

## **WORLD NEWS**

### **SCIENCE GROUP**

# **Attack on mystic belief**

## **SCIENCE**

**NEW YORK, Wednesday (AAP). — A group of scientists and science writers has called for an attack on the growing following of astrology, UFO's, the Bermuda Triangle, and other cults of unreason, the Associated Press reports.**

**The committee for the Scientific Investigation of claims of the Paranormal said at a news conference yesterday "Belief in such things can harm or even kill people, and also break down our critical judgment. It may also break down our resistance to new and unforeseen forms of tyranny".**

**The group defined paranormal as belief in unproven or mystic phenomena, such as astrology, UFO's, powers of levitation and the Bermuda Triangle as a mysterious graveyard of ships and aircraft.**

**The committee objected to books, newspaper accounts, magazines, and television and radio presentations which it said were pouring a steady torrent of paranormal assertions into the market place.**

**It called for co-operation with the scientific community to provide more responsible, balanced treatment of assertions of the paranormal.**

**"Science is committed to the use of rigorous methods", its statement said.**

**"This means that all claims to knowledge should be confirmed before they are accepted. It also means**

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**that where we don't have sufficient evidence we should suspend judgement . . . .**

**"When a society ignores all objective standards of knowledge, it opens the door to the possible development of ideological cults.**

**"A disturbing parallel is that the irrationalism of Nazi Germany was preceded by a vast growth in the belief in the occult in the Weimar Republic".**

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