

Cosmic Kid

Youngster Draws Picture, Tells Tale Of Pinhead Alien, Glowing Spaceship

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet TV viewers got a chance Wednesday night to see the aliens that created a cosmic sensation with their reported landing in the town of Voronezh — but only in a child's scribbled drawing.

The Soviet nightly news program "Vremya" broadcast a report from Voronezh showing the spot among yellow-leaved birches where, according to the official news agency Tass, scientists confirmed that an unearthly craft had touched down.

The picture, by a child who claimed to have witnessed the landing, showed a glowing two-legged sphere with a smiling stick figure inside.

Tass made a worldwide splash Monday with its straight-faced report on towering, pin-headed aliens who emerged from a spaceship that landed in a park in Voronezh, 300 miles southeast of Moscow.

Since then, scientists have disparaged the report and attributed it to rising sensationalism in the Soviet press under "glasnost," or greater openness.

A Tass official said Wednesday the

news agency had assigned three reporters to investigate the story.

The "Vremya" report, although more skeptical in tone than that by Tass, offered without comment an interview with schoolboy Vasya Surin, a purported witness to the "close encounter."

"We were scared," said Vasya, who appeared to be about 11. "It hovered over this tree. Then the door opened, and a tall person of about three meters looked out.

"He didn't have a head, or shoulders either. He just had a kind of hump. There he had three eyes — one on each side and one in the middle."

Vasya said the alien had two holes instead of a real nose and could not turn his head, so he had to swivel his middle eye.

But the "Vremya" report concluded by saying that no adult witnesses could be found even though a large apartment house overlooked the site.

"Only one thing is clear," concluded Soviet TV reporter L. Maximov. "It's early to tell. What is needed is research. And not by Voronezh enthusiasts, but by experts."

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