

BUFORA NEWSFILE

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Mother baffled by UFO sighting

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The young mother was baffled when she saw a bright light at 11.30pm on Wednesday last week.

"I was lying in bed star-gazing" she said. "I assume it was a meteor. It was very bright, very fast, much too fast to have been a rocket or other firework.

"I only saw it for a second. It was heading north over the downs. It was nothing that I could recognise."

● A Tenterden man believes he has filmed a UFO in the sky over his home in St Benets Way.

He was filming what he believed to be an approaching aircraft with its landing lights on when it disappeared from view.

When Jim Leng, 33, played the film back, he saw what appeared to be a streak of light at right angles shooting off at high speed.

He has sent a copy of the tape to Gloria Dickson, an investigator with the British UFO Research Association.

Before seeing the tape she said: "There has been an enormous upsurge in reports, including a bright white light at Rochester which also shot off at right angles only five days before the Tenterden report."

She said many sightings turned out to be laser show effects which can still be seen up to 30 miles away.

EXTRA ASHFORD

08 DEC 95

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The meteor, or whatever it was, so impressed Mrs Murray that she fetched the binoculars to study the night sky. But there was no solving the mystery.

KENTISH EXPRESS

07 DEC 95

Drivers see cloud-like 'UFO' lights

EASTERN Counties Newspaper worker Steve Ling could not believe his eyes when huge UFO lights followed him as he drove for 15 miles.

And his story of weird lights has been confirmed by another Evening News reader who saw them on the same stretch of road.

Steve, a 46-year-old dock supervisor from West Earham, is convinced he saw something strange, despite ribbing from his workmates, but says he will listen to any rational explanation.

"It looked like small clouds in three perfectly-shaped circles," he said. "The distance between each one was exactly the same and they were spinning. There was no noise.

"It was 200ft across and moved across the road to the right. It was floating off and then coming back. I travelled 10 or 15 miles and it was in my sight the whole time but when I stopped, it stopped."

The mysterious sighting took place on Thursday evening on the A14 near Newmarket. Suffolk police were unable to offer any explanation.

An Evening News reader, who asked not to be named, said she had seen something similar on the same stretch of road that morning as she travelled back from a night shift.

Steve Ling's experience had been exhilarating rather than frightening.

EASTERN EVENING NEWS

18 DEC 95

Above the village, a light shone

IT may have been around bonfire night but that thing in the sky was no Roman candle.

The strange pink triangle tipped with red lights hovered over Pool in Cornwall.

In the past six weeks UFOs have visited Cornwall twice, says UFO-hunter David Gillham who is anxious to hear of other sightings.

The triangle UFO was seen by eight people in Pool on November 4.

And a couple of weeks later six independent witnesses spied an elongated object with brightly lit portholes, floating over nearby Trispen, he claims.

"We've no idea what they are but we want to know if there are more witnesses who have not come forward," said David, from Truro.

People in Redruth reported the triangular pink light circling a disused engine house and chimney stack.

"It was just before bonfire night but was definitely not a firework. One man was so alarmed he ran home and left the dog he was walking where it was.

"When he got home he and another witness

watched the object until it disappeared from sight.

"They reported it to us later — it had been floating about 35 feet off the ground and was making no sound.

"I checked with the police and RNAS Culdrose. There were no helicopter flights that night."

David said the second sighting happened on the night of November 27 at nearby Trispen.

"This time two independent groups of three people each saw a weird object with bright, white lights and again it was making no noise.

"It flew over a four mile area around the A30, not far from RAF St Mawgan. But it looked nothing like any aircraft."

David, from Truro, started the Cornwall UFO Research Group after seeing unexplained hovering red lights this summer.

"I don't know what they were. I have an open mind on all these things.

"I'm investigating with a colleague, John Morris, and would love to hear from anybody who can explain what's been seen or has seen something unexplained themselves."

● David can be contacted on 01872-763301.

SUNDAY INDEPENDENT (PLYMOUTH)

17 DEC 95

IT WAS IN 1988, I WAS ON HOLIDAY WITH MY family in Delaware, in America. Me, my mum and my aunt were staying in a motel on the beach, when I woke up in the middle of the night. I could see the room quite clearly, but I was floating above the bed. I came up and away from it, I could see the bed where I should have been – but I couldn't see my body. It wasn't an out-of-body experience. I felt as though someone was holding my elbow and guiding me alone. I went up, and suddenly found myself lying on a metal sheet, with this intense light, and these beings, around me.

"I could only see the one at my feet, standing over me. It was only the face I was aware of: it had very, very big, dark eyes, two dots for a nose and a line for a mouth. It was dull and grey, like a black and white photograph. I wasn't frightened. It was looking down at me kind of indulgently."

Rowan Hinton reaches the end of her story and gazes evenly across the living room of her well-kempt East Dulwich flat. Rowan is 25. She is a perfectly rational person. Pretty smart, as it goes. She does not whoop like a loony on the bus. She has not spent most her life living on an Ashram in California. In fact, she works in a men-

tal hospital. But she, like hundreds of thousands of other people, is genuinely convinced that she has been abducted by aliens.

SO THE SCEPTICS WERE WRONG! THE UFOS HAVE arrived. Once the preserve of conspiracy theorists, binocular-sporting cranks and sci-fi nerds who dress up as Klingons at the weekend, stories of extraterrestrial visitations and alien abductions have landed squarely in the mainstream.

The tabloids have always loved the odd tale of little green men, so it's no surprise when *The Sun* goes with "Fellas snatched by alien babes all looking like Pamela Anderson". But July's *Roswell Incident* autopsy film got serious consideration on the news pages of broadsheets. *The Guardian* tells us that a leading philosopher is devoting himself to "the philosophical implications of extraterrestrial life". John Mack, professor of psychiatry at Harvard Medical school, has published a book apparently explaining why he's convinced his patients have really been kidnapped by aliens. What with all this and the *X-Files* creatures from beyond are everywhere.

You see them on the street. You drink next to them in the pub. You may even live with one. Oh

THE X-'PHILES

Four top pop stars roll their eyes skywards to present a quartet of radically differing viewpoints on the great alien/human interface debate...

THE HEALTHY SCEPTIC: FRANK BLACK

FRANK BLACK one-time chief Pixie, current solo capacity UFO researcher

"There's been a compounding of information in the media, of this whole topic since the '40s. Which was the beginning of the 'flying saucer' UFO concept. Television is so powerful now it's hard to separate what people really see and hear and what they say they do. I don't think current interest is because the millennium is about to end; that seems a little self-important in terms of our society. If you don't want to have reservations about 2000 you can always switch to a different calendar!

