

# UFO POTPOURRI

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## Believers in space aliens at meeting

BOSTON (AP) — Joann Berte swears she was paralyzed by three-fingered aliens and taken aboard their spaceship. Marianne Shenefield, who claims to have twice encountered extraterrestrials, said people who have seen them have an aura.

Their stories and others are likely to be heard this weekend at a conference in Waltham expected to draw more than 250 UFO experts and people who claim to have been abducted by extraterrestrials.

"I was immobilized. I couldn't move and I didn't think to speak. I just watched," said Berte of the Dec. 10, 1979, night when she says she was awakened on a friend's porch in Rhode Island and carried in a paralyzed state aboard an alien spacecraft.

Berte tells of observing a small, three-fingered alien in an incubator and being brought to a glass-enclosed platform overlooking a table where her friend lay with a tube extending from her navel.

"It makes you very angry," said Berte. "They don't ask your permission. They just take you away."

Both Berte and her friend were returned.

"It reminds me a lot of alcoholism or homosexuals coming out of the closet," said Arthur Myers, a conference coordinator. "There's a stigma attached to the abductees. But once someone comes forward with their story, others are willing to speak."

Marianne Shenefield of Agawam is one of those yearning to let people know about her two experiences. Thirty-five years ago, she was an 11-year-old girl building a tree house.

"Then I turned around and there was what I thought was a little boy in a scuba outfit," said Shenefield. "Then I felt this floating sensation and the next thing I knew I was in this round craft."

Shenefield said the aliens put her under an X-ray device and she was observed by several aliens.

In 1972, Shenefield said, an alien



AP photo

President Reagan makes a point during speech in Chicago.

## Threat from space might unite world, says Reagan

CHICAGO (AP) — One day after an uproar about the use of astrology at the White House, President Reagan said Wednesday he often wonders what would happen if the Earth were invaded by "a power from outer space."

Reagan made the comment during a question-and-answer session after a Chicago speech when someone asked what he felt was the most important need in international relations.

He spoke of the importance of frankness and for a desire for peaceful solutions, and went on to say that there have been "about 114 wars" since World War II, including conflicts between smaller nations.

"But I've often wondered, what if all of us in the world discovered that we were threatened by an outer — a power from outer space, from another planet," Reagan said.

"Wouldn't we all of a sudden find that we didn't have any differ-

ences between us at all, we were all human beings, citizens of the world, and wouldn't we come together to fight that particular threat?" the president said.

Continuing, Reagan said, "Well, in a way we have something of that kind today, mentioning nuclear power again. We now have a weapon that can destroy the world, and why don't we recognize that threat more clearly and then come together with one aim in mind, how safely, sanely and quickly can we rid the world of this threat to our civilization and our existence."

A day earlier, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater acknowledged that Nancy Reagan had consulted an astrologer about the president's travel and schedule plans.

Reagan said Tuesday he never has based any decision "in my mind" on astrological forecasts, but he avoided a question about astrological influence on his schedule.

captured her outside her home and brought her into a small compartment. Shenefield said she was released hours later.

An eye disorder has reduced her sight to shadows and streaks of light. But the ailment enables her to see auras, Shenefield said. "I can immediately detect someone who has been abducted," she said. "They are surrounded by an indescribable color. Believe me, I can tell."

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# Abominable snow creature spotted?

## Expedition finds footprints

LONDON (UPI) — Members of a British expedition returning from Tibet said Wednesday they had spotted footprints and other tantalizing clues that a manlike "abominable snowman" may indeed roam the remote, snowswept Himalayas.

Members of the 12-member team led by British climber Chris Bonnington said they discovered large footprints high up on a mountain slope during an eight-week expedition.

Bonnington told a news conference "somebody or something" stole two sets of ski sticks that expedition members had buried under boulders at an altitude of 19,000 feet before making a final assault on the previously unconquered Himalayan peak Mount Menlungtse.

No other people were in the area at the time, he said.

