

BUFORA

UFO NEWSFILE

A PUBLICATION PRODUCED BY BUFORA July 1994 Issue No: 21. £1.50

I WAS interested to learn, from Monday's Guardian, of Steuart Campbell's theory that UFOs are nothing more than "astronomical mirages" caused by the distorting effect of the earth's atmosphere on light-waves from space. I hastened to telephone Admiral of the Fleet Lord Hill-Norton, a former chief of the defence staff, with this exciting news. He is a veteran UFO buff, who has hitherto refused to deny the existence of flying saucers until it is "publicly disproved".

So what does he make of Steuart Campbell's attempt at disproof? "I never see the Guardian," the old sea-dog growled, "and articles like that are why I'm glad I never see it... What he says is rubbish." Are you still a UFO believer yourself, then? "Yes I am."

So what's your theory? "Never mind what my theory is," his lordship harrumphed, before slamming the phone down.

Lobbyists want end to 'ET secrecy'

PEOPLE who believe in UFO's laid siege to the Houses of Parliament and Whitehall yesterday in a bid to reveal the truth about extra-terrestrials. North Yorkshire campaigner John Holman joined others lobbying the Government to acknowledge aliens in a demonstration mirrored at the Pentagon in Washington DC. Hundreds of leaflets were handed to MPs and Ministry of Defence officials putting the case of the Alien Acknowledgment Campaign.

Mr Holman, of Newton Gardens, Ripon, said they were trying to end the secrecy surrounding UFO sightings. He said there had been countless documented visual and radar contacts of UFOs. Military and civilian pilots world wide had spotted more than 3,500 unidentified flying objects.

Mr Holman said: "These points constitute only a small fraction of the currently available evidence which wholly suggests the presence of alien beings."

SIXTIES pop star Reg Presley, singer with The Troggs, will rake in a fortune after the revival of one of his old songs.

Wet Wet Wet's version of Love Is All Around is racing up the charts after it was featured in the hit film Four Weddings and a Funeral.

Reg, 51, of Andover, Hants, expects the song he penned at the height of his fame to top

the charts on both sides of the Atlantic.

"I could make up to a million. I don't need the money, but I'm very happy to have it," said Reg whose biggest hit was Wild Thing.

The UFO buff insists he will spend the fortune investigating crop circles.

"I think some are due to extra-terrestrials," he said.

Today 23.05.94

As it happens, I know what his theory is. Three years ago Hill-Norton contributed an admiring preface to Alien Liaison, a book which claimed that the US government had captured several "alien spacecraft and alien bodies" and was test-flying these UFOs at "a super-secret base in the Nevada desert", with the assistance of their extra-terrestrial pilots. The

book was, Hill-Norton wrote, "honest and reliable".

How reassuring to know that such loopiness need not prevent a man from taking supreme command of his nation's defence forces. If only Sir Peter Harding had fallen in love with a little green woman from Vulcan, rather than the ineffable Bienvenida Buck, he might still be in a job.

Guardian

UFO fever as blimp distracts drivers

DRIVERS on one of the country's busiest motorways could not believe their eyes when they spotted what looked like a UFO today.

It hovered over the M25 London orbital road and shone its light through the early-morning mist on the earthlings rushing to work near Reigate, Surrey.

Surrey Police were inundated with calls for two hours as the drivers left the motorway and headed for the nearest phone. It was only when a police patrol car rang Gatwick Airport that contact was made with the "aliens".

Finally, the bright light was turned off, to reveal an airship advertising tyres and carrying out a survey. A police spokesman said: "The last thing we need on the M25 is something distracting drivers."

Evening Chronicle 10.03.94

UFO enthusiasts are to get their own alternate-monthly magazine on the unknown beings from outer-space. The July-August issue will be on sale from June 30, priced £1.75, fully SoR and available from SM Distribution.

Retail Newsagent 28.05.94

BUFORA NEWSFILE Page 1

Couple highlights UFO riddle

Sightings of strange lights over Hardwick Wood have triggered off another north Derbyshire UFO mystery.

Jonathan and Charlotte Brown, of Meadowcroft, North Wingfield, are wondering if objects they have noticed for several months in the sky over the wood have also been spotted by other people.

Mr Brown said this week that he and his wife had seen the objects at various times after they had visited his parents' home in the wood.

He said the objects usually appeared on their own — appearing like little dots flashing red, blue and white, standing still and then darting about before disappearing.

But a few days ago they saw a strip of lights which were red and white and "like a pulsating beam."

"It was certainly very strange and pretty spooky. Whatever it was, we haven't got a clue, honestly," said Mr Brown, who added the objects were not aeroplanes.

Northern Echo 10.02.94

Little Green Men's signals reveal two new planets

Tim Radford
Science Editor

AMERICAN astronomers claim today to have irrefutable evidence of three new planets — the first ever to be discovered outside the solar system. The discovery once again raises questions about extraterrestrial life.

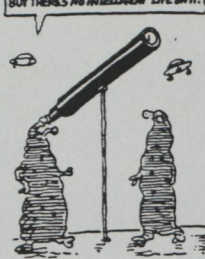
Some scientists have argued that there could be billions of planets, of which millions, or at least thousands, could be suitable for life. Until now, no one has positively identified another planet, let alone one fit for ET.

The new planets were found as Alexander Wolszczan of Pennsylvania state university was using a 305-metre radio-telescope in Puerto Rico to search for pulsars — immensely dense remains of burned-out stars which emit radio signals as they spin.

According to today's issue of the US Journal Science, something was wrong with the signals from one of them.

Austin

I'VE FOUND A PLANET CALLED EARTH, BUT THERE'S NO INTELLIGENT LIFE ON IT.



PSR B1257+12, in the constellation Virgo, 1,500 light years away.

Pulsars are so regular that when they were first discovered, by a British team in 1967, they were code-named LGM for Little Green Men. The signals from B1257 were different, sometimes a few milliseconds late. Or early.

The explanation, tenta-

tively disclosed last year and now confirmed, was that at least two planets about three times the mass of the Earth, and a moon-sized object were interfering with the radio-bursts. Their gravitational tug spinning caused the pulsar to wobble slightly.

Professor Jocelyn Bell Burnell of the Open University, the first person to discover a pulsar, last night described the discovery as "absolutely staggering". Any planets around a dying star should first have been engulfed as it swelled to a red giant, and then shattered as it burst into a supernova.

"And yet there clearly are planets around the pulsar. They must have formed afterwards. They can't have survived all those traumas," she said.

"I certainly wouldn't expect life on those planets. There is far too much radiation around. But it does seem to be telling us something about how readily planets form, if you can get them forming around as bizarre and lethal a beastie as this."

