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(Richard Heiden, Milwaukee, Wis.)

Cudahy Reminder  
Enterprise

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S. SAUCMAN

# Weekly Opinion Survey

## It's up in the sky: Is it or isn't it?

This week's question: **There have been recent reports of UFO sightings in Wisconsin. Do you believe they exist?**

The replies:

Yes	49%
No	38%
No opinion	13%

Commentary: Do they or don't they? Does anyone really know if UFOs exist or whether they are the figment of a lot of imaginations. Some people think they are real because their great-aunt has actually seen one. Others say yes because the government says no and they don't believe a word the government says. Then there are those who chose to believe the authorities, or something inside themselves, and refuse to accept the possibility. So the cat and mouse game continues and no one will know for sure until they come out of the sky and appear on the evening news (if they are really up there, that is). But for many, that will probably be just another media hoax, right?

Sample comments from those who approved: "We could not exist without someone else in the universe. I think it is possible they exist." "I'm reading a book that is about UFOs. It is supposed to be true. I don't have anything to back this." "I've been reading up on this quite a bit. Yes, I do. This is a strange world we're living in. Anything is possible in this world." "Sure, they have been documented and everything." "With the millions of stars there must be another planet somewhere." "There has been data that has been substantiated. I think it is possible." "I don't know why not. If we can go the moon, why can't someone be spooking around here?" "Yes, I don't believe we are the only people on the universe." "Yes, I do. You'd be pretty naive if you thought there was nothing else in the universe." "Yes, there is something. They just haven't been identified." "There are too many

people seeing those things that can't be explained. Yes, I think they exist." "This is too small a world to have intelligent life only on this planet." "There seems to be high officials, policemen and intelligent people that see them. I don't know. There just seems to be life out there." "Yes, with space going on and on and on and all the stars, there has to be planets where there are people who probably come to visit from time to time."

The opposing viewpoints: "Basically, no, but anything can happen but basically, no." "No, I think it has something to do with the stars." "No, I don't believe in stuff like that." "No, because I've never seen one." "I have taken classes in astrology. I do not think anyone can come from another planet because of the distance involved." "I do not believe they exist. I think this is all in their imagination." "No, but there is something. I think the government is doing it." "No, there are just certain types of people that see them. I think they are a reflection of gases in swamps."

From those undecided: "I have a friend who says he has seen them twice. I don't know. If there is, it sure will knock hell out of religion." "I don't have any reason to believe in them and I don't have any reason not to believe in them."

Survey details: 115 persons were contacted by phoning random cross-sections of residences throughout the south and southwest suburban areas. This column's purpose is to provide on a regular basis an opportunity for a substantial number of local residents to express opinions on a wide range of subjects. Accordingly, no attempt is made to use scientific methods in selecting participants. Results should be viewed with these factors in mind.

Next week's question (survey just completed): **Gov. Thompson recently vetoed a bill that would have permitted private high schools to join the WIAA. Do you think WISAA (private schools) and WIAA (public schools) should merge?**

Upcoming question (survey about to start): **Did you attend any of the ethnic or music festivities this summer at Milwaukee's lakefront?**

(OVER)

(each version was in a total of 11 suburban Milwaukee papers)

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# Weekly Opinion Survey

## It's up in the sky: Is it or isn't it?

This week's question: **There have been recent reports of UFO sightings in Wisconsin. Do you believe they exist?**

The replies:

Yes	33%
No	51%
No opinion	16%

Commentary: Do they or don't they? Does anyone really know if UFOs exist or whether they are the figment of a lot of imaginations. Some people think they are real because their great-aunt has actually seen one. Others say yes because the government says no and they don't believe a word the government says. Then there are those who chose to believe the authorities, or something inside themselves, and refuse to accept the possibility. So the cat and mouse game continues and no one will know for sure until they come out of the sky and appear on the evening news (if they are really up there, that is). But for many, that will probably be just another media hoax, right?

YES—"Yes, a friend of mine saw one last week in the Milwaukee area." "I have never seen them. You have to keep an open mind. I would have to say yes." "There are a lot of crazies out there but I don't think we are alone." "There has been so much talk about them. It would be hard to believe they don't exist." "I don't know. There have been some reliable sources that say there is something out there. I would say yes." "I've always thought they existed. If the government can hide so many things from us, they can hide that, too." "Yes, I just can't believe we are the only planet that sustains life."

NO—"No, I don't think it's possible." "No, I don't. I think this is something the government is doing or it is some kind of testing of people's imagination." "I just don't believe in them, so far." "No, I think it is a figment of

someone's imagination. I think they see something they think resembles UFOs." "No, I think there are things that happen that make people think they are seeing things." "If anyone says they have seen one they are on drugs or something. They don't exist." "I don't think so. I haven't really given that much thought. Maybe, if I did I would change my mind. That isn't my top priority." "No, there is no evidence they exist. They are probably just old satellites flying around." "No, I think the people that say they have seen them are very emotional people or people with a strong imagination. For as long as people have been reporting them, wouldn't you think they would land and be seen around?" "I have never seen one and I guess I don't believe in anything I have not seen."

NO OPINION—"I don't have any idea. Who is to know?" "I don't know. I don't have proof that there are and I don't have proof that there aren't." "I have never seen one. I don't know where they would be coming from but I'm not saying they don't exist." "I have mixed feelings on that." "I don't know. There is a question in my mind. I could go either way." "Oh, boy, that is a good one. I question that. I couldn't say one way or the other." "I don't know. I can't say that I don't think they exist but I can't say that I think they do, either. I don't know."

Survey details: 125 persons were contacted by phoning random cross-sections of residences throughout the west, northwest and North Shore suburban areas. This column's purpose is to provide on a regular basis an opportunity for a substantial number of local residents to express opinions on a wide range of subjects. Accordingly, no attempt is made to use scientific methods in selecting participants. Results should be viewed with these factors in mind.

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