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**UFO**

**NEWS**



**JUNE 1985  
VOLUME 10 NO. 6**

DIRECT REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

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1381

# Hynek gathers 1,000 UFO encounters of 'best' kind

By Phillip J. O'Connor

J. Allen Hynek, perhaps the nation's premier UFO enthusiast and the man who coined the phrase "close encounter of the third kind," is at it again.

Hynek, who last year moved his Center for UFO Research from Evanston to Scottsdale, Ariz., currently is feeding into a computer information on 1,000 of the "most unique" sightings of unidentified flying objects.

Hynek, who turned 75 on May 1, said he gleaned the 1,000 most interesting cases from his catalog of 80,000 UFO sightings, compiled over 37 years, and plans to use the data to try to win more respect for UFO research.

He said in an interview he plans to write a report on the 1,000 "very best" sightings and present it to the American Association for the Advancement of Science. And he

hopes his report will be published in a scientific journal.

"You can keep talking in your own group [UFO believers], but it is like the converted talking to the converted," he said. "We need to present this information to the scientific world, in a fully acceptable scientific manner."

Asked if he's reached any conclusions on the source of unexplained UFOs, Hynek was noncommittal.

"I do carry a sort of scientific banner on the subject," he said. "If I were to say something [a conclu-

sion], it could be jumped on or overemphasized."

He said there have been few interesting UFO sightings in the Chicago area or most urban areas. "The really interesting UFO cases are in rural areas, generally at night and with relatively few people around," he said. "I don't know why."

Hynek, who taught astronomy at Northwestern University for 13 years, housed his UFO research center in a few rooms in his Evanston home before moving to Arizona, where it is located in a town house separate from his home.

Hynek built up a cadre of Chicago-area volunteers and was reluctant to phase out their operations. And so before he left here, he opened a Center for UFO Studies in Glenview, headed by Sherman Larsen, who is retired.

The Glenview center publishes a \$20-a-year International UFO Re-

porter and Hynek flies here every two months to meet with its board.

He said he moved to Arizona primarily because he came up with a wealthy benefactor, who divides his time between Arizona and Britain.

Hynek, always strapped for research money while living in Evanston, declined to identify the benefactor or say how much money he's provided.

Before moving to Arizona, Hynek said he wanted \$2 million for UFO research.

He said the new computer data will be valuable in making comparisons as future UFO sightings are reported.

A retired physicist, Willy Smith of Orlando, Fla., and Smith's wife, Terry, an AT&T computer programmer, are assisting in compiling computer data. Hynek's wife, Miriam, also aids in his research.



J. Allen Hynek

USA TODAY  
MAY 28 1985  
CLEVELAND OHIO

## Dozen in Texas see UFO

ROCKPORT, Texas — A dozen people reported seeing a UFO early Monday, including Aransas County Sheriff's Deputy Joe Veases. The object was "bright white with red rings," he said, appeared to rotate and turned its lights on and off. Another witness said her car stalled when the UFO approached and restarted when the object sped off. But the UFO was not picked up by radar, and the National UFO Reporting Center in Seattle said it probably was the planet Venus. But the object "couldn't be Venus," said Veases. "It's to the south of what I'm looking at."

## Stone circle 'linked to UFOs'



by Peter Oldham

A MASSIVE inquiry has been launched by UFO investigators following the discovery of mysterious energy emissions around an ancient Derbyshire stone circle.

A preliminary research programme by the Nottingham UFO Investigation Society revealed strange energy patterns in the Arbor Low area (above).

Now the society has mounted an investigation at historical Derbyshire sites near Monyash to see if there is a link between the mystery force and UFOs.

The society came across the force field when they used dowsing rods to search the site, known as the Stonehenge of the North.

## Mystery energy source prompts investigations

Society president Dr Robert Morrell said: "There have been traces of what you could say were strange energy patterns.

One explanation could be that the results were connected with the mineral content of the rocks.

Another theory is that ancient sites are connected by "ley lines" — invisible track ways used by UFOs as a navigation aid.

It has even been suggested that Arbor Low is the centre of a giant magnetic vortex, connected to other ancient sites.

Dr Morrell and his team are to search other ancient sites, such as the Nine Ladies stone circle near Darley Dale, in a bid to trace any link.

"Some people do believe that UFOs have made use of lines of energy between the sites," said Dr Morrell.

"I believe that if UFOs were evidence of advanced technology, I don't think they would have to resort to such a primitive means of navigating."

But he pledged to fully investigate the matter.

KIAMATH FALLS OR  
HERALD NEWS  
MAR. 25 1985

## UFO probably meteor

3464  
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 — was also 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."

## A close — encounter of the Ashbourne kind

by Peter Oldham

**A DRAMATIC UFO sighting could help solve one of Derbyshire's strangest close encounters.**

In the latest incident a motorist claims he and his son were chased through dark country lanes by a high-speed saucer-shaped object.

Now a leading East Midlands UFO group is investigating possible links between the latest terrifying incident and the mysterious "Ashbourne Event" of 1980.

On that occasion there were several sightings of an object similar to the latest one, which happened in the evening of April 21 near Warsop, close to the Derbyshire-Notts border.

A 30-year-old welder and his nine-year-old son were driving at Warsop Vale when they spotted lights in the sky.

"I thought it was a star at first, then it started following us," said the man, who does not want to be named.

"It really put the wind up me — I was trying to get out of the road because it scared me so much."

"I was doing at least 70 or 80 mph to get out of the way, but I couldn't. I looked up through the glass sunroof and it came directly overhead."

The object, described as saucer-shaped, with two "headlights" and a dozen other lights, eventually moved off.

"There was no way it was an aeroplane," said the man. "It was about 500 feet across and it made no noise."

"I know it was something that was not natural."

Mrs Syd Henley, investigation co-ordinator of the Nottingham UFO Investigation Society, which researched the Ashbourne sightings, said: "It certainly sounds interesting and we are going to follow it."

# CLAIM BIGFOOT IS A SPACE ALIEN

By FRANKLIN R. RUEHL

Bigfoot is actually a space alien, say two top UFO experts — and they point to several cases where Bigfoot appearances were closely linked with UFO sightings.

"Without a doubt, Bigfoot is an alien creature," author Brad Steiger told The ENQUIRER. "That is my conclusion based on studying literally hundreds of UFO cases.

"Bigfoots seem to appear for a short time then vanish, suggesting that they were dropped off by a spacecraft, then picked up," he explained.

Steiger and Hayden Hewes, director of the International UFO Bureau, both believe that the apelike creatures which are known as Bigfoot or Sasquatch are a lower life-form which has been brought here from some other planet.

"Rather than being the pilots of UFOs, the Bigfoots are probably creatures plac-



**ACTUAL PHOTO** of Bigfoot was taken as monster moved through

ed on Earth by advanced extraterrestrials," Hewes said.

Here are a few of the cases they cited, where Bigfoot and UFO sightings were linked together:

In a journal dated 1888, a cattleman wrote that an Indian showed him a manlike creature which was sitting cross-legged in a cave.

The creature was built like a well-muscled man with no neck. Long shiny black hair covered its body, except for an area around its eyes and the palms of its hands, according to the cattleman.

The Indian told the cattleman that three of these creatures, which he and others in his tribe called "Crazy Bears," had been flung out of a "small moon" that had descended from the sky and landed. Then the "moon" flew off again.

"This 'moon' was obviously a spaceship, and the 'Crazy Bears' were Bigfoot creatures — actually alien beings," Steiger added.

In 1976, after a series of UFO sightings around Rutland, B.C., Canada, several men and their children saw an apelike creature, six to seven feet tall, covered with hair.

They also found a clump of hair, which was sent to a laboratory for analysis by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

"The analysis confirmed it was primate hair, but could not classify it as belonging

Earth," explained Steiger.

In one incident on Oct. 25, 1973, in Fayette County, Pa., a group of people saw a 100-foot-diameter, dome-shaped, brightly lit object land in a pasture.

As they drove toward it, they saw two huge creatures, covered with thick matted hair, with long arms hanging below their knees. Both of the creatures had green, glowing eyes.

**STRANGE BEAST** with long arms and thick, matted hair was seen next to a brightly lit spaceship, say eyewitnesses at one incident.

