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Concord class offers UFO info on scientific basis



'Most people believe there's life elsewhere. They just don't believe it's this close to us'

— Daniel Ross

Times photo/Eric Rahkonen

Daniel Ross's fascination began with a close encounter of the first kind.

One long sighting inspired man's try to debunk 'myths'

By Elaine Herscher
Times staff writer

CONCORD — It was the summer of 1974 in Glens Falls, N.Y., and Daniel Ross was a straight-arrow young man, just out of the Navy, who would see something that would alter his life forever.

The local radio station was abuzz with reports of luminescent objects hovering over Saratoga Lake. On that warm August evening, Ross, his family and several hundred others watched as a group of unidentified craft cavorted in the night sky.

"We saw a formation of about six," Ross said. "One left the group and streaked across the horizon and was a solid amber glow. It stopped, retraced its route, then joined the group. Then they went off to another portion of the sky ... They cast off brilliant colors, color changes like a kaleidoscope effect. They would vary from reddish to green. They were visible about two hours. Then they just went off in one direction."

What Ross experienced is defined as a close encounter of the first kind (the sighting of a UFO but no physical evidence), documented by radar readings from the Albany airport and witnessed by state police, 400 residents and scores of media people.

Like the hero in the film "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," who had a brush with aliens and became obsessed with finding them again, Ross was overcome with feelings that the space visitors were offering something worth pursuing.

"They do bring a very peaceful and beautiful feeling with them ... I felt wherever they are from, we

will be there too. I felt this very strong, instantaneous connection. It was hard to describe."

From that time on, Ross sought to become the Ralph Nader of extra-terrestrial information, a sort of crusader in the public interest who debunks the myths of UFOs.

His course "UFOs — The Truth About Space," taught through the Concord Leisure Services Department, offers what he says is documentation of the existence of extra-terrestrial space craft, including photographs of sightings and the testimony of scientists

There's no serious education," he said. "I wanted to put it on a scientific basis. If it was true — and I thought it was — I knew it would have to be backed up with space science."

Ross has spent the last 11 years doing scholarly research in a field full of hucksters, lunatics and cultists who make UFOs the bread and butter of supermarket tabloids. His self-published book compiling his research is expected out in June.

A reactor operator on nuclear submarines in the Navy and a science student in college, Ross said there have been 83 documented UFO landings, that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has viewed films of UFOs in flight and that over the years congressional committees have been presented with UFO documentation but have swept it quietly under the rug.

Ross' Public Interest Space Sciences Center, with a small group of Bay Area members, is gathering information from as far away as Japan.

LONGVIEW, WA.
NEWS
APR. 13 1985

Soviet papers disagree over UFO sighting

MOSCOW (AP) — Are they flying saucers or just space rubbish? Two Soviet newspapers which rarely contradict each other are in somewhat of a disagreement about Unidentified Flying Objects — UFOs — and other extraordinary sightings.

Three months ago, the trade union daily Trud (Labor) reported that an Aeroflot plane bound from the Georgian capital of Tbilisi to Tallinn in Estonia had a close encounter with a UFO that appeared as a bright beam of light.

The light appeared as the plane flew over the Byelorussian capital of Minsk and "escorted" the craft to its destination, according to Trud.

Earlier in January, Trud reported on other inexplicable bright lights sighted over the Baltic Republic of Latvia.

Muscovites were startled — not only by the reported UFO, but by the fact that a Soviet newspaper which normally purveys news strictly conforming to socialist realism had reported the fantastic as fact.

To set the record straight, the Soviet military daily Krasnaya Zvezda (Red Star) today dutifully debunked science fiction myths.

Flying saucers and UFOs sighted through the ages are not the spaceships of extraterrestrial beings, it said, but more likely apparitions caused by inversion and refracted light and radio waves.

In the modern space age, the number of artificial objects — discarded booster rockets, canisters, instruments and hatches — orbiting around the Earth has increased the likelihood of freak appearances in the night sky, the newspaper said.

The mystery surrounding January's reported UFO sighting near Minsk could thus be explained as refracted light beams striking floating space garbage, or as bits of a discarded rocket showering down through the atmosphere to Earth, it suggested.

Similarly, the newspaper said, the "Petrozavodsk miracle" of 1977 was caused by nothing more than a booster rocket falling away from a Soviet satellite, Cosmos 955.

Today's report marked the first known occasion that Soviet news media had explained UFO sightings as being caused by Soviet activity in space.

ALBUQUERQUE, NM.
BERNALILLO CO. ALBUQUERQUE TRIBUNE
MAR. 25 1985

UFO startles viewers

Flash likely a meteor, experts guess

MARIETTA, Ga. (UPI) — Experts say the unidentified flying object that airline pilots and ground observers reported seeing in the western sky was probably the fiery entry of a meteor soaring through the Earth's atmosphere.

National Weather Service meteorologist John Lang said a meteor entered the atmosphere 50 miles northeast of Atlanta around 8 p.m. EST Sunday. He said another object — possibly a second piece of the same meteor — also was reported.

"We had a number of pilots to the south, near Macon, report seeing a meteor," Lang said. "It might have come down in two pieces — very fast, at thousands of miles per hour. That's why there's so much heat and light."

Motorist Michael Opitz said he was stopped at a traffic light on U.S. 41 near Marietta when he saw a strange object in the sky.

"I saw the whole sky light up," Opitz said. "First I thought either a plane exploded or the bomb had been dropped."

He said it was like a "gigantic white flash bulb going off." He did not hear anything, but he saw a "plane or a light moving near the flash." He said the light appeared so quickly he could not tell where it came from.

Several people in the area from Douglasville, 20 miles west of Atlanta to Marietta, 20 miles north, reported seeing a flash in the sky, said assistant fire chief Deiton Frazier of Dobbins Air Force Base.

An astronomer at Georgia State University said the light may have been a meteor, but it could also have been the planet Venus.

OXNARD, CA. (VENTURA CO)
PRESS COURIER

MAR 2 1985

UFOs Seminar Topic At Religious Science

Virgil Armstrong, a retired Army officer who served eight years with the country's top intelligence agency and 10 years with the Green Berets, will discuss his experiences as a participant in the United States' first known capture of a UFO during today's seminar at the Oxnard Church of Religious Science.

"ET's and UFO's: Their Presence and Purpose" will be held from 1 until 5 p.m. at the church, D and Second streets in Oxnard. Tickets at the door are \$25.

Armstrong was an Army intelligence officer when he took part in "Project Grudge" at White Sands Proving Grounds, New Mexico, in 1948. Shortly after the incident (the capture), Armstrong began his own research in an effort to study and further uncover evidence of the UFO phenomenon. He said he has developed telepathic abilities to communicate with "higher intelligences"

and has traveled the country sharing his knowledge of the "space brotherhood."

Among the other topics to be discussed will be the question of mass UFO landings, the purpose of UFOs, space colonies, the moon as a space craft, how space beings travel the vast universe and more.

Refreshments will be served. The public is invited to attend this event.

Red-faced over UFOs

Disclosed encounters perplex Russians

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falling away from a Soviet satellite, Cosmos 955.

The official news agency Tass in September 1977 reported that a huge mass of light flared up in the skies over Petrozavodsk in Soviet Karelia near the Finnish border.

Tass said the strange brilliance "hovered over the city in the form of a jellyfish sending down a multitude of fine beams . . . The impression was of a torrential rain of light."

Yesterday's report marked the first known occasion that Soviet news media had explained UFOs as being caused by Soviet activity in space.

Belief in supernatural phenomena has in the past been officially discouraged. In 1981, a special television documentary disputed theories on the existence of UFOs, the Loch Ness monster and other mysteries.

But UFO enthusiasts, undeterred by periodic rebuttals from the official press, reportedly give lectures and circulate underground bulletins on sightings of flying saucers and other fantastic objects.

EXAMINER APRIL 16 1985

Encounter with mysterious UFO shocks Soviet scientists

THE BIZARRE appearance of a UFO shrouded in a mysterious green mist has shocked Russia and amazed top Soviet scientists.

According to Britain's Sunday Times, a special commission of the top level Soviet Academy of Sciences has admitted that a Soviet airliner had an encounter with "something that we call UFOs."

The Aeroflot jet en route from Tbilisi to Tallinn was 75 miles from Minsk around four a.m. when the co-pilot spied a huge, bright-yellow star beaming a thin ray of light toward Earth.

Suddenly the ray widened into a cone and was joined by two similar cones all of which then focused

... jet passengers terrified

By REGINALD DAMIEN

on the Earth below.

As passengers gasped at the sight of the streets below bathed in a strange blinding light, the sweeping searchlight-like beams swept upward and illuminated their plane.

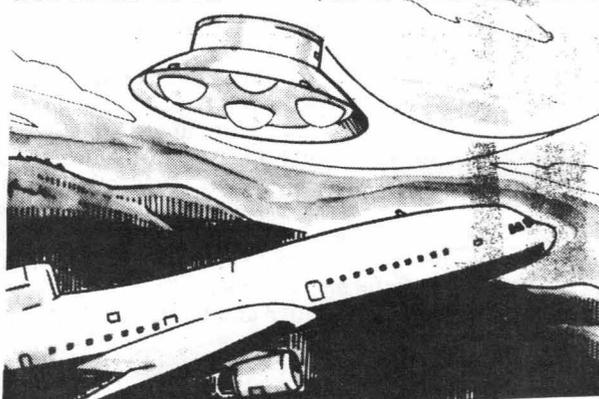
After a few breathtaking moments the light disappeared and was replaced by a green cloud which began to descend toward the aircraft until it was directly behind the plane.

The frantic pilot alerted ground control. Stunned radar operators quickly

zeroed in on the object which they pinpointed at 30,000 feet, directly in the rear of the plane.