The Guardian

'It' only came from an astronomical mirage

Erland Clouston on the new findings of a science writer who has turned his attentions from the Loch Ness monster to formulating a theory which explains away 90 pc of extra-terrestrial sightings

IT WAS a large domed object out of which two circular, antennae-laden robots emerged and attempted to kidnap the startled council worker, tearing his trousers — and in doing so, propelling the Scottish new town of Livingston into a hallowed place in ufology's hall of fame.

Oh no it wasn't, says science writer Stuart Campbell. What Robert Taylor actually saw on the morning of November 9, 1979, was an astronomical mirage which triggered an hallucinatory, epileptic fit.

This week Mr Campbell, an

Edinburgh-based former architect, launches a book that he says will explain 90 per cent of UFO sightings.

What people presume to be spyships from Alpha Centauri are in reality an optical illusion, produced by the distorting effect of the earth's atmosphere on lightwaves skipping across the universe.

Mr Campbell, something of a professional sceptic with a book debunking the Loch Ness monster behind him and another on the stocks scrutinising Jesus Christ, evolved the astronomical mirage theory while investigating the incident in a wood

north of Livingston, 10 miles outside Edinburgh on the M8 motorway.

Despite the best efforts of the local CID, no one has so far come up with an explanation for what attempted to abduct Mr Taylor, agreed by everybody to be a perfectly level-headed foreman for-ester not given to hoaxing.

Livingston development corporation was sufficiently convinced that something queer had gone on to authorise the installation of a commemorative boulder and plaque — which has since been stolen.

Having scrutinised an as-

tronomical computer programme, Mr Campbell discovered that both Venus and Mercury were hovering just above the horizon.

Could there have been a connection?

After making complex optical calculations, faithfully recorded in his book, Mr Campbell has concluded that what Mr Taylor saw was probably a miniature Venus, out of which emerged miniature Mercurys.

The shock triggered an epileptic fit, causing the forester to mistake his corneal fibres for robot antennae, and to fall down and damage his trousers.

Astronomical mirages are dependent, says Mr Campbell, aged 57, on a variety of pre-conditions. They rely, for example, on a layer of warm air overlying a cold one. As

this flits about the atmosphere, so does the magnified image projected on to it from millions of miles away, persuading alarmed earthmen that they are witnessing a top-class display of extra-terrestrial aerobatics.

Mr Campbell's theory has had a mixed reception from the UFO-hunting community, who have heard him lecture on the subject.

"It is convincing to a point, and I do believe these mirages could exist, but it stretches the imagination somewhat to have everything explained by this hypothesis," said Phillip Mandle, director of investigations for the British UFO Research Association.

Mr Campbell sighs: "Most of them don't believe in me. They are incredulous that it can be so easily explained."

But this does not particularly upset him, as he has bigger fish to fry.

"The book is not really aimed at them, but at the scientific community. They have ignored the UFO phenomenon for 10 years. They think it is a corny, flakey subject."

Mr Taylor, now aged 75 and recovering from a stroke, is sceptical of the sceptic.

"I never had an epileptic attack before or after," protests the man who carried a camera with him for a long time after his experience in case the robots came looking for him again.

"I can assure you that Venus had nothing to do with it."

"I am pretty certain that what I saw was the real thing, a pebble from outer space."

The Guardian 09.05.94

Close encounters of the wrong kind

WORRIED members of the public jammed police switchboards today with reports that they had seen a UFO.

It had been seen on the A414 at Bobbingworth and in the Enfield area, but it turned out that the strange lights were caused by a laser show being held to mark the opening of the new Lea Valley cinema complex.

Evening Gazette 03.03.94

UFO landing 'secret'

AN AMERICAN airman who says he saw a UFO landing near his British base is to visit Nottingham.

He will attend the next meeting of the East Midlands UFO Research Association.

Members claim a cover-up over the incident, allegedly witnessed by about 60 other USAF personnel in December 1980 at Rendlesham Forest, Suffolk.

The serviceman will reveal all at the Basford Centre, David's Lane, Basford, on Sunday March 27 between 6pm and 10pm. It will cost £2 to get in.

Evening Post 09.03.94

I saw UFO

RE your article about the UFO, I saw this particular thing myself. I thought it was a plane, but it was not like an ordinary craft. It was too bright. I would like to know what it was. — W. Branagan, 27 Netley Grove, Priestfields, Middlesbrough.

Northern Echo 08.02.94

New light thrown on 'alien' mystery

Flashing lights in the skies sparked a string of calls to police that aliens were buzzing the West Midlands.

Several reported UFO sightings were made last night.

But fears that men from Mars were invading were dispelled when it was revealed that the mystery object was the Virgin Lightship.

The airship, based at Halfpenny Green airport near Wolverhampton, cruised over Wolverhampton, Birmingham, Bridgnorth, Telford and Shrewsbury.

A spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority said: "It is lit from inside and so that gives it a somewhat eerie appearance at night."

The airship was flying over Shropshire today and was due to skirt Birmingham and the Black Country again tonight.

Express & Star 18.03.94

ORBITAL

DRIVERS sped off the M25 yesterday to inundate police with reports of a hovering UFO.

The exodus at Reigate, Surrey, only stopped after a bright light went out — to reveal an airship advertising tyres.

Today 11.03.94

UFO hunt

● SEEN anything unusual from outer space? A local team has been set up to research UFO information and experiences. If you think you have anything interesting to tell, phone 081-348 5403.

Probe into UFO claims

New UFO sightings in America are being investigated by authorities.

Dozens of people in western Michigan said they saw unusual objects in the night sky last week.

The low-flying, brightly lit objects appear to coincide with unusual radar trackings by a weather service office. Randi Murphy said she awoke to see an object just above treetop level. She said it moved slowly and did not sound like a jet.

Express & Star 17.03.94

Northern Echo 14.06.93

I WAS KIDNAPPED BY ALIENS!

of discomfort whenever I went to the toilet.
My friend Michelle was staying with me and she said she'd heard crashing noises in the night. At the time she thought it was the wind. Now we're not so sure," says Rohan.

UFO investigators in America and he's quite an authority on the subject. I described the aliens and he said they usually looked like that. I was shocked but I was determined to get on with my life and not get obsessed with UFOs.

This is far from easy for a girl to whom the uncertainty has become commonplace. She'd already seen tumbling discs and silver cigar-shaped objects in the sky.

And two years ago I found two perfectly circular, raised red marks on my stomach. They faded away after five days, but I think they could have been made during an abduction which I've blocked out of my memory.

