

UFO

NEWSFILE

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NO: 18

A UFO sighting has left a Whitstable woman baffled.

Stargazer Beryl Martin (right) could hardly believe her eyes when she peered into the night sky recently.

"I always spend a long time studying the stars at night," said Mrs Martin, of Clover Rise, Chestfield.

"What I saw one night last week amazed me - I'd like someone to explain exactly what it was."

Mrs Martin watched for more than 15 minutes as the mystery object hovered above her house.

"There were bright, white lights in the shape of an arrow-head. The lights kept dimming and returning to full strength.

Rational

"I rushed indoors to switch all the house lights off so that I could see this thing more clearly.

"The object was very high up, certainly well above passing jets which travel at about 30,000 feet. It appeared to be massive in size and was no way either an aircraft or a star formation.

"For the time I watched



Stargazer Beryl Martin asks: "What was it?"

this thing, the lights flashed on and off intermittently. The lights shone incredibly brightly.

"The experience left me feeling unnerved. Goodness knows what it was. I'm not a crackpot and I always think there's a rational explanation for everything."

Mrs Martin, who claimed the strange shape was nowhere to be seen the following night, added: "It's the first time I've seen anything strange in the sky and I'd like someone with experience of these things to explain to me what I saw."

Adscene 14.01.94

A boffin from Ontario, Canada, who claimed a UFO was simply a meteorite has had to eat his words - it was really a lump of painted asphalt.

Daily Sport 20.01.94

Dr. Bruce Maccabee Analyzes Local Daylight UFO Sighting

by Bland Pugh

This sighting report was written up in *The Islander* several months ago. The following is an abstract written by Dr. Bruce Maccabee, an Optical physicist.

"Strong Magnetic Field Detected following a Sighting of an Unidentified Flying Object. B. Maccabee Fund for UFO Research. On Sept. 11, 1992, at approximately 5:20 p.m. the witness was entering the driveway at her home in Gulf Breeze, Florida when she saw, higher than and beyond the roof of her house, an unusual round object rise upward, tilt and disappear. The object appeared metallic and the bottom seemed to have a glow at the bottom and a red line around its circumfer-

ence. The object apparently had risen upwards from behind her house where there is a lawn, a pond and trees. The object tilted and then disappeared from view. The next morning investigators using a Schoenstedt flux gradient magnetometer, detected an unusually strong field in a small cluster of pine trees behind the house. The strongest field seemed to be at the tops of the trees. Measurements made two days later at the same location showed that the strong field had disappeared. No residue of magnetic material was found. There is no conventional explanation for this existence of the field. Results of the investigation and an estimate of the

equivalent magnetic dipole strength will be presented.

To sum it up "Dr. Maccabee has calculated that the strength of the magnetic field is equivalent to that of a powerful electromagnet, 350,000 ampere meters squared. No one knows how such a magnetic field could exist in the top of a tree."

A discussion of the analysis of this sighting will be presented by Dr. Bruce Maccabee at the prestigious annual meeting of the American Physical Society in Washington, D.C. on April 15, 1993. The above abstract is published in the April issue of the Bulletin of the American Physical Society.

Islander Pensacloa Beach, Fla. USA 14.04.93 Air Force veteran believes area UFO was 2 helicopters

By JANICE KARLOVICH
Staff Writer

A 33-year Air Force veteran who saw the strange configuration of lights near Ligonier on Tuesday believes the object was two high-tech Army Apache helicopters.

Most Apaches are reserved strictly for active-duty bases, and one could have been flying Tuesday night in northeast Indiana, spokesmen from the Indiana and Michigan National Guard said.

Several people reported seeing the strange, red lights and were unable to identify the craft because of its quietness and its lowness to the ground.

Clarence McDaniel, a retired Air Force master sergeant, said he and his wife were on their way back to Fort Wayne from an auction in Ligonier when they saw the lights.

To some, the quiet, low-flying object looked like a spaceship. To McDaniel, the shape of the lights looked like two Apache helicopters.

"They're really quiet, and they're very swift," said McDaniel, who retired from the Air Force in 1988. "I didn't stop to analyze the situation because I thought they were helicopters. I'd almost stake my life on it that it was

helicopters."

The Apache is a quick-reacting, anti-tank weapon equipped to attack at night and during bad weather, according to an Army fact sheet. It is the Army's premier attack helicopter, but the Blackhawk is a similar Army helicopter designed for transport.

According to Sgt. Charlane Busse of the Indiana National Guard's public affairs office, the Apache is "awesomely silent."

Paul Miller, a flight instructor at the Indiana Army National Guard's base at Shelbyville, said there are no Apaches or Blackhawks based in the state, however. And any other military aircraft would make considerable noise.

Lt. Col. Brian Downey of the Michigan National Guard's public affairs office said Michigan doesn't have any Apache or Blackhawk helicopters either, but an active-duty craft could easily have been in the area.

"There are hundreds of possible reasons for a helicopter to be flying there," Downey said, referring to various air shows and the recent floods in Iowa, Illinois and Mis-

Journal Gazette Ft Wayne, Ind. USA 17.07.93

Fla. USA 14.04.93 Probe into UFO sightings

REPORTS of UFOs in the Shanklin area have prompted some mainland investigators of the paranormal to call for Island witnesses.

Mr Christopher Harrington, of the Havant-based Southern Paranormal Investigators, said there had been a number of reports of sightings over the Island from people living on Hayling Island.

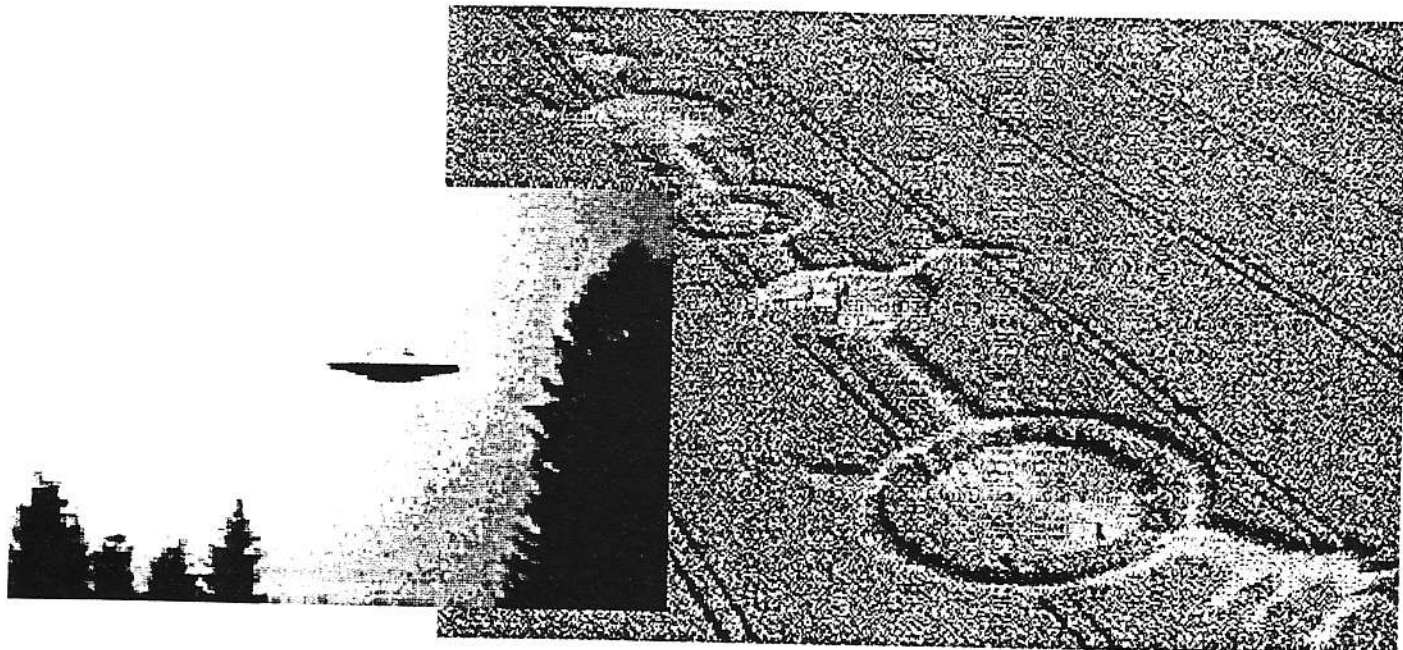
He said the sightings were of a large crescent-moon-shaped object with small lights and, of a big green light out towards the Channel near Shanklin.

