

Flying saucer squad prompts UFO dispute

A FLYING SAUCER has been witnessed by eight policemen over London, opening up old wounds between the promoters and debunkers of unidentified flying objects.

The UFO was seen in the early hours of Sunday morning by Zena Sfeir, 16, a Rugby School pupil who was raking the sky with her telescope looking for the full moon. Miss Sfeir, who lives in Kensington, London, said yesterday that the flat, saucer-shaped UFO, grey-green with pink blobs, looked like a "swimming jellyfish". When it spun round, it changed to electric blue.

After an hour's tracking the Sfeir household telephoned the local police. "One po-

By Peter Dunn

liceman came round, saw it and called in a few more," Miss Sfeir said. "They called in two more and *they* called in two more. In the end eight policemen were witnesses. The moment they saw it they were complete believers."

News of the sighting put the Aetherius Society on full alert at its headquarters, a converted shop in Fulham Road, London. The society, which is passionate about flying saucers, regards the Kensington spaceship as further vindication of its beliefs

and a well-earned rebuff for mockers like the astronomer, Patrick Moore.

"We're just literally on the phone to the police about it now," Dr Richard Laurence, the society's secretary, said. "There's a lot of police interest in flying saucers because they're always on duty looking at the sky. They get a lot of sightings and often feel frustrated because I think they're up against some sort of policy of no comment.

"For instance, my colleague's been shifted from department to department for 40 minutes and ended up at the same place three times. That's always a sign there's a bit of a panic on.

"Patrick Moore says it's just Jupiter. I know him of old. I've been on TV with him. As I said to him then, I wouldn't talk about astronomy because I don't know enough about it and he doesn't know anything about flying saucers and should keep quiet about them. Patrick Moore is one of those people who've set out to debunk the subject. Another one is the science correspondent of *The Daily Telegraph* whose name eludes me at the moment. None of them knows anything about it. They're all prejudiced. We don't think it's strange or eccentric to believe in flying saucers. On the contrary, we think it's eccentric to *dis*believe."

INDEPENDANT NEWS PAPER
6TH JANUARY 1988