

SEPTEMBER 1990
VOLUME 15 No 9

19 UFO 90 NEWS

**AERIAL PHENOMENON
CLIPPING INFORMATION CENTER**

P.O. Box 37073 • Cleveland, Ohio 44137

DIRECT REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

SEPTEMBER 1990
VOLUME 15 NUMBER 3



1990 JOURNAL OF NEWS

AERIAL PHENOMENON
CLIPPING INFORMATION CENTER

P.O. Box 37075 • Cleveland, Ohio 44137

DIRECT REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

Soviets fear threat of space invaders

By DAVID WOOD

NEWHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The Cold War may be over, but the Soviet Union's military air defenses are struggling with a new threat: a seemingly apparent invasion by flying saucers.

Dozens of sightings of unidentified flying objects — disc shaped spacecraft with blinking lights and performing impossibly high-speed maneuvers — have been recounted in the last few months, including eyewitness reports from Soviet interceptor pilots said to have been corroborated by ground surveillance radars.

"I am not a specialist on UFOs and therefore I can only correlate the data and express my own supposition," said Igor Maltsev, Soviet general of aviation and chief of the main staff of the Air Defense Forces.

And his own supposition? That UFOs exist and are piloted by extra-terrestrials, he indicated in an interview with a Moscow Communist Party newspaper, *Rabochaya Tribuna*.

And they may not be friendly. Vladimir Akhaltsev was driving his milk tanker truck one night in May when he noticed a shining ball following him. He tried to outrun it, gunning his rig up to 60 mph on the twisting road several hundred miles south of Moscow before the

SEE INVADERS/7-A

Invaders

FROM/1-A

UFO gave up the chase.

Farmers who also saw the shining ball were said by the local newspaper to have demanded: "If thirsty humanoids steal our driver, who is going to deliver the milk?"

Other Soviet reports, monitored and distributed without comment by the U.S. Air Force Technical Information Division and by the State Department, have UFOs sniff-

ing around the politically restive republic of Estonia, probing with mysterious light rays a buried gas pipeline in Siberia and hovering over the Far Eastern village of Dalnegorsk.

The Russians, a deeply superstitious people with a historic mistrust of foreigners, have a ready explanation: space aliens, perhaps running out of supplies at home, are after Russia's natural resources.

"Specialists link their heightened interest here with the variety and

wealth of useful minerals," the official government Radio Moscow explained in a dispatch from Dalnegorsk.

Whatever their purpose, reports of alien visits are exhaustively checked out by the nation's elite air defense forces, that operate the military's most sophisticated aircraft and the powerful network of surveillance radar.

By contrast, the United States Air Force says it stopped investigating UFO sightings more than 20 years ago.

But the Soviet air defense forces have had a bad case of the jitters since 1987, when a 19-year-old West German on a lark flew a single-engine Cessna unmolested some 400 miles through Soviet airspace before buzzing President Gorbachev's Kremlin office and touching down in Red Square. In the ensuing uproar, the Soviet defense minister, the chief of the air defense forces and other military luminaries were sacked.

Today, with those unpredictable Americans flying around in invisible "Stealth" aircraft, no air defense general or lowly radarman is going to overlook an unexplained

radar blip or ignore a hysterical phone call.

Like the recent one from several Soviet policemen who breathlessly reported this spring that they had been shadowed by "two disc-shaped UFOs" on a dark country road near Krasnoyarsk. The policemen swore that the saucers landed on a nearby hilltop and "harassed" them with rays of red and yellow light. The spacecraft got away before Air Defense could respond.

Golden calf of 1550 B.C. Canaanites unearthed

By JOEL BRINKLEY

NEW YORK TIMES

ASHKELON, Israel — Harvard University archeologists excavating Canaanite ruins surrounding the site of the ancient port city of Ashkelon have unearthed a "golden calf" that was an object of worship dating from the second millennium B.C.

The tiny image of bronze and other metals was recovered almost intact, with legs, ears, tail and one of its two horns still in place, even though the temple in which it was housed was reduced to rubble during a conquest of Ashkelon in about 1550 B.C., midway through the Bronze Age.

In the Bible, golden calves, similar in form but considerably larger than the Ashkelon find, are referred to during the Exodus, in ancient Jerusalem's rivalry with the northern, calf-worshipping Hebrew king Jeroboam and in other Old Testament accounts.

According to the American team that discovered the calf on June 26, it is the only one of its kind ever found and provides important evidence to help explain religious development in this region.

It was dated by examination of the pottery and other artifacts found alongside it, a standard archeological practice. The pottery style had already been demonstrated to be of this period, midway through the second millennium B.C.

"It was a totally unexpected find," said Dr. Lawrence E. Stager, Dorot professor of the archeology of Israel at Harvard and head of the team at work at Ashkelon.

The calf is about 4 1/2 inches long, 4 1/4 inches tall and weighs just under one pound.

The figure is well articulated

SEE CALF/18-A

Calf CONT

FROM/1-A

and was formed in parts.

The arms, legs, horns, tail and other parts were attached in sockets, and they are of different metals.

The body was of bronze, and bur-nishing marks show that it was probably kept polished to a high sheen so that it resembled gold.

The legs, head and genitals are of a metal believed to be silver, though the researchers have not yet been able to analyze it.

The horns and tail were formed from copper wire. Since the little animal has suffered mild corrosion, the bronze parts are dark green and the silver is a rough lead color.

The animal is filled with a heavy metal, believed to be lead, and was found lying on its side next to a shattered pottery shrine in which it was mounted while in use.

The pottery vessel had an opening with doors.

"We believe it was displayed looking out, emerging from this cowshed, which was a shrine to the milk goddess," Stager said of the calf.

The calf and shrine were found in the rubble of a temple. Only the building's foundations remain.

Some scholars believe the early Israelites were a breakaway Canaanite sect.

They forged their own identity, Stager said, "by being in opposition to the Canaanite religious matrix" that prevailed in the region until it was swept out by the Philistines, who conquered the coastal area in about 1180 B.C.

The golden calf is believed to have been the central object of worship for the Canaanites for 1,000 years or longer.

A verse in the Old Testament book of Hosea, 13:1, illustrates the Israelites' ever-vigilant efforts to banish Canaanite worship of the calf, which was sometimes used to represent the Canaanite deity known as Baal. It reads:

"Ephraim was a prince and a leader, and he was exalted in Israel. But, guilty of Baal-worship, he suffered death.

"Yet now they sin more and more; they cast for themselves images, they use their silver to make idols, all fashioned by craftsmen. It is said of Ephraim: 'They offer human sacrifices and kiss calf-images.'"

"Therefore they will be like the morning mist, like dew that vanishes early, like chaff blown from the threshing floor or smoke from a chimney."

The Ashkelon calf was believed to have been in use several hundred years before the first Israelite kingdom was founded, until Ashkelon was conquered by the Egyptians in about 1550 B.C.

Four evil-eyed creatures came in bullet-shaped starship, farmer claims

A Mexican farmer says space aliens kidnapped his wife and ate his hunting dog in one of the wildest close encounters ever.

By JIMMY SNEAD

Authorities will neither confirm nor deny that they are investigating the incident. But 53-year-old Enrique Cedillo says one of the aliens left behind a strange metal glove that proves his incredible story.

"They took my wife and they ate my dog. I spit on those creatures from space," said Cedillo. "Why did they do this to me when I did nothing to them?"

"They are evil to the bone."

The farmer says the strange encounter took place on his farm west of Fresnillo, Mexico, on May 21. A bullet-shaped spacecraft appeared overhead as he was working in a field, he claims, and landed less than 50 feet from his house.

"Four evil-eyed creatures no bigger than children came out of the craft and marched into my house like they owned it," said Cedillo. "I started to run after them but I couldn't move my legs. I was paralyzed. I couldn't even scream."

While the farmer stood motionless in his field, the extraterrestrials emerged from the house with Cedillo's wife Carmen, 61, following like a zombie.

She allegedly boarded the

UFO with one of the aliens while the other three shot and killed Cedillo's bird dog with a laser device — and proceeded to eat it raw, bones included.

"Tears were streaming down my face but I still couldn't move and had to watch those monsters eat my dog Pepe," said Cedillo.

"When they finished they went back to their ship. It made a loud whistling noise and lifted straight up in the air. It wobbled for a few seconds and then it vanished.

"When it was gone I could move again. That's when I found what they left behind, a tiny metal glove."

A spokesman for the Fresnillo Police Department confirmed that Cedillo reported his wife was kidnapped and his dog was killed but refused to say whether the incidents are under investigation.

Military officials examined Cedillo's glove but they won't comment either.

"People think I'm crazy but I'm sane," said the farmer. "If my wife was here she would tell you.

"But she isn't here. She is gone."



FARMER Enrique Cedillo said the creatures paralyzed him.

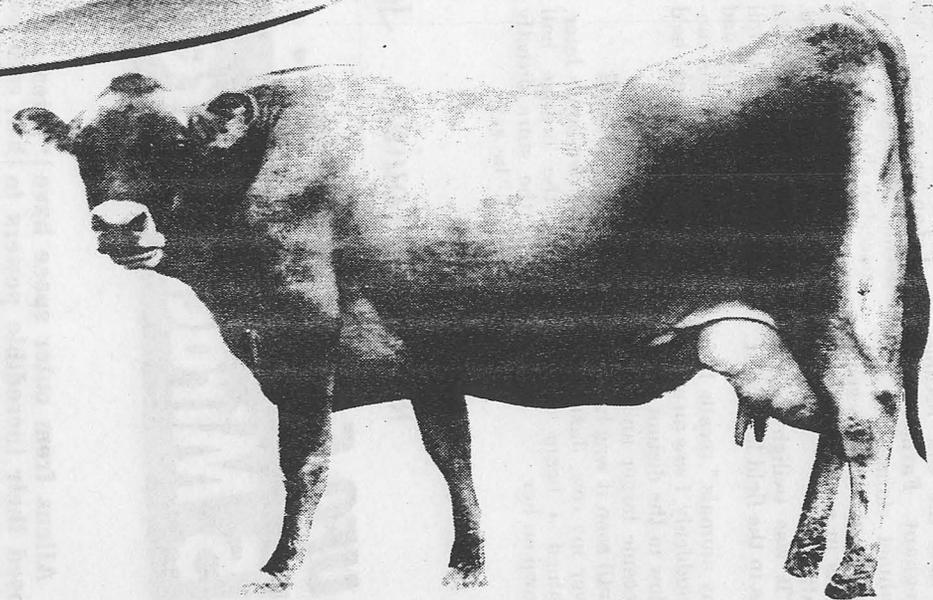
WEEKLY WORLD NEWS
June 12, 1990

SUN JULY 24 1990

Cow pregnant with a space alien's child



● THE COW reportedly floated up into UFO, which had been hovering above her



● FARMER LOTZ MAHMET told strange story of UFO

AMAZED SCIENTISTS say a cow believed to have been abducted by a flying saucer is pregnant with an unearthly fetus that has two hearts and feet like a duck!