I know all this makes me sound crazy, but I'm not



Jim Forrest

I know all this makes me sound crazy, but I'm not

I'm sure now that I'd been taken to a spaceship

Rohan Hinton lay in bed floating above the bed. Oddly, I wasn't frightened. It wasn't an out-of-body experience because my body wasn't on the bed any more, but I could see my mum and aunt still lying there. And I could feel something supporting my elbow, guiding me. I was being taken somewhere, but I couldn't do anything about it. I found myself lying on a metal sheet in a bright room. I'm convinced now that I was in a spaceship. I was surrounded by strange beings looking down at me. I could see them only from the waist up. I got the impression they were male and naked. They were grey and thin but they didn't seem sinister. Their chins were pointed and they had big, dark eyes, dots for noses and a line for a mouth. The next thing I knew I was floating back down to my bed. I know some people will say I had a dream. But I was very aware and my eyes actually hurt because the light was so bright. Rohan's mum and aunt, both heavy sleepers, didn't wake up. The next day Rohan told her mum, who

it was very thin and its head was bigger than its body, she recalls. I had a falling sensation, then everything went blank. I woke up about two hours later. It may sound far-fetched, but Rohan, who's 23, swears it happened in her flat, in East Dulwich, London, two years ago. She claims it's one of a series of extraordinary experiences she's had since she was allegedly kidnapped by aliens while on holiday in Delaware, America, in 1988. I was sharing a motel room with my mum and aunt. I went to bed at about midnight after walking on the beach, she remembers. I woke up during the

reacted remarkably calmly. We'd both heard of alien abductions because my uncle, Chris Hinton, had a similar experience when he was 19, Rohan explains. But mum knew more than me. She told me to examine my navel for holes, but there weren't any. This, she adds, isn't quite as bizarre as it sounds—UFO investigators say abductees often find marks on their bodies, including ones that look like holes made by a needle during a medical examination. I rang my uncle and told him what had happened. He's in touch with

quite reassuring. I feel that on some occasion I can't remember, must have given the aliens permission to visit me. ALISON LEIGH-JONES

If you think you've had contact with aliens, ring: Quest International, an abduction investigation group, on 0756 752216 or the British UFO Research Association on 0924 444049.

Caught on alien terrain

I WAS surprised at the tone of your report in the Post (January 21) concerning the recent sightings of unidentified flying objects. UFO means just that. It does not mean alien space ships.

Objects they may be, but then again, they may not. Flying they may, or may not be. After all, the Aurora Borealis is plainly visible in the sky, in the right circumstances, but can hardly be described as a flying object.

Unidentified the recent sightings most certainly are, and until they are identified beyond doubt, so they will remain.

I have had a passing interest in many branches of science since a very early age. I do not, therefore, dismiss out of hand the possibility of alien intelligence, but proof of its existence needs more than the sighting of mysterious lights in the sky.

I do not, for one moment, doubt the sincerity or honesty of the witnesses of these phenomena. Without exception, they refer to objects or lights. None of them makes any mention of spaceships or aliens. It is the report itself that implies that they are the former. And did Mr Tony James really refer to "craft" seen over Arnold in August, or is this another example of reporter's licence?

The prospect that we are not alone in the universe is a frightening one to many, but the only alternative is equally sobering.

But until the day that I see, in the Post a report of an ASS, not a UFO, landing in Wollaton Park, I remain unconvinced.

G. L. ROBINSON
Steedman Avenue,
Mapperley.

FOOTNOTE: Especially since on this occasion it now appears that the mysterious lights in the sky could have been caused by local fairground magnate Jimmy Mellors playing with his laser beams! — Editor.

Woman 02.05.94

Evening Post 28.01.94

Yorkshire Gazette & Herald 21.04.94

Drawing attention to UFO sightings

A NORTH Yorkshire man is to lobby Parliament and the Ministry of Defence as part of a transatlantic campaign to focus attention on unidentified flying objects.

John Holman, of Ripon, will present evidence on UFO sightings, including some around Malton and Scarborough, to MPs at the same time as activists in the United States speak to officials at the Pentagon.

He is trying to publicise the growing

number of UFO sightings across the world.

So on May 23 Mr Holman will be giving every MP and MoD official in Whitehall a document entitled Are You Aware? which gives details of worldwide UFO activity.

He said: "We think that most of the MPs and their equivalents in America are not aware of the extent of the evidence."

His evidence includes more than 3,500 sightings of inexplicable objects in the sky

by pilots, as well as many more by people on the ground.

A number of sightings have already been reported this year in North Yorkshire. Several people reported seeing a large, bright object hovering over the village hall at Huttons Ambo, near Malton, in January.

A number of witnesses spotted a silent object in the daylight sky at Scarborough.

OCCASIONALLY it is the lot of the reporter to pick up the phone and be told that the caller has seen a strange object in the sky.

Most treat this with worldly-wise cynicism, but write about it because it is good for a laugh and, no matter how deep-rooted that cynicism, unidentified flying objects are fascinating simply because that is precisely what they are.

Therefore we should take seriously the efforts of Stephen Sheering of Penhill, Swindon, to form a group of UFO spotters in the town after being drawn, along with a number of other similarly attracted people from all parts of the globe, to Silbury Hill near Avebury to witness something odd in the sky.

Generally it was my attitude to deal with UFO callers by telling them two words, the first beginning with 'O' and the second with 'F' and inviting him or her to form them into a well-known phrase or saying.

Not any more. A few years ago when I lived in North Devon I was on my way, I repeat, ON MY WAY, to the pub when I was conscious of something in the sky, totally silent but giving off a red glow.

When I stopped, the thing stopped. I walked on and the thing followed, disappearing only as I approached the village.

I phoned the police and the Ministry of Defence, but neither could explain what I

had seen - though both asked: "Have you been drinking, sir?"

For days afterwards I scanned the night sky, but never saw the thing again.

Obviously there had to be rational explanation, but no one has yet given me one. Wiltshire, of course, is a UFO spotters paradise.

Back in the 1960s thousands flocked to the hills around Warminster to gawp at the strange sky sightings of objects allegedly from outer space.

Witnesses reported UFOs like red hot

I was conscious of something in the sky, totally silent but giving off a red glow

pokers or huge cat's eyes that crackled and buzzed.

One woman said: "I went to the bedroom window and saw this brilliant object quite low in the sky. It was traveling very slowly. It went for half an hour."

She said the noise was like a refrigerator; she was shaking like a leaf and couldn't take her eyes off it.

Dr Cleary Baker, evaluation officer of the British Unidentified Flying Objects Research Association, said at the time that what the woman saw was a manifestation

Psychic predicts another UFO visit

A SCOTS psychic predicts the site of Britain's first claimed UFO landing, could be visited by other spacecraft.

And Catrina McNab claims another strange craft has already visited Dechmont Law in Lothian - scene of forester Bob Taylor's graphic account of his close encounter with a spaceship.

On the 14th anniversary of the strange event which hit the world headlines, UFO expert Ron Halliday asked the Bannockburn medium to visit the site near Livingston.

The results of the experiment delighted the Stirling-based researcher, who is still investigating the mystery.