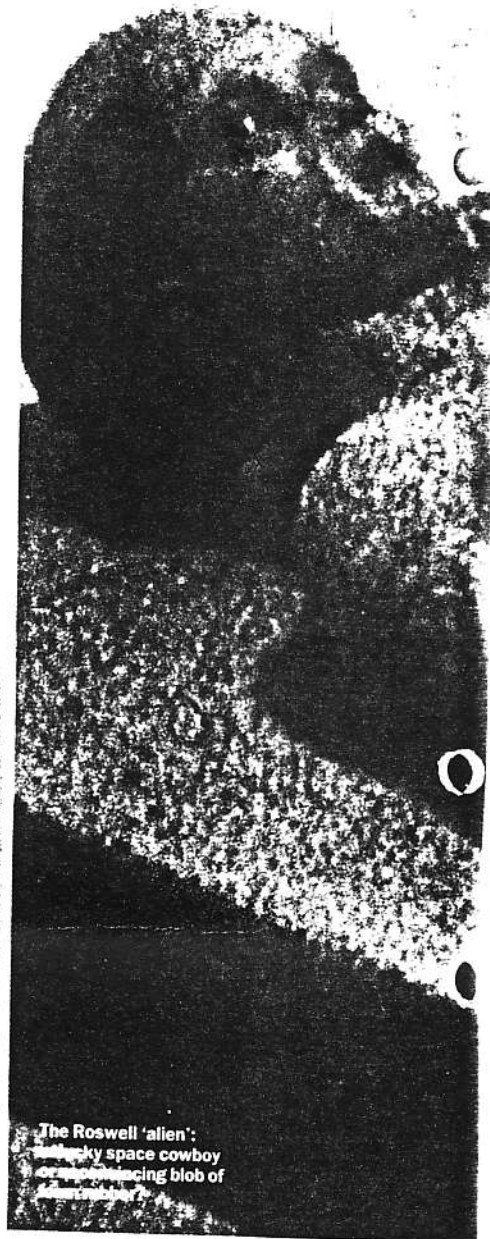
"I had a UFO experience, but I was very young and it was told to me by a family member. It was in Nebraska in June 1965, at a family gathering during broad daylight. A saucer-shaped ship was hovering above the house, and the people on the front lawn thought it was the end of the world. The police were called – they even followed it down the road until they couldn't keep up with it... I was there, but an infant. And if you go through most of your

life not thinking about it and suddenly someone says, 'We all saw one in broad daylight' – someone with no interest in the subject – then you think maybe there is something going on.

"From then, I always had at least a small interest – certainly some of my songs fall under that category of that modern folklore of aliens in ships, conspiracies and all that stuff. What the debunkers rightfully say is that there's no hard evidence, but if we're talking about something that could come from space or another dimension why would there be any hard evidence? If

they could get over that hump of moving around the galaxy, they could get over any hump... unless there was a space problem.

"My favourite UFO story is one I can't tell you because it was a bit scary for the people involved... one of them thought that a few days later they were involved in a Men In Black incident, witnessing a big American car, like a government person would use, which took off when spotted. As to why 'they' would be interested in us, I don't know. Probably the real answer is something that hasn't been theorised yet, something we wouldn't even understand. There's a whole history behind it that's very removed from us, probably. But I'm always optimistic about it, no matter what people are saying: it's a fantastic topic! You start thinking about it and then you start thinking about that old topic of the vastness of space and eternity – all those things that boggle the mind. When I talk about it, that's when I'm most reverend to it all. 'If that guy saw one, shit they might be everywhere!'"

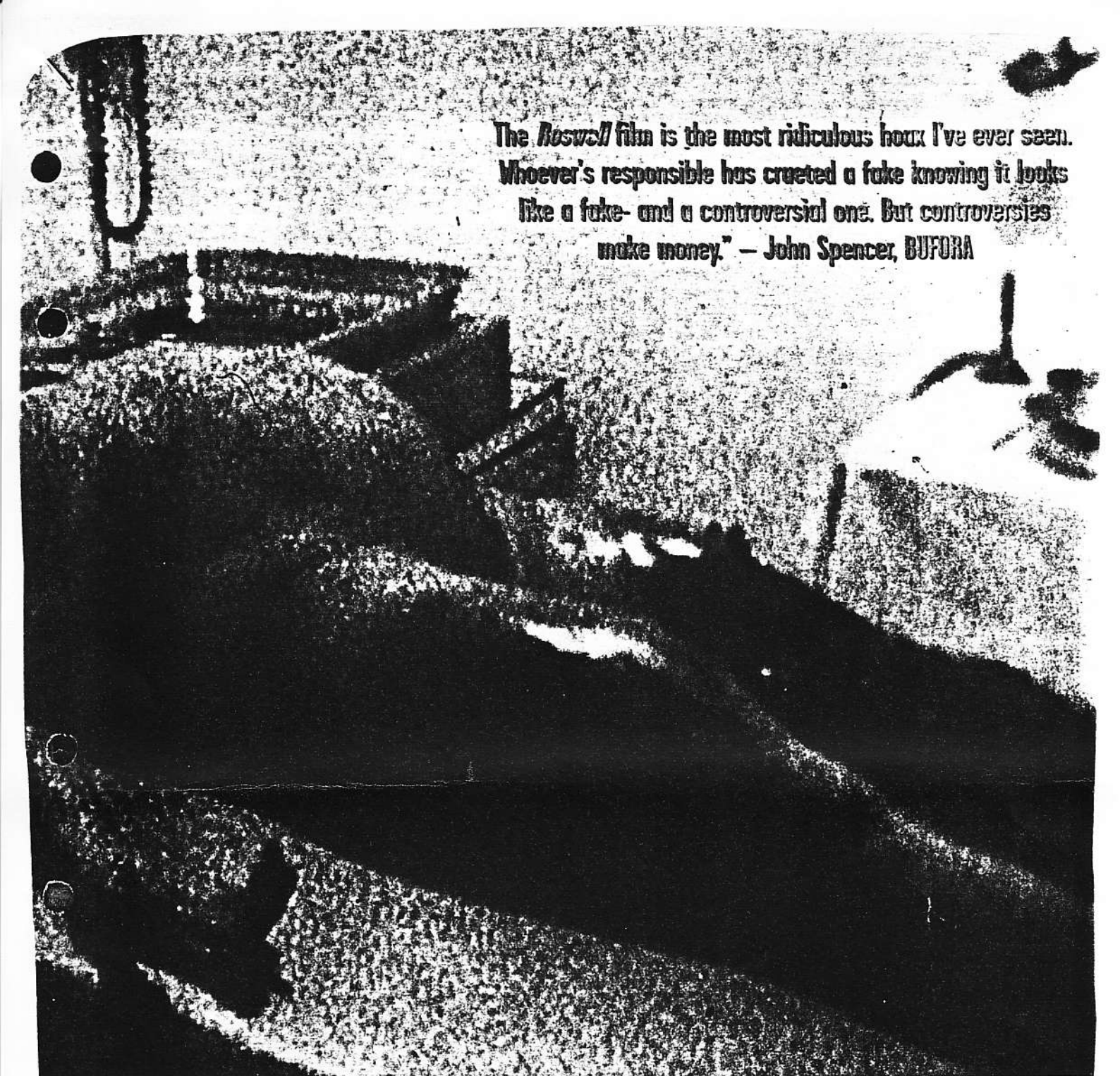


The Roswell 'alien': a lumpy space cowboy or a space blob of...

yes – you might not realise it yet – but someone you know believes in UFOs.

IT'S EASY TO LAUGH AT THE UFO PHENOMENON and the subculture that surrounds it. Anyone bringing it up in conversation can always be guaranteed a sly smirk and a giggle. It's childishly easy to ridicule the reports of interplanetary goblin-*Monk* and *Mindy*-style egg-shaped spaceship and all the other preposterous tales, but that's no reason not to do it anyway.