The cow is now being kept in a university laboratory, where a panel of worldwide experts is waiting breathlessly for it to deliver its weird offspring.

"We have taken cell samples and a series of ultrasound pictures," says Professor Radzwil Arian, a leading veterinary researcher.

Webbed feet

"They show the fetus to be similar to a bovine fetus except for several abnormalities.

"It has two well-developed hearts and larger than normal eyes. And it appears that the animal will have webbed feet like a duck instead of hooves."

DON'T NEXT PAGE

COW CON'T

Almost more incredible than the offspring growing inside the cow is the story of how the cow became pregnant. Farmer Lotz Mahmet claims the animal was abducted by space aliens in a saucer-shaped craft.

"It was twilight and I was in the field looking at

my animals," recalls Lotz. "Suddenly, I saw an orange glow in the distant sky. It became larger and larger until soon it was hovering over my cow, Jazim, and shined a beam of light down on her.

"Jazim just floated up into the belly of the object, which seemed to be made out of an orange metal. She disappeared inside and the spaceship shot off into the sky."

Terrified and confused, Lotz sat in the field in the dark. He was afraid to tell his family what he had seen because he was convinced they'd think he'd lost his mind.

Suspicious

"About two hours later, I saw the orange ball among the stars directly overhead," he says.

"Within seconds it plummeted to earth and was soon hovering about seven or eight meters above the same spot.

"Jazim suddenly appeared from underneath

and just floated down to the ground. A ring of fire burned briefly in the grass around her. Then the glowing object disappeared into the heavens without a sound."

The next day, Lotz showed neighbors the ring on the ground and told them the story.

When Jazim showed signs of being pregnant a month later, he became suspicious because the cow hadn't been near any bulls for nearly a year.

A local veterinarian called Dr. Arikan after he detected abnormalities in the pregnancy.

The cow was shipped to the professor's lab in Ankara, Turkey. "I cannot confirm or dispute the farmer's story about the UFO abducting the cow," says Dr. Arikan.

"The only thing I know is the cow will soon deliver an animal that's never been seen before on earth."

— FLAMINGO STARR

NATIONAL ENQUIER JULY 17 1990

UFO Expert Claims . . .

5 Miracle Cures — By Space Aliens

Aliens from outer space have used their incredible powers to heal people with physical problems, reveals a top UFO researcher.

"Cases range from persons who grew back lost teeth to others whose crippling diseases spontaneously vanished," said Brad Steiger, author of "The UFO Abductors."

Over the last 25 years, he's gathered hundreds of accounts from people around the world. Here are some of his most intriguing cases:

◆ In the early 1980s, a woman farmer called Mrs. M saw her badly infected hand healed within minutes after her encounter with aliens, according to Steiger. Mrs. M's hand was swollen and oozing, and when she went to her doctor, he gave her antibiotics, bandaged the hand and said it would heal in about a month.

The next morning, she was in a field when she saw a luminous egg-shaped object approaching her.

"A door seemed to open in the craft and the next thing she knew, she was in a brilliantly lit room filled with high-tech equipment," said Steiger.

"Three small creatures surrounded her, each wearing a mask."

Mrs. M became unconscious during the examination, then woke back in the field — and she found her hand completely healed!

◆ A toothless 80-year-old farmer from Brazil grew new teeth within two months after his abduction by four small men in a silver circular-shaped craft in 1978, according to

Steiger. The strange beings examined the man, then released him unharmed — and his first teeth appeared about two weeks later.

◆ A man named Bertram had an enlarged liver since birth and was told it would never become normal, but he proved the doctors wrong after his encounter with a UFO.

Bertram was skiing down a remote slope in Finland a few years ago when he was caught in a white beam of light from an egg-shaped UFO.

The UFO left several minutes later. When Bertram went for a physical after a few days, doctors found his liver had shrunk to a normal size.

◆ Wheelchair-bound Richard T. overcame a nerve disease after his encounter with a UFO in 1982 in Michigan, said Steiger.

"One evening he was enjoying the solitude of a beach when a 100-foot-long torpedo-shaped UFO appeared above him. He entered a trance state and he and his wheelchair were somehow lifted into the craft.

"There, he was examined by aliens and the next thing he remembered, he was once again beside his van.

"Amazingly, over the coming weeks, his condition reversed itself. Finally, he was able to walk again."

◆ Mae M from Mississippi overcame crippling joint pain after her 1977 encounter with aliens, according to Steiger.

"In the UFO examination room, one of the aliens passed some type of rod over her body again and again.

"When Mae awoke the next morning, her pain was all gone — and her joint pain remained in remission ever since."

— STEVE COZ

Looking for the lively on the outer space shelf



Tapping magnetic UFO field

OUT THERE: *The Government's Secret Quest for Extraterrestrials.* By Howard Blum. Simon and Schuster, 304 pp., \$19.95. Available in early September.

THE WATCHERS: *The Secret Design Behind UFO Abduction.* By Raymond E. Fowler. Foreword by Whitley Strieber. Bantam, 386 pp., \$19.95.

By **JOE DIRCK**

Since 1947, when amateur pilot Kenneth Arnold saw something odd in the sky over Mount Rainier in Washington and an anonymous copy editor attaching a headline to a wire service account of the incident coined the phrase "flying saucers," public fascination with the idea of intelligent life on other planets has at times waned, but never faded entirely.

Want more? Here are some other recent UFO titles:

■ **First Contact: The Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence** (NAL, \$19.95) edited by Ben Bova and Byron Preiss: For the serious student, this collection of essays by writers ranging from renowned astronomer Frank Drake to science fiction guru Arthur C. Clarke offers some of the best current scientific thinking on the possibility of alien life.

■ **The Gulf Breeze Sightings** (Morrow, \$21.95) by Ed Walters and Frances Walters: The Walters saw some UFOs. They took pictures. They're convinced, but in "Out There," Howard Blum says the government's UFO Working Group scientists looked into the Gulf Breeze incidents and weren't

too impressed

PD/TERENCE OLIVER

■ **The UFO Cover-up: What the Government Won't Say** (Prentice Hall, \$9.95, paper) by Lawrence Fawcett and Barry J. Greenwood: Originally published in 1984 under a different title, this is a variation on an old theme — THEY'RE LYING TO US! Strictly for conspiracy freaks.

■ **Unexplained Mysteries of the 20th Century** (Contemporary, \$13.95) by Janet and Colin Bord: UFOs . . . plus Bigfoot, Loch Ness, ghosts, religious miracles and spontaneous human combustion. If it's weird, they've got it.

— Joe Dirck

During slow periods — sightings of unidentified flying objects, UFOs, seem to come in bunches — the flame is tended by a small but committed cadre of believers, who range from serious scientists to the seriously spaced out.

But when public attention is drawn to the subject, the interest can be intense, if fleeting. "Close Encounters of the Third Kind," "E.T.," Whitley Strieber's "Communion" — each attests to the potential drawing power of UFOs. And, as in the case of all modern cultural phenomena, such upwellings of public fascination inevitably spawn a rash of imitators.

How else to explain the flurry of recent books on UFOs than to blame it on Strieber, whose controversial "non-fiction" accounts of his purported abduction by aliens

in "Communion" and "Transformation" became best sellers? Ironically, Strieber is back this summer with "Billy," a thoroughly earthbound novel about an all-too-real form of abduction — child kidnapping. But there are a number of new UFO books out, some published by major houses, and any one of them would gladly assume the mantle as this year's "Communion."

Readers hoping for unequivocal proof either way, however, be forewarned: It won't be found here. As it has since the Kenneth Arnold days, the UFO mystery ultimately comes down to a leap of faith for each individual. Either you believe or you don't.

Howard Blum, a former investigative reporter for the New York Times and the author of "I Pledge Allegiance," about the Walker family spy case, was one of those who didn't. In fact, he writes at the beginning of "Out There," he was fairly annoyed when a U.S. intelligence source interrupted a deep background interview about the Walker matter to tell him of a secret government team investigating UFOs.

But the tip panned out, and Blum eventually managed to wade through the official denials and confirm that there is indeed a top-secret panel of eminent scientists called the UFO Working Group, charged with determining if there is intelligent life "out there." Formed during the Reagan administration and continued under Bush, the team already has investigated several unexplained UFO

sightings. It hasn't found anything definitive — or at least if it has, it didn't tell Blum — but the group's very existence gives the lie to the government's standard and longstanding disavowals of any

concerns at all about UFOs.

There is some pretty interesting stuff here. A fair estimate is that there is about a magazine article's worth, even allowing for all the

how-I-got-the-story padding Blum throws in. Unfortunately, he has an entire book to fill up about the government's secret quest for extraterrestrials, so after telling all he knows about the UFO Working Group, he has no choice but to wander off in several different directions.

There is a lengthy section on the development of radio telescopes, with which scientists hope someday to hear messages from other planets. Again, this is interesting, but hardly a secret. Blum also walks the reader through NASA's Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence (SETI) program, which likewise is no secret and frankly doesn't sound all that different from the hush-hush Working Group.

Still a few pages short, Blum offers a quirky account of Elmwood, Wis., where enterprising residents capitalize on some well-publicized sightings a few years ago by holding UFO Days, an annual summer festival. And he introduces us to a bizarre character who claims he worked on a CIA plot to drive UFO believers crazy, a story even Blum seems to find hard to swallow.

But the bottom line is ... there.

LIFO FIELD
CONT

is no bottom line. Blum has his suspicions about how much the government is hiding, but he can only speculate on what it might be. As one source tells him: "Even the government doesn't know what the government knows."

If Raymond E. Fowler's theory is correct, it probably doesn't matter anyway. "The Watchers" postulates that there is a race of aliens so advanced that we could no more interact with them than a worm could hold a meaningful conversation with a human. These "watchers," as he calls them, have been around since the beginning of time keeping an eye on mankind.

The book (with a foreword by Strieber) is Fowler's third based upon the hypnosis-induced memories of Betty Andreasson Luca, who claims to have been repeatedly abducted by aliens since childhood. In investigating the case, Fowler undergoes hypnosis himself, and guess what? Turns out HE was abducted, too!

While this is presented in all sincerity, the book works only for those readers who buy into the basic premise. Those who don't will wonder what they've gotten themselves into.

Count this reviewer among the latter.

