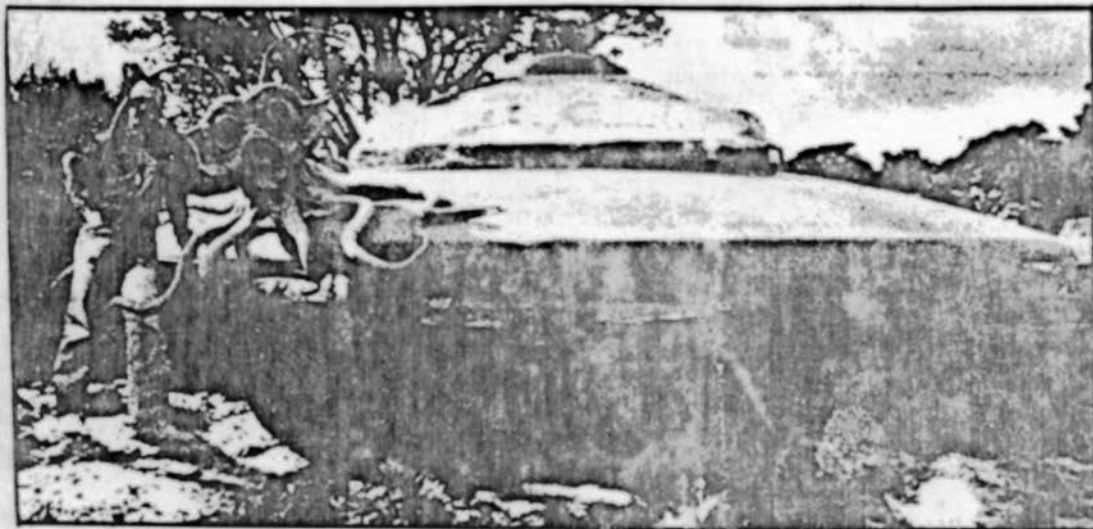


16 APR 1988

Not so close encounters!



☆ THE tackier end of the tabloid press love them, those vague UFO pictures where the art department can paint in some portholes and mock the whole thing up.

☆ On the other hand, John Spencer, of the British UFO Research Association is fed up to his extra terrestrials with people who claim to have gone for a starship ride through the milky way and made love to a bug eyed maiden from Alpha Centauri.

☆ Phenomenon, a book he has edited with Hilary Evans, sets out to debunk some of the most outrageous reports and sightings. In today's new books column, page 10, he talks to the ET about ETs and things that hover in the night.

■ John Spencer prepares to go for a spin with a mate from Mars - but is seeing really believing?