As well as local residents he said the Hayling Island coastguard had been watching the object.

Readers who have further information should write to Mr Harrison at 249 Purbrook Way, Bedhampton, Havant, Hampshire, or telephone Mr Bob Schindler on 0705 611437.

Isle of Wight County

Press 23.12.93



A Real Space Case?

CompuServe Magazine 02.94

RANDOM ACCESS

CM's Random Access Credo:
 It's time to forget all the things you have to do with a computer and take your hard drive on a gratifying spin in our Virtual Community. Play hard, buy smart, seek solace, talk hobby shop or get headed down the holiday road.

▼
 Alien Visitors Information

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 Mixed Reviews, page 42

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 Game Play with People, p. 46

▶ **There are reasons to believe in UFOs, say researchers and buffs having close encounters online.**

Last September, Baltimore graphic designer/artist Mike Hughes and his girlfriend, Elizabeth, were taking a stroll along the beach in Ocean City, Maryland. That morning he had awakened from a particularly vivid dream in which panelists on a TV talk show were arguing about the existence of unidentified flying objects—more commonly known as UFOs. Half-jokingly as they strolled along the surf, Hughes looked up at the clear evening sky. "Look," he said, "if you're out there, now is the perfect time to show yourselves. There's no one around. Just us."

A moment later, Elizabeth called out, "What are those red lights?" Two red spheres appeared, moving erratically from north to south, then merged and flew as one light. Hughes was astounded. "I have lived near an airport all of my life and have never seen anything behave remotely like those lights did," he says.

Was there a connection between Hughes' possible precognitive dream or the fact that he had sand-sculpted an alien face on that same beach as a joke just a couple of weeks earlier? Your answer depends on which side you support in the

long-running debate about whether or not there's intelligent life beyond Earth. That lively debate over the existence of UFOs and extraterrestrial liferages every day on CompuServe, where you can hear the latest tales of UFO sightings, alien abductions and other related phenomena.

The Issues (GO ISSUES), Space (GO SPACEFORUM) and New Age (GO NEW-AGE) forums all offer message sections and libraries dedicated to UFOs. Some of the topics under discussion by UFOlogists online might strike some as a bit "out there"—especially claims that the U.S. government is in cahoots with aliens—but there are enough messages of sightings and unexplained happenings to make all but the most hardened cynics think, "There's more here than meets the eye."

And then there's the law of averages. It's estimated that there are 100 billion stars in the galaxy, of which a significant number are similar to Earth's sun and have planets similar in makeup to Earth. What are the odds of life, then, having evolved on only one planet? University of California/Santa Cruz astronomer Frank D. Drake estimates that some 10,000 technologically advanced extraterrestrial civilizations may exist in our galaxy alone.

Dan Kening is a free-lance writer based in Chicago. His CompuServe User ID number is 71154.0467.

Scanning the Skies for Satellites

And the popular media have always enjoyed the topic, especially film. Here alien depictions have reflected the times, from *War of the World's* invasion force to *ET's* cute, benevolent visitor to the recent *Fire in the Sky's* cold, detached surgeons. Books such as Whitley Streiber's best-selling *Communion* and Budd Hopkins' *Missing Time and Intruders*, and TV shows such as *The X Chronicles* and *Unsolved Mysteries* have combined to take the idea of extraterrestrial life out of the realm of the tabloids.

"Behind all the publicity (about UFOs) is the theme that now is the time in our history to contact alien life," says Peter Partridge of Vancouver, British Columbia, a former airline executive and an active online UFOlogist who has been interested in UFOs since he saw one as a child. "Many UFO experts say we are at a point in our evolution and environmental destruction that demands direct intervention by aliens out of self-preservation. They point to increased sightings and such phenomena as crop circles, animal mutilations and human abductions as preparatory to that ultimate introduction."

Both the U.S. government and academics are taking seriously the search for and dissemination of extraterrestrial knowledge. NASA's SETI (Search for Extraterrestrial Intelligence) program hopes to find evidence of intelligent life via radio signals within 10 years, though opposition in Congress to funding the project threatens to curtail it. Each year the University of Wyoming in Laramie hosts the Rocky Mountain Conference on UFO Investigations, hosted by Professor Emeritus Leo Sprinkle. And last year Massachusetts Institute of Technology Professor David Pritchard organized a conference at the school on the topic of UFO abductees.

UFOlogist David Thacker adds that computer bulletin boards and networks such as CompuServe and the Internet also have played a major part in disseminating information and theories about UFOs. "I use the Internet gateway feature of CompuServe Mail to correspond with other UFOlogists across North America," says Thacker, an agricultural technology consultant in Alberta, Canada. "I use the 'Extraterrestrials?' section of the Space Forum to distribute UFO information to others worldwide and to receive information that others have posted."

Online debates cover the validity of such famous abduction cases as that of Betty and Barney Hill in 1961 and horror novelist Whitley Streiber's in 1985. Other hot topics include the existence of "MJ-12," the supposed high-level U.S. governmental organization that has been covering up the existence of alien visitors for 46 years; "Area 51"

While the existence of UFOs may continue to be debated well into the 21st century, there's no denying that a number of hobbyists are regularly seeing unnatural objects in the nighttime sky. Man-made satellites orbiting Earth can be viewed relatively easily—often with just the naked eye. The trick, though, is in knowing when and where to look for them.

Satellite watchers on CompuServe congregate in the Astronomy Forum's (GO ASTROFORUM) Section 3, "Viewing Satellites," dedicated to this fast-growing hobby. There, tips for viewing specific communications, weather and other satellites can be found, while in the corresponding library, satellite-tracking programs are available for downloading. The Space (GO SPACEFORUM) and Ham Radio (GO HAMNET) forums also contain useful information on satellites.

Anthony Beresford, a computer systems officer in Adelaide, Australia, dates his interest in viewing satellites to his 1958 sighting of Sputnik II. "You do not need any optical equipment to view satellites," he says. "If you go outside on a clear night as the sky is darkening and look around for the next hour, I am sure you will see at least five satellites."

