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## ARTHUR C. CLARKE'S "2010" THE FILM AND BEYOND



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•Are your beliefs  
any more reasonable or  
provable than a  
belief in flying saucers?•

## ANTI MATTER

Canadian photographer Doug Curran does not particularly believe in UFOs. Yet for more than six years, he has crisscrossed the United States and Canada, gathering what may be the most revealing pictures and stories ever to come out of the UFO movement.

Curran's subjects are not UFOs but the people who believe in them. "What interests me are people's beliefs and how those beliefs shape their lives," he explains. "So one day in the summer of 1977, I bought an old Renault, threw my cameras into the back, and set out from Edmonton. Wherever

I went, I'd ask local policemen and newspaper editors whether they knew of anyone building a rocket or trying to contact people from outer space. Sometimes they'd say, 'Sure. Go down to the traffic light and turn left, and about three miles on. . . . And I'd follow the directions and find a rocket in someone's backyard.'

Wandering around the continent, in fact, Curran found and photographed the UFO movement's most ardent believers. He met eighty-two-year-old Ruth Norman, alias Archangel Uriel, head of the Unarius Foundation, in El Cajon, California. Norman (with disciple, above) and her 400 followers believe they have lived past lives on the 32 worlds of the Intergalactic Confederation. Earth, they contend, is the "garbage dump of the universe," peopled by those whose past evils have left them the lowest possible status of Karma, the force determining destiny in future lives. Once enough of us adopt Norman's teachings and stop transmitting negative psychic energies, the Space Brothers will free us all from poverty,



## UFO UPDATE

night, hoping to lure a UFO with his equipment.

Alone or in groups, UFO believers have many things in common, Curran found. "Most have high-school diplomas and are in the lower middle class, though I met a few who are wealthy. Most are middle-aged, and quite a few cultists have seen lights or experienced other phenomena they could not explain." UFOs, Curran feels, "are a kind of a god for our society. They seem omniscient, benevolent, and unconfined by the laws of space and time. [Psychologist Carl G.] Jung said that man could never get away from his need to make myths. UFOs are one of the myths that help people deal with our complex, intimidating world."

Curran's photographs and observations are being published in a book called *In Advance of the Landing: Folk Concepts of Outer Space* (Abbeville). Says Curran, "I really want the book to point back at the reader and ask, 'Are your beliefs any more reasonable or provable than a belief in flying saucers?'" —OWEN DAVIES

sickness, and war.

Curran also photographed Orlando Toroni, of Orland, California, who drives to the top of a high hill each evening and pulls a box of equipment from his aging Oldsmobile. His goal: to track UFOs hiding behind satellites.

And in Bellaire, Michigan, Curran took photographs of John Shepherd, who has converted his grandmother's small house into a UFO detection center, its walls filled with more electronic equipment than a NASA tracking station. Shepherd transmits signals chosen for their "artistic human energy" day and