A farmer's son in the group fired a bullet at one creature, which raised its right hand in the air — and at that instant the UFO vanished.

Then the two creatures walked off slowly into the woods at the edge of the pasture, according to the witnesses.

Steiger and Hewes speculated that Bigfoot may have been placed on Earth as



ENQUIRER  
MAY 20 '85

6

Pilots, motorists saw it

# Light in Georgia probably a meteor



## Gas lamp exploded when monster from a UFO touched it

**T**HE CREATURE caused my blood to run cold. Half human, half ape, it had glowing red eyes, huge and hairy hands, a giant nose and stood well over six-foot tall.

And it was less than 40 feet away from my home in Wellington, Kansas.

Minutes before I had seen a silver, saucer-shaped object hovering above the property.

I had thrown the sacks of trash I was carrying into the air and dashed into my bedroom.

And it was only when I heard someone, or something, walking past the window that I plucked up courage to look out once again.

**● I plucked up courage to look ... ●**

### Well-lit

There was a street light near the house and I could see the creature quite plainly.

Fascinated by the gas lamp in the neighboring yard, it reached out and touched it and watched it explode.

Incredibly, it did not appear startled, but gave the impression that it was expecting the lamp to shatter.

Not long after that the police arrived, called by some of the neighbors who had reported that there was a prowler on their property.

### Gone

But, by that time, the eerie figure had disappeared.

The next day I took a walk down to the railroad track, at the end of the garden.

And there I found a circular patch of ground which appeared to have been disturbed.

The grass by the tracks was seldom cut and in the long grass a perfect circle, approximately 20 feet in

diameter, had been burned.

A few neighbors came to inspect it, quietly shook their heads, but didn't say a word.

No one wanted to talk about it.

What it was, or who it was, I'll probably never know.

— RANDY FORD

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 5 p.m. PST Sunday. He said another object — possibly a second piece of the same meteor — was also 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 had come 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 Delton Frazier, assistant fire chief at 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.

"Venus is the brightest thing in the sky at this particular time of the year," said astronomer David

Wingert. "It can look like an airplane coming straight at you with its landing lights on."

As Venus appears on the horizon early in the evening, the curvature of the Earth's atmosphere is such that the planet seems to move, he said.

Both Wingert and Lang said there was a possibility the unidenti-

fied object was a piece of space debris falling from the sky.

"We're just speculating like everybody else," said Lang. "But there's an outside chance it was a piece of metal from a rocket or a satellite."

Lang said he did not think the light was "the type of thing Venus fools people with."

BEND, OR.  
DESCHUTES CO.  
BULLETIN  
MAR 25 1985

1381

# Floating silver balls trigger man's 40-year, \$27,000 hunt

By TOM MINEHART  
Associated Press

LINCOLNTON, N.C. — In 1944, a 15-year-old Boy Scout named George Fawcett read a news story about "silver balls floating in the air" that the Nazis apparently planned to use to confuse and frighten the Allies during bombing raids.

The Associated Press clipping led to a 40-year interest in unidentified flying objects — a mission that has cost Fawcett \$27,000 of his own money and at least one job, sent him around the country to investigate some 1,000 reported UFO sightings and filled more than 20 file drawers in his Lincolnton home with UFO-related documents.

"I'm not the Billy Graham of UFOs, I'm more like the Curious George," Fawcett, 55, said during an interview at his wife's Lincolnton sandwich shop, which features a "UFO Room" full of framed pictures and clippings.

"It was just curiosity," he said. "Too, there was the deep feeling I got that they were not being treated with the respect due them. I felt that anything that's been going on for four decades in 140 nations deserves close scientific scrutiny.

"But it's never been given yet. There's never been a real scientific investigation. Or, if there has, the government's not telling us about it."

Fawcett is public relations director for the North Carolina chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, which has 75 field investigators in 45 cities across the state. He was MUFON's state director from 1969 to 1980.

But this year, for the first time since 1952, he won't be providing his annual report of North Carolina UFO activity for the previous year.

He's had to look for a job because the newspaper where he worked closed down. He's also been spending more time on worldwide research — particularly a study comparing human reac-

tions to UFOs with the hard evidence of radar trackings and ground markings. This objective data are his reply to the argument that belief in UFOs has merely replaced belief in religion in the age of science.

Of the 1,000 reported sightings he has investigated, Fawcett has explained all but about 22 percent as natural phenomena, manmade objects or hoaxes.

He says a thorough investigator checks with neighbors, police and the Federal Aviation Administration and uses star maps, metal detectors, weather information, witnesses' medical and social background and detailed questionnaires before concluding that a UFO is involved.

Fawcett said his early efforts at researching UFOs had been met with ridicule. But he said a wave of sightings in his hometown of Mount Airy in 1973 had vindicated him there.

He's seen one UFO personally, he says — an object "like an orange cut in half" hovering over Lynchburg College in Virginia in 1951.

Later, he was one of three candidates for a YMCA post in Florida. But when officials found out about his interest in UFOs, someone else got the job, he said.

UFOs gained credence in the 1960s and 1970s, and from 1979 to 1983, Fawcett taught a three-credit, 12-week course on UFOs at the Lincolnton campus of Gaston College. His total of 125 students came from 24 North Carolina cities and from a variety of professions and trades.

When he began his research, Fawcett had four dreams: to lecture on UFOs, to teach an accredited course; to write a book, and to found a museum.

He's finished one book, *Quarter Century Studies of UFOs in Florida, North Carolina and Tennessee*, and is starting another. And he's begun to get nibbles on his proposal to build a UFO museum in Boone. All he needs is money and material to add to his considerable collection.

Fawcett has collected 44 North Carolina cases from 1842 to 1983 in which people reported UFO landings or encounters with UFO occupants.

"I feel more comfortable with someone flying them," he said with a smile. "A taxicab without a driver is far more hazardous."

YUMA AZ.  
YUMA SUN & SENTINEL  
MAR. 25 1985

## Unidentified flying object reported

MARIETTA, Ga.

A bright flash in the evening sky puzzled dozens of motorists and pilots Sunday night, but experts say it was either a meteor entering the atmosphere or the planet Venus playing tricks on earthly eyes.

National Weather Service meteorologist John Lang said the unidentified flying object — either a meteor or a chunk of space debris — entered the atmosphere about 50 miles northeast of Atlanta about 8 p.m. EST.

"We also had a number of pilots to the south near Macon reporting seeing a meteorite close to them," 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."

Lang said there was a possibility the object was a piece of "space junk." "We're just speculating like everybody else," he said, "but there's an outside chance that it was a piece of metal from a rocket or a satellite."

**PSC Instructor in Nashua:**

# Professor Describes UFOs

By ED ROBERTS

Sunday News Correspondent

NASHUA, Feb. 16 — Until five years ago, Plymouth State College anthropology professor Joseph Long did not believe in the phenomena known as unidentified flying objects or UFOs.

As a scientist, Long was a skeptic for a long time, but he now travels the state lecturing on UFOs and what he considers other kinds of psychic phenomena.

He can't explain what made him a believer but, he says he is one now. Perhaps it was the numerous nights he says he spent spotting the flying objects on the back roads of Kingston with his friend Betty Hill, who wrote a book on her experiences that led him to his belief.

Long, who spoke to an overflow crowd of about 150 at the Nashua Public Library this week, said he is certain there are thousands, if not millions, of other life forms throughout the universe.

Half those forms are probably ahead of ours technologically, Long said, so there are bound to be objects other than manmade flying around the universe and the earth. "Anytime you look at UFO phenomena you have to believe it's true," he said.

## MANY SIGHTINGS

Long said there are thousands of UFO sightings reported every day. When he asked the crowd how many had seen UFOs, about one-third raised their hands.

More than half the crowd at a Rochester lecture he gave a few weeks ago said they had seen a UFO, Long said.

Several UFO sightings in New Hampshire have been reported in the media over the last few years, including one sighting in Keene a few months ago and in Hillsborough in 1978. UFO sightings in New Hampshire, said Long, are no different than sightings in South America, Australia or China.

A logged map of the United States shows that sightings are not unique to any part of the country. The average UFO sighting is of a flying saucer-type vessel, according to Long.

The objects do things like accelerate at a rate of speed not possible by manmade vehicles, or make turns at right angles.

Other than verbal accounts, the only physical evidence of UFOs is photographs, he said.