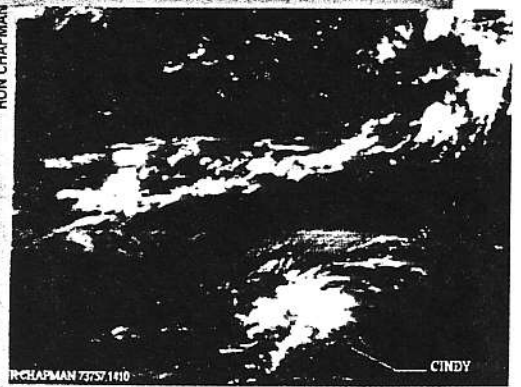
To identify what you're seeing, according to satellite viewer Frank Hentschel, you need the orbital elements of the satellite, tracking software and a computer to crunch the numbers. A retired Air Force officer now living near Philadelphia, Hentschel has written *Presat*, one of several satellite-tracking programs available for downloading.

Twice a week, Conrad Kirksey, leader of the Astronomy Forum's Viewing Satellites section, uploads the orbital elements for scores of satellites as provided by NASA. You input the elements of the satellite

near Nellis Air Force Base in Nevada, where some claim the U.S. military is housing and flying captured alien aircraft; famous UFO cases such as the alleged UFO crash near Roswell, New Mexico, in 1947; and the controversial finding of the Air Force's "Project Blue Book," which studied nearly 13,000 UFO sightings between 1947 and 1969 before concluding in its 1,465-page report, "Nothing has come from the study of UFOs."

"Our discussions range from the simple facts to sometimes outrageous ideas," says David Brune, leader of the New Age Forum's UFO section. "One thing I try to promote,

RON CHAPMAN



1993 storm 'Cindy': Russian satellite GIF

you're trying to track as well as your location in longitude and latitude and the time frame you want to predict. The tracking program then determines the times the satellite will be visible in your location and tells you where to look in azimuth (compass direction) and elevation (angle above the horizon). The rest is up to your eyes—perhaps aided by some low-powered binoculars.

Some, such as New Jersey computer software test analyst Ron Chapman, take satellite viewing a step further. A radio amateur, Chapman uses radio receiver hardware to capture photos taken by weather satellites. These then are converted to GIF files and uploaded within moments to the Astronomy Forum's Library 11, "Planet Earth GIFs."

"Like anything you wish to do well, it takes both practice and patience," says Chapman about satellite viewing. "But once you get the hang of how things work, you'll be amazed at how many satellites you can spot just by sitting back and looking up at the sky."

—DK

though, is freedom of thought. This is a place where members can express views without fear of reprisal or being made fun of."

The New Age Forum has done several UFO-related group projects. One was a mass effort by CompuServe and Internet members worldwide to attempt telepathic contact with extraterrestrials during a two-hour time period. "Though nothing really happened," Brune says, "it was amazing to see all these people come together for one night to try something." Another online group project is the creation of an "abduction database," which will compile accounts of alien abduc-

The Online X Files: UFO and Related Uploads

Whether you're a true believer or a true skeptic on the subject of UFOs, the libraries of the Issues, New Age and Space forums contain hundreds of files on the subjects of UFOs, extraterrestrial visitors, alien abductions and related phenomena. Here's a sampling:

ISSUES FORUM (GO ISSUESFORUM)

Gulf War UFO—Details of a reported UFO shot down by an American F-16 over Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm, as described by a Russian colonel who visited the crash site. Library 10, "Unexplained Phenomena," GULF.TXT (3,337 bytes).

Famous UFO Crashes—A list compiled by the Phoenix Foundation of famous UFO crashes around the world, dating to 1897. Library 10, UFOCRA.TXT (7,147 bytes).

Alien Abductions—Article from the *Harvard University Gazette* featuring views of Harvard Medical School Professor Dr. John Mack, who has studied more than 60 alien abduction cases. Library 10, JMACK.ABD (11,087 bytes).

First Encounter—Firsthand account of "Corky" Ra's encounter with "beings not of this planet" and its aftereffects. Library 10, FIRSTE.TXT (19,516 bytes).

Gulf Breeze UFOs—Reports from multiple witnesses of UFOs flying over the Gulf Breeze/Pensacola, Florida, area on March 14, 1992. Library 10, GBUFOS.392 (3,134 bytes).

NEW AGE FORUM (GO NEWAGE)

UFO Facts—Comprehensive ZIPped text file with answers to the most frequently asked questions about UFOs, along with lists of books on the topic, organizations and experts. From Internet. Library 15, "UFOlogy," AAVFAQ.ZIP (56,553 bytes).

Lear Paper—The "horrible truth" about the government's involvement with aliens uploaded by John Lear, an airline and military pilot who has flown missions for the CIA. Discusses UFOs, abductions, "Area 51" and "the real reason why UFOs are here." Library 15, LEAR.ZIP (12,248 bytes).

UFO Files List—ZIPped list of files from the Mutual UFO Network (MUFON) including GIF files from NASA. Library 15, MUFON.ZIP (92,437 bytes).

Skeptics' View—File from the *Skeptical Inquirer* debunking claims of the existence of UFOs, alien abductions and other aspects of UFOlogy. Library 15, SKEPT.TXT (18,918 bytes).

Alien Visitors—A description of the various types of aliens that supposedly have visited Earth. Library 15, ALIENT.TXT (7,838 bytes).

Alien Implant Photo—GIF file reportedly showing an object implanted by aliens that was removed from an abductee. Library 15, IMPLNT.GIF (45,192 bytes).

SPACE FORUM (GO SPACEFORUM)

NASA Tape Editorial—Editorial from CUFON BBS in Seattle, Washington, discussing the "NASA videotape" of a space shuttle launch in which some claim a UFO can be seen near the spacecraft. Library 7, "Extraterrestrials?" NASATP.TXT (5,514 bytes).

Object 8-13A—Discussion of an object known as "8-13A" discovered near Jupiter by astronomer Dr. Leo Moffett. While it was cataloged as an "asteroid," some UFOlogists (including a prominent member of the British Interplanetary Society) say it is not a "natural" phenomenon. Library 17, 8-13A (4,974 bytes).

Top UFO Cases—A list of the 10 best-known UFO sightings, including Hudson Valley 1984; Cash/Landrum, Houston 1979; Roswell, New Mexico, 1947; and Snowflake, Arizona, 1974. Library 7, 10BEST.UFO (5,146 bytes).

MJ-12 Plot—Former U.S. Navy intelligence officer Bill Cooper's "Operation Majority" report claiming proof of the U.S. government's longstanding involvement with aliens and information about the top-secret MJ-12 committee. Library 7, MJ-12.TXT (16,586 bytes).

tions and make them available to serious investigators.

While some might scoff at tales of alien abduction, such as Streiber's *Communion*, a book and film of his experiences, others are deadly serious about it. One CompuServe member, who asked that his name not be used for fear of losing his defense industry job, says he began to have episodes of waking in a panic and symptoms of post-traumatic shock syndrome three years ago. "Since that time, I have undergone hypnotherapy and have, under hypnosis, described abductions by alien forces beginning at age 9 and continuing periodically to this day," he says.

