



Robert Baker displays artwork of alien worlds as he envisions them.

Robert Burch/Special to the Times Herald

## Believers in UFOs converge — impart knowledge at seminar

By Paula Yost

OF THE TIMES HERALD STAFF

**MCKINNEY** — Bud Hopkins says it's absurd to think that space creatures are little green men with red eyes and antennae who drive flying saucers. Everybody who's seen aliens knows they have gray skin, oversized heads, big black eyes and wear hooded coveralls, he says.

Hopkins, who has written books about people who say they were abducted by aliens, and other UFO experts are conducting a five-day seminar at Collin County Community College to impart such knowledge to college students and anyone else who wants to know.

Still, inside the building where pictures of space creatures and spacecraft are posted on a bulletin board, skeptics abound.

"There are just so many hoaxes around. It doesn't seem possible," said David Carney, 20, of Plano, a culinary arts major.

Plano student Joe Martinez, 19, had an easy explanation: "A lot of people will do anything to get attention."

Hopkins and his associates are used to the abuse. "Most people feel a little nervous about this material because it's unsettling, and ridicule is something you tend to do when you're nervous," said Hopkins, who lives in New York. "I get a lot of nervous ridicule."

Hopkins has written two books based on thousands of interviews with people who say they have been abducted by UFOs, and he says he wouldn't try to pass off something as far-fetched as mutants and Martians.

"I believe people are actually seeing something up there," said Hopkins, 56, who recently was featured on the "Oprah Winfrey Show." "What it is they're seeing, we don't know."

What Hopkins and associate Walt Andrus, international director of the Mutual UFO Network, say they do know is that some people have been abducted by UFOs — a discovery they said they made after interviewing people under hypnosis.

"The basic purpose seems to be a genetic experiment involving them and us, and involving the removal of (human) sperm and ovum cells with the goal of producing a hybrid between them and us," Hopkins said.

The creatures don't harm the earthlings, but they aren't very nice, either, he said.

Because of the abductions, Hopkins said, people have some idea what the UFO occupants look like: grayish-white skin, oversized heads, enormous black eyes and slits for mouths. They're telepathic, he said, so they don't talk.

Hopkins said he didn't get a chance to see if aliens were piloting a metallic, circular object he spotted flying over Massachusetts in 1964. The so-called saucer hovered over the Cape Cod coast about three minutes as he and friends watched from a car, he said.

"We were hanging out of the windows of the car, trying to figure out what it was, and then it flew off at a great rate of speed," he said.

As director of the Seguin-based UFO network, Hopkins says he receives reports daily on his UFO Hotline.

Andrus, 66, also says he has seen UFOs. That was in 1948 in downtown Phoenix, said Andrus, who recalls seeing four silver discs flying over buildings and then disappearing in a clear, blue sky.

"They were easy to see," he said. Tuesday, Andrus gave students instructions about how to make a UFO detector out of a clock, a battery, wires and a compass.

Most sightings can be explained by natural causes, says college physics professor Mike Broyles, who will cloud the UFO issue when speaking to students today.

At least 80 percent of so-called UFOs can be explained by weather balloons, aircraft and Venus — a bright planet that sometimes appears to be saucer-like and flying, Broyles said.

Robert Baker has never seen a UFO in the sky; but he's seen them flying through his head. So the Denton artist transferred them to canvass, and on Tuesday showed his work to students.