Terrified passengers gasped in awe when the green mist suddenly transformed itself into the shape of a huge plum, a funnel and then into a square which suddenly solidified into a giant, needle-nosed missile with an animal-like tail lit by green and yellow lights.

According to the Sunday Times, the UFO followed the Soviet jet all the way to its destination before disappearing.



Couple Blasts Censorship Of UFO Sighting Reports



News-Journal photo by Pam Lockeby

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Heiman talk about unidentified flying objects.

By **SUSAN BOWLES**

Lenore Heiman vividly remembers the something she saw in 1974.

She was coming out of a grocery store in the small Wisconsin town where she lived, and happened to look up at the sky. A red streak fell toward the Earth — a streak Mrs. Heiman thought was a burning plane. She ran to her car, started its engine and whizzed to the field where she guessed the plane had crashed.

"And there was not one thing around," she said. There was no movement and no sound.

Mrs. Heiman said she got out of her car and moments later, a craft appeared. It was as large as a two car garage, she remembers, and rocked silently.

"Then all of a sudden, it turned and shot up so fast your eye could hardly follow it," she said. It hovered in the air, looking like a bright star, as Air Force jets began circling the field.

"Again, that's something I'll never forget," she said. "It was beautiful."

Mrs. Heiman and her husband, Thomas, spent more than two hours this week recounting their own and others' experiences with unidentified flying objects to an attentive Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University audience. The couple, currently DeLand residents, have studied extraterrestrial anthropology and UFOs for 28 years. And along with addressing audiences on college campuses, the two have made presentations to former President Jimmy Carter, the John Young Science Center and the United Nations.

CON'T NEXT PAGE

Life exists elsewhere in the Universe, the two told their Embry-Riddle audience, showing slides and films of numerous sightings as support.

"Are we really the only ones?" Heiman asked. "Are we really that only speck and germ of life? I strongly doubt it."

The United States government strongly doubts it, too, the couple said. UFO sightings and contacts currently are censored throughout the country and the World, they explained, using JANAP 146 as proof. That Army, Navy and Air Force publication by the joint chiefs of staff and the CIA imposes a \$10,000 fine and imprisonment for up to 10 years for any military personnel or commercial airlines employee who publicly releases UFO information.

Mrs. Heiman recalled a 1978 flight she took and the conversation she had with an Air Force officer. He

admitted many of his buddies had seen strange objects in the sky: "Of course there are craft coming here with people on board," he told her.

Then he pointed to the houses and streets below. "But what are we going to tell them?" he asked.

Censorship of such sightings is not good, the

Heimans said. According to Major Donald Keyhoe, a retired officer with the U.S. Marine Corps, the CIA has held secret, high level meetings on the question of UFOs — "flying saucers" to coin a well worn phrase — since the 1950s. It's a practice the major frowns on.

'Are we really the only ones? Are we really that only speck and germ of life? I strongly doubt it.'

—Thomas Heiman

"Regardless of the CIA's and Air Force's sincere motives, their long suppression of the truth about UFO's is the greatest public deception in American history," Heiman quoted Keyhoe as saying.

The sightings are there. Heiman related the story of a student in one of his classes who was a scientist and had watched a craft rise from the ocean and hover only 200 feet from him.

"I wasn't trained to see what I saw," the man told Heiman.

The couple flashed lists of airline pilots with Eastern, United and Trans World who admitted to having seen UFOs; they flashed lists of astronomers who reported sightings. And they recounted Florida's own UFO history.

In 1972, two air traffic controllers with the Federal Aviation Administration in West Palm Beach tracked a UFO on radar. In 1975, a large, glowing object was seen between Flagler and St. Johns counties. Sheriff's departments responded; no natural phenomena such as a weather balloon or aircraft was responsible. Those cases are two of many the couple described.

The existence of UFOs excites these people, and they're fierce in their claim that other World occurrences do not fall in the "kookiness category."

"Again, you won't find it in your textbooks, you hardly read about it in your newspapers, and you won't hear anybody talking about it," Mrs. Heiman said.

"We suggest people keep an open and skeptical mind — but definitely open," her husband noted.

LANCASTER FARMING WEEKLY MAR. 16 1985

The Earth that moved

By Mercer Cross

National Geographic Society
WASHINGTON — Among followers of oddball natural occurrences, it's called the "cookie-cutter" puzzle.

The term refers to a mysterious hole in the ground that was discovered last October in northwestern Washington state, on the Colville Indian Reservation, not far from the Grand Coulee Dam.

A chunk of earth 10 feet long, 7 feet wide, and 18 inches to 2 feet deep, weighing at least a couple of tons, was uprooted from a depression in a wheat field. It apparently arced through the air, rotating slightly en route, and landed virtually intact 73 feet away.

Since then, winter storms have blanketed the hole with snow. Cows grazing in the field have trampled down the edges.

Scientists Mystified

Nobody has figured out how or why the dirt took flight. Several scientists have examined the divot and come away scratching their heads. Investigators of unidentified-flying-objects (UFO) phenomena have expressed interest.

CONT NEST
PAGE

Okanogan County farmers Rick and Pete Timm, who found the displaced dirt, notified Don Aubertin, director of mining on the Indian reservation. He suspected a meteorite fragment. A geologist hired by the reservation took a look and said no.

"There was no sign of impact," Aubertin told a newspaper reporter in November, when the story came to public attention. "The hole was not a crater. It had vertical walls and a fairly flat bottom. It was almost as though it had been cut out with a giant cookie cutter."

Theories abound. One is that an earthquake caused the freakish upheaval. A quake with a 3.0 rating on the Richter scale, its epicenter some 20 miles from the hole, had rattled the area nine days before the Timm brothers' discovery.

Stephen D. Malone, a University of Washington earthquake expert, discounts that possibility as "beyond the incredible." A quake that small, he explains, lacks the power to boost a heavy patch of

turf out of the ground.

"A hoax, I think, is a possibility," Malone says. So do some other scientists who have not inspected the site.

Others say they don't see how a hoax could have been perpetrated in the field, situated in a remote area sprinkled with massive boulders that local residents call "haystack rocks."

For one thing, no signs of human intrusion — no wheel tracks, footprints, or evidence of machinery — were found.

Robert L. Schuster, a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colo., examined the puzzling hole. He leans toward the theory that an underground methane gas explosion may have popped the earth out.

Glut of Theories

"I'm not ruling out the earthquake, myself," says Greg Behrens, a geologist with the federal Bureau of Reclamation at Grand Coulee Dam. Behrens, who probably has spent more time studying the riddle than anyone else, thinks the methane theory is improbable.

Nevertheless, in November he sent soil samples to the bureau's regional office in Boise, Idaho, for analysis. No lab tests had been conducted by February; low priority and a shortage of staff were given as reasons. The government plans no further investigations.



Geologists examine a "jigsaw puzzle" chunk of earth in northwestern Washington. The multi-ton divot was mysteriously lifted from the hole in the foreground and deposited virtually intact 73 feet away.

The quake could have generated concentric surface seismic waves, Behrens says. "Trouble is," he wrote John P. Timmerman, chairman and treasurer of the Center for UFO Studies, in December, "that anything this large has neither been witnessed nor monitored during a seismic event."

In his letter to Timmerman, Behrens cited other potential natural causes of the so-far inexplicable uplifting: a "freak tornado" or a "complex freezing action" combined with strong winds. But, he wanly noted, the weather was warm when the incident is supposed to have occurred.

Behrens went on to mention several conceivable man-made causes, among them an excavation

dug by an enormous crane or an airborne pickup of the earth by a helicopter.

"Man has done more spectacular things," Behrens concluded. "But the cost would be high and the profit nil."

The cookie-cutter mystery "doesn't hold up as a very strong case for our field of study," says Timmerman, a savings-and-loan executive in Lima, Ohio. But, he

"It's a little hard to walk away from something like this, because it's so tantalizing. It's very suggestive."

One scientist who is particularly tantalized by the Washington incident is Bruce N. Kaliser, hazards geologist for the Utah Geological and Mineral Survey.

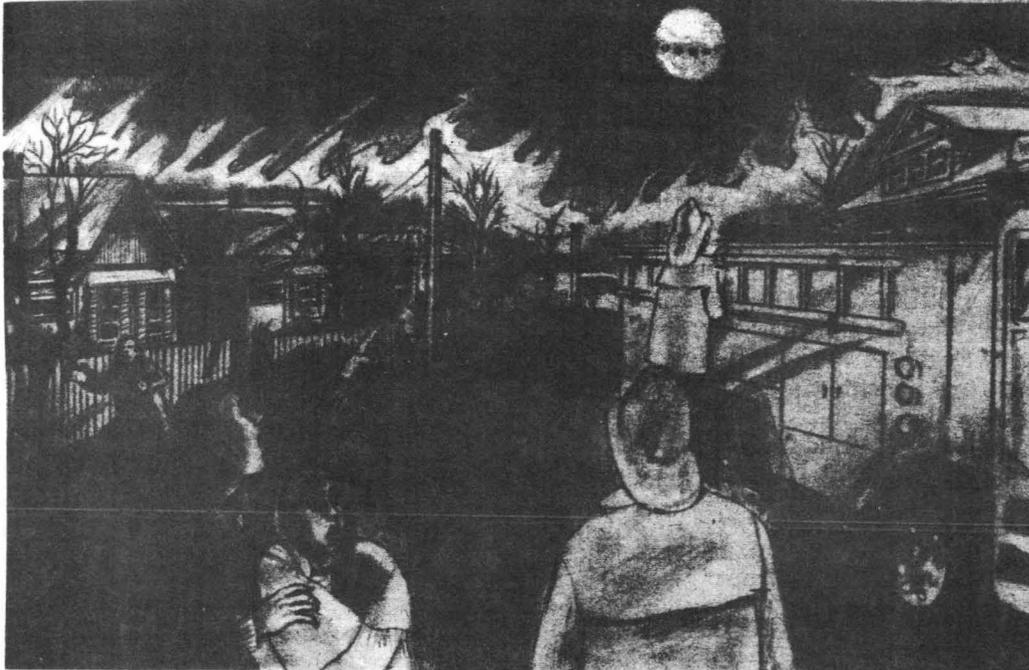
Ponders Earlier Phenomenon

In 1978, on an inspection trip following a 3.5 earthquake in northern Utah, he came upon a cross-shaped depression 14 feet in diameter. The "only possible explanation" for it, Kaliser concluded, was "an object dropped from an aircraft," possibly a large chunk of ice.