## OTHER EVIDENCE

Other less tangible evidence exists, like burned out patches in fields where UFOs allegedly have landed. Some of those fields are so badly burned they can't support vegetation for many years after the incident, Long said.

People who report they have been abducted by alien beings in UFOs have passed lie detector tests.

Long suggested that artist



**DR. JOSEPH LONG**

(Photo by Ed Roberts)

renditions of alien beings based on alleged eyewitness accounts make them to look like the fairies of fiction because the fairies of fiction are based possibly on ancient sightings of UFOs and alien beings.

It is likely human beings are in contact with as many as 10 different groups of alien beings, all of them using a higher form of technology than is available to us, Long said. The contact by aliens with us is "very bizarre" and is at a psychic level that is incomprehensible to us, he said.

## Jack Smith

<sup>3/4/64</sup>  
The other day I recalled that some time ago, after mentioning my skepticism about flying saucers, I had received "a hostile letter from a college professor whose avocation was tracking UFOs, and who believed in visitors from other planets."

I recalled that "he was just then embarking on a year's sabbatical from his class in English rhetoric, which he intended to spend, he said, in the pursuit of UFOs."

I recalled also that I had written this professor advising him that, for the sake of his students, he spend the year brushing up on English rhetoric; but I doubted that he had.

□

Now he has written me again, charging that my "inaccurate implication" has caused him some embarrassment, and asking for an apology.

He encloses a copy of his original letter of Dec. 1, 1977, and I see that I did indeed misrepresent him as believing in visitors from other planets. He was then, as he is now, interested in the entire phenomenon of UFOs. He then operated the UFO Report Center of Orange County, a 24-hour hot line, and he was taking his sabbatical to put together a text for his course "UFO Literature: The Rhetoric of the Unknown."

He had written to chide me for a column about UFOs in which I had quoted a spoof my doctor had written for a medical journal theorizing that UFOs were simply "spots in your eyes," known medically as *muscae volitantes*.

He said it was laden with false analogy, fallacious logic, misuse of language and distortion and confusion, and he implied that it might serve as a text for his class. For example, I wrote that "the evidence so far (for extraterrestrial visitors) is about as good as the evidence for witches in Salem back in 1692," and the professor observed: "False analogy: No evidence that UFO's are supernatural, or that witches leave landing marks or radar returns."

I also wrote: "Perhaps my doubts are so strong because I used to see unidentified flying objects (spots in my eyes) every day, many times a day, and my witness became part of the evidence on which one of

LOS ANGELES, CA  
LOS ANGELES TIMES  
MAY 1 1985

"You apparently don't realize," he says, "that most UFO proponents despise me and detest my theories; I was nearly lynched at a 1981 Chicago conference where I first proposed my ideas." (In rhetoric, that is called hyperbole.)

"If I am biased," he says, "it is toward open-mindedness on a scientifically unfashionable (and un-grantable) subject. My UFO hot line provided a research base for my class, and does not imply a belief in Little Green Men. Are professionals who provide rape hot lines necessarily potential rapists?" (False analogy?)

"If I am open to the possibility of extraterrestrial

life—not zapping around in UFOs—well, so are many esteemed scientists, including Carl Sagan." (And me. Only, as I said in that first column, I can't swallow the cosmic coincidence that travelers from space, with a billion years to work in, have come looking for us just precisely at the moment—the exact tick of time—when we are setting out to look for them.)

He notes, by the way, that he never received a letter from me. Evidently it was one of those that I write in heat and never send.

For the past several years Prof. Lawson has been engaged in research from which he has concluded that all or most Close Encounters of the Third Kind (abductions of Earthlings by extraterrestrial visitors) are mental in origin—"rare but psychologically valid events."

He encloses a paper he wrote on "Perinatal Imagery in UFO Abduction Reports" (The Journal of Psychohistory, Fall 1984), in which he describes research into such "abductions" by himself and Dr. W. C. McCall of Anaheim.

Based on the examination of a good many people who really believed that they had been abducted, Lawson and his colleague have found that these experiences are almost always birth memories, with the womb, the birth canal, the sudden light, the severing of the umbilical cord and other birth phenomena always taken for some aspect of their close encounters. The aliens themselves quite often resemble human fetuses, with spindly legs and enlarged heads and eyes.

## Speaking plane English, college professor shoots down skepticism in a frying missive

the classic explanations of UFOs was based. (An ironic reference to my doctor's spoof.)

"Careless definition," the professor said. "Spots is spots, not objects, and they don't fly. . . ."

Since I did not use this professor's name in the first place, perhaps I should not use it in apologizing, since then whatever damage I have done his reputation would be limited to the inner circle of students and peers who might have recognized him from that brief, anonymous description.

However, Prof. Alvin H. Lawson, of the English Department of Cal State Long Beach, asks for no such protection, and seems to wish for the public vindication to which he is entitled.

Lawson also encloses a letter from Carl Sagan that thanks him for the paper, but notes a couple of troublesome questions:

"I can understand regressions to or recollections of the moment of birth; but how does it come about that we recall our fetal form? We surely never have seen it. Why would we attribute to extraterrestrials our recollections of our prenatal selves, which we have never seen? . . . There are many other questions that come to mind."

I want to make it clear that I am apologizing to Prof. Lawson for suggesting that he believes in ETs. Also, I respect his research into birth fantasies and his continued fascination with the unknown.

I just think it's English that English students need help with, not UFOs.

7  
UFOs:  
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SAN ANGELO TX  
STANDARD TIMES APRIL 24 1985

# one of the rather-not-knows

CIA in  
charge of  
UFO  
cover-up  
audience  
told

By MELISSA YOUNG-METZLER  
Herald-Republic correspondent

ELLENBURG — Extraterrestrial unidentified flying objects are real and the majority of Americans believe that, despite an official government cover-up of the phenomenon since the 1950s, a UFO researcher said Wednesday night.

Robert Hastings told about 400 people at Central Washington University that it's "only a matter of time" until the true history of UFO sightings and studies in the country unfolds.

"I assure you folks, it ain't science fiction. It's for real," Hastings said.

He presented documents which he says prove that the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has directed United States study of UFOs, despite government claims that a "low-level" investigation was handled entirely through the Air Force.

The CIA engineered a "debunking" of UFO sightings to prevent public panic, Hastings said.

His presentation, titled "UFOs: The hidden history," consisted of a slide show tracing the history of UFO interest in the nation and revealing declassified government documents obtained through the Freedom of Information Act.

"What these documents indicate is that UFOs do indeed exist and that there's a lot more government interest than the public has been led to believe," Hastings said.

Hastings started researching UFO encounters after he sighted five of the objects at an Air Force base in Montana in 1967.

<sup>145</sup> Three days after I mentioned that a letter writer told me he had seen an unidentified flying object at Lake Nasworthy, I received letters from three other people who said they had seen UFOs as well. I don't know why. For some reason, they decided I should be told. Maybe they just figured I should be the one to accumulate this kind of information.

I wish they hadn't written to me. I've been thinking about the letters for 10 days now, and it's all pretty disconcerting.

I don't believe in UFOs, but I don't not believe in them, either. I'm just not sure about them, and I'd just as soon not have to make up my mind until one lands in my backyard.

The way I figure it, there are four reasons people might report UFO sightings:

(1) They're playing a joke on everybody. They know that reporting a UFO will create interest, and what better way to do that than to sucker a newspaper columnist in on the deal?

(2) They have some mental problems. Let's face it, some folks don't have all the dots on their dominoes. They're on a different plane than the rest of us, so they see things a little differently.

(3) They're honestly mistaken. Most of

YAKIMA, WA  
HERALD-REPUBLIC  
MAR 7 1985

Among others, he cited documents which contain information about a UFO-F4 fighter dogfight near Tehran, Iran, in 1976 and about the recovery of a crashed UFO — including the bodies of three aliens — in New Mexico in 1950.

Hastings said two retired Air Force colonels have testified in depositions that they helped with the recovery and he showed a memorandum in which former director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation J. Edgar Hoover referred to the "discs recovered."

When the first wave of UFO sightings was reported in 1947, the official word was that all of the objects seen could be explained as meteors, reflections of clouds or flattened hailstones.