"I got a strange, quite amazing feeling when I approached the area for the first time," said Catrina. "I had a burning sensation in my throat and Ron told me Bob Taylor had a similar feeling."

"I told Ron someone had passed out at the spot and did a drawing of round, spiky objects

rolling along the ground. Ron told me these fitted Bob Taylor's account of events, although I had no prior knowledge of them."

"I also got the impression of some tremendous energy force and singing trees."

"I am absolutely convinced something strange happened at this spot. I believe a UFO landed here."

"I believe another strange object has already visited this spot and there will be more visits."

Ron Halliday, chairman of Scottish Earth Mysteries Research, said he was delighted with the success of the experiment.

"Catrina's findings fully support Bob Taylor's account of events," he said.

"I deliberately did not give her advance details and she has provided some very interesting and useful information."

"It has opened up one or two new avenues for research. I certainly intend to carry out more experiments using her powers."

Evening News 10.11.93

from: Weekly World News...
by: Mickey McGuire

FRENCH MOB STONED FOUR SPACE ALIENS TO DEATH IN 840 A.D.

LYONS-France-Space aliens made contact with the French during the ninth century-and got themselves stoned to death by an angry mob!

Researchers said contact between spacemen and earthlings was made in the year 840, primarily here in Lyons, claims author Brad Steiger in his exciting book, The Fellowship.

"The French referred to the aliens as 'sky people' because they descended from the upper reaches of the atmosphere in a spacecraft," Steiger said. "The locals called the spacecraft 'ships from the clouds.'

"The UFOs were piloted by beings with large heads, pointed ears and bulging eyes. They told the French that their origin was a place called Magonia. The aliens even traded artifacts and coins with peasants and tradesmen."

Unfortunately, Steiger wrote, an ugly dispute erupted and four of the aliens were seized and bound with chains. He said that after being held for several days, the prisoners were paraded before a mob, which suddenly went berserk and stoned them to death.

He said he based his account on an ancient manuscript penned by Argobara, the Archbishop of Lyons.

"The Archbishop was an eyewitness to their execution," revealed Haden Hewes, who with Steiger coauthored the startling 1976 book, UFO Missionaries Extraordinary.

"Aliens could easily have been exploring Earth in the year 840," Hewes explained. "If an alien society was only 1,000 years older than our own, it could easily have mastered space travel."

Mystery sighting near base

A BRIGHT white light hovering in the sky in the early hours today has left one Norfolk man puzzling about the existence of UFOs.

Terence Pressley, of Tunstead, says he saw the strange light as he looked out of his window towards Norwich.

"It was a ball of light, moving erratically," he said.

"We live near RAF Coltishall so we are used to seeing aeroplanes and helicopters with search lights, but this was nothing like that and there was no noise. I think it may have been a UFO," says RAF Coltishall spokesman Sgt Ldr Jack Love said he was not aware of any activity from the base.

Naturally most of the alleged abductions take place in the United States

victims produce pretty convincing tales of their experience.

Naturally most of the alleged abductions take place in the United States, perhaps the most easily-taken-in society ever to populate the Earth.

I recall talking last summer to two citizens of Los Angeles (where else?) who had popped over to Wiltshire to try to solve the mystery of the corn circles.

They cut symbols in long grass depicting a man, a house and love at Hackpen Hill. Two days later they found a corn circle at West Kennet that looked like a 'disabled toilet' sign, and claimed that was the response from outer space that they had been waiting for.

They phoned to tell me, and I had great difficulty in keeping a straight face.

But I wrote the story, thus adding to the ever-increasing catalogue of information about visitors from other parts of the universe.

UFO-spotting is a relatively harmless pastime, but until aliens are captured or a flying saucer put on exhibition in Trafalgar Square, most will regard it with due scepticism.

February 94

UFO CRASH SITE FOUND!

MOSCOW-A team of Russian explorers charting the icy wasteland of the South Pole have made a chilling discovery-the wreckage of a UFO crash with the frozen bodies of three space aliens still inside!

The bodies were brought here where fascinated scientists are giving them careful study.

"The extreme cold kept the extraterrestrial corpses perfectly preserved," says Dr. Ivan Kanopov, noted Russian biologist and physician.

"Science is getting its most detailed look yet at beings from another galaxy. We're learning volumes about how their bodies function and how they differ from our own.

"Their most striking quality is their immense mental power. Their brains are more than twice the size of the average human's. And cerebral imprints show they use up to 67 percent of their brains.

"By contrast, we Earth people use less than 10 percent of ours.

"It's no wonder they've conquered space," Dr. Kanopov said. But in this case, the aliens' vast knowledge wasn't enough to save them. Experts say the spacemen died after their craft struck the sheer face of the Shackleton Glacier at the edge of Antarctica's Ross Ice Shelf and plummeted 500 feet to the ground below.

We think they suffered some kind of engine trouble. But the UFO was so badly damaged it's impossible to know for sure.

"Besides, our technology is so far behind theirs we couldn't begin to comprehend that engine anyway.

"The other possibility is that the glare of sunlight off the snow temporarily blinded them."

Here are some of the other things scientists tell us about the ET's:

- * they have four fingers on each hand, one of which functions as a thumb.
- * two of the aliens have flesh-colored skin but the third one's skin is a dull green hue, leading experts to believe that either the aliens have different races on their planet or, like chameleons, they have the capability of changing color.
- * the lenses of their large almond-shaped eyes make their long-distance vision about 200 times more powerful than ours. On the other hand, their ability to focus close-up is far worse than ours.
- * they have lots of muscles in their large faces, but a very limited voice box, which means they probably communicate more with facial expressions than they do with words.

A NORTH Yorkshire man is to lobby Parliament and the Ministry of Defence as part of a transAtlantic campaign to focus attention on unidentified flying objects.

Mr John Holman, of Ripon, will present evidence on UFO sightings to MPs at the same time as activists in the United States speak to the defence headquarters at the Pentagon.

As the organiser of the Alien Acknowledgement Campaign, Mr Holman was contacted by members of the U.S.-run Operation Right To Know. Both groups are trying to publicise the growing number of UFO sightings across the world.

Mr Holman, who also runs a branch of Skynet which meets near York once a month, agreed to turn his campaign into the British branch of Operation Right To Know.

So on May 23 Mr Holman will be giving every MP and MoD official in Whitehall a document entitled Are You Aware...? which gives details of worldwide UFO activity.

He said: "We think that most of the MPs and their equivalents in America are not aware of the extent of the evidence."

That evidence includes more than 3,500 sightings of inexplicable objects in the sky by pilots, as well as many more by people on the ground.

A number of sightings have already been reported this year in North Yorkshire. Several people reported seeing a large, bright object hovering over the village hall at Huttons Ambo, near Malton, in January.

