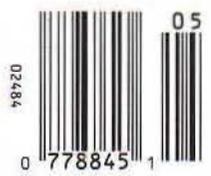


# CONCRETE

MAY 1988 \$3.00



**NUCLEAR  
RENAISSANCE**  
**REACTORS ARE  
BACK AND REACTIONS  
ARE GOOD**  
**SACRED ARCHITECTURE  
OF THE NEW AGE**



•They come in  
threes, often arriving or departing  
in black Cadillacs  
or other large, dark-colored sedans. •

## ANTI MATTER

Supernatural lore is full of phantom intimidators; so is UFOlogy, with its tales of mysterious men in black (MIB). Such stories date back to at least 1953, when Bridgeport, Connecticut, factory clerk Albert K. Bender, founder and director of the International Flying Saucer Bureau, claimed he had been visited by three men dressed in black suits.

According to Bender, the MIB not only revealed the secret of flying saucers, but they also intimated he'd end up in jail if he told anyone else. Suitably impressed, Bender folded his burgeoning bureau and headed off to Los

Angeles. And in the last issue of the group's newsletter, *Space Review*, he cryptically warned "those engaged in saucer work to please be very cautious."

Bender may well have been an eccentric, but his case was hardly unique. Many UFO investigators claim that MIB plague them to this day. "The curious thing," says Peter Rojewicz, a folklorist who has studied the phenomenon, "is that MIB sometimes show up before the witness has had a chance to report a UFO sighting. They often have intimate information about the percipient that only he or a family member would normally have access to. And they customarily identify themselves as military-intelligence officers."

Rojewicz, now an assistant professor of humanities at The Juilliard School in New York, first became fascinated by MIB stories and the people who told them in the early Eighties while researching a doctoral thesis on UFO folklore at the University of Pennsylvania. His studies revealed a series of bizarre, if contradictory, patterns



## UFO UPDATE

in a casual conversation about UFOs. "I told him I didn't much care whether they were real, physical flying craft or not but that I found stories about them interesting," said Rojewicz's source. "Well, I thought the guy was going to come unglued! He became highly agitated. 'Flying saucers are the most important fact of the century,' he shouted, 'and you're not interested?'"

Not everyone within the UFO community accepts the existence of men in black. "I've tried everything I know in the last thirty years to get them interested in me, without a nibble," says James Moseley, who publishes the irreverent and iconoclastic broadsheet *Saucer Smear*.

Despite Moseley's lack of a personal encounter, Rojewicz correlates the chances of confronting the MIB with the individual's degree of UFO involvement. He advises, however, not to fret if it happens to you: "Keep a sense of humor about yourself. Don't get upset or take them too seriously. In other words, don't feed the phenomenon."—DENNIS STACY