A random selection of UFO hilarity includes the story of one Truman Bethurum, whose 1956 book *Aboard A Flying Saucer* tells how he met some aliens when he was laying asphalt in the California desert. They arrived in a spaceship from Clarion, a secret planet hidden behind the moon, and their captain was the female Aur Rhanes, who spoke perfect English and was, said Truman, "tops in shapeliness and beauty". These aliens could pass as humans, so much so that att-



The *Roswell* film is the most ridiculous hoax I've ever seen. Whoever's responsible has created a fake knowing it looks like a fake- and a controversial one. But controversies make money." — John Spencer, BUFORA

his initial contact, Truman saw the gorgeous Aura in a restaurant sipping orange juice. But she ignored him. Ha. That's a good one.

Then there's the theory about how after the Roswell Incident President Truman's government signed a treaty with the aliens. In exchange for their technological tips, Truman agreed to provide the hungry extraterrestrials with humans to eat and experiment upon. Eventually realising that we'd have to be told about this cunning ruse sooner or later, in the 70s the US government employed young Steven Spielberg to make films about friendly aliens to soften us up for the truth. Thus, you see, *Close Encounters* and *ET*. Obvious, isn't it? And if that's not enough, there's always the Aetherius Society, a religious cult based in Fulham who worship UFOs on the basis that Jesus Christ is an alien who came to Earth in a spaceship to save us all.

There are hundreds of similar bits of stupidity just lying around waiting to be picked up by the

eager armchair satirist. And it's safer to laugh, isn't it? Because, after all, if any of this stuff about unexplained aerial sightings and mysterious entities from other dimensions was taken seriously... well, that *would* be a bit frightening, wouldn't it?

THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE IS ONE OF THE British Government's more intimidating buildings. It's part of the vast, blank 19th century edifice of Whitehall, extending between Trafalgar Square and Westminster. At the top of the huge white marble steps, a pseudo-classical portal dwarfs you as you enter the South Door. Inside, you are met by four security guards and two *Star Trek* style transparent airlock doors. It is not an inviting place.

"If you think that," says Nick Pope, appearing from nowhere, "you should see the North Door."

Nick Pope has worked at the MoD for ten years. These days, he works "in financial policy", with the rank of Higher Executive Officer — the

equivalent of a Major in the Army. But between 1991 and 1994 he worked at The Secretariat (Air Staff) 2(a) — an office buried somewhere in the high-security rabbit warren over our heads. It's from there that the Government collates and investigates all UFO sightings in the British Isles.

Pope is a small, neat man wearing glasses and a blue pinstripe suit. He's friendly and polite, but slightly skittish, and hurries us away from the MOD like someone afraid of being caught doing something he shouldn't. In the bar of a Charing Cross hotel, he sips at a pint of lager and explains that he's got something of a reputation at the Ministry. When he took the job, he didn't know what to make of the whole UFO thing. He had an open mind, but was neither believer nor sceptic. But the more he investigated, the more he believed something strange was going on. And after a while, people at work began looking at him oddly. By his third year in the Secretariat, people were whistling the theme from *Close Encounters* when



'UFOs' photographed in Brazil turned out to be bizarre cloud formations.

they passed him in corridors.

"You know *The X-Files*?" he asks. "Well, my nickname in the department was 'Spooky'."

NICK'S SIMILARITIES TO THE FBI'S MOST FAMOUS fictional operative extend beyond an interest in the paranormal. He is a clever, rigorous individual clearly not given to credulous flights of fancy. His job at the Secretariat was to examine UFO sightings, to establish whether there was any evidence of a threat to the security of the United Kingdom. The RAF – like air forces world wide – take UFOs very seriously for a good reason. Anything that can turn up unannounced in British airspace and evade interception indicates that's something's amiss with the country's air defence.

It was only the face I was aware of: it had very big dark eyes, two dots for a nose and a line for a mouth. It was dull and grey, like a black and white photograph. I wasn't frightened..."

The classification of a UFO has nothing to do with flying saucers, but literally indicates an unidentified flying object – whether it's from Uranus or the Ukraine. So the Ministry's official position is that it investigates UFO sightings only up to the point necessary to establish whether they're a threat or not. But how far you need to go to do this is a grey area: in most cases, Pope would gather as much information as possible.

There are far more of these sightings than you might think. There were, for instance, 258 sightings reported to the MOD in 1993 – referred there from police stations, military bases or civil airports, all of which have a specific UFO form to fill in. By checking up on military exercises, airship schedules and the like, Pope could establish that around 95 per cent of such sightings have reasonable explanations – aircraft lights, meteorites, satellites, weather balloons, lasers from gigs

reflecting off clouds. But of the remaining five per cent, after he'd impounded radar tapes, questioned witnesses and made his usual checks, all he could do was keep an open mind. "Object Unexplained," say the files, in true 'Spooky' Mulder style. "Case Closed."

A statistical analysis Pope has seen estimates that since 1947, 13 million people worldwide have seen a UFO. Applying the five per cent figure to those 13 million sightings, that makes over half a million unexplained objects.

"This is not just what UFO groups say. This is what the world of officialdom says. And that," says Pope levelly, "is quite something."

THE MODERN UFO PHENOMENON REALLY GOT going in earnest on Tuesday, June 24, 1947. At 3pm, private pilot Kenneth Arnold was flying over Washington State. Searching for the wreckage of a crashed plane for which a reward had been offered, he saw nine disc-shaped objects flying over the Cascade Mountains. He said later that they moved "like a saucer would if you skipped it across water". As the story was sent out across the Associated Press wires, a headline writer seized on this description to coin the term 'flying saucer'.

In the months that followed, similar reports started coming in from all over the United States. There has barely been any let up since.

Although initially explained away by US sceptics as a strictly American phenomenon brought on in the aftermath of 'war nerves', UFO sightings spread throughout the world: those in Britain included RAF sightings and celebrated cases like that of 14-year-old Stephen Darbishire photographing a UFO in Coniston.

In America, the government became sufficiently concerned to establish Project Blue Book to investigate the phenomenon.

In 1952, Californian George Adamski claimed to have made contact with Venusians; other contactees emerged in his wake. Back in the '50s, contact with aliens was, more often than not, a chummy affair. Affable ETs took their human guests on interstellar pleasure trips – and imparted dire prophecies about how we were destroying the Earth with atomic research and pollution. Hardened UFO fans regarded the stories of

Talkin' 'bout my constellation

Four people who've had closer encounters than most share their experiences. Meet the Investigator, the Abductee, the Psychologist and the Real 'Spooky' Mulder



THE INVESTIGATOR

JOHN SPENCER is President of the British UFO Research Association. With his wife Anne, he also investigates paranormal phenomena. They

find a rational explanation for most things.

Why draw a distinction between 'lights in the sky' and close encounters?

"Most close encounters are witnessed only by one person. There are very few documented cases of more – but even then rarely more than two of the witnesses have the same experience. But the average number of witnesses for distant sightings is two – including a lot of sightings of 40-50 people who all see the same thing."

Does it disappoint you that you can find explanations for so many objects?

"No. I want to investigate these things. I don't want to deal in fantasy. I'd love it if it was aliens – I'd want to be the first to meet them. But I don't want to believe it's aliens if it's not."

What's the most ridiculous hoax?

"Roswell. Whoever is responsible for that film has created a fake knowing it looks like a fake – and a controversial one. And controversies always make money."

What's the difference between American and British UFOlogy?

"The American way with abductees is: get them on a bed, get them under hypnosis, get the story of the alien out, get it in the book."

You don't approve?

"I fear that researchers and hypnotists are letting their own experience and beliefs bleed into witnesses, giving them false memories."

THE ABDUCTEE



ROWAN HINTON lives in South London. She saw her first UFO at 16. Soon after she was telepathically contacted by an alien intelligence. She was abducted a year later and has since had similar experiences.