In recent years, a number of mental health professionals have begun to seriously study such claims—one 1993 study based at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, found that people who report sightings, missing time and other anomalies are normal, often middle-class and educated, and have normal, not overactive, imaginations. These

professionals feel that people traumatized by such paranormal experiences need the same kind of treatment and understanding given to those suffering from anxiety, depression and the aftereffects of rape or plane crashes.

The New Age Forum recently began closed support group conferences for abductees on CompuServe. Rob Shepherd, an abductee who works for a Houston, Texas, abductee support organization, says the online conferences are invaluable. "The extreme stress and terror associated with the abduction phenomenon makes this a very hard thing to live with. Standard counseling just doesn't help these people. They need something extra, and that extra thing is a support group," he says. Those interested in the sessions should contact Shepherd at User ID number 71174.324 or David Brune at User ID number 70671.2063.

For those people merely considering the

possibility of UFOs and intelligent life elsewhere, belief raises some thorny philosophical issues, questions that are frequently explored online. "The main issues are really

conceptual, and they strike at the heart of many existing theories," says Jan Lamprecht, a UFO buff who logs on from South Africa. "The first area that is in grave danger is orthodox Christian religion, in which we are taught that we are the only intelligent life in the universe. The existence of extraterrestrials could collapse religion."

Partridge believes the other intriguing question the UFO phenomenon raises is similarly fundamental: If we are not alone, then what is the intent of our visitors toward us, our lives and the planet?

"An outside threat is often the most unifying force for otherwise warring factions," he says. "Perhaps the arrival of aliens will inadvertently unite us as a species to finally work together for our common good." ☐

**RANDOM
ACCESS**

UFO: Unusually Fervent Obsession. It is a buzz Sam Wright shares with fellow enthusiasts in the Fylde's UFO Investigation group.

Most members settle for close encounters every Thursday night at the Guards Club on Whitegate Drive, Blackpool.

Not so Mr Wright, of Knaresboro' Avenue, Marton.

Astronomical

The local UFO expert dug deep into his pocket to finance a transatlantic trip which left him "starry-eyed".

The tea and coffee merchant traded his business venture Plantations for a Planet Suite in Las Vegas: paradise for samplers and out of this world for UFO investigators.

The otherwise down-to-earth local businessman admits costs of the seven-day international UFO congress were astronomical — but well worth every dollar.

Particularly as the mind-blowing experience helped hook wife Jean on the subject, too!

Now in his late 50s, Mr Wright got captivated by UFOs when he was 30: reading up on the subject after locking into one particular case — the alleged cover-up of a UFO which crash-landed at Rockwell in New Mexico.

Despite the debunking of some celebrated theorists, he believes it is arrogant of us to assume we are the only life-force in the universe — and reckons that others may be more than

Out of this world

Transatlantic trip proved a mind-blowing experience

CHIEF feature writer JACQUELINE MORLEY has a close encounter with Sam Wright, starry-eyed from an unusual conference



place, in such circles, slant-eyed taller greys.

Mr Wright, who has yet to see a UFO, or occupant, for himself, admits: "Some of the stories — particularly from those delegates who claim to talk to aliens — beggar belief, but the abductees are extremely convincing.

"Some also claim to suffer considerable government harassment on top of their traumatic experiences. Most are frustrated because their tales are not believed by the majority of people." He was left cold by the "channel-



capable of bending time to span light years to visit our planet.

He adds: "Sightings have been made by thousands of people — why disbelieve them?"

"We heard an ex-CIA man tell of us of an Eskimo village where 150 people suddenly disappeared — with even the graves robbed of bodies.

"A Russian general stated that at least three of their planes had gone

missing chasing UFOs. "Documents and slides showed the apparent existence of UFOs on Mars — the public were never informed. Cattle mutilations — by laser — were reported from Brazil.

"One group went out by coach to a government site of interest — and 14 witnessed a UFO sighting."

He thoroughly enjoyed the conference — but admits it attracted some cranks.

"Investigators apply scientific methods to sightings — most of the alleged UFOs in this area can be put down to Venus or British Aerospace."

For eight hours a day, over the week, Mr Wright locked in debate, and occasional conflict, with enthusiasts

including doctors, writers, broadcasters, scientists and servicemen.

"These people are by no means nutters — they just have open minds or the evidence of their own eyes or experiences," he said.

"One of the most famous UFO investigative reporters had recently returned from the former Soviet Union with classified military files confirming the UFO presence in Russia."

Speakers spotlighted alleged UFO activity, along with fresh data from once-secret files and reports of missing military ships and aircraft.

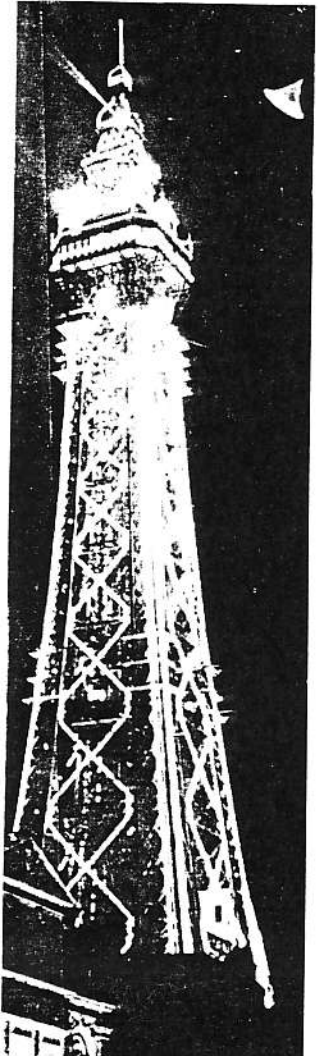
No extra-terrestrials, alas, but plenty of supposed sightings of spaceships, or occupants in the, er, flesh. From small brown aliens to more common-



line" session, featuring various delegates who claimed to communicate with alien life forces — identified as Bashur, Arcturians, Sasha, Tuella, Venusians and Sirius.

"It all got a bit Star Trek then — and the Americans do get terribly enthusiastic about things," he admitted.

"I really would have preferred to have beamed up elsewhere at that point."



No UFO — but a trick of the camera — as captured by the Gazette

'An Eskimo village disappeared — with even the graves robbed of bodies'

West Lancashire Evening Gazette 07.01.94

-----EVENING TELEGRAPH Monday, January 31 1994

MYSTERY FIRE IN THE SKY Baffles MOTORIST.

A mystery fire across the sky has stumped an ET reader from Bozeat. Nick Gibbins, of London road, was driving between Bozeat and Wollaston when he saw a blazing object fall from the air towards Grendon. He drove in the direction of ball of fire but could not find anything.

Now he is enlisting the help of ET readers to find out more about the incident which happened at about midnight on Thursday.

A 25-year-old marketing manager from Rushden said he saw a bright orange light in the sky while driving home from Northampton. He was near Grendon at midnight when the light appeared. He said it was orange and oblong shaped.

EVENING TELEGRAPH Friday January 28, 1994

'UFO SPOTTED OVER TOWN'

A Kettering couple who believe they saw a UFO are appealing for other people who may have spotted the object to come forward.

Nicola and Peter Minney saw a triangular object with a brilliant white light hanging in the sky just after 5 this morning.

They say the object looked as though it was above the Kettering rugby ground and then moved out of view above their Piper's Hill Road home.

A spokesman for the Met Office said sometimes there were thunderstorms in the distance and the clouds became brightly illuminated which could be mistaken for UFO's.

