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PR Thomas

# Aliens from Space — is there a cover-up

ARE WE being studied by visitors from space? Jenny Randles, a leading British authority on UFOs, thinks we are and that we are being skilfully prepared for the eventual revelation that this is so.

She believes there exists a official cover-up which is preventing the truth from emerging before we are prepared to receive the news. In her book, *The UFO Conspiracy* she claims that "the public is being deceived on a colossal scale."

Jenny Randles provides many reports of UFOs as alien spacecraft. And if just one report is true it would mean that we are not alone in our part of the universe, and that a race of beings with the ability to cross interstellar space is studying our planet.

We've been to the Moon — and it was quite achievement. But the nearest stars where Earth-like planets could exist are 100 million times more distant than the Moon. So alien astronauts would have quite a journey to reach Earth.

My own reaction, as an outside observer of the UFO scene during the past decade, who has looked for a scientific approach to the subject, is that no one is trying to cover up evidence of UFO landings.

The fact is that hardly anyone has studied the UFO phenomenon using the techniques of

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science in a consistent way. Almost all investigations are carried out by non-scientists.

The reports in the UFO literature are not scientific and technical, as Randles's book shows. At best they are the kind of investigations that would be carried out by the police or investigative journalists.

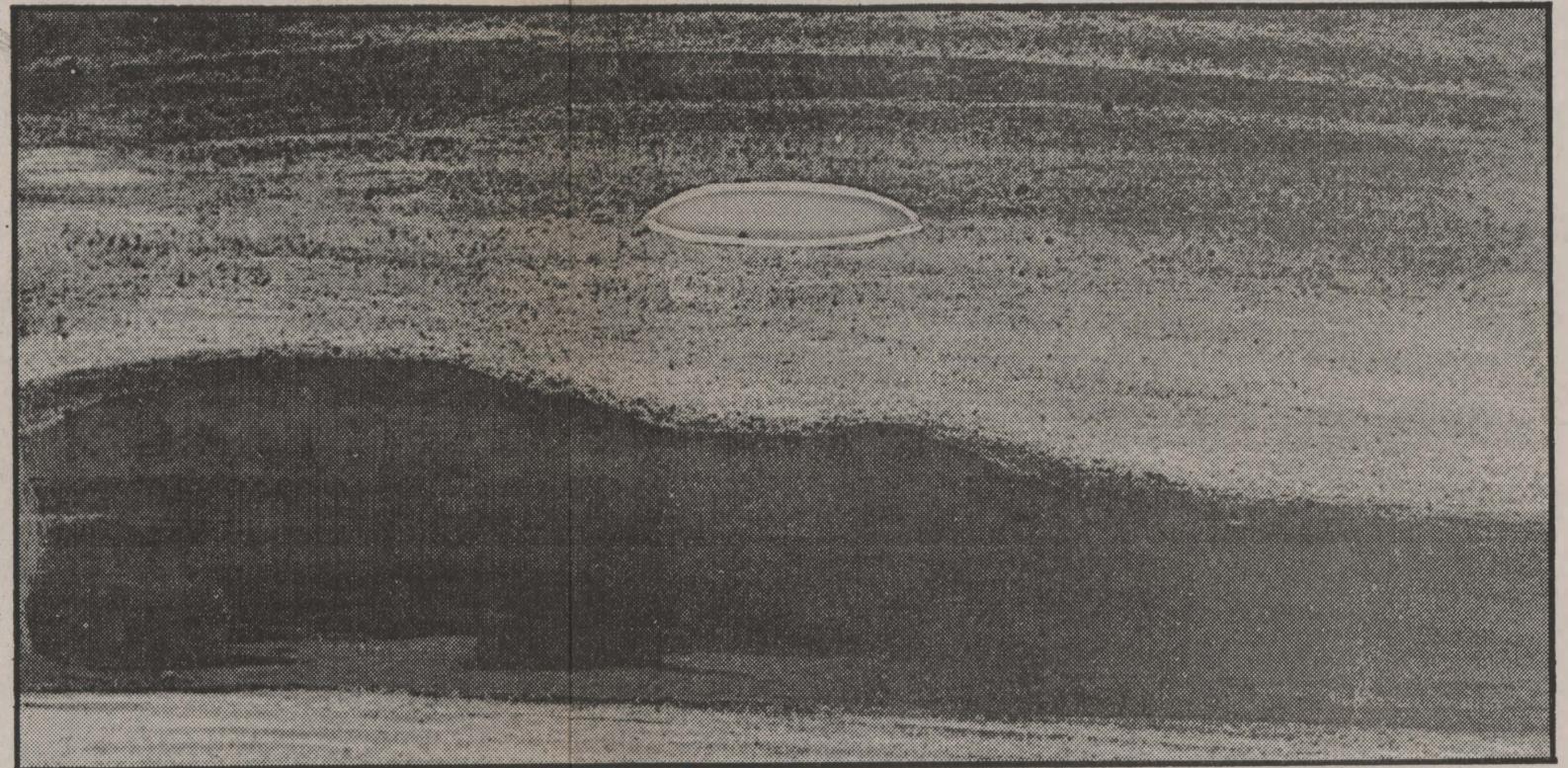
Nothing wrong with that, of course, except that it is not the way to find acceptable scientific evidence.