Holes in our planet almost never go unexplained. Most common are sinkholes, the kind that occasionally make headlines with cave-ins that swallow buildings, cars, and sometimes people. Such subsidence, as it is called, usually occurs in the 15 percent of the United States that overlies soluble limestone that erodes underground, from causes both natural and man-made.

Nobody can say with certainty whether an answer to the enigma will ever be found. "It's the most bizarre thing I ever saw," says Don Aubertin.

Mass Panic as UFO Terrorizes Villages



Villages

cloud of heavy odor hung in the air, causing local inhabitants to cough and making them nauseous — but they never felt or saw the fire over their own village that the firemen had responded to!

Around 2 a.m. a fire truck approached a row of buildings that appeared to be on fire — when a UFO rose up from behind the buildings.

“According to the fire chief, the UFO was 400 feet in diameter and looked like a huge ball. Sparks and flames were dancing on its surface,” said Prof. Agar Volke, a Soviet astronomer and head of the Estonian branch of the Soviet Commission on UFO Investigations.

“The next instant, the ball took off into the night.”

The fire truck — soon joined by three others — followed the UFO, racing after it at speeds of up to 80 miles an hour. But they couldn't catch the UFO, said Prof. Volke.

“The firemen realized it was a spaceship. It was flying so low it was practically touching the treetops.

“The sphere moved over a swamp — and stopped. The firemen said they saw what they thought were round portholes, well over 100 of them.”

The UFO hovered over the swamp for 10 minutes — then shot straight up into the night sky and disappeared. “At the same moment, the fires in the entire region also vanished,” Prof. Volke said.

In his official report to Moscow, the astronomer declared:

CON'T
BELOW

SCARED OUT OF THEIR WITS: Estonian villagers flee their homes as firemen chase an eerie glowing object in this sketch depicting the bizarre UFO incident.

Thousands Watch in Horror As Strange Object Appears To Spread Mysterious Fires

Mysterious “cold” fires swept across dozens of villages in Russia, terrorizing thousands of people but causing no damage — and Soviet scientists say the phenomenon was caused by a giant UFO!

The bizarre flames engulfed a 3,000-square-mile area, causing “mass panic,” reported the Soviet newspaper TRUD.

But as firemen raced to put out the fires, they discovered to their shock that “the flames kept retreating ahead of them,” said Igor Vostrukhin, a special investigator for TRUD.

Four fire trucks chased the huge UFO — described as an orange-colored sphere 400 feet in diameter — but it, too, retreated ahead of them and finally shot straight up out of sight, said eyewitnesses.

The incredible incidents occurred in the Soviet republic of Estonia on March 2, 1984. In a lengthy report, TRUD said: “Thousands of terror-stricken people spent an agonizing night watching flames shoot high into the dark sky across miles of Estonian flatlands... the night was filled with the mournful wailing of fire engines as fire trucks from over 20 major stations raced to the reported fires.”

Vostrukhin added, “The flames kept eluding the firemen, remaining two to three miles ahead of them as though on the run from them.

“As a fire truck would enter a village that had been reported threatened by the flames, the firemen would find the place untouched by fire, its inhabitants scared out of their wits by flames shooting up and coloring the sky crimson. An invisible

It Was a Signal From Space, Says Top Astronomer

“There is no doubt in my mind that we deal with a visit of a spaceship from a distant planet.”

Prof. Vsevolod Troitsky, an internationally known Soviet astronomer at the giant Gorky radio observa-

tory, agreed. Following his own extensive investigation, he told The ENQUIRER:

“We have concluded that it was the work of a single UFO, a mother ship which penetrated our territory on that night to send us this incredible signal. “The aliens in that spaceship didn't want to harm anybody — only let us know they exist, if we still had any doubts.”

— DAN SCHWARTZ

Incredible things that fall from the sky

SCIENTISTS ARE totally baffled by the weird phenomena of blood, stones, meat, nails, fish, and countless other objects suddenly falling from the sky like rain — for no apparent reason.

Some of the greatest scientific minds ever have drawn a complete blank over these eerie downpours, which have been documented regularly for as long as man has kept records.

Are they the doings of UFOs, aliens, monsters or supernatural forces? Do they represent a strange warp into some kind of fourth dimension? No one knows.

One of the most recent and bizarre occurrences took place last summer in San Diego, California — when fish began falling from a cloudless sky into the driveway of A.D. Ellmers.

They splattered on the asphalt and also landed on his lawn and in the garden. Ellmers began scooping up some of the fish and putting them in his freezer as evidence of the unusual windfall.

A sign for mankind

The wacky event made news across the nation, and some people felt the falling fish represented some kind of sign.

"It is very, very unusual," declared Richard Rosenblatt, a marine biologist at Scripps Institute of Oceanography. "But it is not unprecedented."

Rosenblatt finally identified the fish as a kind of herring. But the cause of the downfall remains unknown.

Not even the father of modern chemistry, Antoine Lavoisier, could explain a 7½-pound stone that crashed to Earth with a loud explosion in France on Sept. 13, 1768.

"There are not stones in the 'sky,'" Lavoisier had previously told the Academy of Sciences, "therefore, stones cannot fall from the sky."

The stunned scientist examined witnesses after the rock crashed in Maine, France, and then checked the stone itself.

Refusing to face the implications of the extraordinary event, he decided the rock was struck by lightning while on the ground.

And on July 28, 1860, a mass of stone covered with ice slammed into Dhurm-salla, India.

Within months, there was a fall of fishes and a fall of red matter in nearby cities, an earthquake, a dark spot on the sun's disc, and an "unnatural dark-

ness of some duration."

Rains of blood were reported as far back as the ancient Greeks.

On May 15, 1890, a blood-like substance fell at Calabria, Italy. Popular Science News reported that Italian meteorologists

identified it as bird's blood.

They suggested that a flock of birds had been torn apart by a violent wind. But their own records contained no mention of such a wind, nor

could they explain how there were no carcasses of the supposedly mangled birds.

Stunned witnesses were amazed to see



MASSIVE BLOCK of ice smashed a car in Britain on March 25, 1974.

By LEONARD SANDLER

THINGS FALL FROM SKY CONT

**NEWINGTON CAUSEWAY
LONDON SE.1
FLIGHT INTERNATIONAL
9 MAR. 1985**

The Soviet Press is speculating on the nature of UFOs following an alleged sighting from an Aeroflot internal flight in February. Most reports compare the incident with a series of sightings in the 1960s when orange coloured, sickle shaped lights were spotted heading eastwards.

A TUBFUL OF TOADS

Part of Thousands That Fell in a Thunderstorm.

NORTH CHELMSFORD, Mass., July 21 (A. P.).—If you doubt it, Mrs. Lillian Farnham issued a public invitation to visit her home and see a tubful of the little ones.

Mrs. Farnham says that at the height of a thunderstorm last night toads by the thousands fell around her home. Each was about three-quarters of an inch long, she said.

A REPORT of a toad fall in Massachusetts in 1918.

flakes of meat drifting down from a clear sky over Kentucky on March 8, 1876. One of the flakes was three to four inches square.

An investigator found the meat was perfectly fresh.

Bravely, he ate some of the meat and discovered it tasted like "mutton or venison."

The public was treated to the spectacle of squab-

bling scientists ignoring eyewitness testimony in favor of their own pet theories.

The most inventive explanation was that the meat was disgorged by a flock of buzzards.

More recently, meat and blood fell on a town square in Brazil for between five and seven minutes on August 27, 1968.

Great quantities of nails

Scientists baffled — are UFOs to blame?



JOHN LEWIS of Wales was caught in a fish fall in 1839. Last year, fish fell on the driveway of a San Diego man.

dropped mysteriously out of the night sky onto the wife of the lighthouse keeper at Point Isabel, Texas, on October 12, 1888.

The St. Louis Globe Democrat reported that the nail shower was repeated the next night, but accompanied this time by clods of earth and oyster shells.

The story attracted crowds of sightseers, and

many people testified to seeing nails plummeting down near the lighthouse.

And a woman driving peacefully along a road in Palm Springs, California, on April 16, 1969, had her car roof badly damaged when a wheel suddenly dropped out of the sky.

Authorities could find no report of any plane with a missing wheel in the area, according to the New York Times.

KIDNAPPED BY EXAMINER APRIL 23 1985 UFO ALIENS!



HABITANTS of UFOs have actually taken human beings captive and examined them.

TWO TEENAGERS abducted by UFO aliens were so scarred by the terrifying experience that they wound up in an insane asylum.

And dozens of other people have seen their lives drastically changed forever by hair-raising close encounters, says top UFO author-investigator Budd Hopkins.

Victims include a New York City cop, a Miami man who woke up in

Researcher found 71 actual cases

his bedroom from what he hoped was only a terrifying dream, and a man so shattered he later committed suicide.

Amazingly, some people have been kidnapped more than once.

"The first time generally occurs when they are young, usually around six or seven," says Hopkins, author of the book *Missing Time* (Putnam, 1981).

"One man I'm working with has had something happen to him every other year since the age of four."

Hopkins spoke to 84 possible UFO abductees, using hypnosis to coax out the hair-raising details. He later decided 71 of the stories were legitimate alien kidnap cases.

