

# UFO NEWS

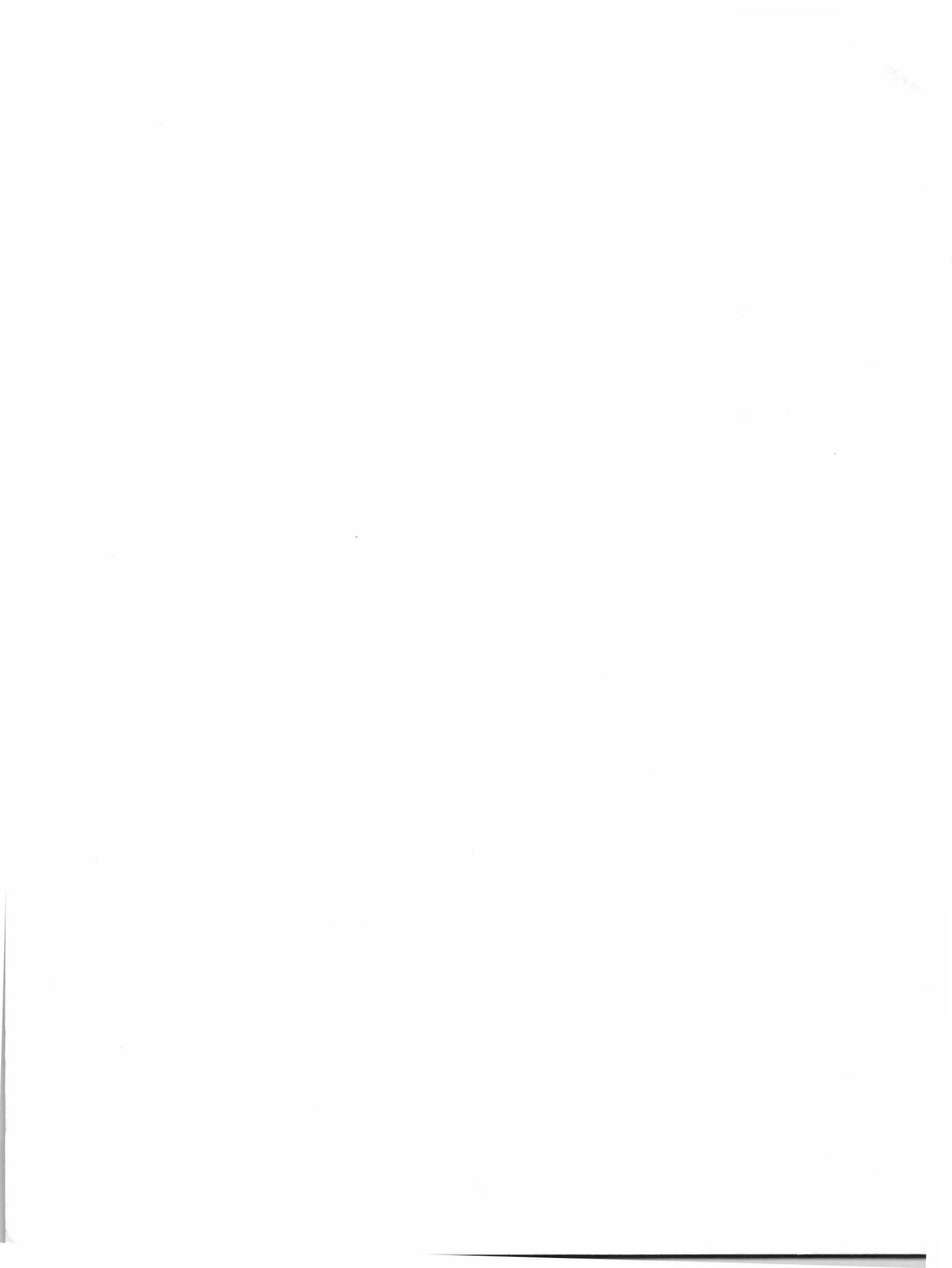
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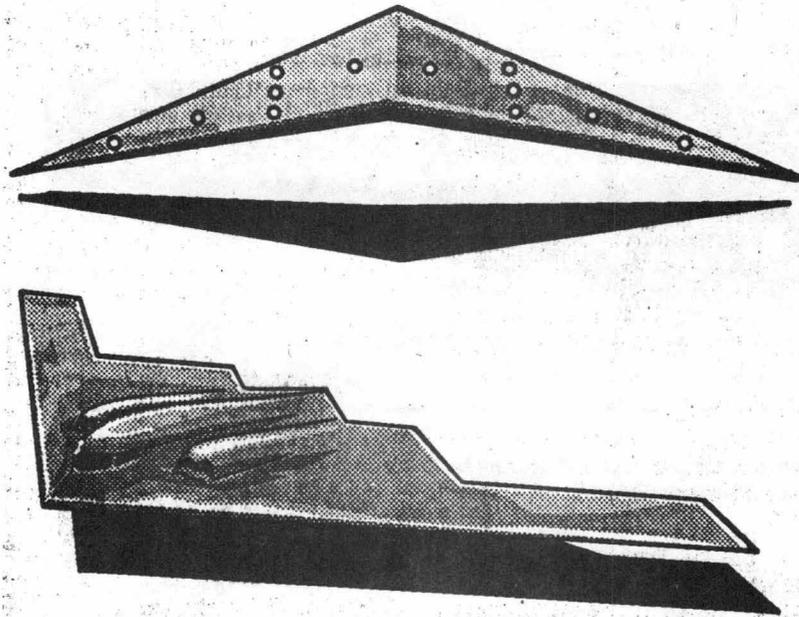
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# UFOs from the U.S.A.?



**RESEMBLANCE?** — At top, an artist's rendering of an unidentified flying object some residents of New York City suburbs have reported viewing. Below it, the U.S. Stealth bomber.

## *Stealth unveiling sets off rumors*

By Paul Grondahl

Staff writer

It all started with this book, "Night Siege: The Hudson Valley UFO Sightings" (Ballantine Books), published last year.

It was an account of an investigation by UFOologists into an unusually prolonged and voluminous cluster of sightings between 1983 and 1986 of the so-called "Westchester boomerang" that was buzzing New York City suburbs — a huge, V-shaped object that flies low and noiselessly and shines brilliant, pulsating, multi-colored lights.

What lent the sightings a modicum of credibility was that there were reports from several hundred individuals, including those from especially reliable witnesses such as police chiefs, scientists and aviation workers.

The UFOologists didn't reach any consensus on the Hudson Valley sightings, but their theories came down more on the side of an experimental government aircraft than aliens from another galaxy.

And then there was the B-2, the Stealth bomber, unveiled by the Air Force a month or so ago with the kind of hype usually reserved for sightings of Elvis Presley holed up in the Midwest.

No sooner were the wraps taken off the Stealth bomber than it began appearing in advertisements for everything from automobiles to clothing — and the calls started ringing into *The Times-Union*.

One of those lovable eccentrics, who expressed particular interest in our earlier story on the Westchester boomerang sightings, put two and two together and came up with the B-2.

He had a theory. We listened.

What if, he mused, the Air Force's top secret defense aircraft designers were skulking around Stewart Air Force Base in Newburgh — which happens to be in proximity to the spate of lower Hudson River Valley UFO sightings?

And what if the Westchester boomerang was none other than the Stealth bomber incognito?

Hmmmm, we wondered. Sounded plausible. And those Air Force photographs of the Stealth bomber looked an awful lot like the artist's renderings of the Westchester boomerang in "Night Siege."

It turns out we weren't the only cranks making the connection.

"I'm hearing the same thing over and over and I have to say it is an intriguing notion," says Mark Rodeghier, scientific director of the Center for UFO Studies in Chicago, a 12,000-member organization devoted to UFO research.

Rodeghier says the circumstantial evidence begins to pile up.

"It seems very curious that while the Stealth bomber was under development, beginning in 1981, this boomerang object, that looks remarkably like the bomber in profile and could not be spotted on radar, was being sighted continually," he says. "And then, even more interesting, is that the sightings suddenly evaporated just before the plane was unveiled."

Of course, there's a major black hole in the theory linking the Westchester boomerang with the Stealth bomber. Air Force officials steadfastly main-

tain the Stealth bomber has never been flown.

"Then again, we know we shouldn't trust the government a whole lot on secret projects," Rodeghier says.

When one looks at the statistics on the Stealth bomber, it does give UFOologists and skeptics alike pause.

Consider the B-2's dimensions:

Height: 17 feet; length: 69 feet; wingspan: 172 feet; engines: four General Electric F-118s; design: Delta-shaped flying wing; mission: all-altitude bomber, nuclear-capable and nearly undetectable by radar; cost: classified, although reportedly could reach as high as \$68.8 billion for a fleet of 132 bombers, or about \$530 million apiece.

Philip Imbrogno, one of the authors of "Night Siege," is not dismissing out of hand the possible double identity of the Stealth bomber.

"It's something that has to be considered," says Imbrogno, who adds that the last sighting of the Westchester boomerang was reported in May 1988.

Imbrogno admits he was intrigued enough by the possibility of a connection between the bomber and the boomerang that he got into Stewart A.F.B. and took a close look around.

"I found no facilities and no suggestions that the Stealth bomber was ever there," he says. "It's unclassified information now and the Air Force says it wasn't there, so I tend to believe them."

What seems to shoot down the linkage theory is the fact that experimental government aircrafts are simply not test-flown over populated areas like Westchester County. Also, witnesses of the Westchester boomerang reported it hovered noiselessly at very low altitudes, something the Stealth bomber would not be capable of. And the boomerang was reportedly the size of a football field.

"At 20,000 feet, which is the altitude the Stealth bomber would fly, it would look like one of those tiny, little winged kites," Imbrogno says.

"I'm not willing to say some top-secret aircraft isn't being tested at Stewart A.F.B.," says Peter Gersten, a Peekskill attorney who is a founding member of Citizens Against UFO Secrecy and the operator of a UFO Hotline in Westchester County.

"It's very possible a lot of V-shaped objects that are not necessarily the Stealth bomber are being tested," Gersten says. "We do know that a rash of regular Thursday night sightings were pilots in small aircraft flying in a tight V formation trying to imitate a UFO. But those have stopped."

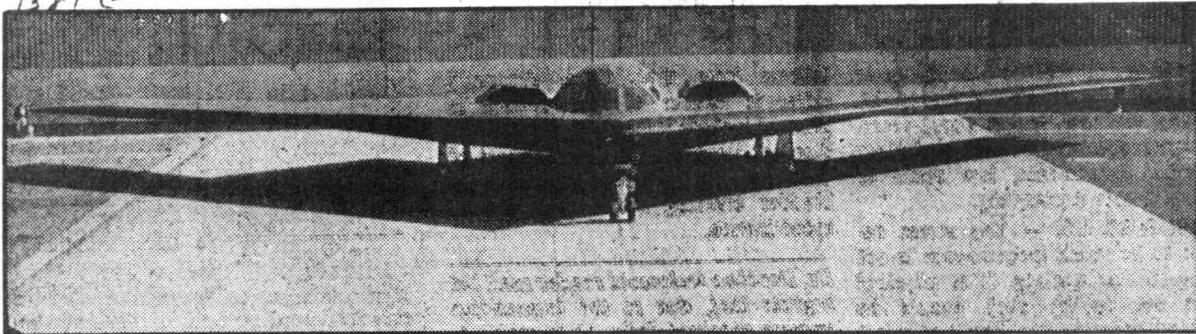
Walter Andrus, international director of Mutual UFO Network, a 2,000-member organization based in Seguin, Texas, says he's certain there is nothing to the bomber-boomerang theories.

"We know the Stealth bomber hasn't been flown," he says, adding cryptically, "lots of eyes and ears are available."

Regardless of the boomerang-bomber quandary, every UFOologist, it seems, has his own theory about the entire UFO phenomenon and the thinking is continually evolving.

"Up to about a year ago, my opinion was that these were extraterrestrials."

See UFO/ C-6



Associated Press

**WAS IT THE STEALTH?** — Theories on UFOs in the Hudson Valley include that the Air Force's B-2 Stealth bomber designers were skulking around Stewart Air Force Base in Newburgh, in the vicinity of the Westchester boomerang sightings.

## UFO

*Continued from C-1*

says Gersten, the attorney. "Now I think the UFO groups have gone way overboard and people are being led astray by really obsessive fanatics. I see no evidence whatsoever that aliens are coming here. It's all misidentification in the sky. I've become disillusioned with the whole thing."

