What are UFOs really? How do they look like? And why, if there is a myriad of life forms in the universe, do these UFOs choose earth for their visits and landings?

I happened to be one of those who regard UFOs rather nonchalantly. Why? As a child, I had been told stories about them. That's how I have come to think of this: "If there are other beings in other heavenly bodies, what's so special about that?"

If there is life on earth, which is but a small part of our immense galaxy, there must also be life in other heavenly bodies. It is just as simple as that. We don't need any mind-boggling scientific investigation for us to arrive at and accept such a conclusion.

I saw, however, a UFO earlier this year. I did not announce it right away. I took it rather casually because I thought that with the ongoing economic crisis, there are more relevant matters than ETs and flying saucers. I am more interested in filling my saucers at my cupboards with something to nibble at to fill my grueling stomach than to strain my neck looking up the sky, trying to delve into the mysteries of the universe with my little mind. But for some reasons that I can't still define up to now, I rushed to the area where there's UFO sighting just the same.



One of the galaxies in the universe where other intelligent beings may possibly exist.

It started in one evening talk show. Somebody, who claims he is a *walk-in*, announced that UFOs would be coming on February 10, 11 and 12 at Pila, Laguna. (*Walk-ins* are high-minded entities who take over the bodies of ordinary human beings. After completing several incarnations (that is, if you believe in reincarnation), and attaining sufficient awareness of the meaning of life, they can already forego the time-consuming process of birth and childhood and return directly to adult bodies. The bodies referred here are the bodies of those who wish to depart from this life.) This *walk-in* was supposedly given access to the said information by the ETs because of his nature and mission to take.

"Eventually, a spaceship as big as the Aranieta coliseum would

be coming down to take in earthlings to safety because soon, the world would be facing a great catastrophe. These selected few who would be saved, would come from different parts of the country. They would be summoned to the place of landing. Many would be called, only few would be chosen," said the *walk-in*. I'd like to think of myself as someone called, and hopefully, chosen, too. That's why I ventured to go to Pila. So there it was, that was my reason, actually!

After getting lost, going through some roundabouts and asking different folks, I finally found the place of the sighting. The old folks looked at me strangely because my movements reflected that I was dying to witness the coming of the UFOs. They said

it was a common nightly occurrence to them.

The place was a campsite in Brookside, Pila, Laguna. To my surprise, the place was teeming with people. Like me, they were eager to watch the announced coming of the UFOs. I was made to register. After registration, I was given an ID card and was ushered in to the campsite.

There was free food for everyone. Later, I found out that the UFOs' coming coincided (or was it really made to coincide?) with the general assembly of the Congress of Joy; the members of the BROMOKI or the Brotherhood of Mother's Kids. BROMOKI is a religious group that regards a certain high priestess called "Mother" as the reincarnation of the Blessed Virgin. Years after

"Mother's" death, the group still works strongly today with members from all over the country. At Brookside, a chapel stands in her honor.

For the Bromokians, it was a night of spiritual celebration and thanksgiving. It was also a gathering of many psychic healers, diviners and others who were supposed to possess supernatural powers. They came from different parts of the country, from Davao and Cotabato to the Mountain Province. There were tourists and foreigners. There were media men, from TV, dailies and magazines. There were lecturers and speakers about spiritual renewal and universal brotherhood. These were punctuated by slide projections of "Mother's" pictures taken during some important events during

her lifetime as priestess.

The *walk-in* who made the announcement, was also there; he was giving more information about UFOs and life beyond there. The first sighting that night was supposed to be at nine o'clock. Before that, ritual dance numbers were performed by different Ati-atihan groups. Somehow, the celebration, the rituals, the songs and dances in those open spaces under the starry skies reminded me of some scenes from the movie, *Close Encounters*. . .

Finally, at the height of one ritual dance number, the first UFO appeared, coming out from the mountainous part of the place. There it was, with its light changing from yellowish to orange to bluish, gliding gracefully in space, speeding towards Mt. Banahaw.

The *walk-in* instructed everybody not to point at the object with their index fingers as index fingers have high power that can put off the light. So, anybody who wanted to point at the object had to point at it with closed palms.

We were also asked to recite certain Latin words which translate as "Take me to your kingdom." The object glided smoothly, swiftly and gracefully until it vanished at the other side of Mt. Banahaw. The celebration resumed but many remained silent-awed. The first UFO was followed by two other objects with similar lights, movement and direction. All of them speeded to Mt. Banahaw. And they vanished.

There was another group of UFOs expected at around eleven or twelve midnight. So, while waiting, I had talks with some folks who provided me with information regarding the UFOs. I learned that there were those who claimed that they have actually seen a spaceship coming out of the waters of Talim Island and speeding away; that Mt. Banahaw is the landing place of these spaceships; that they refuel there; that these UFOs do not really come as enemies but more as messengers of peace and goodwill; and that they are here to save the earth and its people from total annihilation. As one walked around the campsite that night, one could feel the solemnity of the night.

Midnight came. Again, a group of UFOs appeared from the same

place where the previous ones came from. Everybody observed how they moved towards Mt. Banahaw until they vanished. We waited for more to come out and pass but so far, that was all for the night.

It was past midnight when I decided to go home. Fortunately, a friend who happened to be there also offered me a ride. In silence and deep thoughts, we left the campsite. Inside his car, looking up the sky, I couldn't help thinking of what I had just witnessed that night. Were those objects hovering over Pila really UFOs or just plain airplanes or any other aircrafts? Because what I experienced was not really a close encounter but just a mere sighting. So, I myself could never be sure. But again, in my long years of watching airplanes fly at night, I noticed that they do not have the same light. And if they were but other modern aircrafts, well, I haven't seen aircrafts yet that moved at such speed and graceful, gliding smoothness. Was it real or was it just a case of mass hallucination or hypnotism? So, many thoughts kept rumbling in my mind.

But one thought stuck. *UFOs come not as enemies but as messengers of peace.* Really? Then, of all the heavenly bodies, why the earth? Is the world's peace condition so hopeless and desperate that it needs the intervention of these extra-terrestrial beings? I don't know. I can only guess. Somehow, my world is limited to the little wars and other tragedies of my daily life with my neighbors, friends and other enemies, while the world's big powers are busy creating bombs and looking at each other with mistrust and willing readiness to push the button of nuclear missiles that will totally annihilate the world. This, despite the disguised peace plan for all humanity.

Perhaps this is really the time for these UFOs to intervene. But on second thought, perhaps not. We don't really need their intervention. There is so much hope. Peace can still be worked out.

But first, it must come from within. From each one of us. And we must really want it. And work for it.

Perhaps this is what these UFOs want to tell us. ●