Later a number of witnesses spotted a silent object in the daylight sky at Scarborough.

There have also been patterns of UFO activity on the Humber side coastline, said Mr Holman.

He thinks people are generally too afraid of being ridiculed if they say they have seen a UFO.

● Skynet meets on the last Wednesday of the month. The next meeting is on April 27 at 7.30pm, at the village hall in Acaster Malbis, near York. If you have seen a UFO contact Mr Holman on 0765 602898.

Yorkshire Evening Press 11.04.94

Clouding the UFO issue

Weatherwatch

Paul Simon

IN NOVEMBER 1958 Dr and Mrs M. Moore were driving in their car through the deserts of Dakota when suddenly they looked up and noticed in the sky a "silvery, cigar-shaped object, like a giant windsock," which accelerated out of view leaving behind it a trail of strange purple clouds. Their sighting was reported to the Flying Saucer Review and like so many other similar accounts marked down as a highly promising incidence of a UFO.

Many similar sightings have even produced dramatic pho-

tographs of huge saucer or lens shaped objects in the sky. But they all look rather ghostly and suggest something less extraterrestrial to their origins. Later analyses showed they were in fact unusual clouds called lenticular clouds. These have an astonishing resemblance to a colossal flying saucer, often with circular rings around them and occasionally luminous if the sun is shining from behind.

Lenticular clouds come from mountains but are fairly unusual. Normally winds passing over mountains lose their strength and become weaker on the leeward side. But occasionally something strange happens — the air on the leeward side bounces up and down like a bob-

bing wave with nowhere to go. It's caused by air on top of the mountain pushing down on the bottom of the leeward side and "squashing" the air there. If the air is also moist, then every time the air bobs up a lenticular cloud is formed.

Apart from their shape they behave even more UFO-like because they often stay stationary as they rest on the lee-waves.

In fact, you can see them in Britain at places like the Pennines, where, with a strong westerly wind, as many as 10 bouncing lee-waves with lenticular clouds can form about five miles apart across Yorkshire, from the Pennines down to the coast. A fairly harmless encounter of a lenticular kind.

Guardian 15.04.94

BRIGHT, coloured lights in the sky over the south coast of England and the English Channel yesterday morning prompted a flood of calls to the emergency services from people who thought they were Unidentified Flying Objects.

But a single meteoroid rather than an armada of little green men was responsible for the spectacle.

The piece of rock, about the size of a dustbin, burned up as it hit the atmosphere, producing the display.

A Thames Coastguard spokesman said that at the height of the meteoroid storm around 500 calls were received by coastguard stations from worried members of the public.

"People were reporting coloured lights ranging from red and silver, to blue and white," he said. "We also had reports from ships in the Channel and from aircraft."

Astronomers said the chunk of space rock exploded as it plunged.

There have been no reports of any damage and any fragments that did not burn up probably fell in the sea.

"Preliminary evidence suggests that the body travelled in a northerly direction," said Mr Robin Scagell, of the Society for Popular Astronomy. "It was many tens of miles above the Earth, so it was seen on both sides of the North Sea."

Reports of a second UFO invasion at Harlow, in Essex, were also unfounded. The dazzling lights turned out to be laser beams advertising a video shop in the town.

FORMER UN Secretary General U Thant believed UFOs to be the biggest issue facing humanity.

Author and UFO researcher Palden Jenkins agrees with that view.

Palden (right), who will lecture on ETs and Planet Earth at the Wessex Research Group meeting tonight (Thursday), reckons the full truth of visiting aliens will hit the world like a cosmic bombshell some time during the next 10 years.

"It will cause major psychological disturbance," warns Palden, whose talk is at 7.30 pm the Friends' Meeting House in Boscombe's Wharnccliffe Road - admission £2.

Palden, editor of Gateway Books of Bath which has just published his book *The Only Planet of Choice*, claims as many as 40 different alien groups - some friendly, some malevolent - are flocking to our little world.

One disturbing reason given for all this attention is that Earth was long ago chosen for an evolutionary experiment - with humans as the guinea pigs.

Palden, 43, accepts that a lot of folk will dismiss his views as pure fantasy but argues that much hard evidence about UFOs is emerging every day, especially from America.

"And just in case it's correct - forewarned is forearmed," he suggests.

A UFO sighting in Wales when he was 22 sparked his interest in the phenomena.

"I and a friend saw four craft emerge from a mother ship," said father of three Palden, who lives in Glastonbury. "We watched them for half an hour."

His new book details 18 years work of psychic Phyllis Schlemmer, who claims to channel "the Council of Nine, a circle of universal beings living outside time and space".

It was these sessions, attended by the since deceased science fiction writer Gene Roddenberry, which are said to have inspired much of his *Star Trek* material.

Palden's "coming out" as an ET believer has the effect, he says, of encouraging others to talk of their UFO experiences.

So if you've been buzzed, abducted or even haunted by THEM, Boscombe tonight is the place to be.



UFO body believes 'sightings genuine'

UFO group experts are investigating reports that a number of mysterious, brightly-lit cigar-shaped objects have been seen in the sky over Wakefield.

A national UFO hotline was inundated with reported sightings from Ossett on Wednesday evening last week, between 8.55pm and 9.35pm.

UFO society experts say the reports represent a "major sighting" and are linking them with similar incidents throughout the district, including Crofton, Normanton, Upton and Pontefract.

Mr George Wild, a member of the Yorkshire UFO Society and regional coordinator for Quest Publications International Ltd, said he had received more than 200 reports of sightings from all over Yorkshire in one four-day period.

"One Ossett witness reported seeing a large bank of lights behind which he could just make out a cigar-shaped object when looking through binoculars," he said.

"This account is supported by others who all recall seeing something extraordinary at around the same time.

Mr Wild said checks had been made with Manchester University and the Ministry of Defence to see if there was another explanation but these had drawn a blank.

"We believe these reports to be of a genuine sighting and we will be studying them closely."

The UFO hotline can be contacted on 0756 752216.

Wakefield Express 01.04.94

BUFORA NEWFILE Page 6

George says: ET phone home...

COLLEGE lecturer George Rawcliffe is joining forces with the BBC in a bid to make contact with aliens in outer space.

To mark the Year of the Family the BBC is staging a live attempt to communicate with other beings and embrace what Mr Rawcliffe calls the Universal Family.

Radio presenter Allan Beswick will team up with Mr Rawcliffe and UFO expert Jenny Randall in a moment of broadcasting history.

The Manchester-based GMR station will beam out snippets of life on earth to give a potted picture of how we live.

Loch Ness

The world was originally covered in water so GMR are planning to play Handel's Water Music overlaid with whale calls, dolphin noises and the sound of the sea.

They hope whatever lurks in outer space will recognise the sounds and respond in kind.