That report set the tone for nearly 40 years of "official censorship," Hastings said. The report which was circulated among the inner ranks at the Pentagon revealed that UFOs were real and needed to be investigated.



Jack  
Cowan

the reported UFO sightings have turned out to be perfectly explainable objects, like weather balloons or something.

(4) They really did see one.

It's the possibility that the people who wrote the letters might be in that last group that prevents me from setting out here to have great fun at their expense.

One of the writers was a retired Air Force colonel — a pilot for 20 years, he claimed — who said he recently saw a "squadron of glowing unidentified flying space ships. I say space ships because they didn't have wings, nor did they have engines . . . I get chill bumps when I even think about it. You may make jokes about me, but I would be watching the sky more often if I were you."

I have noticed myself watching the sky more lately.

If the guy really was a colonel in the Air Force, he probably isn't a crackpot or a

joker. That leaves just the other two options. What really got me about the letters, though, was that, just as the first writer had done, a housewife who reported seeing a UFO two weeks ago drew a picture of what she saw. The space ship (or whatever you call it) that she sketched had an emblem on the side — a diamond shape, not completely closed on one side, with a dot in the middle and two lines protruding outward on opposite sides.

Now that ordinarily would qualify as your basic ho-hum-another-nutso message except that, a couple of days ago, when I was comparing all the letters, I noticed that another writer had drawn that same emblem at the bottom of her note. So I pulled out the first letter I received, and his space ship had similar markings.

Hmmmm, does anyone else hear that Twilight Zone music?

With three people describing the same thing, it's pretty clear they're not crazy. So, are these people trying to put one over on me? If so, I will be very hot. Did someone put one over on them, intentionally or not? If so, they probably will be very embarrassed.

Did they really see a UFO? If so . . . uh, have I ever mentioned how much I admire folks from outer space . . . ?

# Strange lights in sky stir

## Soviet debate

Labor paper reports UFO sightings as fact; military daily blames

The Associated Press

MOSCOW — Are they flying saucers or just space rubbish? Two Soviet newspapers that rarely contradict each other are in something of a disagreement about unidentified flying objects — UFOs — and other unusual 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. It "escorted" the airplane 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 UFO reports, but by the fact that a Soviet newspaper that normally purveys news strictly conforming to socialist realism had reported the fantastic as fact.

To set the record straight, the Soviet mili-

tary daily *Krasnaya Zvezda* (Red Star) on Saturday 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 inversions and refracted light and radio waves.

In the space age, the number of artificial objects — discarded booster rockets, cannisters, instruments and hatches — orbiting 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.

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."

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

Belief in supernatural phenomena has been discouraged in the past. 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.

And the news media have continued to report sightings like those in Petrozavodsk and Minsk.

The Soviet government established a special air force commission to investigate UFO sightings in 1967, but few details of its work have been released.

'garbage' in orbit

GLASGOW EVENING TIMES

MAY 16 1985 ENGLAND

### Professor in UFO mystery

A LEADING astronomer has turned detective following reports of a mystery UFO over Glasgow.

the "rugby ball shaped object with flames coming from the top and lights on the side" was sighted by sisters Liz and Jacqueline Carson from their bedroom window at 75 Kinnell Path, Cardonald. 3128

Professor Archie Roy, head of Glasgow University's department of astronomy, said the girls' description matched similar sightings over the past ten years.

Now Professor Roy is trying to piece the clues together

# 'A ball of fire'

## It was probably a meteor, scientists say of blazing light

ASSOCIATED PRESS

A huge fireball that blazed across the night sky over the Southeast, changing colors as it flew above startled spectators, was probably a meteor, scientists said yesterday as they began seeking fragments.

Air traffic controllers reported sighting the fireball as far north as Chattanooga, Tenn., and as far south as Orlando, Fla., Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Dennis Feldman said in Washington. People as far north as southern Illinois also reported seeing bright lights in the sky.

The Lee County, Ala., sheriff's department received a "whole lot of

calls about a sudden flash" that people said "just lit up their whole yard," said dispatcher Penny Smith.

Witnesses saw "flames coming out from around it," said John Whiteside, an FAA duty officer in Atlanta. "Even experienced people are totally amazed at the size, and the fact that it came straight down rather than at an angle."

"It appeared to be a ball of fire and seemed much brighter and bigger than a shooting star," said Tennessee highway patrolman Harold Munger. He said he was about 10 miles east of Chattanooga when he saw it about 8 p.m.

Three pilots reported seeing a

streak of light that changed from red to green to orange, said Ken King, the FAA supervisor at the Huntsville, Ala., airport. He said such color changes are typical of meteors.

The Scientific Event Alert Network at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History said yesterday it was collecting reports on the fireball and trying to determine if it struck the ground.

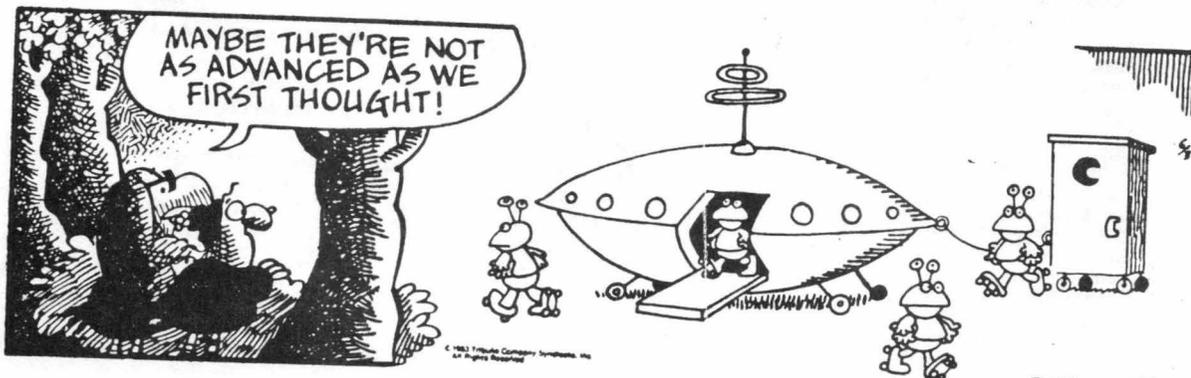
The center was assuming the phenomenon was a meteor and wants to determine if any remains can be located, said Elizabeth Nielsen of the center.

There were no immediate reports of any meteor debris being found.

Nielsen said the North American Air Defense Command, which tracks objects in space near the Earth, ruled out a satellite re-entry as the cause of the phenomenon.

Howard Bookman, a meteorologist at the FAA air traffic control center in Hampton, Ga., said that, based on pilots' reports, the object probably entered the atmosphere about 50 miles northeast of Atlanta.

Broom Hilda

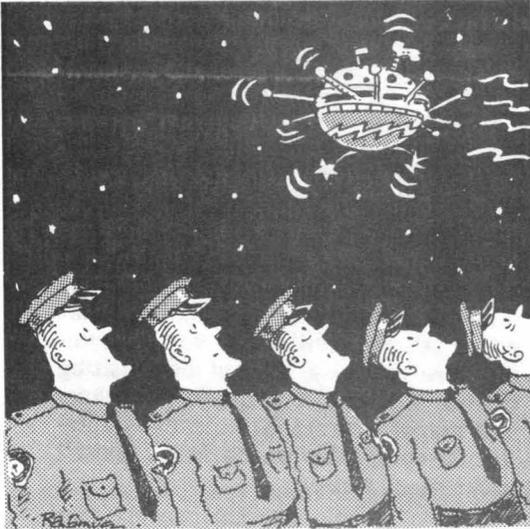


ALBERTA REPORT  
MAY 27 1985

1741  
**Starry-eyed  
Cowtown**

*Calgary cops are baffled  
by a late-night UFO*

If ET, the extraterrestrial, was looking down on Calgary from his spaceship May 13, there's no proof he phoned anyone. Nor did he show up on any radar screens. But dozens of Calgary Police



GERRY RASMUSSEN

Service officers insist they saw something more than the usual heavenly bodies in the black sky north of the city at about 1 a.m. that night. Slightly larger than a star, it hovered just above the horizon, dancing and twinkling its red, white and blue lights for dozens of police and civilian sky gazers. It tantalized the curious until dawn, and then disappeared, or blasted off, leaving a handful of officers struggling to convince their cohorts that what they watched with gaping mouths for four and a half hours was indeed an unidentified flying object.

