

OMNI

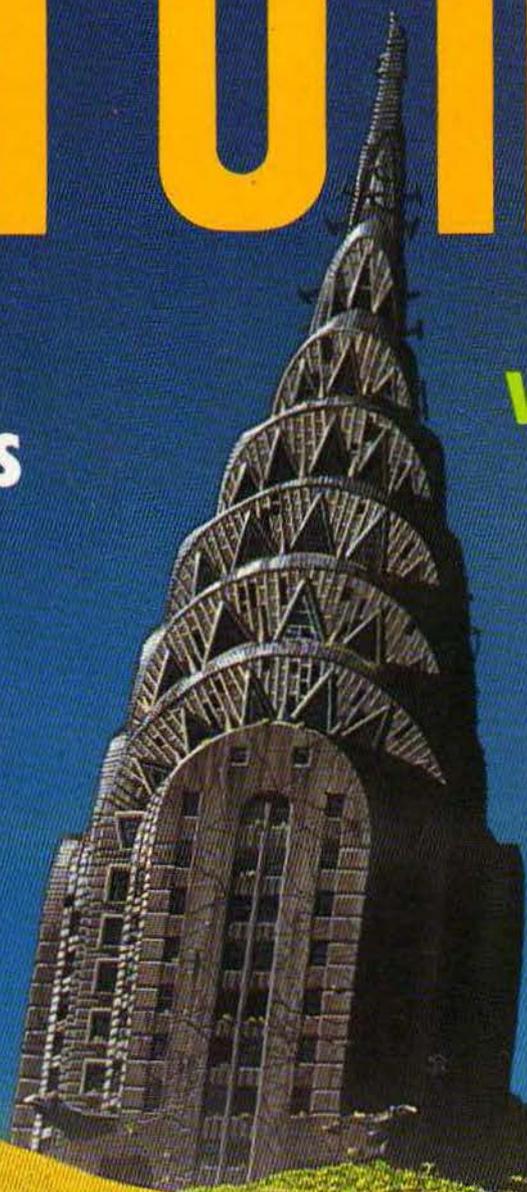
FEBRUARY 1988 \$3.00

SEX AND LOVE:
HOW DINOSAURS
DID IT!

ACUPUNCTURE:
GETTING DOWN
TO THE SCIENCE

VALENTINE SPECIAL:
THE GREAT OMNI
TREASURE HUNT

STARRY KNIGHTS:
AMATEURS WHO
MAP THE COSMOS



Some of the
people who had close encounters
with the object
felt they were being probed.

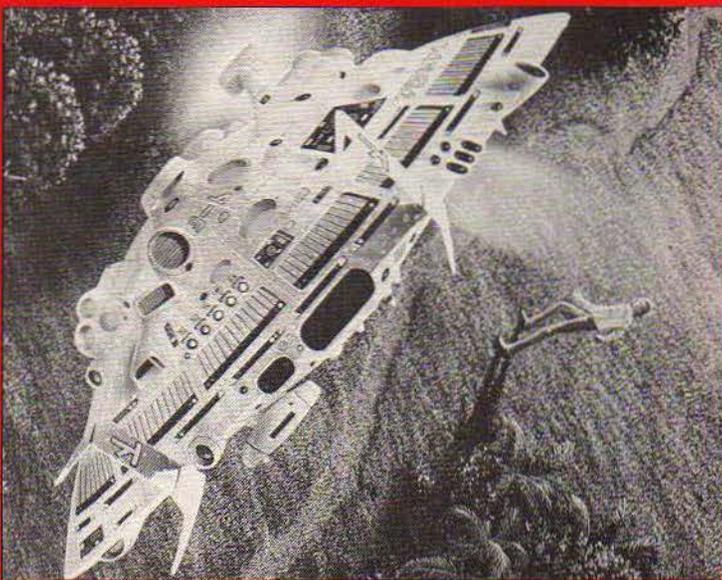
ANTI MATTER

It has been called the most spectacular display in UFO history. During 1983 and 1984 more than 5,000 people living in the counties just north of New York City witnessed a huge, brilliantly lit, boomerang-shaped object parading over their cars, homes, and neighborhoods. The excitement was such that a conference held in Brewster, New York, at the time drew more than 1,500 people and a horde of reporters from across the country. There was a palpable hunger for an explanation: What was seen in the sky?

The answers satisfied no one. If the UFO was a secret experimental aircraft, why was it flying over such a heavily populated area? If it was an extraterrestrial spaceship, why were government officials being so lackadaisical? And if it was nothing more than a bunch of sneaky stunt pilots flying their Cessnas in formation, as police suggested, why wasn't the Federal Aviation Administration raising a stink about it?

Afterward the UFO fever that had gripped the Hudson Valley subsided. Then, last year, as Whitley Strieber's tale of his encounters with intelligent nonhumans, *Communion*, hit the best seller lists, Peter Gersten, the attorney who had organized the original Brewster conference, decided it was time for another. "Strieber's abduction occurred in this area at about the same time that all these sightings had taken place," says Gersten. "I wanted to see if we could uncover any other abduction experiences."

Philip Imbrogno, a high-school science teacher and the primary investigator of the sightings in the area, says he has only about a dozen cases involving contact with aliens. "What



is more interesting," he says, "is that some of the people who had close encounters with the object felt they were being probed. They were afraid of being caught. They felt an intelligence, a presence, there."

Meanwhile, as investigations continue, the boomerang itself has returned. It was seen in Waterbury, Connecticut, last summer and appeared in Dutchess County, New York, in the fall. Once again observers described the culprit as a "huge object with twenty to thirty lights." Actually, the UFO never really went away, according to Imbrogno, who has

some 200 sighting reports on file for both 1985 and 1986.

Yet the critics long ago wrote off the Westchester flap. One of those, Jerry Clark, editor of the *International UFO Reporter*, is convinced that many of the sightings can be attributed to the "guys flying those planes." But, he adds cautiously, "I would be foolish if I declared that there was no real UFO sighting involved. I'm just saying that because the whole subject of UFOs is so controversial already, you cannot go to the scientific community with evidence that you yourself have to agree is contaminated. You need pure stuff, and this material is just not it."

But those who have seen the object may no longer care about proof or answers. Some 800 people turned up for the most recent Brewster conference, and everyone knew better than to believe speaker John Keel, author of *UFOs: Operation Trojan Horse*, when he said, "I'm going to tell you the secret of the flying saucers; then you can all go home." Everyone laughed. No one went home.—PATRICK HUYGHE