A BBC unit in Scotland will also play sound effects over Loch Ness in an attempt to communicate with alien lifeforms. The programme will be broadcast on February 1.

Mr Rawcliffe, a senior lecturer at Blackpool and the Fylde College, said: "This is a very exciting idea. I am convinced that there is something out there."

AA WARN OF 'ALIEN' IDIOTS

UFO "sightings" could soon rocket, thanks to a new car accessory.

The £225 Cruising Neon Kit gives the underside of a car a neon glow, making it look like a space ship.

"It's a distraction for other drivers," said an AA spokesman. "It's stupid."

Today 23.03.94

West Lancashire Evening Gazette 28.01.94

Reprinted from The Toronto Globe and Mail, March 4, 1993.
(Canada's National Newspaper)

MUTILATED COWS RAISE QUESTIONS, UDDER CHAOS

-Cox News Service
Sand Mountain, Alabama

Who's killing the cows of Sand Mountain? Some suspect aliens in UFOs. Some say Satanists. Or else it's government agents swooping down from helicopters for the kill. Or exposure to high-pressure lines. Or it's cow murderers, impure and simple. Whoever, it's udder chaos up here. As Ted Oliphant said: "There's strange things afoot."

Ahoof, too. Since October, 26 (1992) animals -nearly all cows- have been mutilated in several small, rural communities in this mountain in northeastern Alabama. Nearly all have been killed in the same manner, with precise, bloodless, almost high-tech surgical incisions that removed various animal parts: tongues, teeth, eyes, ears, hearts, and excretory and sexual organs.

And when the animals are found in pastures, there are no footprints. No wire tracks. No trails. No blood, either.

"It's pure Sherlock Holmes and one of the weirdest cases I've ever seen in my life," said Mr. Oliphant, a Fyffe policeman investigating the killings. "We've got no witnesses, no motive, no suspects. The only thing we got is the animals left behind."

The mystery is enhanced by two factors: helicopters and UFOs. According to Mr. Oliphant, 95 per cent of the cases have involved reports of helicopter sightings, often with red, green and white lights or blue and white ones. Last month, Jean Cole, the wife of Albertville Chief Detective Tommy Cole saw a copter in their back yard. She saw four men in business suits sitting in it. When she spied them, the copter flew off. The next day, Det. Cole found a Black Angus mutilated, it's sexual organs and rectum removed.

"I've seen many animals killed by predators, and there's always blood around," he said

"I've never seen anything like it. I don't know what it was. I've been in the business 35 years. I've had many, many dead cows and bulls, but none like that."

Furthermore, Fyffe is the "UFO Capital of Alabama," as proclaimed by the Alabama state Senate in 1989 after several UFO sightings that year. Mr. Oliphant, 33, once a filmmaker who made a documentary on UFO's, moved here two and a half years ago to study this phenomenon. A year later, he became a policeman to better understand the effects of life in he UFO Capital of Alabama.

Now he is investigating another phenomenon. Thousands of such cow mutilations have occurred across the U.S. since 1967. Linda Louton Howe, a Philadelphia filmmaker who made a documentary and wrote a book on the subject, arrived in Fyffe last weekend with a film crew. She's convinced that aliens are responsible.

Margaret Pope agrees. A calf belonging to the Geraldine woman was mutilated earlier this month. At first she suspected coyotes. But not with the calf's udders

removed. "Like somebody had sliced it off - a straight cut, not like an animal," Mrs Pope said. There was an incision on the left shoulder and a circular cut on the left side of the jaw. The teeth were gone.

"There was no sign of a struggle," Mrs Pope said. "No blood, nothing. Just laying there with it's parts cut out. I think it's UFOs, because of lots of lights in the sky, no disturbance on the ground. And the cuts were too precise. But you watch who you say [aliens] to. I don't want to be made fun of. We're not weird. And this isn't fun."

Not for John Strawn of Albertville, who's patrolling his land at night to protect his cattle. "This ol' boy don't believe in little green men and flying saucers, because it ain't," he said. "It's strange but it ain't [aliens]. If we want to make up stories we can do better than this."

"I heard one story that it was a swamp ape. I like that one pretty good, a lot better than I like aliens. They ain't no aliens piloting these helicopters, I can tell you. We got cow murderers over here, that's all there is to it."

Mr. Strawn insists he's seen helicopters in pastures at night. Earlier this month, Doug Segers said he saw a helicopter forcing his 42 cattle into a corner of his pasture. He was carrying his rifle and when he ran to his truck the copter flew off.

Who's responsible? Is it merely bovine intervention? Another theory: Government agents, flying in low-level helicopters at night, are killing animals and removing their organs to study the effects (testing for cancer and other diseases) on livestock living near high-power lines.

The most recent mutilation occurred Feb 17 (1993), when P.T. Williams of Arab found one of his Black Angus calves with its reproductive organs, tongue and right eye removed. "I'm not saying there are mutilation cases in this county that have not happened," said Jimmy Miller, an investigator for the Alabama Department of Agriculture. "But what I've seen have not been mutilation cases except for Tommy's. There were bodu parts removed from his that could not have ben removed by predators."

"Predators don't do this," Mr. Oliphant said. "And is it were a satanic cult they would have used knives and there'd be blood. They'd do it in secrecy and not with technology. Everybody wants me to tell 'em it's a satanic cult, because this is the heart of the Bible Belt and they want an easy explanation so they can be done with it. They don't want to look at the scientific facts. The evidence doesn't lead to that. We've got more than one group doing this. We've got the unexplained events, with high technology, cauterization of wounds, with high something I can't release right now."

So the folks on Sand Mountain wait and watch. Watch carefully for close encounters of the herd kind.

People can be very gullible

READING last week's *Advertiser* article on revolving lights in the sky being mistaken for UFOs, I was amazed as to how sad some people can be.

It just goes to show how, if people can be fooled by a few spotlight beams, they can be fooled by more elaborate hoaxes which are purporting as fact.

In a similar way, this week saw the legend of the Loch Ness monster dealt another blow when it was revealed that the famous *Surgeons* photograph, which has for years been used by *Nessie* experts as evidence

to the monster's existence, was nothing more than a toy submarine.

The fact is that if people want to believe in intelligent life from other planets, they will do so.

I'm sure if there are other beings visiting our planet they would make themselves known to us in a far greater way than with just a few flashing lights.

GORDON BAILEY
High Road, Whetstone.

From the Lincoln Journal-Star, 2/6/1994:

DOANE PROF UNEARTHS 'COSMIC WATERGATE' IN SEARCH FOR UFO DATA.

By Diane Walkowiak, Regional Correspondent.

Crete, Ne. - A lecture on the possibility of life on Mars changed the life of Jim Falvo, assistant professor of communications at Doane College.

