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Obviously neither airport made a positive identification of the Thing — hence the conflicting opinions. It definitely wasn't a balloon — if it were, the bottom points of the upside-down V would have had a light or lights stretching across to delineate the objects shape, which is the purpose of aircraft lights. The thing would have looked like an isosceles triangle, not a V.

I have two reasons to believe that it wasn't just a "bunch of guys." Where are a bunch of fun-loving guys going to get such incredibly silent machine without attracting attention to themselves? Such high-tech machinery, if it exists and if it is available to civilian pilots, would certainly have caught the eye of airport workers, and would surely have been reported when the fuss over the sightings happened.

Look at airplanes flying in the night. They have lights marking their wings, and their nose and tail. They do not have a disproportionately large light in their ceaser. If this thing is to be considered a

formation, then how do you explain these big lights, and the lack of wing and tail and nose lights?

Come to think of it, I have a third reason. While I realize appearances can be deceiving, I consider it significant that I, my two friends, and a school teacher who put his name on the line in a newspaper article all considered it one object and not a formation.

Now I'm not claiming that the thing was a spaceship. It may have been, and it may not have been. The woman who originally reported the recent UFO said, "I just don't believe it was anything man could have made. It was so silent."

Perhaps. Perhaps not. The silence of the thing I saw was certainly unusual and thought-provoking. All I am saying is the thing is a UFO — it remains, as far as my friends and I are aware, unidentified; it sure looked like it was flying up there; and it appeared to be an object. Whoever or whatever was piloting these Things certainly hasn't been talking.

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303 Letters to the Editor

Another UFO sighting revealed; writer poses thoughtful questions

To the Editor: I want to mention a past UFO sighting which bears a strange resemblance to the UFO sighting people have recently reported to your paper; thinking of this, in my numerous paranoid moments, tends to roam my day. But before I get to the good part I feel compelled to sermonize a bit.

Too many people tend to automatically dismiss any report of an abnormal experience as the product of insanity or hoax. Such people pride themselves on possessing tons of "common sense."

Now consider this term, "Sense" — this word shows that the term involves things which people perceive through their sensory organs — the sky looks blue, ice feels cold, thunder sounds loud, she is not telling the truth, etc. "Common" — this implies that the term refers to things often perceived — to things commonly perceived. "Common sense" then deals with that which alot of people consider to be true.

Common sense is often helpful. But it also has its limits; and I believe that a lot of people who pride themselves on being practical and realistic aren't aware of this. During various spaces of history common sense has held that many was not born to fly, women are inferior to men, the world is flat, and the sun revolves around the earth.

Consider the myth of male superiority. People (mostly males) looked around and saw that men held all the skillful positions and had more knowledge and in general ran things, and then used what they saw as evidence that Man Knows Best, that A Woman's Place Is In The Home. This was the common-sense verdict on the issue: this is what the perceptible facts (seemed to have) proved. It perhaps is hard for us to conceive that only a minority of people, who were mostly scorned, realized that this "evidence" was just a result of sexist social mores and conditions, and not the natural way of things.

Common sense today dictates that strange experiences such as UFO sightings and psychic events are all delusions or hoaxes. An open mind, on the other hand, declares that there is no reason for such narrow-mindedness: each case has to be proved or disproved beyond a reasonable doubt before any assertion of truth or falsehood can be made. But open-mindedness has never been prevalent on this planet; and hence there is the "stigma" attached to those who tell of such experiences.

This sort of narrow-mindedness chills the growth of knowledge. People who have such experiences either fear they're going mad or become nervous and ashamed, and thus cover up the whole thing.

Professional quixotic heretic Robert Anton Wilson, in *The New Inquisition: Irrational Rationalism and the Citadel of Science*, points out that none of the 17 people he's met who have claimed to see unidentified flying objects reported their observations to the government or the media. "All 17 said they were afraid of being called crazy."

On a more personal level, I've been blessed (or plagued) for years by a series of precognitive dreams and synchronicities — and, to be testily defensive, anyone who wants to call me crazy should examine Jung's writings on synchronicity and the findings of quantum physics (which appear to indicate that Time isn't quite what we think), or remain blissfully ignorant.

Anyway, I once tried to get a one-time friend to open up regarding an apparent synchronicity, a miraculous coincidence — without this person's information I could not classify it as a genuinely synchronous event. The otherwise-intelligent person, who interestingly did not deny the event in question, obviously feared dealing with such socially unacceptable thoughts, panicked, and in a spasm of Healthy-Minded Normalcy slammed down the phone. And then there are those people who compromise the credibility of their

reports with anonymity, or who just ignore what they've seen.

There is an awful problem in a land where people fear to communicate or explore what they have perceived, what they believe could be true; blame it on that smug narrow-mindedness that calls itself "Common sense." It causes fear, and fear of what people think causes man's knowledge to be diminished. It also causes people to sin against themselves — for to deny one's curiosity and one's perceptions because one fears to be strange in the eyes of the neighbors is an intellectual amputation of oneself, a denial of one's experience and potential, is thus a tragic and self-punishing sin. This is what mass narrow-mindedness causes.

But now to the fun stuff. A few years ago — a friend says the fall of 1985 — I saw a strange V-shaped Thing With Lights up there in the sky. The lights on each side of the upside-down V were perfectly parallel to each other. And here's the strange thing, the common thread linking what I saw with the recent sightings. The thing was moving in absolute silence. This is what struck me. This silence also struck two friends, who were coming to pick me up when they sighted it; they were so impressed that they followed the Thing around.

As a subsequent article in an area paper indicates, a lot of people in the area saw the thing. An air traffic controller at the airport in Danbury said, "We think there were seven aircraft flying...It was probably just a bunch of guys out having a good time." Another air traffic controller, one from Sikorsky airport said, "the object appeared to be a balloon of some kind."

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