SUN AUG-14 1990

UFO TERROR SWEEPS CENTRAL AMERICA

MILLIONS OF terrified Central Americans are convinced that UFO aliens are watching over them and planning an imminent invasion — and they have good reason to believe it!

Panic has swept over the nations of Guatemala, Costa Rica and Nicaragua since circular-shaped objects with bright red lights were first spotted hovering over the mountains.

Hundreds of UFO sightings are being reported each night by upstanding citizens who pull their cars to the roadsides for glimpses of visiting spaceships.

Massive traffic jams have been occurring on highways near the mountains since the UFOs began appearing.

"I think the space aliens are coming back to re-establish contact with the Mayans," explains Dr. Julio Samuel, who says he's spotted UFOs every night for the past six weeks.

"I am sure they must be looking for Tikal. That's the ancient Mayan capital they may have built which is only 200 miles north of Guatemala City," he says.

"Researchers know that Tikal was not built by man alone, so I'm not surprised that these beings have returned to Guatemala."

Although most of the people believe that the unexplained objects are spaceships from other galaxies, some try to explain the sightings as drug traffickers trying to evade radar detection with the latest equipment.

But the Guatemalan government is taking the crisis very seriously.

Unexplained

"We're concerned because we've had thousands of reported sightings," says a government spokesman. "All of these people can't be imagining things. Something unexplained is definitely taking place over our country."

"We've set up four observation posts to track the aircraft, but so far they've avoided detection."

"Some of our air traffic controllers say they've spotted some erratic patterns on their radar screens, but they disappear before we can make contact." — KEN O'HARA

Venus probe may find Earth

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Geologists may get a glimpse of what Earth's surface was like a few billion years ago when the Magellan spacecraft's radar pierces the clouds of Venus to reveal secrets of an alien terrain.

"Venus is the last of the inner planets we are exploring in detail, and probably is the most important from the point of view of understanding the Earth," said Jim Head, a member of NASA's Magellan science team and a geology professor at Brown University in Providence, R.I.

Magellan fired its braking rocket and slipped into orbit around Venus on Friday after a 15-month, 948-million-mile voyage from Earth.

Engineers at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory monitored the spacecraft's health yesterday so it will be ready by Sept. 1 to use its radar to peer through thick Venesian clouds and make the most detailed pictures and maps yet of the planet's landscape.

Magellan entered orbit so smoothly that it used very little thruster fuel to point it properly while the rocket fired. So Magellan weighs more and moves faster than

Magellan radar to pierce clues secrets of an alien terrain

expected, making the low point in its orbit 183 miles above Venus instead of 171 miles as planned, said navigation chief John McNamee.

The orbit is so good that an adjustment maneuver planned for Aug. 28 will not be needed, Magellan project manager Tony Spear said yesterday.

Magellan is designed to study the geology and geography of Venus, heated to 900 degrees Fahrenheit by a "greenhouse effect" gone berserk.

Venus' high temperature and crushing atmospheric pressure might make rock in the planet's crust much thinner and more flexible than Earth's, Head said.

So Venus may resemble Earth before our home planet's crust cooled off and broke into colossal plates. Those plates now drift across the face of the Earth, moving whole continents and colliding to uplift mountain ranges and trigger volcanic eruptions and earthquakes.

Most of Earth's original surface was destroyed long ago by erosion and plate movements, so "we have grave difficulty answering fundamental questions about the early history of the Earth," Head said.

While Venus is hot, dry and lifeless, "it is very similar in size and density and also is the closest planet to the Earth," he said. "That means it probably had the most similar conditions when the planets formed (4.6 billion years ago). So if we want to study another planet to learn something about the early Earth, Venus is a good candidate."

Learning how Venus' crust moves and is deformed "will tell us a lot more about the Earth," said Steve Saunders, NASA's chief scientist for Magellan.

Magellan may settle debate over competing theories that seek to explain the creation of Venus' continent-like highlands, which include Africa-sized Aphrodite Terra, Australia-sized Ishtar Terra and Hawaii-like Beta Regio.

Saunders believes "hot spots" of rising, molten rock created the highlands, just as hot spots created Hawaii on Earth.

"If you could look at a time-lapse movie over billions of years, it might look like a big pot of thick porridge simmering," Saunders said, adding Venus' crust may feature "a bunch of big Hawaii all over the place."

Other scientists think Venus' highlands are big pieces of crust that solidified first as the planet's initial molten surface cooled off.

But Head believes plate movements formed the highlands. Aphrodite Terra resembles Earth's midocean ridges, the undersea mountain ranges where molten rock emerges to add new material to the drifting plates of crust.

Ishtar Terra has many of the features that you would expect where blocks of crust are colliding, including volcanoes such as those along the Pacific coasts of Alaska and South America and folded mountain belts such as Earth's Himalayas, which were created because India is smashing into Asia.

Australian scientists report:

Astronomers pick up message from space

AUSTRALIAN ASTRONOMERS have determined once and for all that we are not alone after making contact with space aliens by radio!

Amazingly, the stunned scientists say an extraterrestrial civilization has been sending messages to us for hundreds of years, but earth radio telescopes were developed only in the past 50 years and were aimed in the wrong direction.

"Until now, all radio telescopes were located in the

by FRANCIS SHIFFLETT

northern hemisphere, in the U.S. and Europe," says Dr. Herbert Bockris, the project's director.

"They failed to monitor radio transmissions from the southern skies. This the part of the galaxy from which these alien messages are coming from."

Amazed

The Australian radio telescope uses the latest in space-age technology to simultaneously monitor more than nine million radio channels in deep space.

Scientists listen for high-frequency signals with repeating patterns — the telltale signs of an alien broadcast.

The giant antenna had been operating for only several hours when it began picking up these signals.

"We listened in amazement," recalls Dr. Bockris. "It was a series of beeps with an almost musical quality."

"We were convinced beyond a shadow of a doubt that it was a message being beamed to us by intelligent life."

But the real surprise occurred a few days later when the radio transmission suddenly changed.

"The beeps ended, there was static for several minutes, then a low pitched moaning came over the speaker," Dr. Bockris remembers. "It was an alien voice speaking in a language unlike anything I've ever heard in my life."

"The voice droned on and on, punctuated by beeps, clicks and a gurgling sound as if it was clearing its throat."

Distant planet

"I could not even begin to guess what it was saying, but from its gentle tone I would assume it was a message of peace."

The alien broadcast was taped and is being ana-

● THE ALIEN broadcast was taped and is being analyzed by experts

lyzed by researchers around the world.

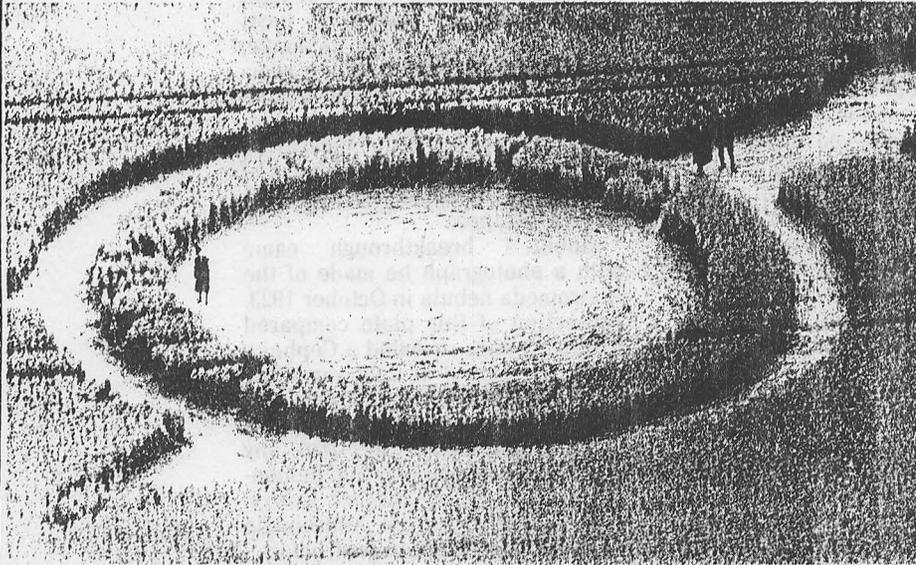
Meanwhile, scientists at the facility near Norseman, Australia are now attempting to pinpoint the distant planet that is sending the radio transmissions.

"Once we find out where it's coming from, we'll be able to send greetings of our own," Dr. Bockris says.

SUN AUG 1990

WHEAT'S UP, DOC?

Scientists are baffled as giant pictures appear overnight in farmers' fields. Are they messages from outer space? The work of hoaxers? Or are they done by sex-mad hedgehogs?



The massive circles dwarf people standing nearby. Mating hedgehogs were blamed until one farmer estimated it would take 40,000 to make a circle in one night.

SHREDDED wheat has replaced Stonehenge as Britain's biggest mystery. Huge circles and other strange shapes are appearing overnight in wheat fields — and sleuths all over the country are trying to explain who or what is responsible.

There's a \$10,000 prize for anyone who can solve the great grain mystery. So far suggestions include thugs on motorbikes, kids with lawnmowers and giant UFOs. Here are some other weird and wonderful theories:

Farmer Geoff Cooper says neighbors think the circles are created by mating hedgehogs rolling over and over in the fields. But he worked out it would take 40,000 of them to make a circle overnight.

When circles appeared in his fields in the south of England last summer, he contacted a local military base. "We thought helicopters were doing it," he says. "They said a helicopter could make that shape only if it was flying upside down and stationary."