The tales bear a striking similarity: A terrifying encounter with small gray humanoids with bald, huge heads, elongated eyes, flattened noses, slit mouths, and nar-

row shoulders.

Victims always talk of suddenly feeling immobile. Then comes an examination by their captors — long needles stuck into the abdomen, eyes, and nostrils. Sharp pain accompanies the check, although it sometimes vanishes with a wave of an alien's hand.

Little conversation takes place, and the person is usually released within two hours with little or no memory of what occurred. But always, there is a feeling that something strange took place.

Abductions

The most famous UFO abduction involved Betty Hill and her husband Barney. While driving in New Hampshire in 1961, they were captured and taken aboard a spaceship.

After two hours of tests, they were released.

Victims must not only deal with their mind-boggling encounter, but with the scorn of a public that generally dismisses as nonsense anything having to do with UFOs.

Skepticism

Hopkins compares the skepticism to the refusal of many people to accept the existence of Nazi death camps during World War II, despite eyewitness accounts.

"A denial sets in because it goes against everything we've learned," he explained.

"If you accept the idea that there are extraterrestrials visiting us, then your whole life suddenly is different."

— JOHN TURNER



KIDNAP VICTIMS describe the space aliens as being small gray humanoids with large, bald heads.

UFOs: 40 years of debate can't cool controversy

By L. Stuart Ditzen

IT WAS A bright, clear afternoon last April, and John Velter, a businessman, and his company bookkeeper, Sandra Schell, were driving west on the Pennsylvania Turnpike near Valley Forge, Pa.

Far ahead, a shining silver object like a Frisbee tilted on edge, descended from the sky and flew directly toward them. For several seconds, the object advanced along the line of the highway, 500 feet or so in the air. Then when it was almost overhead, it veered north, flew over a meadow and vanished.

"All of a sudden it wasn't there," Schell said. "I did not take my eyes off of it, and then it just wasn't there."

What they saw that day—apparently—was a UFO. Velter, owner of a company that sells spring water, and Schell reported the sighting to police and then to a UFO hot line in western Pennsylvania.

"I thought a crackpot had built an airship of some kind," Velter said. "I was waiting to see something in the newspapers."

But the sighting was just one [a comparatively undramatic one at that] of many UFO reports made regularly to police, government agencies and UFO organizations around the country and the world.

It has been nearly four decades since the first major wave of UFO sightings in the United States in 1947, and the mystery concerning them has refused to go away. There are thousands of new sightings every year.

As many as 90 percent of UFO reports turn out to be aircraft, planets, meteors, space debris, weather balloons, kites, unusual atmospheric conditions and other explainable objects and events. But there are many sightings that even dedicated skeptics and debunkers are unable to explain.

"People want quick answers—Where are they from? What are they doing here? I wish I knew the answers," said J. Allen Hynek, retired chairman of the astronomy department at Northwestern University and director of the Center for UFO Studies with offices in Lima, Ohio, and Scottsdale, Ariz.

The only discernable trend, Hynek said, is that a changing pattern in sightings seems to suggest that UFOs, whatever they are, are getting closer.

II. CHICAGO TRIBUNE
MAR 17 1985

In the 1950s and 1960s, there were reports of "flying saucers" zooming about the sky. Now, according to Hynek and other researchers, the reports frequently are of "close encounters" in which UFOs are said to hover above treetops and to land. And in a growing number of cases, sightings of humanoids also are reported.

"The strangeness index has gone up," said Hynek, 74, who is widely regarded as the elder statesman of UFO studies in America.

He and a small coterie of other scholars believe that UFOs hold possibilities for a spectacular development in human history—the opening of a window to the universe.

There also is a dedicated clique of skeptics. Its leader, Philip Klass, a senior editor of *Aviation Week & Space Technology* magazine, contends that UFOs are "popular myth."

Klass concedes that he cannot explain every UFO sighting, but he says, "We've had nearly 40 years. There is not a single piece of physical evidence. All these people claim to have been aboard a UFO; not one has brought back a souvenir."

Officially, the U.S. government has conducted no research on the subject for the last 16 years.

The Air Force collected reports on UFO sightings from 1947 until 1969, at which time it concluded that, although not all sightings could be explained, UFOs did not represent a threat to national security.

Since 1969, the Air Force has referred reports of UFO sightings to local police departments and to private UFO groups. All research on the subject has been done by individuals and a few scantily funded nonprofit organizations like Hynek's Center for UFO Studies, which operates on \$40,000 a year.

The most dramatic and seemingly preposterous of UFO sightings are those in which witnesses report seeing and sometimes being abducted by humanlike creatures.

To describe these cases, Hynek several years ago coined the term "close encounters of the third kind," which became the title of Steven Spielberg's 1977 movie about a UFO landing on Earth.

The Mutual UFO Network, based in Seguin, Tex., has collected 2,300 reports of close encounters of the third kind from around the world, dating back more than 40 years. According to network figures, there were about 300 such reports in 1967. In 1975, there were 1,000. And in 1981, the number had grown to 2,300.

As a rule, researchers say, the people who

make such reports appear to be sane, stable citizens. Rarely do they seek publicity. Often their accounts come out reluctantly, sometimes years after the event and sometimes only through hypnosis.

Budd Hopkins, a New York artist who published the book "Missing Time" in 1981, has studied more than 50 cases in which UFO witnesses recount abduction experiences.

A common trait among the cases, Hopkins said, is that the subjects have memory blocks associated with UFO sightings.

In a typical case, Hopkins said, an individual reports seeing a UFO briefly at close range but later discovers that what had seemed only a momentary experience actually lasted for as long as an hour or two.

To fill in the time gaps, Hopkins enlisted a New York psychologist, Aphrodite Clamar, who hypnotized the subjects and led them back through their experiences.

A pattern emerged, Hopkins said: Many subjects told of being confronted by small humanlike creatures with bulbous heads, large liquid eyes and frail, emaciated bodies.

They told of being taken inside UFOs and into large lighted rooms, of being placed on tables and examined, as in a doctor's office, and then of being released.

Hopkins said his subjects sometimes told of having a sense of telepathic communication with their captors and a sense of paralysis. Some came away with small bloodless wounds, an incision on the back of a calf or a plug of missing flesh on a shin, that healed into scars, he said.

"Nobody has any idea what really is going on here," Hopkins said. "We have no answer to any of the big questions. We just know it's going on, and it ain't the Russians."

Nine of Hopkins' subjects underwent psychological evaluations by Elizabeth T. Slater, another New York psychologist, in 1983. Slater concluded in a written report that the purported UFO experiences of the nine could not be attributed to mental disorders.

Hopkins played a 1983 tape re-

corded of a Nebraska woman recalling, under hypnosis, an experience she had in 1959 while driving home from a date late at night with her boyfriend.

Hopkins said the woman had a conscious recollection of seeing a blinding light, a humanlike creature descending in front of the car and nothing more—a blank memory. There were two hours of missing time that had troubled the woman for 24 years, Hopkins said.

As the tape played, the woman's voice rose in distress:

"Do you see that light? Oh my God, did you see that light? My God, I've never seen nothing like that. What is it? Oh God, what is it? . . .

"Some kind, some kind of being. Oh my God. Oh God. There's no feet. There's no feet to him. . . . It's just hanging in the air. He has some kind of metallic gray suit on. His hands hang to his sides. He has some kind of hooded top on his head. And, oh my God, his eyes, oh my God, oh my God, his eyes. . . .

"I feel numb. Paralyzed. I can't, can't, can't move. I can't talk. . . . Oh my God, they're in front of the

car. Oh my God, there are three in front of the car. . . . They say to me, 'Get out of the car. Get out of the car.' I open the door, and I just stand there like a zombie. . . . And one comes around the door and takes, takes ahold of my arm. And there's lights all over. Lights all over. I can feel myself going someplace. . . . On the road, going north. . . .

"What do you see now?" Hopkins asks on the tape. "What is happening?"

"Some kind of vehicle. Oh my God, it's round. Bright. Very bright light. . . . And he's trying to get me to walk up some steps. Oh my God. There's about 10 steps. The door slides, like into the wall, and we go inside. A large room. . . . And there are three beings, and they don't do anything. They just feel around on me. . . . I'm by the door. They just look at me. Piercing eyes. And next thing, I'm outside again. I'm back in the car."

Asked about such cases, Hynek replied: "The only thing I can say is that to the people I've talked to—and I've talked to quite a few now—it is absolutely real. . . . You cannot fob off the [accounts] as coming from a bunch of dodos and crackpots."

The accounts are widely ridiculed by UFO skeptics.

"People see all sorts of things. They see pink elephants. They see fairies," said Paul Kurtz, professor of philosophy at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Kurtz, chairman of the Committee for the Scientific Investigation of Claims of the Paranormal, said abduction stories are "a product of the creative imagination or science fiction. It seems to be a psychological, sociological phenomenon."

"All these are tales," Klass said. "Do you believe in Santa Claus?"

Walter H. Andrus Jr., international director of the Mutual UFO Network, said his organization continues to catalog about 350 UFO sightings each year for which no explanation has been found.

The Center for UFO Studies has raw data on 80,000 sightings from around the world.

Hynek recently conducted a computer analysis of 400 cases and identified a series of characteristics that he says defy natural explanation. In 68 cases, Hynek said, UFOs were reported to hover silently; in 23 cases, they were reported to accelerate silently with tremendous speed.

"In our physical world," Hynek said, "we don't have objects that can do those things."

The most sensational recent UFO sightings occurred in suburban counties north of New York City in 1983 and 1984, when large numbers of people saw huge boomerang-shaped objects with panels of bright lights gliding at low altitudes through the night sky.

The Federal Aviation Administration and local police contended that several pilots were flying small planes in close formation to create a UFO hoax.