In brief

UFO mania

MELBOURNE: Callers have reported more than 100 sightings of unidentified flying objects over Melbourne's outer suburbs in the past few weeks. All the callers told a national hotline about brightly-lit unidentified phenomena. Normally, the hotline receives about three calls a week from all around Australia.

Courier Mail 20.10.93



JUST THE UNUSUAL, PLEASE: An extra-terrestrial welcome from Pat and Joe at their galactic bar

WOMEN SEE UFO

Two local women have seen a huge object, which they have not been able to identify, off Whitsunday Island.

Bronwyn Murphy of Hamilton Island and Jean Neal of Cannonvale, were reluctant to report their sighting until urged to do so by authorities, so that others who saw it may report it.

Ms Murphy, who owns a home on Hamilton Island with a verandah facing east, and Ms Jean Neal of Cannonvale, who was on the same verandah, saw the rectangular object, described by both women as being about twice the size of a Jumbo Jet slowly move behind the higher area of Whitsunday Island.

"When we first saw the object it was hovering, but then slowly moved to the north and the last we saw of it was when it disappeared behind Whitsunday Island," Ms Murphy said.

"We immediately contacted Hamilton Island Airport who advised a helicopter had just landed, but this was definitely not a helicopter and not in the right position."

"Contact with Townsville Airport was made and the only air traffic in the area at the time was a Jet in the Townsville area."

"If by chance it was a jet, it would have been half that size."

"The incident took place in clear, sunny conditions last Thursday, between 4.07 p.m. and 4.15 p.m. We were able to watch the object for eight minutes. What we saw appeared to be metallic because we could see the sun shining on it."

"From my verandah on Hamilton Island the object appeared to be about seven miles to the east when we first saw it - hovering above the smaller islands just to the south east of Whitsunday Island."

Ms Murphy and Ms Neal said they then contacted Flight Officer Harris of R.A.F. Intelligence in Brisbane. He questioned them at length giving the impression he was interested if the object was aggressive or appeared to be of danger to people.

They then spoke to UFO Investigator, Dr Martin Gottschall of Brisbane who took particulars and said he would send forms to be completed.

"Dr Gottschall asked that other people who may have seen the object, contact him on (07) 5761780 or the Secretary of the Association he represents on (07)3492924 rather than ourselves or the "Guardian", Ms Murphy said.

The Guardian (Australia)

16.11.93

Ride in a UFO not 'off rails'

WASHINGTON: People who see flying saucers are not nuts. And neither are people who claim to hitch rides with extraterrestrials, researchers say.

A team of scientists, led by Dr Nicholas Spanos of Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada, gave a battery of psychological tests to people who claim to have had encounters and compared the results with tests given to people who make no flying saucer claims.

The results, published yesterday in the Journal of Abnormal Psychology, show the people who claim to have seen and even ridden in UFOs are ordinary people with normal imaginations.

"We can't say these sightings are real or not, but we can say that these people are not necessarily abnormal," Dr Spanos said.

Dr Spanos said he found the UFO sighters were not "off the wall". "They tend to be white-collar, relatively well-educated representatives of the middle class," he said.

Courier Mail 12.11.93

Spaced out! The town where everyone can see stars

By BEN McCONVILLE

THOUSANDS of sci-fi fans are flocking to a tiny town in America's Wild West - to witness incredible sights that light up the night.

But the UFO sightings are nothing to do with outer-space watchers getting sky-high at the local bar which serves out-of-this-world cocktails.

Hordes are beaming in to the town of Rachel in Nevada because they are convinced the weird scenes that spangle the sky are alien spaceships.

That they are next to an experimental air base - the one that developed the futuristic Stealth Bomber - doesn't phase them at all. Whatever they are, the displays are incredible to watch. Some say they are craft from a distant solar system being kept in massive hangars.

They reckon extra-terrestrial crews watch as American airmen taxi flying saucers from vast launch pads carved from a mountainside.

They also says six aliens are permanently stationed there.

The wilder claims may, of course, have something to do with the town bar which now caters specifically for the flying saucer-philites who have suddenly materialised.

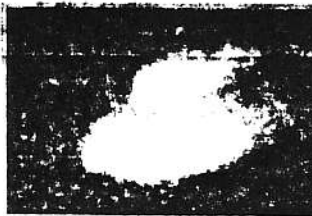
Pat and Joe Travers' A "Le" Inn bar sign welcomes not only earthlings but "UFOs and crews".

"You can always tell the alien customers - because they have a ferocious appetite for strawberry ice cream and green jelly," said one drinker.

But he was guzzling a Beam Me Up Scottie - a cocktail of Jim Beam whisky, scotch and 7-Up.



NIGHT FRIGHT: Seen from the bar car park



WHITE HOLE: A glimpse into the Twilight Zone



KEEP OUT: The top-secret experimental air base

The People 23.01.94

'Jim Beam me up, Scottie'

They Are Among Us

Is the government withholding crucial UFO information? A group called Operation Right to Know thinks so, and held its second annual protest in front of Bill Clinton's house yesterday afternoon. The president, still, was not at home.

He didn't see the group of about 50 supporters (up significantly from last year's 10) and almost as many media types assembled on Lafayette Square, as a handful of tourists strolled past gazing curiously at the sweaty throng. He didn't hear the determined chants of "Yo, yo, UFO. People have a right to know" as demonstrators picketed the White House with signs proclaiming "Wake Up—UFO's Are Real" and "Stop the Cosmic Watergate."

Katy Coro was one of the marchers. "I'm 73 years old," she said, shouldering her picket sign. "I slept real good last night so I could make it." Though many claimed to have had various personal encounters with UFOs, Coro didn't need firsthand convincing. "I'm not an abductee, but doing this is important. It's something that's within."

Also on the day's program was a performance by Oola Boosh, a rock band from Hoboken, N.J. The group wrote a song called "UFO," sent a tape to Operation Right to Know and was asked to play. But are the members believers? "None of us has been abducted," said bassist Nina Mars. "But we believe there's a strong possibility." "It's true," agreed harpist and flutist Miguel. "I mean, I grew up with 'Star Trek.'"

One man leaned against a park bench, listening to speakers who said they had traveled from all over the United States, even Germany and Argentina, to do their part. "I just happened to be walking by," explained James Wilson. Did he believe in UFOs? "No, I don't," he said directly. "But everybody's entitled to their beliefs."

That's why they call it America.

Washington Post 06.07.93

UFO was a balloon

Hundreds of people reported seeing a cigar-shaped UFO hovering near Nottingham airport but police said today it was an advertising hot-air balloon.

Express & Star 10.04.93

Tales of the Unexplained

□ UFO buff Sue Hembury-Kellow has set up a local network to investigate things that go flash in the night sky... and then disappear.

Scores of unexplained objects have been spotted over Somerset this year, and Mrs Hembury-Kellow wants to log details of UFO sightings to try to solve the mystery of whether there really is anyone out there.

Earlier this month the *County Gazette* reported how a Taunton insurance worker saw a bright rocket-like light streak across the sky in Yeovil.

A spate of sightings this summer included a ring of lights with daisy petals rotating around it, which moved slowly left to right, changed shape and size and disappeared.

"It repeated this pattern a few times and was seen by eight people in Stoke St Gregory and Langport," said Mrs Hembury-Kellow.

