

SOVIET MEDIA PICKING UP TAB HABITS

UFOs invade Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviets are catching on to the "Jackie O and Elvis in UFO" brand of tabloid journalism.

Two recent examples: "Headless aliens from space invade Russia!"

"Possible UFO lands in Moscow!"

Though President Mikhail Gorbachev's reforms haven't spawned

supermarket tabloids, glasnost has changed the Soviet media.

The change is evident on TV. It used to showcase uplifting — and dull — movies about communism.

Now, six days a week Alan Chumak waves his hands on camera to cure viewers from Minsk to Vladivostok of what ails them.

But the afflicted don't even have to watch the program to get help. Leave the set on, and a jar of water, juice or massage cream placed by the TV screen will be "charged" by Chumak's gestures to be used later for treatment.

Not just TV has changed.

Socialist Industry has a mandate to report on the economy. But often it carries stories unrelated to socialism or industry.

This week it reported invaders from space landed in central Russia. The paper said one creature had "only a small knob instead of a head."



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