Philip J. Imbrogno, who investigated the sightings for the Center for UFO Studies, found that some pilots did attempt to perpetrate a hoax, but only after reports of the "boomerang" had created excitement in several communities.

Witnesses described the object as traveling slowly and silently low in the sky, hovering and having a gray metallic shape.

One spectacular series of UFO sightings occurred in 1980 near Bentwaters Air Force Base, a U.S. facility in England.

Wave of animal mutilations sweeps U.S.

Farmers and pet owners terrified

A Jan. 13, 1981, report written by Lt. Col. Charles I. Halt, deputy commander of the base, said a "strange glowing object" was seen by Air Force security police in Rendlesham forest near the base in the early morning of Dec. 27, 1980.

"The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape," the report says. "It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsating red light on top with a bank of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it maneuvered through the trees and disappeared."

The craft, according to the report, left three depressions in the ground in a triangular formation. The following night, the report says, an extended series of additional sightings occurred in the forest and in the sky.

The sightings at Rendlesham forest have generated great excitement among UFO researchers. "It's an excellent, excellent case," UFO researcher and author Lawrence Fawcett said. "It's one of the best cases in 30 years."

Klass calls the sightings "a typical UFO story in that there's lots of nonsense."

Hynek thinks they are yet another indication that something big is on the horizon.

"We are wandering close to the edge of 20th Century science," Hynek said. "I think UFOs are introducing us to an aspect of reality that science hasn't touched yet."

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

THE BIZARRE new outbreak of blood-curdling mutilation of innocent animals which began in Texas is now sweeping across the nation, terrifying pet owners, farmers, and cattlemen.

The grisly slaughter of cattle, horses, and other domestic animals, including dogs and cats, is occurring across the country and experts are blaming everything from UFOs to chilling voodoo sects or fiendish devil worshipping cults.

Some of the recent entries on the grim roll of mysterious animal mutilations and slaughter include:

- In Marysville, Ohio, shocked humane society investigators are probing the killing of 32 dogs and cats and 76 chickens, their twisted bodies all carefully stacked in rows, one on top of the other.

- Authorities in two counties near Tacoma, Washington, say mutilations of goats, horses, and other animals continue to plague the area that has been the scene of continuing outrages since 1975.

- In crowded metropolitan areas such as New York

City and Miami, humane society officials are increasingly being called to the scenes of ghoulish mass animal killings in abandoned slum dwellings and crowded tenements.

Some of the first reports of a renewed wave of what appears to be ritualistic animal torture, mutilation, and killing came from Dallas, Texas.

According to P. J. Flowers, president of the Dallas Horseman's Association, not only dead and mutilated horses but also the grisly cadavers of slaughtered cats and pigs have been discovered hanging from the walls of a vacant building.

Earlier, in the same neighborhood, the pitifully mangled bodies of seven horses were found.

Some claim that the outrages are the work of flying saucers, recalling a wave of animal killings a decade ago in areas which were reporting numerous UFO sightings at the same time and in the same places where the slaughters were then taking place.

Others say that the overwhelming weight of evidence points to weird devil cults as the culprits.

In the case of the Washington State killings, witnesses report seeing robed and shadowy figures where the mutilated bodies of the animals were later found.

According to United Press International, people in the area have reported

seeing figures in hooded robes bent over goats, horses and other innocent animals.

"We've had dozens of such calls," Verna Sparks told UPI.

In both New York and Miami, police put the blame directly on members of Santeria, a voodoo sect which uses both animals and human remains in its gruesome rituals.

Police & Border Guards Track Eerie UFO



SHOCKING PHOTO: Ski instructor Jean Luc Sedon shows off a copy of his UFO photograph that was printed in a French newspaper. He filmed the UFO in the Pyrenees mountains.

A weird ball-shaped UFO that pulsed with red and green light and darted across the moonlit skies over a mountain range was observed by more than a dozen witnesses — including two police officers and three border guards.

The UFO was photographed as it hovered above France's Pyrenees mountains by ski instructor Jean Luc Sedon, who told The ENQUIRER:

"It was like an alien craft surveying the area. This was no earthly craft, but something from somewhere I can't imagine. All the time I was photographing it, I had this itchy fear to get it over with and go back down the mountain."

Jean Jacques Velasco, head of the French government's UFO investigative group known as GEPAN, told The ENQUIRER:

"The indications are that this is a UFO. Among the witnesses are two policemen and three frontier guards."

The ball-shaped UFO appeared in the same area on two successive nights — February 2 and 3.

Ski instructor Sedon, 29, and student Bruno Albin were making a night ski run on February 2 when they spotted the UFO. Said Sedon: "It was near midnight. The only other lights visible were from the resort where I work, some 300 yards below. It was a crystal clear night. Suddenly I looked up and saw this strange object, slowly changing color from green to red, completely stationary in the

air. There was no noise whatsoever."

Sedon and Albin skied back to their quarters and got a camera. As they photographed the UFO, it moved

eastward, then westward, on a perfectly straight line.

Incredibly, 24 hours later, the UFO was spotted again by two police officers and three border agents who were touring frontier posts in the Pyrenees, along the border of France and Spain.

One of the police officers, who asked not to be named, told The ENQUIRER: "It was an absolutely clear night. We were all on a small plateau when we suddenly spotted a strange object, completely stationary, slowly flashing from green to red.

"Then without warning it moved quite rapidly to the east.

"After another five minutes or so, it went to the west. It flew in a straight lateral movement. It was definitely not an aircraft or a

helicopter. Aircraft don't move like that — and they'd make a noise that could be heard for miles in the still mountain skies.

"To us, it was a UFO. There is no other explanation."

Said GEPAN chief Velasco:

"This is a very curious incident.

"We estimate that on the two nights more than a dozen people saw the phenomenon in a 100-mile triangle from the city of Bordeaux to the French-Spanish frontier. We take into account the credibility of the people who see them.

"And that's why we take this report by the policemen very seriously."

— PATRICK WILKINS

'We're in touch with a UFO'

HAVE you ever seen a UFO... or wondered if the mysterious objects really exist?

Either way you might be interested in BAORG, A local group dedicated to the study of objects from outer space.

The British Astronomy Operational Group, to give it its full name, says it has its headquarters in Ashted and about 25 regular members.

Publicity officer Caroline Jaffe said: "We have very sophisticated radio monitoring equipment and we pick up signals from normally unused frequencies.

"We keep picking up musical tones which can be converted into a set of co-ordinates giving a specific location."

BANSTEAD HERALD SURREY
APRIL 18 1985
ENGLAND

Vigil

"This spot is at the top of a hill on Epsom Downs and, we have kept watch on the site and seen one UFO land.

"A second object crashed to the ground half a mile from the first site, causing extensive damage to the surrounding areas. Indications are that the second craft was much smaller than the first," she said.

"Since that date the signals have grown weaker each day as if the source is moving away at a high velocity.

"We have been receiving several different sets of co-ordinates in radio transmissions, which may suggest we are due for a multitude landing in future," she said.

The "director of investigations" of BAORG - who did not wish his name to be revealed - said: "We started up in 1983 as a local group to monitor UFOs. We crossed that path of the Ministry of Defence that year and were closed down.

Family spots
4178
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TIMES
MAR. 22 1985
ENGLAND

A UFO emitting rays of green and red light was reported near an Oxfordshire village last week.

Three strange lights were seen low on the horizon in the north of the county on Thursday night.

The Walters family, of Valentia Close, Bletchingdon, claim the lights appeared at 7 p.m. and disappeared once, before shining in a different part of the sky until 8.30 p.m.

The family says that at one stage the lights emitted star-like rays in green and red.

Lorry driver Mr Alan Walters, 48, said: "The lights were very low in the sky and stood still for most of the time.

"There were green and red rays intermittently coming out of them before they petered out and re-appeared in the sky elsewhere."

He said: "I am very sceptical about UFOs but this was not any type of aircraft."

The curious sight was also witnessed by Mr Walters' wife Sue, 41, and his 15-year-old son Michael.

Police at Woodstock saw similar lights but dismissed them as a helicopter.

A spokesman at Kidlington police HQ said the lights were probably caused by atmospheric conditions around a star.

Upper Heyford airbase reported no night flying exercises at the time.

LA-BATON ROUGE MORNING ADVOCATE MAR 30 1985 Strange occurrences subject of 'sky show'

Local strange occurrences from the past will be the subject of a "sky show" at the LASC Planetarium this month.

"Falling Fish and Falling Stars: Sky Oddities of Baton Rouge," a locally produced program depicting strange events from Baton Rouge's past, will premiere at the planetarium Saturday.

"This show should be of particular

interest to the people here because it is actually a history of the many unusual astronomical happenings that took place in the skies over our city," said Sam Mims of the LASC Planetarium.

"The scriptwriter who wrote this particular program interviewed old-timers and culled through old diaries and newspapers dating all the way back

to the early 1800s in search of materials," he said.

Curators Mims and Wayne Coskrey helped on the production of the show.

The show is scheduled for 2 and 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday through May 12. Special weekday showings for school groups can be arranged by phoning 344-9465.

UFOs bring havoc -- to some

By David Vienneau Toronto Star

OTTAWA — Unidentified Flying Objects (UFOs) are killing our livestock, sending thought waves into our brains and exploring Mars on behalf of the federal government, some Canadians believe.

Others claim to have touched — and even boarded — flying saucers to communicate with the little green men inside. Some believe the UFOs are not here to harm us, while others accuse the government of covering up their existence.

These are just a few of the bizarre incidents that have been reported to the defence department over the years by Canadians who believe they have seen spaceships from another planet or another galaxy.

Through the Access to Information Act, The Star was able to obtain copies of some of the letters and reports. For privacy reasons, the identities of the people making the sightings cannot be released. Nevertheless, their accounts — from all across Canada — make entertaining reading.