What interests scientists is physical evidence. They are not interested in the reliability of witnesses, or the clear visibility when the UFO and its occupants were sighted, or that witnesses were in a state of shock and their clothes torn — by aliens trying to capture them.

It seems that UFO investigators are not aware of what could constitute scientific evidence. And they're usually not exacting enough in their investigations — with the consequence that their reports are mostly insubstantial. One frustrated scientist has said that his attempt to unearth facts from UFO report was "like trying to shovel smoke."

Let me illustrate this: Randles describes a UFO crash near Corona in New Mexico in 1947. "As for the debris at Corona, it was remarkably light, yet exceptionally tough, metallic in appearance, but different from any known metal and covered partially by pictorial markings not unlike hieroglyphics."

She claims there are many witnesses to the event — the crashed UFO — and to the exist-



ence of its wreckage. Due to the Freedom of Information Act in the United States, the previously secret written evidence is now available.

But still the main questions remain unanswered. Who has the alien debris? And what about the scientists' reports on it? Who, specifically, established that it was "different from any known metal?" Presumably, if this is true, certain metallurgists provided their conclusions about the alien materials, but this information is not provided.

She also describes another reported crash in Arizona in May 1953, a 30ft diameter disc buried in the sand and a small humanoid body that one witness observed!

Jenny Randles then refers to dead UFO occupants that were supposed to have been found in the crash. "There are even medical men who say that they have studied these bodies. All their accounts generally agree with one another."

The obvious unanswered questions here are, "Who are these 'medical men?'" and "Can I read their reports which 'agree with one another?'"

Of course, scientists do not expect UFO investigators to offer evidence as conclusive as bodies of dead aliens. They would be quite happy with anything that might be left behind by a visiting UFO: a small piece of alien technology or a peculiar pattern of trace elements on the soil — or plants — at reported landing sites.

But nothing of that sort has even been presented to the scientific community as far as we know.

Some years ago, when writing a piece called *Science and the Saucers*, I tried without success to obtain scientific papers on the investigations of UFO landing sites. It seems that none had ever been published — apparently because no one has consistently investigated reported landing sites.

I had suggested that reported landings could easily be studied. It is difficult to get to grips with fast-moving lights in the sky, but landing sites could be analysed with the latest technology for chemical and physical evidence. A small team would suffice, consisting, say, of an analytical chemist, physicist and microbiologist.

Either a pattern of consistent evidence would be found, or it would not. And if nothing was found after a reasonable number of investigations, we might assume that the future witnesses of UFO landings themselves should be the actual subject of research.

The science writer Arthur C. Clarke once said that the subject of UFOs is a barrel of rotten apples which he did not wish to delve into. Personally, I wouldn't go that far. It's not impossible that a sound apple exists in the UFO barrel.

And the implications of finding just one item of positive evidence would be so great. Perhaps, with advanced aliens on our doorstep, we might get our national differences into perspective and begin to work together for everyone's good.

But to try and determine whether UFOs and their occupants exist it is necessary to study the UFO phenomenon with the latest techniques of science. It is the only way to tackle reports of UFO landings. Otherwise, like ghosts, UFOs will remain forever a mystery, a rich source of fascinating stories which most people will not take seriously.