

# Sky Watcher

## Researcher Looks For Evidence Of UFOs

By Madeleine Smith  
Journal Correspondent

The walls of Joe Palermo's office are painted an eerie yellow that makes the small room in his house glow in bright contrast to the night sky. A framed, autographed picture of Linda Carter rests atop a table, across from a poster to which Joe has taped a photo of himself dressed as Dracula. His waving arms and booming voice are dramatic — after all, film production and acting are his hobbies.

But he is hauntingly serious when he speaks of the possibility of unidentified flying objects dipping into our atmosphere and abducting earthlings for genetic research.

"The state of Missouri remains No. 1 in trace landing accounts, which means the UFO actually touches the ground," said the Woodson Terrace resident.

Palermo, 30, is state director of public information and education for the Mutual UFO Network Inc. (MUFON) and president of the UFO Study Group of Greater St. Louis. The groups try to investigate reports of UFO incidents scientifically.

As planes from Lambert-St. Louis International Airport

zoomed overhead, Palermo recounted the first time he saw what he thought was a UFO. He was 14, hanging around in a neighbor's back yard with other youngsters.

"It was a definite solid object and appeared to be circular, with a dull, red light where the porthole area could be," he says. The aircraft, he said, was moving in and out of the dark clouds. The youths tried to chase its path on their bikes, with no luck.

From that night on, Palermo says his interest in UFOs and psychic phenomena grew steadily. His friends and family now accept his extraterrestrial interests without raising a brow.

Beyond the pages of *Weekly World News* or *National Enquirer*, Air Force personnel accounts indicate that alien crafts have been observed flying at speeds of up to 2,000 mph, with no sonic boom, no sound, and making sharp right-angle turns, Palermo said.

"We don't have anything that can do that," he said.

Palermo said his study groups get much of their information from people who have retired from the armed services. He thinks the government has been,

at best, lackadaisical about investigating claims of UFO sightings. Further, he claims the government has censored such findings because of national security concerns.

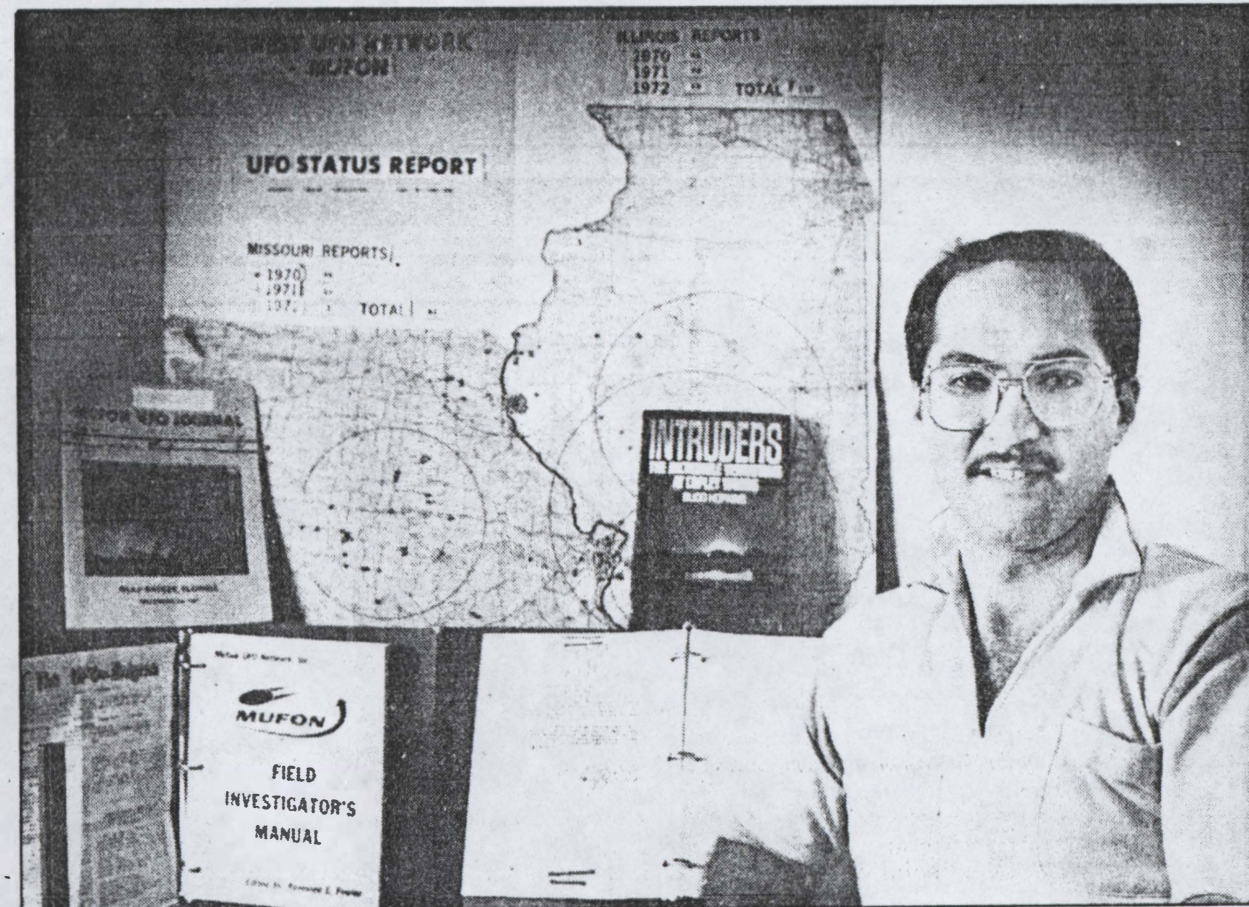
"If we figure out how these things work first, then we're ahead," Palermo said. "If the other side figures out how these work, suddenly the U.S. becomes a communist country, because we will have no power to deal with what they've got."

Palermo said he is especially interested in people who have been abducted by aliens. Some kidnap victims, he said, have no conscious recollection of the experience. But others remember everything, and have related accounts of physical examinations and experiments, Palermo said.

Oftentimes, Palermo said, aliens use "sophisticated mind blocks" to keep people from remembering abductions. Hypnosis commonly is used to get to the bottom of anxiety produced by such experiences.

As proof of aliens' advanced knowledge, Palermo cites the testimony of a woman who claims to have been abducted in 1980.

"Under hypnosis, the woman



Joe Palermo, of Woodson Terrace, displays some of his UFO investigation resources.

Marcus Kosa photo

described a test that was performed on her with a needle-type device through the navel," he said. "What she described was 100 percent accurate — before this surgical procedure was ever used here."

Gruesome tales of earthlings

hatching two-headed martians that often make the front page of the *Weekly World News* are simply irresponsible, Palermo says.

"Stories like that give susceptible people the wrong impression," he complained. That such

accounts prompt readers to consider the existence of UFOs is some consolation, he said.

To discount the existence of extraterrestrial life forms is "a disservice to a potential meeting of the minds," Palermo said.

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### Weeds

im Page 1A

e me," Slominski had written original judgment. "I would letter to city officials that