Stories 'hushed up'

"I want to know why the public isn't being told or informed about these things, and why stories in the newspapers or reports on the radio are being hushed up," says an Ontario man, who claims to have seen many UFOs.

"This is obviously the greatest discovery of our time."

Not so, says Ian Halliday, an astronomer with the National Research Council, which receives all sighting reports from the defence department. More often than not, the sightings are meteors, weather balloons or jet aircraft, he said in an interview.

"We receive one or two reports a week," he says. "But in the 15 years I've been here, we've never had anything we can't explain."

Some citizens' tales are out of this world files reveal

While the government does not believe in flying saucers, many in the public certainly do. People who have seen UFOs say they come in all shapes and sizes. They have been described as: "tear-shaped," "a frying pan with a bright halo," "bullet-shaped, silver in color," "cigar shaped" and "a big ball of light with a beam coming straight out of it."

Some of these reports include:

□ A letter from a British Columbia man who claimed "to be receiving thought waves from beings from another planet" who took him aboard their UFO;

□ A man from St. Paul, Alberta, wrote to an MP, who is not identified, to ask him about the UFO the federal government has "in storage." The MP apparently believed him, because he included his own statement on UFOs when he passed on the letter to the defence department.

"With machines testing for life on Mars at this very moment, I suppose it would be out of touch with these modern times to immediately rule out the possibility of the federal government owning a flying saucer of some sort," he says.

"I must confess, though, that I am at a loss as to just how to go about gathering information on the vehicle. Any assistance which you might be able to give me would be greatly appreciated."

□ An Ontario school girl who claimed to have seen a flying saucer wrote to say, "I believe we are visited from

other planets. They are not here to harm us; they are friends;"

□ A Lindsay man wrote, "My 10-year-old daughter was found in shock when I arrived home from work at about 9.20 p.m. She was white in color and couldn't speak and it took me almost 1½ hours to get her to (tell) me what happened.

"Apparently she saw a cigar-shaped object hovering at tree-top level out in front of our place. The flashing blue lights drew her attention to look at what it was. She stated the lights were twirling;"

□ A Manitoba man told police that, while he was prospecting at Falcon Lake near the Ontario border, two UFOs appeared, and one landed nearby. A door on the spaceship opened, he said, and voices were heard coming from within.

The police report said, "He was unable to see inside due to a bright, yellow, bluish light, which blocked his vision. He endeavoured to communicate with the personnel inside the object, but without result."

The government appears not to take reports of UFOs seriously. A July, 1980, document released to The Star says no legitimate evidence exists to indicate that "visitors from outer space" have been in Canada or the United States.

'Demonstrable threat'

The document is a letter written by a Col. W. Niemy, director of air operations and training, and appears to be a response to someone who has asked the government to intensify its investigations into UFOs.

"Obviously, you will understand that unless a demonstrable threat to Canadian or allied national security exists from UFOs, the Canadian Forces cannot spend money on determining the nature of such UFOs," Niemy writes.

Mass Panic as UFO Terrorizes Villages

Thousands Watch in Horror As Strange Object Appears To Spread Mysterious Fires

Mysterious "cold" fires swept across dozens of villages in Russia, terrorizing thousands of people but causing no damage — and Soviet scientists say the phenomenon was caused by a giant UFO!

The bizarre flames engulfed a 3,000-square-mile area, causing "mass panic," reported the Soviet newspaper TRUD.

But as firemen raced to put out the fires, they discovered to their shock that "the flames kept retreating ahead of them," said Igor Vostrukhin, a special investigator for TRUD.

Four fire trucks chased the huge UFO — described as an orange-colored sphere 400 feet in diameter — but it, too, retreated ahead of them and finally shot straight up out of sight, said eyewitnesses.

The incredible incidents occurred in the Soviet republic of Estonia on March 2, 1984. In a lengthy report, TRUD said: "Thousands of terror-stricken people spent an agonizing night watching flames shoot high into the dark sky across miles of Estonian flatlands . . . the night was filled with the mournful wailing of fire engines as fire trucks from over 20 major stations raced to the reported fires."

Vostrukhin added, "The

fire, its inhabitants scared out of their wits by flames shooting up and coloring the sky crimson. An invisible cloud of heavy odor hung in the air, causing local inhabitants to cough and making them nauseous — but they never felt or saw the fire over their own village that the firemen had responded to!"

Around 2 a.m. a fire truck approached a row of buildings that appeared to be on fire — when a UFO rose up from behind the buildings.

"According to the fire chief, the UFO was 400 feet in diameter and looked like a huge ball. Sparks and flames were dancing on its surface," said Prof. Agar Volke, a Soviet astronomer and head of the Estonian branch of the Soviet Commission on UFO Investigations.

"The next instant, the ball took off into the night."

The fire truck — soon joined by three others — fol-

lowed the UFO, racing after it at speeds of up to 80 miles an hour. But they couldn't catch the UFO, said Prof. Volke.

"The firemen realized it was a spaceship. It was flying so low it was practically touching the treetops.

"The sphere moved over a swamp — and stopped. The firemen said they saw what they thought were round portholes, well over 100 of them."

The UFO hovered over the swamp for 10 minutes — then shot straight up into the night sky and disappeared. "At the same moment, the fires in the entire region also vanished," Prof. Volke said.

In his official report to Moscow, the astronomer declared:

"There is no doubt in my mind that we deal with a visit of a spaceship from a distant planet."

Prof. Vsevolod Troitsky, an internationally known Soviet astronomer at the giant Gorky radio observatory, agreed. Following his own extensive investigation, he told The ENQUIRER:

"We have concluded that it was the work of a single UFO, a mother ship which penetrated our territory on that night to send us this incredible signal.

"The aliens in that spaceship didn't want to harm anybody — only let us know they exist, if we still had any doubts."

— DAN SCHWARTZ



SCARED OUT OF THEIR WITS: Estonian villagers flee their homes as firemen chase an eerie glowing object in this sketch depicting the bizarre UFO incident.

UFO Researcher: Information Is Available

By JAY KLEE
Staff Writer

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2165

Robert Hastings says his interest in UFOs began in 1967 when he was present at an air traffic control tower on Malmstrom Air Force Base, near Great Falls, Mont. Five UFOs were tracked on military radar.

Hastings, an independent UFO researcher, photographer and film maker, lectured Tuesday at New Mexico State University at Carlsbad before about 70 people on his efforts since 1967 to uncover government information on UFOs.

The UFOs he witnessed on military radar at Great Falls hovered over ICBM silos for half an hour and then flew away at an estimated speed of 5,000 mph, far faster than any aircraft known to man.

Hastings joined the National Investigation Committee on Aerial Phenomena shortly thereafter to pursue his interest in UFOs. NICAP was founded in 1955 and its effectiveness peaked in the 1950s and '60s, said Hastings. However, the Freedom of Information Act of 1966 was a great boon to UFO researchers in their efforts to gain UFO information from the CIA, the FBI and the U.S. Air Force.

Air Force documents, said Hastings, prove "beyond a reasonable doubt" that UFOs exist.

"It is my opinion that it is simply a question of time before this information comes tumbling out to the public," he said.

Documents on UFOs released from the CIA, FBI and Air Force in the 1970s, said Hastings, are available to any citizen who will write the public affairs divisions of these organizations.

The audience viewed a film, written, directed and narrated by Hastings, in which it was mentioned that a recent Gallup Poll concluded that that 57



Staff Photo by Jay Klee

UFO SPEAKER — Robert Hastings relates experiences

and information about UFOs to a crowd at NMSU-C Tuesday.

percent of adult Americans believe that UFOs are real, and only 27 percent think the objects are imaginary.

On June 14, 1979, Hastings stated, the CIA released a flood of previously secret documents about UFOs — more than 1,000 pages worth. Project Bluebook, the Air Force's much publicized investigation into UFOs, ended officially in 1969.

"The military and government claimed to have no further involvement in the phenomena," Hastings stated, but he added that it was far from the truth.

Documents available to the public since that time reveal that the search for UFOs continued through the National Security Agency, the CIA and the White House.

It is Hastings belief that the

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RESEARCHER

government agencies have been fearful of public panic over UFOs and, consequently, have attempted to downplay reported sightings.

"For nearly 30 years the CIA has secretly conducted a public campaign to convince the public that UFO's are man-made objects or natural phenomena," he said. Some of the tactics the CIA has used, he said, included hiring scientist to "debunk" the UFO theories, by offering natural explanations such as swamp gas.

Disclosures of government information on UFOs have come from active and former military pilots, declassification of government documents under the FIO act, and through law suits, said Hastings.

The film offered a brief history beginning in 1947 of UFO sightings in America.

In April of 1947 a massive wave of sightings were reported over every state in America except Georgia and West Virginia. The majority of sightings were near military rocket test sites and atomic weapon development centers according to military reports.

The Pentagon responded to public alarm by putting out a press release attributing the sightings to small meteors, flattened hail stones, and solar reflections on small clouds, said Hastings.

But a letter to the Pentagon by an Army Air Force General stated in part, "the phenomena is real and not visionary or fictitious."

In a press release Hastings noted, "There's an abundance of hard evidence at this time of an ongoing coverup. I believe the government's policies are very shortsighted to keep the public so totally in the dark regarding seemingly vital information that affects not only Americans but the entire human race."

READING EVENING POST
APRIL 20 1985
ENGLAND

IT'S MANNA
FROM A UFO
IN THE
HEAVENS

STARVING Ethiopian refugees in the Sudan have been fed by food dropped from a flying saucer.

Well, so says a Japanese UFO research group, which has flown to the Sudan to interview the refugees.

The problem is the Japanese have no idea who or where the "lucky" refugees are.

The hunt was sparked off after reports reached Tokyo that a group of 5,000 refugees were on the brink of starvation when a UFO appeared overhead on Christmas Eve night, opened its cargo doors, and dumped bread on them.

