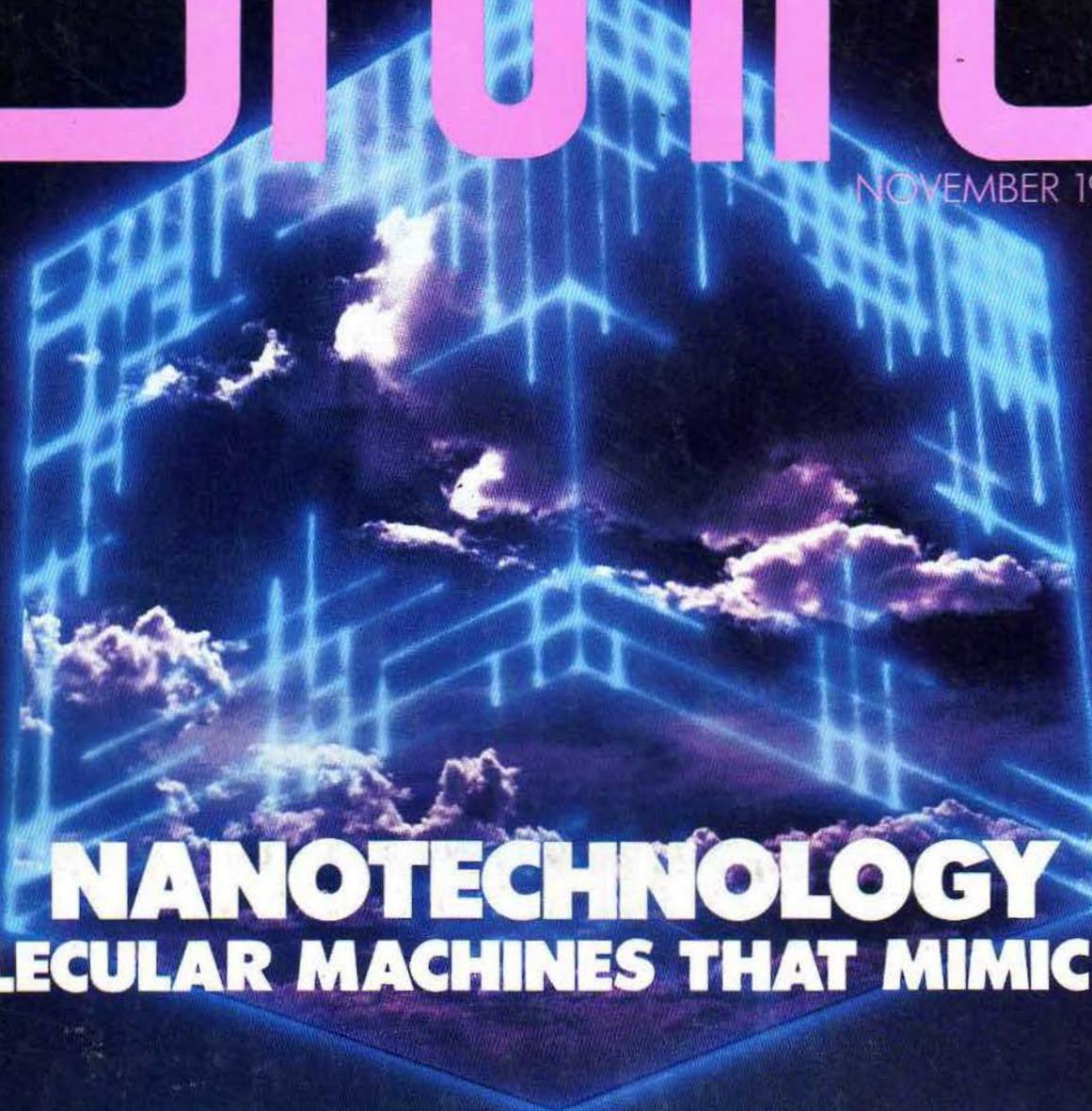


# SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN

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## NANOTECHNOLOGY

### MOLECULAR MACHINES THAT MIMIC LIFE

**ROBERT JARVIK'S  
BIONICS 2000**

**NEURAL NETS:  
COMPUTERS  
THAT BEGIN  
TO THINK**

**THE FIGHT TO FREE  
LAB ANIMALS**

**SOVIET  
CHILDREN'S  
SPACE  
ART**



•He's seeking  
out some of the strangest works  
ever to roll off  
the printing presses here on Earth.◉

## ANTI MATTER

George Eberhart doesn't particularly believe in aliens from space. But if they existed, they'd certainly approve of him. Even mere Earthlings will be overwhelmed by Eberhart's monumental book, entitled *UFOs and the Extraterrestrial Contact Movement* (Scarecrow Press). This two-volume bibliography on UFOs contains more than 15,600 entries covering 36 countries and 451 years.

During the day, Eberhart works for the American Library Association as the editor of its *College & Research Libraries News*. But on evenings and weekends this thirty-six-year-old Chicagoan pursues an interest he's had since age twelve, when he read about a Venusian in the California desert: He's seeking some of the strangest works ever to roll off the printing presses here on Earth.

Eberhart's book lists Cecil Michael's *Round Trip to Hell in a Flying Saucer* (1955), chronicling the ultimate close encounter. It includes a reference to *Hollow Earth Apocalypse: Asimov's Warning*, in which writer Florida Benton deciphers the secret message encoded in all of Isaac Asimov's writings: The earth is a hollow haven for flying saucers, and the poles are about to shift. It describes record albums like *Music From Another Planet*, which contains tunes supposedly taught to New Jersey sign painter Howard Meriger by a friend from Saturn. (Eberhart thinks the collection sounds more like "Muzak from 1955.") And it even documents the first UFO movie, a grade-Z thriller called *The Flying Saucer*, which, although otherwise forgotten, is the source of still-raging rumors that the United States government has stashed crashed



## UFO UPDATE

But the strangest material, according to Eberhart, is produced by a worldwide network of *contactees*, who claim to carry messages from the extraterrestrials.

"These books are full of interminable, devastatingly turgid messages and rambling theological tirades," Eberhart declares, "but the authors do mean well."

Despite all the nonsense, Eberhart adds, "there's still a solid residue of mystery in the literature of UFOs. Even if that's only five percent of all the cases in print, it amounts to an astounding number of real UFOs."

Most people who ask him to recommend a UFO book, however, are more concerned with reading stories that are scary or just plain bizarre.

"There's certainly no shortage of that," Eberhart concludes. "If I've learned anything at all from this project, it's that *anything* can get printed. And it's all worth collecting because it represents an amazing aspect of culture around the world." — JEROME CLARK

saucers and aliens in warehouses.

The bibliography is strong on historical arcana as well. The earliest entry is a 1534 work by Pope Pius II, who mentions a "curious meteor"—an object that would today be called a UFO. Even the Nazis get into the act: The most horrific entry might be *UFOs: Nazi Secret Weapon?*, a 1974 book whose authors have political sympathies on the far right. They claim that some Nazis, at least, escaped to the center of the earth, where they piloted a Luftwaffe of flying saucers and plotted the ultimate triumph of the "master race."