Is there a history of these close encounters in your family?

"Yes on my mother's side. My Uncle Chris had regression with (*American abductee guru*) Bud Hopkins. Before regression he had conscious recall of when he saw a craft land and had telepathic communication with it. My mother has had experiences."

How does it affect your life?

"Life goes on. This is something that happens outside my normal life. I'm not going to let it take over my life."

Doesn't it bother you that things have happened to you that you can't recall?

"Yeah – although I want to know that it's real. I want to *really* know that. But it might be so awful that I'll never go to sleep again."

So what do you think these things are?

"I find it difficult to say anything definite, but my gut feeling is that they're extraterrestrials."

And what are they up to?

"I think they're trying to help us. I don't think they're bad."

such contactees with suspicion—as the tall tales of profiteering hucksters with a warehouseful of books to sell. The concept of ‘abductions’ did not emerge until 1964.

It was then that New Hampshire couple Barney and Betty Hill sought psychiatric help for something that had happened to them in 1961. Driving home late at night, they saw a strange light which seemed to be a structured craft. On arriving home, they found their journey had taken two hours longer than it should’ve done. In 1964, under regression, they both recalled being subjected to medical examinations aboard an alien spacecraft. They had suffered from bad dreams and other problems ever since their abduction, and their story was not only compelling in itself, but corroborated by radar traces from a USAF base near the site of the alleged contact.

Immediately after this, and the publication of a 1967 book, *The Interrupted Journey*, similar experiences were reported from all over the United States and the rest of the world. By the early ’70s, UFOs had generated a hardened subculture of scientists, enthusiasts, researchers and babbling freaks. By the time novelist Whitley Strieber published his hugely successful book about his abduction, *Communion*, in 1987, the common details about such incidents had become established factoids the world over.

The common-or-garden interplanetary visitor is the ‘small grey’: a four-foot humanoid being with spindly arms and legs, a flat, grey skin, a disproportionately large, bald head, large, black

almond-shaped eyes, two holes for a nose and a slot-like mouth. Abductions take place in the early hours of the morning, when they take humans into their craft, often to conduct medical experiments or examinations. There is much talk of a genetic programme, breeding alien-human children. There have been reports of women who have become pregnant after abductions, only to have the foetuses disappear from their bodies after

“The official position of the Ministry of Defence is that to date there has been no evidence of the existence of extraterrestrial life.”

further contact a few months later. Abductees know they’ve been taken because they experience periods of unaccounted for ‘missing time’, and can only recall the events under hypnosis.

A recent poll maintains that two per cent of the American population – more than 500,000 people – have had abduction experiences.

JOHN SPENCER’S HOUSE IS WAY OUT IN THE WELLSHEELED commuterland of Hertfordshire. He lives on a cosy Neighbourhood Watch-secured, mock Elizabethan-timbered crescent in Harpenden,

with his wife Anne and their two daughters. He is a pleasant, cheerful man who welcomes you in his home and sits you on his leather sofa.

“You can,” he says with well-practised assurance, “break the UFO phenomenon into at least two sections: one is the distant lights and objects in the sky; the other is the close encounters at the abductions, the meetings with aliens.

“They’re linked together by implication: they’re up in the sky flying about, they must land and do things. Or, if they’ve landed and done things, then they must have been those lights up in the sky flying around. In fact, throughout years of research, there isn’t a single authoritative case where something was seen in the sky then landed and did something. There’s a lot of dodgy American claims but, frankly, they don’t hold water. So you’ve probably got two totally different phenomena.”

John is the President of the British UFO Research Association. BUFORA was set up in 1959 with the aim of conducting unbiased scientific research into UFOs. It currently has about 1,000 members, of whom 50-60 are active investigators, constantly travelling the country investigating UFO reports. The MOD and police pass cases on to them to look into. BUFORA is affiliated to similar groups all over the world. The organisation has no party line, its members all hold differing views about unexplained objects in the sky.

By day, John Spencer runs a management training business. At night, and the weekends

works for BUFORA. As well as the eleven books he’s written on UFOs and paranormal phenomena, he’s also responsible for *Self Employed: What It Really Means and How To Get The Most From Your Accountant*. He has never seen a flying saucer in his life.

THE BUFORA APPROACH IS AS SCIENTIFIC as it can be in an area not conventionally recognised as worthy of scientific research. The organisation isn’t mentioned much in the press simply because, if a tabloid calls someone like Spencer for a quote about a mysterious light in the sky, he’s likely to explain it in terms of something readily understood – the bright disc of the planet Venus, for example.

“They’d much rather hear from someone who’ll say, Well, it was probably an incoming spaceship from Mars.”

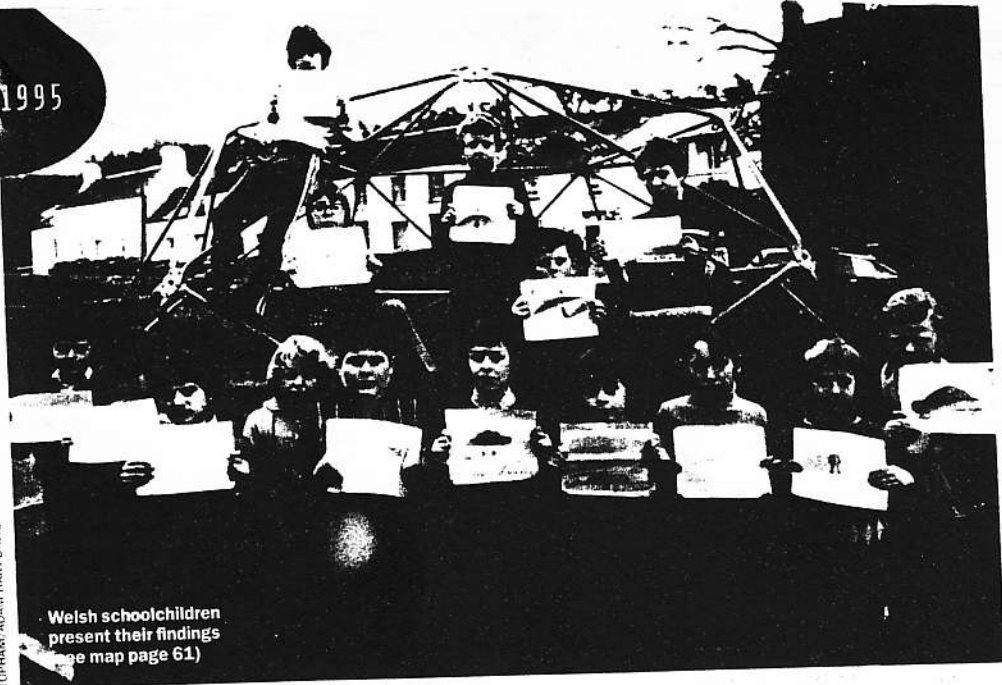
Spencer is more than happy to admit to seeing his share of strange things. He and his wife have spent years investigating paranormal activity. And although much of what they see has a rational explanation other phenomena they can’t account for. Poltergeists bother him. And ‘porting’, where everyday objects can appear out of thin air. He and Anne had a stigmatic live in their house for a while, and watching a woman sit on their leather sofa and spontaneously bleed from the palms of her hands on a regular basis has left an impression on him. He believes strongly that the human mind is capable of many things we

don’t yet understand. He just isn’t convinced that Earth is a popular Awayday destination for alien beings.