Colin Andres, an electrical engineer who believes there is a link between the high number of UFO sightings in the area and the sudden appear-



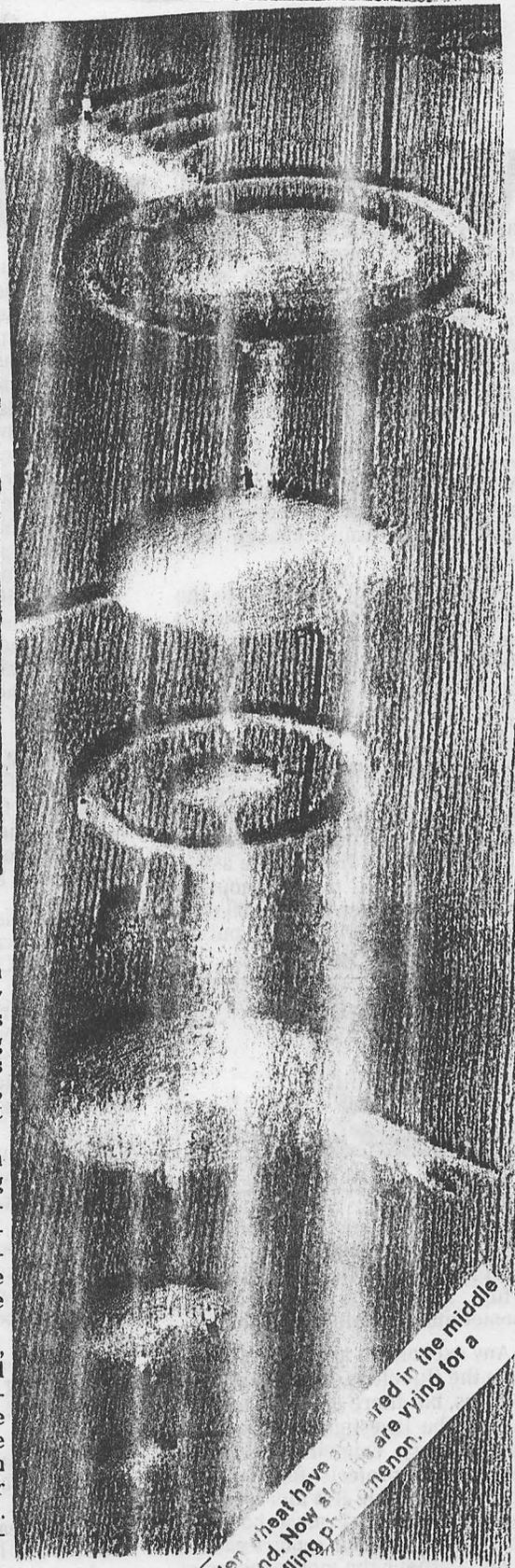
Colin Andres says there have been a high number of UFO sightings in the area where the circles have appeared.

ance of the shapes, says, "The circles seem to be elaborate pictograms created by some sort of intelligent life force. Farmers have told me about amber lights hovering 35 ft. above the ground for 15 seconds before disappearing. The next morning, they have discovered a circle in the exact spot where the light was."

Rubbish, says Dr. Terence Meaden, a British physicist who has been tracking the circles since 1989 and claims a "spinning ball of air," highly charged with electricity, hits the crop and marks out a circle. "Hills interrupt wind flow," he explains. "Then there's turbulence on the downward side."

Another circle expert, Jenny Randles, believes they are formed by a powerful electronic force field. "We have 12 eyewitness accounts of the rings forming and the witnesses have felt their skin burning and hair standing on end. It is not a spaceship," she says.

For the moment, there is no answer — and no winner of the \$10,000. The only ones getting rich are the farmers who are charging visitors \$2 for a quick peek at the unusual rings. □



Since 1976, circles of trodden wheat have appeared in the middle of fields in the south of England. Now about 100 are vying for a \$10,000 prize to explain the baffling phenomenon.

STAR
AUGUST 14
1990

Man has all the time in the world to probe stars

When I was young and learning my trade as a physicist, things couldn't happen rapidly enough to suit me. Once, I needed some information from a prominent researcher who spent part of the year in this country and the rest in Australia. When I reached him by phone, he informed me that he was leaving the country in a matter of days, that I should call him in the fall when he returned. At my protest over the postponement, he exclaimed, "Young man, I have been working on this problem for 10 years. A few more months won't change anything."

In managing my reactions to the delays caused by the optical flaw in the Hubble Space Telescope, I have tried to retain that lofty, detached way of looking at things, not always with complete success.

Most physical scientists have been eagerly awaiting the flow of data from the device, expecting answers to old questions as well as the discovery of new things never imagined. Edwin Hubble, the astronomer for whom the telescope is named, helped design the 200-inch Hale telescope, which was put in

RON HAYBRON



SCIENCE NOTEBOOK

operation at Mount Palomar, near San Diego, in 1949. When asked what he hoped to find with the powerful instrument, he replied, "something we hadn't expected."

Any excitement about revelations from the Hubble is diffuse and hard to focus, but there are known questions to be investigated. The Hubble advisory council established several key projects for the first year of operation. But this research for the most part must be postponed until in-orbit repairs can be made. Perhaps the most exciting of these is the more accurate determination of distances to other galaxies.

In another of the enchanting connections that occur regularly in the development of science, this work is a direct extension of Hubble's own research. It was he who first "measured" the distance to another galaxy, proving that the Milky Way is just one of a multitude of these vast families of stars.

The night sky reveals many glowing, fuzzy patches, called nebulae, after the Greek for cloud. For a long time, astronomers argued about the nature of these objects. Some thought that they were clouds of glowing gas that were relatively nearby, that our Milky Way was the whole of the universe. Others believed that at least some of the visible nebulae were other "island universes," other galaxies separated from our own by vast stretches of empty space.

In 1924, Hubble established that some of the nebulae were in fact galaxies, made up of hundreds of billions of stars. His discovery was based on the observation of a specific type of star, called a "Cepheid variable."

The most noteworthy aspect of this kind of star is the fact that its brightness fluctuates at a regular rate. Furthermore, the period of this variation is directly related to the average brightness of the star. If

the period is known, the average brightness can be inferred. The best-known Cepheid is Polaris, the North Star, but its changes in brightness are not very prominent. In the most extreme cases, the light output of such a star can change by almost a factor of 10 in a period of about two months. Analysis of the light from a Cepheid variable reveals that the variation in brightness is accompanied by a pulsation in the star's size.

The first Cepheid, so named since it is located in the constellation Cepheus, was discovered in 1784. But it was not until the early part of this century that the brightness-period relation was noted. This discovery was made by Henrietta Leavitt, an astronomer at the Harvard College Observatory, from observations made on the stars of the Magellanic Clouds, two small galaxies visible from the Southern Hemisphere.

For the nearest stars — those out to about 100 light-years — distance can be measured directly by a technique similar to that used by surveyors. Beyond this tiny "neighborhood," all astronomical distances are estimated from the comparison of the apparent bright-

ness of an object to how much light it is expected to emit.

The catch is knowing how bright the object really is, and that is why Leavitt's discovery was so important. Measuring the period of light variation for a Cepheid is easy. Once this measurement is made, the observer can look up the average intrinsic brightness in a table similar to the one originally assembled by Leavitt. After measuring the average apparent brightness of the star, the astronomer can calculate its distance.

Hubble's breakthrough came with a photograph he made of the Andromeda nebula in October 1923. Inspection of this plate compared to earlier ones revealed a Cepheid. From the period of light variation, Hubble was able to calculate the distance to Andromeda, proving it is much farther away than any object in the Milky Way and demonstrating that it is another galaxy. Modern estimates put Andromeda about 2 million light-years from us.

In subsequent work, Hubble identified many other galaxies and pushed his measurements of distances out to 500 million light-years. And by analyzing the light from these distant objects, he made

a monumental discovery. Beyond our immediate neighborhood, galaxies are moving away from us. The farther away a galaxy is, the more rapidly it is moving. In 1931, Hubble and collaborator Milton Humason announced these findings, which implied that the universe is expanding.

Subsequent speculations based on these data led to the notion of the Big Bang, that the universe must have begun with all its matter packed in a ball that exploded and spread the raw material of the galaxies in all directions.

When the Hubble telescope is repaired, an early task will be to look for Cepheids in galaxies three times as far away as can now be seen from Earth. The goal is to significantly improve estimates of astronomical distances. This will advance our quest to learn how old the universe is and may help us determine how it will end, questions for which Hubble laid the groundwork with his observations.

Meanwhile, those of us who are inclined to be impatient will get a chance to practice our self-control.

Haybron is an associate professor of physics at Cleveland State University.

APRIL-15 1990

B Y

M I C H A E L M c L E O D

THEY'RE BAAAACK

Or are they? This UFO story, which began with such promise, may now be fading into moon mist

The story has the tattered, B-movie charm of an old science fiction flick — the kind where the budget was blown on special effects and there was no money left over to hire a scriptwriter.

It's about a guy who lived quietly in a small town with his wife and two kids — until one day aliens showed up in his back yard.

They were about 4 feet tall, and they walked around in silver spacesuits with weapons that looked like cosmic cattle prods. They also had a blue beam on their spaceship, and occasionally they used it to paralyze him. But they weren't really malevolent beings — just rude, like house guests who overstay their welcome. They just kept zipping around in their flying saucers in a kind of holding pattern over his house and communicating telepathically with him.

Sometimes they spoke in Spanish, sometimes in English. They were pretty lousy conversationalists in both languages. They said things like: "We have come for you, Zeehas," and "Do not resist us" and "Photographs are not permitted."

It wouldn't win an Oscar, that dialogue. It's bad even by B-movie standards.

Not to worry. This was not Hollywood. This was real life. At least, so says Ed Walters.

WALTERS IS A BUILDING CONTRACTOR in the tiny Florida Panhandle town of Gulf Breeze. That much is definitely true. The rest is a bit harder to believe and may have more to do with Walters' rapport with a Polaroid than with interstellar beings.

Two years ago, Walters began telling his strange story of saucer-like crafts, blue beams and munchkin-sized creatures who called him "Zeehas" and once showed up on his patio, waving their zappers.

Yes, he said, he knew it sounded crazy, but he had proof: a series of about 40 Polaroid photos

