

FRT

coffeebreak

We ... UFOs

IT'S no longer the preserve of computer geeks. We all love UFOs after a childhood watching them on our TV and movie screens.

They are an enigma, a mystery, they glow in pretty colours and they whiz around like no other aircraft anyone has ever seen before to far-flung galaxies.

Somebody you know is convinced they've seen one and had their own close encounter.

They will tell you that while driving home one night, they saw a strange, unexplained craft overhead, flying low like a helicopter. It had red and green lights but this one was triangular in shape, with no front beam and no noise.

"Oh really," you say, "Were there little green men waving out of the window? Did they beam you up and experiment on you then throw you back down again?"

Trouble is nobody is ever convinced by such tales. They are instantly consigned to the loony ideas bin.

Remember around a century ago the thought of man flying to the moon in a space rocket and walking on its surface was pretty far-fetched? Some hardened sceptics still don't believe it now.

Even though we love UFOs and even if we see them with our own



eyes, we discount the experience as being a trick of the light, having tired eyes after working too hard and our families put it down to an over-active imagination.

The Ministry of Defence certainly doesn't believe us. It will tell us we didn't see it.

Conspiracy theorists quickly jump on the bandwagon, keen to dig up the Roswell Incident about an alleged crash and recovery of

an extraterrestrial vehicle and its alien occupants near Roswell in the USA in July 1947.

Coming in all shapes and sizes, it seems UFOs visit our world briefly before taking off to some much more exciting outer-space destination.

Maybe we secretly wish they really would beam us up and take us with them.

We can't wait for the UFOs to

land, to see the aliens open up their doors and glide out or slowly step down a ladder onto our Earth, like in the classic movie *The Day the Earth Stood Still*.

We want our own little ET to waddle around the house, to be our friend, make us laugh and get up to those crazy alien antics that only he can get away with.

We would just love to show an alien around our planet, sit them

down to watch an episode of *The Simpsons*, preferably one with the aliens in to make them feel at home, and share a beer to chat about our different worlds.

Unless of course they turned out to be those nasty over-sized brain monsters in *Mars Attacks* when Tom Jones helped protect us, or the ones that scattered thousands of pods around the country transforming us into clones as we sleep,

Search for the truth

WINSTON CHURCHILL once said, "Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing had happened."

This could easily apply to anyone who has seen a UFO.

Sightings have not just been reported by people living in rural outbacks across the globe but by Nasa engineers, astronomers and scientists too.

Sceptics would rather give sightings of UFOs a nice comfortable explanation, such as there was a weather balloon in the area, Venus was particularly bright or put it down to secret testing of new aircraft by the Ministry of Defence.

Even though we love UFOs we still can't admit, either to ourselves or to other people, that they ARE out there.

IS THERE ANYBODY OUT THERE?

People's UFO sightings are often dismissed as a trick of the light

like in the movie classic, *Invasion of the Bodysnatchers*.

But while we are all quick to discount them, in the back of our minds we simply can't rule out UFOs or the possibility of life on other planets.

When probes are launched into outer space as the scientists get all excited about seeing water channels they describe as "evidence of life on Mars", we can't help but feel disappointed that the film footage of a distant planet doesn't include a bizarre array of alien lifeforms like we saw when Han Solo stepped into that bar in *Star Wars*.