

SPECIAL TENTH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

OMNI

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**HUMAN CLONING:
THE MIRACLE
THAT'S ABOUT
TO HAPPEN**

**NINE GREAT
MYSTERIES THAT
HAVE STUMPED
SCIENCE**

**ROBOTS THAT
THINK LIKE
INSECTS—AND HOW
TO BUILD YOUR OWN**

**HOW SCIENTISTS
CREATE NEW
LIFE FORMS**

\$3.50



◐ A saucer
group launched last year in the Big Apple
promises to put the
excitement back into extraterrestrials. ◑

ANTI MATTER

Have you been to too many stuffy UFO conferences lately? Do they seem a deadening blur of reported sightings, photos of silver discs, and scholarly tomes? Do the UFO organizations MUFON (Mutual UFO Network, Inc.) and CUFOS (Center for UFO Studies) strike you as cold and intellectual, with simply too little pizzazz to accomplish anything important?

Take heart. A saucer group of a whole different stripe has whirled onto the horizon. The New York Center For UFO Research (NYCUFOR), which was launched in the Big Apple last year at a splashy conference attended by 800 people, promises to put the excitement back into extraterrestrials. "The movement gets pretty dry," says Michael Luckman, NYCUFOR's founder. "I want to get people stirred up."

The way Luckman sees it, even though MUFON and CUFOS have done invaluable service, they fall short in motivational skills. "They've done a great job of research," he says. "Whenever I need to know the latest UFO news, I plug into MUFON's computer myself. But they're conservative. After almost twenty years, MUFON has only seventeen hundred members. I'd like to have five thousand to ten thousand in two years. I want to reach the average citizen."

Luckman believes he's just the mover and shaker for the job. A freelance PR man, he says he has worked with such heavyweights as Jane Fonda and the Chicago 7's David Dellinger on the National Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam. His interest in UFOs began in the Seventies, when he was publishing a newspaper called the *New York*



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Daily Planet. He started a section on UFOs and eventually came to believe that they carried visitors from other worlds.

Then one day, serving as PR man for a UFO conference in Manhattan, he observed something peculiar. Both he and the keynote speaker, physicist and well-respected UFO researcher Stanton Friedman, spent time with TV reporters. But in the end Friedman got little coverage while Luckman appeared on every station. That experience showed him how desperately the movement needed a publicity expert. The idea

of starting his own UFO group gradually evolved.

Convinced that the media are the message, Luckman plans to start putting ads on independent TV stations in the wee hours of the morning, between one and six A.M. Some of the airtime has been donated, and Luckman's organization is raising funds to pay for production. He's also planning nationwide lecture tours of college campuses. The money NYCUFOR gleans from these endeavors will then be used to finance barnstorming rallies across the country.

The sooner it all happens, the better, stresses Luckman. With the earth's degenerating condition, we have perhaps 25 years or fewer left to live. "There's an increase in earthquake activity," he says. "There's a tear in the ozone layer. The weather is screwed up everywhere. Contacting extraterrestrials may be our only hope. Their intelligence compared to ours might be like ours is to a worm's. If we place ourselves in their trust, they may be able to replenish the planet or, if necessary, evacuate it."—MARK TEICH