She also received reports on October 21 of a rectangular object with red, blue, green and yellow lights which hovered over West Buckland for 15 minutes before disappearing at an incredible speed.

"There is a lot of UFO activity going on at the moment in the South West," said Mrs Hembury-Kellow. "There are stories of lights in the sky and even close encounters.

"Whatever they are, they are here, they are being seen regularly by people who aren't off their heads. We're trying to logically and analytically explore the phenomenon as it happens.

"Ninety per cent of the time there's a logical explanation — it's the other ten per cent that keeps us going."

Mrs Hembury-Kellow, who set up Somerset UFO Research and Investigation Network, has appealed for witnesses to contact her as soon as possible after any sightings.

They will be asked to complete a special sightings form, and anonymity is guaranteed. Mrs Hembury-Kellow can be contacted on 0823 491068.

Report: PHIL HILL

Somerset County Gazette 07.01.94

Lights in the Sky Leave Some Sitkans Puzzled

By WILL SWAGEL
Sentinel Staff Writer

Call it a close encounter or simply an unidentified flying object.

Whatever that bluish green ball of light might have been, at least five Sitkans saw it streak across the sky shortly after 3 a.m. Friday.

Officer Ed Green said he had just checked in at the Alaska Pulp Corp. security office to see what was happening at the mill and was talking with mill security guard Arnie Pederson and wood room foreman Richard Lawson, who was on fire watch.

The mill has been shut down for maintenance, so it was deathly quiet.

"It was about 3:05 in the morning," said Pederson, "because I logged it in my log book and it came right over the hill right by where the administration office is. It traveled in kind of a southeasterly direction. As soon as I saw it, I ran out and the other guys came out behind me. We watched it go over until it disappeared behind the buildings. There wasn't a sound or anything. It was about 2,500 feet off the deck. I immediately called FAA to see if we had any flights in the area and they said no."

Pederson estimated the altitude from the way the light skimmed the tops of the mountains near the mill. The light appeared to travel about the speed of a jet. But there would have been some kind of sound if it was a plane or helicopter, Pederson said.

"There was no noise, no traffic, no machinery and we didn't hear a

rotor, a jet, propellers, nothing," said Green. "It only lasted for three seconds. We couldn't see much but we all looked at each other and Whew! we all made a joke to each other."

"I didn't even tell anyone about it, because what do you say? I saw a bluish green light in the air?" said Green. "I don't know what it was, but it was there."

But miles away, on the other end of the Sitka road system, Lawson's daughter Valerie and her husband were seeing the same thing from their home in Ranger's Trailer Court. She called her father at the mill and learned he had seen it, too.

From Halibut Point Road, the light appeared to come over Middle Island, trailing purple vapor, and shoot off toward APC.

Pederson said they also had heard that two men have said they saw a light in the sky about two weeks ago from the top of Harbor Mountain, that one with a bright whitish-orange glow in front of the blue. It came from the direction of Kruzof Island, made a couple of abrupt 90-degree turns in the air and took off toward the mill.

"It was eerie, it was strange," Pederson said of Friday morning's sighting. "Dick said the next trip he made with the (watchman's) clock, he kept tripping over stuff because he was looking at the sky."

Lawson said he has no idea whether there is a terrestrial explanation for what he saw, but added:

"You never know what the government is doing."

The *Telegraph & Argus* has been inundated with calls from readers about UFOs following recent sightings in Thackley and Wilsden.

The latest close encounter was reported by Bradford Councilor Rangzeb. He spotted three flashing green and blue lights above Wibsey from his home in Jesmond Avenue, Heaton.



Coun Rangzeb

He said they hovered above the area for about 15 minutes and then vanished.

Coun Rangzeb, Labour member for Toller, said: "They were like nothing I have ever seen before. It didn't look like a plane or a helicopter."

He said his son Fiaz, 12, had spotted it. Coun Rangzeb, pictured, said: "He came in all excited and told me

"I have always believed that there was something out there. I tried to communicate with them telepathically, welcoming them to Bradford — and I asked them for help with our fight to keep assisted area status!

"I was a bit disappointed when I didn't get any response."

Telegraph & Argus 21.01.94

Sentinel Sitka, Ala. USA 20.04.93

Another UFO comes to Somerset

By BEVERLEY FEARIS

A UFO was spotted hovering above Stoke St Gregory this week — the most recent in a number of sightings in the Taunton area.

A couple reported seeing the bright white object just before midnight on Monday night when they went to let their dog out.

They said it was hovering but then started moving slowly from left to right, somewhere towards Burrow Mump.

As the object moved it tilted, revealing three or more blue, silver and red lights underneath it, which were flashing and moving round in a circle.

The couple said they then watched the object suddenly shoot up hundreds of feet into the night sky.

They immediately reported their sighting to UFO buff Sue Hembury-Kellow, who also lives in Stoke St Gregory. She has recently set up a

local network to investigate strange flying objects in Somerset after a number of sightings over the last year.

"It was clearly something that could move very, very quickly. They told me it had shot up in an instant. Then it hovered again," she said.

"What's interesting is at the same time as seeing this phenomenon they saw a green light which changed to blue, near to ground level. They said it was flashing and looked almost like it was doing morse code. When the UFO

disappeared, this green light disappeared, too.

"It was a clear night and there was no noise."

The following day Mrs Hembury-Kellow, of the Somerset UFO Research and Investigation Network, contacted local police, the Ministry of Defence and nearby Yeovilton air base, but none of them could explain the sighting.

Only last month a Taunton insurance worker saw a bright rocket-like light streak across

the sky; and in November Methodist minister Ed Standhaft and his wife Audrey reported seeing a hovering bright white UFO from the window of their Galmington home.

In both cases the sightings remained unexplained.

Sue Hembury-Kellow is now logging all sightings in Somerset to try to investigate whether there really are visitors from outer space. She is appealing for witnesses to contact her on (0823) 491068. Anonymity is guaranteed.

Riddle of UFO over island

THE sighting of a bizarre object shooting over the skies of Orkney has left locals baffled.

A huge bright green, blazing trail with a blue tail stopped two electricians in their tracks.

Stephen Leech and Paul Anderson are sure the cigar-shaped puzzler was a UFO.

"It was a clear morning and we were driving from Stromness to Kirkwall," said Paul.

Debris

"I caught sight of this thing for a few seconds before it swooped between some hills.

"It seemed huge and was moving far too fast to be an aeroplane."

Steve added: "I wondered if it was some space debris burning up."

The lads have appealed to others who saw the mystery object on Thursday.

Evening Times 22.01.94

Somerset County Gazette 24.12.93

UFO spotters need to identify meeting venue

FOLLOWING what they describe as considerable UFO activity in the area, 'Skywatch,' a local UFO spotting group, are seeking a venue for an open meeting.

Mr Peter Gregory, of 24 Somersby Avenue, Mablethorpe, who heads the group, says: "We felt if we could find a room somewhere for a meeting of this sort, people could come along and hear our stories at first hand.

He hoped that, having heard them, anyone who had had similar experiences might then be willing to share them, without embarrassment or fear of being scoffed at.

He will be taking along a

number of pictures, copies of which have been sent to BUFOA — the British Unidentified Flying Objects Association — including certain types of unidentified craft and a video picture of a bright ball-shaped object in the sky.