After attending a lecture six years ago in which Omahan Harry Jordan discussed unusual surface features on Mars, Falvo became curious not only about possible life and artifacts on Mars, but also the secrecy that seemed to cloak the issue.

A former journalist, Falvo was intrigued by the security measures at the lecture and by charges that the U.S. government was withholding information from the public. He says he felt the implications of the story were enormous, and could not understand why there wasn't more coverage by the mainstream media. If the claims were true, it was the "discovery of the millennium."

That same year, Falvo moved to Minnesota to teach at St. Olaf College. Spurred by what he called "a normal curiosity," he started travelling in his spare time, first collecting data about Mars, then about UFOs. He returned to Nebraska in 1990 to teach at Doane. In the past six years, he said, he has spent "thousands of hours and thousands of dollars" gathering data on UFOs and other unexplained phenomena.

Without actually going to Mars, Falvo believes no one can verify whether life exists there. He refers to a possible government coverup as a "Cosmic Watergate." Falvo has taken it upon himself to collect and scrutinize whatever information he can find, then make it available to others. "I feel a social responsibility to get the word out," he said.

Much of that information, stacked in his office at Doane, provided the basis for two sessions he taught there. Falvo said his students - even those who were skeptics - left class more open-minded about the possibility of extraterrestrial life. Falvo has no personal experience with UFOs or unexplained phenomena, and he hopes he never does. "I have no desire to have an encounter. Some of this stuff is frightening," he said. In his research, Falvo attempts to disprove accounts by finding holes in them.

"I'm hoping that somebody comes up to me and says, 'This is a pile of garbage, and here's why.' But no one's done that," he said. "It's refreshing that it's getting the exposure it deserves. It's a legitimate area of scientific inquiry."

Falvo has videotaped people who claim to have had personal encounters with UFOs or unexplained phenomena, including three Doane students who, on separate occasions, said they sighted UFOs while driving between Lincoln and Crete. Sightings of lights above Lincoln in late January also aroused Falvo's interest. He

said the descriptions of what was seen by Lincoln police officers and others have similarities to what people have described in other incidents.

Falvo urges those interested in learning more about unexplained phenomena to approach the subject with some scepticism and to avoid the fringe issues, such as abductions and arranged contacts with aliens.

There are many concrete case studies available, he said, and research can be done at public libraries as well. Workshops and conferences provide an opportunity to meet with experts in the field.

"Exploring the UFO Mystery" a conference exploring unexplained phenomena, is scheduled April 22-24 at the Nebraska Center for Continuing Education, 33rd and Holdrege streets. More information is available by calling Scott Colborn at (402) 421-1701 in Lincoln, or through fliers that are available by calling Scot Colborn at 421-1701 in Lincoln, or through fliers that are available at the Way Home Bookstore in Lincoln, 3231 S. 13th St.

Unsurprising Flurry of Observations

IT is UFO time again. I fully expect the number of Unidentified Flying Object sightings to rise this month.

The reasons for my expectations are that the warmer and lighter evenings begin to draw people outside more and more of those people will look at the night sky and see something they do not recognise. That is a UFO and I have been in that position myself.

However, with the two brightest planets (Venus and Jupiter) visible in the evening sky, and a meteor shower in the latter part of the month, the chance of someone unacquainted with the night sky actually seeing something which is unusual (to them) rises dramatically. You may watch the headlines to see if I am right.

At this time of year the constel-

lations visible to the south (usually the best view) are Leo, Virgo, Coma Berenices, Corona Borealis and Hercules. These constellations have one particularly exciting thing in common - they all contain galaxies or objects outside of our own galaxy. The hazy band of faint stars which we call the Milky Way represents our view through the thickest part of our galaxy. At this time of year it lies low across the northern and western horizons.

If at this time of the year we look overhead and towards the south, we are looking at right angles to that thick band of stars, and so out through the thinnest layers of our galaxy, visible from the Earth. This means that the Spring is one of the best times for observers to see some of the most distant objects visible to our telescopes. Whole clusters of galaxies have been discovered in Virgo, Leo and Coma.

Buffs' search for truth

Are governments covering up evidence of UFOs? Some British flying saucer buffs are so convinced of it they have set up a British organisation - AAC the Alien Acknowledgement Campaign - to try to end what they say is "UFO secrecy".

Paul Vigay, from Southsea, who is actively involved in his own UFO research, said: "Although there seems to be a slow release of evidence (such as 'Sightings' and 'X Files' on Sky TV) to

seemingly accustomise the public to the knowledge of UFOs before wide-spread announcements take place, there will be an AAC UFO public awareness day on May 23, 1994, at a venue in London."

It's timed to coincide with Operation Right To Know, a demonstration outside the Pentagon.

■ Anyone interested, or with their own UFO sightings to report, should contact him on 0705 871350.

The News 28.03.94

UFO alarm

WORRIED residents thought they had seen a UFO over Bolton after lights were spotted moving across the sky.

Police were inundated with calls from concerned people who had seen the unidentified object and panicked.

Head of Bolton Central Police Superintendent Frank Birkenshaw said: "The lights were spotted heading towards Farnworth and we had a lot of calls from those who thought it was a UFO."

The flashing lights were seen across Bolton and traced to an airship that had been passing over the town.

Supt Birkenshaw said: "Luckily, it was just a British Telecom airship that had been operating in the Bolton area."

Bolton Metro News 03.03.94

THE next meeting of the Torbay Astronomical Society will be at the Torquay Boys' Grammar School on April 7 (Thurs) at 7.30 pm when members will be glad to point

out the objects mentioned above, weather permitting. At the private lounge of the RAFA club in Scarborough Road (rear of Lucius Street), Torquay, on April 21 a symposium of short lectures will be presented by members of the society. Visitors are especially welcome.

Our next meetings

Cosmic 'vortex' town hosts 500 UFO enthusiasts

By MARK BOURRIE
SPECIAL TO THE STAR

BRADFORD — To the untrained eye, this little York Region town doesn't appear to be a portal to another dimension. However, true believers in UFOs think Bradford is a port of entry to dozens of cosmic travellers. That's why they've labelled the area between Bradford, Uxbridge and Aurora "the Bradford Triangle."

Psychic Joyce Halfin, organizer of a convention yesterday for more than 500 UFO enthusiasts

in Bradford, says the town deserves its reputation as Canada's UFO hot spot.

Halfin, who claims to be a frequent guest in alien spacecraft herself, says there's something that draws the psychically gifted to Bradford.

"Bradford is a multi-dimensional doorway, a vortex to a parallel universe. My belief is that the vortex just recently opened, likely in the past 30 years," she said.

"That's why so many people have moved to Bradford in the

past few years."

Halfin's contacts with UFOs have caused her to lie paralyzed in her bed as lights flashed outside her window, she said.