Says Gersten, "You can't convince the believers UFOs don't exist. UFOs have now become almost a religious kind of cult. People see what they want to see and believe what they want to believe."

Imbrogno says since his book "Night Siege" came out, he's been besieged by

UFO fanatics. "The UFO sightings seem to trigger something psychologically in these people," Imbrogno says. "People who weren't interested before are now obsessed with UFOs, like Richard Dreyfuss in *Close Encounters*."

Among the numerous crazy and hairbrained theories Imbrogno has been fed, he has one favorite.

It goes like this: There are several old, abandoned iron ore mines in the vicinity of Brewster, Putnam County, along Highway 84 on the Connecticut border. "There are people who believe there are entrances still open and some kind of alien intelligence is using these as an underground base for their work and they are abducting humans for testing," Imbrogno says.

Imbrogno finds the whole scenario so preposterous as to be undeserving of comment.

As for Andrus at the Mutual UFO Network, he's holding hard and fast to the popular Uncle Sam conspiracy theory. "There's a very real government cover-up that's been going in for 41 years," Andrus says. "Sooner or later, the government will have to come clean and admit they've been lying to us. All I'll say is that the government is very involved with UFOs and aliens and there's more to it than meets the eye."

Imbrogno thinks there are only questions, no answers.

"All you can say in the end," he says, "is that we're left with a mystery that goes unsolved."

# CLOSE ENCOUNTERS OF THE POLICE KIND

**Police officers have been some of the most reliable witnesses to sightings of UFOs. Ken Sloan reports on his own experiences and those detailed in a recent book**

**P**olice officers are usually very reliable witnesses when dealing with day-to-day events. So can they be dismissed out of hand when they talk about seeing things from another world?

The testimony of police officers who believe that they have seen unidentified flying objects plays a big part in *Above Top Secret* by Timothy Good (Guild Publishing), which makes an interesting case for UFOs and examines the alleged attempts of governments to cover up their existence.

In a foreword, Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton, writes: 'A large number of sightings have been vouched for by persons whose credentials seem to me to be impeccable. It is striking that so many have been trained observers, such as police officers.'

The book records the experiences of Sgt Tony Dodd and PC Alan Dale when on duty in Cononley, near Skip-ton, Yorkshire, in January 1978.

In Sergeant Dodd's own words: 'We were going down a country lane — it was dark.

Suddenly the road in front of us lit up. We stopped the car, looked up, and there was this thing coming from our right to our left. It was glowing; like a bright white incandescent glow, and it came right over our heads.

'It was as if the metal this thing was made of was white hot, and there were these three great spheres underneath, like huge ball-bearings — three of them equally placed around it. There was a hollow area underneath and like a skirt-



*WHAT'S THIS?: Farmer Dick Jennings inspects a saucer found in a field near Chippenham, Wiltshire, watched over by a local officer*

ing around the bottom, but these things protruded below that.

'It was absolutely awe-inspiring — it was such a beautiful looking thing. It seemed to have portholes round the dome — and what stood out more than anything else was the coloured lights dancing round on the outside of the skirt at the bottom, which gave the impression that it was rotating.

'We carried on along this road and as we got towards the village we could see

these lights coming towards us from the other direction — it was another police car. We stopped and the driver said: 'I've just been watching this damn great UFO and it seems to have come down somewhere over here.''

During my own police service I can remember three incidents which were connected with UFOs. The first was when a woman reported that her neighbour had been raped. She went on to say that it was no ordinary rape as it had been committed by a Venusian. The man had just appeared in her neighbour's house, said that he had come in a space ship from Venus (and to prove it he plunged his hand into a pan of boiling water). He then had intercourse with her and she was unable to resist. A few weeks later a child had been born which, the woman said 'is obviously not human'.

I regret to say that, after making vague promises to investigate, I forgot the incident and failed to report it. (I hope now that the statute of limitations applies to disciplinary offences.)

As a sergeant I visited one of my constables in the early hours of the morning during what I think was 1967. He was pale and shaky and told me that he had just seen a flying saucer land and take off again in a nearby park. At his request I promised not to mention this to anyone and have not done so until now.

The strange thing was that the following day's newspapers carried a report of a strange object of the same description, observed and followed by two officers of the Cheshire Constabulary.

The last of my stories concerns a newspaper report of a UFO seen in the middle of the afternoon by a man who had drawn the attention of a police officer to it before ringing the press. The officer had carried on observing the unusual-looking object and it finally became clear that it was a large aircraft landing at the nearby airport. The officer contacted the newspaper to correct their report and was threatened with disciplinary action by his chief superintendent.

Returning to *Above Top Secret*, it is suggested that observers of UFOs are officially warned not to disclose the information. WPC Maureen Hall, who reported seeing a hexagonal-shaped object over Chingford, Essex, on September 20, 1978 is alleged to have been visited by a man from the Ministry of Defence and told to drop an investigation she was carrying out for the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association (BUFORA).

The book also relates the following stories involving the police:

On November 6, 1967, Karl Farlow was driving a truck between Avon and Sopley, in Hampshire, when he saw 'a glowing 15-foot wide egg-shaped UFO which moved slowly across the road from the right, moved slowly to the left, then accelerated and disappeared. The object made a sound like a refrigerator and gave off a smell like a drill boring through wood.' A veterinary surgeon driving in

the opposite direction also saw this object and the lights on both vehicles failed.

Both drivers were taken to Bourne-mouth Police Station for interrogation and then to Christchurch Police Station for interview by a Ministry of Defence official. The following day Farlow was driven back to the scene by the police and saw a group of people investigating the area with instruments, a bulldozer levelling the ground and a man re-painting a telephone booth.

## Glowing object

A report was sent to the MoD on December 27 1980 stating that two USAF security police patrolmen had seen unusual lights at RAF Woodbridge, near Ipswich, Suffolk. They found a glowing triangular metallic-looking object in the nearby forest. It was approximately two to three metres across and two metres high, and had a pulsating red light on top, a bank of blue lights underneath, and a white light on the front.

The object was either hovering or on legs and manoeuvred through the trees as they approached. This was apparently confirmed by DS8 branch of the MoD in a letter which was left with Thames Television, witnessed by Det Insp Norman Collinson. The television company later insisted that they did not have the letter and all copies have vanished.

Other reports claim that the object had

crashed in Rendlesham Forest, that there 'were two bobbies there', and that before it took off again contact had been made with its crew. The Woodbridge police were notified and are said to have a logbook which shows that this incident occurred on the night of December 25/26. It is suggested that 'the police may have entered an incorrect day in their log-book'.

On November 29 1980, shortly after 5am in Todmorden, Yorkshire, a number of police officers independently reported a UFO in the area. PC Alan Godfrey claims that he came across what he at first thought was a bus which had slid across the road sideways. Then he realised the object was a UFO.

'It was about 20 feet wide and 14 feet high and was a diamond shaped. It had a bank of windows and the bottom half was rotating. It was hovering off the ground about five feet, and it was very frightening — very frightening'. His radio stopped working and he decided to sketch the object on his clipboard. The next minute he found himself a hundred yards down the road and there was no sign of the UFO. During hypnotic regression sessions, he told a story of having been taken on board the craft.

As Admiral of the Fleet The Lord Hill-Norton says, police officers are trained observers and possibly the mystery of UFOs could be explained by reliable reports of such sightings. ○

RHYL + PRESTATYN JOURNAL FEB 8 1989

# Expert explains reason for fewer UFO sightings

by ELWYN EDWARDS

HAVE you seen a UFO in the last few weeks? If not, don't be too upset, for according to a leading Clwyd ufologist the "visitations" have come to a sudden if temporary halt.

Sightings in the county over the years have been numerous, but leading expert on

the phenomenon, Mrs Margaret Fry, of Llangernyw, has seen her reports dwindle to almost nothing in recent months.

Mrs Fry, a field investigator and Welsh co-ordinator for the Worldwide UFO organisation Contact International, investigates and researches each report meticulously.

Having first experienced a UFO in

1955, when she was "scared to death" after a flying saucer buzzed her car, she has no doubt about their authenticity.

During just one day 1986 16 separate sightings were reported around the Prestatyn, Trelawnyd, Caerwys and Denbigh areas.

Mrs Fry blames the present lull on the align-

ment of the planets which, she claims, would make it more difficult if extra terrestrial travel was possible.

As a young child living in India, Mrs Fry recalled the enthusiasm of her father in relating the sighting of a large oval-shaped metallic object by explorer Nicholas Roerich during an expedition in

Mongolia.

Her interest was further kindled by the sighting by Sir Francis Chichester, when flying solo over the Tasman Sea in 1931, of a bright, pearl-shaped object.

With a library consisting of more than 500 books on UFOs and associated subjects, Mrs Fry has collected hundreds of well-documented cases. But she is the first to

admit that the majority of sightings are genuine mistakes.

Despite the present lack of sightings, she firmly believes they will return, particularly over the hilly areas of Wales where many past experiences have been witnessed.

Mrs Fry is still interested in any UFO experiences and can be contacted on Llangernyw 537.



● Mrs Margaret Fry

## Visitors from Outer Space?

# Area Residents Report Seeing Strange Objects in the Sky

BY DEBBIE BREWER

"I've always been skeptical (of UFO reports), but I'm a believer now," said Joanne Piluski of Route 3, Rushville, after she and her two daughters and several others from Rushville and the surrounding area saw strange unidentifiable lights in the sky last Tuesday evening, Jan. 31.

Joanne said she and her 13-year-old daughter, Jennifer, left their home, near Schuy-Rush Lake, about 6:45 p.m. last Tuesday to drive a short distance to Dr. Larson's house, where her 15-year-old daughter, Melissa, was babysitting.

"We were driving down our lane, when we saw a huge bright light," Joanne said. "It was suspended in mid-air over our neighbors' house, and then it moved really fast. I don't know how far, and then it stopped. I stopped the car to watch, and after a minute or so, it moved back to where it was originally."

The Piluskis continued to watch the object, as they drove toward the Larson's house. Before they arrived, according to Joanne, Jennifer saw the object begin to shoot out "fireballs", so they stopped the car again to watch.

After watching a few minutes, they drove to the Larson house. When they arrived, they went in, told Melissa about the object, and the three of them watched it from a window. The object continued to shoot "fireballs", Joanne said.

Then, Joanne and Melissa went out, sat in the driveway and continued to watch until the object disappeared.

The Larsons were not home at the time.

"We didn't see it anymore after we left the Larsons," Joanne said. "I would say we watched it for about 15 minutes before it

disappeared."

When the object moved, Joanne said, the bright light went out and was replaced by three smaller lights. When it stopped, the bright light came back on.

"It couldn't have been an airplane," Joanne said. "There were two or three airplanes over a ways in the sky, and it was much bigger. It also moved too fast, and I've never seen an airplane hover in one spot like this did."

According to Joanne, the first thing she did when she got home was call the sheriff's office. She then called WGEM TV in Quincy. The man she spoke with there, informed her they had received several similar reports recently from Rushville and Pittsfield.

"I know I saw something," Joanne said, "and I thought 'people will think I'm crazy', until I learned other people had seen it, too."

Lou Ann Norton, who lives near the Piluskis reported seeing strange lights the same night, between 6:30 and 7 p.m.

Norton said she was driving toward Rushville on Highway 67, when she saw a bright orange light in the sky, just south of town.

"It was just there and then gone," she said. "I didn't think too much about it at first."

"Then when I got to Bartlow Brothers, I saw it again, right in front of me. This time it was a big white light."

Again, Norton said it was there only a moment and then gone. She drove on to her mother's house at 419 S. Monroe. When she arrived, she said she saw three perfectly round orange lights in a vertical line, moving up from the horizon.

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Norton said she also saw airplanes and jets in the sky at the same time, but said the other lights she saw were nothing like them.

"I know I saw it, I just don't know what I saw," she said.

Keith Bockwitz of Rushville said he was driving east along Clinton Street last Tuesday evening about 6:45. As he passed the Dairy Queen, he said he saw four amber colored lights in the sky ahead.

"If you can picture a ball with lights spaced evenly around it, that's what it looked like," Bockwitz said.

According to Bockwitz, the four lights were arranged in a vertical line, which appeared to be sitting still and rotating.

