



## DI UNDER THE KNIFE

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## Tory MP held in Costa punch-up

from TIM BROWN in Benidorm

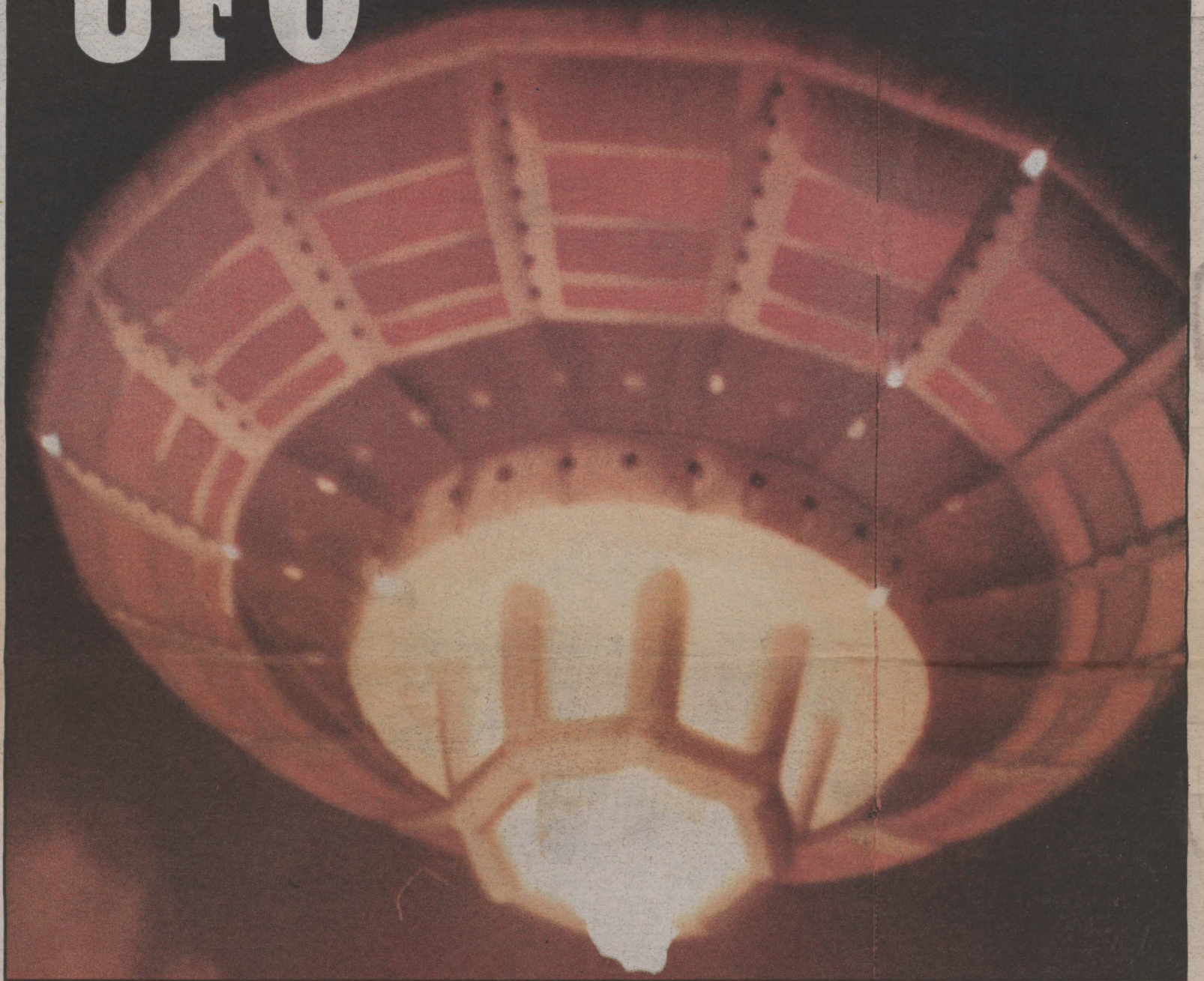
A TORY MP was branded a Costa hooligan yesterday after he was arrested in a punch-up with Spanish police.

John Heddle, 45, was on holiday when he was charged with assault and obstructing an officer in a row over parking.

But the member for Mid-Staffordshire said last night: "I am not a lager lout. I've never

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# UFO FOOLS THE POLICE



It was only a trial run for an April Fool stunt but tycoon Richard Branson forgot to warn the police. His UFO hot air balloon brought terrified drivers screeching to a halt on the M25 near Redhill, Surrey, at 6am. Now Branson may face charges. Full story: Page 3

## Toddler, 2, is Branson's April Fool UFO jape

# CHILD RIPPED OFF

RECORD tycoon Richard Branson faces prosecution over a UFO April Fool stunt which could have caused motorway carnage.

He may lose his flying certificate for the prank yesterday with a balloon made to look like a flying saucer. Terrified drivers on the M25 braked to a halt as the glowing spaceship floated down beside the carriageway near Redhill, Surrey, on a trial run for April 1.

Chief Inspector Andrew Neilson of Surrey police said angrily: "It was lucky a serious accident did not occur. A danger was caused to motorists who stopped to look at the sky."

He added: "His actions endangered a lot of motorists who should have been looking at the road and not in the sky."

But an unrepentant Branson was last night

by STEVE MCKENLAY

still chuckling over the panic his landing caused.

He told how a police officer on the scene warily approached the craft, then turned and fled as midget Phil Cordero, dressed to look like ET, emerged.

"A few seconds later three uniformed bobbies crept towards us brandishing their truncheons," said Branson.

"They seemed to take the joke in good heart, although one officer said he never been as frightened in 20 years."

Robson 1 Apr 1989

## at jinx zoo

# RIPPS

by IAN FLETCHER

A BOY of two had his arm ripped off by an 11-stone chimpanzee when he reached inside a cage yesterday.

Matthew McDaid's parents heard his screams after he slipped under a barrier at jinxed millionaire John Aspinall's zoo.

John and Frances McDaid comforted their son as the ape prowled around inside the cage with the limb. A vet

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