Halfin said she has been visited by aliens since the age of 6. She has a sense of humor about it, but rolls her eyes when she's asked if the UFOs could really be clouds of swamp gas from the nearby Holland Marsh.

Speakers at the conference said most people who are temporarily abducted by aliens share similar memories of their

encounters.

"Why does the government place this topic in the highest classification of top secret? My opinion is that what we're experiencing here is a conspiracy of lies," said artist and scholar John German, a guest lecturer.

"I have become aware that there exists on this planet a vast quantity of knowledge that is being withheld from us... Could it be that the UFOs are a wake-up call to planet Earth?" German, like others at the

\$25-a-ticket conference, was inexplicably drawn to Bradford.

Dozens of books on sale at the conference supported the idea that small, bug-like aliens are frequent fliers to this planet. One book, *Circular Evidence*, provides "proof" that mysterious circles found in farmers' fields are UFO landing sites. *The Ultimate Deception*, written by Commander X, offers "a shocking disclosure. The most sensational government conspiracy of our time is finally revealed to the world by a retired military officer."

Humans help to build an alien master race

By JASON SOLOMONS



ANXIOUS: John E Mack

WHEN a Pulitzer Prize-winning author and distinguished Harvard psychiatrist tells you the aliens are coming, you have to sit up and take note.

Professor John E Mack, 64, and 40 years a scientist, has spent the last four years talking to people who have been abducted by little grey creatures with huge eyes and bald, outsize heads. Shafts of light have floated them up into semi-circular spacecraft full of gadgets and monitors. They return to earth having been missing for hours, many talking of painful experiments on their bodies with cuts and triangular marks to show for it.

None of these people is mad. And, according to Dr Mack, they are not given to fabrication; nor are they suffering from alcoholism, drug addiction or grand self-delusion.

Agreeing with them and writing an intriguing book to say so is a huge gamble for a respected man of science, who founded the psychiatric ward of Cambridge Hospital, Massachusetts.

Episodes of Abduction: Human Encoun-

ters With Aliens (Simon & Schuster, £16.99) have attacked Mack for succumbing to sensationalism; colleagues at the hospital have spoken of their disbelief and dismay of their founder's new cosmic path; even his wife of 34 years recently left him.

Sceptics accuse him and his patients of "seeking celebrity status — little nobodies who would never otherwise get invited on to Oprah Winfrey's show."

Indeed, the professor has just appeared on TV's *This Morning* show. Not only that, his appearance sparked a phenomenal 700 calls from closet British "experiencers" all bursting to tell of their abductions and close encounters.

"It's true I can't prove any of this," he admits. "I have no smoking gun to show. But I've worked at length with 90 people from all walks of life in the States and after 700 calls in Britain tell the same story, what am I supposed to think?"

"The experiences are so similar — the same symbols on the spaceship walls, the

gnaws at him but he meets so many eyebrows raised he requires great courage to continue the fight for recognition.

"I throw out a challenge," he says with something approaching exasperation. "If anyone can come up with any explanation of any case I've dealt with that is different, then tell me — please. So far I've only met silence — plenty of critics, sure, but no alternatives."

Abductees have told him of having sex with aliens, and later of the resulting foetuses being floated out of their stomachs back into space. Like a modern-day Noah, he sees it as a message that we are approaching ecological extinction and that the visiting aliens face the same crisis on their planet.

Mack has visions of an alien master race being created, a blend of them and us, an evolutionary step allowing humanoid life to survive impending doom.

"I just don't know what's going on," he shrugs. "I've had my world shattered and shaken because I can't explain it. It's left me uncertain about the control we have on our lives and fate. I'm very anxious."

DAILY EXPRESS Friday May 20 1994

aliens look the same and there's the same odour of musty autumn apples — they cannot be just dreams. The only thing that provides that consistency of narrative is real experience."

Mack says he has not had any personal contact with aliens, has never seen a UFO and was a sceptic before he peered into the black hole of an abductee's psyche. But since his psychological studies, his world view has been shattered. He says he is left with no other choice than to believe aliens are communicating with humans.

"Any theory of explanation has to take in so many factors," he says. "I know it defies everything I have known in my training and the manner in which I have been raised, believing the universe was largely lifeless. But I see these people recount their abductions and they sweat and cry when they recall them. Many are telling their stories for the first time, frightened that the world would think they were crazy and shut them away."

It's tempting to dismiss him, but Mack is no quack. The phenomenon clearly

UFOs and the mugs' game

Lizo Mzimba

CORN circles may have shrunk from the headlines this summer, but interest in UFOs never fades. The seventies had *Close Encounters*, the eighties *ET* and the nineties have *Fire in the Sky* — the "true" story of an American tree feller, Travis Walton, who was abducted by extra-terrestrials from an Arizona forest. Could happen to anybody.

"The majority of people don't know that they have been abducted," insists Tony Dodd, director of investigators at the UFO organisation Quest International. "It only comes to light in certain circumstances."

According to Dodd, many people have suffered unknowingly since childhood. "People are first abducted as children. They're selected — we don't know why — and implanted with something in their body which acts like a tagging device. Then they are taken to a facility and laid on a table where some sort of genetic engineering is done to them. But it's not a one-off experience for the abductees."

Apparently not. For Janice Georgiou, the visits are so routine she claims to be on first-name terms with her alien friends. "I don't believe they are totally extra-terrestrial," she says. "I think there is some kind of genetic connection between us."

Despite such familiarity, the meetings have not been harmless. Janice, a 44-year-old housewife and mother, claims she was abducted while asleep in her bedroom one quiet Friday afternoon and has been left with burn scars after she was experimented on by two aliens. "One had in his hand a

long straight instrument," she recalls. "It looked white hot and he started to come towards me. I managed to move my left arm and push his arm. But the instrument touched my stomach and burned it."

So have you been visited? Mike Hutchinson, who has researched the UFO phenomenon, has a simpler explanation. "Some of these people are lying. Others, under so-called hypnotic recall, start fantasising."

Such scepticism discourages many young people from coming forward with their experiences of UFO encounters, says Philip Mantle of the British UFO Research Association.

"I interviewed one young man in Wales who after one visit started writing poetry. He said to me, 'Whatever you do, don't tell my friends.' We try to protect teenagers from the stigma attached to their experiences."

Of course, where there's a slice of the unknown offered, there's always someone willing to give you odds on it turning up trumps. "We take regular bets of up to £1,500," says Graham Sharpe of William Hill, who are offering 100-to-1 odds on extra-terrestrial life being discovered within a year. "It's been a particularly popular bet since Nasa started their 10-year search of radio waves from space."

Many punters are pinning their hopes on Nasa and think it's just a matter of time until proof of alien life in outer space materialises. But they may have to wait. According to a UFO conference report released this year, sightings are well down. And the independent UFO Network says out of the 100 reports received last year, only 10 remain unsolved.