"The top light would disappear, and another would show up at the bottom. Little sparks like fireworks appeared to be coming from the lights."

"There was an airplane in the sky that seemed to be flying right toward it, but the plane's lights were considerably smaller."

Bockwitz said that when he turned the corner at the hospital, the lights disappeared. "I got to thinking, maybe it had been a reflection or something," he said, "so I drove around the block, but I didn't see anything the second time."

"I've never seen anything like it," Bockwitz added. "I've always laughed when people said they had seen flying saucers, but I saw something. I just don't know what it was."

Bockwitz said it would be impossible to judge whether the lights were over Springfield, or the edge of Rushville.

Terry Loudon of Rushville was outside Norman Hood's house at 115 S. Cedar, Tuesday evening, about 6:45, playing catch with Hood's son.

CON'T

"I just happened to look up and see three strange lights in a vertical line, just above the horizon east of town. A new light would appear above the others, and the bottom line would disappear, as it moved upward."

Louden said he watched for about thirty seconds and went back to playing catch. "I really didn't think any more about it, until I heard someone else had seen something."

Eighth graders Jason Ackman and Andy Ebey also saw strange lights in the sky that evening.

According to Jason's mother, Candy Ackman, the boys came running in from outside, excitedly telling her what they had seen.

The next day, the boys' science teacher, Catherine Mattson, suggested the lights may have been flares used to guide airplanes down. Candy said Jason and Andy were satisfied with the explanation. Everyone else, however, who reported seeing the lights, rejected the explanation altogether.

"The lights were too perfectly round to have been flares," Norton said. "And there were no tails or sparks flying from them."

"Where would they have been guiding them? The lights were out in the middle of nowhere," said Loudon. "And they didn't arch like a flare would."

"I would say they weren't flares," Bockwitz said. "They were too round."

"It wasn't flares," said Piluski.

The Brown County Sheriff's Department also received reports of strange lights in the sky Tuesday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Zimmerman, who live near Versailles, reported seeing "seven or eight blinking yellow lights, which appeared to be moving in a circle in the sky ahead of them", near Mt. Sterling.

The Illinois State Police Department in Macomb received two similar calls. One caller from Bushnell reported seeing "flares dropping out of the object".

YELLOW ADVERTISER - COLCHESTER -  
JAN 27 1989

# UFO spotted hovering near airport

**MORE SIGHTINGS** of strange lights in the sky have been reported near Southend Airport.

A teenager and her mother from Eastwood watched a bright light hover for at least five minutes over open land to the west of the town's airport on Tuesday of last week.

The UFO was seen at around 6.30pm, hovering at just above rooftop height.

Eighteen-year-old Mary Lowe saw the light — "bigger than a star and without aircraft lights" — hover in the one position, then suddenly rise vertically to ten times its original height before moving off slowly in the direction of Rayleigh.

Southend police say there was no activity in the area on the night and the police helicopter was definitely not in use that evening.

When Mary's mother called Southend Airport

## 'Bigger than a star and with no aircraft lights'

to report the sighting, she was told nothing had shown on their radar screens at the time, nor were there any unusual aircraft operating.

Mrs Lowe's sighting is the third in the area this year. According to the Anglian UFO Research Group, previous sightings were reported on January 3 and 12.

The first involved three people who watched a bright light travel at phenomenal speed backwards and forwards between Southend and Basildon over a two-hour period. Through binoculars the three observed a blue light pulsating through a white glow.

Then on the evening of January 12, six people reported seeing two lights over Canvey. First one

light revolved around the other, then it stopped and they appeared to switch roles.

Eventually the two lights separated, one flying towards Southend, the other in the direction of Basildon — where it disappeared, only to reappear suddenly over the sea not far from its original position, in close company with the first light once again.

Last year there was a whole spate of UFO sightings in southern Essex, some of the more spectacular phenomena being spotted by several dozen observers.

The Anglian UFO Research Group has asked anyone who thinks they have seen a UFO to call its emergency hotline on Basildon 286079.

CAMBRIDGE NEWS  
JAN 26 1989

## Author tells of UFO stories

JACQUES Vallee claims in "Dimensions" that he has been abducted and experimented upon by humanoid aliens.

This does not add credibility to his serious book.

Dispensing with much of the usual sensationalism and speculation about flying saucers, he concentrates on making sense out of the mystery of dimensions beyond space time.

In "Dimensions" he goes back to prehistoric times and Biblical sightings by the prophet Ezekiel in search of the truth... a project that has taken him more than 30 years.

The Tzeltal Indians of Mexico reported ugly half-human beings who could fly.

In 1917, 30,000 people witnessed the apparently miraculous apparitions of the Virgin Mary in Fatima, Portugal.

More recently in America there was a wave of reported sightings of a "marvellous airship" and encounters with its humanoid pilots.

He suggests that all these might be manifestations of the same phenomenon.

"Dimensions", by Jacques Vallee (Souvenir Press) £12.95.

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## Science and the unknown

Private citizens who have reported UFO sightings to government officials sometimes complain of secrecy, frustration and laughter.

Floyd Petri founded the Center for Instrumented UFO Research in Bastrop in part to circumvent such bureaucratic hassles.

"Our purpose is to confirm the existence or nonexistence of the UFO by scientific means," said Petri, a retired police chief.

"Before organizations such as this existed, an individual was nothing more than a UFO buff or a witness. Often, after people made a report to the authorities, that was the last they heard of it. Any physical evidence they offered went up in smoke."

Petri said the 10-year-old center is accumulating equipment and personnel to set up a monitoring station and a field unit, probably in a van. Both will be equipped with devices such as radar, magnetometers, cameras, video equipment, radiation and sound detection equipment, and chart recorders.

"There are many Americans who are funding this kind of research right out of their own pockets," he said. "Just like there are people who spend thousands of dollars a year fishing. This is my hobby. This is where my money goes. There also have been donations and benefactors interested in our research."

The scientific instrumentation — much of which the center owns — sounds impressive. But some of the most fruitful research — retrieving government documents pertaining to UFOs — forces the private UFO investigator to use simpler but equally powerful tools such as typewriters and the mail.

"The Freedom of Information Act is one of the nicest things that ever happened to us," Petri said. "There is a world of information in the hands of government and individuals. If it was gathered, studied and disseminated properly, the information would shed some light on the UFO enigma. Many groups are trying to do that now."

Petri's organization is interested in investigating suspected landing sites and trace materials from all kinds of encounters — from cattle mutilations to indentations thought to be made by saucer landing pods. And the center is involved in the computer enhancement of photos showing UFOs to determine their validity.



# UFOs showing up in closer encounters

UFO abduction cases also draw the center's attention if there's evidence in addition to an abductee's account.

Petri also serves as state section director of Bastrop and Travis counties for the Mutual UFO Network.

The center and MUFON work together to train UFO investigators, discuss cases and plan field trips for investigations. Joint meetings are under the acronym PULSE — Project UFO Landings, Sightings and Encounters — so the two organizations can maintain separate identities.

"The goals are to share information and ferret out bad, distorted information," Petri said. "So the organizations don't mind communicating."

Ten members are training to be field investigators. Three have been trained. Most are professional people with skills such as photography, computers, legal investigation and medicine.

Membership is by invitation. The center seeks people with professional expertise that could be of use in UFO investigations. Though it costs nothing to join, members must subscribe to the *MUFON UFO Journal*.

"We're not here to make converts but to collect evidence," Petri said.

For information on the Center for Instrumented UFO Research, write to Rt. 1 Box 180K, Bastrop 78602 or call 321-6919 in Bastrop.

## Stories by Carlos Vidal Greth Illustration by Sharon Kilday

American-Statesman Staff

**H**umans have always gazed wonderingly at the heavens, struggling to understand unexpected changes of scenery and casting in the galactic play being produced overhead.

Traditionally, most reports of unidentified flying objects were these kind of distant encounters observed from below, usually explainable as unmade or natural phenomena.

At 8:10 p.m. on Jan. 20, for example, hundreds of Texans witnessed a spectacular fireball streak across the sky. The object turned out to be a Soviet rocket body that officials had expected to re-enter the atmosphere.

But lately, UFO encounters have moved much closer to home. They have migrated from outer to inner space, and from the realm of astronomy to psychology.

The trend started several years ago, when a number of books were published detailing stories of abductions by extraterrestrial creatures, most notably *Intruders* by Budd Hopkins and *Communion* by Whitley Strieber.

The best-selling volumes prompted a storm of reports from people who thought they, too, had been visited or kidnapped by aliens. Eerily, many of the accounts shared certain characteristics, such as:

- Missing time, where folks can't recall what occurred during a period of hours or days — except when put under hypnosis;
- Interbreeding of human and alien species, involving artificial insemination or long-term genetic studies;
- Physical exams, some indicating a positively inhuman absence of bedside manner on the part of alien "physicians."
- Short, slight visitors with almond eyes or robotlike creatures that can be kindly, cruel or dispassionately curious.

No one can say for sure whether the rash of recent UFO encounter and abduc-

tion accounts represents the early warning signs of an alien invasion or the tabloid-inspired products of fevered imaginations.

But for many, the abduction experience is charged with spiritual overtones. Hard evidence, of course, takes a back seat to faith in such an environment. One of the most common commandments is: Thou shalt not foul thy planet with pollution and armaments, because the visitors won't stand for it.

Glenda Richmond of Austin, who said she has had several close encounters, thinks that the extraterrestrials are contacting a wide range of people.

"In order for there to be change in consciousness, you can't just change the leaders," said Richmond, a computer programmer. "That's why the visitors don't choose only people of power and position."

She said that the governments of the world are conspiring to keep citizens from knowing the truth about the aliens.

"They are supposed to protect us but can't. So they are afraid to tell us what they know. I'm not paranoid. But the people who lead us don't always have the public's best interest in mind."

Richmond said her most memorable encounter came when she was 12 and visiting her grandmother's house in rural Illinois. She recalled that though the second-story bedroom overlooked a 20-foot-deep ravine, an intense beam of light suddenly shot through the window and coursed up and down her body.

"I believe it was an intelligent probe," she said. "It was measuring something indefinable in me. It also gave me information that I would be able to use later."

Richmond, more curious than afraid, went to the window, where she said she saw a spacecraft with red, orange and golden pulsating lights.

"I told my grandmother the next morning, and she said it was just a dream. My family, who already thought I was a strange child, told me I had just imagined or dreamed it."

But Richmond never doubted it was real.

"I had been a blissfully ignorant child. Several days after the visitation I began to change. I decided I was going to get an education and be different from the rest of my family. I became goal-oriented."

Many people who report UFO encounters, however, describe negative experiences that haunted their lives in conscious and subconscious ways.

"I find it appalling there aren't more support groups for people who have had UFO encounters," Richmond said. "Whether these phenomena are authentic or not, people feel they are real. Therefore, we should be able to treat it."

Dan Overlade, a clinical psychologist in Pensacola, Fla., who has conducted hypnosis sessions with half a dozen people reporting close encounters, also thinks it's time to provide help.

But before that can happen, Overlade said, there must be a change in the way such victims are perceived by the health and social science professions.

"When one gentleman who thought he had an abduction told people about it, he was institutionalized briefly and put on Thorazine," he said. "It was considered ipso facto proof of insanity."

Overlade, past president of Florida Psychological Association, recently agreed to act as a consultant for the Mutual UFO Network. The 2,000-member international organization, based in Seguin, investigates UFO cases in the most careful, empirical manner it can muster.

"One reason I got involved with MUFON was to help make professionals aware that there are victims out there who are experiencing post-traumatic stress disorder similar to that experienced by some Vietnam veterans. Whether their encounters are real or imagined, they are suffering."

Fortunately, Overlade said, some cities have support groups where people can go to tell their UFO stories in comfortable environments.

The phenomenon, however, is misunderstood, and the study of its causes relatively new.

"We're gradually escaping the kind of attitude that would lead a competent psychiatrist to throw someone in the hospital for making such a report," Overlade said.

"The only way you can account for these reports on a psychological basis is that the people are schizophrenic, pathological liars or have a rare form of hysteria coupled with memory lapses. But the people I interviewed are none of these.

"I don't know if there are aliens, if the abductees have been physically moved or if they have received some kind of telepathic imagery. But I rather imagine there has been some kind of contact."

Though Overlade, who administered many hours of standard psychological tests to his interviewees, has begun to accept the possibility of extraterrestrial visits, many scientists remain unconvinced.