It’s a view backed by psychologists who have researched the abduction phenomenon. Sue Blackmore, from the University Of The West Of England a parapsychologist who has interviewed many abductees, maintains that most abduction experiences are the result of sleep paralysis and disorders of the brain’s temporal lobe. Both things affect people who are mentally stable. Both happen on the borderlines of sleep. Both will account for feelings of flying, hallucination, a sense of presence in a room when nothing’s there. And, importantly, feelings of being manipulated by unseen hands.

Sleep paralysis – where the automatic mechanism which shuts down your movement to prevent you injuring yourself during dreaming, and which continues when you regain consciousness – is explained by different myths all over the world. In Newfoundland, it’s The Hag. In Laos, the Grey Ghosts. Temporal lobe disorder can seize you with all the horrifying reality-twisting conviction of an acid trip. Neither syndrome feels like a dream, and spontaneously waking in the middle of the night gripped by such powerful hallucinations, you reach for your most immediate cultural reference point: aliens. ■





Welsh schoolchildren present their findings (see map page 61)

TOPHAM, ADAM, HART DAVIS

"Sometimes it feels more real than ordinary reality," says Blackmore. "But the fact that it feels real doesn't prove it's out there - it just proves that it's entirely taken over your brain at the time, and it's the best reality you've got. And that's the problem. In our culture we don't respect other realities at all. By saying that they're created by your brain, it's like saying they're unimportant or uninteresting. I'd say they're hallucinations created by the brain. And they're very interesting. Of course they feel real: but all our realities are created by the brain anyway."

FOR ENTIRELY DIFFERENT REASONS, JOHN SPENCER believes close encounters are merely the latest cultural contextualisation of meetings with strange entities that have cropped up throughout human history: tales of abductions by fairy folk, or appearances by the incubus and succubus, were regulars for hundreds of years before the 'Small Grey' came along. Similar things are seen by tribesmen in Africa, but they'll tell you they've just seen the ghosts of their ancestors.

"I do believe there are real experiences people have, but I suspect that it's a natural, unintelligent energy that we simply haven't got to grips with yet. A lot of what we think is happening is down to cultural expectations: people see lights in the

sky which everyone keeps saying are spacecraft. So if you see a 'Grey' in your garden, you think, Oh! I've seen an alien! But if you see the same thing in the dungeons of Dover Castle, then you've seen a ghost. There's a lot of colouring-in."

To illustrate this point about people's perceptions, he once did a live experiment on daytime TV. Just before the broadcast, a picture of a 'typical' saucer-shaped UFO was flashed up unannounced on the studio monitors. When it had gone, he told the 60 people in the audience they'd just had a spontaneous UFO sighting, and asked them to draw what they had seen.

"We got," he says with some satisfaction, "60 totally different pictures."

WHATEVER PEOPLE MAY THINK THEY'RE SEEING, they're certainly seeing something. In 1981, hundreds of witnesses saw different shaped objects and groups of lights in the Hessdalen Valley in Norway. A research project was set up by Scandinavian UFO groups. In 1983, they took radar, seismographs, geiger counters, spectrum analysers and lasers - as well as still and video cameras - to the valley, and recorded a phenomenon of lights and illuminated 'objects' in the sky. They may or may not have moved interactively with the witnesses. They were not a hallu-

THE UFO AGNOSTIC: A GUY CALLED GERALD

The acid house kingpin turned Goldie-inspiring breakbeat Generalissimo speaks out.

"Looking at a picture of the universe - when we're the size of a crumb - and saying, 'We're the only possible civilisation' is a medieval way of thinking. There's definitely intelligent life elsewhere in the galaxy. It could even be in a different dimension. We've all come from the same explosion within our solar system, so the materials on the earth must be on other planets too. Even if those materials are in a different environment with different temperatures it's gonna work in new ways. But it's still life. It was at school, learning

about stars that got me interested. Stars that exploded 5,000 years ago and we're still getting light from them. *Star Wars* as well - that was so radical for its time. Keeping your mind open to new ideas means you produce things different from the norm. I've worked with people who've said, 'You can't use a frequency that low 'cos you won't be able to hear it' - but you'd be able to feel it. *The X-Files* is wicked; all these things get you wondering. "I believe Roswell was real but that it was covered up. There's always conspiracies to cover anything like that up - especially in America. If it got out that we're not on our own the whole of history would be changed. The religions have all

got their own creation stories, and churches being the biggest businesses in the world...can you imagine someone landing and saying 'You were created the same way as us and there is no God?' The business crashes. And they'd be interested in us for the same reason we'd be interested in them - as another life form. "We think we're so intelligent, but maybe we're not. They're probably studying us and wondering what we're doing to ourselves... digging ourselves into a deep hole. Part of what we are is really destructive. We Are Not Alone!"



THE REAL 'SPOOKY' MULDER

Between 1991 and '94, NICK POPE co-ordinated the MoD's investigation of UFO reports. He began a sceptic, but now believes in extraterrestrials.

His book, *Open Skies, Closed Minds*, will be published by Simon and Schuster next year.

Were you interested in UFOs before the job? "Not really. I'd read a couple of articles and seen some things on TV, but I didn't have any active interest or knowledge."

Did you try and convince your superiors at the MoD of the existence of extraterrestrials?

"Where there was a convincing case, like evidence of a structured craft operating in the UK Air Defence Region. I'd make my bosses aware of it. But by then I would've already made all of the checks. So when I said, 'Look at this they'd say, 'It's very interesting but there's really nothing further we can do'. It may alert people higher up to the fact that there are things we can't explain, but it doesn't give us a handle on finding out what they are."

What kind of people called to report things?

"Police officers, military, civil pilots, plumb housewives, unemployed people, farmers anyone and everyone. A cross-section of the population. Ordinary people like you and me."

Are you aware of any secret government organisation investigating UFOs?

"As far as I'm concerned, in the UK there cover up. I can say that because I was there."

Have you ever seen a UFO?

"No, unfortunately not. It would be very interesting to but I haven't."

THE PSYCHOLOGIST



DR SUSAN BLACKMORE became interested in altered states of consciousness having out-of-body experiences as a

student. Last year, she presented a programme on the abduction phenomenon.

Have you ever seen a UFO?

"I thought I did when I was little. I was convinced. I've no idea now what it was. It looked like a white, glowing saucer. But there have so many possible explanations it might have been, and no way of checking."

What do you think of the apparent psi manifestations of alien encounters?

"Give me some solid proof. My feelings never get stuck in there and try and imitate one of these things, then it disappears."

Have you ever come across a ridiculous claim?

"No. Most of the things I come across are from people who genuinely believe they've had an inexplicable experience."

What's your favourite abduction story?

"A mother with two kids who gives descriptions of having several half-siblings that have grown in her for a while and taken out. And she regularly goes to play with all the children, including alien offspring. And she nurtures them, gives them the love they don't get from horrid aliens, and takes her own children there to play with them - it's a regular whole family."

Have you dealt with any cases that you can't readily explain?

"Yes. Multiple abductions where the person claims to have been taken away. I have not yet come across one where it's so watertight I think. I haven't gone out of my way to seriously investigate them."

ination. But neither were they readily explicable. "I think," says Spencer, "that this tells us what UFOs really are. There was no great evidence of intelligence there, so it seems they were probably a natural light, a form of energy which is in the atmosphere – is spontaneous, rare, and interactive with people so that if it's near you get crackles of electricity."

