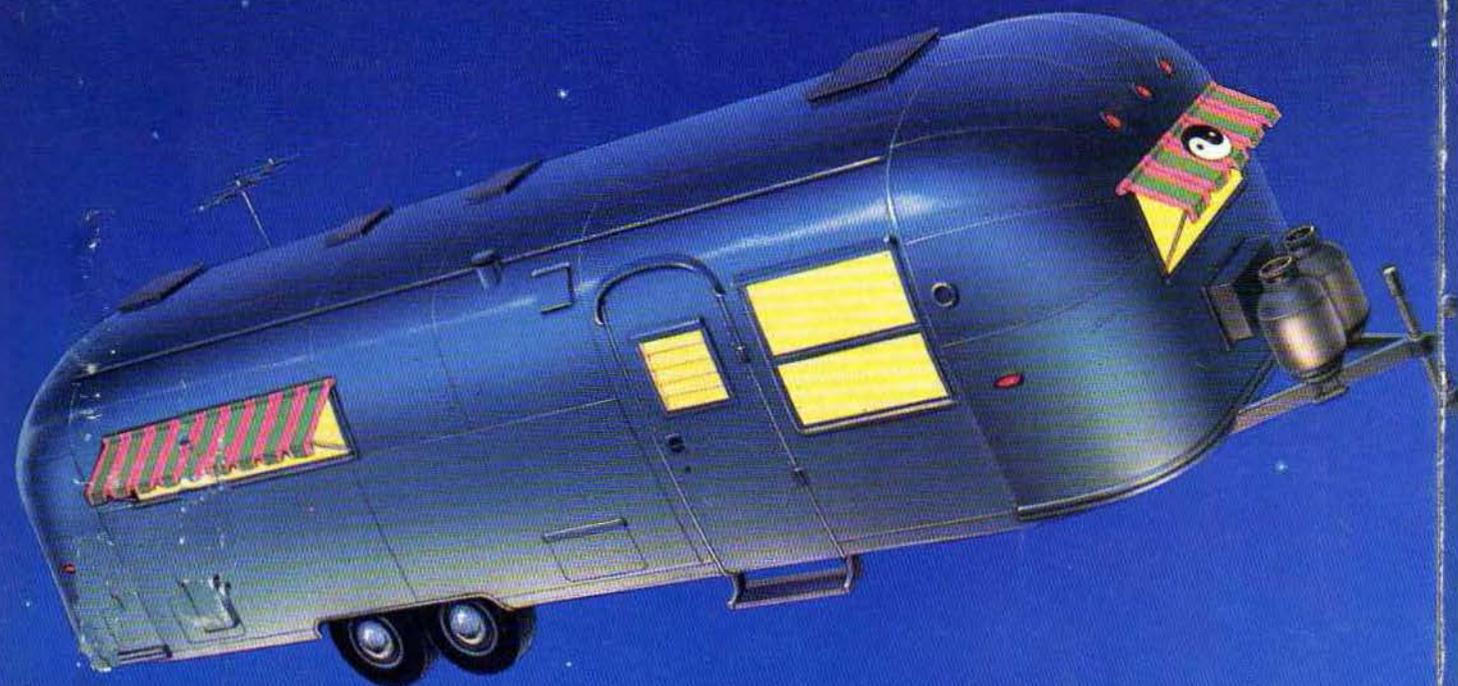


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MARCH 1989

THE ULTIMATE TRAVEL GUIDE



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MARCH

LETTERS

COMMUNICATIONS

Omnipotent

I have subscribed to *Omni* four different times over the years and have always found other publications routine or predictable. But both my daughter and I always come back to *Omni*. From our view, the entire December 1988 issue was dynamite, from "Running on Empties" [Space] to "Los Alamos Whiz Kids" to the interview with Luc Montagnier.

Jim Allison
Forbes Park, CO

Alienated

Traditional scientists such as Michael Persinger refuse to acknowledge certain phenomena that we humans call psychic or paranormal ["Transcending Science," December 1988]. While there appear to be a number of ways one can "trigger" paranormal experiences, there is no dumber theory than Persinger's—that UFOs are geologic emissions. Geologic disturbances do not come in metal with jointed seams, nuts, and bolts, leaving deep pod marks and other ground markings that are radiated. Geologic disturbances don't turn engines on and off or land in the same field you stand in, and they would not have allowed me and my colleagues to take almost 1,000 photographs of someone else's spacecraft since 1980 in the Middletown, New York, area. I invite Persinger and any of his colleagues on one of our nightly escapades—we're out there all year round.