Harlan Smith, director of the University of Texas McDonald Observatory near Fort Davis, said he tries to keep an open mind while awaiting the presentation of solid evidence.

"I would welcome some exciting, true event involving UFOs," Smith said. "I'm interested in the possibility of extraterrestrial life."

He said that though he has had three UFO experiences, a little research enabled him to identify all of them as natural or manmade phenomena.

Smith, however, has little patience with reported UFO kidnappings and alien encounters.

"The abductions are the stuff of *National Enquirer*," the astronomer said. "There has never been any proof that would hold up in a court of law.

"It is far easier to conclude that we're dealing with the credulity of the public. It is easier to conclude that we're dealing with the desire of some individuals to make money."

Lewis Branscomb, former chief scientist with IBM, also has scoffed at UFOlogy and its excesses: "The stronger the incentive to discover, the greater the temptation to let down one's guard."

The "guard" — call it rational or scientific inquiry — often comes down at UFO conferences, particularly those associated with New Age and psychic phenomena.

Conference participants, for the most part, accept as givens that UFOs exist and that extraterrestrials often drop in unannounced. Common topics of discussion include the motivations and behavior of alien abductors and coping with "post-abduction syndrome."

At a recent event sponsored by the Central Texas Parapsychology Association in Austin, panelists and audience members shared the thrills, chills and occasional trauma that extraterrestrials reportedly induce in those they visit.

Guest speaker Juanita Deering told how she was once able to identify an extraterrestrial by analyzing his aura, the multi-hued energy field some people believe surrounds living beings.

"The man was definitely not one of us," she said. "He had a silver aura with metallic dust."

Panel moderator Elaine Ireland, a psychic reader, recalled a UFO experience she had while visiting the ancient Mayan ruins of Palenque, Mexico. She went to the village last year for the Harmonic Convergence, a worldwide New Age event that was supposed to inaugurate a different era of consciousness.

"Five UFOs were dancing in the sky overhead," Ireland said. "They made no attempt to hide. It was like the Thunderbirds (the U.S. Air Force aerobatic team). They were trying to entertain us.

"I've had a psychic impression that in the mid-1990s, some public manifestation will occur. I'm hoping that as a race we'll be allowed to learn from them."

Walter Andrus, international director of MUFON in Seguin, also is interested in UFO abduction cases, though he is more selective than many UFOlogists about the credibility of the witnesses.

"We stay away from the New Age folks," he said. "No channelers or psychics. We deal in scientific facts.

"We're talking about credible, professional people whose reputations are beyond reproach. And we don't work with people who have histories of alcohol and drug abuse. There are too many legitimate people to talk to."

Andrus said there are more people contacting him with suspicions or reports of UFO abductions than there are qualified

professionals willing to administer hypnosis. The psychological technique is used to explore the subject's often submerged recollections of an encounter.

"One day last week three people called me with abduction reports," he said. "There's a lot of merit to some of their claims. That's one reason (abduction expert) writer Budd Hopkins is on our staff."

Andrus, who has witnessed a number of hypnotic regressions, said the experiences moved him.

"People reliving a real abduction experience often cry and moan. It is traumatic. There are many promising cases. They just have to be sorted out. We go in with our eyes wide open."

"*Personal UFO Experiences*," a panel discussion sponsored by the Central Texas Parapsychology Association, will be at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 3 at the Austin Marriott, U.S. 290 at Interstate 35. For information, call 331-9593.

For information on the Mutual UFO Network, write to MUFON, 103 Oldtowne Road, Seguin 78155-4099; or call 379-9216.

## Strangers in the night

The case of Gwen, who believes she was — and continues to be — kidnapped by extraterrestrials conducting mysterious experiments, is typical of UFO abduction reports that have been made public. And like many self-described abductees, she prefers to remain anonymous for fear that her neighbors may turn out to be less understanding than the aliens she suspects examined her during the night.

Here is the way she remembers her encounters:

Things have happened to me all my life that I couldn't explain. My parents said it was the result of my artistic imagination.

My dad worked in aerospace, but I remember being unimpressed with his work. I had this feeling that I had already been in space and that we could already travel to the stars.

The summer of 1968, when I graduated from high school, was the first time I saw a UFO. I was sitting in the front yard with a friend. A bright, golden object swooshed across the horizon. We were living in Midland so you could see a lot of horizon. It stopped on a dime, then *poof!* it was gone.

Soon afterward I had a real strong time-lapse event.

My boyfriend's parents had retired to Ruidoso, N.M. In June, I went to visit him. It was about an hour's drive from their house in the mountains to Roswell, where the airport was.

We left two hours before the plane was to take off. The speed limit was 70 miles an hour. That should have given us plenty of time to get there. We were trucking across the desert when my boyfriend looked at his watch and said, "This is impossible."

He had been driving like a bat out of hell, but when we got to the airport the plane was taxiing out on the runway. I could never explain what happened to that hour and a half of lost time.

On another occasion when my family lived in Tulsa, I woke up in the middle of the night and saw this being standing at the foot of my bed. It had red eyes and wore a black cloak. It was robotic, but not completely — it was mostly a bionic-type being. It had a silver, polished dome head.

I lay there for about 10 minutes looking at this thing, wondering, "What the hell's going on?" I closed my eyes and prayed, "Dear God, please let me understand what's happening here." When I opened my eyes, it was gone.

I learned about much of this event in a hypnotic regression conducted by an Austin psychotherapist. It would have made a really great science-fiction movie.

One night, I bought the book *Communion* and couldn't put it down. I realized that what he was talking about had been happening to me all my life. The hair stood up on the back of my neck.

I've also become aware of a mother ship in the night. I don't know how I know what it is, but most of the time it appears in the eastern sky. It pulsates from blue to white to orange-red, sometimes very rapidly.

If someone had told me two years ago that this would be happening to me, I would have backed away from that person.

I have trouble talking to human beings sometimes. How could I be talking to extraterrestrials?

## Belief in UFOs comes in several forms

Despite the shortage of hard evidence, a Gallup poll reveals that 68 percent of Americans believe UFOs exist. And it seems that those who think there is intelligent life out there have the odds on their side. Carl Sagan, an astronomer who doesn't believe aliens have visited Earth, hypothesizes that in the Milky Way galaxy alone there could be a million planets that might be able to support life.

Believers and disbelievers fall into four basic types, said Michael Rigg, who works for the Mutual UFO Network in Indiana:

- **Blind acceptor:** a UFO watcher who will not change his mind and cannot be swayed no matter what evidence is presented. Unfortunately, Rigg said, more than 85

percent of believers fall into this category.

- **Hypothesizer:** a walking library of UFO lore who can reproduce practically any close-encounter case verbatim. May be reluctant to engage in free thinking.

- **Analyzer:** a person who resists making snap judgments or hypotheses that can't be proven, concentrating on presenting the facts he observes in a logical, coherent manner. The perfect UFO detective, as described in the *MUFON Field Investigator's Manual*.

- **Rejector:** a close cousin of the blind acceptor, he refuses to acknowledge any scientific basis for serious UFO study and may go to considerable lengths to debunk research and eyewitness accounts.

MANCHESTER EVENING NEWS FEB 3 1989

### Number is up for UFOs

A 24-HOUR "hotline" to report UFO sightings over Cheshire has been set up in Crewe.

The idea is to enable sightings of unidentified flying objects to be recorded as soon as

possible, says Eric Morris, chairman of Cheshire UFO Studies Centre. The hotline number is 0270 582378.

In Manchester, Lancashire and North Cheshire sightings can be reported to Jenny Randles, director of investigations for the British UFO Research Association, at her home in Heathbank Road, Cheadle Heath.

Nationally, the association received 885 UFO sighting reports in 1988 — three of four times the average. But nearly 95 per cent of them are explained after investigation.

Are the rest visitations from little green men from Mars? Says Jenny: "We don't endorse the spaceship hypothesis... we don't believe that there is sufficient evidence."

# Study made of samples

## 'from UFO'

Eric Morris, the chairman of the Cheshire UFO Studies Centre, based in

Crewe, visited the site, taking photos and soil samples, and they have been passed on to Dr Henry Adjakdel, an Armenian physicist, who has been studying the phenomena for 15 years.

Said Mr Morris: 'Dr Adjakdel now lives in Nottingham and he got in touch with me through a joint contact in America. He visited me in Crewe a few days ago and took samples away to study.'

SAMPLES taken from a reported UFO landing near Audlem are now being studied by experts both in this country and in America.



### Damage

'Two groups of people reported the landing, and subsequent take-off, near Audlem some months ago, and I went to the scene. There was very obvious combustion damage to the ground and considerable damage to a tree, which had been sliced through.'

'Eye-witnesses all reported seeing a bright red object, measuring, they thought, only about 10 feet by four feet, landing and taking off again.'

Mr Morris said that Dr Adjakdel specialised in 'close encounter retrievable crash cases'. He had visited sites in various countries and retrieved samples, some of which he had explained and others he had not.

He had heard of similar cases to the Audlem sighting and had not been able to explain them.

Mr Morris said that the Studies Centre in Crewe, now had a 24-hour 'hot line' to take details of reported sightings - one of the very few in the country and possibly the first in the North.

### Increased

He commented: 'During the past 12 months the number of reported sightings over Cheshire and Staffordshire has increased. And since we opened our hot line a few weeks ago, we have been getting more calls than ever.'

'Most of them we have always been able to explain, but some, including the Audlem incident, have left us baffled.'

Mr Morris was one of the first people in the country to identify the American spy-plane Sleuth - long before the Americans, or the British Government admitted there was such a craft. He believes the Russians have a similar, though smaller craft.

Commenting again on the Audlem incident, he said: 'This was the first time the Ministry of Defence contacted me direct.'

'It is unheard of for them to do that. But they did on this occasion.'

'It will be extremely interesting to see what Dr Adjakdel finds out.'

This weekend Mr Morris was following up another reported landing, this time from a woman at Audley who claims that something that either landed or came near to landing in her driveway in the middle of the night left three severe scorch marks, about two feet in diameter - so hot the sandy soil was solidified.

He said: 'Over the years certain areas seem to get a spate of sightings, then things die down. But I have never known anything like the activity reported in our district over the past 12 months.'

IL-D45 JACKSONVILLE JOURNAL  
FEB-2 1989

## 'Strange lights' reported by several in Brown Co.

More reports of strange lights in the sky Tuesday night were received by the Brown County Sheriff's Department Wednesday morning. Several people in the Rushville area reported seeing flashing lights in the sky about 6:40 p.m.

Robert Zimmerman, a hog farmer who lives near Versailles, said he and his wife were driving to Mt. Sterling on Ill. 107 when they saw seven or eight blinking yellow lights, which appeared to be moving in a circle in the sky ahead of them.

Zimmerman said they watched the display for six or seven minutes. He said they were two or three miles from the new prison at Mt. Sterling and thought at first they were seeing lights at the prison. Zimmerman said the lights appeared to be about 40 feet higher than the prison water tower.

He said the lights appeared to be about two-tenths of a mile away, and when he could no longer see them he stopped his car "because I was afraid I was going to run into something."

"I've never seen anything like it before," he said. "I can't explain it."

Brown County Sheriff Michael Myers said he checked with personnel at the Quincy airport but they did not report seeing any unusual phenomena.

Air traffic controllers at Capital Airport in Springfield did note any unusual occurrences Tuesday night, either.

STOKE ON TRENT EVENING SENTINAL  
JAN 23 1989

## Hotline to outer space

A 24-hour phone hotline is being set up so flying saucer buffs can investigate sightings more quickly.

Sky watchers say the Crewe-based phone link will deal with reports from not only Cheshire and Staffordshire but also Wales, Shropshire and Lancashire.

It is the idea of UFO researcher Eric Morris of Earle Street, Crewe. He said: "Any member of the public will be able to report a sighting to us at any time of the day and night and we will now be

able to deal with it immediately.

"The 24-hour UFO hotline has been used widely by organisations in America with great success and no doubt it will have the same success here. We hope people will use it if they see anything unusual in the skies over the North West."

Eric, who is the chairman of Cheshire UFO Studies Centre and Editor of a UFO magazine, said the hotline is one of only a handful in Britain.

● The number is Crewe (0270) 582378.

# Did you see the light too?

By HELENA WILLIAMS

THE unidentified streak of light spotted over the skies of Ebbw Vale recently was also sighted over the mountainsides by other readers.

