

Why Painesville at 3?

The world, as I see it, is divided into two major groups. The first group believes in the existence of Unidentified Flying Objects, and is concerned about this planet being under close scrutiny by people from outer space. The second group is concerned, more realistically, with the first group.

Man kind has been troubled with speculation over the strange sights occasionally to be seen high in the heavens ever since the first recorded history was scratched on the walls of caves. Our conception of a frightening bit of the supernatural, without which no Halloween is complete, is the profile of a witch riding a broomstick against the harvest moon.



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You don't see witches flying through the wispy clouds of night any more; not often, anyway. Witches aren't nearly as big as they used to be in the supernatural scheme of things, and it's not even worth mentioning that the broom-makers have lost the old knack of turning out airworthy sticks.

BUT IF IT WASN'T ONE THING in the sky to scare the bejabbers out of people in the old days, it was something else. One night it might be a witch, and the next night a comet, or the aurora borealis, or a ring around the moon, or a peculiar color to the moon, or strange lights shifting about, willy-nilly.

Comets especially were bad luck pieces, and smart people avoided them. Every time a comet flashed across the night sky, it seemed, somebody important up and died, or some other dreadful event occurred. And since calamity and disaster are man's constant com-

panions, it was no trick at all to find something bad to blame on the poor comet.

It was kind of heartening, though, to read that a number of Clevelanders and their fellow-Ohioans had discovered some Unidentified Flying Objects (UFO) romping about the night sky earlier this week. Flying saucers are among the most interesting, if the newest, additions to sky lore, and it would be sad to see them die away. They have kept a distracted world bemused since World War II. The inside word was that our atomic and hydrogen explosions had drawn attention to our planet from people in outer space who were concerned that our Fourth of July celebrations were getting out of hand, threatening the well-being of the whole universe. Thus, the continuing surveillance by flying saucers.

WHAT I DON'T UNDERSTAND about this theory is all this capering about by people from outer space at 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning, which seems to be their favorite time for a celestial romp.

What is there to see, looking down at Painesville at 3 a.m., I'd like to know? From a cosmic standpoint, I mean? For that matter, what do the people from outer space manning these UFOs find so interesting when they hover over Cleveland at that hour? Can a couple of drunks, lurching out of a saloon on Prospect Avenue at 3:15 a.m., be that amusing, or significant?

A flying saucer at rush hour, right over the Main Street Bridge or Kamen's Corner, I could understand. The traffic jamup at either place is enough to send a chill through outer space and send a man's tentacles standing straight up in horror. But what's in Painesville at 3 o'clock in the morning?