Constable Gary Ogilvy, 35, a 14-year force veteran, was just finishing a coffee break near McKnight Boulevard and Edmonton Trail when the call came across his radio from an amused dispatcher. Another car had requested help in "chasing" a UFO north of the city. Figuring their fellow officers were victims of a late-night lark, Const. Ogilvy and his partner, Const. M.A. ("Butch") Ganzer, 37, an 18-year veteran, headed south in search of some serious police work. The dispatcher, however, persisted. The cynical officers looked at each other, shrugged, and turned their vehicle around.

"We could see it as we were driving up Centre Street," says Const. Ogilvy. A bright tri-coloured pinpoint of light, he says it oscillated around a point some 15° above the horizon. "It looked just like someone had parked a police car way up in the sky with the emergency lights flashing," he recalls. By 1:30 a.m., officers from all over Calgary were calling in to confirm the sight. "If we were imagining," asserts the officer, "so was half the night shift."

The duo parked on a 125th Avenue knoll, the lights of the city sparkling below them, and the space stranger above. About 2 a.m., a man from a nearby house brought a set of high-powered binoculars to their stake-out. Through the glasses, remembers Const. Ganzer, "it was kind of a disc shape and it looked like it was spinning on a diagonal. It was so unexplainable that it was annoying." A dozen officers dropped by to participate in the vigil. RCMP officers in Airdrie, 18 miles north of the city, and Crossfield, 27 miles north, confirmed the sighting, which by consensus seems to have sat above Didsbury, some 44 miles north.

Canadian Forces Base Calgary, while picking up nothing on radar, also noticed the light and fired a telex to Dr. Allen McNamara, a physicist with the National Research Council in Ottawa. However, the jaded doctor, who receives as many as 200 UFO reports annually, showed little interest. He simply will send the telex to the National Archives, where it will join hundreds of other accounts of unexplained visions preserved for "the public interest." He did mention, however, that planets or stars appearing low on the horizon are more susceptible to the refracting effects of the earth's atmosphere, and thus may appear to dance and give off multi-coloured light.

Robert Nelson, chief technician at Calgary's Centennial Planetarium, guesses the officers saw the bright binary star Capella, which is directly north of the city this time of year, about 15° above the horizon. He agrees the refracting effect could explain the tri-coloured, dancing image. Several days after the fact, Const. Ganzer admits the explanations sound reasonable. Nonetheless, he'll never forget his close encounter, of whatever kind. Nor will he forget a peculiar, humbling thought that crossed his mind more than once while gazing into the vast expanse. Mused he: "Boy, we sure are vulnerable down here."

Brian Burton

AL. BIRMINGHAM POST  
HERALD  
MAY 20 1985

## Soviet UFOs

There's a debate in the Soviet press these days about unidentified flying objects. The labor newspaper Trud reported that an Aeroflot plane flying over Minsk had a close encounter with a bright light that "escorted" the craft to its destination.

But, as if to set the record straight, the Soviet military newspaper Kraz-

naya Zvezda recently told its readers UFOs are optical illusions.

There is obviously some confusion over the party line. And until it can be determined, we can only commend the Soviets who claim to have seen UFOs for their admirable restraint.

At least they didn't try to shoot them down, which is progress.



Elisa Tenenbaum / Special to The Courant

# Island of Life?

David H. Menke

Human beings have always wondered what lies out in space. In the past 40 years, many people have reported seeing UFOs, or unidentified flying objects. The Center for UFO Studies in Evanston, Ill., researches every lead to substantiate these reports.

UFOs certainly exist, because some of the numberless objects seen flying through Earth's skies remain unidentified. But do spaceships from other worlds exist? Do extraterrestrial beings, or aliens, exist? Are they really coming to Earth?

Scientifically there is no reason that aliens should not exist. Even the prophets Abraham and Ezekial believed there were other non-Earth civilizations.

Based on the estimate of 80 billion solar systems with planets in the Milky Way galaxy, an approximate number of 1,000 civilizations is possible.

If these conjectured 1,000 civilizations were distributed uniformly, which would be a good first guess, then the nearest one would be about 1,000 light years from Earth (that's 5.88 thousand

trillion miles). To travel to the nearest star system to the sun, Alpha Centauri, would take 300,000 years using present technology. And Alpha Centauri is only 4.3 light years (25 trillion miles) away. Traveling to a planet with a similar civilization might take 75 million years.

So even if there were beings out there, it is unlikely that they could come here, unless they were very advanced and could travel through the fabric of time and space. Such travel is possible, but we do not have the technology to do it.

So what of the unusual number of UFO sightings? Are the individuals who observed them all crackpots? That, too, is unlikely. Most of these citizens have

been carefully screened, and their stories critically scrutinized. And there is physical evidence in many of the cases.

Yet if we were being visited by aliens from a civilization far more advanced than ours, would these visitors run people off the road in Indiana? Scare schoolchildren on a playground in Oklahoma? Kidnap people from their homes and other areas?

Further, from the many sightings it has been determined that there are so many different types of spaceships that either several civilizations are all coming here (why Earth?), or one visiting civilization has a large number of spaceship manufacturers, like the many automobile companies on Earth. It doesn't make much sense.

If beings from another world were visiting us, it is likely they would be very advanced and observe us without being observed themselves. Instead of invading us, they would just blend into our world. In that way they could learn about us firsthand. Maybe your neighbor is really from the Tau Ceti star system. Maybe you are.

What would be the effect of a spaceship landing at a prominent place such as the United Nations, the White House, Buckingham Palace? What would that do to our sense of purpose and existence? Would there be more peace?

If we could prove that intelligent life like ours exists elsewhere, would that bring us closer together? Would more people believe in a god of some kind? Or would people lose their religious faith?

On the other hand, what would happen if we could actually prove somehow that there is no life anywhere else in the universe, and that Earth is the only island of life? Would that unify us?

*David H. Menke is executive director of the Copernican Space Science Center at Central Connecticut State University.*

# I was kidnapped by space aliens!

**A 17-year-old peasant girl's astounding account of being kidnapped by space aliens who subjected her to a physical examination**

**aboard a hovering UFO has been confirmed by scientists in a shocking top-secret report!**

The classified document was leaked in New Delhi by disgruntled high-ranking officials of the Indian Ministry of Health following a recent shake-up in the agency.

The detailed government report, which included photographs of the victim, said that Indu Shah was found just before dawn wandering alone near her village on the Ganges River in the state of Bihar.

"The girl appeared confused and disoriented when she was found by a farmer who had known the subject all her life," said the report written by Dr. Adi Tarafdir, head of the government research team that examined Indu in a New Delhi hospital later that day.

"The farmer noticed small patches of skin on the girl's face, arms and legs were glowing and although he was afraid to touch her, he took the subject back to her village in his cart," Tarafdir's report said.

The girl, who had been missing for three days, told her parents the astonishing story of her abduction by alien beings.

Indu's frightened family be-

By J.T. PIRKEL

lieved she was hallucinating and rushed her to the nearest medical facility, a military hospital on India's border with Bangladesh.

"Army physicians conducted a preliminary examination of the subject, noting high levels of radioactivity," said the government report. "The girl was sedated and airlifted to New Delhi for further tests."

A top government medical team began a battery of sophisticated tests that led to their startling conclusion — Indu Shah was indeed abducted by space aliens!

"We found areas of intense radioactivity confined to perfectly round patches of skin," Tarafdir reported.

"These patches appeared on the girl's forehead, right breast, abdomen and on both arms and legs."

Researchers could find no plausible explanation for the radioactive patches until the teenager was injected with sodium pentothal and interviewed by psychologists.

Under the influence of the "truth serum," Indu said she was walking in a field on the day of her mysterious disap-

pearance when a silver, saucer-shaped craft suddenly hovered over her.

The teenager said she was drenched in a bright light and was unable to move before she felt herself rising through the beam toward the UFO.

"Inside the craft she was spoken to in her native dialect by a pair of dwarf-like aliens who assured her that she would not be harmed," according to Tarafdir. "The subject said she believed there were other aliens aboard, but she never saw them."

The girl was placed in a glass booth equipped with a machine that slowly descended from her head to her feet.