But not all readers report seeing the light streak past their homes on the same day.

Joan Hodges, 66, of Curre Street, Cwm said: "I saw the light in the early hours of Sunday morning.

"I sleep in the back bedroom of our house, facing the mountainside, and at about 1.45am my bedroom wall was suddenly lit up.

"At first I thought it was a flash of lightning, but when I looked out of the window I saw a huge streak of light.

"It was going down towards Aberbeeg and travelling fast.

"I was terrified. It reminded me of the war days when the searchlights would be in the sky tracking down enemy planes.

"It was almost on the ground, and so bright. It was that big that its light showed up all the grass and the trees.

"I told my hubbie about it and he said: 'You've actually seen a UFO'".

Doreen Doak, who is retired and lives at Queens Villas, Ebbw Vale, also spotted something "frightening" in the early hours of New Year's Day.

Doreen, who says she is a strict teetotaler, said: "At about 1am, when all the street lights were off and it was pitch dark, my front room was suddenly filled with light.

"I looked out of the window and saw a huge ball of fire over the mountain by Beaufort Road. It was the size of the sun and level with my house.

"It spiralled down, landed on the playing field behind the Territorial Army building, and frizzled out on the ground.

"I would expect to see a burn mark on the field where it landed.

"I couldn't imagine the TA men carrying

## Strange sighting!

CAN ANYONE solve the mystery of the streak of light seen over the skies of Ebbw Vale at 4.30pm on Thursday last week.

An eye-witness phoned the Gazette to tell us that a long stream of light swept across the sky, and seemed to be heading towards Tredegar.

Did anyone else see it? If you did please contact the newsdesk on Ebbw Vale 304589.

●Flashback to the light-sighting story in last week's Gazette.

out operations on New Years Day. But for a horrible moment - these things flash through your mind - I thought it was something trying to land on the building."

She added: "I'm surprised that no one else saw the light!"

●Anyone with any information on these mysterious sightings should contact the newsdesk on Ebbw Vale 304589.

KENT + SUSSEX COURIER FEB-3-1989

# UFO RIDDLE OF BLUE FIRE BALL

**A FIREBALL flared in the night sky over the Weald on Tuesday and then disappeared, leaving a UFO mystery.**

The first sighting was reported at 6pm by a Charing man who phoned Headcorn aerodrome to see whether one of its aircraft might have come to grief, but none was airborne.

Fifteen minutes later two more separate sightings were reported by a man from Amhurst Bank Lane, Pembury and by Mrs Penny Cazzola, of Baiden Cottages, Brenchley.

The Pembury resident told police that the fireball flared with a bright turquoise light, then exploded and disappeared.

Mrs Cazzola, who was driving from Horsmonden to Goudhurst, said she suddenly saw a bright light straight ahead of her.

"I wondered if it was a plane but it was just too big and it was also quite rounded. It then dropped quite quickly and disappeared behind the horizon.

"When it fell it left a trail of very light bits, rather like a rocket does when it had just been launched" she said.

Asked whether she believed in UFOs - unidentified flying objects - she replied "I have a distinctly open mind. Something definitely fell out of the sky, so where is it now?"

Television South, based in Maidstone, said they had received a number of calls on the subject and telephoned the police at 7.35pm notifying them of the report.

A spokesman at Biggin Hill air traffic control said he had also heard of the report. He said that all local flying clubs had been contacted but there was no suggestion of any aircraft in distress.

### ENGINE FAULT

He said: "There was a lot of fog up in this area and so there was not much flying at all. We just can't place where this ball of light came from."

Mr Chris Freeman, owner of Headcorn aerodrome, was also at a loss as to what the fireball, heading in a westerly direction, could have been.

"We had nothing airborne at all. The only thing I can suggest is that it was a light aeroplane which was having trouble with its exhaust system. Quite often when planes have that problem they emit bright sparks, but if that was the case I don't know where it could have come from," he said.

● Last October two Tenterden policemen encountered wierd lights and "flying saucers" while on duty one October evening. They said the lights, which lasted for about four seconds, lit up the whole sky as if it was daytime.

# The night we saw

3128

AN UNIDENTIFIED flying object with pulsating lights has been reported over Swindon.

From their bedroom window on Poplar Avenue, Pinehurst, James and Doris Fisher watched the object for more than 20 minutes.

Said Mr Fisher: "it was in the early hours of Friday that we saw it - from ten minutes to one until ten past.

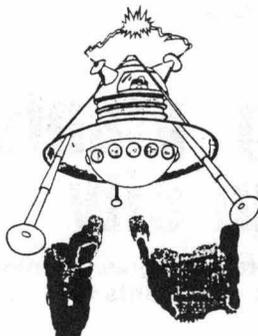
"It was like a chandelier hanging in the sky with red and green lights which changed brightness," said Mr Fisher, who is retired.

# 'a flying chandelier'

"It was a mass of lights and I called my wife who said it did look just like a chandelier.

"It was in a south westerly direction and high in the sky.

● An artist's impression of the UFO reported over the Cotswolds. Among the witnesses was a policeman.



"It was very hard to tell how large it was or how far away.

"I wanted to report it to the police but I thought they would think that I was a fool."

RAF Lyneham lies south west of Swindon but a spokesman there said he was not aware of any aircraft that could have resulted in such a sighting.

Meanwhile in the Cotswolds, several people, including a police constable, reported seeing a UFO.

A brightly lit object was spotted by motorists driving along the A46 near Stroud.

Again there were a number of lights. A spokesman for Gloucestershire police said the object had been described

as larger than a helicopter, with more lights than a plane. "There were three green lights and the beams shone down in the form of a tripod," he said.

Sgt Parr said that people driving along the road had been so impressed by the sighting just after 9.00 pm on Thursday that they called into a police station and reported the matter.

He said that later a policeman, who had been about a mile away from the road, had reported seeing the triangular shaped object

All witnesses said the mysterious object disappeared so suddenly that they were not able to say in which direction it had gone.

BUCKS EXAMINER CHESHAM FEB-10-1989

# Schoolboy reports his second UFO

TWO teenage boys reported seeing round, flat objects, with flashing, blue, red and white lights speeding across the skies above Little Chalfont last week.

The UFO sighting was made by Luke Nicholls, aged 12, and Benny Haynes, 13, as they were playing football in Westwood Park with four friends at around 5pm on Sunday.

Four of the boys ran away, frightened, after they saw the two objects. But Luke and Benny, although scared, were compelled to stay and watch.

"We looked up in the sky and there were these things like

planes. When we looked up again they were in a totally different place," Luke said.

"They came really close to us and got really big, really quickly. There were lots of bright little red, blue and white lights, going round quickly. They were all flashing together," Luke said.

"When we saw it first, four of the boys ran away. Benny and I started walking home and as we were walking, we looked back and from the other way, the objects came back. They were not aeroplanes, I've seen quite a lot of them in the sky and aeroplane lights don't flash like that. These were going backwards and forwards too, aeroplanes can't do that either," Luke said.

Luke told his parents about what he had seen. They were not sceptical because Luke had once before told them he had seen a UFO and they had not believed him until the next day when a report in a national

newspaper had described the same objects Luke had seen.

This time, Luke's father called the police: "I don't think they believed me," said Luke. "I'm not saying what they were, I'm just saying what I saw."

## Anyone see these UFOs?

3128

MORE strange shapes have been spotted in the sky over Mansfield in recent weeks, and I would be pleased to hear from anyone else who saw them.

One was a large UFO with three smaller shapes surrounding it, one seemingly in front leading the larger one.

Another UFO was observed for over an hour at Southwell as it hovered and then

moved slowly over woodland.

It was a bright ring of yellow light in which smaller red, green, blue and yellow lights kept flashing on and off.

If you saw these, or any other UFO, get in touch with me at the address below.

Mr W. BLYTHE, 8 Padley Hill, Mansfield.

THE MANSFIELD SUTTON OBSERVER JAN 12 1989

# Mum calls police after 'UFO' sighting

## Mystery object seen over Little Catins

LEICESTER MAIL  
FEB 16 1989

### Massive rise in activity

RON West, an investigator with BUFORA, the British Unidentified Flying Object Research Association, told the Star this week there had been a "massive" increase in the number of reported sightings of objects in the sky in the last four days of January.

"Over the period January 28-31, there were over 70 reported sightings in the area," he said.

#### EXPECT

"Normally, we would expect only 10 or 20 over such a time.

"They were mainly triangular objects," he added.

"The East Anglia UFO group are interested in hearing from anybody who witnessed lights in the sky on the 30th and the object on the 31st, and would like them to contact us on Basildon 286079," said Mr West.

**STRANGE things have been happening in the sky above Harlow.**

The mysterious chain of events started on Monday evening last week (January 30) at about 8.30 pm when Lin Pike, of Little Catins, spotted bright lights over her home.

"They were as bright as floodlights", she said this week, "but they weren't floodlights. After a while they became red.

"I was indoors when I saw them. I rushed outside to look closer and called my neighbours out."

The next morning, Tuesday, Mrs Pike was getting her children ready for school when she saw "a big black thing" in the sky.

"It was moving slowly across the window in the direction of Roydon then all of a sudden it disappeared upwards," she said.

"I called the police, because the whole thing was so unusual and I wanted to know what it was."

Mrs Pike described this object to police as "a box-like object, bigger than a passenger jet, hovering and spinning.

"It was black and surrounded by a haze. There were no lights and no noise."

Mrs Pike's children, Greg (nine), Craig (12) and Gary (13), also witnessed the strange occurrence.

Their mother said:

By ALISON PHILLIPS

"Obviously they were excited as it's such a strange thing to see. Later they thought it was a bit of a giggle."

"A next-door neighbour, Claire Prindiville (11), also saw it and when my sons came home from school they said their friends had noticed strange things in the sky as well, so it's not just me."

Mrs Pike added: "I didn't really hold any opinions about UFOs before, and I can't say I'm convinced even now, but I would like to know the explanation."

### 'Talking' plants due in city

LEICESTER people are to be given a unique opportunity to meet with plants that "sing and talk".

The extra sensory encounter is due this weekend at the city's Holiday Inn with the staging of Paranormal '89, an exhibition by Britain's Psychic Research Foundation.

Experts in such fields as astrology, clairvoyance, palmistry and spiritual healing are due to descend on the event, including a UFO specialist who is looking to set up an embassy to welcome aliens to the planet earth.

But the stars of the show are said to be the "talking" houseplants.

#### Reactions

Say the organisers: "These are specially propagated household plants attached to biofeedback machines to monitor their every reaction, and with the use of an oscillating signal the plants will talk, sing and show all kinds of reactions to different people."

Meanwhile, special guest at the exhibition will be leading UFO expert Marcus Wenner who is looking to forge a link between this and any other dimension

which may exist.

He will be showing colour slides of UFO sightings and lecturing on the subject.

All told, there will be more than 40 stands at the show, described as "quite different from any other psychics exhibition ever held".

It is due to run between 9am and 9pm on both Saturday and Sunday, February 18 and 19.

# The night that changed

## his life

By  
Pat Swift

FORMER policeman Alan Godfrey has never consciously claimed to have met creatures from outer space.

But whatever happened to him in the "missing minutes" in the cold early hours of a November morning over eight years ago has irrevocably changed his life for ever.

Alan hit the national headlines over a year after first putting in an official report that he had seen a UFO hovering above Burnley Road near Mons Mill.

At first there was local interest and a lot of speculation about the sighting, particularly as five other officers in Calderdale and Greater Manchester had reported seeing a similar object low in the skies on that same morning.

But Alan was not the first police officer in Todmorden to put in an official report of a UFO sighting.

It was only when a senior police officer persuaded him to reveal details of tapes taken while he underwent regression hypnosis that he really created a stir on the front pages of nearly every national newspaper.

For under hypnosis, under stringent conditions and observed by police officers, Alan told how he had been taken aboard the spaceship and had been examined by creatures from outer space.

