

COLUMBUS DISPATCH

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Columbus Dispatch, December 6, 1989

Aliens aren't coming after all

ROCKFORD, Ill. (AP) — A fake news story saying extraterrestrial children were sighted near this northern Illinois town appeared on the front page of the Rockford *Register Star*.

The four-line story, which made it into several thousand early Sunday editions before the presses were stopped, did not seem to alarm readers, perhaps because it was not printed in the newspaper's normal style, police said. The paper printed a retraction yesterday.

A production worker was fired for writing the story about the aliens as a practical joke and mistakenly putting it on a page cleared for printing, *USA Today* reported today, quoting *Register Star* Publisher Michael Coleman.

Coleman was not immediately available for comment.



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JON FRY via COUD—I