"We also found the skin of a Tibetan blue sheep, and you can just imagine a big yeti (or abominable snowman) had actually caught the animal and ripped the skin off. Local Tibetans would have kept the skin," Bonnington said.

Another team member, John Paul Davidson, said he may even have seen such a creature while following deep tracks in the snow.

"I climbed up about a thousand feet, and the blizzard was getting worse. As I moved up toward these footprints which were very large, I definitely sensed that I was being watched by some animal.

"Then about 400 yards above me, I saw this black shape monitoring my progress up the slope. As I got closer it seemed to get further away," Davidson said.

Davidson said existence of an abominable snowman, although unproven, had not been disproven.

"We have not proved it exists, but there's good reason that it could exist and there's no doubt there are animals there for it to feed on. It's as likely to exist as a snow leopard or a bear," he said.

In another twist to the mystery, a spokesman for bookmakers William Hill said had Bonnington's ex-

pedition provided conclusive evidence, the firm would have had to pay out \$1.82 million.

"For us this is relief tempered with a little bit of caution ... our bets stand for a calendar year, and the bet will be valid if the Russians, the Chinese or Tibetans come up with anything," a William Hill spokesman said.

Radio Moscow reported a tantalizingly close encounter March 16. Soviet scientist Maya Brikova said she was certain she met a yeti in the forest in Western Siberia. It had long, reddish fur, stood upright, and stared at her from only a few yards at a clearing in the forest before disappearing.

Many scholars dismiss the existence of an abominable snowman, so named because of its association with the snow regions of the Himalayas. The creature has been described after alleged encounters as 6 or 7 feet tall with long, dark hair. Attempts to verify tracks ascribed to the creature, including tries by Sir Edmund Hillary in 1960, have failed.

### Soviets report sighting Abominable Snowman

MOSCOW (UPI) — A Soviet scientist leading an expedition in quest of the Abominable Snowman reports that researchers sighted a creature they believed was the legendary beast, and that it appeared to be friendly but shy.

Igor Tatsl, a veteran "Yeti" hunter and scientist, told the official Tass news agency Wednesday that his expedition recorded "several" nocturnal sightings of the Abominable Snowman during a December visit to the Pamir mountains, near the border with Afghanistan.

He said the creature paid frequent visits to the researchers' camp in an apparent effort to become friends. Tatsl said the snowman, which was seen in the twilight 90 feet away from the camp, also appears shy.

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# U.F.O

## Strange lights baffle Campbeltown children

CAMPBELTOWN folk are used to their skies being filled with mysterious flying objects — courtesy of the RAF and US Air Force — and these are readily identified. Imagine their mystification, therefore, when two Unidentified Flying Objects made an appearance in the late evening sky last Thursday.

First to spot the pair of eerily bright, white lights was 12-year-old Lesley Norris, whilst walking to her home on Park Square. She ran to tell friends and neighbours and soon the street was full of curious skywatchers.

"The lights were close together and very bright. Then one changed from white to yellow," said Kenny Norris, 16. "We called the RAF and were told there were no planes up at that time,

so we called the police. Two policemen came and stood looking at the lights for a while. One said they were planets, the other said he did not think they were, but they could not shed any light on what the objects were."

### Fear

By then the youngsters were convinced the 'Wee Green Men' were after them and feelings ranged from fascination (Close Encounters showed them as cute) to fear (14-year-old Fiona Sillars sat up all night in a sitting room armchair, afraid to go to sleep).

However, all were brave enough to stand outside watching the UFOs for two hours until about 11 pm when clouds drifted across

the lights and concealed them.

An explanation for the phenomena was offered by Campbeltown's ex-harbour master, Mr Hugh McShannon, who has been interested in watching the skies at night since he was a boy.

"The two lights were in fact the planets Mars and Jupiter," he said. "I had been watching their progress for about three months. In nearly 80 years of studying the stars and planets, I had never seen the two so close together, so it was quite an exciting sight.

"Like the earth, the planets circle the sun but their paths do alter very slightly and that is what has happened. I expect them to cross over and start getting further apart again."