"In Hessdalen, this happened for three years, and they were mysterious, there was no doubt about that. They're not the kind of thing you find knocking down the street. But there was never any evidence that these things were intelligent, or structured vehicles."

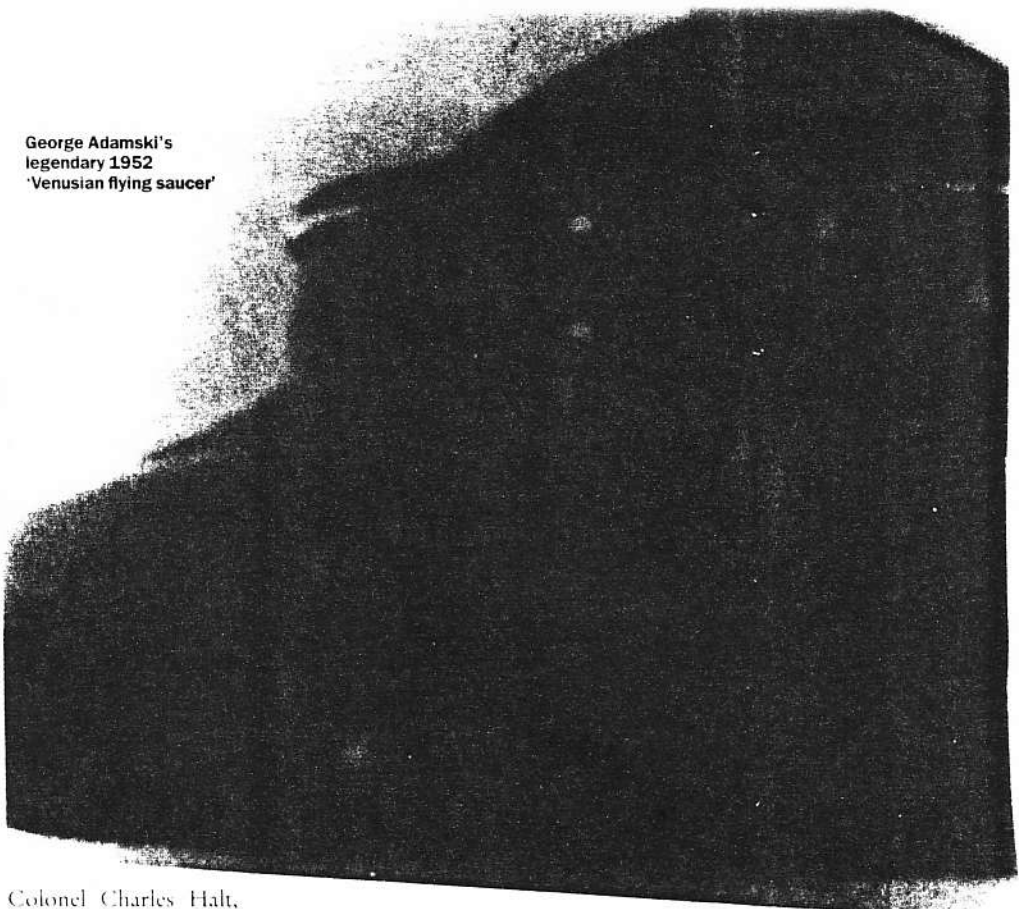
And this is the thing: of all the millions of sightings of strange things in the sky, very few are genuinely inexplicable. And among those few, authoritative evidence of "structured vehicles" – extraterrestrial spaceships to you and me – is very rare. But it does exist.

"THE OFFICIAL POSITION OF THE MINISTRY OF Defence," says Nick Pope, "is that to date there has been no evidence of the existence of extraterrestrial life. My personal view, knowing what I now know, is that some – a very few – of these things that people see and commonly call UFOs, may well be extraterrestrial in origin."

There are several things that make him think this way. The first is the infamous Rendlesham Forest incident. This is an article of faith among UFO conspiracy theorists who believe the government isn't telling all they know about alien contact: they protested outside Parliament about it at the beginning of October this year.

Rendlesham is a wooded area behind the RAF and USAF base at Woodbridge, in Suffolk. At around 3am on December 27, 1980, two USAF security policemen from RAF/USAF Woodbridge saw unusual lights outside the back gate of the base. The deputy base commander, Lieutenant

George Adamski's legendary 1952 'Venusian flying saucer'



Colonel Charles Halt, later filed a report to the Ministry of Defence, about what happened next:

"Thinking an aircraft might have crashed or been forced down," it states, "they called for permission to go outside to investigate. The on-duty flight chief responded and allowed three patrolmen to proceed on foot. The individuals reported seeing a strange glowing object in the forest. The object was described as being metallic in appearance and triangular in shape, approximately two to three meters across the base, and approximately two meters high. It illuminated the entire forest with a white light. The object itself had a pulsing

red light on top and a bank of blue lights underneath. The object was hovering or on legs. As the patrolmen approached the object, it manoeuvred through the trees and disappeared. At this time the animals on a nearby farm went into a frenzy. The object was briefly sighted approximately an hour later near the back gate."

The following day, three depressions and abnormal radiation readings were found on the ground at the site. That night, further lights were seen in the sky near the base for several hours.

Another contact was a 'flying triangle' of lights detected on radar by the Belgian airforce in 1990: "They scrambled two F-16 fighter interceptors onto this 'flying triangle'. The F-16s picked it up on their airborne radar, they locked on with their radar, seven or eight times. Each time they locked on the lock was broken. When the radar tapes were subsequently analysed it became clear that the object had been moving at speeds between a virtual standstill and about 5,000mph."

An F-16 fighter interceptor has a maximum speed of 1,650mph. Any aircraft capable of an instantaneous acceleration from 0 to 5,000mph would also kill any human occupant.

"The corporate view of the Belgian airforce is: it was real, it was unidentified, and we're sure as hell glad it wasn't unfriendly."

ABOVE ALL, IN 1993, DURING POPE'S TENURE AT the Secretariat (Air Staff) 2(a), there was one particular wave of British sightings that particularly bothered him.

"Dozens of people saw something – always very late at night, so there were a lot of police and military witnesses, trained observers. People who do night patrols obviously see all sorts of meteorological and astronomical effects in the sky and tend not to make the misidentifications that you or I might make."

What they saw was a huge, triangular-

THE UFO TROUPER: REG PRESLEY

Erstwhile Trogg who wrote 'Wild Thing' (hooray!) and 'Love Is All Around', (oops!).

"The crop circles have told us something strange is going on. It's about time we unearthed the Roswell business and the government had the guts to admit what happened. And I'm not so sure they're even coming from another planet. I think they're coming through another dimension.

"I got interested in 1990. I went into a crop formation and I thought, 'If no-one hoaxed this how the hell did it get here? From then on I filmed a UFO in 1992, and a year later I saw two much better objects. I was looking across this valley with five others, when an elliptical object about the size of a squashed moon shot underneath the cloud level making no noise, whipping

through somewhere around the thousand-mile an hour mark. Shortly after, a light came on in the sky, turquoise in colour, and from that turquoise light a white light grew from that and lit up all the hills that we were stood on. That is impossible. How can you get slow light? We just said 'What the fuck was that?' I've a sneaky feeling that they're coming from our future. That would be a turn-up for the books if those little aliens are what we're going to look like?"