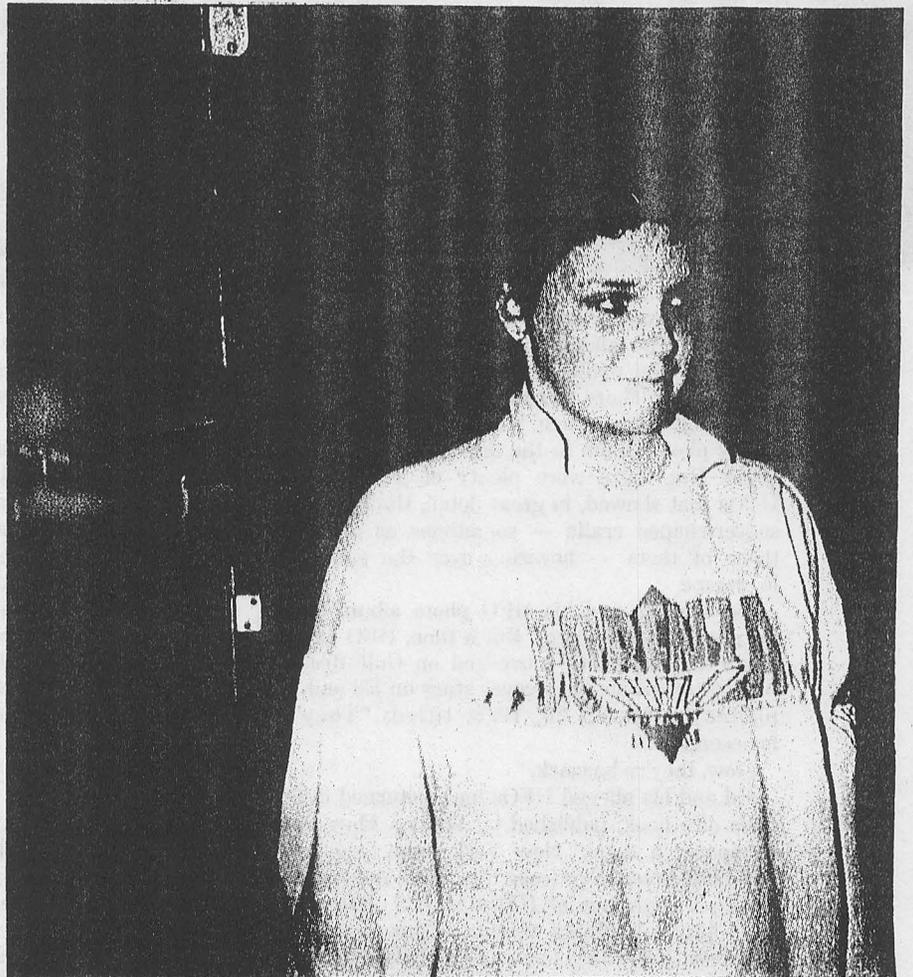


PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER BLOOMBERG

Jennifer Bloomberg says Ed Walters took this photograph (above) of her to show that there was a ghost over her shoulder. The ghost's two luminous eyes, skeletal mouth and thin arm can be seen reaching out toward the girl. Walters' photographs of what he says are alien spacecraft (right) have been disputed by other UFO experts.

THERE BACK!

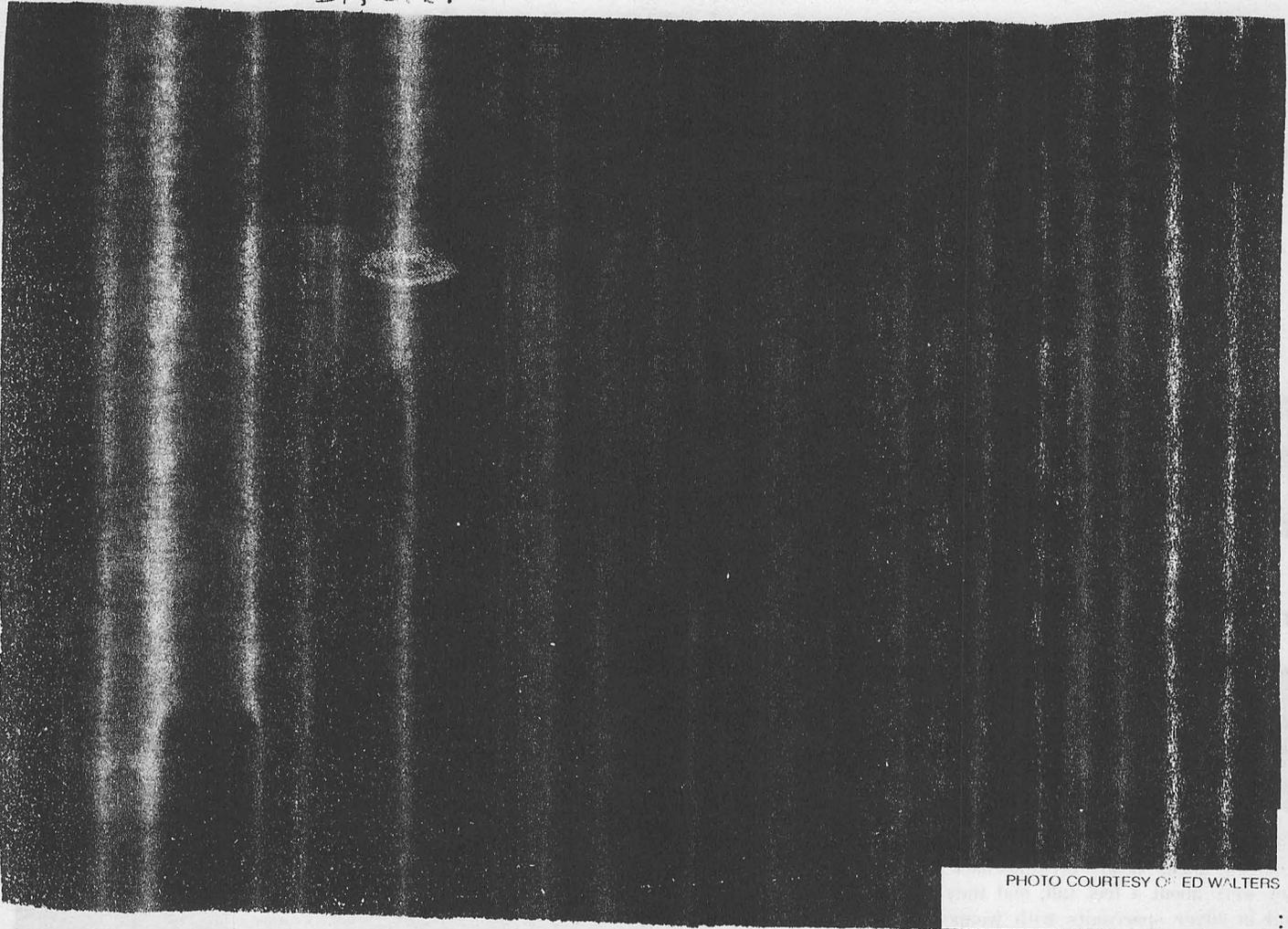


PHOTO COURTESY OF ED WALTERS

he'd taken over several weeks — the period during which the aliens supposedly pestered him, usually in the middle of the night, before they disappeared. There were no photos of the aliens in his collection, which Walters pasted up in a family photo album in the den of his ranch-style home. But there were plenty of shots of the UFOs that showed, in great detail, the luminous, saucer-shaped crafts — sometimes as many as three of them — hovering over the suburban landscape.

Ed Walters and his UFO photo album made for great entertainment. For a time, UFO enthusiasts and reporters converged on Gulf Breeze. *Florida* magazine did a cover story on Ed and his photos on March 20, 1988, titled: "They're heeereere."

Now, they're baaaack.

Ed and his alleged UFOs have returned in the form of a book, published by William Morrow & Company, a major New York publishing firm. *The Gulf Breeze Sightings: The Most Astounding Multiple Sightings of UFOs in U.S. History* is Ed's \$21.95 hardback version of his saucer encounters. It includes many of the Polaroid photos he took.

Walters always said he had nothing to gain and everything to lose by coming forward with his UFO story. The book may prove him wrong.

He has already been paid a \$200,000 advance. An offer for television rights to his story would

bring him as much as another \$450,000.

Wild as his story may sound, Walters has some earnest supporters, including city council members and at least one bona fide scientist.

There have been no hecklers at book-signing sessions and UFO seminars in Gulf Breeze. Instead, people have patted him on the back and called him a hero for "coming forward."

Duane Cook, editor of *The Gulf Breeze Sentinel*, says he is "99 percent sure" that Walters had a close encounter. Bruce Macabee, a physicist who has been Walters' scientific champion all along, remains convinced that the photos are real and that Walters is telling the truth. (Macabee's scientific objectivity has been questioned for several reasons, the main one being that, unlike the aliens who have yet to make a dime, Macabee is receiving a cut of the proceeds of the book — roughly \$20,000 from Walters as payment for writing an introduction.)

But the disbelievers have been just as enthusiastic as the believers. Over the past two years, several debunkers have tried to disprove Walters' story.

An interesting, if inconclusive, approach was a scientist who suggested: "The next time you talk to those aliens, ask them if they've figured out how to harness nuclear fusion. Maybe *they* know." If they did, they weren't talking. Walters never came back with an answer from the blue beamers.

Most of the debunkers focused on analyzing the photos, looking for telltale signs that they had been doctored.

The staginess of some of the photos, and the fact that they were just *too perfect* bothered some investigators.

"They looked hokey to me from the start," says Phillip Klass, a former senior editor with *Aviation Week* magazine. The composition of many of the photos has the UFOs precisely in the middle of the frame or just off center. Symmetry is nice for family photos. But when you see it in the work of an amateur photographer who has supposedly just been surprised by the appearance of an alien spacecraft and snapped off a quick shot, you wonder. Common sense dictates that such a situation doesn't lend itself to a steady hand and careful composition.

Suspicious were easy to come by, but proof of a hoax was another matter. Ed had used an old Polaroid for every one of the shots — the kind that requires the photographer to yank the film out of the camera, manually. With that model camera, skeptics quickly noted, it was possible to take one shot, leave the film in the camera, and then take another shot, producing a double exposure.

One debunker claimed to have computer-enhanced a photo that shows a column supporting the UFO. Walters and Macabee said it was a flaw in the film.

THEY'ER BAAAACK

But the most interesting debunking effort has to do with a different set of pictures altogether. Those who have analyzed these pictures say it's not little men from outer space who are chasing Ed Walters.

It's a ghost. A ghost of his own making.

And it's come back to haunt him.

A set of photos allegedly taken by Walters, with the same Polaroid camera, was acquired and copyrighted by Dr. Willy Smith of Altamonte Springs, a former physics professor and a former associate of the late UFO expert J. Allan Hynek.

Smith believes that UFOs are real. But he is firmly convinced that Walters is a phony. Smith has emerged as one of the most dedicated attackers of the Gulf Breeze case.



The 'ghost' (right) that appeared over Jennifer Bloomberg's shoulder, and (above) the second photo that she says Walters took to show her that the ghost had gone away.

Another researcher said he could prove, using the dating on the Polaroid film, that one of Walters' photos was out of sequence. This would indicate that he had come up with the photos in a lab, then put them together in a supposedly plausible sequence.

Walters conceded that, yes, it was out of sequence — but only because he had taken a photograph and, frightened by the aliens, tucked it into the waistband of his underwear and forgotten it. He only remembered the lost photo, he said, after undergoing a hypnosis session.

One of the photos acquired by Smith shows a teen-age girl. Over her shoulder is a fuzzy, out-of-focus image that Smith and his collaborator, Zan Overall, call "the ghost-demon." If you look closely at the image, you can see what could be taken as two luminous eyes, a skeletal mouth, and a thin, ghostly arm reaching out toward the girl.

The girl in the photo is Jennifer Bloomberg, who was a 16-year old Gulf Breeze High School student at the time the picture was taken.

Bloomberg's story — first told to Overall and repeated by her to *Florida* magazine — is that the picture was taken by Ed Walters at a party at his home. Bloomberg was friends with Walters' teen-age son, Danny. They were in the high school band, and band members frequently congregated at the Walters' home.