He will also be taking a map along on which the location and approximate dates of local UFO sightings have been logged.

"We are getting a wave of UFO activity in the area," he said, pointing out that much of it seemed to be attracted by the huge mast at Trusthorpe, whose red warning lights are visible for many miles.

"We saw an enormous craft last Tuesday, at 8.11pm," he recalled. "At first we thought it was a collection of stars until it

went overhead at enormous speed, north to south, horizon to horizon, and making no sound."

"It was delta shaped, had no flashing lights, but white, star-shaped ones."

"It was as big as a house."

Hovered

He said some UFO sightings had described craft as cigar-shaped, spherical, triangular, or delta-shaped.

Another incident personally witnessed by Mr Gregory was quite different from his other experiences.

A spherical object, which he saw change from red to yellow, and then back to red, he felt certain was not a craft.

"I felt it was a living, pulsing, thing," he declared.

During the times of these sightings, he said some psychic phenomena had been observed in his home.

A drinking glass on a shelf, well away from any heat source, had exploded, with fragments going up to eight feet in the air.

When the fragments were examined, some were found to have fused together.

An unattended baby's pram in the room had suddenly spun around.

If any publican or organisation can offer Skywatch the use of a room, they should either contact the Standard on 0754 610362, or inform Mr Gregory at his home.

The time, date and location of the the open meeting will then be advertised.

Horncastle Standard 14.01.94

Lights in the sky

WITH reference to your article in the Gazette dated December 31, relating to the UFO sighting claim. I also saw the triangle of white lights in the sky.

I was driving to work in Colchester along the A120 and saw the triangle, it seemed to be hovering over the Suffolk area. I watched it for about five to six minutes, then it disappeared. This was at about 7.35am.

MRS S GOREHAM

Harwich Road, Beaumont

Clacton Gazette 14.01.94

Bristol Evening Post 12.12.93

BUFORA NEWSFILE PAGE 8

A MYSTERY object in the dusk sky over Bristol sparked a UFO alert last night.

City residents were left baffled after a huge hovering object was spotted above their homes.

And householders reported seeing what they thought could have been a space ship floating above Filton.

But the mystery object turned out to be an airship belonging to Richard Branson's Virgin group.

Lights

Today a spokesman for British Aerospace at Filton airfield said a Virgin airship docked for a private function and was due to stay until tomorrow.

One resident from Selbrooke Crescent, Oldbury Court, said several neighbours had stared at the hovering object between 5pm and 6pm.

"There were a lot of lights in the sky, and some were flashing," he said.

Detached planet, no neighbours

As Nasa cancels its search for extraterrestrials, Patrick Parrinder argues that the Earth is left a poorer place with the demise of the men in the moon

might seem, it had a significant impact on the central issues of European humanism.

Since classical times some philosophers have held that other civilisations must exist. Plutarch, for example, believed that the moon was sufficiently like the Earth to support life, and therefore it must support life. A lifeless world would serve no purpose. Plutarch's argument from design was opposed to the random universe portrayed by the atomists Democritus and Lucretius. According to Lucretius, the stars and planets were formed by chance collisions of matter. Some of these lumps of rock are planets like our own containing "various tribes of men and breeds of beasts". Like the modern proponents of SETI, Lucretius regards the existence of intelligent aliens as a statistical certainty.

Not surprisingly, doctrines like these found no favour with religious orthodoxy. Condemned as un-Christian by St Thomas Aquinas, speculation about other worlds became the preserve of heretics or suspected heretics. Sometime in the 15th century, Nicolaus of Cusa wrote a treatise on the nature of the universe which like many works in this tradition could only be published posthumously. Nicolaus strongly influenced Giordano Bruno, whose discourse *On the Infinite Universe and Worlds* was a principal cause of his imprisonment by the Inquisition and subsequent martyrdom.

Another prisoner of the Inquisition was the Dominican monk Tommaso Campanella. From his dungeon in Naples he published an essay arguing that the inhabitants of other worlds were not guilty of Adam's sin and had no need of a Redeemer. Even in Protestant England it was not until the mid 17th cen-

ture that works of this sort could be published openly and in their authors' lifetimes.

Despite the legend "Venice, 1584" on the title page, Bruno's discourse was printed and published during his two-year stay in Elizabethan London. In 1583 he went to dispute with the doctors of Oxford University. Among his audience may have been Francis Godwin, later to become an Anglican bishop and one of the founding fathers of British science fiction. Godwin's posthumous *The Man in the Moon* (1638) is a witty and fast-moving story of space adventures. Its author purports to be a native of Seville, Domingo Gonsales, and the book was at first mistaken for a translation from the Spanish. Domingo flies to the moon in a chariot drawn by "gansas" or migrating swans. The lunar inhabitants turn out to be Christians, and the one word of terrestrial language they can understand is the name of Jesus. This was Godwin's riposte to Campanella.

The Man in the Moon has a prefatory epistle comparing Domingo's voyage with the discovery of the Americas. In 1537, nearly half a century after Columbus, a Papal bull had declared the American Indians to be human beings. To Godwin and his successors the existence of men in the moon seemed just as likely as the habitation of the New World. Unlike the Americas, the sedentary voyager could actually see the moon, and after Galileo he could study it through the telescope. An Anglican like Godwin could feel more relaxed about the nature of lunar civilisation than a Roman Catholic. Since there was a Church of England, why not a Church of the Moon?

In contrast to Francis Godwin, the astronomer Johann Kepler is a central figure in the history of the scientific revolution. Kepler had a lifelong fascination with the topography and demography of the moon, beginning with his translation of Plutarch's treatise and culminating in his posthumously-published *Somnium, or Dream*. A passage from his open letter to Galileo in 1610 voices some of the questions that agitated his restless and powerful mind: "But who shall dwell in these worlds, if they be inhabited? ... Have they souls to be saved? Are we or they lords of the world? And how are all things made for man?"

Two years after these words were translated into English in Robert Burton's *Anatomy of Melancholy*, Shakespeare's First Folio appeared, with Hamlet's



FRANK LANGFORD

flourish if suitable planets existed.

Literary astrobiology, however, was in full swing. Before the rise of modern science fiction its most colourful manifestations are to be found in the satirical voyages of Cyrano de Bergerac, Swift and Voltaire. Cyrano invents a flying machine and ventures into space, meeting Domingo on the moon and Campanella on the sun. Swift and Voltaire describe extra terrestrials visiting the Earth. Micromegas, Voltaire's giant, comes here from Sirius in the vain hope of finding an exception to the universal rule of boredom and dissatisfaction. He presents humanity with a book which supposedly contains the meaning of life. Needless to say, its pages are blank.

By the end of the 18th century the nebular hypothesis of Kant and Laplace suggested that there must be large numbers of solar systems. There was no reason to doubt the existence of other inhabited planets. If ours was the only one then the universe as revealed by the telescope appeared pointless, and reason itself was plunged into a Voltairean abyss. It was not until William Whewell's *The Plurality of Worlds* (1854) that a prominent scientist set out to refute such claims.

Whewell was a creationist who found it incredible that there could be extraterrestrial souls without a Redeemer. Such arguments seem naive in the light of post-Darwinian science, but his case was strengthened by the refutation of the theory of spontaneous generation.