Trekking

The nine-man Japanese team headed by Koji Kawai, an engineer from Tokyo is being assisted by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) office in Kartoum.

The team represents the Tokyo-based special UFO Research Corps, a group of amateur and professional UFO watchers.

The hunt, called Project Cherry Blossom, has already taken the team to Ethiopia in search of the refugees who supposedly had a close encounter of the first kind while trekking across the desert.

The UFO Research Corps has donated about £100,000 to the UNHCR and other refugee relief organizations such as the Japanese Relief Centre in exchange for permission to hunt down the refugees in UNHCR camps in eastern Sudan.

Floated

"It will be hard work to track these people down, but we must go to the camps to find these people," said team spokesman Koji Kimura, a student from Tokyo.

"We have no idea where to find them, but we must try."

Kimura said reports reaching Japan about the incident have ruled out suggestions that the Christmas Eve food drop was done by helicopter or any other knowncraft.

"It was not an ordinary food drop because we understand from our sources the food floated down. It defied gravity," Kimura said.

THE TORONTO SUN MAR. 7 1985
CR: GENE DUPLANTIER

Big boom baffles Finns

HELSINKI (Reuter) — Finnish villagers living near the Soviet border heard a huge explosion which blew out the door of a house almost 10 km (6 miles) from the frontier. Finnish newspapers reported yesterday.

Local authorities in eastern Finland refused to speculate on the cause of the explosion.

There were some reports it might have been the result of a mining disaster, but it was not known how a mine explosion would cause such a massive shock wave.

ALBANY, OR (LINN COUNTY)
DEMOCRAT-HERALD
MAR 25 1985

'Ball of fire' seen in night sky

WASHINGTON ^{3/26/85} A lightning-quick "ball of fire" streaked across the Southeastern night sky "brighter and bigger than a shooting star," and authorities speculated it was caused by a meteor or meteor shower. "I saw it fall from the sky," said Tennessee Highway patrolman Harold Munger, who said he was about 10 miles east of Chattanooga when he spotted a bright flying object overhead around 8 p.m. Sunday. "It appeared to be a ball of fire and seemed much brighter and bigger than a shooting star," Munger said. In Washington, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Dennis Feldman said air traffic controllers reported sighting a fireball as far north as Chattanooga, Tenn., and as far south as Orlando, Fla.

Soviet Union's on-again, off-again affair with unearthy visitors

Believers throughout the world in the substantiality of UFOs were treated to alleged new evidence two months ago when in the Soviet Union:

- a domestic Aeroflot Tu-134 turbojet pilot and ground controller reported sightings of "what we call a UFO [NLO]," a Soviet witness said, near the end of the airline's Rostov-to-Tallinn (Estonia) run.

- the foremost Soviet Academy of Sciences expert on "anomalous" phenomena said that he was sure that a genuine UFO had been involved, that the Aeroflot personnel's witnessing of the phenomenon provided "valuable documentation" of an unidentified flying object hovering over the northwestern Baltic portion of the Soviet Union.

What the pilot, Capt. Igor Cherkashin, reported he saw was a "yellow light," followed by a spotlight-like white beam which then turned into a "green cloud." Tell the passengers, the captain ordered the flight attendant, that "it is some sort of cloud. Say the yellow thing is a reflection of city lights, the green thing the Northern Lights." Otherwise, he is reported to have remarked, they will become unduly alarmed, or "they're going to say we're not normal."

Thus did the jet captain try to calm the nerves of the approximately 84 passengers, among whom were a number of excited people who likewise witnessed the phenomenon. Once the plane was on the ground, however, according to a Soviet labor daily "Trud" article, control tower personnel and a special commission reported that, indeed:

- at least "two blips" had appeared on the airport radar screens, perforce indicating a tangible "presence" near the Tu-134 at the time the passengers and crew saw the phenomenon.

- the radar operators saw on their screens what appeared to be a "cloud-like aircraft."

- Dr. Nikolai N. Zheltukhin, member of the Acad-

Albert L. Weeks is the New York City Tribune's national security editor.

emy of Sciences Commission on Anomalies, reviewed the information, according to Soviet sources, deciding that, indeed, the sighting was factual, that a UFO (in Sovietese, "NLO") had been "documented."

Mixed response

The Soviet record on interpreting UFOs is mixed.

On one hand, Marxism-Leninism seems baffled in attempting to find a "scientific," materialist explanation for such phenomena. Presumably, considerations of military security would enter to dampen popular speculation, if it were true that UFOs have, in fact, been verified by Soviet air-defense (PVO) forces. However, the fact that the Soviets allow UFO

reports to be made, in apparently uncensored form, suggests that the military's credence is strained in accepting UFO authenticity. As a result, the combination of ideology and incredulity have led at times to a party-press pooh-poohing of UFOs. The Soviet press is also on record for having made fun of former President Jimmy Carter's belief in UFOs.

Yet, there are also cases where the Soviets have displayed something like tacit belief in Unidentified Flying Objects. A Soviet journal asked a few years ago with unaccustomed candor: "Why, in so many cases, have 'saucers' been spotted, even in daylight, and why do some glow? Why do they remain in the sky for so long? These questions remain hanging. Perhaps answers soon will be found."

In 1976, the Soviet underground publishing network, "Samizdat," according to the New York Russian daily, *Novoye Russkoye Slovo*, distributed an article that claimed that no less than 300 UFOs had

been recently documented by Soviet authorities. The essay, written by a Moscow Aviation Institute scientist, drew critical fire from the communist youth daily, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. The newspaper rebuked the professor for having "trafficked in fairy tales about 'flying saucers,' fabricated by the Pentagon as a pretext for justifying U.S. defense expenditures."

Official commission

On the other hand, Moscow officials approved the formation a few years ago of the "Commission on Anomalies," even if Soviet press organs continue to question what people say they see in the sky. On its part, the commission seems to take UFO sightings seriously. The citizens who have reported sightings say they have seen many oddities, according to published Soviet sources. To quote fragments from these reports:

- "luminous balls and discs rising and descending in patches of morning sunlight or in foggy twilight."

- "shapes changing into cucumbers and cigars, then into sickles and triangles."

- "the NLOs hover at giddy heights or at tree level."

- "a luminous object the size of a pea appeared on the horizon. . . . It flew south, leaving a wide, zig-zagging trail. Reaching a particular spot, the NLO came to a stop, then abruptly turned eastwards. . . . Its trail remained in the sky all night long. Three other people witnessed the same thing. This rules out the influence of subjective factors on the observation results," the Soviet witness in this case said.

Soviet publications generally try to head off spec-

CONT NEXT PAGE

It simply violates Marxist-Leninist "science" and ideology to accept anything that cannot be proved "concretely" under normal conditions via the five senses.

SOVIET UNION CONT

ulation on UFOs, just as they do rumors about psychics (usually women), miracle-workers with magic cures (also most often women), and spectral phenomena evoking a religious response in the population. It simply violates Marxist-Leninist "science" and ideology to accept anything that cannot be proved "concretely" under normal conditions via the five senses. In recent years, rumor-mongering about all sorts of "anomalies" has increased. The incidence evidently has been abetted by citizen concern, felt in Soviet society, about the danger of a new war.

UFOs and public fears

Military spokesmen in recent times have occasionally tried to dampen public nervousness when it appeared to be getting out of hand. The edginess clearly is provoked by Soviet propaganda about "imperialist preparations for a nuclear war" and agitation appeals — to soldiers and civilians — to show "heightened vigilance." Authorities, it seems, would not have called for such dampening if the nervousness were not exceeding rational bounds (which could lead, say, to hoarding of goods that are already in short supply).

In this context, some Western analysts have guessed that possibly one of the reasons the "trigger-happy" Sukhoi pilot shot down the KAL civilian passenger liner in September 1983 was that he had been responding to semi-hysterical military Agit-prop (agitation and propaganda) slogans about being "Na cheku," i.e., "On the ready."

Some years back *U.S. News & World Report* tabulated UFO reports worldwide by post-World War II years. The magazine found some interesting correlations in the number of alleged UFO sightings compared to an index of "public nervousness" about global tensions during the same years as the observed UFOs.

Thus, at the height of the Korean War in 1952, UFO sightings suddenly jumped from 169 to 1,501!

In the Sputnik year of 1957, UFO sightings again jumped, by almost 100 percent. In the year the U-2 violated Soviet airspace (1960) and for two succeeding years of tension over Gary Powers, whom the Soviets called an "air pirate," sightings again took an abrupt leap, in the Soviet Union and here, almost doubling. They did the same at the height of the Vietnam War in 1966, when in a single month (April), 1,597 UFO sightings in the U.S., according to the U.S. Air Force, were reported against the previous number, for a corresponding period, of 779.

Such tabulated correlations with public tensions over world events tended to support the findings of the psychologist Carl Jung, who wrote in a famous post-World War II analysis that UFOs are nothing more than figments of a nervous public's imagination. They are merely a function of people's "hysteria," he insisted, aggravated by world tensions and alarms.

At times, the Soviets have

affected an air of credulity about even more farfetched outer-space phenomena — e.g., extraterrestrial visitations and "pan-spermism," both of which, in some people's minds, are associated with UFOs. Thus, a few years ago, the "Soviet Reader's Digest," *Sputnik*, carried an article with illustrations purporting to show evidence of the existence of ETs in prehistoric Russia. Rocks, it was claimed, bore semblances of carvings showing exotic-looking "spacemen" wearing headsets, with rocket blasts in the background, etc. This hypothesis, at least, does not unduly unhinge Marxism-Leninist ideologues, who in any case like to assume that humanoid existence is not extraordinary in any way, that it "grows" something like a cosmic weed everywhere in the universe.