"We must conclude that this

was some type of advanced X-ray, which would account for the radioactivity in her body," Tarafdir said.

The report said Indu had no idea how long she was in the spacecraft and remembered nothing else before she was found wandering near her village.

Tarafdir said lie detector tests confirmed the girl was telling the truth about every detail of the bizarre kidnapping.

"The only conclusion that can be drawn based on all the available evidence is that Indu Shah was captured and examined by beings from another planet," the scientists' report stated.



**TERRIFIED** teen Indu Shah was found dazed and wandering after being examined by tiny space creatures. A top-secret report confirms her amazing story.

# UFOs have just drifted into space

BY JAMES P. MEYER  
Post-Crescent staff writer

It's as if the whole thing slipped into a time warp. Or got sucked into a black hole. Or crossed over to another dimension. Or something.

Only about a decade ago, give or take a few years, the newspapers were replete with accounts of unidentified flying objects, close encounters and the like. Internationally, a Swiss named Erich Von Daniken was making a mint with books that said early man had been visited by "gods" from outer space.

Closer to home, on Coolidge Avenue in Appleton, a group called the UFO Education Center was propagating the belief, apparently in all seriousness, that the Venusians had landed and were walking among us.

A check of any well-stocked newspaper morgue will show that until about the mid-1970s, there was plenty of interest in UFOs

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*"Space is now much less of an unknown than it was 10 or 15 years ago."*

LU Professor Bruce Hetzler

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and all that those three letters imply. Certainly in the Fox Cities area there are plenty of newspaper accounts to substantiate that:

- 1) Visitors from other worlds were looking down on us, or;
- 2) A lot of people saw, or thought they saw, strange lights in the sky that defied any immediate rational explanation.

And then, bango! Interest vanished as if it were on the receiving end of a ray gun. Or so it seems in retrospect.

What happened?

Bruce Hetzler, associate professor of psychology at Lawrence University in Appleton, doesn't know for sure why UFOs no longer capture the popular fancy. But he's willing to hazard a guess that it has something to do with a more astute, scientifically inclined public.

"I think we have an interaction of a lot of things, but beyond that the public is much more sophisticated about outer space," Hetzler said recently.

APPLETON (WIS)  
POST CRESCENT  
JAN 13 1985

"We have people landing on the moon. We have space ships landing on Mars. We have the space shuttle flights, which have become routine. Space is now much less of an unknown than it was 10 or 15 years ago."

Hetzler said UFOs are a lot like Rorschach tests: "The person who sees them can ascribe whatever he wants to them."

These days, he said there seems to be more

and has been collecting UFO articles for years.

Brunken said much of what has been passed off as evidence of extraterrestrial life can be dismissed as "Fig Newtons of the imagination," but he doesn't exclude the possibility of intelligent life on other planets.

"God has an amazing and mysterious universe, and we don't understand it all yet," he said.

Brunken agrees that interest in UFOs isn't what it was, in part because of space travel and space exploration.

"Now, when you see a strange light in the sky, we've heard about satellites," he said. "We are all more sophisticated, I think, and perhaps we're better educated."

One of Wisconsin's more celebrated UFO students, Eugene Lundholm of Superior, also thinks interest in the subject has waned.

Lundholm, head of technical processing for the UW-Superior library and a former teacher of parapsychology, once investigated a purported UFO landing for Northwestern University astronomer J. Allen Hynek. Hynek has long been regarded as one of the world's leading UFO investigators.

Lundholm, who said his interest in UFOs has waned along with that of the public, thinks it would take "something big" to bring things back to where they were in the 1960s and '70s.

"I would say some of the sightings have become ho-hum to the authorities. They want something definite, some evidence. And it just isn't happening," he said.

"There's nothing hitting the newspapers. It's going to take something big before the public gets back with it, I think."

Lundholm, using roughly the same reasoning as Brunken, doesn't dismiss the possibility of advanced extraterrestrial life.

The universe, he noted, is "pretty big," and that makes the odds for advanced extraterrestrial life quite good. Lundholm said we'd be a "little egotistic" to think otherwise.

He said one of the problems with UFOs is that the subject invariably attracts charlatans. As an example he cited the late George Adamski, who wrote of having personal encounters with human-like creatures from Venus.

Lundholm said Adamski has now been "thoroughly and utterly rejected by everyone."

As a matter of fact, though, there still are small UFO "watchers" groups that revere the memory of George Adamski and others who are held in equally low esteem by the scientific community.

An area woman told this reporter Adamski is held in "great esteem" by her watchers group. The woman, who shall remain nameless, also claims to have met "humans" from other planets in the solar system and to have suffered "ray burns" from a space craft that followed her car.

All of which gets back to the psychological dimension of UFOs. Although final answers on such weighty questions as life on other planets probably isn't due for an answer any time soon, LU's Hetzler said more

study could be done now on the psychological aspects of UFOs.

"I think that a lot more research is needed on UFOs," he said. "The very nature of UFOs makes it very difficult; you're always going by eyewitness and second hand testimony, and there's a lot of psychological research that indicates that testimony can be manipulated by the questions that are asked. Given that, it's important that more trained psychologists be involved to separate fact from fantasy."

of an inclination to ascribe known phenomena, rather than jumping to conclusions about visitors from outer space.

"Now they say, 'Maybe that was the space shuttle.' Or, 'Maybe that was a satellite,'" Hetzler said.

Although Robert Brunken's perspective on UFOs differs from that of

Hetzler, he agrees that public interest in the subject has slackened. And he agrees that a more sophisticated public probably has something to do with it.

Brunken, director of the Appleton YMCA, is what might be called an avocational ufologist. He's been interested in the subject ever since he began reading science fiction as a kid

## Keeping an eye on the sky

Woman's specialty  
is UFO sightings

By Dee Anne Traitel

Tribune Staff Writer

"I always wanted to know what was beyond the sky," Jozaa Buist says.

That curiosity has prompted her to form a group called UFO Sightings Unlimited.

The non-profit group, founded in November, has met twice. Buist has been surprised by the response from people who have seen things in the night sky and wondered what they were.

"I have talked to a number of people who believe there is life on other planets and who want to learn more about UFOs," Buist said. "That's why I started this group."

She runs the organization from her Paradise Hills apartment, where a poster charting the movements of the stars and planets hangs on a wall.

SAN DIEGO, CA.  
EVENING TRIBUNE  
APR. 8 1985

"I've talked to a lot of people who have seen things that seemed quite unusual," she said. "I've seen things that are unusual. So I decided to form a group that would be supportive."

Buist said the organization has 62 members who are "very interested in learning more about how to determine what these things are."

If she sights something unusual, Buist has collected a phone list of agencies to check with — the National Weather Service, Lindbergh Field and Palomar Observatory.

"Sometimes the sightings can be explained," Buist said, "and other times we check with the weather service and the airport and there is no record of anything scheduled to be out there."

Donna Oveson of El Cajon said that although she has never seen a UFO, she finds the controversy surrounding whether they exist interesting.

"I used to think it was baloney," Oveson said, "but when man walked on the moon, I began to think that if we could go there, others could come here."

The group's monthly meetings include speakers who present their experiences and studies concerning UFOs.

One such speaker was C. Ralph Campo, who is on the board of UFO Sightings Unlimited. Campo, who claims to have seen UFOs in several parts of the United States, has his own organization that collects information regarding UFO sightings from around the world.

Campo also lectures around the country and has appeared on numerous radio and television programs.

"I have always felt there must be life on other planets," Campo said. "We can't be the only ones

with the billions of stars and planets out there . . . I'm not trying to indoctrinate people . . . There are a lot of people out there who have had similar experiences and no one to tell them to."

Buist said when a sighting is made, an investigation is conducted.

"I take the information regarding the time of the sighting, longitude, latitude, direction, size and appearance of the object," Buist said. "Then I make the calls and try to pin down exactly what it might be."

"I'm just the type of person that won't give up until I get an answer."

# He dealt with E.T. long before Hollywood

## Proxmire withdrew Oliver's Golden Fleece

By LAURIE KRETCHMAR

If E.T. ever phones home, chances are someone from this planet will be listening in.

Bernard Oliver, former vice president of research and development at Hewlett-Packard Co., heads a 20-member team from NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View called Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI).

The group's goal is to design automated systems that will attract an operator's attention when the system cannot reliably assign a radio signal to a known origin, be it human or natural, in this galaxy.