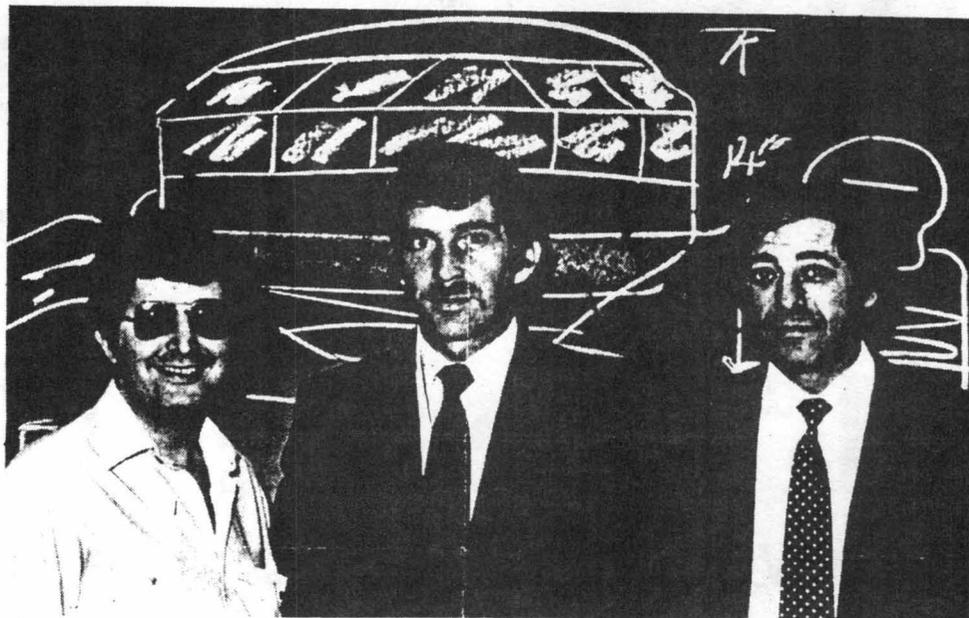
"To this day, I don't know what happened to me that morning," says Alan. "I can clearly remember seeing this object revolving and hovering above the road as I drove up towards Lydgate in the police car. I stopped the car, made notes and did a sketch and then got out of the car and started walking towards it."

"The next thing I can remember is being further up Burnley Road beyond the point where I had seen

the craft, but it was no longer there."

Consciously he has no recollection of what happened in between, but there are physical clues which appear to back up his story told under hypnosis.

On those tapes he tells how he was laid on a table and examined with some kind of electrical probe fixed to the insole of his foot.



Alan Godfrey, centre, pictured at a recent UFO lecture at Manchester University with UFO-logists Harry Harris, left, and Mike Saches. On the blackboard behind are drawings of the object he sighted and one of the alien beings he described under hypnosis.

At the time of the incident he found his heavy leather police boot had been ripped and he had a small burn mark on his insole.

"It would be a lot easier for me to believe that I made it all up under hypnosis... that it was something my imagination dreamed up.

"But the truth is I don't know what happened, and probably never will."

When the details of the tapes were released to the Press they linked it to speculation about a case on which Alan had worked five months before his UFO sighting — the mysterious death of Polish-born Leeds miner Zygmunt Adamski.

Mr Adamski had disappeared from near his home on the outskirts of Leeds. He had set out to visit a nearby shop to buy some potatoes as his family had visitors in preparation for the following day when he was due to give away his God-daughter at her wedding.

He never returned — but five days later his body was discovered in the coal yard near Todmorden station.

Some of his clothing was missing; he had mysterious burn marks on the back of his head which had been treated with an ointment which scientists could not identify as anything known on earth — and he had died of a heart attack brought on by fear or shock.

There had been many reports of UFO sightings in West Yorkshire around the time and Coroner Mr

James Turnbull in recording an open verdict, said he could not rule out speculation about creatures from space.

Alan was one of the local officers working on the case and was surprised that no major investigation was launched.

But although he was discharged from West Yorkshire Police on medical grounds due to an injury he had received before all these strange events, Alan is still bound by the Official Secrets Act.

"Because of this I am not allowed to talk about the case," he says.

After he became a major news story, Alan felt that he was being subjected to harassment in the force. "Life was being made difficult for me," he said. "I was no longer 'one of the lads' and superiors sent me for medical examinations in efforts to show I was having hallucinations, but the doc-

tors all gave me a clean bill of health mentally."

Eventually Alan and the police parted company when an old injury incurred during a struggle while on duty was the official reason for his medical discharge.

"I felt I could have continued in the force, even if only at a desk job," he says.

But losing his job also cost him his home as he could no longer afford to meet the mortgage payments, and he had to turn his hands to other trades.

"It put a strain on everything and life has been difficult," he recalls. "The police even raided my leaving party to check for after-hours drinkers."

Alan is regularly sought by TV and radio chat show hosts and the Press.

"Whenever there is another major sighting, I start getting calls for interviews again."

But don't the fees from these TV and radio interviews help compensate for the difficulties he faced on first leaving the force?

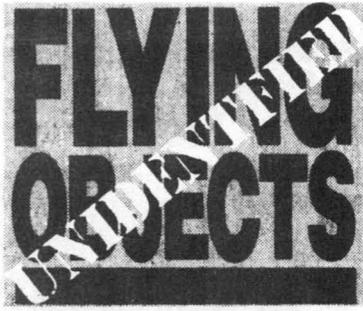
Alan smiles wryly. "There's a sliding scale for interview fees, and I'm definitely on the bottom rung of the ladder!"

His financial fortunes could change if one of the Hollywood film giants decides to take up an option on using the transcripts of the hypnosis sessions as the basis for a future film.

But in the meantime, Alan is settling into his new life, although he still misses police work.

And has he seen any further strange objects in the skies?

"I don't look," he says emphatically. "If one landed right in front of me, I'd turn around and run. I wouldn't want to get involved."



In this series, BayLife examines UFOs and sightings in the Panhandle town of Gulf Breeze that put the phenomenon back in public focus.

**T O D A Y**

Residents of Gulf Breeze have reported seeing UFOs dozens of times. One man has taken more than 30 photographs. Still, the controversy rages on.

**Inside** — Where is Gulf Breeze in relation to nearby military installations? Could the reported UFOs have originated there?/4-1

**Monday** — The principal photographer in Gulf Breeze says his encounters with UFOs were mind-boggling. One critic says the photographs are nothing more than an elaborate prank.

**Tuesday** — People reporting that they were abducted by aliens no longer are regarded as latter-day lunatics, psychotherapists say. Two Floridians are among the dozens who have reported something that may be very difficult to believe.

**Wednesday** — Academicians and scientists aren't convinced long-distance visits from extraterrestrials are possible. Nevertheless, NASA has begun its own search for alien intelligence.

# Gulf Breeze UFOs

## Controversy hangs over Panhandle town

By JENNIFER TUCKER  
Tribune Staff Writer

GULF BREEZE — Ringed by two-story pines and six-figure real estate, Gulf Breeze is a mostly unremarkable town severed by U.S. 98 in the Florida Panhandle.

To visitors, its most memorable feature is a flashing neon fish pointing the way to Pensacola Beach.

To 6,000 residents, its most-pressing problem is a 70-mile detour around the Pensacola Bay Bridge, hit and crippled by a barge two weeks ago.

In 16 years, only two murders have torn this town. In 12 years, only 10 bank robberies have occurred.

But in the last year and a half, more than 135 local witnesses have reported seeing something they can't identify.

One prominent Gulf Breeze resident has taken more than 30 photographs of a UFO. This man, who protects his anonymity behind the name "Ed," has photographed a craft so fantastic and unfamiliar that many people believe the pictures are first-rate fakes.

Skeptics merely point to the east where Eglin Air Force Base, one of the country's largest military installations, lies like a wall-to-wall flying carpet.

The Gulf Breeze stories — told to the nation by NBC's "Unsolved Mysteries" and CNN, among others — have inspired UFO researchers to undertake a dramatic debate of possibility vs. probability.

Researchers agree on only one thing: Either the Gulf Breeze UFO sightings are some of the most phenomenal ever recorded, or the Gulf Breeze UFO sightings are some of the most exaggerated ever reported.

“We thought UFOs were something that happened to Billy Bob out on a boat after too many beers.”

**Art Hufford,**  
who says he saw a UFO in 1987

Among the eyewitnesses are a federal judge, a politician and a prominent physician.

### The neighbors

Art and Mary Hufford don't even live in town. Their homey, ranch-style house is on a sycamore-lined street in Pensacola, a bridge's drive away from Gulf Breeze.

But the Huffords remember, in perfect detail, an evening in early November 1987. The couple was in their car, just two miles from home, when they saw something gray, oval and silent fly over the treetops, Art says.

The craft remained in view for several minutes, yet when they got home and talked about it, Art says they couldn't come up with a rational explanation.

"It just didn't make any sense," says Art, a soft-spoken chemical engineer with a master's degree and 25 years' experience at Monsanto Chemical Co.

Both Huffords are elders in the Presbyterian church, and Mary is a sustaining member of the Junior League of Pensacola.

"We thought UFOs were something that happened to Billy Bob out on a boat after too many beers," Art says, wryly.

But then, several weeks after their sighting, the couple saw Ed's photographs in the Pensacola edition of the Gulf Breeze newspaper. "It was like someone had taken a

picture out of our brains," Art says. "That was it."

Through 1988, the couple shared their experience with others similarly affected. At social gatherings, when Art mentioned the sighting, he says people would pull him aside with whispered confessions of their own experiences.

And Art is convinced that what he saw was not a product of modern technology or man-made trickery.

"Frankly," Art says, "the debunkers make me mad. I saw what I saw."

### Party invitations

Fenner and Shirley McConnell of Gulf Breeze had sent out invitations to their annual June get-together with tongue planted firmly in cheek.

The front of the invitation featured a cartoon of alien creatures rollicking through city streets, and inside they told revelers it would be a "UFO-watching party."

Two days before the 1988 party, the couple says, their invitation sprang to life outside their bedroom window. They saw a cylindrical craft, ringed in windows and lights, hovering over Pensacola Bay.

Fenner McConnell, a physician and medical examiner for Florida's District 1, says the craft came within 75 yards of the house, and at one point "I thought it was going to land on it."

Shirley McConnell, a caterer, says she was overcome by "an eerie feeling," but she immediately recognized the craft from Ed's photographs.

The couple went outside to get a better look. It hovered for nearly four minutes and then "kind of drifted away," Fenner McConnell says.

"I'm not saying that I believe it's from  
See INVESTIGATORS Page 2-1

# 1381 CT. Investigators at odds over photos

■ From Page 1-1

another planet," Shirley McConnell says, "but it's something I had never laid eyes on in my life. People can say whatever they want about me, but I know what I saw. Ed didn't make this up."

Likewise, Brenda Pollak says the large, lighted craft she saw twice in one night during the spring of 1988 was not a figment of her imagination.

She was driving east across the Pensacola Bay Bridge when she saw it the first time, looking "too big and too bright ... and very different from anything I had ever seen before."

Nearing her home on Shoreline Drive in Gulf Breeze, Pollak pulled into the parking lot of the city's recreation center and parked.

She says she watched the craft hover over the bay — unaware that a few blocks away, Ed was taking a photograph of the very same craft.

"I was exhilarated," says Pollak, a two-term City Council member who works with Ed on community projects.

"I can tell you now — for every one person who has reported seeing the craft, there are 10 who talk about it but don't want anyone to know," Pollak adds.

"And I can also tell you if this is a hoax, it can't be Ed because it would make him look like an idiot and the community look crazy."

## The researchers

Scientists can't help making comparisons.

In the 1970s, a Swiss laborer named Edward Meier took hundreds of photographs of a "spaceship" near Zurich.

Although some people consider his photographs authentic, others believe they are fakes, basing their conclusions on damning photographic analyses.

Nevertheless, scientists acknowledge

that Meier's pictures are remarkably clever.

So it is with Ed, whose photographs have been analyzed and scrutinized by two of the country's foremost photographic experts.

Moreover, the photographs — and Ed's cooperation with some UFO investigators — have caused a political rift so powerful that participants think the case could damage the future of UFO research in America.

At odds are investigators with the Mutual UFO Network, a 20-year-old group of scientists and "grass-roots" researchers, and the Center for UFO Studies, a non-profit conclave founded by J. Allen Hynek, a leading American astronomer who died in 1986.

Network directors support Ed's story; the center does not.

The network bases its opinion primarily on the findings of Bruce Maccabee, a Naval physicist studying optics and underwater sound in addition to working with the FBI.

The center bases its opinion on its own researchers as well as on Robert Nathan, a member of the technical staff of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

## Intricate report

Maccabee, who published an intricate 90-page report examining the evidence, concludes that the photographs are real.