Ed Walters liked to play "spooky party games," said Bloomberg, and it was during one of those "games" that the photo was taken.

Bloomberg explains what happened:

Walters picked three girls, Bloomberg and two of her friends, and told them to sit in a circle and repeat a chant. Then he took their photos. He then said there was a spirit in the house that might show up in one of the photos, next to the girl that the spirit picked as "the chosen one."

Sure enough, just as Walters had predicted, a ghost-like image appeared on one of the photos — Bloomberg's.

"It scared me," said Bloomberg. "Everybody was looking at me, and some of them were laughing. When he saw I was scared, he [Walters] took another picture and showed it to me, and the ghost wasn't there anymore."

Bloomberg gave the photo to Smith, the UFO researcher. Smith contends that the photo is a double exposure, set up in advance by Walters as a prank. If so, it proves that Walters liked to dabble with trick photography. The obvious implication, Walters' critics say, is that the UFO photos are just

another one of Ed Walters' party games — this one with a bigger audience and larger stakes.

Two other former Gulf Breeze High School students, Nick Mock and Katie Turpin, corroborate Bloomberg's story.

Ed Walters has another explanation.

He says Smith and Overall "just want their names in the media. They're trying to ride on my coattails." He says the image in the photo is not a "ghost" but an accidental reflection from a mirror in the room.

THERE BACK

He played lots of games with kids at his parties, he says, but he never played a game in which he said ghosts would appear in a photo. "We always had kids over here, and we took dozens and dozens of party pictures," he says. "The debunkers are just making all this up to try and make me look like some sort of master prankster."

IN THE END, THE TRULY weird part of Ed Walters' story may be that, no matter how successful the debunkers are, they may have very little impact on whether people believe Ed's story or not.

The moral of the Gulf Breeze UFO story may well be that people see what they want to see, believe what they want to believe, regardless of logic and facts.

Walters says he has had no more close encounters with the aliens since his original three-month fling with them in 1987. But one evening in January, he

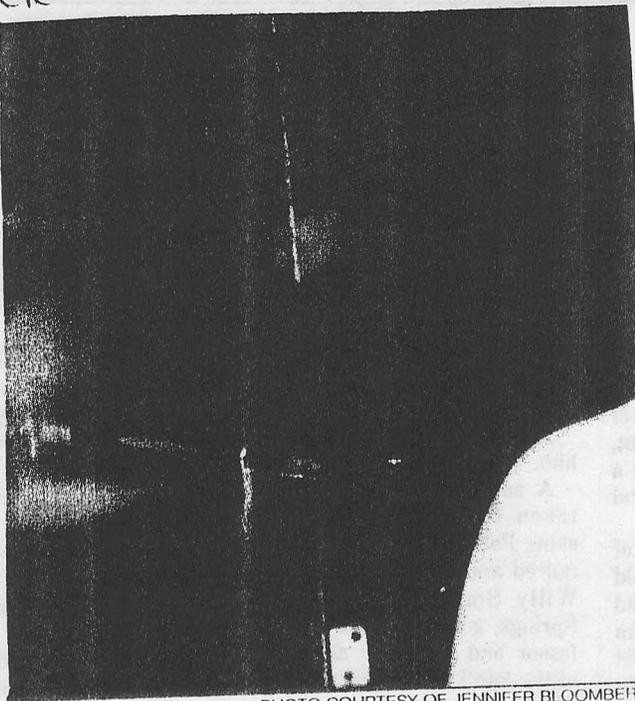


PHOTO COURTESY OF JENNIFER BLOOMBERG

called several friends and told them he saw an odd light in the sky in his neighborhood. Several people joined him and saw the object.

Skeptics note how convenient the timing was: nice of the UFOs to show up again just before the book went on sale.

What happens to people captured by UFOs

GLOBE
JULY 3 1990

ONE woman knows what people are going to say before they say it. Another dreams of events happening thousands of miles away — and wakes to find them true. A third can sense impending disaster.

These three women, who possess uncanny psychic powers, have one thing in common — they all claim to have been kidnapped by aliens from beyond the stars.

Under hypnosis, hundreds of Americans recall being abducted by supernatural visitors — so many that scientists schedule an annual conference to examine their claims.

Three baffling cases were spotlighted at this year's Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigation, conducted on the campus of the University of Wyoming in Laramie. Here are the cases:

● **Jackie Blue**, a 35-year-old housewife in Paoonia, Colo., was abducted in 1974. "I never knew it until I was hypnotized years later," she told the conference.

Jackie and her husband had seen a huge, moon-shaped object rotating across the sky. After it vanished, she found herself gripped by an irresistible urge to study UFOs, unsolved mysteries and

the works of alien investigator Erich von Daniken. She also began to have strange dreams.

Under hypnosis, Jackie remembered her encounter.

She claimed that while her husband was rendered helpless by some sort of mind control, she was taken aboard a UFO and studied by strange-looking creatures with gray skin and large round heads.

"Since then my psychic abilities have developed," says Jackie. "I can predict what will hap-



Scientists confirmed these actual UFO sightings in the skies above Lubbock, Texas (top), and Peekskill, N.Y.

pen in people's lives, and I know when something happens to someone close to me.

"I dreamed the death of a relative once and woke to call my mother. It was true."

● **Ida Kannenberg**, 74, from Laramie, remembered nothing of being abducted on a California

Brenda Pollack, A Gulf Breeze city council member and one of the people Walters called that night, is convinced she saw a UFO.

Pollack took a picture of the object with a 35mm camera with a 3,000 zoom lens. She describes the UFO as "a red light bouncing around the sky." The light changed colors rapidly and darted around just beneath a layer of clouds that were at roughly 1,300 feet that day.

Analysis of Pollack's photo indicates that the object in the picture is roughly 1 meter across — which would jibe with Overall's suggestion that the object is a balloon, released by Ed, with some sort of luminous device in the center.

Pollack refuses to believe that explanation.

"There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that this thing was not a bird or a balloon or a helicopter," said Pollack, whose photo of the object shows not much more than a faint streak of light.

"Ed is an honest man. He has a family, and he's done a lot of work in the community. I think anybody who said this whole thing is a hoax just doesn't know him very well." ■

Michael McLeod is a writer for the magazine.

WHAT HAPPENS CONT

desert road in 1940 until she was regressed by a hypnotist 40 years later. She believes aliens implanted monitors in her head and activated them years later.

"Sometimes I'll just throw one arm up into the air," she says. "It looks strange, but it's just them, proving they can still control me."

"But they gave me psychic abilities. I can do exorcisms. I usually know who is calling before I pick up the phone."

● **Shirley James**, a graphic artist who also lives in the Rocky Mountain area, found she had lost an hour or more she could not explain after she saw a 500-ft.-long UFO hovering in the sky in 1976. Under hypnosis, she recalled being brought aboard the spacecraft and examined by tall aliens.

Now, she says, she has the psychic powers to sense events in the lives of other people and to identify the problems of strangers. Chillingly, strange marks have also appeared on her back and ankle from no apparent cause.

Says Shirley: "I suppose they are keeping in touch with me, because when those marks first appeared, I found I had lost time I couldn't explain."

USA TODAY JULY 6 1990 6A

In Florida, the talk is UFOs

Hot topic draws 600 to gathering

By Craig Myers
USA TODAY

GULF BREEZE, Fla. — This small Florida panhandle town is either a parking lot for flying saucers or the breeding ground of one of the biggest UFO hoaxes ever.

Perfectly credible people have reported seeing more than 200 unidentified flying objects at night over the past three years. Mystery lights have buzzed treetops. One resident says aliens abducted him.

"There is something flying around out there," says Duane Cook of *The Gulf Breeze Sentinel*, billed as the "official source" of local UFO news.

Interest is so great that 600 people converge today on nearby Pensacola for the annual International Symposium of the Mutual UFO Network.

Much of the UFO activity centers on local builder Ed Walters, 43, who says he's seen and photographed numerous UFOs since 1987.

Walters wrote *The Gulf Breeze Sightings* about claims



By Bruce Graner, Gannett News Service

SEEING IS BELIEVING: Councilwoman Brenda Pollak holding photo says 'I know what I saw was not a 9 inch model.'

he was abducted by a low-hovering spaceship.

Not everyone's convinced. In June, a homemade model looking like a 1950s science fiction movie flying saucer — and similar to objects in Walters' photographs — turned up.

It was found in the attic of Walters' former home; he denies it's his.

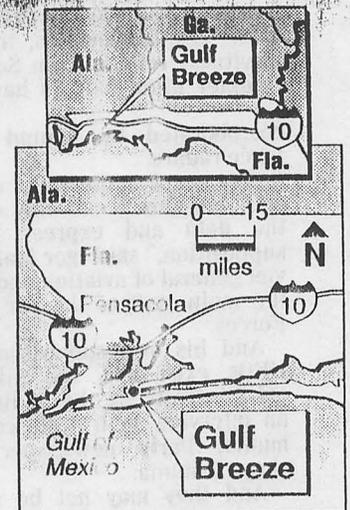
"If I were trying to pull a hoax — and I'm not — then it would have been stupid to leave it there," he says.

The Texas-based Mutual UFO Network officially sup-

ports Walters' photographs, and says his case ranks as one of the most important UFO events in the past 40 years.

This region of the Gulf Coast bristles with military installations like Eglin Air Force Base and the Pensacola Naval Air Station. Military officials deny knowledge, encounters or involvement with any unidentified flying objects in the area.

"With the surveillance systems in the United States, I don't see how anything, not even a mockingbird, could get through here without some-



By Keith Carter, USA TODAY

body seeing it," says Allan Davis, owner of Allan Davis Seashells & Souvenirs.

Talk of a hoax and chance of a quick encounter with a passing UFO haven't hurt this weekend's UFO convention.

Local entrepreneurs are hawking T-shirts, beach towels, maps and jewelry. A bus company has six vehicles standing by for guided tours.

"People can make up their own mind whether they believe in UFOs. Either way it is still a good souvenir," say T-shirt maker Greg Liss.

Craig Myers writes for the Pensacola News Journal.

Soviet military fears threat of flying saucer invasion

5-A

By DAVID WOOD

NEWHOUSE NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — The Cold War may be over, but the Soviet Union's military air defenses are struggling with a new threat: a seemingly apparent invasion by flying saucers.

Dozens of sightings of unidentified flying objects — disc-shaped spacecraft with blinking lights and performing impossibly high-speed maneuvers — have been recounted in the last few months, including eyewitness reports from Soviet interceptor pilots said to have been

corroborated by ground surveillance radars.