Ellen Crystall
Publisher and director of *Contactee*,
The First Organization for Research of
UFOs by Direct Observation
New Milford, NJ

Although every theory is entitled to its "day in the sun," Dennis Stacy has self-destructed Michael Persinger's concept of mystical experience as self-induced. In short, the theory fails to account for the radiation burns and other physical injuries sustained by UFO abductees. As punishment for this oversight, both Stacy and Persinger should be subjected to 100 consecutive

viewings of the old sci-fi classic *Forbidden Planet* and a lifetime subscription to *The MUFON UFO Journal*.

Ron Jackson
Vincennes, IN

Alcoholism and Behavior

I have been working with drug- (alcohol-) addicted people for ten years and welcome Herbert Fingarette's point of view on the subject ["The Politics of Alcoholism," *Mind*, December 1988]. It seems that unless one is a philosopher, it is difficult to make proper distinctions between what we know as concepts (alcoholism) and what we know as presences (heavy drinking). People take the road to alcoholism (concept) and addiction (concept) when they begin to misuse alcohol and other drugs. When they are in the presence of enslavement to their "solution," they no longer have their "vote" and need someone to "wake them up."

Russell E. Shaw
Littleton, CO

Underwear Scare

I have to give Dr. Eduard Friedrich credit for going to such extremes on *Candida albicans* ["Microwaving Underwear," *Continuum*, December 1988]. Your article had me rolling on the floor. I do feel, however, as Dr. William Crook explains in his book *The Yeast Connection*, that you must get rid of *Candida* from inside the body. Once that is controlled, one will see a decrease in the pestering infections as well as other problems caused by the unsuspected toxins.

Deborah Selby
Reading, PA

Human Error

A small correction on the piece "Why Can't a Robot Be More Like a Man?" [*Continuum*, December 1988]: C-3PO is the one that looks like a human—not R2-D2. R2-D2 is the one that appears to be a sophisticated vacuum cleaner.

Michael Wescott
Columbia, SC

• The new Blue Book
will be a private enterprise, free
of official constraints,
claims an Arkansas industrialist. •

ANTI MATTER

Twenty years ago the U.S. Air Force closed the doors on America's most prominent UFO investigation: Project Blue Book. After examining Blue Book's files, many scientists declared that UFOs did not threaten national security. Yet at the end of a 22-year operation, more than 700 sightings listed in Project Blue Book logs remained unexplained.

Now these old cases and others are being thrust back into the active files of a re-born Project Blue Book, brainchild of Arkansas industrialist William Pitts. And this time, Pitts insists, things will be done

right. For one thing, he says, while the old Blue Book depended upon government funds and military approval, the new Blue Book will be a private enterprise, free of official constraints. What's more, while the old Blue Book never had more than three or four people on staff, the new and improved version will tap a large group of anonymous advisory consultants, mostly retired professionals drawn from the Pentagon and a spate of U.S. intelligence experts.

Starting with a handful of his own government and military connections, Pitts was gradually able to round up 148 official participants—all of whom have been promised absolute anonymity in return for their expertise. "I set it up that way because many associates didn't want their friends and families—and, more especially, people in their offices—knowing they are a part of this new Blue Book or even interested in it," Pitts explains.

Assuring confidentiality for everyone, Pitts is calling on both civilians and military personnel to come forward with



UFO UPDATE

any data "on classic cases still considered unsolved." Secret members of his high-level research team, Pitts promises, will be on hand to evaluate incoming material, correlating it with newer case information.

Such dedication apparently isn't enough to satisfy some Blue Book watchers. Almost from the moment news of the new Blue Book made the rounds, Pitts has had to contend with the suspicion of researchers who question his ties to the military and intelligence communities.

"It just makes me wonder what this project is really all about," grumbles one re-

searcher with a background in naval intelligence. "Is this a ploy by the government to find out just who's leaking information? It sounds mighty fishy to me."

Jerry Clark, codirector of the Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Illinois, expresses some words of caution as well. "What he's doing is certainly a worthwhile project; some of the early Blue Book cases are extraordinarily important. But Pitts has to assure us that he is not reporting his information to government authorities. Unless he does so, it will be argued—justifiably or unjustifiably—that he's actually participating in the cover-up."

Despite these concerns, the new Project Blue Book has received details of more than 120 cases since its inception in September 1988. A number of these cases may be explainable: For instance, Pitts says, his crew of insiders may help identify flights of the eerie-looking Stealth fighter and other experimental craft, that witnesses have mistakenly concluded were UFOs.—VICKI COOPER