He applied the properties of physics and various mathematical theories to determine things such as the size of the ship, the distance of the craft from the camera lens and odd angles of the photographs.

More important, Maccabee says, he wasn't "biased by the idea that it's too impossible, therefore it can't be real." Critics would "rather take the approach that if the pictures could have been hoaxed then they *must* have been," he says.

Maccabee reasons that Ed could not have performed the photographic feats necessary to pull off such an elaborate hoax. "A professional magician would have a difficult time doing this," he says.

Last year, staffers at a Pensacola television station tried to reproduce Ed's photographs using a model. They gave up after their attempts failed miserably, Maccabee says.

He further admonishes skeptics for questioning the look of the craft — "Nobody knows what UFOs look like," Maccabee says.

And he points out what he considers to be the weighty circumstantial evidence in Ed's favor — including testimony from friends and witnesses, one of them Ed's wife.

Skeptics, however, side with NASA's Nathan. Although he acknowledges that he "hasn't given the pictures the kind of care Bruce has," Nathan says a visual examination reveals glaring inconsistencies — typical of double exposures.

## Irregularities in photos

The spaceship is brighter and more in focus than the background, he says, and these irregularities are repeated in picture after picture.

Nathan concludes that the object looks like "a gas burner turned upside down" and that its apparent lack of symmetry is simply "inconsistent with what you would expect from a highly developed society."

Mark Rodeghier, scientific director of the Center for UFO Studies, says the Gulf Breeze case has "deteriorated into a shouting match" because his organization was forced to play devil's advocate.

Investigators with the Mutual UFO Network were too quick to judge the photographs favorably, he says, and those comments biased Maccabee's analysis.

"Except those intimately connected with the network, 90 percent of serious

UFO researchers think Gulf Breeze is a hoax," Rodeghier concludes.

Among those who agree with that assessment is Philip Klass, considered the country's premier debunker of UFOs. Although he has not seen the Gulf Breeze photographs, Klass says he has scanned Maccabee's report and finds it improbable.

"Any UFO case, whether it involves pictures or not, is sort of like that old adage that a woman cannot be 10 percent pregnant. If one photo is a hoax, then they all must be thrown out," says Klass, who surmises that the photographs are too "suspect" to be real.

Klass reiterates his claim by stating, "In 22 years of investigating, I have never investigated or heard of a UFO case that cannot be explained in prosaic terms."

## Just the facts

"I deal in facts," says Jerry Brown, Gulf Breeze's 42-year-old chief of police, whose carpeted office smells faintly of cinnamon and coffee.

"Granted — anyplace, any time, anything can happen to you. But why would people call about a prowler and not call about a UFO that's landed in their yard?"

The police chief knows Ed and likes him. Yet Brown says he's concerned about the possibility "that one person, as a practical joke ... could destroy what it's taken so many years to build."

CONT

Ed's supporters, meanwhile, believe Gulf Breeze attracted the unknown visitors because of the reputation the city already had built — as a well-off, well-educated, open-minded community.

"There is a direct correlation between education and the acceptance of the UFO phenomenon," says Donald Ware, Florida director of the Mutual UFO Network.

"I am convinced the reason one man was given so many photographic opportunities is because the aliens *wanted* us to see those pictures," Ware says.

## Police, residents report seeing UFOs

■ From Page 1-I

of Commerce erects and dedicates UFO landing strip at Fisher Park, next to Cape Kennedy. A welcoming committee is formed and signs indicate that it is a UFO hospitality station.

**December 1966** — Brooksville resident John Reeves reports another encounter with a UFO. This time, he says, visitors left footprints and impression of landing gear in the soil.

**August 1968** — Brooksville resident John Reeves reports taking trip with UFO creatures and walking on the moon. He says he has acquired additional evidence from the aliens, including a piece of metal rarely found in nature and moon dust that resembles the substance brought back by American probes.

**September 1973** — On four consecutive nights, UFO sightings are reported throughout Florida.

**May 1974** — UFO reported in south Tampa, near intersection of Gandy Boulevard and Manhattan Avenue. Eyewitness Carolene Heart says the UFO came and went several times between the hours of 7 p.m. and 2 a.m. one evening. She says witnesses included personnel from MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa Fire Department and local television stations. Those organizations have no history of the sighting, however, nor was there news coverage of the event.

**September 1977** — Numerous individuals, including Bay County sheriff's deputies and security personnel from Tyndall Air Force Base, report seeing a UFO in Calloway near Panama City. One of the deputies, Bobby Nowell, says the UFO was visible for more than three hours in the southeastern sky. An amateur astronomer and former pilot, Nowell says, "There was no logical explanation for what I saw."

**January 1979** — UFO sighting reported in Winter Haven by police officer Ron Perdue.

**January through July 1980** — More than six UFO sightings reported in Pasco County.

**June 1986** — Many reports of UFOs sighted in Hillsborough, Pinellas, Manatee and Sarasota counties. Meteor shower suspected.

**June 1987** — On several consecutive nights, residents of Silver Spring Shores, Goosky Prairie, Citra and Ocala report seeing a UFO. The witnesses include Marion County sheriff's deputy Jay Manifold, who says the craft had "a total of four lights, red and green," and was hovering at treetop level for about 10 seconds.

## Reported UFO sightings in Florida

**August 1952** — A Boy Scoutmaster in West Palm Beach encounters "ball lightning" and surmises that it is a UFO. Ball lightning consists of balls of fire that fall swiftly from clouds and then explode on the ground.

**August 1954** — Five sightings of UFOs take place near Gainesville.

**November 1955** — At least 15 reports of UFOs in Marion County.

**November 1957** — Sightings in Florida escalate. Headline in Tribune reads, "Will Sputnik Collide With a Flying Saucer?"

**July 1964** — Thirty-eight reports of UFOs in Clearwater during Fourth of July fireworks display. These are entered in Air Force's Project Blue Book but later are revealed to be part of a prank.

**April 1, 1965** — A flying saucer hoax, complete with photographs, appears in Tribune's "In Our Town" column by Patrick Kelly. Pictures attributed to a WFLA-TV newsman actually were taken by Tribune photographer.

**April 1965** — First of UFO sightings reported by Brooksville resident John Reeves. Reeves says a spaceship, about 20 to 30 feet in diameter, landed near his home and humanoids got out. He says the craft then retreated at an estimated speed of 5,000 mph and was visible in the sky for only 10 seconds. Reeves says he retrieved a piece of paper inscribed with strange symbols. Investigators from MacDill Air Force Base and the Pentagon later decide Reeves' experience is an elaborate hoax. The piece of paper is found to be of common material, and the message is a simple code for the words, "Planet Mars, are you coming home soon? We miss you very much. Why did you stay away so long?"

**April 1966** — Sighting of UFO by passengers and pilots of airplane flying over Ocala toward Tallahassee. Florida Gov. Hayden Burns was on the airplane.

**May 1966** — Cocoa Beach Chamber

See POLICE, Page 2-I

1381

# Flashing lights in sky spawn UFO reports

Flashing lights in the evening sky Tuesday near Rushville were reportedly seen by several people, including one woman who now believes in Unidentified Flying Objects.

"It was some kind of a UFO," said Joanne Piluski of Rushville. "I've always been kind of skeptical, but I'm a firm believer now — there's something out there."

Piluski, 43, said she was traveling in her car around 6:45 p.m. Tuesday on Route 67 between Beardstown and Rushville when she spotted the object.

"It looked like a big basketball —

orange-colored — and was real bright and big," she said.

"It was a real bright light, too bright to be a star and too large to be an airplane, and it looked awfully close."

She said it appeared larger than two airplanes that were flying in the sky nearby. She said it was also moving too fast to be an airplane, and would stop, suspended in the air, then was "zooming" back and forth in the sky, "shooting out fireballs."

Piluski said she saw about six or seven such fireballs that would

shoot off for "a second or two" and then disappear.

She said her 13-year-old daughter who was accompanying her in the car saw it, too.

She said, when they arrived at their destination, her older daughter and others at the house saw the object also. She also said she had heard of other people in the Rushville area who saw the same thing.

Piluski said the entire sighting lasted about 10 minutes.

The Schuyler County Sheriff's Department received one call of a reported sighting. According to dispatcher Andy Clayton, a woman re-

IL-D45 JACKSONVILLE JOURNAL  
FEB 1 1989

## Dozens report seeing UFO along Route 93

By Susan Forrest  
Eagle-Tribune Writer

Were Martians sightseeing in the Merrimack Valley Friday night? Or was the UFO hovering over Route 93 really the Fuji Film Co. blimp, or an Air Force helicopter, as some officials speculate?

No one seems to know for sure.

What is known is that a slow-moving, circular object with flashing white and green lights was indeed spotted by dozens of people from Reading, Mass., to Derry, N.H.

Residents who reported the unidentified flying object to area police said they saw it between 6 and 7:30 Friday night, and numerous cars on Route 93 at the time stopped to watch.

Massachusetts state police Trooper Greg Ambrose said he was at the scene of a car accident near the New Hampshire border when he spotted the object up above.

"It was probably the Fuji Film blimp," Trooper Ambrose said. "It had electronic numbers and graphics on the sides, and that's what the blimp has. I know it wasn't the Goodyear blimp because it was too small. You don't usually see blimps at night or in the Northeast this time of year, and that's why it seems odd.

"Trust me. It was not a UFO," he said. "Call the Fuji Film Co. and ask them if their blimp was out Friday night."

Frank Nacadora, a security guard for the New York-based Fuji Photo Film USA who answered the phone last night, said he believed the company blimp has not been in operation for at least two years.

"I think it only circles around Manhattan, anyway," Mr. Nacadora said.

Air Force Capt. Eric Deutch, stationed at Pease Air Force Base in Newington, N.H., speculated that the object could have been a military helicopter known as "the Jolly Green Giant" — a big, green helicopter with lights on all sides.

"Those helicopters can look pretty scary at nighttime," he said.

Eleven-year-old Jenny Tucarella, a sixth-grader at St. Patrick School in Lawrence, said she saw the UFO as she drove with her mother and other friends and relatives near Route 93 Friday.

ported that while traveling south on Route 67 north of Rushville, she saw what appeared to be a star-shaped object that was shooting out numerous objects like balls of fire. She said the large object followed her for three miles for about five or 10 minutes.

A spokesman at the Illinois State Police Department in Macomb said they had received two calls from people who said they saw lights in the sky, and one saw flares dropping out of the object. One caller, who was from Bushnell, said the object looked like it was located some distance southeast of Bushnell.

"It looked like dishes piled on top of each other hovering over us," said Miss Tucarella, daughter of Ann Cellamara, of Newton Street, Lawrence. "We stopped in the middle of the road to watch it. A car pulled over next to us and asked if we saw it, too. Then we watched it move real slow behind the trees, and then we lost it. We thought it was a UFO. I asked my mother if we could follow it because it would be neat to meet things that live up there. But she said no, she doesn't want to meet them. Then we went home."

HECKMONDWIKE REPORTER  
YORKS FEB 9 1989

NEW SCIENTIST LONDON  
JAN 28 1989

## Lines hot with UFO spotters

THE co-ordinator of the Batley-based UFO hotline says he is disappointed by the number of people who report unexplained sightings, but fail to leave their name or phone number.

Philip Mantle, who runs the 24-hour call service from his home in Woodhall Drive, says he has received a few calls during the second year of UFO hotline, but because callers have not left any contact details he has been unable to investigate them any further.

During the last two years callers have phoned Philip with UFO reports from as far afield as Cornwall to the Border regions.

"In the August of 1987 there was a whole spate of observations reported all over the north of England, initially it was believed they were isolated incidents but my phone never stopped ringing," he said.

Philip received two local calls during the summer of 1987, from people who had seen an unexplained spherical object in the sky over Batley.

The hotline gives members of the public the chance to report sightings to investigators in confidence. The UFO hotline number is Batley 444049.

NOTTINGHAM  
RECORDER

FEB - 2 1989

## UFO appeal!

The Mansfield UFO Group is appealing to the people of the area to get in touch.

The recently established group is desperate for information about any possible sightings in the Mansfield area to enable them to establish a clearer picture of UFO activity.

A spokesman for the group said: "We need people to tell us about any possible sightings so we can look into them. If people don't talk to us, there is nothing we can do."

He stressed the group is adopting a down to earth approach to the UFO phenomena.

