

## VIEWPOINTS

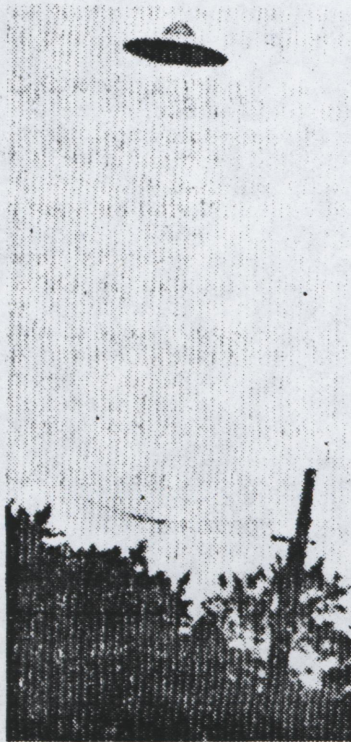
# Can't rule out UFO because of radar

From Lindy Whitehurst, Houston.

The November sighting of a large UFO by the crew of a Japan Air Lines 747 cargo jet was reportedly tracked briefly by the Federal Aviation Administration, the U.S. Air Force and the 747's own radar. A few days later, the FAA claimed a "split image" of the 747 while the USAF chimed in with "electronic clutter." Never mind the 747's on-board radar picking it up and the visual sighting by all three crew members.

Such radar malfunction "coincidences" are common throughout the history of the UFO, with stories of angry veteran civilian and military pilots who report, only to have some desk-flying lieutenant tell them they were seeing Venus, which often was not even visible in the sky at the time.

The classic UFO shape — one of curved surfaces, no sharp angles and no visible hot engine exhausts — is the goal of the U.S. program to design radar-proof fighters and bombers. UFOs flying under and though U.S. radar not geared to track them are unlikely to generate substantial radar evidence to prove their existence. Still, the lack of radar confirmation to a major UFO sighting can never be considered a blot on its record.



A classic, curved UFO appears in a photo that proved to be a hoax.