"All the Ancients' prophecies except one all end in 2001. I've a feeling that it's not the end of the human race but the start of a new era. I believe we're reaching an age where the

governments cannot govern. Law and order isn't going to exist much longer if we carry on with the way we run the planet.

"There's a body of people who know what's going on, and I think the Church has got something to do with it. In the Vatican they know everything; all the pagan rites they stamped out weren't evil, and my theory is that 666 isn't the sign of the devil but the answer to our problem for free energy, and I'm going to try

and prove it... And isn't it strange that if you add up the number of each letter in Wet Wet Wet – 23rd letter, 2-3=5, times 3=15, 1+5=6, and do it with all the letters you get 666? I'm not superstitious but I don't believe in coincidences! There's a reason for all this..."



'UFO' TERROR ON LATE-NIGHT DRIVE

TWO friends were terrorised recently as they travelled in a car late at night by what they are sure were UFOs.

The Glenrothes men were driving on a quiet stretch of dual-carriageway when they saw what they thought was another car heading towards them the wrong way.

Mystery

But their initial fear of a crash turned to amazement when they realised that the "headlights" were actually two independent balls of light which raced straight at them before zooming over the top of the car.

When they stopped, they saw more flashing

lights and another motorist running, as if in panic, from his car.

This astonishing case, from late October, is just the latest being probed by top UFO investigator Malcolm Robinson, who's just had his busiest ever year.

Malcolm has found himself at the heart of the biggest mystery of the UFO world, the Bonnybridge Triangle.

The quiet Central Scotland town and surrounding area is the world's top "hotspot" for mysterious sky sightings.

Alien encounters on the decline

IS ANYBODY out there? Not anymore it seems.

Visitors from other planets seem to have given up on visiting the Westcountry, according to local UFO expert Doug Cooper.

Mr Cooper normally receives around 100 calls each year from people who have spotted strange objects in the sky.

But this year he says the reports are down to 15 — and 13 of those have turned out to have perfectly logical explanations.

Honiton-based Mr Cooper said: "It's quite incredible really, especially as last year was so busy."

He said part of the reason could be that the planets Venus and Saturn were no longer in our hemisphere.

The two unusually bright planets could sometimes be mistaken for UFOs if they were spotted while rising or setting.

But ex-serviceman Mr Cooper believes the aliens may also have been frightened off since US space probes recently discovered strange objects on the planet Mars.

He claims the discoveries are being kept under wraps because they would "blow the lid off the book of Genesis".

"The probes sent back pictures of a two-mile long rock sculpture of a face," he said.

"From one side the face is that of a man and from the other it is a lion's — which is obviously linked with the Sphinx. There are also three features which are five-sided pyramids, along with the remains of an ancient city.

"The most incredible thing is that if we take the latitude and longitude of these finds and superimpose it on Earth, they coincide directly with the position of Egypt."

Mr Cooper says around 90 per

cent of all "UFO sightings" can usually be discounted.

"Most of the time they are satellites, or planets which appear unusual to people unaccustomed to looking at the skies," he said.

"We have also been having problems with all the night-time laser shows which are very popular now."

Mr Cooper is keen to find out what is going on and why the sightings have dropped off so suddenly.

If you have seen anything unusual in the skies please give him a call on (01823) 270218.

EXETER EXPRESS & ECHO
09 DEC 95

THE WEEKLY NEWS (SCOTLAND)

16 DEC 95

BY SUE TILEY

MYSTERY surrounds scores of sightings of bright lights over Northamptonshire.

Vast rays, moving in methodical patterns, stunned people out and about in the early hours yesterday.

One 41-year-old woman from Grafton Underwood saw the lights as she walked her dog in the garden just after midnight.

She said: "It was a series of lights turning to the left and to the right. About a quarter of the sky was lit up.

"I don't particularly believe in UFOs but I stood there in amazement and my dog didn't move for half-an-hour."

The stunned resident woke her



husband to confirm the sighting and even looked in Yellow Pages under UFOs to see if she could contact an interested society about the phenomenon.

But she had no luck and was among several residents who called the ET to report the sighting.

There were also reports of the strange

lights from the Lodge Park estate and the Old Village in Corby.

The Evening Telegraph contacted The Works nightclub in Occupation Road, Corby, which has just installed a new laser machine on its roof.

But a club spokesman said: "The club was open on Thursday night but the laser wasn't switched on. We only had the normal nightclub lights on."

There was also a massive laser show at Newmarket Race Course, on the Cambridgeshire and Suffolk border, on Thursday night.

But a Cambridgeshire police spokesman said: "Several people in this area called us to say there were some strange lights but I'd be surprised if they travelled as far as Northamptonshire."

Did you see the lights? If you can help, please call our newsdesk on 01536 81111 extension 6036.

KETTERING EVENING TELEGRAPH

16 DEC 95

The aliens have landed?



The Discovery Channel zooms into orbit with a documentary about UFO visitations, sightings and abductions from around the globe with many quotes from prominent eyewitnesses such as the CIA and astronauts.

A Soviet astronaut says

if he was free to tell of his space experiences the world would be astounded.

One woman tells how she was taken to the moon during an alien abduction and former CIA agent Virgil Armstrong says "Some (aliens) are 12ft tall, seven foot tall and three

foot tall. The appearance they give to us is to present themselves in a form that's not so frightening. If they took off their masks they could scare us to death."

TOBY GRANVILLE

CLOSE ENCOUNTERS: VISITORS FROM SPACE, Monday, 9.00pm, The Discovery Channel

BARKING & DAGENHAM RECORDER

14 DEC 95

ALPHABETICAL

Was it a close encounter in Coniston or an abduction in Abingdon? Find out with Select's cut-out-and-keep, saucer-by-saucer guide to every major UFO sighting in Britain in the past 50 years...

Beauybridge, Central Region, Scotland, 1989
A firecrew attending a blaze near the village of Beauybridge see a small red hovering object, and then a second white object which rushes toward them and executes a 90-degree turn at the last moment. It is the first of many sightings of strange, apparently intelligent controlled lights in the sky which intensified in 1992 and continue to the present day.

Harrogate, North Yorks, Aug 17, 1972
Peter Taylor and his wife Sandra are driving through the Yorkshire Dales at 70 mph on the evening when their car also falls into a ditch. Shortly after, they see a disc-shaped object, 300 ft high and 600 ft long, in the side of the road. A blue-red glow appears on the side of the object, and Sandra is drawn towards it. Peter tries to drag her back. A year later, Peter is driving alone when the object returns and he suddenly finds himself driving on a different road miles away.

RAF Topcliffe, Sept 1952
Eight US Air Force pilots and four other RAF personnel see a silver disc-shaped UFO following a Meteor jet toward RAF Dishforth, Yorks.

Tadcaster, Lancs, Nov 29, 1980
In the early hours of the morning, PC Alan Godwin sees what he thinks is a bus stopped at a junction across the road. Close up, he sees a UFO hovering in the air. The next day he tells the police radio that he saw a UFO following a Meteor jet toward RAF Dishforth, Yorks.

Livingston, West Lothian, Scotland, Nov 9, 1979
Frederick Blyth takes his dog for a walk in a park in Livingston near the M20. Two smaller saucer-shaped objects come from behind him within the object, and across the ground. It is taken by the dog and the object is recovered by a young boy. Blyth is shocked and blacked out. Later, a young girl sees the object. Blyth is a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings. He is a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings. He is a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings.

