

WE USED TO LAUGH AT THE SPIRITS AND witch doctors of primitive people, forgetting that we have had our own versions: witchcraft, astrology, visions of ghosts at midnight, spiritualism. And now some folks think the incident near Roswell proves that Earth had intelligent visitors from outer space. And the U.S. authorities are accused of not telling the truth. How they managed to hide the reality from the aggressive U.S. media is a mystery in itself. There seems to be an eternal longing for the inexplicable in this world. Fortunately, it's a rather harmless preoccupation.

*Olav Doksum
Tomter, Norway*

I USUALLY TAKE MY COPY OF YOUR MAGAZINE with me to lunch when I privately indulge in reading the tabloids (the *Star*, the *National Enquirer*, etc.). I use *TIME* to cover my other reading material so that no one will know my secret. The Roswell cover didn't provide much of a disguise. What's next? Elvis sightings?

*Stormy Jade Wong
Lawndale, Calif.*

PERHAPS THE REAL COVER-UP CONCERNS the Air Force's waste of taxpayer money in releasing spy balloons in the U.S. instead of Europe or Asia and dropping dwarf dummies just to make sure gravity still exists. I propose that when extraterrestrials officially land, we sue them for damages arising from the mindless hysteria they have caused.

*Bruce C. Jewett
Belmont, Calif.*

ics and vulnerability. To toss small, soft stand-ins from balloons for this purpose is patently absurd.

*Oscar Mann
Nairobi*

FOR BELIEVERS, THE STRANGE EVENTS AT Roswell, New Mexico, represent the core of a vast panoply of beliefs in the same fashion that Christ does for Christians. Both claim to make sense out of senselessness. Videos of recent events and countless photos of wingless and bladeless craft, as well as the physical marks left on abductees, support the Roswell belief.

*Doug Parrish
Howell, Mich.*

AS EXECUTIVE PRODUCER AND CO-WRITER of the 1994 Showtime film *Roswell*, I believe you are wrong to be dismissive of Philip J. Corso's book *The Day After Roswell*. It is the most important breakthrough on UFOs in a half-century. Here is an author who served as part of President Eisenhower's National Security Council, has 19 medals and has let the genie out of the bottle on the UFO cover-up. Corso gives the best justification for secrecy about the Roswell Incident ever offered. Those who kept the secret and lied repeatedly to the public to hide the technological manna from heaven end up looking omniscient and justified. He shows how America's interests were served for decades by publicly stonewalling the UFO issue while achieving, in total secrecy, the scientific breakthroughs that literally define our modern world. The debris from the Roswell crash was not manufactured on Earth.

*Paul Davids
Los Angeles*

YOUR REPORT RAISED THE AGE-OLD QUESTION of whether intelligent life exists in the universe. On the basis of the evidence here on Earth, as shown in such articles as yours, the answer is no—unless the standards of intelligence are set very low indeed.

*Gerry Graham
Weston, Canada*

I'M NOT SURE WHAT AN AIR FORCE OR General Accounting Office investigation can do to convince the true believer that nothing extraordinary happened at Roswell in 1947. When we have people who believe that science-fiction shows like *The X-Files* are fact and actual events like moon landings are science fiction, it's time for America to introduce courses on critical thinking at grade-school level.

*Karl Mamer
Toronto*

The Roswell Files

WE MAY NEVER KNOW WHAT HAPPENED AT Roswell [June 23] involving crashed UFOs, but the Air Force statements about dummies are typical of the misinformation that continues to fuel the growing conviction that there is a major cover-up. From a purely technical point of view, any dummies used to study the results of high-altitude falls on the human body would have to replicate the human body in size, weight, aerodynam-