We cannot disprove Whewell's belief that the number of intelligence-bearing planets in the universe is one (some would say, less than one), however difficult this might be to explain. Five years after Whewell's book, Darwin's *Origin of Species* destroyed the cosy assumption that intelligent aliens must be creatures with souls virtually indistinguishable from human beings. This led not only to the heyday of the bug-eyed monster, but to serious reflections on whether we could recognise alien intelligence even if we found it. Darwinism underpins the portrayal of aliens in modern popular culture, but it also contains the seeds of the decadence of the whole idea. After Darwin, the only interesting aliens were likely to be those in competition with our own species.

Today it is worth asking how long the alien can retain its potency as an imaginative symbol. From Kepler and Wilkins to our own time, the mystery of extraterrestrial life seemed capable of being solved by observation, exploration and discovery. Now this is so no longer.

The cancellation of SETI leaves us sharing the universe either with no one or with unknowable beings who must be totally unlike ourselves. The humanities are the home of lost scientific causes, yet humanism itself would be diminished in a world in which extraterrestrial studies had lost their resonance.

Patrick Parrinder is professor of English at the University of Reading.

If Bill Refuses to Spill the Beans, Maybe Perot Has Some Answers

By RACHIEL KESSLER

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL
WASHINGTON — Protesters plan to march on the White House Monday "to get Bill Clinton to tell the truth" — about UFOs.

Members of Operation Right to Know want the president to acknowledge that unidentified flying objects exist and to release government data documenting sightings. "It used to be that the UFO community was afraid of ridicule, and we were staying home. Now we're not staying home," says Elaine Douglass, a spokeswoman for the group, which has offices here and in Georgia and California.

"Our main goal is to end UFO secrecy," says Donald Ratsch, an organizer at Operation Right to Know, which counts about 150 subscribers to its newsletter. "This is a demonstration to end disinformation regarding government contact with other worlds."

The group claims that the U.S. government has had information documenting the existence of visitors from outer space since 1947. In a press release, the group contends that people claiming to have seen UFOs are everywhere. The release says, for example, that in Union Grove, Wis., a man was driving on Highway 11

and saw a very large UFO "about the size of three football fields."

About a half-dozen members of the group warmed up for the White House march with a protest yesterday outside offices of the Washington Post, charging that the paper's top editors and intelligence reporters wouldn't read their materials. Some carried signs saying "The Post has a flat Earth mindset on UFOs." But Washington Post Managing Editor Robert Kaiser says he did indeed read some of the material, adding that some of it was "provocative" and that the Post is "checking it out."

Various federal agencies have looked into UFOs over the years. But, says David D. Wippel, executive director of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, "I see no reason why the government would withhold information, if there were any information."

Members of Operation Right to Know sent a letter to President Clinton, asking him to meet with the group and to disclose what he knows about UFOs. Ms. Douglass says the president did respond with a form letter saying he will take the group's ideas into consideration and keep them close to his heart. But Mr. Clinton declined to attend a meeting.

Wall Street Journal 01.07.93

BUFORA UFO NEWSFILE

Top flight UFO cover. UFO is spotted by police. Mystery light in the sky. Advertiser. Daily News. Evening Echo. Western Morning News. Echo. Hoax or Not. Jet and UFO in near miss. ETs: Are they here?. UFO seen. Evening Argus. Western Morning News. The News. Sunday Times. Top flight UFO cover. UFO is spotted by police. Mystery light in the sky. Advertiser. Daily News. Evening Echo. Western Morning News. Echo.



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Exposed: how UK came under 'nuclear attack' from meteors

By NIGEL HAWKES
SCIENCE EDITOR

■ Declassified data from American military satellites could shed new light on reportings of fireballs and UFOs

AMERICAN military satellites have monitored at least three explosions as big as nuclear blasts in the skies above Britain in the past 20 years.

The explosions were natural events, caused by meteors burning up as they hit the atmosphere. They were among 136 explosions observed by US defence satellites around the world between 1975 and 1992, but kept secret until recently because of fears that they might be misinterpreted and by accident trigger a nuclear war.

All the blasts had an explosive yield of more than 1,000 tonnes of TNT, with some considerably larger. American astronomers believe that the satellites probably miss four explosions for every one they detect, so the total number could be up to 40 a year.

According to this month's issue of *Sky & Telescope*, the explosions were detected by

geostationary Pentagon satellites 23,000 miles above the Earth, using infra-red detectors designed to detect the hot exhausts of ballistic missiles. This type of radiation cannot be picked up on Earth because it is absorbed by water vapour in the lower atmosphere.

The explosions are bright but brief, lasting no longer than a couple of seconds. Some are undoubtedly seen on the ground, and reported as fireballs, flashing lights or even UFOs, but until recently no systematic record has been kept of such observations.

The Ministry of Defence is understood to have been briefed about the nature and frequency of the blasts, and some astronomers may also have known. *Sky & Telescope* says that much of the credit for having the observations de-

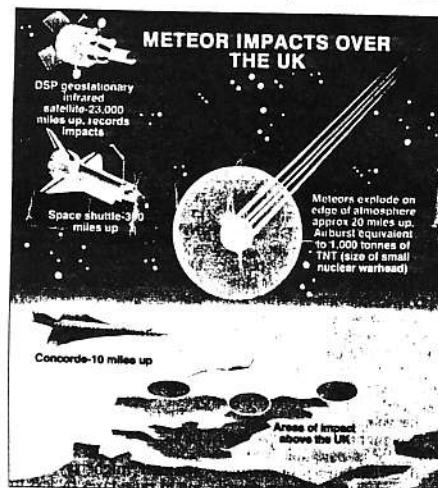
classified is due to Simon Worden, an astronomer who until recently headed a division of the US Ballistic Missile Defence Organisation, responsible for Star Wars.

Mr Worden says that one of the blasts occurred about 20 miles above the Pacific Ocean on October 1, 1990 — a two-kiloton blast during the period of high tension after Iraq had invaded Kuwait. "Had this occurred over Kuwait it would have been a sticky situation," Mr Worden says. "We could tell it was natural, but they could not."

Why, if the blasts are comparatively common, are they so seldom reported? John Mason, president of the British Astronomical Association, says that unexplained flashes and bursts are reported from time to time, sometimes attributed to flying saucers.

Peter Brown, director of the International Meteor Organisation for North America, says that most of the energy emitted in the blasts is in the infra-red part of the spectrum, which is invisible from Earth. Only recently have attempts been made to collect and correlate fireball reports. In future, he says, his organisation will try to work more closely with military observers to create a more complete record.

The Pentagon figures are of particular interest to astronomers trying to calculate the chances of a large object exploding closer to the Earth with far greater violence, as is now believed to have happened over Siberia in 1908. They suggest that the more apocalyptic scenarios painted by some astronomers may be an exaggeration, but they do not justify complacency.



Times 19.01.94

Identified flying object!

THE UFO which was spotted over Barnsley is no longer an UFO — it's been identified — we think.

The light observed by Debbie Holt and her family over the countryside towards Holme Moss recently was — according to Paul Ward of Abbots Road, Burton Grange — nothing more sinister than the West Yorkshire Police helicopter.

"I was driving home when I noticed the light," he said. "As I got closer I could hear the engines and the rota blades, it was definitely the police helicopter."

Barnsley Chronicle 31.12.93