Materialist origins

During the Vietnam War, today's anti-defense spokesman and pop astronomer Prof. Carl Sagan led a delegation of scientists to the Soviet Union during which he lent

his strong support to the official Marxist-Leninist party line concerning a matter-of-fact materialist origin of life. In the late '60s, Sagan also co-authored a best-selling book with a Soviet astronomer on the "inevitable" existence of life elsewhere in the universe besides on earth. Subsequently, a member of the U.S. delegation that Sagan headed to the Soviet Union to attend a '60s' Extraterrestrial Intelligence (ETI) conference informed this writer in personal correspondence of Sagan's annoying way, he said, of trying arrogantly to foist a "unanimous voice" on the degelation with respect to the "materialist" ETI line promoted by Soviet ideologists and aped by scientists who feared to violate the party line..

Interestingly, the Soviet astronomer, I. S. Shklovsky, who earlier had co-authored the ETI book with Sagan, has since changed his mind! In print, Shklovsky now writes that he accepts the possibility of earth's "uniqueness," as he expresses it, in spawning life in the universe. In his

article in *Problems of Philosophy* a few years ago, the esteemed Soviet astronomer said that no one should feel "afraid" to contemplate the possibility of the "alone-ness" of Earth's humanoid existence.

Many people, of course, find the uniqueness hypothesis hard to accept, even if they have never seen a UFO or traces of ETI visitations. The Sagens and Asimovs of this world, meanwhile, sell books that play upon the common man's fear of being, as it were, "cosmically lonely," as the late French biochemist, philosopher of science, and Nobel Prize-winner Jacques Monod phrased it.

Meanwhile, Soviet emigres have long since enlightened us on the rampant religious sentiments felt among many Soviet scientists, despite the Communist Party's incessant atheistic efforts and restrictions, particularly as imposed on scientists. In this, the scientists merely follow in the footsteps of Dr. Albert Einstein, whom the Soviets say they greatly respect but who stoutly professed a belief in God.



MELVIN MORRISSEY, who witnessed a large UFO while out hunting. 'I saw lights out there and I saw something fly over me on the road.'

A UFO the size of a football field buzzed a hunter searching for deer in the forested mountains of western Pennsylvania before vanishing into thin air.

"I've been coon hunting in these woods and I ain't never seen those lights before," says Melvin Morrissey, 37. "I wasn't drinking and I do not take dope."

He describes the enormous craft that flew over him as having "a circular shape, like a saucer."

"It was about the size of a football field with an amber light on the bottom and red lights in a circle on the top," he says. "It was roughly 100 feet above the treetops."

Morrissey says he pulled off the road, killed his engine and leaned his head out the truck window.

Swift

"I couldn't hear a thing. It was moving faster than a plane, but not as fast as a jet."

He watched the mammoth object for about three minutes before it disappeared over a ridge.

Shortly after Morrissey reported the sighting, his neighbors in the town of Tyrone started kidding him about having seen a UFO like the ones seen on TV in beer and soft drink commercials.

"People have been saying to me: 'What'd they do, come down and take the Pepsi on the Strohs?'" he complains.

HUNTER'S AMAZING STORY I saw a UFO the size of a football field

"I never said a damn thing about anything landing out there. I just said I saw lights out there and I saw something fly over me on the road."

Morrissey says he wasn't the only one to have seen the lights. Three people have called him saying that they, too, saw lights in the sky at the same time.

John Bowser, a retired Federal Aviation Administration chief of aircraft accident investigation and a Tyrone resident, believes that Morrissey saw what he says he did.

"Mr. Morrissey is a good man who'd know an airplane when he sees one,"

says Bowser. "I do believe something went over the top of him that didn't look like an airplane."

Scott Crain, a 29-year-old manager of a lumber company in Tyrone, has investigated sightings for the Mutual UFO Network for the past seven years.

He has interviewed Morrissey about the sighting and believes that from just 100 feet away, he was too close to the object to have mistaken it for something else.

"From that close, I don't see how he could mistake what he was looking at, if he's telling the truth," explains Crain.

1581

**MICHAEL
FARBER**



UFO clerk blasé about sightings

Mildred, a middle-aged woman from the Town of Mount Royal, was in bed late Saturday night when her windows began to rattle and a sound "like hundreds of firecrackers" crashed over the house.

She woke her husband, Sam, and then went to her bedroom window, which faces east toward Jarry Park. Through the window Mildred saw a fiery red ball low in the sky moving slowly, deliberately to the northeast.

Mildred threw on her kimono and ran downstairs for a better look. Sam, a man after my own heart, went back to sleep.

"From my living room I saw the big red ball; it had a beehive effect," said Mildred; whose only previous close encounter had been a curious distant light.

Still, she is one up on many of us whose experience with cosmic phenomena is limited to wondering why bread always falls butter-side-down.

"It was very bright. It lit up the sky for an hour and a half. And there was the noise, like gunshots or firecrackers and static, static from hundreds of radios."

Dorval told of mysterious object

About 1 a.m. Mildred called the area air traffic control centre at Dorval airport to report the unidentified flying object.

Mildred was not alone.

Transport Canada at Dorval received two other sightings of UFOs. The calls came between 11 p.m. and 1 a.m., all mentioned a large oval described as red or red and white, and all placed the object in Park Extension or areas in north Montreal.

This is the story of those UFO reports.

"There were some (post) Easter Sunday celebrations, and people were shooting off fireworks, at least in my area," said André Rivest, shift manager of the air traffic control centre at Dorval. "That could have been it. The cloud situation at the time was low overcast. It's very common when that happens to think something is a UFO."

Rivest, a 10-year veteran, said his office receives infrequent UFO sightings — perhaps one every three or four months.

In each case, the air traffic control centre considers the source. If a grey, cigar-shaped object is reported by a gentleman who was standing on his balcony while suffering the 80-proof flu during a national holiday, Rivest does not fret much.

Pilots' reports raise concern

"The only ones we're really concerned with are the ones that the pilots report or things that are not picked up by radio or radar," Rivest said. "Those are the undetermined things."

How often has that happened?

"Since I've been working, once. Just once."

In every case, however, Transport Canada sends the UFO reports to the NORAD (North American Aerospace Defence Command) base in North Bay, Ont. for further study.

A NORAD information officer said a typical examination goes like this:

If NORAD thinks there might be military value in the sightings, it studies the Transport Canada reports. If not, they are passed on unexamined to the Herzberg Institute in Ottawa.

"Looking at it logically," said Maj. Robin Alford of NORAD, "three UFOs sighted near Dorval airport ... I doubt that they are intruding aircraft."

So Mildred's report ended up Monday on the desk of Denise Cardinal at the Herzberg Institute, the arm of the National Research Council that studies astrophysics.

UFO information filed away

Cardinal has the greatest job description in western civilization: Canada's UFO clerk.

"Actually, I'm a (computer) programmer," she said. "I only spend a half-day a month on UFOs."

So you study UFO reports forwarded by NORAD?

"No," she said, "I file them. We keep them on record for anyone who is interested. January of each year, we pull them out and send them to the public archives."

Cardinal, the national UFO clerk for five years, said she gets 100 to 150 reports a year. She really doesn't know whether there are more sightings in Quebec than in, say, Alberta.

"Dealing with UFOs gets boring after a while," Cardinal said. "Like in March. We had 10 reports of UFOs that were obviously Venus. We get a lot of meteor reports. We get a variety of things."

Do you believe in UFOs?

"No."

Not even a little?

"Not at all."

So right now Mildred's UFO report, in Telex form, is waiting to be tucked into a big, green filing cabinet in Denise Cardinal's office.

Thanks for your concern, Mildred.

outer space

Aliens team with Soviets to crush U.S. Star Wars

3 RUSSIAN SCIENTISTS are working with space aliens to thwart America's proposed Star Wars defense, say Western intelligence agents.

The stunning revelation that extraterrestrials are helping Soviet researchers devise a counter to the feared U.S. program comes as the Kremlin officially acknowledges that UFOs may exist.

In an incredible about-face, the Soviet government reversed decades of scoffing at sightings of spacecraft by establishing a special commission to study the phenomenon.

"Their setting up a commission confirms what we have discovered their work with the aliens," says Owen Plancher, an intelligence analyst.

"For years they have ridiculed the idea.

"But now that their experts are getting some off-planet help, they have prepared for the day when they admit that aliens were instrumental in developing their answer to Star Wars, code named Operation Boomerang."

The establishment of the commission, headed by former cosmonaut Pavel Popovich, was first

By PETER BERMIDJI

announced in the Soviet journal Trud (Labor).

For years, Soviet authorities have routinely confiscated any and all literature that even mentioned UFOs, but it is uncertain whether that ban will now be lifted, says Plancher.



PARTNERS: Aliens from outer space are working with the Russians.

The government will not make any official announcement about their link with the aliens, adds a former agent who operated in the Soviet Union.

"My sources, contacts who have a 99% accuracy rate, say that the aliens are helping the Soviets build a mobile force field that will prevent American missiles from exploding over their airspace.

"The military men had wanted the aliens to show them how to build such a

as Great Britain attempted to do from the 1700s until its empire fell apart.

"This way," adds the ex-agent, "both sides are protected from each other's missiles and the danger of nuclear war is greatly diminished."

Noel d'Epargne, a former weapons consultant to NATO, believes that the Soviets are drawing on the Earth's own gravitational pull to construct a force field.

"The details are sketchy, but our best information indicates that they somehow manipulate the Earth's own electromagnetism, forcing it to do their bidding.

"But we're worried that tinkering with gravity might cause even bigger problems. Some experts have suggested that this manipulation of the gravitational field may be contributing to the awful weather this winter.

"Let's just hope that the aliens know what they're doing — and that they will help the U.S. repair the damage caused by the Soviet's new defense."

They want to keep the balance of power

field so that they could launch outgoing rockets, but the aliens refused.

"It appears that the extraterrestrials are mainly interested in maintaining the balance of power, just