"I am not a specialist on UFOs and therefore I can only correlate the data and express my own supposition," said Igor Maltsev, Soviet general of aviation and chief of the main staff of the Air Defense Forces.

And his own supposition? That UFOs exist and are piloted by extra-terrestrials, he indicated in an interview with a Moscow Communist Party newspaper, *Rabochaya Tribuna*.

And they may not be friendly.

Vladimir Akhaltsev was driving his milk tanker truck one night in May when he noticed a shining ball following him. He tried to outrun it, gunning his rig up to 60 mph on the twisting road several hundred miles south of Moscow before the UFO gave up the chase.

Farmers who also saw the shining ball were said by the local newspaper to have demanded: "If thirsty humanoids steal our driver, who is going to deliver the milk?"

Other Soviet reports, monitored and distributed without comment by the U.S. Air Force Technical

Information Division and by the State Department, have UFOs sniffing around the politically restive republic of Estonia, probing with mysterious light rays a buried gas pipeline in Siberia and hovering over the Far Eastern village of Dalnegorsk.

The Russians, a deeply superstitious people with a historic mistrust of foreigners, have a ready explanation: space aliens, perhaps running out of supplies at home, are after Russia's natural resources.

"Specialists link their heightened interest here with the variety and wealth of useful minerals," the official government Radio Moscow explained in a dispatch from Dalnegorsk.

Whatever their purpose, reports of alien visits are exhaustively checked out by the nation's elite air defense forces, that operate the military's most sophisticated aircraft and the powerful network of surveillance radar.

By contrast, the United States Air Force says it stopped investigating UFO sightings more than 20 years ago.

But the Soviet air defense forces have had a bad case of the jitters since 1987, when a 19-year-old West German on a lark flew a single-engine Cessna unmolested some 400 miles through Soviet airspace before buzzing President Gorbachev's Kremlin office and touching down in Red Square. In the ensuing uproar, the Soviet defense minister,

the chief of the air defense forces and other military luminaries were sacked.

Today, with those unpredictable Americans flying around in invisible "Stealth" aircraft, no air defense general or lowly radarman is going to overlook an unexplained radar blip or ignore a hysterical phone call.

Like the recent one from several Soviet policemen who breathlessly reported this spring that they had been shadowed by "two disc-shaped UFOs" on a dark country road near Krasnoyarsk. The policemen swore that the saucers landed on a nearby hilltop and "harassed" them with rays of red and yellow light. The spacecraft got away before Air Defense could respond.

She's got a ticket to ride... to other planets.

Massachusetts housewife Betty Luca led a pretty ordinary life until that unforgettable evening . . .

For 10 years Betty Luca confounded friends, relatives and even herself by compulsively speaking in "longues" and writing complicated mathematical formulas and messages in languages no one could understand.

Everyone thought the quiet Massachusetts housewife was going crazy. Eventually even Betty started to think she was losing her mind. "It was an awful time in my life," she recalls. "People, even friends, would give me looks that suggested, 'There goes that crazy lady.'"

For years Betty desperately sought help from doctors, therapists and even local soothsayers. No one could identify the cause of her problem.

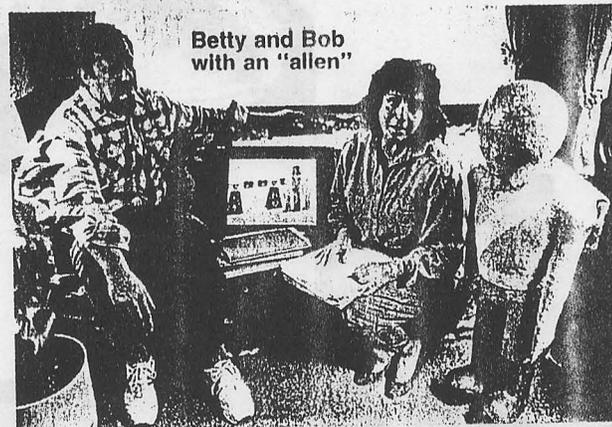
It was not until 1977, 10 years after her abnormal behavior began, that Betty

finally got some clues as to its cause. Enlightenment came in the form of UFO investigators Jules Vaillancourt and Joseph Santangelo, and Harold J. Edelstein, M.D., of the New York Institute of Hypnosis.

Dr. Edelstein placed Betty under hypnosis and questioned her extensively. It was then that Betty's bizarre story of her alleged abduction by extraterrestrials and her incredible tale of interplanetary travel spilled out.

"It was just another routine evening on January 25, 1967," Betty begins her astonishing story. "I was preparing dinner in the kitchen of our old farmhouse in South Ashburnham, Massachusetts. My seven children were in the living room with my parents.

"Suddenly the lights flickered and the house was



Betty and Bob with an "alien"

plunged into darkness. At first I thought it was just an ordinary power failure."

But instead of darkness, Betty claims, "a pinkish light flooded through the kitchen window."

She relates, "As my children huddled around me in panic, four big-headed, gray-skinned creatures in dark blue uniforms walked in single file through my closed kitchen door."

As she tried to hustle her terrified children back into the living room, Betty

claims, the pink light turned orange-red and the members of her family were frozen where they stood.

Betty, a devoutly religious woman, adds, "I thought the creatures were angels because of their unearthly talents—they knew my name, communicated with me telepathically and gave me a mysterious book in exchange for my Bible.

"The creatures convinced me they'd come to help the

'We traveled to a red zone where I saw creatures with two stalks for heads'

CON'T

world," she continues. "They then took me through the closed kitchen door to an oval spaceship in the yard."

In the ship, Betty claims, she was given a physical exam. She recalls, "One of the beings put a needle into my left nostril and another into my navel. I could hear one commenting, 'Something is missing.' He was apparently referring to my hysterectomy."

According to Betty, the aliens changed outfits and slipped black hoods over their heads. They then took her through a black tunnel

filled with white lights.

"We stood on flat pads like clipboards and traveled on tracks, with one alien in front and another in back of me. We passed through a red zone where I saw creatures with two stalks for heads and large eyes at-

tached to the stalks. They had the bodies of monkeys," Betty recounts her story of a journey to other planets, other dimensions or simply other facets of the human imagination. Even the "experts" aren't sure exactly

how to explain Betty Luca's "travels."

"Next we came to an emerald-green zone. I could see land and an ocean. A bird that looked like a fish floated by. We passed a crystal city with white domes and tracks running through.

"Then came a three-sided pyramid with a face on it. I saw bright light and rainbow crystals hanging in the air. I wanted to go back, but they wouldn't let me.

"Then I saw another bright light coming at me. Suddenly a 15-foot-tall eagle stood before me. It

glowed with heat. I was afraid it would eat me. It rippled its wing feathers and gold sparks flew off. I could feel the heat. I grew hazy. I think I may have fainted.

"When I came to, there was a huge pile of burning ashes where the eagle stood. A voice said, 'Betty, you've seen and you've heard, now do you understand?'"

According to Betty, before returning her home they said, "You were taken because you are The Chosen One."

Betty's story seemed so incredible even to Dr. Edelstein that he suggested she take a lie-detector test. She says after passing the test she was studied for 12 months by Vaillancourt and Santangelo.

"Those twelve months were not easy for me," Betty

says. "I was trying to adjust to the strange revelations I'd made under hypnosis. I was also under constant scrutiny by MUFON [Mutual UFO Network] investigators and writer Ray Fowler, who has written three books on my travels."

Betty still doesn't know where she was taken or for what she was chosen. She remains awed by the experience. She claims she did not

recall her abduction at all until she finally sought therapy for what she describes simply as the "strange aftereffects of my journey."

Another very nice—and perfectly down-to-earth—aftereffect: Betty met her present husband Bob, also an alleged UFO abductee, when he sought her out after hearing her story.

by Catherine Hazard

Studies show that the typical person who claims to see a UFO is basically normal. A smart guy, in fact, with above-average intelligence, a white-collar job, self-sufficient, resourceful.

A recent study of 225 people who say they have spotted UFOs concluded that instead of being nuts, these people were "experimental thinkers."

And far from being psychologically disturbed, they merely had a greater than normal tendency to be open-minded, creative and imaginative. And they were generally more concerned about social issues than their fellow citizens.

So if people who claim to see UFOs or to have been whisked away by space aliens are bright rather than nuts, does this mean UFOs actually exist?

Yes! say these researchers... at least in the heads and hearts of those who see them! Their beliefs, they say, are authentic, though what they believe in may not be.

"It's secondary whether or not their beliefs are correct," says June Parnell, Ph.D., director of the Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigation.

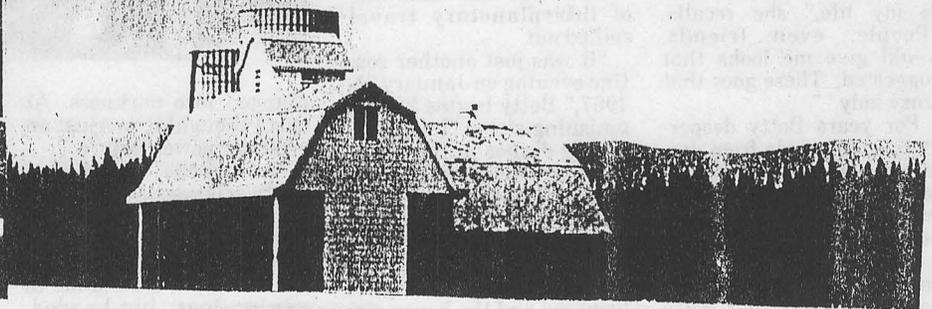
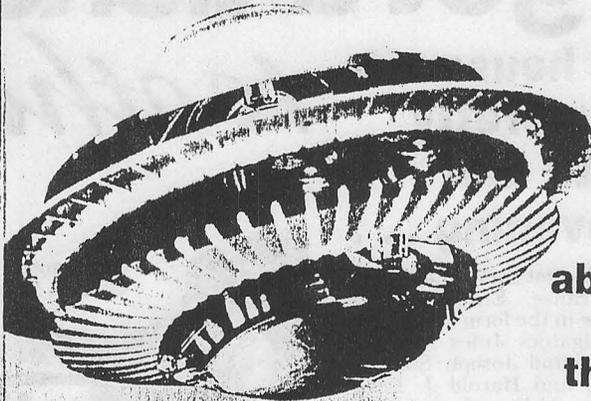
"What's important is that these people genuinely be-



Jackie Blue, who was allegedly abducted by space aliens. With her daughter, Patricia Blue.



Ida Kannenberg also claims to have been abducted by aliens. She's among a growing number of Americans who believe in UFOs.



