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IMAGINE a little green man, his antennae billowing beneath plumes of steam, stepping from his cigar-shaped silver craft and into the flashlights of the world media.

With one short step of his verdant legs, the alien would instantly zap out the doubts of millions of earthlings.

Quicker than one could say, "It's life, Jim, but not as we know it," pictures of the man from planet Zog would be plastered across every newspaper and television screen from here to eternity.

He would become an overnight celebrity, guest on the Aspel show, and open village fetes.

Having eventually become the most over-exposed media alien on earth, he would then retire, shattered, to Bognor Regis with a case of gin and a few good books.

Though his fame would linger on, once it had been established that Mr Zog was real flesh and blood, or at least hardened ectoplasm, then the con-circlers and saucer-spotters could return home.

There they would perhaps invent the next phenomenon lurking beyond the realms of science.

So far, nobody has had a close encounter with Mr Zog. In the meantime, the world has been left with a stockpile of books on UFO's which, stacked end to end, would probably reach the Zogian galaxy.

Those who have faith in space phenomena, however, say it's all too easy for the ufologically-challenged to scoff. After all, if you haven't seen a giant flying cigar, why believe in them?

The title of a new book, *UFOs — The Final Answer?*, is thankfully followed by a question mark.

Basically a collection of sobering essays, the book broad-mindedly sets out the arguments for and against the existence of extra terrestrials.

Or rather it appears to on face value. Closer inspection reveals it

Flying in the face of the facts

By HEATH JEFFRIES

is generally arguing from a believer's viewpoint, and steers the cynic in this celestial direction.

Packed with facts on UFO sightings, the book occasionally trundles off into the depths of parapsychology.

But for the most part it sticks to a straightforward analysis only, complicated by the style of writing.

But it sets out several convincing case histories and issues until its concluding chapter.

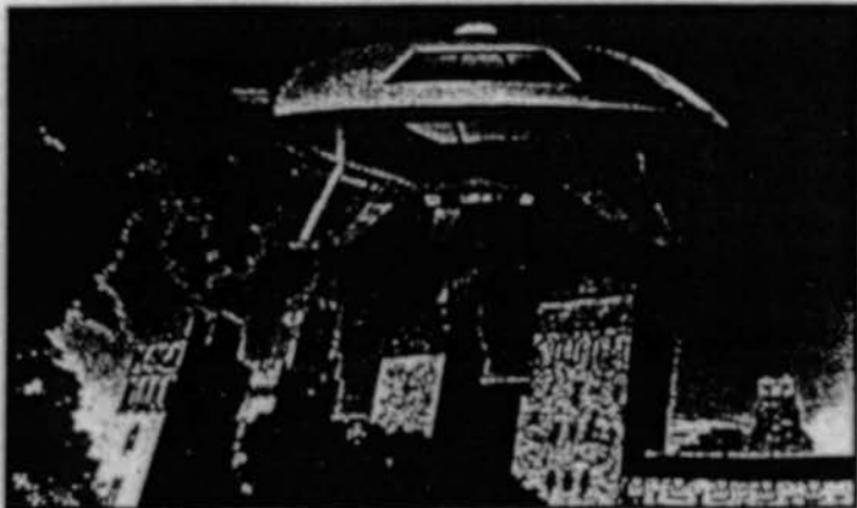
Here, *UFOs — The Final Answer?* determines that ufology cannot be approached as a matter of personal belief.

"It is counter-productive to the study to adopt any intransigent viewpoint. Scepticism is perhaps the most counter-productive, and least defensible," says one of the book's editors, David Barclay.

Yet from the start, the book admits there is no concrete scientific evidence to support the UFO theories.

With arguments like this, so-called paranormal phenomenon like fairies, BHMs (Big Hairy Monsters) and even Little Green Men from outer-space can once again rest assured.

● *UFOs — The Final Answer?* edited by David Barclay and Therese Marie Barclay. Blandford, £12.99.



SAUCER OVER CARDIFF: But where's the real evidence from outer space?