Budgeted at \$1.5 million a year for five years, the group is in the third year of building computer hardware and software to search the entire sky, as well as a specific microwave region of the electromagnetic spectrum, for sounds coming from 800 other "nearby" stars, similar to

earth's sun. The stars are 80 light-years away from the earth. That's 480 trillion miles.

The targeted search will concentrate on a range of frequencies that is relatively quiet against background noise. The targeted region is bounded by hydrogen and water properties. Because of that, Oliver and others have dubbed it the water hole.

In a 1977 NASA Ames report, Oliver suggested that "different galactic species might meet there, just as different terrestrial species have always met at more mundane water holes."

"The probability is low, but the stakes are very high," says Oliver, of the chances that the SETI group will detect signs of extraterrestrial life.

The equipment, under development at Stanford University and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, is scheduled to be operational by 1988 and will run for 10 years or "as long as the public endorses it. It's a question of our endurance," says Oliver.

A prototype of some of the equipment is being tested in the California Mojave Desert. Next, it will be tested at Arecibo Observatory in Puerto Rico, which has a larger antenna and is more sensitive.

There are tentative plans to launch a second one-way search phase from space, because human-made radio frequency interfering signals, particularly from satellites, are filling up the microwave spectrum, says John Billingham, chief of NASA's extraterrestrial research division, of which SETI is one of eight departments.

SETI officials are optimistic that their search will turn out to be far better than previous attempts. Over the past two decades there have been other efforts to detect signs of extraterrestrial life, but they used extremely limited search strategies. The SETI equipment should do in a few moments what other systems took several months to do, says Oliver. Still, he says, "It's a long-shot. But it would have a hell of a payback."

Oliver maintains the discovery of an advanced civilization would "probably be the greatest discovery in human history."

There are, of course, skeptics.

In 1978, Democratic Sen. William Proxmire of Wisconsin gave the group one of his famed monthly Golden Fleece awards for the "best example of waste, inefficiency or ironic or foolish spending of federal tax dollars."

The senator, who sits on the appropriations committee, thought it was a misuse of public funds "to look for intelligent life in outer space when you sometimes might have trouble finding it in Washington," says Morton Schwartz, one of Proxmire's legislative assistants.

A few years ago, the senator came around and decided not to oppose the SETI project after he heard testimony from NASA that it would not cost more than \$10 million to \$12 million, would have "substantial" foreign involvement and would not be money misspent because the technology could be used for other purposes, says Tom van der Voort, appropriations committee staff member.

If no sounds are detected, researchers will make other valuable discoveries in the universe, says Oliver. But, he and others contend the most exciting discovery would

be to find evidence of other civilizations. If intelligent life can be detected from the vast distances of light-years, the probability is it will have "significantly more capability in technology than here," says Ivan Linscott, research associate at Stanford's Space, Telecommunications and Radio Science lab in the electrical engineering department where SETI equipment is being developed.

The rationale behind his assumption is

that extraterrestrial civilizations who have the technology to transmit signals the SETI group can detect are older than earth's civilization, because their sounds would have traveled as far as 80 light-years away to reach earth. Radio sounds from earth have only been detectable for several decades, SETI officials say.

Even though Oliver and his colleagues are "all convinced" there is life in other galaxies, the question for SETI is how much intelligent life, able to communicate, exists in our galaxy and can be detected, says Oliver.

The former Hewlett-Packard vice president is the "best bona fide person to run SETI on this planet," says NASA's Billingham.

Oliver belongs to both the National Academies of Science and Engineering, teaches astronomy at University of California at Berkeley and spent 25 years thinking about how to detect extraterrestrials, says Billingham.

Oliver says he wouldn't be surprised if the search determined there are one million to 10 million extraterrestrial civilizations.

"The question is, are we going to be a galactic recluse or join the network?" asks Oliver.



The probability of detecting life in outer space is low, but the stakes are high, according to Bernard Oliver.

# Man devoted to study of UFOs

LINCOLNTON, N.C. (AP) — In 1944, a 15-year-old Boy Scout named George Fawcett read a news story about "silver balls floating in the air" that the Nazis apparently planned to use to confuse and frighten the Allies during bombing raids.

The Associated Press clip led to a 40-year interest in unidentified flying objects — a mission that has cost Fawcett \$27,000 of his own money and at least one job, sent him around the country to investigate some 1,000 reported UFO sightings and filled more than 20 file drawers in his Lincolnton home with UFO-related documents.

"I'm not the Billy Graham of UFOs, I'm more like the Curious George," Fawcett, 55, said during an interview at his wife's Lincolnton sandwich shop, which features a "UFO Room" full of framed pictures and clippings.

"It was just curiosity," he said. "Too, there was the deep feeling I got that they were not being treated with the respect due them. I felt that anything that's been going on for four decades in 140 nations deserves close scientific scrutiny.

"But it's never been given yet," he added. "There's never been a real scientific investigation. Or, if there has, the government's not

telling us about it."

Fawcett is the public relations director for the North Carolina chapter of the Mutual UFO Network, which has 75 field investigators in 45 cities across the state. He was MUFON's state director from 1969 to 1980.

But this year, for the first time since 1952, he won't be providing his annual report of North Carolina UFO activity for the previous year.

He's had to look for a job because the newspaper where he worked closed down. He's also been spending more time on worldwide research — particularly a study comparing human rea-

tions to UFOs with the hard evidence of radar trackings and ground markings. This objective data is his reply to the argument that belief in UFOs has merely replaced belief in religion in the age of science.

Of the 1,000 reported sightings he has investigated over the years, Fawcett has explained all but about 22 percent as natural phenomena, man-made objects or hoaxes.

## UFO terrorizes Texas town

**A MYSTERIOUS OBJECT in the sky terrified hundreds of Texans.**

It hovered ominously over the town of Athens for about 15 minutes, then shot straight up into the air at incredible speed and vanished.

Luckily, Athens housewife Eugenia Pickford managed to grab a snapshot of the UFO because she already was out in her garden taking pictures of morning glories.

"I heard a whirring sound overhead, looked up, and had to blink several times to be sure that I wasn't imagining things," says the woman.

"All I knew to do was take the picture and holler for my husband to come and see that thing."

**Hundreds panic over saucer-shaped object**



• **GREEN THUMB** Eugenia Pickford was in her garden photographing morning glories when this UFO appeared out of the blue and she was fortunate enough to be able to snap it hovering above the Texas hamlet of Athens

GLOBE JULY 2 1985

# The skies are full of UFOs

AIR FORCE pilots have reported an astounding 400 UFO sightings over Italy in the past four years.

A secret dossier kept by the Italian Ministry of Defense describes each incident in detail and quotes top air force officers as admitting they are baffled about what's happening.

And senior military men who contributed to the dossier think a far greater number of sightings go unreported.

Gen. Giuseppe Sabatini explains:

"We have stressed the importance of immediate, accurate reports — but many pilots are afraid they will be considered unfit for further duties if they speak out."

The dossier recently fell into the hands of Italian journalists, and its publication prompted a secret session of the Italian par-

## SAYS SECRET REPORT FROM GOVERNMENT

liament. Col. Salvatore Marcelletti, 55, a veteran pilot, says he was on a solo flight over Puglia in southern Italy, when a huge craft suddenly materialized directly in front of his jet fighter.

"It appeared out of nowhere and filled the whole 120 degrees of my cockpit vision," he says.

"It accelerated away from me at a speed that I never would have thought possible."

Civilian UFO reports

have not been as carefully censored as the military ones. In February, a private jet over Turin reported a round, glowing object speeding across its flight path.

Ground radar control bases were unable to identify the craft.

The Defense Ministry dossier also includes eyewitness reports of ground sightings of bizarre alien creatures from the UFO's.

In April, two university students driving near Pordenone, in central Italy, reported spotting manlike creatures in silver-gray suits similar to astronauts' spacesuits.

## Vanished

Says her husband, Jack, "The craft was metallic and saucer-shaped. It scared the hell out of me. I grabbed my wife and hauled her inside, where we watched from the bedroom window as it vanished."

Pickford called the Athens police, who confirmed the switchboard was overwhelmed with frantic UFO reports from other frightened and concerned residents.

