

# UFO group avoids being too spacey

As I drove through the rain Saturday night to the small office building on Walnut Hill Lane, I had no idea what to expect. Possibly some survivors of bad acid trips. Maybe be-



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see, some misjudged pain readers. Some people with tumors in their hair.

In fact, the most unusual thing about the meeting of MUFON — Mutual UFO Network — was how normal it seemed. How — shall we say — sane.

Not that I spotted Ross Perot or Starke Taylor among the 50 or so in the room, but neither did I see any Leiberbachs. There was a post-hippie or two, some hoopster-thrust gray suiters, a number of attached couples, some paternalist national heroes, an age range from 20s to 60s.

"Our first goal this past year was to increase the membership of MUFON," said outgoing president Kay West in opening the meeting. "We have accomplished this."

"Our second goal was to have an alien come talk to us," she continued, a small laughter. "500 A.C., we haven't succeeded. Unless there's one here tonight."

On the front row, a woman named Evelyn raised her hand. "Well, I'm real strange," she volunteered. More laughter. "Sometimes I feel like I'm from another planet."

## On a mission from Mars

West introduced the evening's lecture, "British research scientist Hilary

Eyres. On the topic of "What You Can Learn from Linn and Looney." Eyres explained that little program had been made in the field of UFOs because of the time spent seeking out hoaxes and bad-weather books.

"This lady may look to you like an earth person," said Eyres, pointing at a young dark-haired woman perched on the slide screen behind him. "There's a good reason for that — she is inhabiting an earth person's body." But, in fact, she's from another planet. I know this because she told me so herself."

Eyres explained that he met the woman at a conference in Wyoming. "For a week, I was cooped up in Laramie — there's nothing else to do there — with 50 people at this conference, all of whom claimed to have had extra-terrestrial experiences."

Eyres indicated he did not find many of their stories convincing. "The witnesses are sincere. They're telling the truth as they know it. But I personally have never had any other weirdly experiences. I have never had any beings from another world."

Another of Eyres' aides showed an artist's depiction of alien beings, as described by a couple who believed they had been taken aboard a space-ship. Some of the aliens had cat-like features and wore surgical gloves, while others resembled wild boars.

"They look like my neighbors," said a man on my right.

Eyres ended his two-hour lecture by not coming to a conclusion. "I may sound like I'm calling some of your deepest beliefs into question. I'm not. I'm saying that you don't have to throw out the baby just the bath-water."

## Seeing's believing

The six-year-old MUFON Meteorplex has around 125 members, says incoming president Jerry Decker. "We have regular programs, a couple of physics, 50 or 60 who work in electronics as engineers or technicians. We have businessmen, bankers, law-yers."

The group meets each month for lectures by NASA scientists, spacecraft

engineers and researchers, but its main purpose is to provide a central check-point for local UFO sightings and research. "In the next year, we want to train some people in documenting UFO sightings, collecting physical evidence. We want to put together an investigative team."

Decker, an electronics technician and anti-greenly researcher, says many of MUFON's members have sighted UFOs — some as near as Lake Ray Hubbard. "That's what initially attracts most of our members. They've had an experience, and are looking for more information."

In addition to sightings, Decker says some of the group has experienced "what we refer to as 'trailing time.'" They look at their watch, and it's one o'clock. Then they look at it again and it's four o'clock."

Ah, yes. Something to which we can all relate.