STRANGE but TRUE

If some guy you know blurted out he'd been abducted by UFOs, odds are you'd think he was nuts. Real nuts. But research may prove you wrong

If people who 'see' UFOs aren't nuts.

lieve in their UFO sightings and abductions."

In fact, it seems that a startling 49 percent of Americans are believers... that is, we're to believe the findings of a 1987 Gallup poll in which only 30 percent said they felt UFOs were figments of the imagination. The remaining 21 percent? They said they weren't sure." And nine percent of those polled admitted having seen what they believed was a UFO.

What about abductions?

what are they?

Over the years more than 1,000 people claiming to be abductees have gone to the conference to share their bizarre stories with the investigators.

What have Sprinkle and his colleagues learned? While there's no typical patient, no simple profile of someone who claims to have been involved in a UFO abduction, "they share at least

share common 'postabduction' symptoms."

She explains: "Patients usually can't account for blocks of missing time. For example, they recall being taken away at noon, and the next thing they remember it's two hours later."

And none can recall their experiences unless they undergo hypnosis—alleged abductees forget their encounter as soon as it's over, says Sprinkle.

Fiore adds that these self-proclaimed space travelers "do have a feeling, an intuition that something is wrong. They often suffer sleepless nights, frequently

having nightmares about UFOs or ETs."

Ida Kannenberg and Jackie Blue are but two women who found out about their alleged abductions—the reason for the emotional upset both women had experienced—only after undergoing extensive hypnosis therapy.

Fiore adds that alleged abductees also report feeling watched by an unknown "big brother" and often claim old injuries and illnesses have mysteriously healed.

"Under hypnosis one of my patients claimed a sort of alien chiropractor cured her back," says Fiore, who adds, "Although these stories may sound bizarre, the storytellers aren't necessarily out of their minds." *

What the experts think of UFOs

Most professionals and scientists dismiss the existence of UFOs.

Robert Baker, Ph.D., professor emeritus of psychology at the University of Kentucky, says, "Despite all the reports of sightings, contacts, landings and abductions, there's not

one concrete piece of evidence proving the existence of alien space visitors."

So why do people insist they've spotted UFOs or been kidnapped by aliens? "It's a fantasy," Baker answers. He maintains these people can't "differentiate between fantasy and reality."

Author Phillip J. Klaas has written four books on UFO phenomena,

and is offering \$10,000 of his own money to anyone who can offer indisputable evidence of his or her abduction by aliens.

by John Latta

'It was about three meters tall, with three eyes and —'

By ANDREW JENKS

In these heady days of *glasnost* and political reform, Soviets have become avid consumers of newsprint. They read everywhere — on subways, on the street corners, even at work (especially when a customer lurks).

The reading craze, a cynic might suggest, simply reflects the fact that Soviets have precious little else to do: Bars are nearly non-existent, TV entertainment is oxymoron, and goods have become so scarce that scoring a roll or two of toilet paper is like winning a small lottery prize.

But the real reason, I believe, stems from more perverse and primal urges: Soviets can't get enough of what one Soviet commentator called the "big four": hookers, drug addiction, violent crime and Stalin's bloody purges. Incidentally, during my stay in Moscow last year, the draw value of the Stalin theme dropped considerably and gave way increasingly to juicy features on Bigfoot and UFO encounters.

One of the hottest items in the Moscow Evening News, which is snapped up hungrily the minute stacks are unloaded from the trucks, is the daily police report. Long suppressed by the Soviet thought police, the crimes report column has made a smashing comeback

under *glasnost*. Every evening I watched as Muscovites snapped freshly folded newsprint into reading position and immediately trained their eyes on the bottom, right-hand column of the first page. The typical police report presents a running list of hooker arrests, drug busts and drinking orgies culminating in bloody knife fights.

These items, supplemented with gory detail, are only part of the grist that keeps Moscow gossip mills running. To talk to Muscovites is to be subject to an impassioned litany of the bizarre and improbable.

If rubles were worth anything, National Enquirer could set up a joint publishing venture in the Soviet Union and make billions.

What is happening to Soviet society? My own impression is that while many Soviets welcome the reanimation of Russian political life, many others — a majority in my opinion — have grown weary of constant soul-searching. For them, the absence of ready-made faith, neatly packaged by master propagandists, has spawned an intense yearning for belief that announces itself daily in the proliferation of faith healers, flying saucer sightings and purported Bigfoot encounters.

"It was about three meters tall, with three eyes, silver boots and some sort of bronze disc on its overalls," said

a 6-year-old eyewitness of a reported alien landing in the Russian city of Voronezh. The alleged sighting last fall touched off televised roundtable discussions, the formation of "alien" fan clubs, even a radio show devoted to dealing with aliens.

"Don't panic, be calm and don't run away," offered the show's host. "Aliens don't like that."

Meanwhile, as students of alien life whisked off bi-detectors and self-styled experts to reported landing sites (on the evening news one middle-aged woman proudly proclaimed "I often fly with aliens") the sick and spiritually undernourished turned their gaze toward "extrasensory perception healers."

The phenomena of healers brings to mind the brooding mysticism of the crazed Rasputin, a long-haired mystic in monk's cape who ran Russia in the waning days of the Romanov Empire. He was a favorite of noblewomen, who gave special attention to his doctrine that you could only feel close to God by indulging your appetite for sin.

Oozing with masculine sexual energy, Russia's new Rasputins speak words of calming wisdom over TV to soothing music and a background of fluffy clouds. Occasionally, the clouds give way to the intense gazes of the master, who commands the audience — glued like static cling to his every word — to be healed.

Viewers, at least where I lived and studied, give the impression of being undersexed, over 40, and overweight.

With a little effort, the scene brings to mind the legions of frumpy aristocrats filing into Rasputin's redemptive palace orgies during the last days of Czar Nicholas II's reign.

American academics constantly berate the media for dulling American minds with trash TV and sensationalist trivia. Where, they ask, are the thoughtful commentaries and articles that explore the deep wounds of racism, sexism and political apathy?

The interesting stuff is there; the problem is that no one reads it. What I witnessed in the sensationalist metamorphosis of the Soviet media suggests, among other things, that people get the kind of press they deserve. When papers are forced to compete for readers, as they are now under *glasnost*, the invisible hand of market forces makes news organs, not so much a watchdog and vital news source, but the purveyor of collective whim and fantasy. Goodbye Pravda. Hello National Enquirer.

Jenks, of Lewisburg, Pa., did graduate work for a year at the Pushkin Language Institute in Moscow.

1081

It seems ETs avoid Canadians because we're boring

By Dwight Whalen
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

NIAGARA FALLS, Ont. — Are we Canadians really as boring as we secretly — and sometimes publicly — dread? Rightly or wrongly, we have a vision of ourselves as a people on the cutting edge of mediocrity. And it hurts.

Is our self-flagellation justified? Are we judged as harshly by others beyond our borders — or even by others beyond the borders of Earth? If our planet were visited by extraterrestrials of higher intelligence, would they perceive Canadians as unflatteringly as we often view ourselves? Interestingly, the late UFO investigator Dr. J. Allen Hynek claimed that Canada has more UFO sightings per capita than any other country in the world. If UFOs are alien spacecraft, what do the ETs flying them find so fascinating about our country?

Hynek's finding refers only to UFO sightings, not landings, and certainly not to tales of alien contact and abduction, which are pretty much standard fare in the United States. But why, then, do ETs, if they delight in invading Canadian airspace, appear to avoid all contact with

I think I know the answer, and why ETs avoid contact with Canadians to this day. Chancing upon an old back-issue of a UFO journal called *Flying Saucer Review* (Jan./Feb. 1969), I read with interest an article titled "The 1897 Story — Part 3" by Jerome Clark and Lucius Farish.

It began, "On April 23, 1897, on a farm in Burton township near Flint, Daniel Gray heard a rumbling, whizzing sound over his head. For a few seconds he could see a dark object flashing away, and then, even before he was able to regain his composure, something fell from the sky and thudded into the ground near him. When he picked it up, he found that it was a Toronto, Canada, newspaper dated Oct. 5, 1896, dry and in almost perfect condition . . ."

The authors added, "Perhaps a Canadian ufologist could go through the Toronto papers of Oct. 5, 1896, to see if there is anything in them of conceivable relevance to our subject. By dropping this specific issue at Dan Gray's feet, the ufonauts may have been trying to tell us something."

I took up the Clark-Farish challenge. I examined five Toronto newspapers for

copy, couldn't help but conclude that Canadians are about as vacuous as space itself, and promptly altered course for the United States. But why did they wait six months to toss it overboard? It is perhaps significant that from about the time they did so, late April of 1897, the wave of airship sightings abruptly ended as mysteriously as it began.

Today, long after they have traded in their cumbersome airships for sleek flying saucers, the ETs haven't forgotten their first impression of Canadian life, and still avoid us like the Asteroid Belt.

But even if these visitors regard us as pariahs, they have certainly learned to enjoy zooming through our skies, if Dr. Hynek's datum is accurate. Perhaps the immensity of our land and waters, the sublime grandeur of Canada's geography, gradually attracted them.

Surely that has to be the answer. Heaven knows they're not coming for the latest news about Canadians and our wreckless squirrels.

Dwight Whalen is a freelance writer with a special interest in UFOs. He lives in Niagara Falls, Ont.



The view from here

Canadians? Is boredom fatal where they come from?

Whoever, or whatever, these visitors are, they have been shunning us for many years, at least since the days of the Great Airship Mystery of 1896-97. That was when thousands of baffled Americans claimed to have seen a marvellous "airship," searchlights beaming, sailing across the night skies of their western and mid-western states. No such claims came from Canada, however, where sightings of the airship, unlike modern UFO sightings, were rare. Why were we snubbed?

that day — The Globe, The Evening Star, The Daily Mail & Empire, The Toronto World, and The Toronto Telegram — but failed to find anything that I could even remotely link with the airship mystery in the United States. Nor could I find a connection with anyone named Daniel Gray or with the Michigan township of Burton.

What I did find were five newspapers so cosmicly boring that I could barely keep my eyes open. Oct. 5, 1896, was a slow news day in Canada. Among the yawners reported were the closing of the House of Commons (only 30 MPs were in attendance), round-ups of Ontario fall fairs, and news of Sir Charles and Lady Tupper's forthcoming golden wedding anniversary. Rumors that Queen Victoria was going blind were denied, while the only mayhem The Toronto World could find to report was headlined "Scared by a Squirrel." This hair-raiser read: "R. S. Hudson, the Front Street commission merchant, was riding in Rosedale, when a squirrel crossed the road causing the horse to swerve. Mr. Hudson was thrown and received some painful injuries."

The "ufonauts," reading this bland