"We don't know what it was," says a police sergeant in the south Texas town of 11,000.

"But it certainly set off a lot of excitement.

"Our switchboard was jammed for hours," the officer adds.

The craft reportedly hovered over a suburban neighborhood, where there are no military installations or secret research plants.

"It's hard to say what would attract aliens from outer space to our sleepy little community," comments the cop.

— BRYAN ROWLEY

# Jet Ordered Off Course to Track Fiery UFO



**CLOSE ENCOUNTER:** Jetliner's crew members watched UFO for 22 minutes.

The pilot of a Boeing 727 airliner was ordered to change course to investigate a "tremendously bright" UFO spotted by an air traffic controller over the Canary Islands.

And the pilot, Capt. Adolfo Morales, told The ENQUIRER the UFO was visible to him and his crew for 22 minutes as it tailed his Iberia Airlines jetliner during the gripping incident last February 12.

"It followed our flight path, going up when we went up and down when we went down," said Capt. Morales, a 19-year air veteran.

"Then, without warning it suddenly moved at incredible speed to the right and stopped dead over the town of Santa Cruz on the island of Tenerife.

"It covered the distance, approximately 100 miles, in less than 1½ seconds. It hovered there, shining with an intense brilliant light, then changed color to red and then violet as it started to descend.

**Mystery Object  
Flew 100 Miles  
In Less Than  
1½ Seconds**

"Finally it disappeared beyond the island, possibly into the sea."

Added Capt. Morales: "The UFO was seen by all members of my crew. Even the stewardesses came into the cabin to see it. It was in

sight for a total of 22 minutes."

The pilot said he had been instructed by the air control tower at Arrecife in the Canary Islands to detour closer to the town and check out the light, which was hovering over it.

The traffic controller on duty that night, Antonio Perez, confirmed that he had given the order after spotting the light.

Perez told The ENQUIRER: "It was tremendously bright. I have never seen a light like it before. The air



**PILOT** Adolfo Morales points to diagram showing path of UFO, which tailed his plane.

force called me the following day and asked for details of the sighting. I told them exactly what had happened."

The bizarre UFO also was seen by Arrecife Police Sgt. Jose Munoz. He recalled:

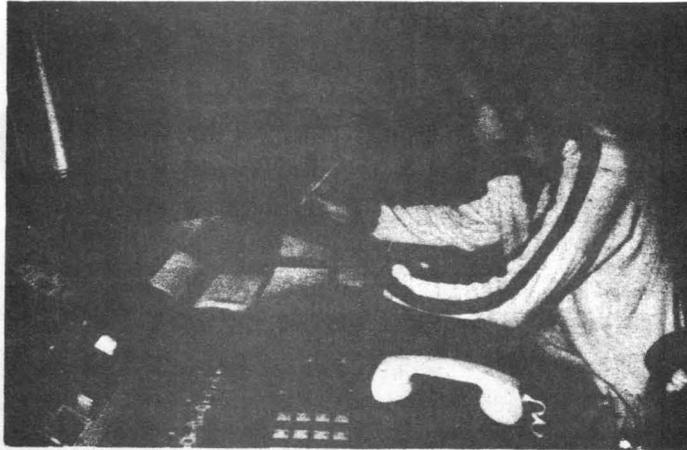
"I was with three other officers in a patrol car when I spotted the round ball of light hovering over a mountain north of Arrecife.

"All we could see was the light — it was too bright to make out any shape. We were all completely mystified. It was like nothing we had ever seen in the sky.

"As we were watching, it suddenly sped southwest and stopped dead over Yaiza, a town about 20 miles away. We were stunned. It traveled faster than any jet plane, then stopped dead in the air."

The Canary Islands belong to Spain. In Madrid, a Spanish Air Force spokesman said there were no air force planes in the area at the time of the UFO sighting. He added: "We are investigating the report."

The UFO returned the following night, according to Mrs. Eusebia Ruano, the wife of the recently retired military director of the Arre-



**FLIGHT DETOUR** was ordered by air-traffic controller Antonio Perez in the Canary Islands.

cife airport. "I saw it again over the hills above the town of Yaiza," she said.

"I have no idea why it came back — but it obviously has some mission on this island."

— CHARLES PARMITER

PA. PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER  
MAY 29 1985

## The Scene

*In the nation and the world*

### UFO: Lighting up Texas skies

A dozen people, including a deputy sheriff, reported seeing an unidentified flying object — bright white with red rings — rotating above Rockport, Texas, on Monday morning.

The object was not picked up on radar screens at the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station. And the National UFO Reporting Center, a private organization in Seattle, said the object was probably the planet Venus glowing brightly in the morning sky.

Aransas County Deputy Joe Veases, however, insisted the object was a UFO. He said it could not be Venus because what he saw was located south of that planet.

Veases said a dozen witnesses spotted the glowing object, which appeared at 4 a.m. and which finally disappeared at 7 a.m. One woman, he said, was driving across a causeway just north of Rockport, not far from Corpus Christi. Halfway across the bridge her headlights went out, her alternator light flipped on and the car stalled. "When the light moved away, her car restarted," Veases said.

FL. CLEARWATER SUN  
MAY 23 1985

# What caused the hole in the ground?

Most people love a mystery. Here's one about a chunk of earth and a hole in the ground.

On Oct. 18, 1984, two brothers—Rick and Pete Timms—were rounding up some cattle on their ranch in north-central Washington. Suddenly they came upon an irregular hole, 10 feet long and 7 feet wide, from which a piece of earth had been removed.

The brothers found the large earth fragment (estimated weight: three tons) exactly 73 feet away. It was mostly intact, but had been turned 20 degrees counterclockwise.

How had this happened?

Had earth-moving equipment been used? Very doubtful. The surrounding landscape was undisturbed by machinery marks or footprints.

How about a tornado? None had been reported in the area. Besides, a tornado would have greatly disturbed surrounding vegetation.

A meteorite was suggested as the cause. But this idea doesn't hold up. There was no sign of an

## The Driver's Seat

By Bob Driver



impact. The hole was not a crater. Investigators said it was almost as if the dirt had been cut out with a huge cookie cutter.

The most likely explanation has to do with a small earthquake that had taken place nine days before the hole was discovered. It measured 3.0 on the Richter scale, and its epicenter was about 20 miles to the southwest.

Greg Behrens, a geologist with the state Bureau of Reclamation, raised the possibility that bedrock could have focused the earthquake's seismic waves on the displaced chunk.

Another geologist has said that such focusing can occur, but that it could not provide the necessary energy.

One of the few things certain about the incident is that it occurred after mid-September, when the Timms had harvested wheat in the field.

I became interested in the Washington "mystery hole" last November when an Associated Press story appeared. I clipped and filed it.

A few weeks ago I removed the story from its file and made seven

ral phone calls. I reached Behrens, and learned from him that no headway has been made in finding a satisfactory explanation for the freak occurrence. Behrens said the piece of earth and the hole remain undisturbed, although time, nature and the grazing of cattle have caused some erosion and wearing away.

Behrens said a number of publications, including *Atlantic Monthly* and *Omni*, have written about the hole. A report also appears in the February-March 1985 newsletter of the Center for UFO Studies, published in Lima, Ohio.

I obtained a copy, and found a fairly objective description of the event, plus some theorizing about possible UFO connections. Local residents are quoted as saying the area in which the Timms farm is situated has a history of UFO sightings.

The article referred to other mysterious holes in the ground in South Africa, Idaho and Ohio. But none of them involved the elements of the Washington case: a large piece of dirt neatly removed from the ground's surface and deposited, almost completely intact, a substantial distance away.

This story fascinates me not because I believe in weird, far-out theories of how the world works, but because I don't. It would be exciting to think that a flying saucer equipped with a sky hook descended from the heavens, bit into the earth, lifted the chunk of dirt into the air and gently dropped it 73 feet away. But I doubt that.

What intrigues me most is that today is 1985 and man has still not figured everything out. Despite our millions of discoveries in a thou-

sand branches of knowledge, there are still mysteries that will not yield their answers.

I intend to keep my notes on the incident in Washington. Perhaps once a year I'll check into the matter again, to see if any new ideas have been suggested. Meanwhile, if you walk out-

side next week and find that half your lawn has been picked up and somehow moved to a parking lot down the street, please give me a call. —