He said: "If someone contacts us with what they believe is a UFO sighting, we will look into it for them, but what we try to do is eliminate all the possible causes before we start looking into the unbelievable. We take a realistic approach."

The group hold regular meetings in Mansfield Library which are open to anyone interested in UFO's.

For more information, the group can be contacted on 751889 or 651954.

## Rainy-day read

### Death by Supernatural Causes

by Jenny Randles and Peter Hough, Grafton, pp 206, £2.99 pbk

Bernard Knight

IF ONE is stuck for two hours on a wet Sunday evening in the vandalised waiting room of a bleak Midlands railway station, then this paperback might come as a godsend. In other circumstances, the contents are mildly interesting, but generally disappointing. The public seems to have an insatiable appetite for semi-magical, pseudo-extra-terrestrial phenomena, but this further offering is perhaps a little too honest to reach the outrageous heights (or depths) exploited by writers such as Charles Berlitz or Erich Von Daniken.

Jenny Randles and Peter Hough are self-confessed "UFOlogists", and most of the stories in *Death By Supernatural Causes* manage to introduce flying saucers, even when there seems little need to invoke them, as with the story of the Polish corpse found in 1980 on a coal bunker. How the man got there does seem a mystery, but the authors then relate an apparently irrelevant tale about UFOs, because one of the police officers involved later became embroiled in a flying saucer controversy.

The fact that an autopsy indicated a heart attack and excluded any assault, seems to have been glossed over in the familiar innuendos about police cover-ups and cosmic homicide... indeed, the chapter is entitled "The Man Who Was Murdered by E.T."

Another quite arbitrary link with UFOs is introduced in the first tale, this time from Australia. To any non-UFOlogist, this

would be a tragic but simple story of an inexperienced amateur pilot who takes off in a single-engined light aircraft from Melbourne to fly at night across the sea and is never seen again. The pilot was himself a UFO freak and gave a running commentary over the radio about an improbable object that was running rings around him... well, you pays your money and takes your choice!

To a pathologist reviewer, easily the most interesting case is that of the poor girl on Merseyside who died when her clothing caught fire after cookery classes. The interest is not in that tragedy, which seems a clear instance of a gas jet igniting her clothing—but in the limitless need for people to believe in "spontaneous human combustion", a fantasy stimulated by Charles Dickens in *Bleak House*. Denied by pathologists for years, spontaneous combustion is a mass delusion that refuses to go away.

Certainly, dead bodies can catch fire and burn almost to nothing—but there must be a source of ignition and a good draught, so that the body fat acts as fuel for the wick of the clothing. There is nothing "spontaneous" about this and the girl whose clothing caught fire at the back must have been too near the gas rings, albeit some minutes before, leading to minimal smouldering before flames developed.

*Death by Supernatural Causes* can be a relief from the ennui of British Rail, but no more. □

DAILY STAR LONDON  
JAN 24 LONDON

## BT phone home

BRITISH Telecom is launching a special UFO hotline. UFO spotters will be able to record their extra-terrestrial experiences for research. The service, to be introduced shortly, is the brainchild of the 500-strong British UFO Research Association. They say hundreds of UFO spotters fail to report sightings—because they do not know who to contact. BUFORA spokesman David Clarke said: "These lines will enable us to keep track of most sightings in Britain."

## Alabamians claim UFO sightings

FYFFE, Ala. — Some northeastern Alabamians profess to be bewildered by an unidentified flying object — a fast, silent craft described variously as looking like an airplane or a banana with lights on it.

Police Chief Junior Garmahy, who went with Assistant Police Chief Fred Works to check out reports to his office, said the object was still hovering when officers arrived Friday night.

"We got out of the car and we turned off the engine and the radio," he said. "When we started toward it, it began moving away."

People from Grove Oak to Licksillet were left Tuesday with speculation, but no explanation, as to what they had seen.

Garmany said the craft was "bigger than a jumbo jet," covered with green, white and red lights and "going about three or four hundred miles an hour." An Oak Grove woman described the object as shaped like a banana with the arch upright. "There was a red light on each end and a white light in a line between them. The top of the curve was outlined in green light," the woman, who asked not to be identified, told the Fort Payne Times-Journal.

According to the newspaper, the sheriff's office got another call from a Licksillet resident who said, "You better get a deputy over here quick. I don't know what it is, but it's scaring the hell out of my bird dogs."

IL-W341 HIGHLAND PARK NEWS  
WEEKLY FEB 16 1989

1381  
Aliens visit earth

# 'Cosmic Watergate' veils UFO information: Lecturer

By Catey Sullivan  
Staff Writer

Good neighbors do not hide the remains of guests who accidentally crash-land and die in one's backyard. The federal government, specifically the Central Intelligence Agency, is not a good neighbor.

So says nuclear physicist Stanton T. Friedman, who is also the author of "Flying Saucers and Physics," "Ufology and the Search for Extra-Terrestrial Intelligent Life," and "UFOs: Myths and Mysteries."

Friedman recently lectured a standing-room-only crowd at the College of Lake County auditorium on the existence of flying saucers and their drivers.

Friedman still has the clippings of a July 8, 1947 story in the now defunct Chicago Daily News. An alien space craft touched down outside of Roselle, New Mexico, the paper reported. The Daily News gave the Roswell incident precedence over a proposal by the Illinois legislature to revamp state taxes.

**THAT CRASH MARKED** the beginning of a "cosmic Watergate," according to Friedman.

There were four alien bodies recovered — the Army took them and the CIA hid them, he said. The biggest story of the millennium was snuffed.

"These CIA guys, if they were to go to The New York Times and say, 'Hey, I did an autopsy in an alien body,' they'd lose their pensions. There is no question but that secrets can be kept," he said.

Friedman has degrees in nuclear physics from the University of Chicago. He worked for 14 years developing nuclear rockets, airplanes and submarines for General Electric, Westinghouse and General Motors. Now, he spends most of his time conducting lectures and research on UFOs.

"**THERE IS** overwhelming evidence that planet Earth is being visited," he said. Some of us have been unwilling hosts, he said.

COSMIC CON'T

"Maybe, if we play our cards right, we can qualify for admission into what I call the cosmic kindergarten. Our children could grow up with a sense of galactic identity," he said.

The children of some unwilling and probably unknowing parents might already be growing up with just such a sense. Genetic research is important to extra terrestrials, and Earth is a genetically diverse planet, Friedman said.

"I am satisfied that this has occurred in a number of cases," he said in reference to alien/human cross-breeding.

**FRIEDMAN HAS BEEN** researching UFOs for 30 years. He concentrates on those issued from up to 54 light years away — the immediate "galactic neighborhood."

Friedman not alone in his studies. In 1955, the U.S. Air Force issued "Project Blue Book," a report of 3,000 purported UFO sightings that was updated in 1971 and never made available to the general public.

According to Friedman's account of the report, most of the flying saucers turned out to be balloons, air craft, astronomical phenomena or psychologically induced.

But the Blue Book classified close to one quarter of the sightings as

"unknown," Friedman said. Of the unknowns, 62 percent were classified as "excellent" sightings, meaning that the observer was of sound body and mind and saw something for more than five seconds.

"**WELL, IF** the unknowns weren't balloons or air craft or astronomical, what were they?" Friedman asked.

"Presumably, we're dealing with descriptions of a disc — somewhere around 10 to 200 feet in diameter — or huge, cigar-shaped mother ships out of which little discs fly," he said.

But never mind the saucers, did anyone see who was driving?

Friedman says yes. Critters, little green guys, humanoids — they've all been spotted. There are hundreds of people walking about today who have been abducted by space people for research material, including impregnation, he said.

**ALIENS HAVE PUT** little pellets — tracking devices — up human noses, in ears and behind eyeballs, according to Friedman.

"That seems to be part of the picture, unpleasant as it may sound. Actually, it's not all that different from what we do to some of the animals on this planet," he said.

## COSMIC CON'T

Despite Air Force reports, events like that in New Roswell and people purportedly abducted, people are reluctant to believe in extra-terrestrial life, Friedman admitted.

There are a number of reasons for skepticism, primarily ego, Friedman said.

**MANY SCIENTISTS REASON** that if space creatures existed they would surely would have arranged to meet with leaders of the scientific community by now, Friedman said. Space creatures would want to provide earth scientists with the secrets of the universe.

Better to believe that something does not exist than to believe that something does exist but is just ignoring you — thus, many scientists are skeptics, Friedman said.

There is a good reason for aliens to withhold information, he added.

"Why would they want to divulge the secrets of the universe with a primitive people whose main activity is tribal warfare? That would be like putting a loaded gun in the hands of a three-year-old," he said.

**FURTHERMORE, PHONY** stories about flying saucers abound and discredited genuine sightings, he said.

There was at least one true believer in the CLC audience.

"I live around here, kind of. I used to be in the Navy," a man with blue triangles and circles tattooed on his knuckles said after the lecture.

"I worked on fission and fusion for the Navy. I know, I know about the crash. Ask about the crash on the moon in 1964. Delta Blue Phoenix, 1964.

"**I KNOW** when they're coming back. Delta Blue Phoenix. I have the date," he said

He wore a digital watch/stopwatch. He kept pointing at it, and at the tattoos.

"Delta Blue Phoenix," he said. "I have the date."

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# UFO's origins turn out to be earthbound

By **DAVID PROFFITT**  
Staff Writer

Staring at the chilly winter sky yesterday morning while clutching a few dog biscuits in one hand, Pat Webb watched a half-dozen mysterious white lights dance and whirl above her house.

Could it be an Unidentified Flying Object, an honest-to-gosh Close Encounter of the Third Kind? Could some alien presence have its sensors aimed at her body, preparing to beam her aboard its futuristic ship?

Mrs. Webb wasn't taking any chances.

"It was strange," said the 36-year-old restaurant employee who takes dog biscuits to her two dogs, a German shepherd and a husky, at daybreak each morning. "There were six or eight of those lights just going around in a circle, with one in the center.

"As they went around, all the lights in the circle would go up and meet that one in the center," said Mrs. Webb, who lives off S.C. Highway 290 near Moore. "I didn't know what it was, but I didn't go out and get my newspaper until daylight."

Fortunately for Mrs. Webb, the lights weren't controlled by a curi-

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## UFO

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ous alien that had traveled millions of miles to pluck her from the earth.

The less glamorous point of origin was a flatbed trailer parked at Country Junction restaurant and truck stop at the intersection of S.C. 290 and Interstate 85.

Four 2,000-watt spotlights generated a billion candlepower and made alternating figure-eight patterns to catch the eye of passing motorists, said Michael Lancaster, general manager for Sky Tracker Southeast Inc. of Atlanta.

"That's the purpose of the lights, to draw attention," Lancaster said.

Mark Ingersoll, Country Junction manager, rented the lights from Sky Tracker as part of the restaurant's grand opening celebration. Ingersoll's contract expired yesterday, and company employees took the lights back to Atlanta, Lancaster said.

"We've had several customers

come in and say they saw the lights off the interstate," said Ingersoll, adding that one man told him they were visible from the North Carolina border.

The Highway Patrol in Spartanburg and National Weather Service in Greer didn't receive any reports of unusual lights between 6 and 6:30 a.m., but dispatchers with Spartanburg County's Central Communications office said they received several calls from curious people.

The powerful lights reflected off low-hanging clouds or fog, authorities said. Proper atmospheric conditions dispersed the beam from the ground and made the lights look as if they had no connection to the earth — a phenomenon Lancaster said people often report.

Like the spectacle yesterday, most UFO sightings are caused by natural events, said Don Berliner, who works with the Fund for UFO Research in Mt. Rainier, Md.

SOUTHEND EVENING ECHO ESSEX

JAN 30 1989

## UFOs — seen but not heard

UFO investigators in South East Essex are following up 27 calls.

A man from Hockley described an oblong vehicle with portholes and two rows of lights at low altitude which made no noise. Another caller, from Langdon Hills, was nervous and shaking when he rang the UFO hotline in Basildon to claim he saw a lighted object which he could not describe but which changed shape.

Callers from Leigh, Southend and Rayleigh saw two blue lights over the estuary which moved apart and then came together.

Two people independently watched the lights through binoculars and there was apparently a ring of red lights inside and then outside the blue lights.

Three callers from Benfleet also saw lights moving about the sky which they said were definitely not aircraft.

Another caller from Pitsea said he had seen lights but could not describe them adequately.

Others from Wickford also reported mysterious lights.

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