Boe Estuary, July 12, 1981
Keith Daniel and a friend, camping with a group of children, see a bright light in the sky at two in the morning that changes colour and then moves away rapidly. The sighting is corroborated by a Dan Air crew flying overhead at the time.

Little Houghton, Northamptonshire, Feb 1983
Peter Rickman is driving his car on the road at night when he sees a bright light in the sky. He starts to investigate when he sees a disc-shaped object in the sky. He is a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings. He is a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings.

Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk, Dec 26, 1980
A security policeman in RAF USAF Base sees a bright light in the forest. Three policemen sent to investigate see a saucer-shaped object in the sky.

Coniston, Cumbria, Feb 15, 1954
Fourteen-year-old Stephen Darnsme and his young brother see a saucer-shaped object in the sky. The object is described as the Old Man of Coniston. They take two pictures of something that resembles the 'venusian' UFO photographed by George Adamski over Palmair Gardens, Calif. in Dec. 52.

Skipton, Yorks, Jan 1978
PC Alan Dale and sergeant Tony Wood see a slow moving, brightly lit object land in a park, W102.

Frodsham, Cheshire, Jan 1978
Four men on the banks of the river Weaver see a silver, balloon-shaped object land in a nearby field, from which beings emerge, paralyse a cow and place it in a cage. The men run off. One of them later develops marks on his leg similar to sunburn.

Shrewsbury, Shropshire, July 1981
Rosemary Hopkins, 40, Howard and Adele Walters, are driving home on the night when they see a disc-shaped object showing red and white lights passing them. The object falls from the sky and they attempt to get it, but then the lights dim and they are unable to drive normally. They report the incident to the police. A 300-mile-long, narrow, dark, oval-shaped object, approximately 100 ft long, is found in a field near the Walters' house. The object is found in a field near the Walters' house.

Marrington, Cheshire, March 1978
Kern Edwards sees an entity cross the road in front of his van, beaming rays that stop his watch, burn out equipment in the van and then fly off. He then disappears through the woods near an atomic energy research centre. He is a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings. He is a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings.

Willy Moor, West Yorks, Dec 1, 1987
While walking across the moor in the early morning, Linda Jackson, 40, of Hildesheim, meets a small, disc-shaped object which she describes as being a saucer. She is a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings. She is a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings.

Bayton, Herefordshire, Jan 1977
Twelve-year-old Robert sees a mysterious light in the garden of his house. His mother Barbara investigates and finds a tall, silver-suited figure. She seeks help from neighbours, who over the next few hours, attempt to confront the being with knives and broomssticks, to no avail. When two police officers arrive, the entity vanishes in front of them.

Llanerchymedd, Wales, Sept 1, 1978
A group of boys playing outside the village see what they think is a helicopter landing nearby. Close to them they see a bullet-shaped object which glows red. As other people from the village come out to investigate, they see two six-foot figures in grey, one-piece suits walking across the field. When the police arrive, the objects and the entities have disappeared.

Mossley, Ctr Moncs, Aug 1975
Alan Adams, 40, is surrounded by a thick ball of mist and he sees a large, glowing, egg-shaped object in the sky. The object is found in a field near the Walters' house.

Whipnade Zoo, Jan 1966
Ten-year-old Alan Butler and his friends are playing on Studham Common when they see a "little blue man with a tall hat and beard" who disappears in a puff of smoke. They report the incident to the police. A 300-mile-long, narrow, dark, oval-shaped object, approximately 100 ft long, is found in a field near the Walters' house.

Aylesbury, Jan 1973
Peter Gay films an orange ball of light about 2,000 ft in the air which disappears instantaneously. The object is also seen by staff and children at a nearby school.

RAFUSAF Bawtrea and Lakenheath, Suffolk, Aug 13, 1956
Three ground radar stations make contact with unknown objects over the two airbases, confirmed by aerial radar on an RAF jet from the base. The objects are seen in the sky. They are a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings. They are a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings.

Whitchurch, Shropshire, Sept 1, 1983
Billy Leary is on his way home from a friend's house when he sees a bright light in the sky. He is a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings. He is a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings.

Reading, Berks, Oct 1967
In the early hours of the morning, the electrical system of Mr W. Colet's Ford Transit minibus cuts out completely. He sees a dark, thin, disc-shaped object in the sky. The object is found in a field near the Walters' house.

Peole, Dorset, Sept 1977
Ethel May Field spots a grey saucer hovering over her garden, and sees two silver-suited beings watching her from inside. They fire a blue beam at her. When she runs indoors, the UFO disappears. Her hands are later found to be red and sore where she got them up to protect herself from the beam.

Aveley, Essex, Oct 27, 1974
Lynn and John Aves, are returning home from a friend's house when they see a bright light in the sky. They are a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings. They are a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings.

Haigne Downs, Dorset, Oct 26, 1967
Former RAF intelligence officer, EW Angus, Eborac is walking his dog in the early morning when he sees an object descend from the sky at incredible speed. The object is found in a field near the Walters' house.

Brizham, Devon, April 1967
Brian Jenkins and seven other RAF pilots see a disc-shaped object in the sky. They are a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings. They are a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings.

Marmston, Wiltshire, Dec 25, 1964
Several people are awoken in the early hours of the morning by a loud, humming and rattling noise on the roofs over their heads. Although it sounds as if trees are being torn off or nails being pounded down, when they investigate, nothing is amiss. It is the first of a series of unexplained noises and UFO sightings that will take place over the next few years.

Stonemore, Middlesex, April 1984
Several people witness a multi-colored UFO hovering over the ground near RAF Bentley Priory. Several police officers, including PC Richard Arnold, are called out to investigate. The object is found in a field near the Walters' house.

Withdean, Sussex, Feb 4, 1951
In the early hours, a pilot known only as 'Sheila' is flying a plane over the sea. He is a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings. He is a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings.

WHAT IT MEANS...

- SIGHTING** Unexplained lights or structured objects seen flying or landing.
- VISITATION** Physically non-human entities seen or encountered.
- ABDUCTION** Witnesses report missing time, communications by aliens, etc.

Plymouth, Devon, Sept 10, 1981
Loretta B. Frightened, she attempts to get inside but is paralysed by a green beam of light. Later examination of her hand shows a 250-degree burn. It takes several days to heal.

Aldershot, Aug 1983
Aldershot is a town in Hampshire. It is a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings. It is a member of the RAF and has a number of other sightings.

Breadlands, Hampshire, Feb 1955
Frederick Briggs sees stationary UFO and attendant being in the grounds of Lord Mountbatten's estate. A blue light paralyses Briggs before the being returns to the craft and takes off.

Bythe, Kent, Nov 1963
Teenager John Flinton and three friends see what they initially think is a star that later turns into some trees. A gold light appears in the field near them and moves with them. It disappears behind trees and a dark figure appears - black, roughly human-sized, with bat wings and no head. John and his friends leave as quickly as possible.

RAF West Malling, Kent, Nov 1953
RAF pilot Robert Ingham is on a training exercise when his Vampire fighter is one of two vectored in to intercept a UFO. The object is a bright, multi-colored and humming disc, 300 ft in diameter and approx 600 mph. As the plane approaches, the object flies off at high speed.

North Weald, Kent, 1952
RAF pilot Robert Ingham is on a training exercise when his Vampire fighter is one of two vectored in to intercept a UFO. The object is a bright, multi-colored and humming disc, 300 ft in diameter and approx 600 mph. As the plane approaches, the object flies off at high speed.